

The Cherokee Hiker

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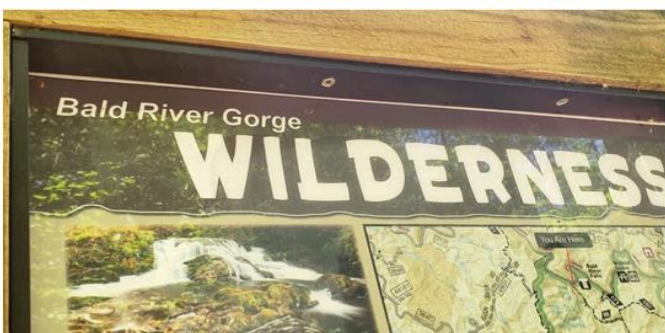
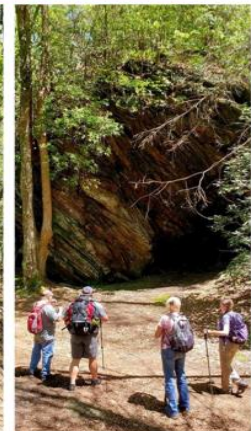
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EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

MAY 2, 2020 BALD RIVER AND COW CAMP TRAILS

We had 13 folks (and a couple of dogs) on this hike, so we split up into two separate groups to abide by the COVID-19 and Wilderness rules. Brenda led the first group and Rick led the second group. We parked at Cow Camp parking (since Bald River Falls parking was closed), hiked up the Cow Camp Trail to its intersection with the Bald River Trail, then upstream for another mile or so. Then we hiked down the Bald River Trail to the road and up River Road back to our cars. Total distance was about six miles. It was a beautiful day and the wildflowers, especially the trilliums, were out in full force. Those attending included Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, Judy Norton, Will Dostie, Dee Schondelmayer, Sandra Gilbert, Mary Alton, Thierry Urbain, Marianne Urbain, Wendy Von Frank, Steve Norton, Sandra Fenton, and Michael Friedman. Doug Lynch was scheduled to join us but he called us to tell us he hit a deer on the way and totaled his car, though he was fine.



MAY 4, 2020 EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL GLENDALE BRANCH AND COYTEE SECTIONS

There were several folks signed up for this hike, but all backed out for one reason or another, so it was just Hike Leaders Brenda and Rick Harris who hiked this beautiful section of the East Lakeshore Trail. The weather was great. We hiked from the Coytee Trailhead along the edge of the lake to the Glendale Trailhead, then back to our car, a total of 8.2 miles. We also hiked the two loops of the trail. This was an easy trail and a beautiful wildflower-burdened hike.



MAY 7, 2020 FALLS BRANCH FALLS AND JEFFREY HELL TRAILS

No hikers showed up for this hike. Hike Leader Sue Robinson.

MAY 9, 2020 FIERY GIZZARD/GRUNDY FOREST DAY LOOP

The group began the hike at the Grundy Forest State Natural Area picnic shelter, and hiked the Grundy Forest Day Loop, with a side trip on the CCC Camp interpretative trail for a total of a little over 2.5 miles. The bridge that provides access to the falls downstream from the loop trail was damaged by a recent flood and has been removed, so we were unable to include that portion of the hike. This is a moderately easy hike, with some rocky and root-exposed sections and nice stream overlooks. There are numerous huge hemlocks, which have been treated against the woolly adelgid and are spectacular. The pink lady's slippers along the trail and in the CCC camp area are numerous and there were large numbers in bloom. The camp interpretative trail is very well-done and gives a great indication of the camp life. After we left the trailhead, we made a stop at the Dutch-Maid Bakery, which is always a must if you are in the area. We then attempted to find a new trail to an overlook into Fiery Gizzard drainage, but were turned back by posted property (we lost one vehicle of hikers in this pursuit). We then attempted to hike out to Foster Falls, but the crowds were large and no parking was available, so we headed home. Hikers included Jennifer Schroll, Doug Lynch, Judy Price, Margaret Callahan, Carroll Guhne, Rick and Brenda Harris, Clare Sullivan, Marrie Lasater, and Hike Leader Jack Callahan.



MAY 14, 2020 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING
Canceled.

