



- NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello all!

Wildflowers are at their peak, so don't miss out on the many hikes going on right now. We are fortunate to have so many variations in elevation of terrain nearby which provide us with an extended blooming season. Some of the hikes are slow, with ample opportunity to enjoy the scenery; others are easy with good trails, making them accessible to many of us.

Our next club meeting will be at the Etowah Senior Center, with Rick Harris presenting on the use of GPS software which can be downloaded to your phone. Rick will cover his favorite programs, and answer questions about how to use them and what you may expect from them. We will have our usual potluck supper. See you at 6:00 pm, Thursday, May 11th.

Jack Callahan, Club President

- PAST EVENTS

WALLS OF JERICHO APRIL 1, 2023

Canceled due to weather. - Jennifer Schroll

CLEVELAND STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE NATURE TRAIL APRIL 2, 2023



Five hikers—guest April Flowers and members Jack and Margaret Callahan, Jennifer Schroll, and Hike Leader Judy Price—hiked this short multi-use trail with some uphill that will increase your heart rate! It was chilly in the parking lot, but the day warmed up as we hiked. Before the leaves fill in, you can catch views of Big Frog Mountain. Caterpillars were escaping their tents; dragonflies were swirling around us. We saw wildflowers and berries still in the bud stage: Solomon's seal, wood sorrel, trillium, blueberry, and little brown jugs. Jack and Margaret found southern adderstongue fern and mahonia. The white dogwood blooms stood out against the bright blue cloudless sky. It was a very enjoyable day! - Judy Price



WOLFTEVER CREEK/COLLEGEDALE GREENWAY APRIL 4, 2023



We thoroughly enjoyed our walk along this very charming greenway. The forecast originally called for rain, but fortunately that changed and we had an overcast, warm day. We began at Nature Nook and walked by the railroad tracks past the Dog Park. Wolftever Creek Greenway meanders along its picturesque namesake creek, with whimsical signs, birdhouses, historical sites, and seating areas as you go. We saw wildflowers and wildlife!



There is a significant bridge construction project in Collegedale and the path took us safely through the middle of it. We paid our respects at Veterans Memorial Park, then picked up Collegedale Greenway to our turnaround point at Imagination Station pavilion where we ate lunch. On our return, we were accompanied by a little kitty as we backtracked to Nature Nook, completing our four-mile walk. Hikers participating were club members Jack Callahan, Kathy Thelen, and Hike Leader Judy Price. • Judy Price



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING APRIL 13, 2023



After a delicious potluck dinner (don't tell the rooster about the chicken livers!) and the business meeting conducted by Jack Callahan (see the minutes below), Rob Coombs gave a presentation, "Moving from Conquest to Quest: Lessons Learned in the Seventh Decade," that provoked some thoughtful discussion. Thanks to Rob for a wonderful program! - Judy Price



FLETCHER PARK APRIL 14, 2023



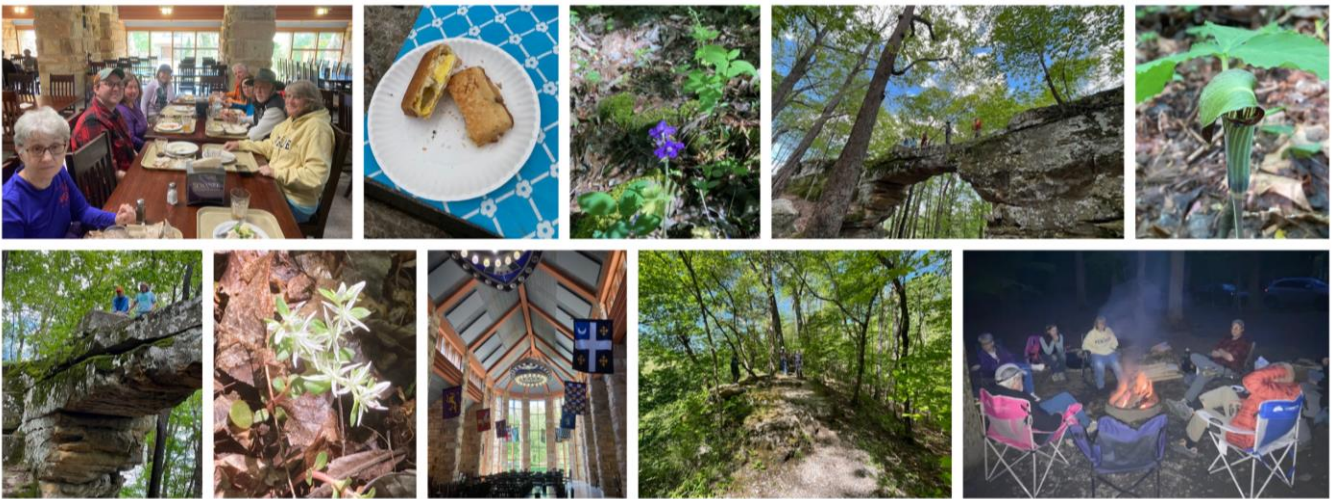
Three hikers—Jack and Margaret Callahan and Hike Leader Judy Price—headed to Fletcher Park for a short but beautiful hike. The weather didn't fully cooperate and we walked in a light rain part of the time. The rain just made the wildflowers sparkle and Candies Creek flow clear. Wisteria hung from the trees. A disc golf course is set to open at the park soon. We had a fantastic morning! • Judy Price



