



- NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Cherokee Hiking Club Members!

Fall is in full swing, with lots of events to enjoy. Please remember, if you plan to attend any event, always contact the Hike/Event Leader. That way if there is a schedule change for any reason, you will be notified. The leader can also keep track of the number of planned attendees. Conversely, if you have signed up for/expressed interest in a hike/event and decide not to go, contact the Hike/Event Leader so they are not kept waiting at the trailhead or meetup point. Also, it may open up space for people on a waitlist.

The next club meeting is at James and Phyllis Anderson's home. This will be a potluck supper but do not bring any desserts. Desserts will be furnished in celebration of a special anniversary. Yes, you will have to attend to learn whose/what anniversary it is. And weather permitting, James will have a bonfire in his fire pit. Be sure to bring a camp chair to enjoy the fire and view. The Orionid meteor shower will be active during this time, so we may be treated to some fireballs across the sky.

As we enter the last quarter of the year, remember dues may be paid anytime between now and the first of the year. Checks are always preferable as it makes record keeping much easier. Dues are still \$15 per family. Please give your check to Jennifer, the Club Treasurer.

The annual Christmas Party will be held at the Etowah Senior Center this year. It will be a noon event, so folks can avoid having to drive after dark. Jennifer Schroll will be catering the meal. A few volunteers to assist would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jennifer to discuss how you might help.

The slate of officers for 2024 will remain the same as this year. All officers have agreed to serve another year. Their service is greatly appreciated.

Jack Callahan, Club President

- LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY

Lookout Mountain Conservancy is asking people with a connection to Lookout Mountain to complete a survey regarding conservation on the mountain. If you hike, trail run, climb, or live or work there, they want to hear from you. Complete [here](#) ([Public Survey \(arcgis.com\)](#)).

- CHEROHALA SKYWAY

Great news! [The Cherohala Skyway National Scenic Byway has officially reopened!](#)

- PAST EVENTS

PAWPAW WALK AUGUST 31, 2023



The August pawpaw tasting event was held at Childers Creek Trailhead, with Event Leader Jack Callahan giving a short history of the plant. The group then crossed the trail bridge and began exploring several nearby pawpaw groves. The trees had a great crop of fruit; however, most were still a few days from ripening. We collected enough ripe ones for everyone to get a good sample of the soft custard-like fruit. After about two hours, the group broke up with several folks heading out to try the new restaurant, Steel Wheel Corner, for lunch. Service was excellent and the food was delicious. Attending the event were Jennifer Schroll, Judy Price, Anne Anderson, Mary Alton, Debi Burroughs, and Jack Callahan. • Jack Callahan



THE NARROWS SEPTEMBER 8, 2023



Seven happy hikers enjoyed a fun hike to The Narrows of the Hiwassee River. We were amazed at the many unusual rock colors and formations. The tiny cave was exciting, too. We saw some fascinating spider webs and a tree well-loved by a beaver. However, the top of the tree was caught in another tree and the log would not fall to the ground. The weather was very warm and two of our hikers jumped right into the relaxing, cool swimming hole. Some of our flowers were white asters, purple-headed sneezeweed, white vervain, and Ruth's Golden Asters. Ruth's Golden Asters are only found in Polk County, TN. They grow in the rocks of the Ocoee and Hiwassee Rivers. Hikers were Forrest Easterly, Leslie Auriemmo, Lynn McPhail, Sue Robinson, Adriana Hernandez, Debi Burroughs, and Hike Leader Clare Sullivan. • Clare Sullivan



