



The Cherokee Hiker

FEBRUARY 2021 Volume 38, Issue II

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

PLEASE NOTE: 2021 CLUB DUES ARE DUE! PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK (\$15 PER HOUSEHOLD) TO CHEROKEE HIKING CLUB, 198 CREWS DRIVE, BENTON TN 37307

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all my fellow Cherokee Hiking Club Members. Here we are at the end of January. I certainly hope all of you are well and have been able to get out to walk or bask in the few days of warm sunshine we have experienced this year.

Just to report, we had a very productive planning meeting this past Sunday afternoon. A small, but supportive and involved, group was in attendance and socially distancing. I want to especially thank all of you who are willing to lead the variety of hikes and other activities during the coming year. Speaking of those events, this year's calendar that provides that information is also included in this month's newsletter. Several others who were not in attendance have mentioned they also intend to add some hikes and activities to the calendar later in the year as they know more about their personal schedules. We do look forward to that and appreciate all who are willing to lead in this way. So, it's definitely shaping up to be a good year in terms of the variety of activities offered.

I also want to remind you that Jack will continue to offer the Cleveland Greenway walks on Wednesday afternoons. If you haven't had an opportunity to join him yet please consider doing so. It's a good way to have some socially distanced physical activity and enjoy our fine greenway. Additionally, Jack will hopefully be able to start the third Thursday breakfasts back up soon. Stay tuned for more info on when that will occur. I also want to remind any of you that have not paid your dues yet for 2021 to please do so. The info on how much they are and where to send the check is included in this month's newsletter.

And last, but not least, I want to let you know that we will not be having a second Thursday evening Club Meeting this month due to not having a suitable indoor venue. We are in the process of looking into an indoor venue that is large enough for proper social distancing and where food is available for the March meeting. Again, we will let you know for sure in the next month's newsletter.

In conclusion here's to wishing you an interesting, exciting, and fulfilling journey as you walk life's pathway!

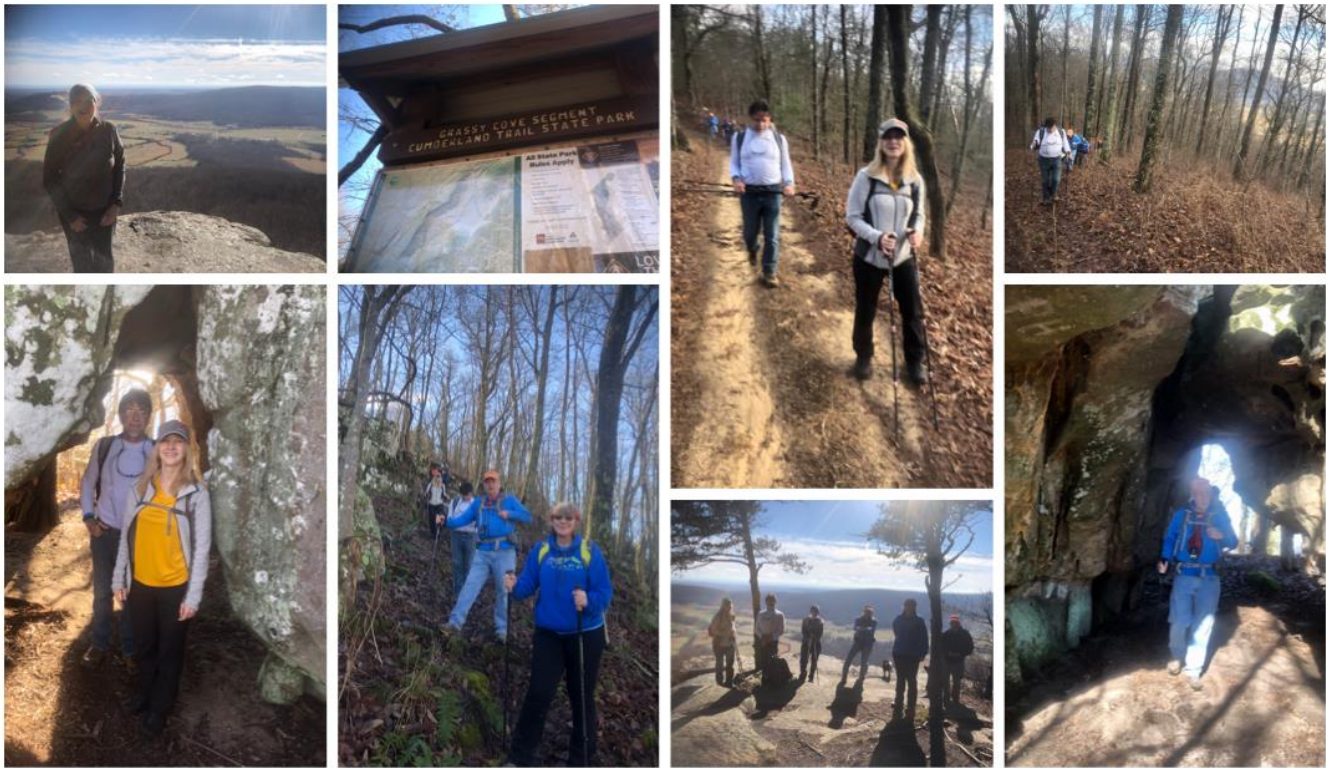
James Anderson, El Presidente



Follow the Cherokee Hiking Club on Instagram @cherokee_hiking_club! CHEROKEE_HIKING_CLUB

EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2, 2021 BRADY MOUNTAIN SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL



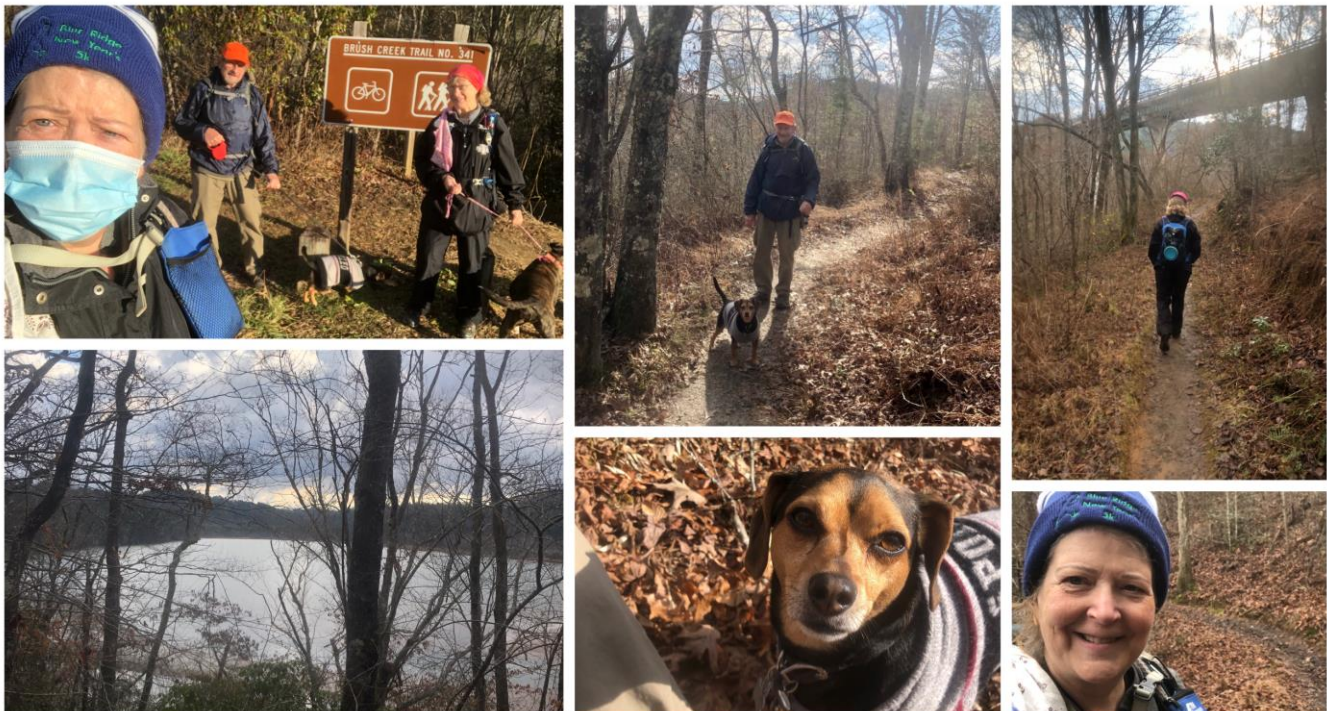
Seven hikers (Margaret and Jack Callahan, Bob Dornfeld, Karen and Fritz Kocher, Jennifer Schroll and Hike Leader Judy Price) and one canine (Smoky) met on a beautiful day at Brady Mountain Trailhead in Grassy Cove to hike part of that section of the Cumberland Trail. We quickly headed uphill and got our heart rates up. After a short reprieve at Low Gap, we headed up once again and it pretty much stayed that way for a couple of miles. We had views on either side of the ridge including northerly toward Crossville. We passed through many rocky areas covered in mosses, ferns, and lichens and paused to sit at one section and take in the views. Once we'd had snacks and shed layers, we continued on until we came to the side trail to the Overlook. We decided to keep going about half a mile to Brady Arch. We meandered in and out through the boulders before heading back to the Overlook trail. Everyone ooh'd and ahh'd when we reached Brady Bluff Overlook with its magnificent views of Grassy Cove, mountains and smokestacks in the distance, and Black Mountain nearby. Of course we ate lunch there so we could bask in the beauty. Unfortunately, our time soon ended and we headed carefully back down the mountain for a hike that was just over six miles.



JANUARY 5, 2021 BRUSH CREEK TRAIL IN CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

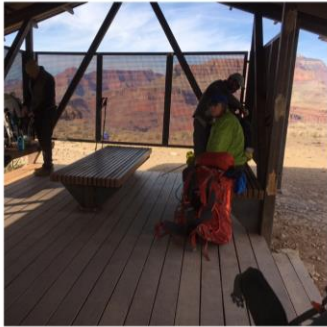


It was double doggo day as three hikers (Bob Dornfeld, Sue Robinson, and Hike Leader Judy Price) and two canines (Smoky and Zoe) hiked part of Brush Creek Trail from Brush Creek Trailhead near the Ocoee Whitewater Center. It was a cloudy and chilly day when we started; Smoky and Zoe soon became fast friends and did zoomies up the trail. We made a side trip to the site of the previous Brush Creek bridge before heading along the trail and passing under the current bridge. We occasionally had views of Ocoee No. 3 Lake and stopped to have lunch by one of the views. The skies had started to look ominous, but as we ate the sun came out and warmed us and the dark clouds skirted on by. After lunch, we headed back to the trailhead where we saw hikers and cyclists starting the trail, the first people we'd seen all day! Approximately eight and a half miles.



