

# The Cherokee Hiker

November 2015      Volume 31, Issue 11

Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. • 198 Crews Drive • Benton TN 37307  
[www.cherokeehikingclub.org](http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org)

## ~CHC Hike and Events Calendar~

- **November 7, 2015** – Saturday. Graysville Mountain Section of the Cumberland Trail, new section along Roaring Creek. Leader: Randy Morris. Rating: moderate to strenuous. Length: 8 miles round trip.
- **November 12, 2015** – Thursday. Monthly meeting, 6:00 p.m., Monterrey Mexican Restaurant in Cleveland.
- **November 14, 2015** – Saturday. Cleveland State Community College Trail Cleanup. Leader: Rebecca Levings. Rating: easy. Length: 2.5 mile loop. Bring clippers, loppers and/or light hand saws.
- **November 21, 2015** – Saturday. White Oak Mountain Trail Hike. Leader: Chris Swain. Rating: moderate, with 300 feet elevation change. Length: approximately 3 miles round trip.
- **November 28, 2015** – Saturday. Linda Davis Memorial Hike on the Cleveland Greenway; the annual “walk off the Thanksgiving fat” hike. Leader: Randy Morris. Rating: easy. Length: 8 miles maximum.

## NOVEMBER HIKES

### Cumberland Trail Hike, Graysville Mountain Section – November 7, Saturday

Leader: Randy Morris. **Rating: moderate-strenuous.** Length: 8 miles roundtrip, approximately.

We will hike on the Graysville Mountain Section of the Cumberland Trail near Graysville, TN. Approximately one-half of the hike will be on relatively new trail created by recent Spring Break work trips coordinated by the Cumberland Trail Conference. The hike begins along beautiful Roaring Creek, and then climbs up the mountain with an elevation gain of about 900 feet. We will proceed to enjoy the views from a nice overlook before traversing some of the newer trail on to two additional overlooks. We will then eat lunch at the second, Cove Loop Overlook, and then re-trace our steps back the way we came. I am rating this hike as **moderately strenuous to strenuous** because of the climb up the mountain and length.

A great description of the first 1.8 miles and a map of the entire hike can be found at:  
<http://cumberlandtrail.org/website/maps-and-guides/trail-segments/graysville-mountain/>.

**Directions to carpool location:** we will leave from the BP gas station commuter lot near I-75 at Exit 25 in Cleveland (1900 Candies Lane NW) at **8:30** for the drive over to Graysville. Go down I-75, turn at Exit 25 heading west down Georgetown Road, and away from Cleveland downtown. Go one block, go through the traffic light, and turn left **after** the traffic light into the commuter lot right beside the BP

station at 1900 Candies Lane NW.

**Please contact Randy Morris at 423-650-0485 before 8:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6 if interested in attending.** I will contact all those who have called in the event of a cancellation.

### **Cleveland State Community College trail cleanup – November 14, Saturday**

Leader: Rebecca Levings. **Rating: easy.** Length: 2.5 mile loop.

This is our semi-annual cleanup at Cleveland's Community College. We expect to do some light sawing, lopping and trimming, so just bring light tools such as bow saws, loppers, clippers and garden or work gloves. Wear long pants, since there is poison ivy in the area. Please also bring water and any snacks you will need. The CSCC doors will probably be locked on Saturday so it's doubtful that vending machines will be available.

Please arrive at **9:00 a.m.** in the parking lot beside the tennis courts. Contact Rebecca by email at [reblev155@aol.com](mailto:reblev155@aol.com) or by phone at 423-310-0523 if you plan to attend or if you have any questions.

**Directions in Cleveland:** go I-75 to Exit 27 and turn west on Paul Huff Parkway, toward Georgetown Road. Go past the mall with Target on the right, and turn left at the next traffic light after the mall, before you go up the hill; this is **Adkisson Drive** turning left (it's Frontage if you turn right). Go past the Bradley County Driver's License place on the left and you will come to Cleveland State CC down a little way. You will see the tennis courts on the right as you first get to the college. If you pass Norman Chapel road on the left (brown Baptist Student Union on the corner), you have gone a little too far. Turn in the parking lot beside the tennis courts and go all the way to the back.