MAY 12-14, 2020 AT SECTION HIKE CARVERS GAP TO HWY 19E

This trip was moved up several days to try to avoid forecasted thunderstorms. As it turned out, rain was unavoidable. Hike Leader Jack Callahan and hikers Megan Callahan, Sue Robinson, Al Johnson, Jennifer Schroll, and James Anderson met at Mountain Harbor B&B and took the shuttle to Carvers Gap to start the hike. We enjoyed beautiful clear weather as we crossed Round and Jane Balds on our way to Grassy Ridge.

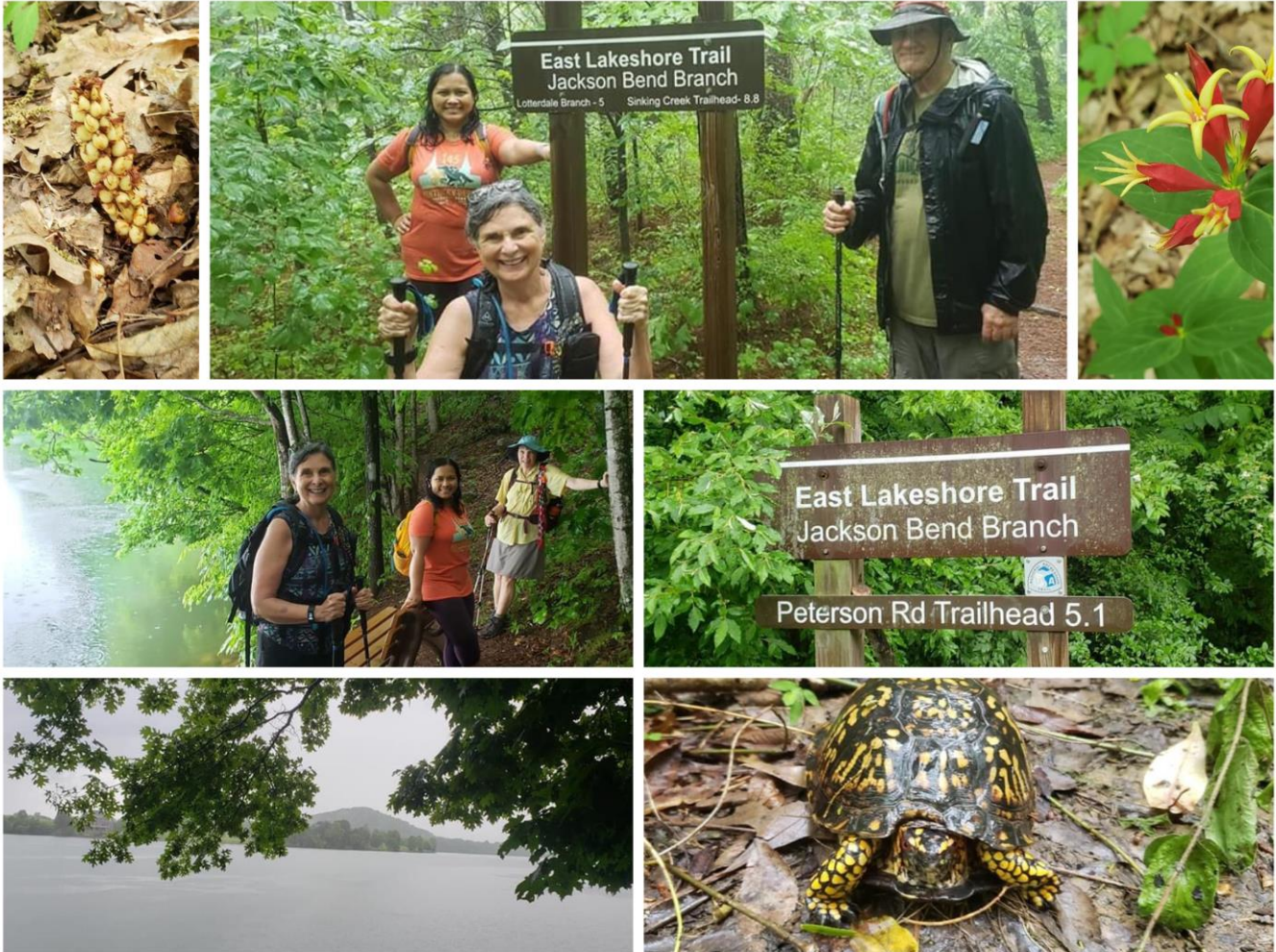


However, winter was still on the mountain, as we had temps in the 40s, and snow lingered on the ground. After collecting water at a spring about two miles in on the AT, we made the final push to the top of Grassy Ridge with an elevation of around 6200 feet. After every one scattered out and set up camp, several of us walked further out the ridge and located a really nice clear flat campsite (a great location for future hikes). Around 5 pm we were joined by Rick Harris, who had to make a late start. We had beautiful clear skies and wonderful views of Mount Mitchell, and even Mount Guyot in the Smokies some 72 miles away. The temperature had moderated and it was a very enjoyable evening. Around 1 am, the winds picked up and the rain started. With gusts of over 30 mph, we hunkered down till 10 am, but the forecast for the next 24 hours showed no relief. A group decision was made to head back down the mountain and begin our trip home. On the way back we intercepted Buddy Arnold and Bruce Lee, who had made an early start that morning and had planned to catch up with us. After some discussion, they decided to join us and head home. Several stopped in Roan Mountain for a late lunch pizza and discussed plans for another trip to this section of the AT.



MAY 18, 2020 MONDAY EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL JACKSON BEND SECTION

Six hikers showed up for this very, very wet hike, in spite of the weather. Ten were scheduled, but some backed out due to the weather or other considerations. This hike was an in-and-out hike from the Peterson Road Trailhead to avoid a shuttle, a total of 10.3 miles in length. This is a deceptively difficult hike as well with several significant ups and downs, even though it basically follows the edge of Tellico Lake. The hike is almost entirely in deep woods or along the lake edge with numerous wildflowers. Four of us went all the way and returned totally soaked and very tired. Two returned early for reasons other than the rain. We also had Cody (Larry's dog) with us. Those hiking included Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, Larry Van Dyke and Cody, Lyn Irving, CH Wilson, and Arnita Gray.



THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST
Canceled.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75 mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway (while social distancing).