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

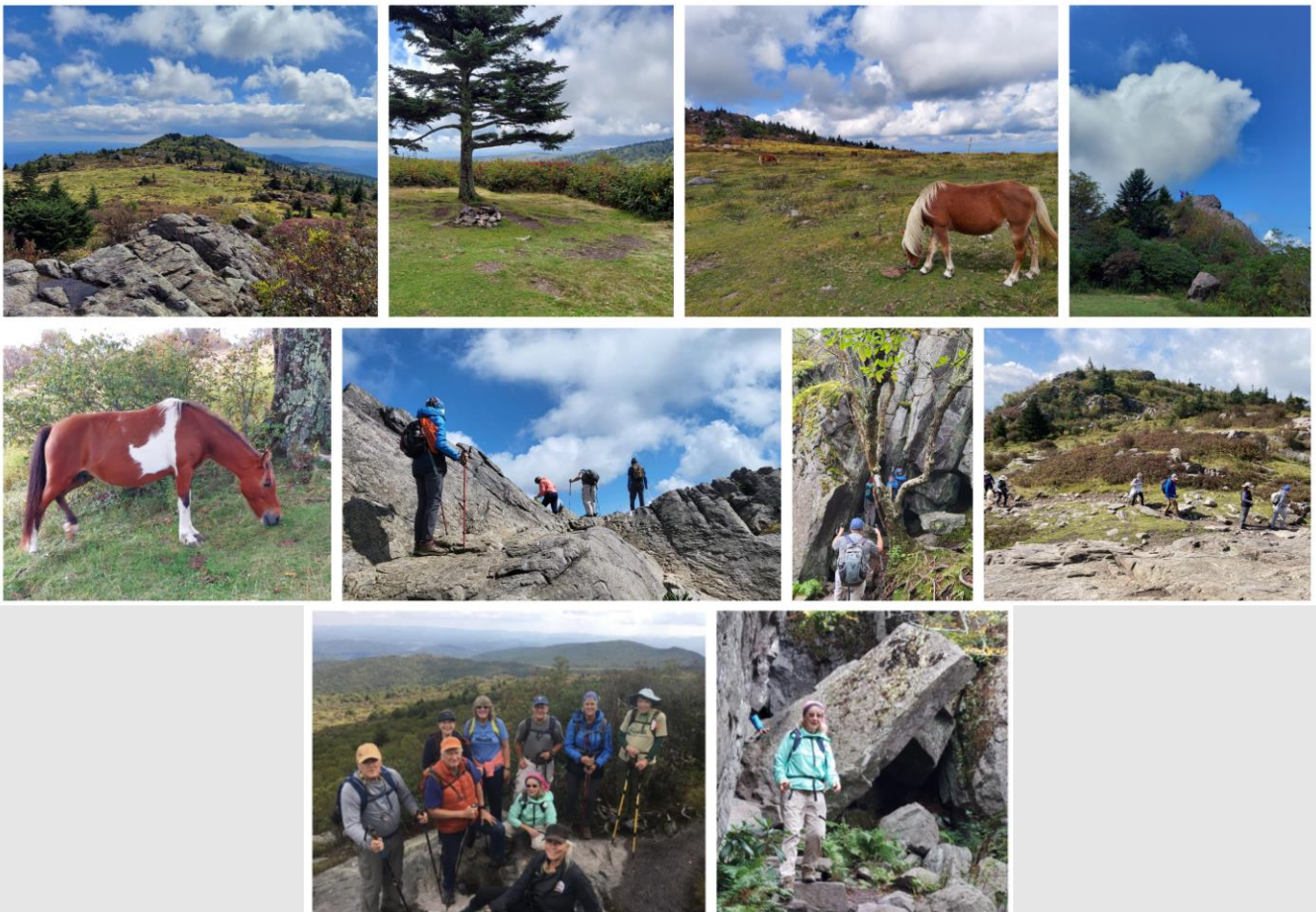


See the minutes below. • Jack Callahan

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK SEPTEMBER 17 - 20, 2023



On Sunday, September 17, 2023, sixteen Cherokee Hiking Club members and 3 friends set up camp at Grayson Highlands State Park in Virginia. Attending were Jack and Margaret Callahan, James and Phyllis Anderson, Clare and Ed Sullivan, Rick and Brenda Harris, Doug Lynch, Sue Robinson, Teresa Greene, Event Leader Jennifer Schroll, Otis Pannell, Lucia Case, James and Gayle Drummund, Mark Gilreach (guest), and Jamie and Kathy, friends of Ed and Clare. Around 2 pm, Mark and Jennifer met at the visitors center to hike the Twin Pinnacles Trail. Gayle, James, and Bella met up shortly after. We hiked clockwise around the loop. Mark and Jennifer scrambled up on top of the pinnacles for great views beneath an angry sky. Three quarters of the way around the loop, we met up with Ed, Clare, and Kathy, who had hiked over from the campground. Clare and Kathy continued around the loop and the rest of us headed back to set up camp. At 6 pm, everyone met up to discuss hikes and set up meeting times. Jack started off the pie-iron cooking with pizzas and cinnamon rolls.

