



## **- NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Our June Club Meeting will be at the Etowah Senior Center, with a presentation by Karen Kocher. Karen will give a slide presentation on the trip she and Fritz made to Spain last year. Looking forward to a great potluck supper again and some of those fabulous desserts.

The wildflower season is slipping away for the early bloomers, except at higher elevations. We will be moving into fungi season in some areas.

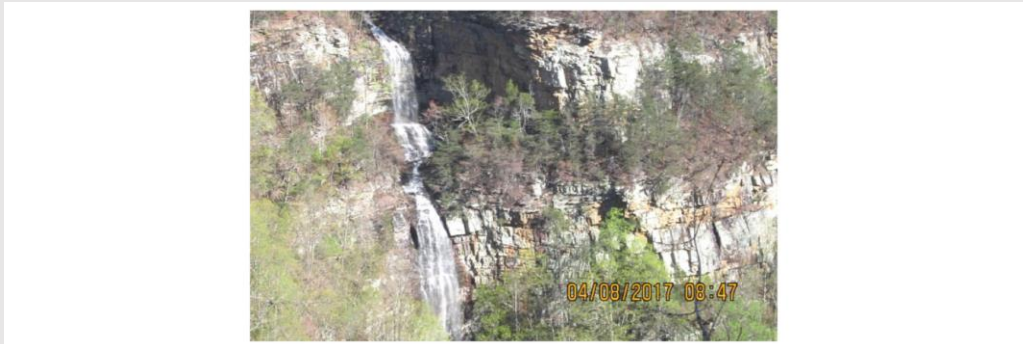
Lots of interesting hikes/events in June. Please try to make some of them, as the event leaders put a lot into the planning.

Jack Callahan, Club President

## - PAST EVENTS

### **CLOUDLAND CANYON STATE PARK APRIL 17, 2023**

This was a great hike with four club members participating: Buddy Arnold, James Anderson, Leslie Auriemmo, and Charlene Sudore. The hike started about 10:15 in cool but sunny weather at the main parking area in Cloudland Canyon State Park on the Overlook Trail. The first part of the hike was about ½ mile or so on the Overlook Trail with beautiful views of the canyon and a nice waterfall on the opposite side. Below is a view looking at a large waterfall from the Overlook Trail with a total drop of about 300 feet.



The hike then proceeded to the West Rim Trail which is about 4.5 miles long. There were great views of Trenton and Lookout Valley along the trail. The group stopped at a nice sunny overlook for lunch around noon about halfway through this part of the hike with temperatures in the 60's by then. With completion of the West Rim Trail, the hikers then started down the Waterfalls Trail, dropping about 400 feet in elevation via a series of steps and paths to view Cherokee and Hemlock waterfalls in the canyon. These are very impressive waterfalls both falling over 60 feet off sheer cliffs. There were tremendous flows due to previous rain and below left is a picture of the hikers at Cherokee Falls.



Left: Cherokee Falls



Right: Hemlock Falls

We then made it to Hemlock Falls, just as impressive as Cherokee Falls. Above right is a photo of Hemlock Falls, which does have a number of nice hemlock trees nearby. After a long climb back up the stairs, the group completed the hike on the Overlook Trail about 3:00. - Buddy Arnold

### **BACKPACK ON THE BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL APRIL 27 - 30, 2023**

Postponed due to weather. - James Anderson

**GRUNDY FOREST/FIERY GIZZARD APRIL 29, 2023**



Club members met at the Park and Ride and made the trip to the Fiery Gizzard trailhead in Tracy City, where we met Marrie Lasater to begin the hike. The group hiked down to Sycamore Falls, which was flowing quite well. Along the way we observed large patches of cucumber root, pink lady's slippers, and several Jack in the Pulpit. Returning back to the trail intersection, the group took the Grundy Forest portion and climbed the slope up to the site of the CCC camp, which is very nicely interpreted by the park. Plaques with original photos of the camp in action are located at the exact photo points, with descriptions of the activities ongoing. All through the site there are many pink lady's slippers. One can guarantee seeing them there every year at this time. Completing the hike, a total of approximately four miles, the group then made the short drive into town to the Dutch Maid Bakery which has been in continuous operation for over 110 years. After loading up on several low-calorie, sugar-free items, the group went their separate ways back home. Thankfully, the items were eaten in small bites to avoid a "sugar high." Members attending were Jennifer Schroll, Doug Lynch, and Event Leaders Marrie Lasater and Jack Callahan. - Jack Callahan