JANUARY 9-17, 2021 GRAND CANYON BACKPACKING TRIP

The Spectacular Six met in Dallas-Fort Worth and flew on to Flagstaff where vehicles were rented for the drive to the South Rim. After an overnight at the Bright Angel Lodge, we got an early start on January 10 and caught the bus to the South Kiabab trailhead to begin our hike to Bright Angel Campground. This seven and half mile section of the trail is steep downhill, and before we reached the Black Bridge, some of our legs were Jell-o. Arriving at the campground, we set up camp and enjoyed the luxury of picnic tables, flush toilets and running tap water.



Day Two, we hit the trail at 9 am and made the fairly easy hike to Cottonwood Campground which had vault toilets, stream water and picnic tables. Along the way, we talked with a fisheries biologist who explained their work of removing non-native trout from Bright Angel Creek. We also talked about using multiple campsites with a Park Ranger who was very accommodating and said we could use multiple sites to spread out to prevent overcrowding, which we did.





Day Three, Megan, Jennifer and Jack left before 7 am using headlamps to try to make the hike to the North Rim with daypacks. Al, Michelle and Darrell took a more leisurely approach and by midmorning hiked up to Roaring Spring. Each group shared notes on the blackboard at Manzanita Ranger Station. The North Rimmers made it as far as the Supai Tunnel, two miles from the top, before deciding to forgo the additional miles and return to Cottonwood. The estimate was we would arrive back at camp at between 8 and 9 pm if we went to the top. With spots of ice and narrow and rocky sections of trail, this was probably the correct decision. As it was, the three got back by 3:30 pm, with lots of time to have a leisurely supper. We did encounter a trail maintenance crew about halfway to Supai and thanked them for their work.





Day Four, the entire group was on the trail by 9 am, and hiked back to Bright Angel Campground. Along the way Al, Megan and Jennifer took the side trail to Ribbon Falls which was quite a sight. Checking in with the Ranger at Bright Angel, we were able to utilize the group campsite which gave us lots of room to spread out. At 7 pm, we went back to Phantom Ranch to consume our stew supper, which was great except that we had to eat outside on a picnic table due to Covid restrictions. Food was hot and quickly consumed.



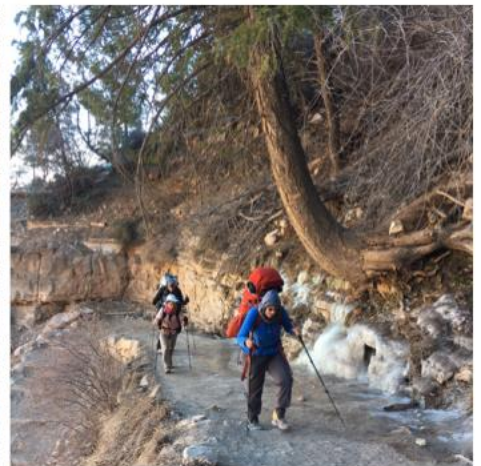


Day Five, we headed back to Phantom Ranch from the campsite for our breakfast, also on the picnic table; and with temps in the 30's it cooled quickly. Everyone got more than their fill, and we broke camp and began the hike up the Bright Angel Trail to Indian Gardens for night five. We crossed the Silver Bridge and made the climb in good time, reaching the campground by very early afternoon. Again, we were able to spread out onto two sites to reduce crowding. After lunch, several of us hiked out to Plateau Point for some late afternoon shots. Mule deer were also plentiful around Indian Gardens and were quite tame.





Day Six, we began the serious climb of 4.5 miles to the South Rim, where we saw more people than anywhere else along the trail. The vast majority were day hikers who gave us the right of way as we looked pretty rough and possibly had some minor odor! We made it to the top by 1:30 pm and all were in great spirits. We went back to Flagstaff for two nights to clean up, see the local sights, and eat a hot meal.



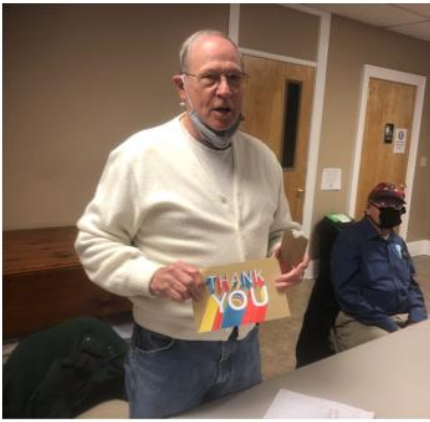


Saturday, January 16, several of us drove to Wupatki and Walnut Canyon National Monuments. January 17, we all flew back to DFW, where we split up and continued on home. Backpackers of the Spectacular Six were Al Johnson, Jennifer Schroll, Megan Callahan, Michelle Ritter, Darrell Morgan, and Taskmaster Jack Callahan. It was a great trip and many memories were made. But it is a difficult hike!





