

The Cherokee Hiker

MARCH 2021 Volume 38, Issue III

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

I'm happy to report that we will be having a regular Club meeting this month. It will be held at the Western Sizzlin in Athens, TN at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 11. They do have a large space so we can socially distance. We will be ordering off their menu so definitely come hungry. The Sizzlin is located at 1804 Decatur Pike in Athens. Stay well, stay safe and see you there!

James Anderson



Follow the Cherokee Hiking Club on Instagram @cherokee_hiking_club! CHEROKEE_HIKING_CLUB

EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 5, 2021 LAUREL FALLS IN LAUREL-SNOW SNA



It was a chilly morning in Laurel-Snow SNA in Dayton, TN, when six hikers started off to hike to Laurel Falls. We headed off on the Cumberland Trail along Richland Creek. We were hiking in a former coal mining area, and when we stopped at the entrance to what was Richland Mine, a gentleman stopped with us and told us about the history of the place. Right before Dayton Reservoir, which used to supply water to Dayton, we started heading uphill. We crossed the new-ish bridge across Laurel Creek and took the spur trail through a rock squeeze. We gained in elevation and had great views of the area. Eventually we arrived at the base of breathtaking Laurel Falls, where we sat and ate lunch and felt the spray from the falls. Soon it was time to head back downhill and walk beside Richland Creek to the trailhead. It was a wonderful 6.6-mile hike with hikers Jack Callahan, Kristin Coates, Karen Kocher, Clare and Ed Sullivan, and Hike Leader Judy Price.



FEBRUARY 11, 2021 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING
Canceled.

FEBRUARY 12, 2021 EUREKA TRAIL IN ENGLEWOOD, TN



Six hikers and a canine met at the Englewood, TN, trailhead of Rails-to-Trails Eureka Trail. The rain let up as we started to walk on the easy track, but it was a cold and dreary day. But the weather didn't dampen spirits! This was a new section of trail that includes a bridge across a creek. We all walked on to the older section toward Athens where three hikers turned around and three continued on to Mashburn Station, a stop on the former railway. We all met up back at the trailhead before heading home after an enjoyable hike. Hikers included Kristin Coates, Bob Dornfeld and Smoky, Judy Price, Yvonne Rittenhouse, and Hike Leaders Ruth and Clayton Pannell.



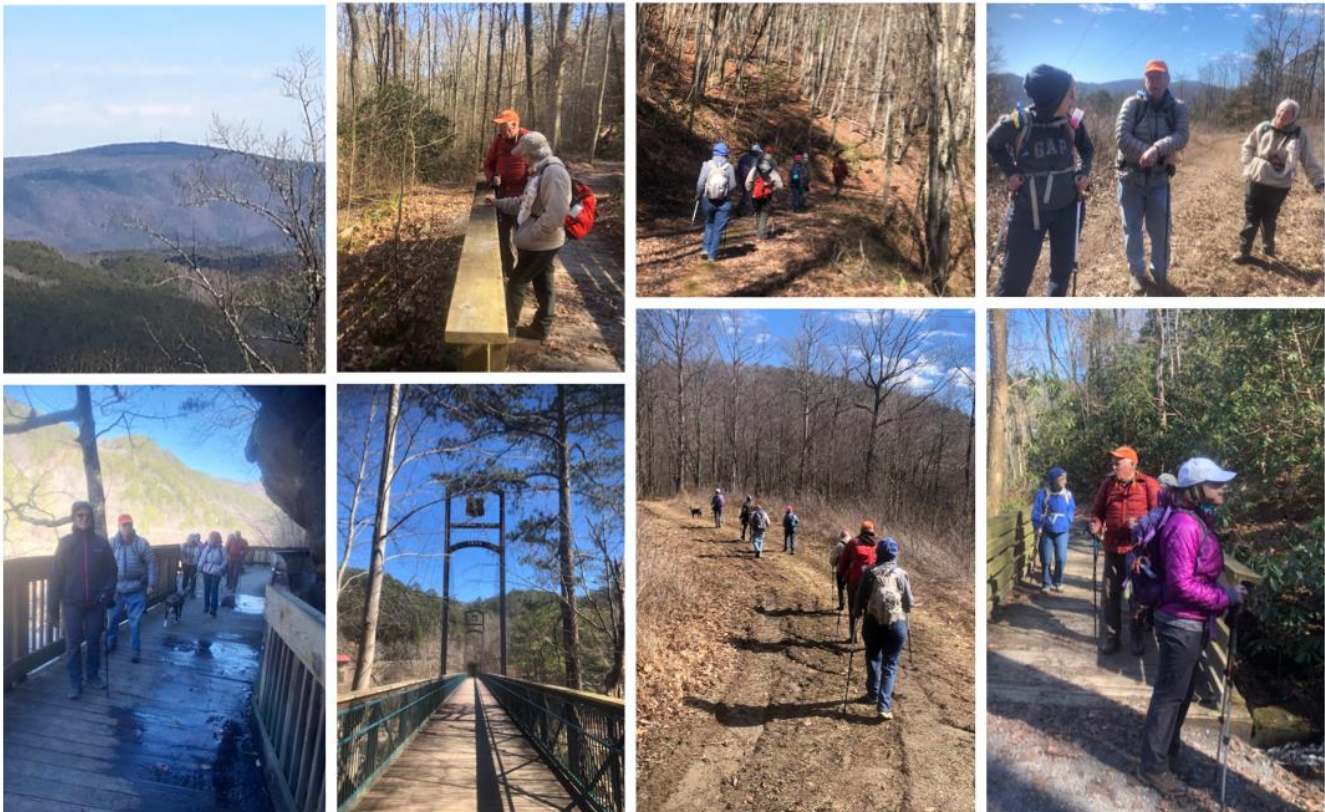
FEBRUARY 15, 2021 CHICKAMAUGA BATTLEFIELD