**FLATS MOUNTAIN MAY 2, 2023**



Eight of us went on a beautiful spring day. We had hoped the thousands of lady's slippers there would be blooming, but I guess the higher elevation has held them off. We saw a few in bloom, though, as we descended the mountain. Many trilliums were still in bloom, and flame azaleas were showing off amongst the blooming laurels. The trees, not fully leafed-out yet, provided plenty of views of Indian Boundary Lake and the mountains. It was a great hike with friends with some of us going to Tellico Grains and Bakery afterward. Life can't get much better. - Sue Robinson



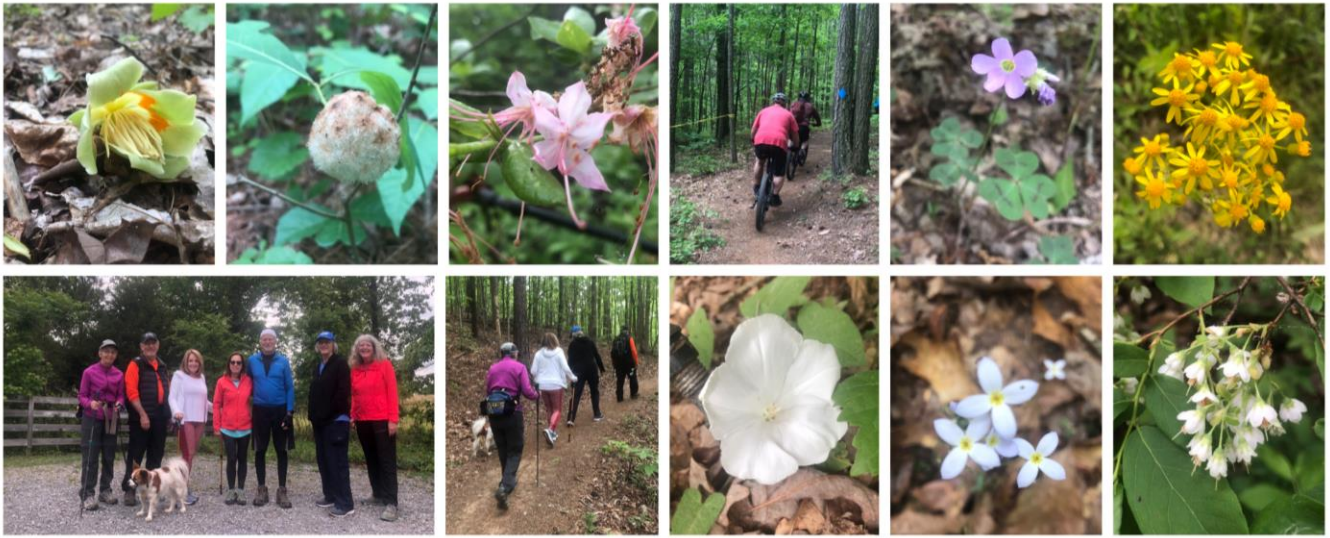
**RADNOR LAKE STATE PARK/CEDARS OF LEBANON STATE PARK MAY 2 - 4, 2023**



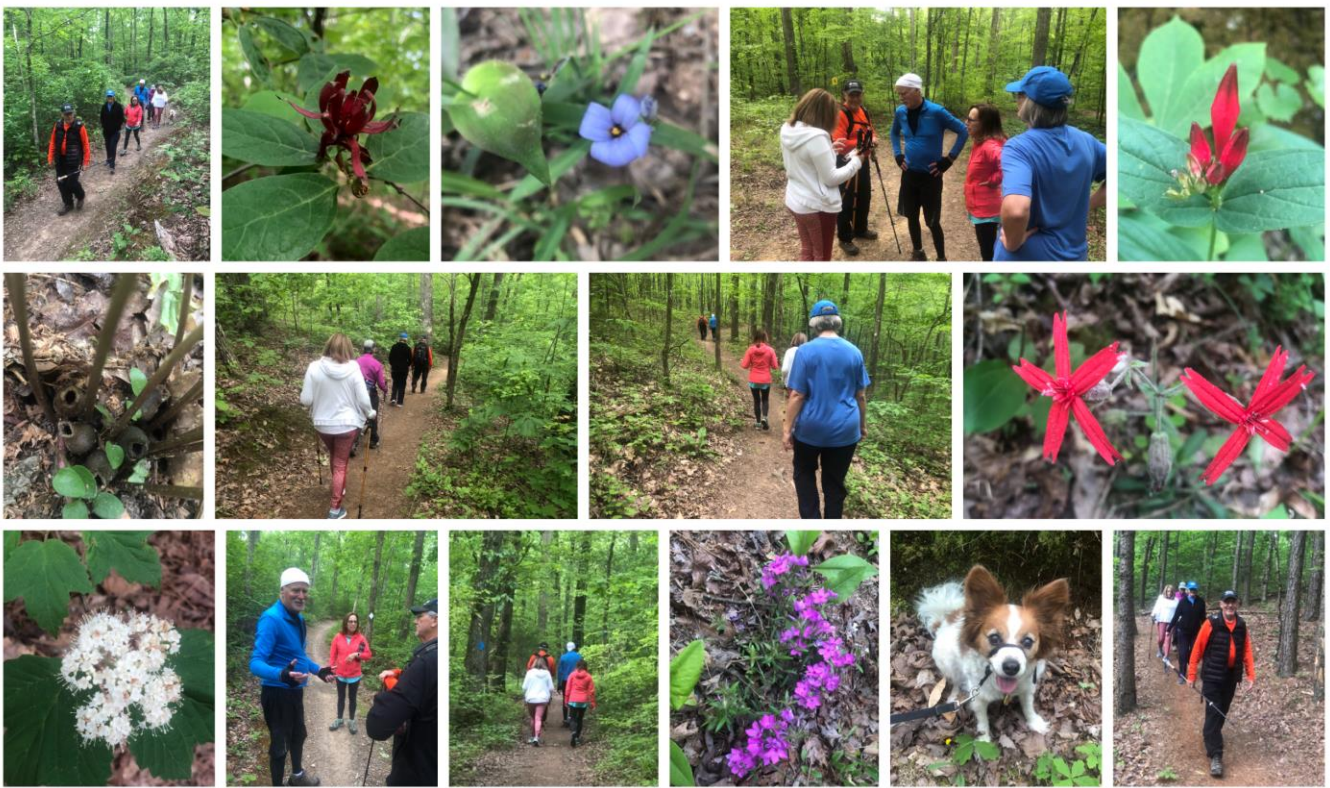
On May 2, Kelly and Bob Ducham and Jack and Margaret Callahan stayed in cabins at Cedars of Lebanon State Park, and left early the next morning for the drive to Radnor Lake State Park. At Radnor, we met Marrie Lasater, who had set up our group to join with the regular Wednesday birdwatching event. The local birdwatchers began arriving and the parking lot was soon filled with folks carrying binoculars and cameras. At about 7:30, the group began a leisurely walk to and around a portion of the lake. In all, there were about thirty in the group. Soon, individuals were calling out softly, "There is a Summer Tanager," or a certain this or that. It was quite an experience. Kelly and Bob helped keep us informed on specific birds and how to distinguish one from another. Bob took numerous photos with his telephoto lens, and shared several of them with us. The trail we walked is dedicated to birding, and no dogs or runners are allowed on this specific trail. The weather was beautiful, and we had a great and very informative walk. Marrie left us to make a longer walk on another trail and the Duchams continued with their birding. Margaret and I headed back to Cedars for a late snack and then several of us walked a few of the trails at the park. After another night in the cabins, we headed back to home base. It was a really great experience and both parks are very nice. Thanks to Bob, Kelly, and Marrie for all they did in arranging the event and sharing their knowledge. - Jack Callahan