OLD STONE FORT STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK APRIL 21 - 24, 2023



Our group met on Friday afternoon and gathered up firewood for a great evening of pie iron cooking and conversation. Pie iron items included pizza, lasagna, fajitas, and more. Saturday morning, the group assembled and drove the short distance to the trailhead of Shakerag Hollow and made a five-mile out-and-back hike. There were many varieties of wildflowers in bloom, including Jack-in-the-pulpit, trillium, and stoncrop to name a few. After the hike, the group drove to the University of the South campus and enjoyed a nice meal at the school cafeteria.



Following lunch, former student Lucia Case gave us a tour of the campus and the inside of numerous buildings. Back in camp, the pie iron cooking heated up with chocolate monkey bread, apple pie, lemon pie, and more. A lot of wood was burned and, again, more great conversation. Sunday morning saw the cooking of breakfast in pie irons, with hash browns with ham and cheese, egg pastries, cinnamon rolls, and more. After breakfast, the group made a short drive to the trail system that provided access to Machine Falls. Several wildflowers, including anise and Jacob's Ladder, were observed.





Afterwards, the group met at the museum at the Old Stone Fort Archaeological site for a great interpretive walk by Ranger Eric Collins, who is a graduate archeologist. He did a wonderful job of explaining the history of the area and pointing out all the many sites from 2000 years ago to the present day. He took his time, answering all our questions; and the 2.5-hour interpretative walk was outstanding. Back in camp, there was a major firewood collection, with Rob utilizing his electric chainsaw which made short work of cutting up downed timber. We enjoyed a nice warm fire and lots of great discussion. Monday morning, several people headed home early while some did another hike on the Backbone Ridge trail in the park. Members included Clare and Ed Sullivan, Janet and Rob Coombs, Lucia Case, Otis Pannell, Jennifer and Mitchell Schroll, and Jack and Margaret Callahan. - Jack Callahan



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. - Jack Callahan

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. - Jack Callahan

- UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE: Event schedule subject to change according to guidance from governmental agencies and offices regarding health and safety, weather, or other conditions. An email will be sent to members if an event is canceled.

FLATS MOUNTAIN

MAY 2, 2023 TUESDAY

Approximately six miles, rated moderate, with some elevation gain. This hike will travel through an area with numerous pink lady's slippers if the timing is right. We will need two vehicles for shuttle. Meet at the Cherohala Visitor Center in Tellico Plains at 9 am to set up shuttle. Text Hike Leader Sue Robinson at 423-519-9751 if you plan to attend.

