

# The Cherokee Hiker

JANUARY 2021 Volume 38, Issue I

Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. • 198 Crews Drive Benton TN 37307

[www.cherokeehikingclub.org](http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org)

**PLEASE NOTE: 2021 CLUB DUES ARE DUE! PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO  
CHEROKEE HIKING CLUB, 198 CREWS DRIVE, BENTON TN 37307**

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to All Cherokee Hiking Club Members from your new President!

By the time you receive this I hope all will have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas. I'm hopeful and optimistic that many things will improve as the new year unfolds. As your new President I would like to first take this opportunity to again thank Jack Callahan for the tireless leadership he has given the Club over these past few years. During this time, he has organized and led so many different activities for which we really appreciate his efforts. He has set a very high bar of leadership for me and others who follow after him. Hopefully now he will have a bit more time to spend on the activities themselves, so we hope to see even more trips and outings he will be able to put together.

Over this coming year, I certainly hope to see life return more to normal as our country should be able to turn the corner on the pandemic situation. Speaking for us all, we do miss the potluck dinners we have previously enjoyed as a part of our monthly Club meetings. In the meantime, though, we will continue to keep practicing those habits that help prevent the spread of the virus. In regard to those efforts, we are still planning to have our annual planning meeting in which we develop our annual calendar of hikes and activities. It will be at Clayton and Ruth Clayton's Church in Etowah on Sunday afternoon January the 24<sup>th</sup>. We will send a reminder and more info at a later date. I can tell you at this point that it will be a bit different this year because of COVID. In order to follow the Church's guidelines, we will not be able to bring food to share with others. Each individual may bring a snack and/or a drink for him/herself but not to share with others. Social distancing and masks will be required. Since we are guests of the Church and they are nice enough to allow us to use their facility, each of us will need to abide by their restrictions whether we agree with them or not.

Also in regard to the planning meeting, I will not be encouraging a large attendance at the event because of the high COVID rate we have in Tennessee at the present time. Instead of attending in person I welcome as many as who would like to email me or even snail mail me any ideas they have for hikes or activities they want to lead during 2021.

The following info will need to be included:

- 1) The proposed date of the hike/activity. (It would be good if you could provide an alternative date or two in case there is a conflict.)
- 2) A description of the hike/activity.
- 3) How strenuous it is and information such as distance covered or elevation gained or lost so we can properly rate it.
- 4) Is there a limit in regard to the number who can participate?
- 5) For activities, is there an admission cost involved?
- 6) If you have a departure time and place in mind then include that information as well.

As we get closer to the planning meeting, I may ask that additional information be included but this will get you started. Once I receive this info either by email or in person, I can work on putting it on a calendar. We may have to spend some time on the phone or emailing back and forth this year since we are not encouraging high attendance. Nevertheless, I'm sure we can get the calendar done and circulated.

Between now and our January planning meeting, Jack will continue to lead the Wednesday afternoon/evening walks on the greenway as usual. Unfortunately, the monthly breakfast at the Old Fort Restaurant will be cancelled until further notice due to the local uptick in COVID. Additionally, if anyone wants to lead a hike or activity between now and our planning meeting, I ask that you email Judy Price and please copy me so we can get the info out to the rest of the club.

Speaking of hikes and activities, I hope that you all will consider leading or hosting some activity or event during 2021. It could be anything from a five-day backpacking event to meeting at the greenway for a walk and coffee afterward, or hosting the monthly meeting at your place. As I see it, the purpose of our club is to provide opportunities for people to get together and enjoy the outdoors while fellowshiping together. So, in my view, just about any activity or event can be put under that big umbrella.

In closing, although our year may be beginning a bit unusually, I hope and pray that by the end we will be back to going full blast with our club events and activities. So, if you have any ideas about how to make that happen, please do not hesitate to share them.