**A WALK IN THE WOODS MAY 5, 2023**



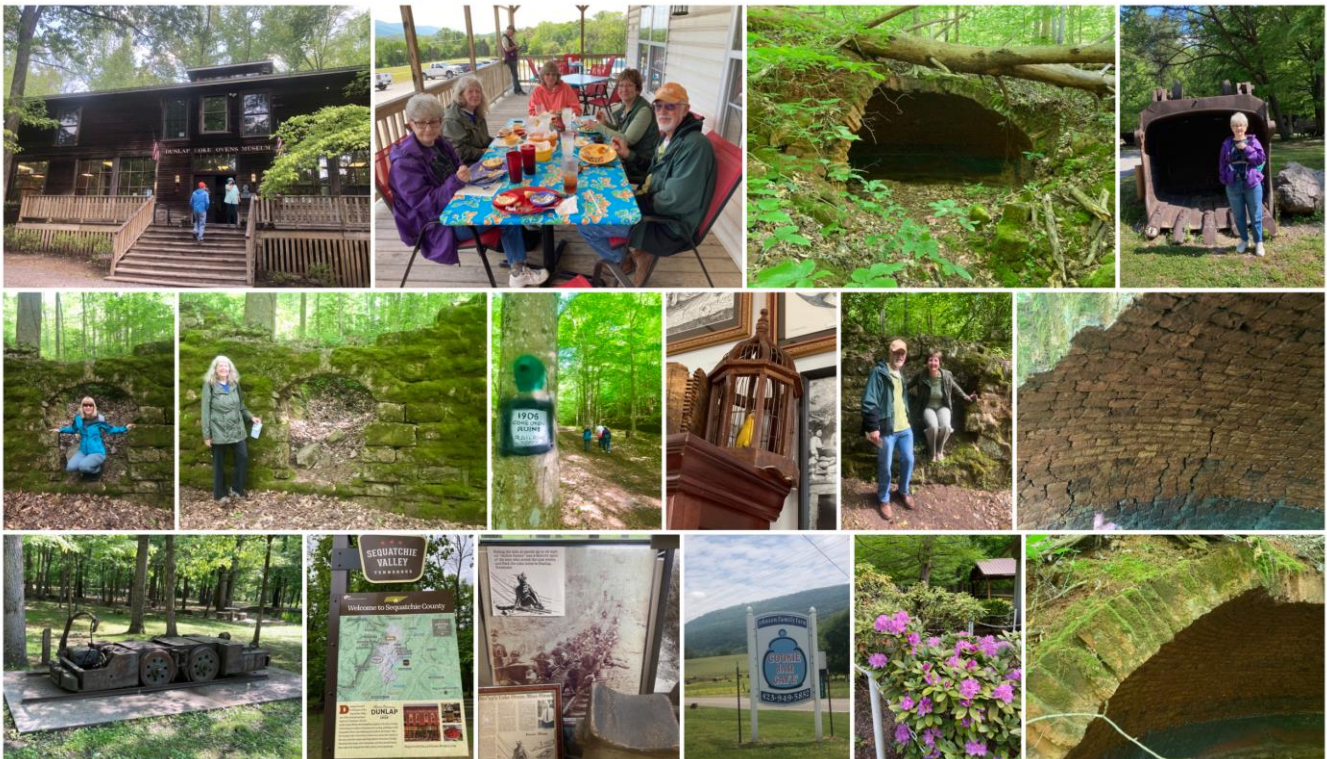
**A walk at Johnston Woods! • James Anderson**