BIRDWATCHING AT [RADNOR LAKE STATE PARK](#) AND CAMPOUT AT [CEDARS OF LEBANON STATE PARK](#)

MAY 2 - 4, 2023 TUESDAY - THURSDAY

THIS EVENT IS A VERY SLOW-PACED WALK, WITH A LOT OF STOPPING, LOOKING AND LISTENING INVOLVED. We will camp or rent cabins at Cedars of Lebanon on the nights of May 2 and 3. When we arrive at Cedars of Lebanon on Tuesday, we will hike some of the trails at the park. Then we will travel to Radnor Lake on May 3, spending the day there and birdwatching on several of their trails as well as spending time in the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center. The center is a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk and provides access to the birds of prey and other animals. Radnor Lake is an approximately 2.5-hour drive from Cleveland, so that is part of the reason for staying at Cedars of Lebanon; but if there are individuals who prefer to make it a one-day event, we will meet you at Radnor Lake. There are several cabins currently available at Cedars of Lebanon, so if you plan to rent one, it is suggested you do so quickly. There are 117 campsites, and showers and sites with electricity are available. Event Leaders include Marrie Lasater, Kelly Ducham, Bob Dornfeld, and Jack Callahan. Marrie Lasater is very familiar with Radnor and will be our guide at that park. Kelly Ducham and Bob Dornfeld are club members with experience in birding and will assist us in the typical procedures of birdwatching and the use of appropriate phone apps for bird call identification. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 for additional information.

A WALK IN THE WOODS

MAY 5, 2023 FRIDAY 9 AM JOHNSTON WOODS MCDONALD TN

This is a walk using the two loops at the Johnston Woods Retreat off Highway 11 just south of Cleveland. Meet at the trailhead at 9 am. The first loop is 1.2 miles and the second is 2.9 miles for a total of 4.2 miles if you walk both. It is considered easy with little elevation change. It passes through both pine and hardwood forests and provides a pleasant hike close to town. Contact Hike Leader James Anderson at 423-715-8824 if you want to be advised of any changes and/or hike cancellation. If that isn't an issue for you, then you can just show up at the trailhead parking area at the designated time:

- February 3 at 10 am
- May 5 at 9 am
- July 16 at 8 am
- November 17 at 10 am

[COKE OVENS TOUR](#)

MAY 6, 2023 SATURDAY DUNLAP TN

Visit museum and tour the remains of the 268 beehive coke ovens at 350 Mountain View Road in Dunlap. The museum contains many items used in the mining of coal in the area, as well as the largest collection of coal mining photographs in the state. (If we have 10 attend we can get a guided tour of the museum at no charge.) This will be an easy walking event. There is no admission. Afterwards, we will eat lunch at a local restaurant in Dunlap or nearby. Meet at the Cleveland Park and Ride commuter parking next to Mapco at I-75 and Hwy 60 at 8:30 am to carpool to site. Contact Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

BUCK BALD

MAY 9, 2023 TUESDAY

Join us for some 360° mountain views! We will hike from Hwy 68 up the Benton MacKaye Trail. Moderate almost four-mile out-and-back. Bring water and lunch/snacks. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

MAY 11, 2023 THURSDAY 6 PM ETOWAH TN SENIOR CENTER

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. The club will furnish drinks, cups, and eating utensils. The program is **Navigation of Trails Part Two** (Tips on Topo Maps, Geocaching, Phone Software, GPS Systems) by Rick Harris.

CANOE FLOAT TRIP ON THE CURRENT RIVER

MAY 14 - 20, 2023 SUNDAY - SATURDAY MISSOURI

Current River is in southeast Missouri near Van Buren and is a portion of the Ozark National Scenic Waterways.

- May 14: Travel day. Approximate eight-hour drive from Cleveland to Two Rivers Campground where we will camp the first night.
- May 15: Get with canoe rental at Two Rivers and be shuttled with rental canoes to Baptist Put-in approximately 50 river miles upstream. Float approximately eight miles and camp on gravel bar. Many springs and caves at water level to explore in this section.
- May 16: Break camp and float approximately 10 miles. Spend night on gravel bar.
- May 17: Break camp and float approximately eight miles to Pulltite Campground. Group Campsite reserved, with hot showers, flush toilets and electricity.
- May 18: Break camp, float approximately 14 miles, camp on gravel bar. Stop at Round Springs along the way.
- May 19: Break camp, float approximately 12 miles to Two Rivers, turn in canoes. Spend night at Eagles Landing River Resort (one room with two queen beds \$130/night). Or elsewhere, your choice.
- May 20: Travel back to home base.

