

- NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Calling all Cherokee Hiking Club Members!

Let's all come out on Monday, October 10, and help maintain our Club's section of the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT)/John Muir National Recreation Trail, commonly known as the Childers Creek section. It's a beautiful three-mile section that follows the Hiwassee River from Childers Creek to Big Bend.

We will meet at the Childers Creek trailhead at 8:30 am to begin the work. The work will mostly consist of brushing out the trail and lopping. So, if you have a gas-powered brush cutter or heavy-duty string trimmer, it would be great if you could bring it. If you don't, the BMTA has some tools and safety equipment like hard hats that we will bring as well and you can use those.

Make sure to wear long pants, preferably long sleeves, boots, and insect repellent. If you have your own work gloves, bring those too. Bring plenty of water, snacks, lunch, etc.

We hope to have enough help to have crews start from both ends and then hopefully meet in the middle. It is important that you contact me, James Anderson, at 423-715-8824 to let me know if you plan to join us so we can have enough safety equipment, etc.

Remember--Many hands make light work!!

To get to the trailhead go to Reliance and cross the bridge headed toward the powerhouse. Just as you go across the railroad tracks, turn right. You will pass a bunch of houses on the river on your right. About a fourth of a mile after you pass these houses you should see a small part of the river on your right. Also, on the right there will be an unmarked gravel driveway. That's the driveway to the trailhead. If you get to the fly-fishing outfitters shop at the next intersection then you've gone too far, so turn around. If you have any other questions, you can text or call me at the number above.

James Anderson, Club President

- SAVAGE GULF STATE PARK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, September 22, 2022

CONTACT: Kim Schofinski (615) 571-3165

[LEE, SALYERS ANNOUNCE CREATION OF SAVAGE GULF STATE PARK](#)

New Park Will Be an Outdoor Recreation Wonderland

NASHVILLE – Gov. Bill Lee and Commissioner David Salyers of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) today announced the creation of Savage Gulf State Park in Grundy and Sequatchie counties, a boost for recreation in the region, bringing the total of Tennessee’s state parks to 57.

The park, featuring one of Tennessee’s most scenic areas, includes the nearly 19,000-acre Savage Gulf State Natural Area, which is also a National Natural Landmark. The site contains old-growth forest and remarkable vistas, including waterfalls and the Great Stone Door, an impressive cliff line overlooking Savage Gulf that gets its name from a top-to-bottom crack in the cliff, resembling a door left slightly ajar.

The new park includes land formerly managed as part of South Cumberland State Park. South Cumberland had become too large to manage effectively as a single park, and the land’s unique characteristics warrant status as a stand-alone park.

“This a special day for Tennessee State Parks,” Lee said. “It’s one of the most spectacular sites in our state, and the new park will serve Tennesseans for many years to come. Tennessee State Parks are recognized as one of the best state parks systems in the country, and this park adds to that special standing.”

“Savage Gulf State Park will be a unique Tennessee attraction,” Salyers said. “We want all Tennesseans to enjoy its natural beauty and recreation opportunities, and we are grateful to the governor and the Tennessee General Assembly for their leadership in making this happen.”

The Tennessee General Assembly provided \$30,380,000 for future improvements, including a visitors center, RV campground, and infrastructure to support new facilities. For now, current access points remain as is.

“I am grateful to see yet another opportunity emerge to showcase our state’s majestic natural beauty,” said Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, R-Oak Ridge. “This new state park will be a great resource for Tennesseans as well as an attraction drawing in visitors from across the country to our state. I appreciate the vision of Governor Lee, Commissioner Salyers and all those whose work led to this day.”

“Tennessee’s incredible state park system is critical to our sustained economic success,” said Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton, R-Crossville. “Thanks to Gov. Lee, Commissioner Salyers, Lt. Gov. McNally, the General Assembly, and all who have partnered on the Savage Gulf State Park project. This new resource will not only enhance the entire system, but it will also continue driving Tennessee tourism while improving the quality of life for both citizens and our many visitors.”

“Grundy County is thrilled that our beautiful state parks will be enjoyed by visitors for years to come,” said Grundy County Mayor Michael Brady. “The park will be unique and bring to the forefront the beauty of the area. We are extremely grateful and appreciative to Governor Bill Lee, Commissioner Salyers, and the Tennessee General Assembly for their commitment to our majestic state parks. The Savage Gulf State Park will mean so much to Grundy County and Tennessee on so many levels. This is a great day for Grundy County!”