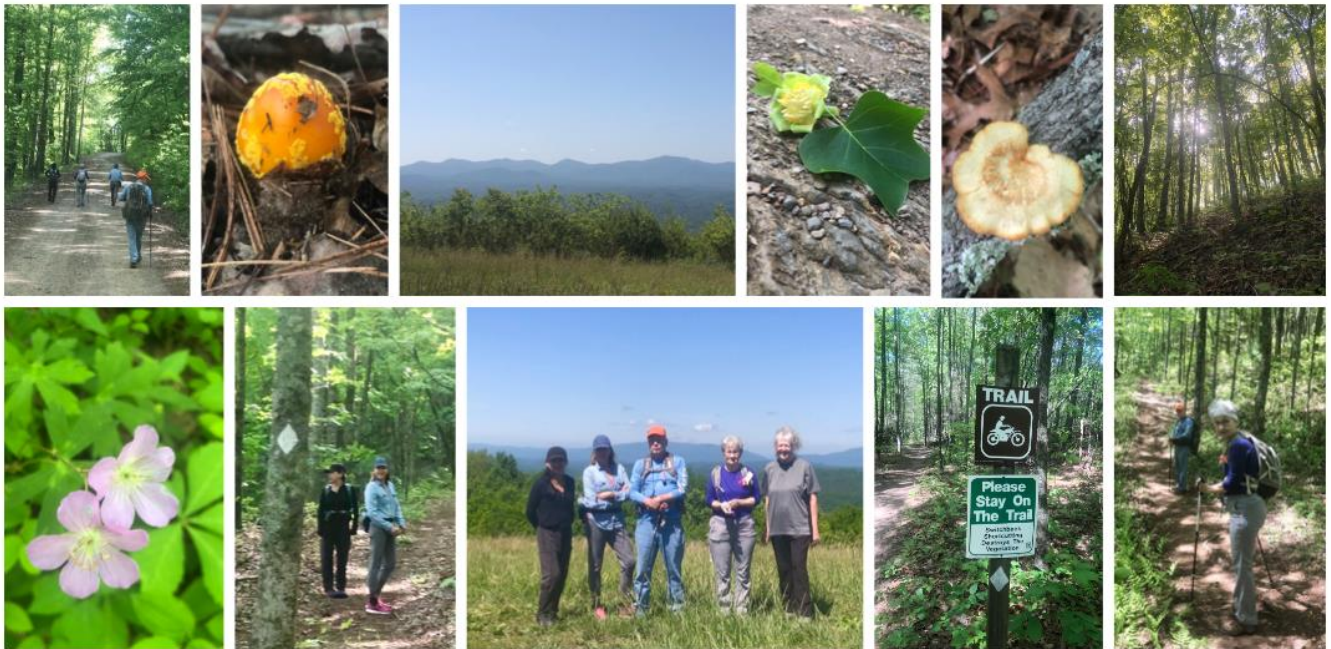
**COKE OVENS MUSEUM MAY 6, 2023**



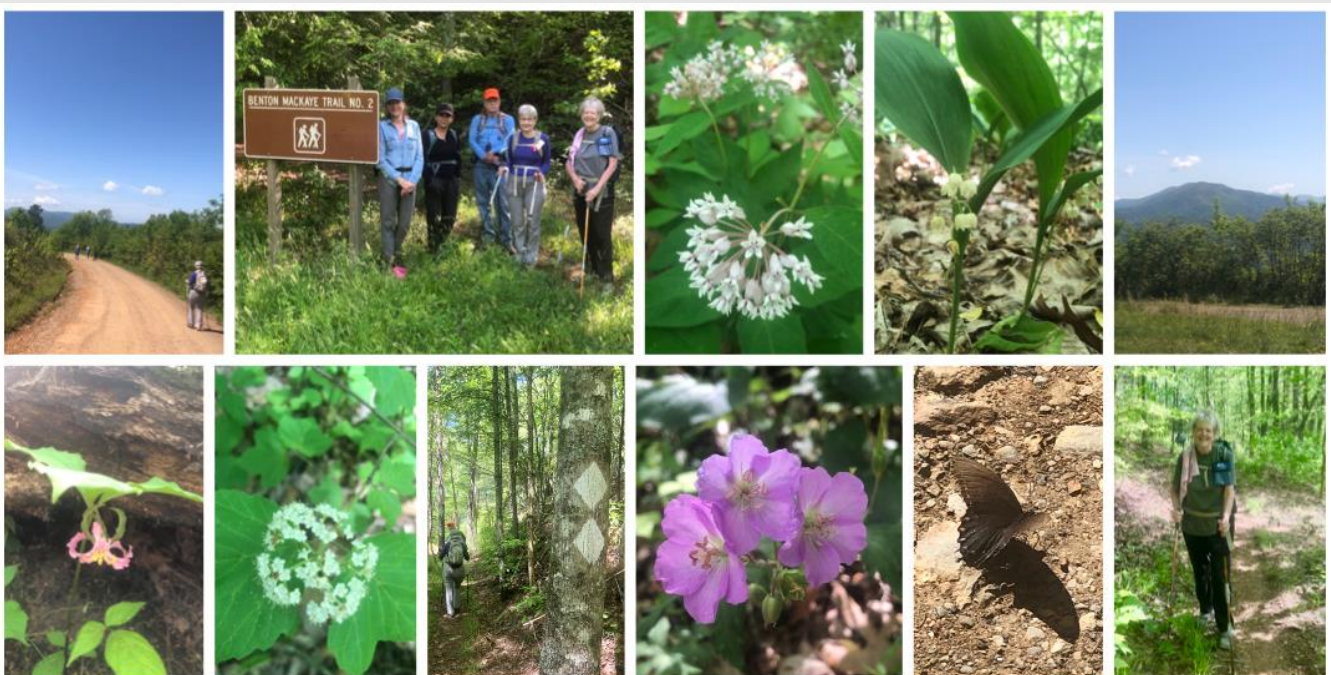
Seven club members made the journey to Dunlap to tour the Coke Ovens Museum and the remains of the 268 beehive coke ovens. After about an hour of touring the site around the museum, we met back and enjoyed a discussion by one of the members of the nonprofit organization that operates the site. The museum has an extensive collection of coal mining and coke oven artifacts and is full of history. Our guide gave a talk on the origin of the site and its history through the years. On display was one of the original canary cages that was used in the mines, as well as one of the seats that miners used to ride back down the 3800-foot rail to the coal tipple. We then drove the short distance to have lunch at the Cookie Jar Cafe, an interesting restaurant on a local farmer's property. We enjoyed the afternoon meal on the dining porch with great views of the valley. In attendance were Jim and Lettie Whisman, Karen Kocher, Jennifer Schroll, Judy Price, Margaret Callahan and Event Leader Jack Callahan. • Jack Callahan