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE: Event schedule subject to change according to guidance from governmental agencies and offices regarding [COVID-19](#). An email will be sent to members if an event is canceled.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75 mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 6:00 pm. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 am beginning with Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

JUNE 8, 2020 MONDAY EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL DAVIS FERRY SECTION

We are going back and rescheduling the hikes we missed over the last couple months due to COVID-19. But we must follow new rules. The max will be 10 hikers. No carpooling, every family unit drives to the trailhead in their own vehicle. No shuttles unless among a family unit which brings two vehicles. Thus, out and back for a total of 6.6 miles, or if a family brings two vehicles, you can do your own shuttle and just hike 3.3 miles. Or hikers may choose to just hike part way and return to their car on their own. We will start where we ended on Feb 17 at the Antioch Trailhead and hike 3.3 miles to the Glendale Trailhead, then back to our starting point, total 6.6 miles. Meet at Pizzeria Venti in Vonore at 10 AM for carpooling (intersection of US411 and TN360). Park on the right by the fence. We will probably eat an early supper at Pizzeria Venti. Easy 6.6 miles. Hike Leaders, Rick and Brenda Harris. Contact Rick at 513-260-1184 or HarrisRi@aol.com. You must pre-register due to only 10 hikers allowed on this hike.

JUNE 8-11, 2020 MONDAY-THURSDAY ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

Canceled.

JUNE 11, 2020 THURSDAY 6 PM MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Due to current COVID-19 precautions, we will not have a potluck dinner. Bring your own meal to the Charleston (TN) City Pavilion in Hoyt Berry Municipal Park.

JUNE 13, 2020 SATURDAY HOOPER BALD AND HUCKLEBERRY KNOB

In order to try to see the flame azaleas blooming at Hooper Bald we are changing the Hooper Bald/Huckleberry Knob hike to Saturday June 13. The length can be between 4-6 miles depending upon how far we decide to walk. It will be easy to moderate. Please bring a lunch as we will try to time it so we can enjoy lunch at one of the spots. (This is actually two short out-and-back hikes with a short driving distance in-between.) I have read there are flame azaleas of several different colors on Hooper Bald. The famous flame azaleas on Gregory Bald in the Smokies, just a bit north of this location, typically bloom mid-to-late June. So hopefully our timing will be within their bloom period on Hooper Bald and we can see them there. We will meet at Hobby Lobby in Cleveland at 8:30 am and then at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center in Tellico at 9:30 am. If the weather is bad, we will not go as we are going to see the views. If I were to need to cancel then I will put it on our Club's website on Facebook. Hike Leader James Anderson 423-715-8824.