“The Friends of South Cumberland State Park has had a long and valuable relationship with Tennessee State Parks,” said Trae Moore, president of the Friends of South Cumberland support group. “We have been able to assist the state in protecting South Cumberland State Park and grow it into the natural treasure that it is today, and we look forward to the creation of the new Savage Gulf State Park and expanding access for Tennesseans and visitors alike.” While most of Savage Gulf will continue to be maintained as a designated state natural area, the park will include the addition of a 744-acre developable area comprised of the former Shady Valley nursery and two recently acquired tracts. Key partners in the creation of the park include the Friends of South Cumberland, the State Lands Acquisition Fund, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation.



Photos from ©Tennessee Photographs

- PAST EVENTS

PAWPAW HIKE AUGUST 27, 2022



Some 14 club members and visitors and two canines made the trip to Childers Creek trailhead and, after a brief discussion on pawpaws, ventured into several patches to collect the fruit. There was a good crop, but we were possibly one week early for a large number to be ripe; however, there were sufficient ripe ones to give everyone a chance to sample the fruit. As always, there is mixed reaction to the taste. Some loved it; others, not so much. Pawpaw has a custard like texture and tastes like a mango/banana/sweet potato...possibly? You have to try one for yourself. Next, we walked up the John Muir National Recreation Trail (Benton MacKaye Trail) for perhaps a mile or so, then returned to the trailhead. From there, most of the group went to the Forest Service picnic area downriver from Reliance and had watermelon. Then, several more went on to visit the Elliot cabin on Parksville Lake. Maryl was kind enough to invite us to see the family cabin that has been in their family since its construction. It is a nice cabin on a lovely point on the lake. Hopefully there will be further interest in pawpaws and we can try it again next year. - Jack Callahan



THREE SISTERS WILDERNESS BACKPACK TRIP SEPTEMBER 6 - 16, 2022



Nine club members met in Bend, Oregon, for the planned backpacking event to begin on September 8. Those who were in town the morning of the 7th made visits to Dillion Falls on the Deschutes River, the National Forest Lava Butte visitor center and cinder cone, and the Desert High Museum.

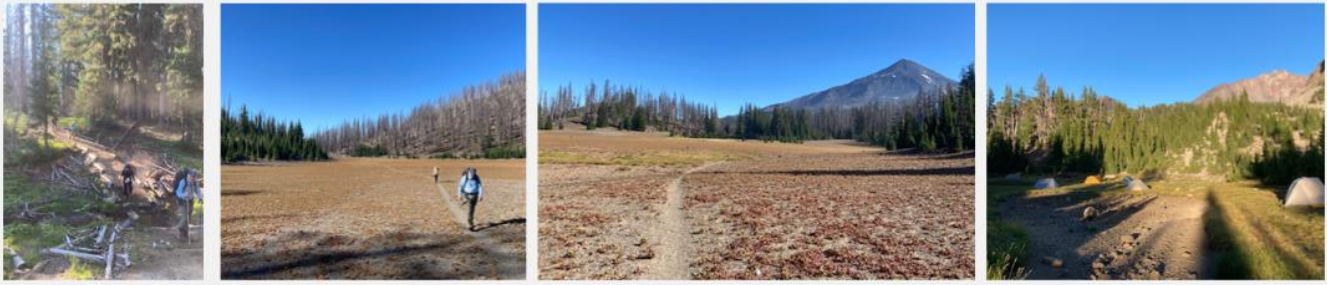


Another group saw the sights in downtown Bend. To celebrate the event, all gathered for supper in the Old Mill District after a stop in REI for fuel and last-minute supplies.



On the 8th, the shuttle picked everyone up at 9 am, and we traveled to the Devil Lake trailhead to begin our hike. Within a few hundred feet we were in the Wilderness area. Our first day gave us views of South Sister and Broken Top, under beautiful blue skies. We were in and out of wooded areas, crossing large meadows and cinder fields. The hike included several miles of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). By midafternoon, we arrived at the James Creek shelter, a very old structure on the edge of a nice meadow and close to a clear cold stream. No one used the shelter overnight as it had a bit of a "list" to it.