## BUCK BALD MAY 10, 2023



After a reschedule due to predicted thunderstorms, five hikers (Adriana Hernandez, Jack and Margaret Callahan, Lynne McPhail, and Hike Leader Judy Price) met at the trailhead on Hwy 68 on a warm sunny day. We met some Benton MacKaye Trail section hikers who kindly took our photo, and we were off! It was a gradual uphill with lots of shade. We saw many wildflowers—trillium, lily of the valley, wild geranium, milkweed—, mushrooms, and butterflies. The BMT joins the Unicoi Motorcycle Trail (thankfully no motorcycles this day), and we continued to the forest service road which we took to Buck Bald. We climbed the stairs to the bald and, behold! We had 360° mountain views! We took in the blue mountains and, with PeakFinder, Jack identified peaks in Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina. After a snack and photos, we made our way downhill to the trailhead. What a glorious day! • Judy Price





**MONTHLY CLUB MEETING MAY 11, 2023**



Members met at the Etowah Senior Center and enjoyed a delicious potluck supper and many scrumptious strawberry desserts. Rick Harris gave a great presentation on handheld GPS devices as well as software for cellphones. This was a follow-up to the Navigation of Trails presentation several months ago, which discussed latitude and longitude and the use of a compass. Rick did an excellent job of discussing the options that are available, and talking about the benefits of the handhelds which allow for satellite emergency calls and short text messaging. It was a very informative presentation and created a lot of interest. - Jack Callahan



Satellite Communications and Cell Phone Apps for Hiking/Backpacking  
 (Updated March 2023)  
 Rick Harris, GPS Mentor  
 May 11, 2023

Satellite Communications:  
 Returns for "general use":

- Garmin InReach
- Garmin eTrex
- Garmin eTrex
- Garmin eTrex
- Garmin eTrex
- Garmin eTrex

Cell Phone Apps for Hiking/Backpacking:

- State GPS
- FarOut
- Avenza
- Out Backcountry
- AllTrails
- TrailHubs
- Backcountry Nav
- TrailLink
- Peak Finder
- MapIn
- Naturalist

## CANOE FLOAT TRIP ON THE CURRENT RIVER MAY 14 - 17, 2023



Several individuals left on May 13 to split up the drive to Two Rivers Campground. Jennifer and Jack drove through the Land Between the Lakes, taking in the Lodge at Lake Barkley State Park and the bison/elk drive along the parkway. There were at least 35 bison observed, as well as three elk, an indigo bunting and turkey. We met up with Jerry Schneider and a friend of Jennifer's at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park and had supper at Patti's 1880's Settlement Restaurant.



The next day, the three club members stopped by the Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site to tour the mound excavations. Arriving at Two Rivers in the afternoon, we met up with the rest of the group and set up camp for the evening. The next morning, everyone packed dry bags and gear for the shuttle to Baptist put in, about 50 miles upriver from Two Rivers. The weather radar showed a possibility of rain, but the group decided to chance it and go. Several members brought their own canoes and kayaks, and the rest rented canoes from the outfitter who took us all with our gear to the put in. We were on the river around 10 am and the water was crystal clear and fast-flowing.