### **White Oak Mountain Trail Hike – November 21, Saturday**

Leader: Chris Swain. **Rating: moderate.** Length: 3 miles roundtrip, approximately.

This trail is near Collegedale, with a 300 feet of elevation gain. Please meet at the Home Depot parking lot at 546 Paul Huff Parkway in Cleveland at **9:00 a.m.** to carpool to the trailhead.

**Directions to carpool location:** take I-75 to Exit 27, and exit onto Paul Huff Parkway, going east into Cleveland. Continue past the shopping area with Publix on the right. Turn left on Mouse Creek Road, then make a quick right onto Robin Hood Drive and into the Home Depot parking lot.

For more information, please contact Chris Swain at 423-240-8213 (cell) or [swainerair@yahoo.com](mailto:swainerair@yahoo.com).

### **Linda Davis Memorial Hike on the Cleveland Greenway – November 28, Saturday**

Leader: Randy Morris. **Rating: easy.** Length: 8 miles maximum with options for shorter lengths.

Come join us and work off some of those Thanksgiving calories! The annual Saturday- after- Thanksgiving hike will be a round trip stroll along the 4.25 mile Cleveland/Bradley County Greenway—for approximately 8.5 miles total. This hike, named in honor of long-time hike leader and CHC member Linda Davis, is traditionally the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It will be up to an 8.5 mile hike, depending on how long you hike with us. Since it is on the Greenway, you are welcome to shorten the hike as you prefer. There are other parking locations at Tinsley Park and the parking area off Mohawk Drive near the Cleveland Home Depot. The Greenway is a great trail along Mouse Creek that is heavily utilized, but this Saturday a.m. hike is a good time to enjoy the trail with far less people than usual.

The group led by Randy will head south from the parking area by Raider Drive (across from Cleveland

High School) to the Greenway's present southern terminus at Willow Street, and then back-track to our starting point. We will then continue toward Mohawk Drive and the trail's northern terminus before heading back again to the starting point at Raider Drive.

For more information on the Greenway you may visit

<http://clevelandtn.gov/facilities/facility/details/Cleveland--Bradley-County-Greenway-7>. **Please be advised to bring your valuables with you in a backpack or fanny pack, or leave them at home.** A year or so ago, there were reported break-ins to automobiles parked in the parking areas near the Greenway, especially the one off Mohawk Drive.

It is a nice walk which we will hopefully enjoy on a beautiful late autumn morning. The trail is rated easy. We will begin at **9 a.m. from the Raider Drive trailhead**, meeting under the new pavilion. Parking will be at the former First Tennessee Bank location just west of the Greenway.

Please call Randy Morris at 423-650-0485 no later than 8 p.m. Friday, November 27 if you have any questions. The hike **will be cancelled in the event of rain.**

### **Hikes and events in November**

For last minute updates to our current hike schedule, there are 3 places to check:

1. Our club website at <http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org>
2. The Cherokee Hiking Club Facebook page. Click on the Facebook link:



3. The Cherokee Hiking Club Meetup page. Click on the Meetup link below:



**\*NOTE:** As a courtesy, **ALWAYS** contact the hike leader **in advance** of the hike to facilitate planning.

### **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

#### **November Monthly Meeting – November 12, Thursday**

We will hold our November meeting at the Monterrey Mexican Restaurant in Cleveland at 6:00 p.m. The address is 3055 Keith Street.

**At the meeting, we will be hearing the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of officers for 2016, and will be voting on them, so please try to attend to put your vote in!**

***Directions to the restaurant:*** go I-75 and exit at Exit 25, heading east into Cleveland on 25<sup>th</sup> Street. Go east until you reach U.S. 11 (Keith Street) and turn left, going north. Go several blocks, passing the mini-mall with the bowling alley and Becky's Shoes on the left. You will see the restaurant on the left. If you pass the intersection with Raider Drive, you have gone too far.

#### **New Members:**

We welcome Mike Brannon, and James and Gayle Drummond to the club. The Drummonds came to our October meeting and joined, after having "met" us on our Meetup site and then joining Clayton Pannell and company during the Big South Fork camping trip at the beginning of October.