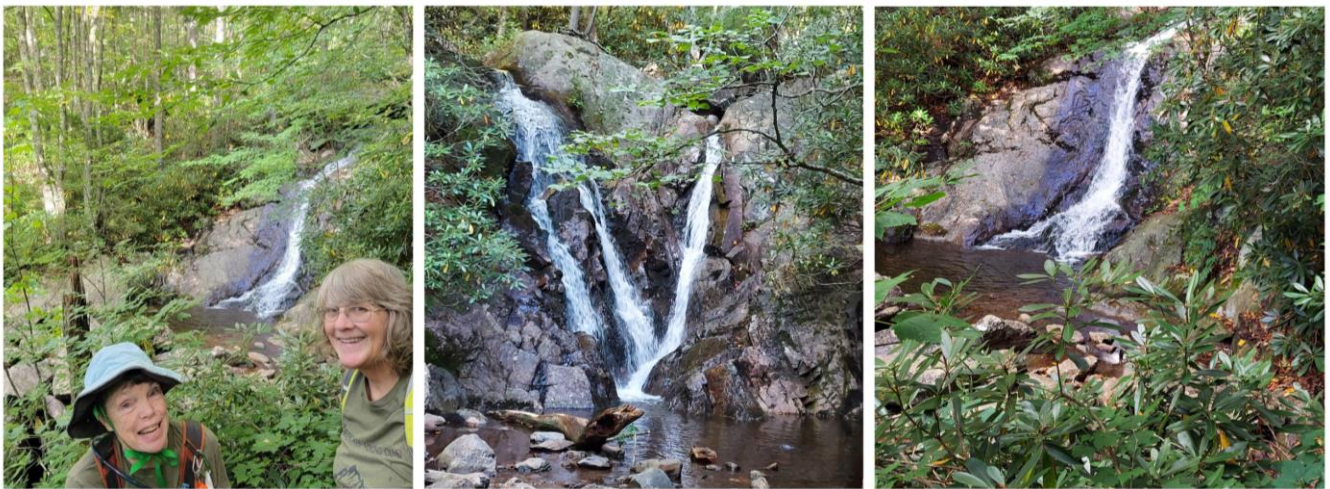


On Monday, Jack and Jamie dropped off ten hikers (Rick drove his truck) at Elk Garden Trailhead. Jennifer, Kathy, Clare, Ed, Doug, Sue, Mark, Teresa, Rick, and Brenda hiked along the Appalachian Trail (AT) from Elk Garden to the Mount Rogers spur, across and down Wilburn Ridge and back to Massie Gap (near the campground)—a total of eight miles. We started off in a thick cool fog hiking through pretty, forested areas and up the flank of Mount Rogers. About lunch time, we popped out of the forest into the bald/highland areas as the fog began to clear out. We ate lunch at the Mount Rogers spur trail junction. After lunch, we continued on the AT down and across the Wilburn Ridge. There is a nice shelter and lots of great campsites along this section of the AT; also, there are some tricky rock pinnacles. Fantastic views and ponies were everywhere. We spoke with three wranglers from the Wilburn Ridge Horse Association. Once a year, they round up the ponies to a stockade at Massie Gap where they administer vaccines, worm medicine, and other health-related checks. There are currently 15 studs and 75 mares roaming the hills above Grayson Highlands.