The 9th, we were on the trail by nine, continuing north along James Creek Trail, then the PCT, through mixed woods and meadows. There were numerous nice streams but we had the goal of Sisters Spring in the Obsidian Limited Entry Area. We had good views of Middle Sister and were able to see some of the glaciers on both South and Middle Sister. We passed Obsidian Falls, and arrived at Sisters Spring to find out the area was closed to camping due to restoration restrictions. We continued on another half-mile to camp in a nice meadow. By evening we were beginning to see the smoke plume from the Cedar Fire to our southwest about 60 miles away. Overnight the smoke caught up to us.



The 10th, we began hiking in smoke and from time to time, falling ash. The views were very restricted to distant volcanoes. We made the steep climb through the lava fields to the west of North Sister and finally arrived at South Matthieu Lake for our third campsite. This was a restricted area and campers are required to camp in designated areas. With our large group, we almost were able to stay within the designated limits. Overnight the smoke increased and we awoke to tents with a lot of ash on them.



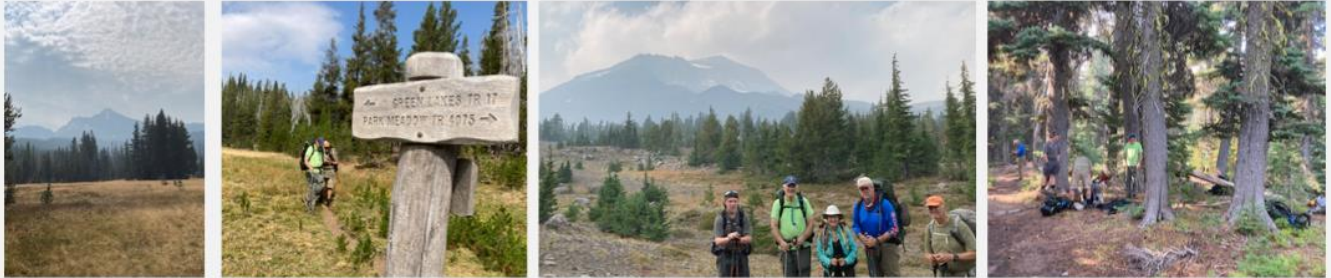
The 11th, we were on the trail by 8:30 am, carrying extra water. The next reliable water source was about 10 miles away, based on discussions with hikers we met the day before. After about a mile we entered a previous burn area from 10 to 14 years ago. The smoke had cleared some but was still with us, but did provide shade as we hiked through the burn area.



After about six miles, the conditions were beginning to take its toll on a couple of the hikers. Taking advantage of an exit trail, these individuals with a reliable escort left the group and caught a shuttle back to Bend. The remaining six continued on to the water source and set up camp amongst the fallen timber. The name of the stream was Soap Creek, but it was excellent cold clear water.



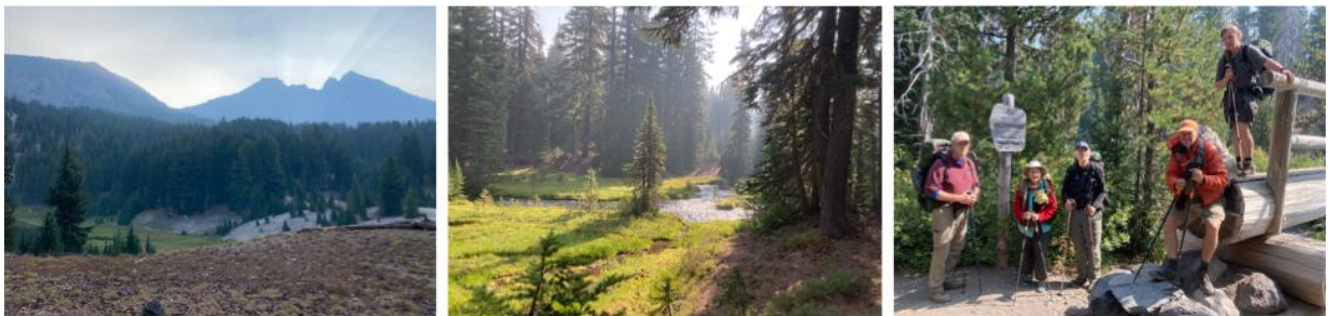
The 12th, we were on the trail again with a very light shower for a short time. The smoke was beginning to clear and we begin to get views of the east side on South and Middle Sister. We exited the burn area and enjoyed views of old growth timber and several small lakes.