## **Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition Conference – January 28-31, 2016, Thursday-Sunday**

The Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC) will hold its biennial conference in the winter months this year. This will include 3 days of hikes on Thursday, Friday and Sunday. The SEFTC is a [coalition of hiking and outdoor clubs around the Appalachian Southeast](#), and the Cherokee Hiking Club is and has been a member for a number of years. This event, formerly held in June, was moved to the winter months, since Wilderness Wildlife Week (WWW) was moved from January/February to May; many people still wanted an outdoor event of this magnitude to be held in winter.

CHC member and webmaster Rick Harris has been the club's representative to the Conference. Club members are encouraged to attend. For more information on the Conference, including costs, lodging information and a registration form, go to <http://www.southeasternfoottrails.org/website-message-for-2016-meeting.pdf>.

You can also contact Rick Harris at [HarrisRI@aol.com](mailto:HarrisRI@aol.com) for more information on this event.

## **Recent Hike & Event Reports**

### **Big South Fork Camping Trip, October 4-8, 2015**

- ***Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>***: Otis Pannell and his wife Teresa, and Ruth and Clayton Pannell (leader) arrived at Big South Fork, Bandy Creek campground, and set up their tents in the group camping area E-2. E-2 is a large group camping area with about 18 sites, and its own bath house, screen-in shelter and fireplace. Our group had all these amenities to itself. We even had sinks on the porch outside the bathhouse that we used to wash our dishes. Otis and Teresa left the campground to buy firewood, and they came back with a van fully loaded with wood; one rack was all they could get into the van. Other hikers that joined us on Sunday afternoon included JoAnn Jackson, Sheri Stewart and Jane Bohannon.
- ***Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>***: after a large breakfast and a great social time, the campers hiked to Angle Fall down the Big South Fork River 2.2 miles. The trail was in great shape, and we spent some time at the falls or rapids. Hikers on this trek included Clayton and Ruth Pannell, Otis and Teresa Pannell, JoAnn Jackson, Sheri Stewart and Jane Bohannon.
- ***Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>***: after another large breakfast, we hiked up the Big South Fork River from Leather Wood Ford to the O & W Railroad Bridge. The bridge is a big attraction and is used by vehicles and hikers to cross the river. It is 2.3 miles from the trailhead at Leather Wood Ford, and the trail to the bridge is in good shape with some steps and sort climbs. The real test of the hikers occurred on the steep trail to what is known as the Devils Den, 16 miles almost all uphill with some very steep sections. Devils Den is a large open area under an overhang, a good place to get out of the rain. Hikers on this section included Clayton Pannell, Otis and Teresa Pannell, Johnny Lorris, JoAnn Jackson, Judy Pannell, and Jack and Margaret Callahan.
- ***Wednesday, October 7:*** a group of six hikers hiked to the twin arches (as opposed to the Golden Arches), and they extended their hike from the arches to catch many views of the cliffs. This hike was about 4 miles in length, with lots of steps. Hikers included Jack and Margaret Callahan, Otis and Teresa Pannell, and Johnny and Judy Pannell. Other hikes that occurred on this day included a hike to a rock formation upstream from Leather Wood Ford; Ruth and Clayton Pannell and JoAnn Jackson went on this one. Afterwards they drove to Oscar Belvin's old home place, and then back to the campground. Later in the day Clayton Pannell and his son Otis hiked the Brandy Creek Trail from the campground, for a total of 1.3 miles.
- ***Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>***: after another large breakfast, we packed up and started home before noon.

Clayton wishes to thank all the hikers, cooks and everyone who supplied food, drinks, and other supplies!

### **Benton MacKaye Trail Backpack from TAPOCO lodge to Fontana Dam – October 17-18, 2015**

This event was co-sponsored by the Benton-MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) and the Cherokee Hiking Club. It took place on the Yellow Creek Mountain Section of the Benton-MacKaye Trail (BMT).

