



- NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Summer to all!

The club has several easy and moderate hikes this coming July.

The Candies Creek Greenway walk is a nice easy trail and, for those who have never been there, this would be a great time to become acquainted with it.

The Walk in the Woods is a great opportunity to become familiar with a nice walk that is very convenient to Cleveland.

Some of the more moderate hikes include Warriors Passage and South Fork Citico Creek Wilderness. Both are mostly downhill but are fairly long and will require a shuttle.

The Brasstown Bald hike is a great chance to visit the highest point in Georgia, see the Forest Service exhibits at the observation tower, then hike down the mountain. (There is an \$8 per person fee to the Visitor Center and Day Use Area.) On this hike, if someone does not want to make the hike they might spend more time at the top and then drive down to pick up the hikers, if the numbers work out.

The club meeting on July 13th will be at the Parksville Lake cabin owned by Maryl Elliot and family. Maryl has graciously invited us to enjoy the cabin and the great waterfront location they have. There are about 15 kayaks and a canoe on site that may be used and there are numerous chairs available. You should plan to bring your own favorite camp chair just in case. We will meet at 4 pm, and plan to eat supper around 6 pm. The club will provide pizza and drinks. Members are asked to bring some desserts and finger food or a salad or two to round out the meal. To get to the cabin from Cleveland, go east on Highway 64 past the Ocoee Marina and the Ocoee Beach. The second driveway on the right past the beach is the Elliot's drive. Maryl will have an orange cone set out at the entrance to assist in identifying it. For the tech savvy (which should include everyone now) the coordinates are [N 35.098353, W 84.617941](#).

Looking forward to seeing you on the trail.

Jack Callahan, Club President

- OCOEE WHITEWATER CENTER

Clare Sullivan participated in a focus group to "Reimagine the Ocoee Whitewater Center." (In case you are not aware, the Ocoee Whitewater Center--site of the 1996 Olympics for whitewater sports--[burned down in April 2022](#).) Your input is requested! Please complete the [survey](#) (click on link--[Reimagine the OWC](#)) and be part of the new Ocoee Whitewater Center!

- PAST EVENTS

VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL/BARTER THEATRE JUNE 2 - 3, 2023



Five club members—Jack Callahan, Ginger Pippenger, Kelly Ducham, Chris Schroll and Event Leader Jennifer Schroll—and six guests met in Abingdon, Virginia. We ate at a BBQ (yes, they had pork this time) place on Main Street and then walked up to the Barter Theatre. We saw “Skeleton Crew” on the Gilliam Stage. This play was not what I was hoping for, but it was well done. The play was a historical drama about a crew at an auto plant in Detroit, Michigan. The next day, we picked up bikes at Blue Blaze in Damascus and were shuttled to Whitetop Station at the uphill end of the trail. We rode 18 miles downhill back to the Blue Blaze shop. We stopped at the historic train station at Green Cove to look around. We went to Hellbender’s Café in Taylor’s Valley for a quick snack and beverage. The bike trail is built upon an old railroad bed; it meanders through green wooded areas along a river, passes over lots of bridges, and goes by some open grazing and farming lands. Very pretty. The Appalachian Trail crosses the bike path and joins together for a short distance. Nearing the town of Damascus, we stopped at the Wicked Chicken for lunch and live entertainment, then rode through town to a community park and back to Blue Blaze. Everyone had a great time. • Jennifer Schroll



BIRD WATCHING AT ATHENS REGIONAL PARK JUNE 6, 2023



This was an interesting walk led by Kelly Ducham and Bob Dornfeld. We learned about the domestication of mallard ducks and other water fowl. Our walk was quickly rewarded with several bluebirds and a huge great blue heron. A bit further along, Kelly identified a blue grosbeak. There was a wide array of other more common birds along the creek portion of the trail. Then we were treated to several pairs of nesting indigo buntings. Kelly and Bob really know their birds; they are very proficient at identifying bird calls and picking out the less common ones, then finding the birds in the foliage. It was a great morning and we look forward to the next birding event, again at Athens Regional Park. Participants included Otis Pannel, Lucia Case, Ruth and Clayton Pannell, Joanne Jackson, Carin Taber, Kelly Ducham, Bob Dornfeld, and Margaret and Jack Callahan. • Jack Callahan