JANUARY 24, 2021 CLUB MEETING AND PLANNING FOR THE 2021 CALENDAR YEAR, WESLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH, ETOWAH, TN



WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland/Bradley County Greenway.



THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

We did not meet this month due to COVID. 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.

FEBRUARY 5, 2021 FRIDAY 10 AM LAUREL FALLS IN LAUREL-SNOW SNA

Approximately six and a half miles round trip. Moderately strenuous. Bring a lunch and water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. We will start on the Cumberland Trail and hike through a former mining area to the foot of Laurel Falls. Meet at Richland Creek trailhead (N35 31.566 W85 01.310) at 10 am. If you plan to attend, you must contact Hike Leader Judy Price at jprice.bird@yahoo.com for a spot on the roster and to arrange a caravan from Cleveland or Dayton if applicable. Hike sizes are limited due to COVID-19. Social distancing is observed. More information: [Laurel-Snow SNA Section – Cumberland Trails Conference](#)

FEBRUARY 11, 2021 THURSDAY MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Canceled.

FEBRUARY 12, 2021 FRIDAY 10 AM EUREKA TRAIL IN ENGLEWOOD, TN

Easy Rails-to-Trails walkway with flat, wide, good surface. New section of the trail starts off Hwy 39 or New Englewood Hwy heading into Englewood from Hwy 30 (White Street in Athens). Meet in the parking area where the current Eureka Trail ends and the new section crosses Hwy 39. We will hike the new section that is one mile and then head up the older section that is four miles. Each person can decide however far they wish to walk. We will meet at the parking area at 10 am weather permitting. Contact Hike Leader Ruth Pannell at 423-506-9623, 423-263-9730, or crpannell@comcast.net.

FEBRUARY 15, 2021 MONDAY 9 AM CHICKAMAUGA BATTLEFIELD

Hike is a 7-8 mile loop on the Red Trail with a lunch stop at Wilder Tower. Lots of options to shorten the hike if you want to. Meet at the Cleveland Park N Ride near intersection of I-75/Hwy 60 at 8:15 am or at the Battlefield Visitor Center at 9:00 am. Afterward, we can spend a little time touring the great rifle collection if it is open. Contact Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256.

FEBRUARY 22, 2021 MONDAY 9:30 AM THUNDER ROCK LOOP

Hike is a loop of about 6 miles and begins at the Thunder Rock Campground parking area which is near the Ocoee Whitewater Center. Meet at 9:30 am. It will include parts of the BMT, West Fork, 1330 By-pass, Chestnut Mountain Loop, Bear Paw, and Rhododendron Trails before returning to the parking lot. Contact Hike Leader Clare Sullivan at clare7982@gmail.com.

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

FEBRUARY 2 – 4, 2021 [VIRTUAL WILDERNESS WILDLIFE WEEK](#)

“Join us as we celebrate the natural features, creatures and cultures of the Great Smoky Mountains—all online. We’ve invited some of the leading wildlife experts to lead informative discussions with you, our virtual outdoor enthusiasts. We’ll also share all-new content that takes you into the great outdoors from the comfort of your home, guided by our wilderness explorers.”

FEBRUARY 2021 [AN INTRODUCTION TO BACKPACKING](#) HIWASSEE/OCOEE SCENIC RIVERS STATE PARK

“Hiwassee/Ocoee Rivers State Park is offering (4) different classes to prepare you for successful backcountry backpacking. On the fourth and final class we will conduct a free overnight trip led by seasoned backpacker and 2018 Appalachian Trail thru-hiker, Ranger Jeremy Sorensen.”

MAY 8 – 16, 2021 [VIRTUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE \(GSMNP AND BEYOND!\)](#)

“LET’S HOLD ANOTHER ONLINE EVENT! It is hard not to really miss the fellowship with each other and with nature that our annual spring pilgrimage gives us! With the uncertainty of COVID-19 still an issue, we’ve decided to make the Spring event virtual this year. This version of our event will once again be held through the iNaturalist app. We will not limit this year’s event to the confines of the GSMNP, nor is it ever limited to just wildflowers as the 70-year old name suggests, but instead we will expand it throughout the entire country, Canada, and anywhere else our pilgrims happen to be. So, no matter where you live or what organisms you have in your backyards, neighborhoods, parks or outdoor areas you may safely visit, you can share them with all of us!”

[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.

**MINUTES OF CHEROKEE HIKING CLUB MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by our new president, James Anderson, at 2:15 p.m. with overview of Agenda. This meeting was held at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Etowah, TN.

Minutes from the last meeting were in November Newsletter 2020.

Treasurer's Report from Randy Morris: As of November 12, 2020, balance was \$2,160. Income of \$360 came in from membership renewals and new members. Also, overage income of \$22.50 from Big South Fork Camping Trip. Expenses were: \$37 for meeting supplies; \$30 for Charleston Pavilion; \$625 to reserve Big South Fork group campsite for 2021; \$125 gift card of appreciation. As of January 22, 2021, balance is now \$1,725.50.

Recognition of immediate Past President Jack Callahan by current President James Anderson: CHC is extremely grateful for Jack's excellent leadership and patience for the last 4 years. There is really no way to show the appreciation we all feel for his voluntary efforts as he went above and beyond to make CHC a successful Club.