We had a total of five backpackers, including CHC members Rick Harris (leader) and David Mintz, and BMTA members Stuart Johnson, Mike Pilvinsky and Bob Sloan. We met at the Fontana Dam Visitor Center parking lot at 9 a.m. on Saturday, and then carpooled to Tapoco Lodge. On the way we spotted a water cache where the BMT crosses Oldfields Road. We parked our shuttle vehicles by the tennis courts at Tapoco Lodge. We then headed up the BMT from Meadow Branch Road and were soon saying unkind words about the designer of this section of the old Appalachian Trail (AT), who was none other than Myron Avery. The first mile or so is very, very steep.

After several rest stops, we finally got to the fairly flat stretch, then the final climb up to Oldfields Rd. Here we added several liters of water to our packs, since we doubted we would see any more flowing water till we reached Fontana Village. This was indeed the case. We ate lunch as well, then headed up the gated forest service road, then veered off the road and back onto the trail a ways up the road. This section of the BMT is hilly. That is a euphemism. It goes straight up and down every knob of Yellow Creek Mountain. We finally reached the powerlines around 3 p.m., a distance of about 6 miles from our vehicles at Tapoco Lodge. The difference in elevation between Tapoco and the powerlines is about 1800 feet, but with all the ups and downs, we probably did twice this in ups.

We set up our shelters, and then we all rested in the beautiful sun with great views. It was actually warm until the sun went down. We ate our rations, which seemed rather meager, considering our prior calorie expenditure. We sat around and watched the sun go down over the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock and Citico Wilderness Areas and watched the shadows form on the Smokies looking toward Gregory Bald. The sky was crystal clear and the sunset was quite a sight. As soon as the sun set, we headed to our tents, hammocks, bivy sacks and warm sleeping bags. It got quite cold overnight, below freezing in fact, but we all survived well without anyone becoming a human ice cube.

Sunday morning we all arose at sunrise, ate our breakfast, broke camp, and headed north on the BMT. We climbed again quite a bit to the top of Yellow Creek Mountain, going by the Asheville TV station reflector. We understand this reflector was erected to reflect the TV waves down into Robbinsville, so those residents could enjoy local TV. We understand it is now no longer in use, with the advent of cable and satellite TV. From the top of Yellow Creek Mountain, it was pretty much all downhill (a lot of it) to Fontana Village. We stopped in at the lodge and ate our lunch out on the veranda. We then hoofed it the rest of the way to the dam over fairly level trail, arriving there about 2:30 p.m. Our Sunday distance was about 9 miles, but much easier than the 6 miles of the day before.

We then headed back to Tapoco Lodge, picking up our water cache on the way, then retrieved our cars and ate a late lunch/early supper at the lodge, consisting of pizza, hamburgers, sandwiches, and beer. Two of us ordered a whole pizza each, intending to take leftovers home to our wives, but that did not happen; nothing went home except full stomachs.

This section is in excellent shape, thanks to the hard work of Dick Evans and his Robbinsville crew. The trail was easy to follow. It is a beautiful section of trail, but is clearly difficult. This is not a leisurely walk in the woods; only the tough will survive. Perhaps in the future we can reverse some of Myron Avery's sadistic ups and downs and create some nice contoured trail around the peaks.