Yours truly and in the words of Snappy Johnson,

James Anderson, El Presidente

# EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

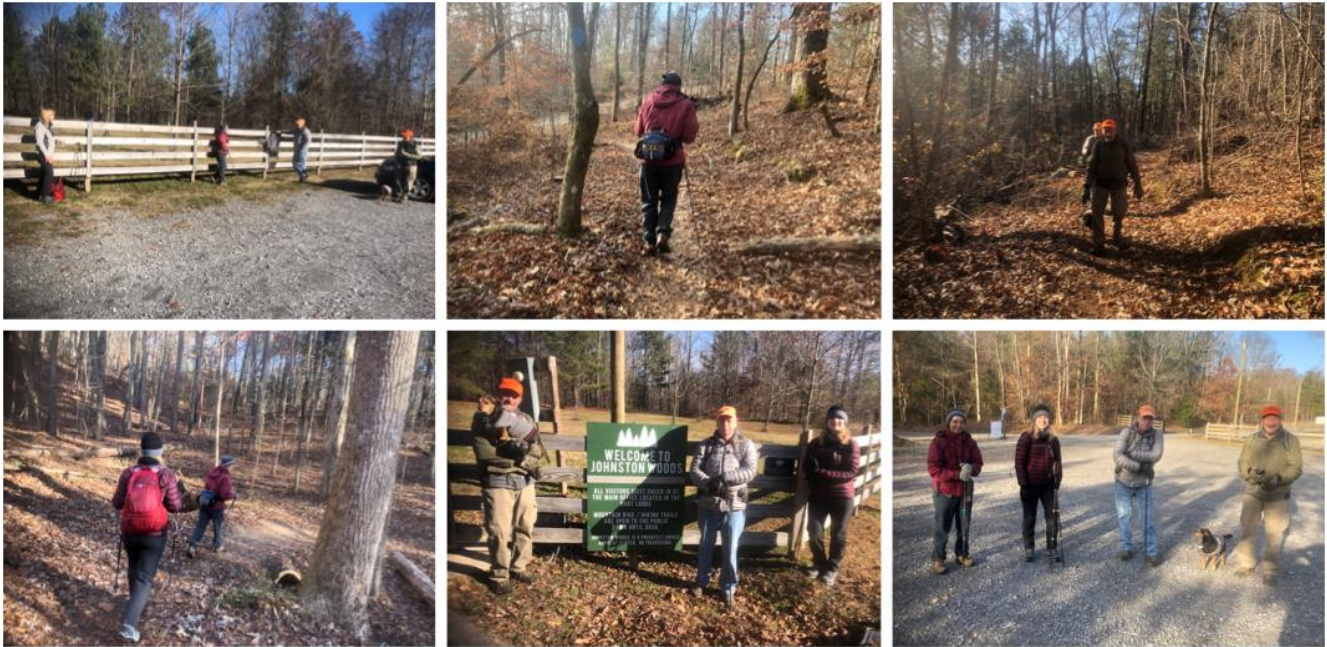
## NOVEMBER 28, 2020 LINDA DAVIS MEMORIAL WALK ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY



Three club members met for a nice stroll along the Cleveland/Bradley County Greenway on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This annual hike, named for the late club member Linda Davis who started the after-holiday walks on the Chattanooga Greenway, has been an annual tradition for several years. The walkers enjoyed a mild November morning which led to many more folks on the greenway than is normally the case. We had good conversation, including the Hike Leader reminiscing about the history of the hike and Linda's contributions to our club, while maintaining social distancing in line with COVID protocols. We walked from the Greenway Pavilion at Raider Drive to the northern terminus of the greenway and back again. Enjoying the morning were James Anderson, Judy Price and Hike Leader Randy Morris.



## DECEMBER 3, 2020 JOHNSTON WOODS



Five hikers and a canine braved below freezing temperatures to hike the bike trails at Johnston Woods in McDonald, TN. The trail was lined by frosty flora, but the sun was shining brightly so we didn't stay cold long. We had the trails mostly to ourselves! We kept a good pace, but did stop to look at frost flowers, mushrooms past their prime, pawpaw trees, puffballs, and mosses and lichens. We hiked the two current loop trails: one approximately three miles and the other approximately 1.5 miles. Another longer trail is currently being finished. It was a beautiful and enjoyable day! Hikers were: Jack Callahan, Bob Dornfeld and Smoky, Karen Kocher, Kathy Seymour, and Hike Leader Judy Price.



