



# The Cherokee Hiker

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

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

**NOTICE! CLUB MEMBERS WHO ARE CURRENT IN THEIR 2021 CLUB DUES WILL NOT OWE DUES FOR 2022.**

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow Cherokee Hiking Club Members.

We have some exciting news for this month. Our regular Club meeting will be held on Thursday, November 11, at 6:00 pm at the Etowah Senior Center. This month, we will be returning to our potluck dinner format for the meetings. So, all you folks who have been waiting for this, put together your best new or old recipe and bring it to the meeting. The Club will be furnishing drinks, cups, and plastic eating utensils. Also, we have a special program planned for the evening which includes a slide presentation from Jack and Jennifer of pictures from the backpacking trip to the Ansel Adams Wilderness in California last year. So, everybody show up. Let's have a huge turnout.

James Anderson Club President

# EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 BMTA TN/NC WORK TRIP SECTION 18A BEECH GAP ON CHEROHALA SKYWAY TO HAOE LEAD TRAIL INTERSECTION

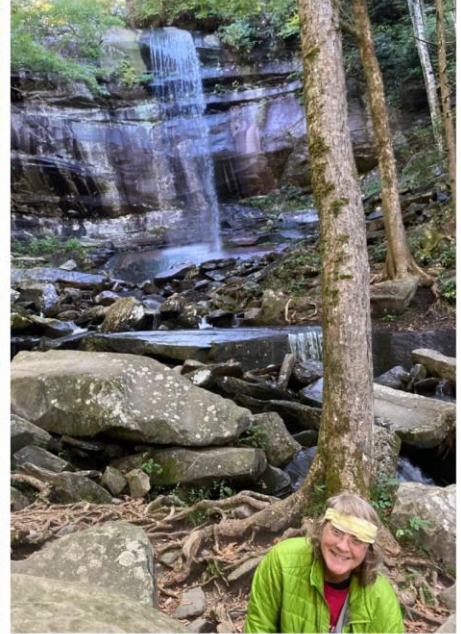


Work Trip Leaders: Richard & Brenda Harris. We had several thru-hiker reports that the BMT between Bob Bald and the intersection with the Haoe Lead Trail was very overgrown with brambles. So, we changed the planned work trip site to this section of the trail for September. We met at the Unicoi Crest Overlook on the Skyway and had planned to enter via Beech Gap, but the lock on the gate was not the usual USFS lock. So, we drove to the Wolf Laurel Trailhead to start the trip. Five Scouts and two adult leaders from Boy Scout Troop 118 in Athens, TN, joined us for this work trip. We also had nine BMTA trail volunteers on this work trip, including several folks carrying brush cutters. This section is just out of the Wilderness boundary, so we were able to use gas-powered tools. After climbing the mountain to the ridgeline on the Stratton Ridge Trail, one crew with 4 brush cutters and others with loppers cleared the brambles between the Haoe Lead Trail to the bald, a distance of about one mile. It definitely needed it. The Scouts hiked directly to the bald and down the west side to the intersection with the trail to Cherry Log Gap and worked up from there with loppers, swingblades and handsaws. The Scouts did an excellent job. Brenda Harris and Clare Sullivan worked with the Scouts. We still need to go back and finish off the section from Cold Springs Gap to where the Scouts started their work. We met several day hikers and backpackers while working on the trail, all of whom were very appreciative of our work. Also, on the BMT Hikers Facebook Page, we have had numerous Thank Yous. With this done, I believe the rest of the BMT in TN and NC is in pretty good shape for the fall, winter and spring hikers and backpackers. For the October work trip, we plan to return to finish off the lower stretch west of Bob Bald.





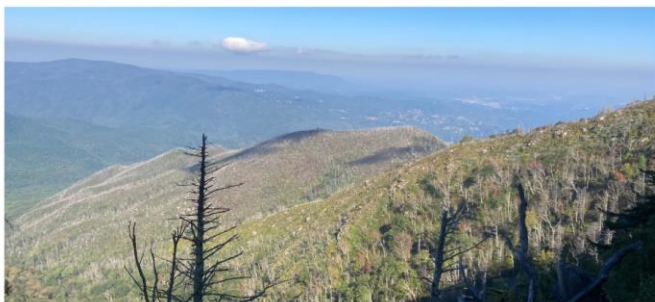
## SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2021 MOUNT LECONTE BACKPACKING TRIP GSMNP