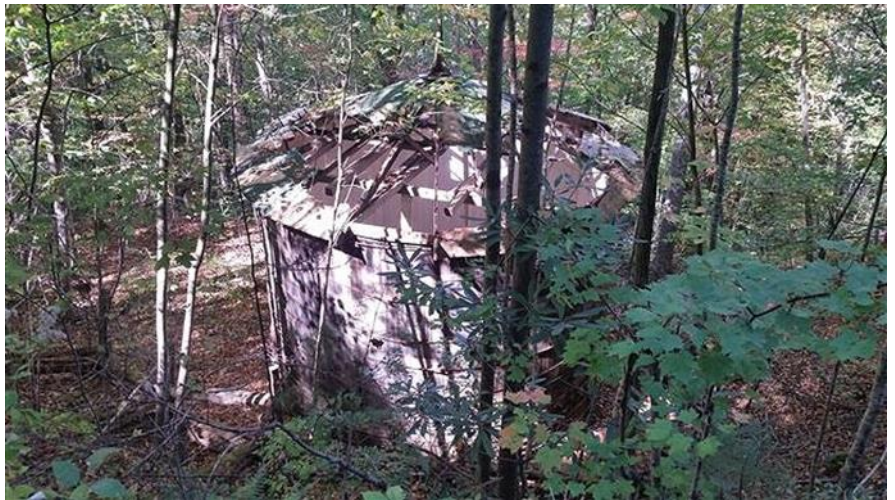




Above is shown one of the several glorious shots taken around sunset; as you can see we were up above the clouds at our camping site. Several more beautiful sunset and mountain shots can be viewed at the CHC Meetup site at <http://www.meetup.com/Cherokee-Hiking-Club-of-Southeast-Tennessee/photos/26521261/> ; one never knew that power lines could look so good! In addition, there are additional pictures taken by Rick Harris, along with GPS tracks of the 3 main lengths of the route; to see these, follow these links:

- Day 1 - Tapoco to the Powerlines <http://www.trimbleoutdoors.com/ViewTrip/3106481>
- Day 2 - Powerlines to Fontana Lodge <http://www.trimbleoutdoors.com/ViewTrip/3106498>
- Day 2 - Fontana Lodge to Fontana Dam <http://www.trimbleoutdoors.com/ViewTrip/3106501>

It is interesting to note that during the third length (Day 2/Fontana Lodge to Fontana Dam), it appears that the hikers encountered what appears to be an old moonshine still (?), see picture at right.



### **John Muir Trail Clean Up Hike - October 24, 2015**

Our fall clean-up of this trail found the weather fairly overcast. The good news was that we came across very little trash, and the trail was in very good shape. The only work the participants had to perform was some lopping along the trail.

Attendees included Clayton (leader) and Ruth Pannell, and Clayton's son Otis Pannell. Man/hours worked were 9 and man/hours travelled were 4.5.

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**Cherokee Hiking Club Meeting Minutes**  
**October 8, 2015**  
**The home of Ann and Bill Gray, Cleveland, TN**

The meeting began at 6:15 p.m. while pizza was on the way. It was followed by pizza. More than 23 attended, including multiple new members. Some visitors did not stay. Clayton reported our treasury to be **\$1,764.25**.

**News:**

- The meeting was not supposed to be a potluck but some members were so firmly in the habit that they brought food anyway. There were no complaints.
- It's bear season, orange is the same old same old.

**Old Business:**

- The Blood Mountain hike was cancelled because of rain and may be rescheduled.
- The Clear Creek hike was cancelled.
- The umbrella volunteer agreement with the Cherokee National Forest was still pending; resolution was once again expected in a week or two.

**New Business:**

- The Christmas party is in the planning stages.
- A nominating committee for next year's officers was chosen.

**Activities Conducted:**

- A nice hike to Benton Falls went well.
- Jack's overnight Appalachian Trail hike to the bald from Carver's Gap had a good view.
- The hike to the Narrows had new people and the same old asters. It was "a really nice hike and a great place, you can climb down the rocks to the river and there's a little beach" where they ate. Letha Kelly invited everyone to her "really nice" house in Reliance. They ate more.
- On short notice a Big South Fork event had multiple hikes, to Angel Falls, a steel railroad bridge, Devil's Den, hikes to the Arches and under the rim, and more. It had a "marvelous group" with lots of picnicking. The campground had a screened shelter, a fireplace, electricity, and a bath house.

**Activities Planned:**

- Saturday, October 17-18: Rick Harris leads an overnight backpack on the Benton MacKaye Trail from Tapoco Lodge to Fontana Dam.
- Saturday, October, 24: A John Muir cleanup day.
- Saturday, November 7: Randy leads on the Cumberland Trail.
- Early November some time there will be a CCC (Cleveland Community College) cleanup hike.
- Saturday, December 5: The Lookout Mt. hike.
- There may be a weekend event at the Big South Fork campground next spring.

**Next meeting:**

- The next meeting will be Thursday November 12 at the Monterrey Restaurant, Cleveland.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Richard Foster, Secretary*