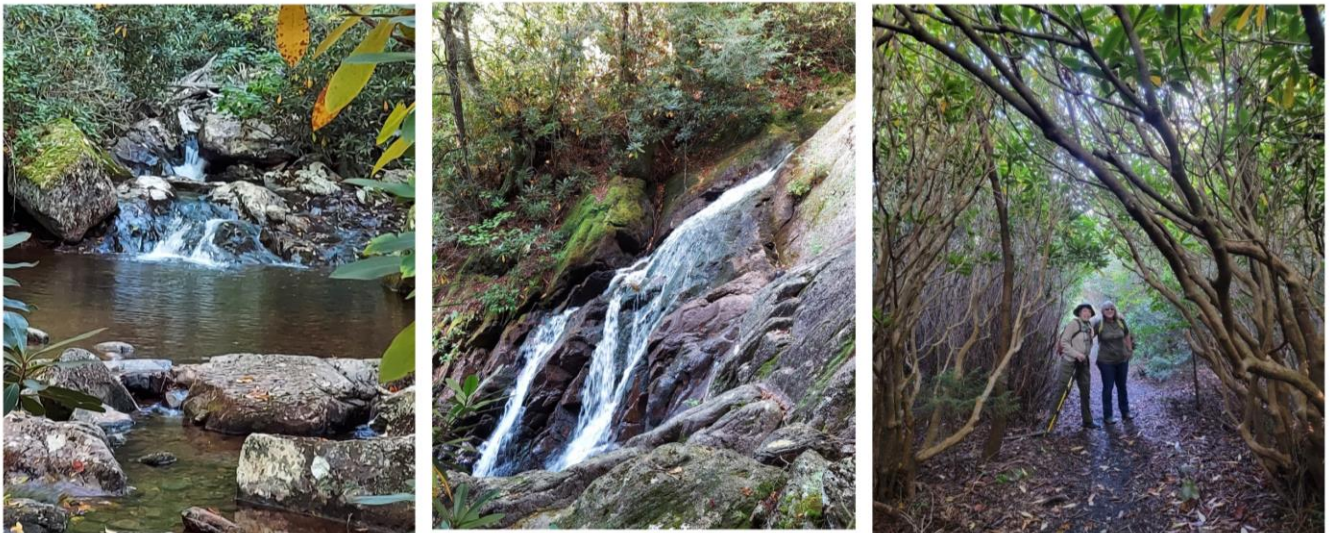
Jack, Margaret, James Anderson, Phyllis, James Drummond, Gayle, Otis, and Lucia hiked up Wilburn Ridge from Massie Gap to see the views and ponies. Otis and Lucia continued up Wilburn Ridge and back down to Elk Garden trailhead swapping keys with Rick. Back at camp for dinner, several people checked out Doug's yurt. It had a very large deck area with a grill and several people grilled up some food. Jennifer made a layered pastry crust, sliced apple, and cheddar cheese pie-iron delight. Beautiful night skies!



On Tuesday eight hikers—Sue, Mark, Jennifer, Margaret, Jack, Otis, Lucia, and Brenda—hiked up Seed Orchard Trail in the Wilson Creek drainage, and crossed over the AT trail to the Scales Trail to a place called Scales. The story goes that this area was used to weigh the cattle that were sold. They did it here in the highland so the cattle would weigh more, rather than driving them down into the valley. Currently, there is a nice, grassy, fenced camping area (to keep the cattle out) with fire rings, a toilet building and a spring nearby. This area can be accessed by a rugged road. We ate an early lunch here and enjoyed the northern views. Perfect sitting rocks. The AT intersects here, which we took to the top and across Stone Mountain. Awesome views, longhorn cows, and more ponies! We followed the AT back into the forest to the first crossing with the Seed Orchard Trail for a lollipop-shaped trail track. The total mileage was 6.7 miles. The rest of the group stayed in the park area and explored. James and Gayle explored the park on their electric bikes. I got to ride one; it was really fun! On Tuesday night, Jamie was the pie-iron star making super yummy "McRibs." Rick and Brenda brought s'mores fixings. Again, great star viewing on Tuesday night. I saw three shooting stars and two satellites.



On Wednesday, Sue and Teresa watched the sunrise at "The Overlook." Some people headed to Damascus to ride the Virginia Creeper Trail. Brenda, Rick, and Jennifer hiked the Camp Creek Trail and saw pretty waterfalls and walked through a spooky tunnel of rhododendrons. Clare and Ed hiked up to the top of the Twin Pinnacles. Otis and Lucia headed to the Greenbrier Trail to bikepack.