On a misty, drizzly President's Day, four members hiked the muddy Red Trail Loop. We had the place to ourselves. In total, we hiked about 8 miles in a counter-clockwise direction stopping to explore battlefield markers and monuments. We saw lots of mushrooms, lichens, and moss. We even saw daffodils starting to bloom. We saw a large herd of deer that we crossed paths with a few times. After the hike, we checked out the excellent rifle collection at the Visitors Center. We hit the highway before rush hour and arrived back in Cleveland just before the skies opened up. Those attending were Jack Callahan, Judy Price, Kristin Coates, and Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll.



On a beautiful “warming day” after a week of frigid temperatures, eight hikers and a canine enjoyed an 8.5-mile loop (BMT>Quartz Loop>Quartz Loop Spur>1330 Bypass>Chestnut Mtn.>Bear Paw>Rhododendron Trail) on the Tanasi Trail System at the Ocoee Whitewater Center. The winter skies allowed us many long-range views of Lowry Peak, Oswald Dome, Big Frog Mountain and others. We were captivated by the deep blue waters of Blue Hole and the emerald green water in the pools on the Ocoee. We met Cherokee Hiking Club member Letha Kelly as we reached the Whitewater Center area. The picnic area made a lovely spot to sit and rest. Hikers included: Mary Alton, Jack and Margaret Callahan, Teresa Greene, Judy Price, Sue Robinson and Zoe, and Hike Leaders Clare and Ed Sullivan.





WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

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



THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

Third Thursday breakfast saw a nice turnout at Old Fort Restaurant. We had some great conversations about Key West and other interesting subjects. Biscuits and apple butter were delicious as always. It was wonderful to see Carroll back and looking great. Attending were Gail and Edmund Gray, Ann Gray, Jennifer Schroll, Phyllis and James Anderson, Carol and Carroll Guhne, and Event Leader Jack Callahan.



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.

MARCH 7, 2021 SUNDAY 8 AM BUSHWHACK FROM KIMSEY HWY TO HWY 64 VIA GOFORTH CREEK DRAINAGE

Before the hike begins, we will visit the Jenkins gravesite along Kimsey Highway. The hike will require a volunteer to take the hikers up Kimsey Hwy and drop them off after visiting the gravesite. 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. All hikers **MUST** contact Hike Leader Jack Callahan at jackn1945@bellsouth.net prior to the hike as numbers will be limited.

MARCH 11, 2021 THURSDAY 6:00 PM MONTHLY CLUB MEETING WESTERN SIZZLIN ATHENS, TN

We will meet at Western Sizzlin, 1804 Decatur Pike, Athens, TN. Directions to Western Sizzlin: exit 49 off I-75 (second exit); or north on Hwy 11 to intersection of Decatur Pike (McDonald's on corner right side) turn left, Western Sizzlin on right just past Buddy's BBQ. From 411 north or south, (Tellico, Etowah, Benton,) take Hwy 30 all the way through Athens.

MARCH 15, 2021 MONDAY 8:30 AM MOUNT LECONTE

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 Road 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. Contact Hike Leader Al Johnson at 845-283-2666 or aj13hhi@gmail.com. His contact info is phone.

MARCH 17, 2021 WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM CANEY CREEK VILLAGE

With Benton MacKaye Trail Association. 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 1940's 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, 2021 TUESDAY 9:00 AM OSWALD DOME/LOWRY 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 greenbriers. Bring water and lunch. The group will have lunch at Lowry Top. Meet at Quinn Springs Picnic Area off Hwy 30 near Reliance at 9:00 am. Hikers **MUST** contact Hike Leader Jack Callahan at jackn1945@bellsouth.net to reserve a spot.

MARCH 25, 2021 THURSDAY 9:30 AM SCENIC SPUR AND CLEMMER SPUR

The hike can be around 4 miles in length but a person can hike less if they want 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. Bring water, insect repellent, lunch, and Field Guides on Wildflowers if you have them. 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. Contact Hike Leaders Ruth and Clayton Pannell 423-506-9623 or 435-1848 or crpannell@comcast.net. Clayton and Ruth will be camping nearby at the Parksville Lake Campground that week.

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

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

NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

MARCH 20, 2021 TENNESSEE STATE PARKS SPRING HIKES

See the [events calendar](#) for hikes.

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/OCOE 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.