Reports of hikes from last meeting: Jack Callahan reported on the week-long backpacking trip from January 9th to Grand Canyon, AZ. The detailed report and photos in February Newsletter attached below.

Judy Price led several hikes: January 2: Brady Mtn, 6 miles; January 5, Brush Creek; December 19, McGill Creek hike on Cumberland Trail; December 6, Thunder Rock Loop in Cherokee NF.

Discussion concerning Club meeting in February and if so, where. It was decided to wait and have Club meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2021. It was suggested we have the meeting at Silver Springs Winery. However, Silver Springs is not available for small meeting groups except on Monday or Sunday nights.

No place has been set for March 11th meeting as yet. (UPDATE: Meeting will be at Western Sizzlin in Athens, TN.)

Other business: Jack Callahan will continue to be responsible for Wednesday Walks on Cleveland Greenway at 4:30 pm; also, the third Thursday of the month breakfast at 8:30 am, Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street, in Cleveland.

President Anderson called for meeting to adjourn at 3:30 pm.

2021 CALENDAR OF HIKES, BACKPACKING TRIPS, & EVENTS WILL BE POSTED WITH THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.

Ruth Pannell, Acting Secretary

Cherokee Hiking Club 2021 Calendar of Events

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY - Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75 mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway. Walkers meet at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant. Meeting time is currently 4:30 pm but that time is typically changed when daylight savings time goes into effect. A reminder note is sent out on Messenger at the beginning of each week. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the weekly reminder messages.

THURSDAY THIRD WEEK OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST AT OLD FORT RESTAURANT - (Please note no meeting is being held in February due to Covid. Hopefully this meeting will resume in March.) You may contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 to confirm whether or not it is happening. You can join us at 8:30am for breakfast at the Old Fort restaurant on 25th street.

February

February 5 Laurel Falls in Laurel-Snow SNA - Approximately 6.5 miles round trip and rated moderately strenuous. Bring a lunch and water. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. We will start on the Cumberland Trail and hike through a former mining area to the foot of Laurel Falls. Meet at Richland Creek Trailhead (N35 31.566W85 01.310) at 10 am. If you plan to attend you **MUST** contact the Hike Leader Judy Price at jprice.bird@yahoo.com for a spot on the roster and to arrange a caravan from Cleveland or Dayton if applicable. Hiker numbers are limited due to COVID-19 and social distancing is observed. More information about this area can be found at [Laurel-Snow SNA Section-Cumberland Trails Conference](#).

February 12 Eureka Trail in Englewood, TN -Easy Rails to Trails walkway with flat, wide and good surface. New section of the trail starts off Hwy 39 or New Englewood Hwy heading into Englewood from Hwy 30 (White Street in Athens). Meet in the parking area where the current Eureka Trail ends and the new section crosses Hwy 39. We will hike the new section that is 1 mile and then head up the older section that is 4 miles. Each person can decide however far he/she wishes to walk. We will meet at the parking area at 10 am weather permitting. Hike leader is Ruth Pannell 423-506-9623 or 263-9730 or email crpannell@comcast.net.

February 15 Chickamauga Battlefield Hike -Hike is a 7-8 mile loop on the Red Trail with a lunch stop at Wilder Tower. Lots of options to shorten the hike if you want to. Meet at the Cleveland Park N Ride near intersection of I-75/Hwy 60 at 8:15 am or at the Battlefield Visitor Center at 9:00 am. Afterward we can spend a little time touring the great rifle collection if it is open. Jennifer Schroll is the hike leader. She can be contacted at 423-284-1256.

February 22 Thunder Rock Loop Hike -Hike is a loop of about 6 miles and begins at the Thunder Rock Campground parking area which is near the Ocoee Whitewater Center. Meet at 9:30 am. It will include parts of the BMT, West Fork, 1330 By-pass, Chestnut Mtn. Loop, Bear Paw, and Rhododendron Trails before returning to the Parking lot. The hike leader is Clare Sullivan. You may contact her at clare7982@gmail.com should you need to.

March

March 7 Bushwhack From Kimsey Hwy to Hwy 64 Via Goforth Creek drainage - Before the hike begins we will visit the Jenkins grave site along Kimsey Highway. The hike will require a volunteer to take the hikers up Kimsey Hwy and drop them off after visiting the grave site. Hikers will leave a vehicle at the mouth of Goforth Creek on Hwy 64. Hike is approximately 7 miles with several miles of bushwhacking through the woods with no trail. Hike is almost all downhill but is considered strenuous. Meet at 8 am at Thunder Rock trailhead just below Powerhouse #3 to organize vehicle shuttle. Hike leader is Jack Callahan and all hikers **MUST** contact Jack prior to the hike as numbers will be limited. Jack can be contacted at jackn1945@bellsouth.net.

March 15 Hike up Mount LeConte and back -The hike is about 10.6 miles with nearly 3,000 feet of

elevation gain so it is considered very strenuous. The hike will begin at the Alum Cave trailhead which is on Newfound Gap Rd. 8.7 miles south of the Sugarlands Visitor Center near Gatlinburg. Hikers should meet at 8:30 am in the parking lot at Alum Cave Trailhead. Views will include Arch Rock, Inspiration Point, Little Duck Hawk Ridge and the Eye of the Needle, as well as Myrtle Point, and the Mt. LeConte Lodge. This one is weather permitting. It is possible that Yaktrax or spikes may be needed due to the possibility of ice on the trail. Bring water, snack, and lunch. The hike leader is Al Johnson. His contact info is phone 845-283-2666 or aj13hhi@gmail.com.