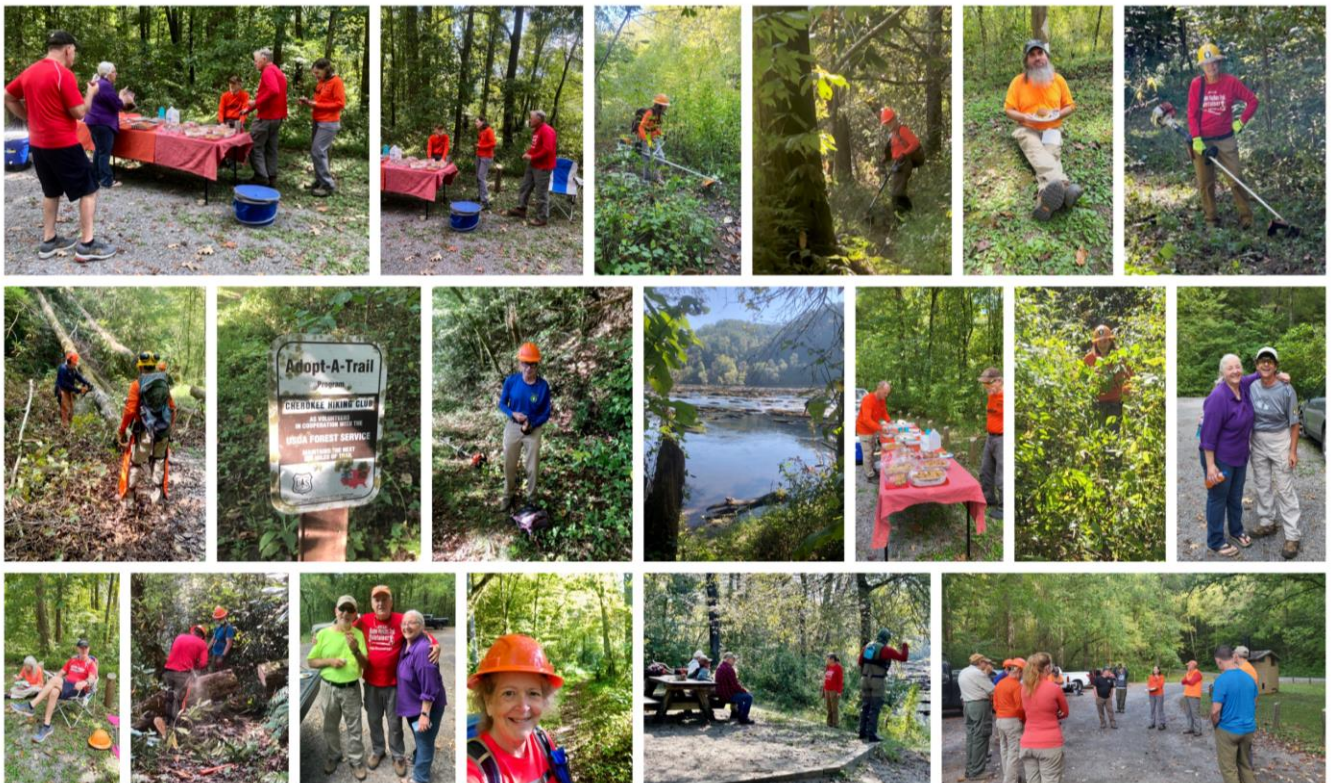


A great time was had by all. Let's do this again! - Jennifer Schroll

TRAIL MAINTENANCE ON CHILDERS CREEK SECTION SEPTEMBER 23, 2023



September 23 was not only a beautiful day to work in the forest, it was National Public Lands Day! Six enthusiastic CHC volunteers helped the Benton MacKaye Trail Association clear the Benton MacKaye Trail from Childers Creek to Towee Creek, plus the Lost Creek section of the BMT. The BMTA is preparing trails that will be used in the 2023 Hike Fest November 2 - 5, 2023, in Tellico Plains, TN. James Anderson, Brenda Harris, and Clare Sullivan used brush cutters to attack the poison ivy and other growth. Judy Price refreshed the John Muir blazes along the trail. Rick Harris and Ed Sullivan put their chainsaws to work. The trail looks amazing now. The day was so lovely and the scenery so beautiful it didn't seem like work, just exercise! - 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.

BIRDWATCHING AT ATHENS REGIONAL PARK

OCTOBER 2, 2023 MONDAY 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. We will meet there at 9 am and begin our birdwatching 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

OCTOBER 12, 2023 THURSDAY 6 PM

This month, James and Phyllis Anderson will host the club at their residence. Plan on arriving at 6 pm to enjoy a potluck supper, followed by a short business meeting. Then, we will gather around James's outdoor firepit and enjoy a great fire and watch the dark chase away the last rays of sunlight on Bean Mountain. Contact Event Leader James Anderson at 423-715-8224.

DUCKTOWN BASIN MUSEUM

OCTOBER 16, 2023 MONDAY

One mile. Easy walk and interesting items in the museum about the history of copper mining in the area. Contact Hike Leader Clare Sullivan at 404-849-0872 or clare7982@gmail.com for meetup time and location.