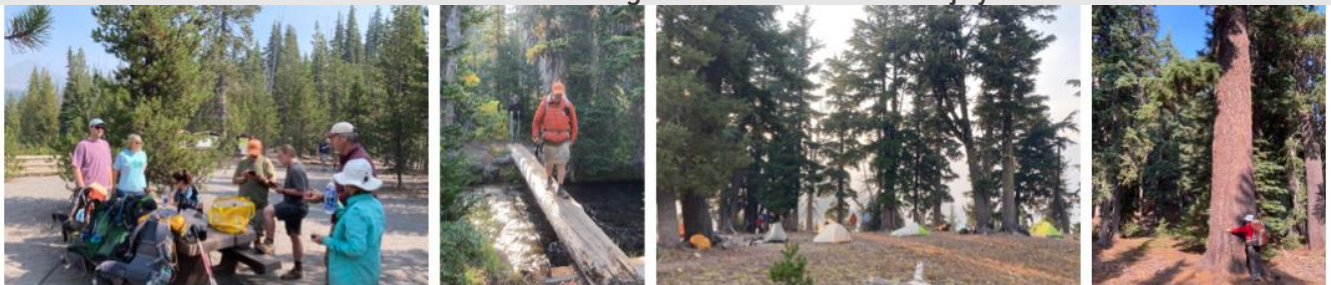
Another 1000-foot climb and we crossed the pass in the shadow on South Sister and got our first view of Green Lake. This lake is almost a mile long and half a mile wide, and as the name implies, is a beautiful green color due to reflections. It is amazingly clear and ice cold. We got an excellent campsite with great views and enjoyed our last supper of trail food.



The 13th, we were on the trail at 8:30 am and made our way to the pickup at the Soda Creek Trailhead. We hiked through beautiful old growth forest and enjoyed numerous waterfalls.



Arriving at the trailhead we were greeted by the folks who had left us on the 11th and were treated to ice cold soft drinks. Our shuttle arrived and we were back in Bend before one o'clock. A hot shower and real meat hamburgers and fries were enjoyed.

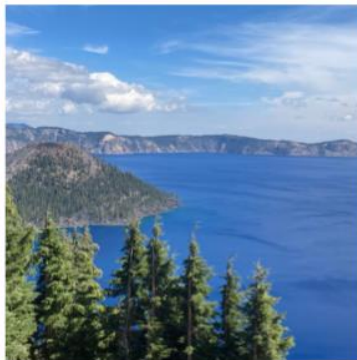




The 14th, two members headed home while the remaining seven drove south to Crater Lake National Park. Driving around the west side of the lake gave us great views, and the smoke was gone. We stayed overnight in the small town of Chiloquin about 25 miles south of the park.



The 15th, we reentered the park, visited the lodge, and drove the east side of the lake. By midafternoon we were having a late lunch in Bend, then on to Redmond to a motel close to the airport. The 16th most of us returned home, while one went on to San Francisco and another went to Paris. As of this writing, all are home safely with one still in Paris. Overall, it was a great trip, even with a few days of smoke. We saw country that few will ever get to experience and made great memories. Backpackers included Rick Harris, Benton Harris, Michelle Ritter, Buddy Arnold, Bruce Lee, Jennifer Schroll, Mitchel Schroll, Megan Callahan and Event Leader, Jack Callahan. - Jack Callahan



NO MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

BLACK MOUNTAIN SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Canceled.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY



We again saw the softshell turtle on our greenway walk! - Jack Callahan

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

- 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.

FLORIDA CANOE TRIP

OCTOBER 1 - 8, 2022 SATURDAY - SATURDAY

This will be a canoe/kayak camping trip to the Suwannee River in the north Florida area. The proposed itinerary is as follows:

- Saturday Day 1-Drive to Stephen Foster Culture State Park. It's about 400 miles. Tent camp that night.
- Sunday Day 2-Put in and paddle 10 miles to Woods Ferry River Camp. (The river camps are screened and raised sleeping platforms with electricity, hot showers, and picnic pavilion. You may tent camp if you prefer.)
- Monday Day 3-Paddle 18 miles to Holton Creek River Camp.
- Tuesday Day 4-Paddle 15 miles to Suwannee River State Park. Tent camp that night.
- Wednesday Day 5-Paddle 7 miles to Dowling Park River Camp.
- Thursday Day 6-Paddle 15 miles, lunch and swim at Lafayette Blue Springs State Park. River camp at Peacock Slough.
- Friday Day 7-Paddle 10 miles. Lunch and swim at Royal Spring and then River camp at Adams Tract.
- Saturday Day 8-Drive back to Cleveland. Stop for fast food lunch along way.