March 17 Caney Creek Village Hike -The hike is approximately 7.5 miles and is moderately strenuous. There will be two creek crossings. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and lunch. We will have lunch at the historic Caney Creek Village site beside the Ocoee River. The town of Caney Creek was constructed for workers who built the Ocoee flume, powerhouse, and dam. The town was dismantled in the early 1940s after TVA took over the power production. The trail was recently maintained by the Scouts as an Eagle Scout Project. Meet at the Thunder Rock Campground trailhead parking area at 9:00 am to caravan to the trailhead. Hike leaders are Clare Sullivan and Judy Price. If you plan to attend you **MUST** contact Clare at 404-849-0872 or clare7982@gmail.com for a spot on the roster. Hike sizes are limited due to COVID-19 and social distancing is observed.

March 23 Oswald Dome/Lowery Top Hike and Bushwhacking Trip -The hike is about 8 miles and is considered strenuous with over 2000 feet in elevation gain. It requires some bushwhacking with lots of green briars. Bring water and lunch. The group will have lunch at Lowery Top. Meet at Quinn Springs Picnic area off Hwy 30 near Reliance at 9:00 am. Hikers **MUST** contact the hike leader Jack Callahan before the hike to reserve a spot. The hike leader is Jack Callahan and his contact is jackn1945@bellsouth.net.

March 25 Scenic Spur and Clemmer Spur Hike -The hike can be around 4 miles in length but a person can hike less if he/she wants to. It is considered easy to moderate. The trailhead is on Hwy 30 headed toward Reliance just off Hwy 64. Meet at the trailhead parking lot at 9:30 am. This hike is focused upon viewing wildflowers as this is typically a good time and place for that. This hike will not have any stream crossings but will have some elevation gain. Hike leaders are Ruth and Clayton Pannell. Their contact info is 423-506-9623 or 435-1848 or crpannell@comcast.net. Bring water, insect repellent, lunch, and Field Guides on Wildflowers if you have them. Clayton and Ruth will be camping nearby at the Parksville Lake Campground that week.

April

April 2 Clemmer Trail to Benton Falls and Back Hike -The hike is 8.6 miles in length and is considered strenuous due to elevation gain. Meet at the Clemmer Trailhead which is on Hwy 30 headed toward Reliance and just off Hwy 64. Jennifer Schroll is the hiker leader. Her contact number is 423-284-1256.

April 3 Estelle Mine Trail and Pocket Wildflower Area in North Georgia -The hike is 5 miles and with a car shuttle. The hike begins at the Hwy 193 trailhead. The trail has some optional short mine tunnels that we can go through or bypass if preferred. The end of the trail is at the pocket wildflower area with a short boardwalk trail where we may see some early spring flowers. Meet at the Park N Ride near the intersection of I-75/Hwy 60 in Cleveland at 9 am. The hike leader is Jennifer Schroll. Her contact number is 423-284-1256.

April 6 Chestnut Mountain Hike -It is approximately 8 miles on the Chestnut Mountain Trail from Iron Gap to Lost Corral Parking lot. It is mostly downhill with some rough tread so it is considered moderate to strenuous. One option is to have a volunteer drive the hikers up to Iron Gap and drop them off so no shuttle will be required. Meet at the Gee Creek Ranger Station parking lot at 8 am to shuttle to trailhead. The hike leader is Jack Callahan and anyone interested in going **MUST** contact Jack prior to the hike. His contact info is jackn1945@bellsouth.net.

April 10 Big Soddy Creek Gulf Park Hike in the Jim Adams Wilderness -The hike is 4 miles and is considered easy. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water. If the virus allows we will eat lunch at the Home Folks Buffet in Soddy Daisy. To carpool meet at the Home Depot parking lot in Cleveland on the nursery side of the building at 8:30 am. Hike leaders are Jim and Lettie Whisman at Lettiej@gmail.com or Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885. Please contact one of them if you plan to participate.

April 13 Black Mountain in Crab Orchard TN toward Crossville -The hike is about 9-10 miles and is considered strenuous with over 1600 feet in elevation gain. On the hike see a cave, interesting rock

formations, wild flowers, great views, and an old springhouse. Sue Robinson is the hike leader. Please contact her prior to the hike as it is limited to 12. Please text Sue at 423-519-9751 with your name and number in case of cancellation. Meet at the McDonald's restaurant in Spring City, TN at 9 am eastern time to consolidate and/or caravan to the trailhead as there is limited parking at the trailhead.

April 17 a Guided Tour of the Interpretive Center at the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston A maximum group size is 10 and masks are required. This will include an easy guided walk outside of the adjoining outdoor National Historic Trail Experience. This will also possibly include a guided tour of some other historic sites in Charleston and Calhoun. Charleston was the location of the Federal Indian Agency and eventually Fort Cass, which was the military headquarters for the entire Trail of Tears Cherokee Removal. Across the river is Calhoun where notable Cherokees helped lay out the town of Calhoun. There is a suggested donation of \$5 or you can purchase a one year membership for \$10. Yvonne Rittenhouse is the event leader. Her contact info is yvonne.rittenhouse@gmail.com or 423-284-3818. Please meet at the parking lot beside the pavilion at 10 am.

