



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month's newsletter comes with the publication of the 2025 Annual Planning Calendar which our publicist Phyllis Anderson has posted as an attachment, as well as making it available on the club website (cherokeehikingclub.org). I appreciate the large turnout for the annual planning meeting. Those attending came prepared and have proposed a variety of hikes that will provide opportunities for many adventures in the year to come. I also appreciate that our calendar offers a variety of events as well as hikes from easy to strenuous that afford occasions for every member to participate. As the year passes feel free to offer ideas for additional hikes that spark your interests. We live in an area where there is a smorgasbord of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. It's wonderful to be in a club filled with those who want to seize the outdoor adventures that lie before us.

The Executive Committee has been a tremendous asset in updating and revising our club's constitution and bylaws, which were originally written thirty years ago. The updates reflect the practices in how we function as an organization. The underlying principles for our identity as a club remain unchanged. Following a final reading this month, the constitution and bylaws will be posted on our website by February 13. Please read them carefully. If you have any questions or changes that you think need to be made, let me know, and I will communicate your input to the Executive Committee. You can reach me by phone or text at 423-400-8008 or email drrcoombs@aol.com. During the March 13 club meeting, we will entertain a motion to vote on the acceptance of the revisions to our constitution and bylaws as written.

Dues for 2025 are due. If you haven't paid, please send a \$15 check (per family in a household) to Cherokee Hiking Club, 1295 Crown Street NW, Cleveland, TN 37312.

See you at the February club meeting at the Etowah Senior Center on Thursday, February 13, 2025. Janet and I will lead a discussion on *Tips for Being a Good Hike Leader*.

Rob Coombs, Club President

REMINDERS

TO ATTEND ANY EVENT, YOU MUST CONTACT THE EVENT LEADER AS THERE ARE TIMES DUE TO WEATHER OR OTHER CONDITIONS WHERE A HIKE IS CANCELED OR RESCHEDULED. THE EVENT LEADER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTACT YOU IF YOU DO NOT GET ON THE ATTENDEE LIST.

The Cherokee Hiking Club is considered the official maintainer of the Childers Creek Section of the Benton MacKaye Trail. This is a beautiful section that meanders along the Hiwassee River just upstream from Reliance. In order to keep it in good shape, as it is pretty heavily used, then we need at least two trail maintenance days each year. We will publish the selected dates as they become available and send out reminders of the workday, what work we expect to do, and where to meet. The maintenance leader is James Anderson 423-715-8824.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, and 26 - 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 4:30p.m. A note on the walk is sent out at the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Thursday, February 13, 2025 - Monthly Club Meeting We will meet at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck supper and a presentation by Janet and Rob Coombs on *Tips for Being a Good Hike Leader*.

Saturday, February 15, 2025 - Dry Pond Lead on Section 12 of the BMT We will meet at the Thunder Rock Campground parking lot at 9:00 A.M. and hike part of Section 12 of the Benton-MacKayeTrail, commonly known as the Dry Pond Lead Trail— for a total mileage of approximately nine miles. There is in excess of 1700 feet of elevation gain within the first four miles, so I am rating this hike as strenuous. In fact, the first four miles are practically all uphill. There are normally great winter views of Brock Mountain, the Ocoee Gorge and sometimes Big Frog Mountain on this trail which meanders along the NW boundary of the Little Frog Mountain Wilderness Area for much of the hike. Call or text hike leader, Randy Morris, at 423-650-0485 if you are planning to go.

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 - Athens Regional Park Loop Trail Anyone wishing to carpool with us should meet at 10 A.M. at the south end of the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in Charleston, TN. Those wishing to meet us in Athens should meet at the park at 10:30 A.M. The park is just east of I-75 on Hwy 30. When you turn into the park entrance you will pass a pond on your left. Turn onto the first paved road on your left. You should immediately see some bathrooms and a few parking spaces. We will begin the trail walk at that point. After the walk, we plan to travel to Michael's restaurant on the north side of Athens for lunch. Please wear comfortable shoes. It is advisable to bring a bottle of water. Hike rating is Easy with some inclines and uneven walking surfaces, tree roots, along a bank, etc. Distance is 3.5 miles. Anyone planning to attend is encouraged to text or call James Anderson, the event leader, at 423-715-8824 so you will be aware of any event changes or cancellations.

Thursday, February 20, 2025 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885

Saturday, February 22, 2025 - CCC Camp Tour at Sylco, Tennessee We will meet at the upper parking lot at TVA Sugar Loaf Recreation Area at 9:00 a.m. and carpool to Sylco to the former Forest Service campground. Be prepared to bushwhack into the CCC campsite remains, then the old cemetery and school sites. We should complete the outing by 3:00 p.m. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

MARCH AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26-Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Wednesday, March 5, 2025-Buggytop Cave with short trip to the Natural Bridge

Saturday, March 8, 2025-Etowah Indian Mounds Tour

Monday, March 10, 2025-Dutch Settlement, CNF

Thursday, March 13, 2025-Thursday Monthly Club Meeting

Saturday, March 15, 2025-Lookout Mountain to Sunset Rock

Thursday, March 20, 2025-Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Saturday, March 22, 2025-Mount LeConte

Tuesday, March 25, 2025-Walk in Johnston Woods

Friday, March 28, 2025-Laurel Falls/Buzzard Point

PLAN AHEAD...

Details of the following events can be found in the January 2025 edition of the newsletter and in the attached 2025 Calendar of Events:

- Thinking of going on the Red River Gorge hiking trip May 12 - 15? Reserve now! This is a very popular destination. Campsites and cabins fill up fast. Questions? Contact Jerry Schneider, 513-324-4564. Thanks, Jerry

- Great Allegheny Passage Trail, Sunday, June 8-Sunday, June 15, 2025, Contact Jerry Schneider, 513-324-4564.
- Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness, August 16-23. Only one spot remains open. Contact me at jennifergeologist@gmail.com or 423-284-1256. • Jennifer Schroll
- Tour of Utah's National Parks, September 16-22. Contact me at jennifergeologist@gmail.com or 423-284-1256. • Jennifer Schroll

PAST EVENTS

Sunday, January 19, 2025 - Annual Hike Club Planning Meeting

This meeting took place at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, Etowah TN.

Attendance was great, and members offered to lead a variety of hikes and events. "Hiking Request Forms" were made available at the meeting. If you did not attend, and you wish to add a hike, you may email the information to cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com.



Saturday, January 25, 2025 - Outdoor Expo at Westmore Church in Cleveland The club participated again this year with members Rob and Janet Coombs, Otis Pannell, and Jack Callahan meeting potential new members and discussing the adventures that the club is involved in. This is always a fun event.



Thursday, January 30, 2025 - Public Meeting for future Ocoee White Water Center
This meeting provided the opportunity for public input concerning the rebuilding of the Ocoee White Water Center. For additional information contact Clair Sullivan at clare7982@gmail.com or 404-8490872.

January Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway-Jack Callahan



Third Thursday of the month breakfast-Jack Callahan

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/OCOE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW

Check the Facebook page for future workdays.

BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION See the calendar for upcoming events and trail maintenance sites.

SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL, January 18-19, Birchwood, Tennessee

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

MINUTES

There were no January minutes. The Annual Planning Meeting was held in lieu of the regular business meeting.