JUNE 15, 2020 MONDAY EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL SINKING CREEK SECTION

We are going back and rescheduling the hikes we missed over the last couple months due to COVID-19. But we must follow new rules. The max will be 10 hikers. No carpooling, every family unit drives to the trailhead in their own vehicle. No shuttles unless among a family unit which brings two vehicles. Thus, out and back for a total of 9.0 miles, or if a family brings two vehicles, you can do your own shuttle and just hike 4.5 miles. Or hikers may choose to just hike part way and return to their car on their own. We will start at the Coytee Trailhead and hike 4.5 miles to the Sinking Creek Trailhead, then back to our starting point, total 9.0 miles. Meet at Pizzeria Venti in Vonore at 10 am for carpooling (intersection of US411 and TN360). Park on the right by the fence. We will probably eat an early supper at Pizzeria Venti. Easy 9.0 miles. Hike leaders, Rick and Brenda Harris. Contact Rick at 513-260-1184 or HarrisRi@aol.com. You must pre-register due to only 10 hikers allowed on this hike.

JUNE 22, 2020 MONDAY EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL MORGANTON BRANCH SECTION

We are going back and rescheduling the hikes we missed over the last couple months due to COVID-19. But we must follow new rules. The max will be 10 hikers. No carpooling, every family unit drives to the trailhead in their own vehicle. No shuttles unless among a family unit which brings two vehicles. Thus, out and back for a total of 6.0 miles, or if a family brings two vehicles, you can do your own shuttle and just hike 3.0 miles. Or hikers may choose to just hike part way and return to their car on their own. We will start at the Peterson Rd Trailhead and hike 3.0 miles to the Sinking Creek Trailhead, then back to our starting point, total 6.0 miles. Meet at Pizzeria Venti in Vonore at 10 am for carpooling (intersection of US411 and TN360). Park on the right by the fence. We will probably eat an early supper at Pizzeria Venti. Easy 6.0 miles. Hike leaders, Rick and Brenda Harris. Contact Rick at 513-260-1184 or HarrisRi@aol.com. You must pre-register due to only 10 hikers allowed on this hike.

JUNE 25-26, 2020 THURSDAY-FRIDAY ANDREWS BALD GSMNP

3.6-mile round trip with a steady 900-foot elevation gain on the return trip. Moderately strenuous, wear good hiking boots, bring water and lunch and a ground cloth to sit or stretch out on and enjoy the views as we eat lunch. Hopefully we will hit the peak of the wild azaleas which are present on the bald. Plan to meet at the upper end of the Clingmans Dome parking lot at 10 am on the June 26. Look for the orange baseball cap(s). Hike Leader plans to camp at Smokemont Campground the night of the June 25 to avoid the early drive. Hike Leader Jack Callahan, 423-284-7885 for more information if you want to camp out.

JUNE 29, 2020 MONDAY EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL LOTTERDALE BRANCH SECTION

We are going back and rescheduling the hikes we missed over the last couple months due to COVID-19. But we must follow new rules. The max will be 10 hikers. No carpooling, every family unit drives to the trailhead in their own vehicle. No shuttles unless among a family unit which brings two vehicles. Thus, out and back for a total of 7.6 miles, or if a family brings two vehicles, you can do your own shuttle and just hike 3.8 miles. Or hikers may choose to just hike part way and return to their car on their own. We will start at the Sinking Creek Trailhead and hike 3.8 miles to the Lotterdale Campground Trailhead, then back to our starting point, total 7.6 miles. Meet at Pizzeria Venti in Vonore at 10 am for carpooling (intersection of US411 and TN360). Park on the right by the fence. We will probably eat an early supper at Pizzeria Venti. Easy 7.6 miles. Hike leaders, Rick and Brenda Harris. Contact Rick at 513-260-1184 or HarrisRi@aol.com. You must pre-register due to only 10 hikers allowed on this hike.

NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW

Check the Facebook page for future work days.

As always, go to the specific sponsor web page for more information on these events if you plan on attending.