April 18 Hike to Mushroom Rock on Signal Mountain -This will be an easy 2.5 mile afternoon stroll to see a very interesting rock formation on Signal Mountain. The trail is fairly flat and it is considered easy. We will meet at the Home Depot parking lot in Cleveland-directly behind Outback restaurant-at 1:30 pm to caravan to Signal Mountain. If you are interested in going please contact the hike leader James Anderson at 423-715-8824 prior to the hike. At the meeting location he will provide written directions to the trailhead. If the weather is bad the hike will be cancelled.

April 22 Flat Rock Cedar Glades Barrens Class II Natural Scientific State Natural Area Tour -Tour the Barrens area with a guided tour by Dr. Sadler of MTSU. Expect to see wildflowers and lichens. Walk is approximately 3 miles max with very little grade. Meet at the Park N Ride at the I-75/Hwy 60 intersection at 8:30 am to carpool to the site. Located very near Murfreesboro, TN, the drive is approximately 2.5 hours. Hike leaders Marrie Lasater and Jack Callahan. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend. Depending upon the virus situation at the time we will carry a lunch or eat in a local restaurant. Coordinates for the Cedar Barrens Parking lot are 35deg 51min 30sec N, 86deg 17min 44sec W. We will meet at that parking lot at 10 am CST.

May

May 8 John Muir Trail cleanup -Clayton and Ruth Pannell will be the leaders. More details will be provided at a later date.

May 11-15 Backpack in the Smokies -This will include parts of the Balsam Mountain, AT, and Kephart Trails. The total distance hiked will be around 30 miles and is considered moderate to strenuous. There is a limit of 6 hikers and Buddy Arnold is the hike leader. His contact info is 601-415-3551 or email at we_arnold@bellsouth.net. The backpack will go from Pin Oak Gap to Laurel Gap Shelter, from Tri Corner Shelter to Pecks Corner Shelter, to Kephart Shelter and then out via the Kephart Trail. Some of the specifics may vary as Buddy talks with those interested in going as there are some other options. Also, since the number is limited, it is highly recommended that anyone interested contact Buddy sooner rather than later to discuss other costs and considerations. These include a nightly fee to camp in the Park and whether or not a shuttle will be involved that costs and what that amount may be.

May 17-23 Car Camp at Watoga State Park in West Virginia -See Watoga.com for more info. It is located on the Greenbrier River near Marlinton, WVA. We are camping in the Riverside Campground near the upper Bath House around the loop. (www.wvdnr.gov/Parks/Maps/RiversideMap.pdf) A tentative schedule of activities during the week is as follows: Monday travel approximately 6.5 hours from Cleveland. Tuesday bike ride on the Greenway 20-30 miles. Wednesday visit the Cranberry Glades and museum with short hikes to see waterfalls in the immediate area. Thursday drive to Cass State Park (about an hour) and ride the Shay steam engine to the top of the mountain, eat lunch, and return. Cost of the steam engine ride is approximately \$62 pp based upon 2020 rates. Friday drive to Spruce Knob which is highest point in WVA and visit Seneca Rocks nearby. Saturday is rest day. Sunday pack up and return home. For those not interested in the activities planned, there are lots of other things to do which include visiting the New River Gorge or fishing. Everyone is responsible for their own reservations for the campsite and for the train ride. Event leader is Jack

Callahan and his contact info is 423-284-7885 if you have any questions.

May 27 Old Copper Road from Boyd Gap to Ocoee Whitewater Center -This is an easy 3.5 mile hike. The hike leaders are Ruth and Clayton Pannell. Their contact info is 423-506-9623 or 435-1848 or crpannell@comcast.net.

June

June 5 Coke Ovens Museum and Tour -Tour this complex near Dunlap, TN which includes a reproduction of the original country store and short walks to the 100 year old coke ovens in the Coke Ovens Park. Bring a lunch or we will possibly eat in a local restaurant depending upon the virus situation. Drive time from Cleveland is approximate 1.25 hours. Meet at the Park N Ride at the intersection of I-75/Hwy 60 in Cleveland at 8:45 am to carpool to the park. Event leader is Jack Callahan 423-284-7885.

June 8-10 Backpacking in the Smokies -This hike will include parts of the AT, Dry Sluice Gap, Grass Branch, and Kephart Prong Trails. The rating is moderate with about 11.5 miles being covered by the hike. The hike will start at New Found Gap to Ice Water Springs, then to Kephart Shelter and out the Kephart Prong Trail. There is a limit of 6 hikers. The hike leader is Buddy Arnold and his contact info is 601-415-3551 or email we_arnold@bellsouth.net. The hike will include a cost to camp in the Park. There will be several stream crossings involving a foot log or bridge. Anyone who isn't comfortable doing that could bring water shoes and wade the streams. Since there is a limit on the number of spots available anyone interested should contact Buddy as soon as possible.

June 22 Mud Gap to Whigg Meadow Hike -This is an easy to moderate hike off the Cherohala Skyway covering about 4 miles. Anyone interested should contact Sue Robinson to sign up. It is limited to 12 hikers. Her contact info is 423-519-9751. She asks that you text and leave your name and contact info. Those attending will meet at the Tellico Welcome Center at 9:00 am to carpool and/or caravan to the trailhead as parking is limited.