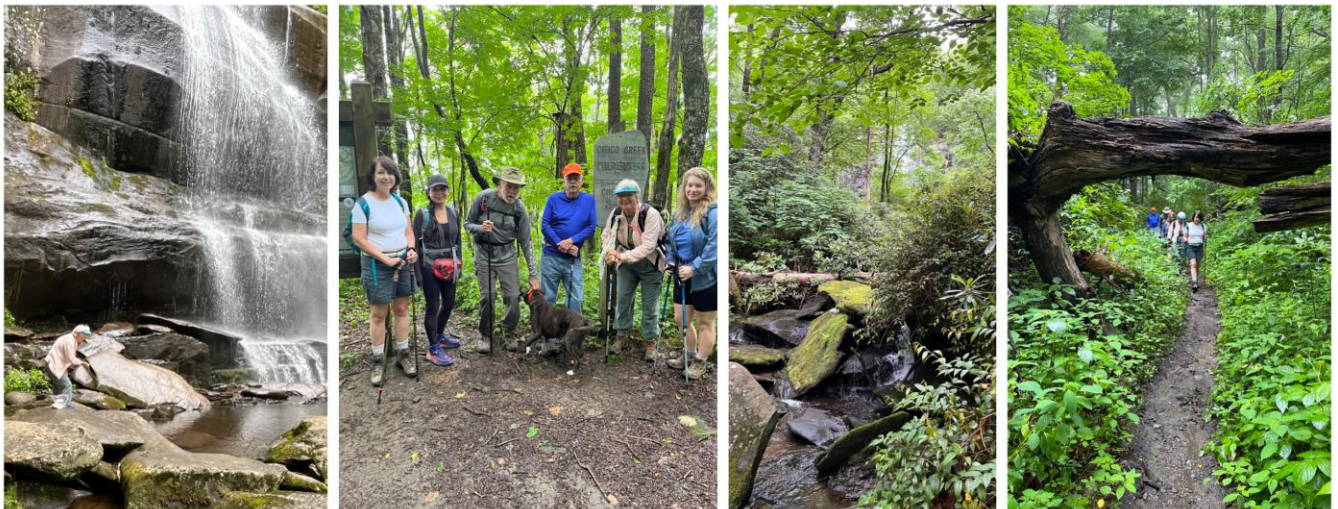
MONTHLY CLUB MEETING JUNE 8, 2023



We began the meeting with a fantastic potluck supper and many delicious desserts. After a brief business meeting, Karen Kocher gave a wonderful slide presentation of her and Fritz's trip to Spain. They visited numerous cities and did some interesting hikes along the way. Karen had slides of the interiors of some of the magnificent churches, mosques, and other structures. The ancient craftsmanship was truly amazing. It was evident that Karen and Fritz maximized their time as they were constantly on the go: touring, hiking, and sightseeing. The photography was excellent. Karen put a lot of time into her presentation, and it was very professionally done. We all thanked her for an excellent program. The meeting ended at 8:30 pm. - Jack Callahan



FALLS BRANCH FALLS JUNE 12, 2023



Once again, I missed the wildflowers that are beautiful here, but the waterfall remains spectacular. The group of seven hiked the slippery slopes to get to the waterfall and seven made it out intact. - Sue Robinson