About two hours later, we encountered a severe thunderstorm with very heavy rain and lightning. We scattered around on a gravel bar waiting for the rain to move off, which it did not. Putting back in we floated about eight miles to the next put in and Cedar Grove, where we had to portage around a low water bridge. It had stopped raining by now but the river had risen and was not quite muddy.



We were looking for a decent location to camp at the bridge when a volunteer with the Ozark Riverways Foundation stopped by in his pickup and talked to us about our trip. He drove Jack about 1/4 mile downstream to a park service river campsite and it was a perfect location for us to overnight, which we did.



The skies were somewhat clear and we had plenty of time to set up camp and eat supper. Jack had placed a marker at the water's edge to determine if the water was rising or falling. Sue walked down to her kayak to retrieve an item and noticed that the river had risen about two feet already. We quickly moved all the craft to higher ground, just as the rain and lightning began again. For another two or three hours it poured.



Overnight, the river rose another two feet or so. We agreed to wait until around noon to begin floating. By around 11 am, the water level had fallen to about a foot above when we took out so we agreed to begin the next leg of our trip. Half an hour later, it began to rain again. We floated the eight miles to Akers Ferry takeout in two hours, as the river was moving quite fast. Arriving at Akers, everyone was soaked; and after Al talked to a park employee who was mowing (in the driving rain), he told Al the river was closed. We all agreed to have the shuttle service come pick us up and take us back to Two Rivers rather than camp and see what the river did. We were fortunate the shuttle service was very prompt and had us and gear back to our vehicles around 5 pm. We quickly loaded and drove to Eminence where we were able to move our lodging reservations back to that night. After some cleanup and dry clothes, most members ate supper at the adjacent restaurant.



Wednesday morning, the group split up and headed their different ways home. The general consensus was that we would plan to come back to the river and try it again. Every one made it home safely. The Tenacious Ten Club members were Rob and Janet Coombs, Gayle and James Drummond, Al Johnson, Jerry Schneider, Michelle Ritter, Sue Robinson, Jennifer Schroll, and Event Leader Jack Callahan. - Jack Callahan



### **MCKAMY LAKE MAY 22, 2023**

Canceled. • Clare Sullivan

### **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.

## **VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL BIKE RIDE WITH BARTER THEATRE EVENT**

**JUNE 2 - 3, 2023 FRIDAY – SATURDAY VIRGINIA**

Enjoy the theater on Friday evening, stay at a hotel, and ride the Creeper on Saturday, then return home. We will ride from Whitetop to Damascus, 18 miles all the way downhill. Mostly gravel tread with lots of picturesque bridges and streams. Bring a lunch and small backpack with essentials for the ride. You must reserve your own motel room and purchase Barter Theatre tickets. Contact Event Leader Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256 or [jennifergeologist@gmail.com](mailto:jennifergeologist@gmail.com) for more information on hotel and Barter Theatre show and tickets if you are interested.

## **BIRD WATCHING AT ATHENS REGIONAL PARK**

**JUNE 6, 2023 TUESDAY ATHENS TN**

We will meet at Athens Regional Park off Hwy 30 (approximately a half mile east of I-75 and Hwy 30 intersection). Immediately after you enter the park, take the first left to the small parking lot near the restroom facilities where we will meet at 9 am and begin our bird watching walk on the trails in the park. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars (if you have a pair); or we can share. This will be a slow, stop, look, and listen event, so speed is not required. Event Leaders are Kelly Ducham, Bob Dornfeld, and Jack Callahan. Contact Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you have any questions.

## **MONTHLY CLUB MEETING**

**JUNE 8, 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 **Trip to Spain** (see the amazing architecture and countryside of Spain) by Karen Kocher.

## **FALLS BRANCH FALLS**

**JUNE 12, 2023 MONDAY**

At West Rattlesnake Trailhead off the Cherohala Skyway. Difficult but short three-mile hike with the rewarding 80-foot water and wildflowers. Trekking poles suggested. Meet at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center in Tellico Plains at 9 am to carpool to site. Contact Hike Leader Sue Robinson at 423-519-9751.