## DECEMBER 6, 2020 THUNDER ROCK "LOOP"



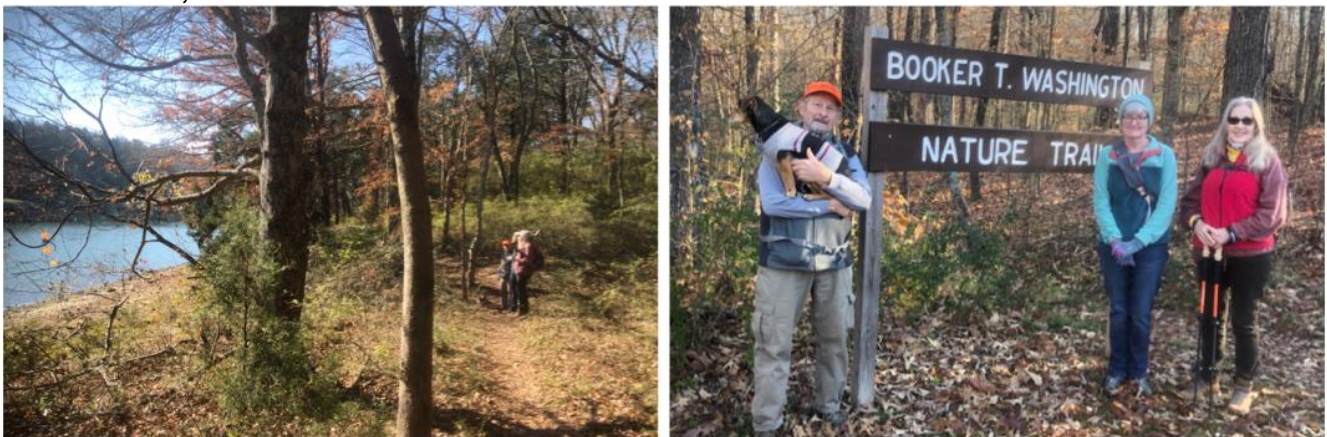
We met at Thunder Rock trailhead parking in Cherokee National Forest on a sunny but frosty morning. Ten hikers and a canine (Margaret and Jack Callahan, Jane Chastain, Bob Dornfeld and Smoky, Karen and Fritz Kocher, Sue Robinson, Clare Sullivan, David Thomforde, and Hike Leader Judy Price) headed up the forest service road to Thunder Rock Express. The uphill hike soon warmed us. (Sue brought hard boiled eggs as hand warmers!) At just over a mile, we reached the junction to Chestnut Mountain Trail. On that trail, Margaret spotted the famous ["Rock in the Tree"](#) tree. The rock is no longer there, but the tree has developed a face so it's now the "Face on the Tree" tree!

We arrived at Poplar Hollow Trail, where we also picked up the Benton MacKaye Trail, and stopped for a quick lunch. After hiking downhill awhile, we came upon a blowdown that the group moved off the trail. (Clare and Ed Sullivan maintain this section for the BMTA, so they can check that off the list!) A short uphill took us to the road and Thunder Rock Trail. A beautiful mountain view soon opened up to us. Switchbacks took us down to the Ocoee River. We walked through Thunder Rock Campground back to our cars, ending a fun five-mile hike!





**DECEMBER 10, 2020 OUTER LOOP AT BOOKER T. WASHINGTON STATE PARK**



Four hikers and a canine met at the Parking Area with Kiosk #1 at Booker T. Washington State Park in Harrison, TN, and began our five-mile hike. (The kiosks explain different timelines in Washington's life.) We started on the Nature Trail, which soon took us to the Outer Loop and we were on our way. Cleanup of tree damage from spring storms was evident along the trail. We had beautiful views from the shoreline of Chickamauga Lake/Tennessee River and the Wilkes T. Thrasher Bridge across Chickamauga Dam. We kept our eyes open for herons and were finally rewarded when one flew from the beach to a tree. It was a sunny and warm day, a perfect day spent with hiking friends! Hikers were: Bob Dornfeld and Smoky, Ginger Pippenger, Yvonne Rittenhouse, and Hike Leader Judy Price.



DECEMBER 12, 2020 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY  
Canceled.

## DECEMBER 19, 2020 MCGILL CREEK SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL



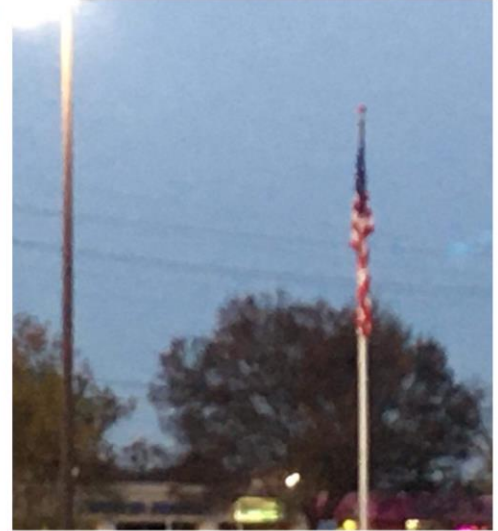
Four hikers and a canine convened at Roaring Creek Trailhead in Graysville, TN, for a hike on the McGill Creek Section of the Cumberland Trail. We set off on a sunny day with a slight chill in the air. A short road walk across Roaring Creek soon led us to the leaf-covered trail. The trail meandered through beautiful drainage waterfalls and ascended past rocky bluffs. We paralleled Brayton Mountain Road, which we crossed as it turned and headed up the mountain, and took in magnificent mountain views. Then we headed down a former logging road and took a left turn toward McGill Creek. After walking alongside the picturesque creek a short way, we came upon the bridge over cascading water. The trail currently ends here. We ate lunch at this serene place before retracing our steps to the trailhead, ending a wonderful five-mile hike. Hikers were: Bob Dornfeld and Smoky, Karen and Fritz Kocher, and Hike Leader Judy Price.





### WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

We did not miss a walk this past month--some rain but no lightning--so we made our 3.75 miles each Wednesday. It can be a great way to test rain gear before you take it on a long hike to know how well it performs, as well as winter clothing and gloves. After the time change, we are meeting at 4:30 pm. We meet at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits Yogurt where the Greenway joins the parking lot. A note is sent out on Messenger to remind members of the walk each week. If you are not on this list and want to get the updates, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.



### THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

We did not meet this month, as the virus spread has increased in Cleveland. We typically meet at 8:30 am to enjoy breakfast and catch up with folks. Everyone is invited, and if you would like further information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885. We will see how the outlook is for the breakfast as we get further into 2021.

# 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.

## **JANUARY 2, 2021 SATURDAY 9 AM BRADY MOUNTAIN SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL**

Approximately five miles round trip, out and back to a scenic view (with the option to hike an additional approximate half mile to arch if the trail is clear), moderately strenuous with steep rocky areas. Bring lunch and water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Meet at Brady Mountain trailhead on Highway 68 in Grassy Cove ([Black Mountain/Brady Mountain Trailhead Crossville, TN 38555](#) – from Spring City the parking pull-off is on the left) at 9 am. The kiosk is off the parking lot. If you plan to attend, you must contact Hike Leader Judy Price [jprice.bird@yahoo.com](mailto:jprice.bird@yahoo.com) for a spot on the roster and to arrange a caravan if applicable. Hike sizes are limited due to COVID-19. Social distancing is observed. More information: [Brady Mountain Section – Cumberland Trails Conference](#)

## **JANUARY 5, 2021 TUESDAY 9 AM BRUSH CREEK TRAIL IN CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST**

The trail is approximately seven miles one way, but we will meet at the Brush Creek Trailhead (Brush Creek Trailhead US-74, Turtletown, TN 37391 <https://goo.gl/maps/X6bdKtUA99JMVaLN7> **NOT Boyd Gap**) at 9 am and hike in as many miles as we decide to (maybe three miles or so?) then hike back out (since we cannot currently shuttle). The kiosk is in the parking lot. Moderate bike trail with good tread. Bridges may be slippery. Bring lunch and water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. If you plan to attend, you must contact Hike Leader Judy Price [jprice.bird@yahoo.com](mailto:jprice.bird@yahoo.com) for a spot on the roster and to arrange a caravan if applicable. Hike sizes are limited due to COVID-19. Social distancing is observed.

## **JANUARY 9-17, 2021 GRAND CANYON BACKPACKING TRIP**

Six club members will strike out for Arizona on January 9, 2021, meeting up in Flagstaff, and drive to the South Rim. We'll overnight in a motel and get up the next morning to catch the shuttle to the South Kaibab trail. We'll hike down to Bright Angel campground for the first night on the trail. Day two, the group will hike to Cottonwood Campground, for two nights. The "off day" will consist of a day hike from Cottonwood to the North Rim and back, about 13 miles and 4000-foot elevation gain. Snow (and stamina) may slow us down on this interesting day hike. After the second night at Cottonwood, we'll hike back down to Bright Angel for night number four. A supper and breakfast at the Phantom Ranch the next morning will begin our hike back up to Indian Garden campground. If there is sufficient time an afternoon hike out to an overlook is a possibility. Day six, we break camp at Indian Garden and hike the rest of the way back to the South Rim. Total elevation gain for the trip will be slightly more than 10,000 feet. Reaching the top, we'll drive back to Flagstaff for two nights, with the in-between day possibly visiting Wupatki, NM; Sunset Crater, NM; and Walnut Canyon, NM, near Flagstaff. On Sunday January 17, we'll fly back to our respective hometowns. Hikers include Michelle Ritter, Jennifer Schroll, Megan Callahan, Al Johnson, Darrell Morgan, and Hike Leader Jack Callahan.

## **JANUARY 24, 2021 SUNDAY TIME TBD CLUB MEETING AND PLANNING FOR THE 2021 CALENDAR YEAR, WESLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH, ETOWAH, TN**

Details to come. Please see Note from the President at the top of this newsletter.

## **WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY**

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway while social distancing, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 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**

Canceled until further notice.

# NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

## **JANUARY 1, 2021 FRIDAY TENNESSEE STATE PARKS FIRST DAY HIKES**

See the [calendar](#) for events.

## **TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW**

Check the Facebook page for future work days.

## **BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

See the calendar for upcoming events.

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