HOOPER BALD AND HUCKLEBERRY KNOB JUNE 16, 2023





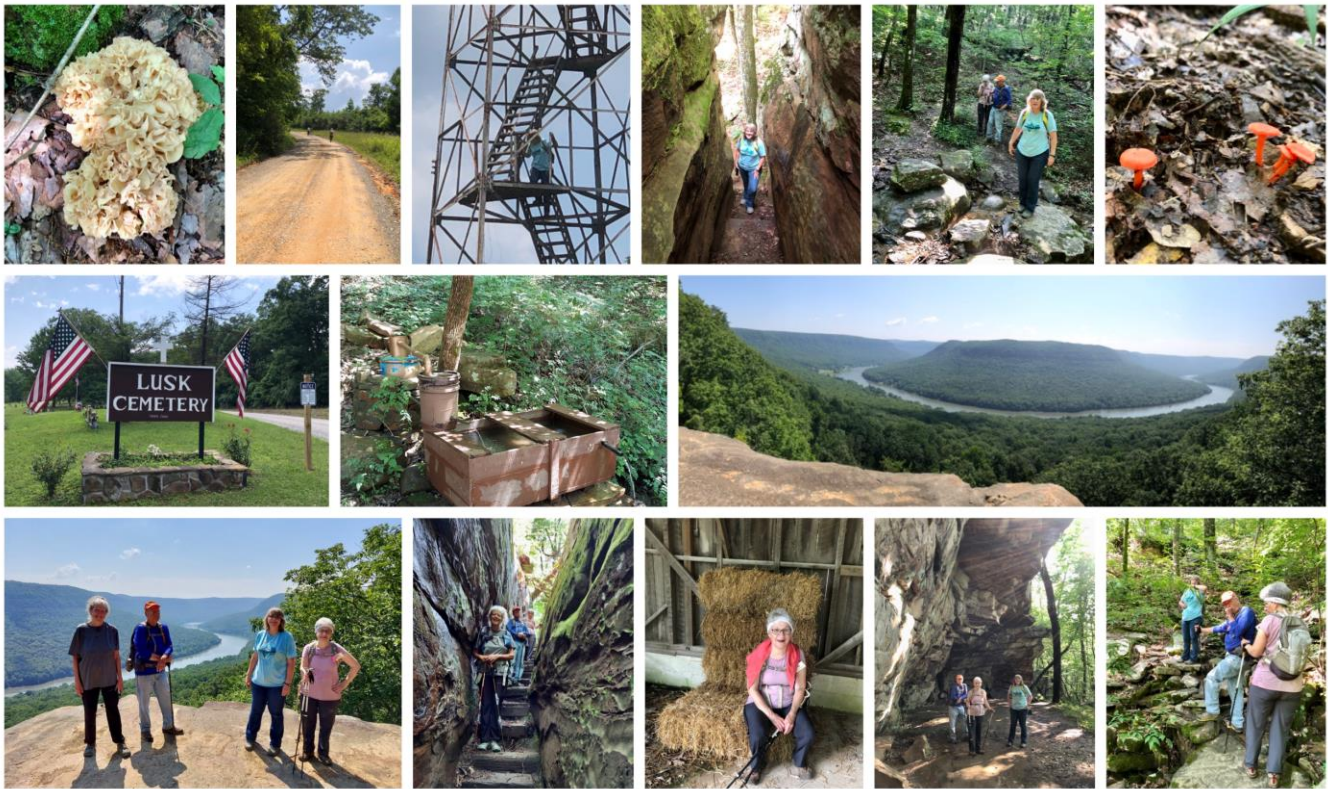
The group met at the Cherokee Skyway Visitor Center and carpoled to the first stop, Hooper Bald. The short hike to the top was rewarded with several of the wild flame azaleas in bloom. We also saw balds covered with yellow buttercups. One interesting plant observed was the Blur Ridge carrion flower, which seems to be common at this location. Leaving Hooper, we made the short drive to the Huckleberry Knob trailhead and hiked the mile to the top. The weather was nice, with a slight breeze and temperature in the low 60s. This was quite a change from the low 90s in the valley. After a lunch on the bald, we began our walk back down to the vehicles, enjoying the spectacular views along the way. It was a great group, with lots of interaction about the plants and some interesting insects we saw along the way. The group included Maryl Elliot, Sandra Fenton, Sue Robinson and Zoe, Leslie Auriemmo, Danny Yarberrry, Anne Anderson, Judy Price, Charlie Snow, and Event Leader, Jack Callahan. - Jack Callahan



PRENTICE COOPER STATE FOREST JUNE 24, 2023



Four club members—Jack and Margaret Callahan, Judy Price, and Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll—met at the Park and Ride at 8 am on a great sunny day (first good day all week). We started our hike at the Cumberland Trailhead Hiker Parking Lot in Prentice Cooper Wildlife Management Area. We traveled a short distance to the mini stone door entrance to Indian Rockhouse. Really interesting formations. The Cumberland Trail takes off northeast from here heading toward Hwy 27. We went the other way and hiked through dense green forest. The trail crosses and parallels several small streams as it skirts along the ridgeline above the Tennessee River. We could catch glimpses of the river through the trees. We saw lots of unusual mushrooms and ferns. Finally, we popped out of the forest at Snoopers Rock. Snoopers has fantastic views of the Tennessee River as it flows through the gorge. We could see Signal Mountain to the northeast and Raccoon Mountain to the southwest. Snoopers Rock is named after the law enforcement officers that “snooped” on moonshiners in the valleys below. Hiking back toward the car we took Tower Road. Most of the road was in the sun and it got very hot, but we got to see a spring turned into a fake moonshine still, an old cemetery, and a fire tower on our way back to the car. • Jennifer Schroll