## **HOOPER BALD AND HUCKLEBERRY KNOB**

**JUNE 16, 2023 FRIDAY**

Two short hikes to the top of the balds. Hooper is about one mile total and Huckleberry is about two miles max. Some elevation gain but not bad. We will hike to Hooper first, with hopes of seeing the wild azaleas in bloom, then hike to Huckleberry and have lunch and enjoy the view. Bring a lunch or charcuterie board, something comfortable to sit or lie on, and relax. Contact Hike Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend. We will determine the carpool meeting location and time once we know who has signed up for the hike.

## **BALD RIVER FALLS**

**JUNE 19, 2023 MONDAY**

Because the Tellico River Road will most likely be closed due to replacement of the bridge over Bald River, we will have to go to the south end of the trail along Bald River Road. We will hike down to the falls along Tellico River Road, eat lunch, then return to our vehicles on Bald River Road. Total distance will be about nine miles, rated moderate with some rocky areas. This is a gorgeous hike going by several waterfalls along the way. There is one significant stream crossing (Pawpaw Branch), which may require wading. Contact Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at [harrisri@aol.com](mailto:harrisri@aol.com) or 423-253-6358.

## **PRENTICE COOPER STATE FOREST**

### **JUNE 24, 2023 SATURDAY**

Depart from Cleveland Park and Ride commuter parking next to Mapco at I-75 and Hwy 60 at 8 am. This hike is easy to moderate. Mileage depends on which option we hike. More details later. Both options will hike to Snoopers Rock overlook and Indian Rockhouse/Stone Door. Option 1 is to continue along the trail to Lawson Rock overlook then return to main parking for a car shuttle or return to the lower parking area. Option 2 is to hike from Stone Door in a loop that will include Mullins Cove overlook and return to the cars at the lower parking area. Contact Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256 or jennifergeologist@gmail.com.

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# - NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

## [AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY'S NATIONAL TRAILS DAY](#)

**JUNE 3, 2023 SATURDAY**

## [TENNESSEE STATE PARKS NATIONAL TRAILS DAY](#)

**JUNE 3, 2023 SATURDAY**

## [WILDERNESS FIRST AID CERTIFICATION COURSE](#)

**JUNE 24 - 25, 2023 SATURDAY – SUNDAY OUTDOOR CHATTANOOGA**



The advertisement features a scenic mountain landscape at the top. Below it is a circular logo with a green Star of Life in the center, surrounded by the text "DISASTER WILDERNESS TRAVEL" at the top and "FIRST AID" at the bottom. To the right of the logo is a small photo of two people providing first aid to a third person lying on the ground. Below the logo and photo is a block of text: "Hands-on learn how to save lives & limbs in wilderness areas, protests, and disaster zones (terrorist or weather) inaccessible to an ambulance. Practice care-giving during the critical minutes or hours it takes to stabilize and evaluate your patient. Blend of classroom instruction and hands-on problem-solving rescue scenario practical. Come away with actual do-it-yourself care-giving skill and confidence, and 2-year SOLO WFA certification. Courses as WFR Recertification, too. No prerequisites. Spaces are limited." To the right of this text is the date "June 24-25, 2023" and the location "Outdoor Chattanooga Chattanooga, TN". At the bottom left of the ad is the website "www.solowfa.com" and at the bottom right is a QR code.

## [TELLICO/OCOE 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

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING  
ETOWAH SENIOR CENTER  
MAY 11, 2023

Jack opened the meeting after 6 pm by introducing Cathy Doss, a friend of Carol Guhne's and a former club member.

The Treasurer's Report will be updated at the next meeting.

After a great meal of many main courses, the members enjoyed a wide assortment of desserts with emphasis on the fresh strawberries which are in season. Delicious.

After the meal, Jack discussed previous events and touched on events coming up before the next club meeting.

The floor was then turned over to Rick Harris, who gave a great presentation on several GPS units and GPS software available to be downloaded onto cellphones. Rick is very knowledgeable on many programs and prioritized which he thought was the most useful on the trail. He also covered GPS units which will allow you to make satellite messages to anyone while you are in an area with no cell service. He covered related costs and the benefits of this option. It was an excellent presentation and answered a lot of questions that many of us had.

After the presentation, Jack reintroduced Cathy, who joined the club during the meeting. Welcome back, Cathy.

The meeting concluded at about 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Callahan, President and Secretary