Canoe rental for two-person canoe for 5 weekdays--\$190. \$40 to have outfitter shuttle your craft. Group campsite at Pulltite--\$140. Approximately 900 miles round trip by road. Max number of floaters--16. We will share the cost of the group campsite and furl cost plus extra for drivers, rooms after float trip, on your own. Estimated cost per person (sharing room) about \$230 plus meals. For more details contact Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885. **If you are interested you must get on the list ASAP.** When we have final numbers, we can work out the details on drivers, etc.

MCKAMY LAKE TRAIL

MAY 22, 2023 MONDAY

At Chilhowee Recreation Area. Easy 1.2 miles around the lake. Contact Hike Leader Clare Sullivan at 404-849-0872 or clare7982@gmail.com for information on meeting time and location.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS BACKPACKING TRIP

MAY 23 - 26, 2023 TUESDAY - FRIDAY

You must contact Hike Leader to join in hike since there is a limited number due to campsite restrictions. Short backpacking hike to Walnut Bottoms campsite, then two day hikes out of camp to iconic vistas in the Smokies. Will require shuttle from Standing Bear Hostel for better vehicle security.

- Day One: Begin hike at Big Creek Campground, moderate hike to Campsite 36 or 37, approximately 5.3 miles with 1300-foot elevation gain.
- Day Two: Strenuous day hike to Mt. Cammerer, hike 2.5 miles to Low Gap, then 2.7 mile on Appalachian Trail to Cammerer, total of 10.4 miles with 2500-foot elevation gain.
- Day Three: Strenuous day hike, four miles on Shallow Fork Trail to Mt. Sterling Ridge Trail, then 1.8 miles to Mt. Sterling Fire Tower. Approximately 2700-foot elevation gain, 11.6 miles.
- Day Four: Hike out to Big Creek Campground, 5.3 miles, 1300-foot elevation loss.

If interested, you must contact Hike Leader Buddy Arnold at 601-414-3551 or we_arnold@outlook.com.

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- NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

INTRO TO BACKPACKING TRIP

MAY 6 - 7, 2023 SATURDAY – SUNDAY FROZEN HEAD STATE PARK AND NATURAL AREA

“Join us for a fun spring backpacking trip at Frozen Head State Park! Learn the essentials of backpacking and experience Frozen Head’s backcountry beauty at night.”

INTRODUCTION TO OVERNIGHT BACKPACKING

MAY 6 - 7, 2023 SATURDAY – SUNDAY CUMBERLAND TRAIL STATE PARK

“Welcome to the Cumberland Trail where we specialize in outdoor adventure and recreation. Let's go backpacking!”

SPRINGTIME AT SPRING PLACE

MAY 20, 2023 SATURDAY CHIEF VANN HOUSE HISTORIC SITE

“Enjoy a tree-identification hike and a birding hike. Make your own 'seed bomb,' take part in [...] pollination activities, meet a bee keeper, and more.”

RYE PATCH – AN “ORCHIDACEOUS” HIKING ADVENTURE

MAY 27, 2023 SATURDAY WARRIORS PATH STATE PARK

“Ready for a real HIKING ADVENTURE? Join us as we climb up Rye Patch and Taylor Ridge, a rarely-visited side of Holston Mountain.”

TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW

Check the Facebook page for future work days.

BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

See the calendar for upcoming events and trail maintenance dates.

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

• MINUTES

April 13, 2023 Club Meeting
Charleston City Park

The club met at Charleston City Park pavilion on April 13, 2023, and, after our potluck supper, Jennifer presented the treasurer's report with a balance of \$2374.69 which was approved by the members. Jack covered several past and upcoming events, with event leaders giving reports on their individual hikes. Following the reports, Rob Coombs gave us a presentation on "Moving from Conquest to Quest, Lessons Learned in the Seventh Decade." It was an excellent discussion, and Rob exhibited his skill as a great teacher by involving the group in a lot of interaction on the subject. He stressed the need for individuals to become involved in a community and build relations in a club like the Cherokee Hiking Club. He also recommended a couple of interesting books that he and Janet use in their travels to enhance the experience. We had a nice turnout and the weather turned out fine.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Callahan, President and Secretary