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



We had a nice turnout at our regular third Thursday breakfast, and lots of interesting conversation. We gave Edmond a lot of advice about his upcoming hip replacement surgery, which I am sure he appreciated. (His surgery was done on Wednesday the 21st, and he is doing well.) Looking forward to next month for another great turnout. • 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.

CANDIES CREEK GREENWAY

JULY 2, 2023 SUNDAY CLEVELAND TN

We will leisurely walk the greenway, passing over historic Dobbs-Ford Bridge, with the option to add the Back Nine Trail if we'd like to continue to walk. Easy, mostly flat, less than five miles. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

WARRIORS PASSAGE

JULY 10, 2023 MONDAY

We will drive to the top of Waucheesi Bald after leaving shuttle vehicles along Old Furnace Road. Distance is approximately 6.2 miles, almost all downhill though some sections are rather steep. We will cross Wildcat Creek near the end of the hike, which will almost certainly require a wade though knee-deep water. Contact Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at harrisri@aol.com or 423-253-6358.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

JULY 13, 2023 THURSDAY 4 PM MARYL ELLIOT'S CABIN PARKSVILLE LAKE

Maryl Elliot has invited the club to her [cabin on Parksville Lake](#) (N 35.098353, W 84.617941). The club will furnish pizza, drinks, cups, and eating utensils. Please bring your most delicious appetizers, salads, or desserts!

A WALK IN THE WOODS AT JOHNSTON WOODS

JULY 14, 2023 FRIDAY 8 AM

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 8 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 14 at 8 am
- November 17 at 10 am

BRASSTOWN BALD

JULY 22, 2023 SATURDAY

Hike from the highest point in Georgia. Depart from Cleveland Park and Ride commuter parking next to Mapco at I-75 and Hwy 60 at 8 am. This hike is 2 + 5.3 miles. From the main parking area, it is a steep .6 miles to the top of Brasstown Bald. We will then hike 5.3 miles from the main parking lot along the Arkaquah Trail to Track Rock. A car shuttle will return us to the main parking area. (There is an \$8 per person fee to the Visitor Center and Day Use Area.) This can be an easy outing and there is a shuttle to the top of Brasstown Bald if you wish to only do that. The hike down to Track Rock is moderate. Bring a lunch and water. Contact Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256 or jennifergeologist@gmail.com.

SOUTH FORK CITICO CREEK WILDERNESS TRAIL

JULY 31, 2023 MONDAY

We will leave shuttle vehicles near Warden Fields, then drive to Beech Gap on the Cherohala Skyway at the Tennessee-North Carolina state line. We will hike about two miles to Cold Springs Gap on the Benton MacKaye Trail, then hike down the SFCC Trail. Hike distance is about 11.5 miles. There are several significant creek crossings and, in places, the trail is steep downhill; so, the hike is rated moderately difficult. Contact Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at harrisri@aol.com or 423-253-6358.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

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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 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
June 8, 2023 6 pm
Etowah Senior Center

After a great meal of potluck items and outstanding desserts, a brief business meeting was held. The current amount in the club account as reported by Jennifer Schroll is \$2434.69. The treasurer's report was approved by the club. A short discussion of past events and the next month's events were covered by Jack and the Event Leaders. The floor was then turned over to Karen Kocher, who gave a great presentation of her and Fritz's trip to Spain. Karen did an outstanding job of putting together a slideshow and descriptions of all the sites they visited. There was excellent photography of the lovely buildings and churches as well as the scenery. They made several hikes as they visited numerous cities and saw some very interesting historic places. Karen did all the planning for the trip, which was almost a month long. She has an exceptional skill at putting together a complex trip. The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Callahan, President and Secretary