June 27-29 Car Campout at Elkmont Campground in the Smokies -This will include hiking the Sugarland Mountain Trail, to Rough Creek Trail, to Little River Trail which is 12 miles. The hike begins on Clingman's Dome road near Mt. Collins shelter and terminates at Elkmont Campground. Those participating would drive to the campground on the 27th and camp two nights with the hike being on June 28. If there is interest, possibly another night of camping and hiking other trails or doing a bike ride in Cades Cove could be added. If you are interested in attending contact Jack Callahan the hike leader at jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Individuals are responsible for their own campground reservations. The hike is long and will require an early start on the 28th to get to the trailhead.

July

July 13 Falls Branch Falls Hike off the Cherohala Skyway -This is a 3 mile hike with an option to add the Jeffrey Hell Trail which would bump the distance up to about 7 miles. It would be considered moderate to strenuous due to steep terrain and poor footing. Trekking poles are definitely recommended. On this hike will be an 80 foot waterfall and wildflowers. Sue Robinson is the hike leader. Her contact info is 423-519-9751. She asks that anyone interested text her to sign up as the hike is limited to 12. Hikers will meet at the trailhead at 9:30 am.

August—No hikes currently scheduled

September

September 18 Little River Trail in Elkmont area of Smokies -This is an easy trail that parallels the picturesque Little River. The trail is 5.1 miles and is an out and back so hikers can turn around at any point. There are a variety of other trails that could be tacked on or done instead. These include the Cucumber Trail, Jakes Creek Trail, or Huskey Gap Trail. If anyone wants to carpool or follow the hike leaders then meet at 8:30 am in Etowah at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church one block off Hwy 411 and with the side entrance on 10th street. The hike leaders are Ruth and Clayton Pannell. Their contact info is 423-506-9623 or 263-9730 or crpannell@comcast.net. The drive time is approximately 2 hours and they recommend bringing

rain gear, water, snacks, and lunch. Possibly they will eat an early dinner or late lunch in Townsend on the way home.

September 26-27 Hike up Mount LeConte and stay in the LeConte Shelter -This is a difficult hike with an elevation gain around 3,000 feet and a distance of over 5 miles each day. The hike leader is Jack Callahan. Anyone interested should text Jack at 423-284-7885. It is very limited in the number who can participate and there is a cost to stay in the Park.

October

October 9 John Muir Trail Worktrip and Cleanup -Clayton Pannell will be leading this. Additional details will be released later.

October 19-24 Big South Fork Annual Club Campout -This is located at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. It is located a few miles east of Oneida, TN and is about a 3 hour drive from Cleveland. We will again be camping at the Bandy Creek Campground in group site E-1. There are 18 campsites available on a first come basis. There is a large covered and screened shelter with picnic tables, electricity, cooking space and a large stone fireplace. A nice restroom and bathhouse is also nearby that is heated and has hot/cold water as well as a place to wash dishes. The individual campsites are paved but do not have electricity. Around September we will be asking folks to let us know who all is planning to attend. There is a group reservation in place and paid for so there is no need to make an individual reservation. The actual cost will vary depending upon how many people end up attending. Besides the cost of the campsite, we also typically split the cost of the wood to keep the fire going in the group pavilion. Typically the cost ends up being somewhere in the ballpark of \$8 per person per night. This is a great opportunity to fellowship in a beautiful place. We always have a lot of different hikes and activities available to folks of all hiking levels and anywhere from a slow stroll to a difficult all day hike. The event leader this year is James Anderson. You may call or text 423-715-8824 or email jeandersonishere@gmail.com for more info.

November

November 12-14 Big Frog Area Backpack -The specific details will be released later and will depend upon trail cleanup efforts that will have taken place by then. It will be a 2 night backpack and will cover probably around 12-18 miles. The hike leader is James Anderson. His contact info is 423-715-8824 or jeandersonishere@gmail.com.

November 18-21 Smokey Mountains Backpack Trip -This trip will begin at Big Creek Campground and hike 5.7 miles to Walnut Bottoms campsite #37. Day 2 will be a 6.0 mile hike up Gunter Fork and Balsam Mtn trails to Laurel Gap Shelter. Day 3 will be a 6.0 mile hike along Mt. Sterling Ridge Trail to Mt. Sterling campsite #38. Day 4 hike down Baxter Creek trail about 6.1 miles to Big Creek Campground where the hike started. It is approximately 24 and will be a strenuous hike. There will be a dry campsite at Mt. Sterling. Anyone participating needs to be in good condition and have the appropriate gear for cold temps and frozen precipitation, as well as for ice on the trail. Final dates may change based upon long range weather forecasts and permit availability. Attendance is limited to 6 with a maximum of 8. The hike leader is Jack Callahan. You can text him at 423-284-7885.

November 27 Linda Davis Memorial Greenway Hike -This is a walk on the Cleveland Greenway of up to 8 miles. It is typically arranged so participants may walk less of a distance if they so desire. The hike leader is Randy Morris and his contact number is 423-650-0485.

December

December 11 Annual Club Christmas Party -With God and government permitting, we hope to be able to return to having an annual Christmas Party this year!!!!