The cost for camping is estimated as \$22 per person. However, other costs would include sharing in the gas and other expenses with the group or whomever you are riding with. Also, this does not include any costs for canoe rental if that is an option. For additional details please contact the Trip Leader Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

OCTOBER 10, 2022 MONDAY 8:30 AM CHILDERS CREEK TRAILHEAD

Let's all come out on and help maintain our Club's section of the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT)/John Muir National Recreation Trail, commonly known as the Childers Creek section. It's a beautiful three-mile section that follows the Hiwassee River from Childers Creek to Big Bend. We will meet at the Childers Creek trailhead at 8:30 am to begin the work. See Note from the President above for more information. Contact James Anderson at 423-715-8824.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

OCTOBER 13, 2022 THURSDAY 6 PM CHARLESTON TN CITY PARK

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. The Club will be furnishing drinks, cups, and plastic eating utensils. The program is Fly Fishing and Insect Baits on the Hiwassee River by Mary Alton.

BIG SOUTH FORK CAR CAMP

OCTOBER 16 - 20, 2022 SUNDAY - THURSDAY

We will be group camping at group campsite E-1 at Bandy Creek near Oneida, TN. The sites do not have electricity, but campers, RVs, and tents are fine. They have a very nice and heated bathhouse with hot showers. They also have a screened picnic pavilion with a fireplace where meals are eaten. This year, we will be again doing group dinners where a person or persons cook a meal for everyone at night. Contact James Anderson ASAP at 423-715-8824.

FIERY GIZZARD

OCTOBER 27, 2022 THURSDAY SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE PARK

To carpool from Cleveland, meet at the Park and Ride commuter parking near the intersection of I-75 Exit 25 and Georgetown Road (next to Mapco) at 9 am. The hike will begin at 9:30 am CST at the Fiery Gizzard trailhead at the end of Fiery Gizzard Road in Tracy City. This hike will be led by State Naturalist Ranger Randy. It will be about five to six miles in length and is rated as moderate. The hike time will be approximately five hours with informational stops to hear about what is being viewed. Please pack a lunch. After the hike, we will visit the Dutch Maid Bakery in Tracy City, TN. Event Leaders are Marrie Lasater and Jack Callahan 423-284-7885.

AT BACKPACK

NOVEMBER 1 - 4, 2022 TUESDAY - THURSDAY NEAR FRANKLIN, NC

I am recommending the itinerary for the hiking trip scheduled for Nov 1-4 (Big Creek Loop and Day Hikes) be changed to a backpack on the AT near Franklin, NC. The first day we would drive to the Standing Indian Campground off Hwy 64 toward Franklin. We will park at the Backcountry Info Center near there. The hike is rated strenuous due to elevation gains on part of the hike, but much of the hike would be moderate. Below is a map of the area which includes a profile of the AT section at the bottom. (SEE MAP NEXT PAGE.) There are a number of scenic views on the hike. The distance hiked will be about 25 miles. There are shelters along the hike, but they are smaller capacity (6 to 8), so it will be required to bring tents. The hike will be limited to eight. So far, four have expressed interest, so four more spots are available.

- Nov. 1, Day 1, Drive to Murphy NC, take Hwy 64 Toward Franklin to USFS Road 71, then to Standing Indian Campground. Meet at Backcountry Info at noon. Hike about 3 miles to Long Branch Shelter via Blackwell Gap Trail and then AT.
- Nov. 2, Day 2, Hike 8.9 miles to Carter Gap Shelter on AT.
- Nov. 3, Day 3, Hike 7.6 miles to Standing Indian Shelter.
- Nov. 4, Day 4, Hike 4.5 miles back to Backcountry Info Center via AT and Kimsey Creek trail.

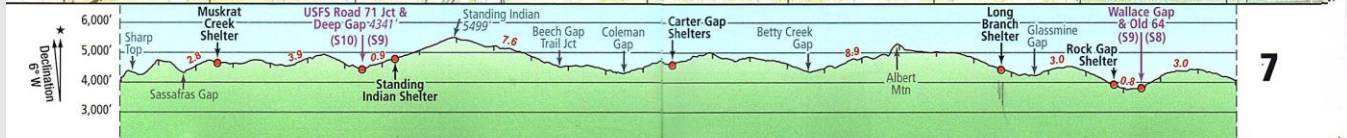
Contact Hike Leader Buddy Arnold at we_arnold@outlook.com or 601-414-3551 cell.

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.