TALLULAH GORGE STATE PARK CAMPOUT

OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 2, 2023 SUNDAY – THURSDAY GEORGIA

The park is about 22 miles south of Helen, Georgia. The gorge is a 1000-foot-deep streambed adjacent to the campground. One day there will be a trip to the Currahee Military Museum in Toccoa, Georgia, where the enlistees arrived at the train station to begin training for paratrooper jump school. We may be able to get a guided tour of the old training site by a veteran at the museum (still in the works). Another day there will be a trip to Helen and the Foxfire Museum, within less than an hour's drive. A hike down into the gorge is also an option, along with other trails in the area. A specific location of campsites will be determined by the end of January, so individuals can begin making reservations. Contact Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

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▪ NEW EVENTS

LINDA DAVIS MEMORIAL GREENWAY WALK

NOVEMBER 25, 2023 SATURDAY CLEVELAND/BRADLEY COUNTY GREENWAY

Come join us and walk off some of your Thanksgiving Day Feast! We will meet at the pavilion off Raider Drive at Greenway Park in Cleveland and walk a portion of the Cleveland/Bradley County Greenway. The length of our walk will be determined by the weather and the interests of those participating. Considering it is a greenway, feel free to determine your own length of walk (hike) as participants can always head back to their vehicles when they get the urge. This walk is an annual event on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and is in memory of former club member Linda. Davis. There is no need to call—just show up for some good exercise and conversation. Hike Leader: Randy Morris.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

JANUARY OR FEBRUARY 2024 TEXAS

I am working on details of this trip. It may be a backpacking trip, or possibly camping and day hikes. About eight to ten days. Water sources may be an issue with backpacking. The plan would be to fly to a location that is close to the park, rent a vehicle(s), and drive to the park. I found some flights out of Chattanooga for about \$350 to Midland-Odessa which would make it a little more convenient. I am leaning toward this being backpacking due to logistics of getting equipment for camping at a campground this long distance. Limited to eight hikers. Contact Hike Leader Buddy Arnold at we_arnold@outlook.com or 601-415-3551.

- 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.

[CUMBERLAND TRAIL SUMMIT](#)

OCTOBER 19 - 21, 2023 THURSDAY - SATURDAY

“The Cumberland Trail Summit is an opportunity to showcase our trail communities.”

[BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND HIKE FEST](#)

NOVEMBER 2 - 5, 2023 THURSDAY - SUNDAY TELLICO PLAINS TN

- [Hikes](#)
- [Non-hiking Adventures](#)
- [Annual Meeting Accommodations](#)

There will be multiple hikes daily ranging from Easy to Difficult. Folks can attend the hikes even if they are unable to attend the Annual Meeting and dinner. There will be a Mexican Dinner Social on Friday, November 3, after the hikes. On Saturday, November 4, there will be a BMTA Annual Meeting and dinner with a guest speaker that promises to be intriguing. The Mexican Dinner Social will be free; the Saturday night dinner will be \$30 - \$35. The dinner both nights will be at the Alumni Center of Tellico Plains High School. (This building is on the side of the parking lot at TPHS.) Contact **Rick Harris** at 513-260-1184 or **Clare Sullivan** at 404-849-0872 or clare7982@gmail.com for more information. You must contact Rick or Clare if you plan to attend a hike. Sign-up sheets for Saturday and Sunday hikes will be at the Alumni Center on Friday and Saturday nights.

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

▪ MINUTES

Monthly Club Meeting
September 14, 2023 6 pm
Charleston City Park

The club met for its monthly meeting at 6 pm at the Charleston City Park pavilion. We had a great turnout of 26 attending, with two visitors, Karen Firestone-Muntean and Denny Latimer. We hope they will join us again. Bill Gray won the door prize!! After a delicious potluck meal with some really great desserts, Jack Callahan led a short business meeting. The minutes of the June and July meetings were approved, and Jennifer Schroll gave the Treasurer's Report which was also approved. The current balance is \$2103.21.

After a review of the past months and the upcoming events for the next month, Jack introduced Clayton and Otis Pannell. Otis completed a through hike of the AT last year, and Clayton completed a through hike thirty-one years ago. They gave a presentation on their experiences on the trail, as well as the changes that electronics have made available for the hikers. It was a great discussion; we all learned a lot from them, and got a great appreciation for the stamina and determination that is required for the hike. We are fortunate to have a father-son team in the club who have accomplished this feat.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Callahan, President and Secretary