On Saturday, September 25, Darrell Morgan, Otis Pannell, Jennifer Schroll and Hike Leader Jack Callahan stayed at Elkmont Campground to be able to get an early start on Sunday. They enjoyed a nice campfire and pleasant temperatures. Sunday morning the four joined Al Johnson and Amanda Colantonio at the Rainbow Falls trailhead and the Stupendous Six began their 7.75-mile climb to Mt. LeConte shelter. With an elevation gain of approximately 3500 feet, there was steady progress all the way. However, the last 0.6 miles seemed steeper than the rest. After reaching the lodge, several stopped to get water, and a couple more went to the shelter to claim a spot. Eventually, all met at the shelter and several decided to use their tents rather than stay inside. The NPS is still allowing this option due to Covid. After supper, the group made their way to the Sunset Point to enjoy the last few minutes of daylight. Al "Ansel" Johnson, with his skill, took some great photographs. Dark had the group doing last minute chores and hanging food and packs. The shelter was only half full, which made sleeping much easier.



Morning came soon enough, and the group was up fixing coffee and breakfast in a pleasant 47 degrees. By 8:30 am, all were packed and ready to head back down the mountain. The trip back utilized the Bullhead Trail, which was a bit shorter, and went through a portion of the Chimney Tops fire area. This opened up some really nice views to the south and west. Through the burn area, there were some really nice patches of tea berry ripening in the full sunlight. By around 2:30 pm, the group was back to the trailhead, and scattered for home. The downhill hike did create some tight quads and calves for all. It was a great trip and the members were in great spirits and everyone's attitude was truly stupendous.





OCTOBER 9, 2021 JOHN MUIR TRAIL WORKTRIP AND CLEANUP

OCT 14, 2021 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING



## OCTOBER 23, 2021 CHEROHALA SKYWAY FESTIVAL TELLICO PLAINS, TN



The 5th Annual Cherochala Skyway Festival was a big success with several hundred folks, maybe even thousands, attending. There were booths sporting all types of crafts as well as booths for such groups as the Tellico Plains Public Library and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association. The BMTA booth was staffed by Richard and Brenda Harris as well as Bob and Emily Cowdrick. Bob also had a booth next to the BMTA booth where he was selling his various books and wooden Christmas ornaments. The BMTA booth once again was an interactive booth with kids and youthful adults trying their hand at cutting logs with a crosscut saw. The kids had a ball doing this and after they sawed off their disc, they posed for pictures with their disc and the saw. Many of the kids were snatched out of the food line while they were waiting to get barbeque pork sandwiches right across from the BMTA booth. That was a winner for both us and the parents, since the line for the BBQ was at times very long. It gave the kids something to do while the parents stood in line. This year we purposefully asked to be across from the BBQ booth for just this reason. It gave us great visibility and the ability to steal bored kids from the line. All four of us were kept busy all day long talking with folks stopping by to learn more about the BMT. It was great to have Bob Cowdrick's booth next to us. When Brenda and I were with kids sawing logs, Bob pitched in talking to folks about the BMT.



### 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

Each third Thursday the club meets at Old Fort Restaurant in Cleveland for good food and great conversation.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## **NOVEMBER 8, 2021 MONDAY BLACK MOUNTAIN SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL**

Nine-plus miles, approximately 1600 feet of elevation, strenuous. Text Hike Leader Sue Robinson at 423-519-9751 for details.

## **NOVEMBER 11, 2021 THURSDAY 6 PM ETOWAH SENIOR CENTER MONTHLY CLUB MEETING**

This month we will be returning to our potluck dinner format for the meetings. The Club will be furnishing drinks, cups, and plastic eating utensils. Also, we have a special program planned for the evening which includes a slide presentation from Jack and Jennifer of pictures from the backpacking trip to the Ansel Adams Wilderness in California last year.

## **NOVEMBER 12 – 14, 2021 FRIDAY TO SUNDAY BIG FROG AREA BACKPACK TRIP**

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 two-night backpack and will cover probably around 12-18 miles. Contact Hike Leader James Anderson at 423-715-8824 or [jeandersonishere@gmail.com](mailto:jeandersonishere@gmail.com).

## **NOVEMBER 18 – 21, 2021 THURSDAY TO SUNDAY SMOKY 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 six-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 miles 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 eight. Contact Hike Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

## **NOVEMBER 27, 2021 SATURDAY LINDA DAVIS MEMORIAL GREENWAY HIKE**

This is a walk on the Cleveland Greenway of up to eight miles. It is typically arranged so participants may walk less of a distance if they so desire. Contact Hike Leader Randy Morris at 423-650-0485.

## **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

## [TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW](#)

Check the Facebook page for future work days.

## [BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION](#)

See the calendar for upcoming events, including [Annual Meeting & Hike Fest](#).

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