



- PAST EVENTS

BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL/WHIGG RIDGE TRAIL LOOP JUNE 20, 2022



With Benton MacKaye Trail Association. On this sunny warm day, a group of eight hikers met at the Pheasant Fields Picnic Area near the Tellico Fish Hatchery. We hiked up the BMT on the Sycamore Creek Trail along the old logging railroad grade for six miles to the Whigg Ridge Road.



This is a fairly gentle climb with switchbacks which allowed the train to reverse direction to negotiate the climb up the mountainside. We ate lunch at the campsite by the uppermost switchback. We hiked a short distance along the road to the Whigg Ridge Trailhead, then started steeply down this trail back to the Fish Hatchery.



Total distance was 10.3 miles with a climb of about 2300 feet, but the trek was not too difficult because of the easy grade up the BMT. On the way, Rick Harris stopped frequently to give some of the logging history of the area and discuss the brook trout reintroduction project. Attending were Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, their son David and grandson Benton, Nolan Triplett, Kelly Motter, Tom Sewell, and Lucia Case. - Rick Harris



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING JULY 14, 2022



The July monthly club meeting was held at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Etowah, TN. After a really nice array of main courses and many desserts, President James Anderson held a brief business meeting. Following this, Jack Callahan introduced Brenda and Rick Harris, (although no introduction was necessary) who gave an excellent slide presentation on their multiyear section hike of the Florida Trail. The presentation was really informative and covered all sections of the trail with their approach to hiking with minimum overnight camping on the trail. Anyone who is considering hiking any of the Florida Trail should talk with Rick and Brenda to get an idea of logistics and what to expect on the many varied terrains that the trail traverses. We appreciate all of our volunteer speakers who take the time and effort to share their experiences with the club. - Jack Callahan



WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY



Greenway walks are every Wednesday at 4:30 pm. We meet at the lower end of parking lot across from Perkits in the Cooke's Food Store shopping area in Cleveland. We typically walk 3.75 miles in about 1.5 hours. Everyone is welcome to join us. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 for more information. - Jack Callahan



THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST



Third Thursday Breakfast is at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland at 8:30 am. Come join us for good food and conversation. For more information contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885. - Jack Callahan

- 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.

NO MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

BACKPACK TRIP NEAR FRANKLIN, NC

AUGUST 12 - 15, 2022 FRIDAY – MONDAY

This would be a good warm up for the Three Sisters hike in early September 2022. We will be at elevations between 4000' and 5400' so hopefully temperatures will be moderate. There are many nice views along the route. It will be required to leave vehicle(s) at the Nantahala Outdoor Center and take a shuttle from there to Winding Stair Gap. The shuttle will cost about \$25-30 each, depending on the number of hikers. The hike is considered strenuous and is about 28 miles total. Shelters on the trail are limited in capacity, so plan to pack a tent.

August 12, Day 1 - Shuttle from Nantahala Outdoor Center to Winding Stair Gap on Hwy 64 near Franklin, elevation 3800', hike 4.3 miles to Siler Bald Shelter, 4500'

August 13, Day 2 - hike 7.2 miles to Wayah Shelter, 4500', cross Wayah Bald at 5342'

August 14, Day 3 - hike 4.7 miles to Cold Spring Shelter, 5000'

August 15, Day 4 - hike 11.4 miles to Nantahala Outdoor Center, 1800', cross Wesser Bald, 4627'

Right now, there are five signed up: myself, James Anderson, Kelly Mott, Bruce Lee, and Henry Mahler. The shuttle I have reserved can carry one more, and I can arrange for another vehicle if there is interest. I would like to limit the total number to eight, so three spots remain.

WALK IN THE WOODS

AUGUST 22, 2022 MONDAY JOHNSTON WOODS MCDONALD TN

Meet at Johnston Woods trail parking lot off Hwy 11S near the former Bachman Home at 9 am. We will walk the 1.2-mile trail first, and then the 2.9-trail for a total of 4.2 miles. Considered easy. Hikers may walk one or both trails as they connect at the parking lot. Contact Hike Leader James Anderson 423-715-8824.

PAW PAW HIKE/HUNT ALONG THE JOHN MUIR NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL (BMT)

AUGUST 27, 2022 SATURDAY

To carpool from Cleveland, meet at Home Depot parking lot on Paul Huff Parkway at 9 am. This will be a hike along a section of the John Muir National Recreation Trail (BMT) beginning at the Childers Creek trailhead. It will not be lengthy at only one mile or so. It is rated easy. Bring lunch and we will eat it on the riverbank. Contact Hike Leader Jack Callahan 423-284-7885.

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 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.

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