



THE CHEROKEE HIKER

MARCH 2025

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NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

After a day's walk, everything has twice its usual value. - G.M. Trevelyan

A very special thanks goes out to Rick Harris, our club Webmaster, for using one of his many special skills to update our website. Please take the time to check it out as there is a wealth of information readily available. The Executive committee can be found by tapping the *Officers* link. Our names and emails are included under the tab *Current Officers*. Should you want to reach us with your thoughts about our club or opportunities and adventures you would like us to consider, please don't hesitate to send us your thoughts. If you find yourself curious about the responsibilities for each member of the Executive Committee, tap on *Office Responsibilities* and you will find the job descriptions. Club newsletters posted on the website reach back in time to the previous century. Did you know we had a hike club photography contest in June of 1985? Maybe it's time to have another one. Our current and past calendars are under the *Events* tab. The number of hikes we have offered through the years is incredible. There is much more you will find that is both interesting and beneficial. Take the time to browse our website.

Most importantly, carefully read our newly revised constitution and bylaws as they are now posted under the Membership tab. If you have any questions or changes that you think need to be made, let me know by March 6 and I will communicate your thoughts to the Executive Committee. You can reach me by phone or text at 423-400-8008 or email drcoombs@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.

Next month, the rolls will be purged of nonpaying members. If you haven't paid dues for this year, 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 March club meeting at the Etowah Senior Center on Thursday, March 13, 2025. Our presentation will be *The Master Gardener Program* presented by Johnny Arnett.

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.

MARCH EVENTS

Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 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 4:30 P.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.

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

Meet at 9 A.M in Cleveland at the Park and Ride at I-75 exit and Hwy 60 next to the Mapco station to carpool or arrange with hike leader to meet at the trailhead. This trail is in a State Natural Area which will soon be part of the Head of the Crow State Park. The highlight will be the Crow Creek pouring out of the impressive cave opening. We will make a short drive to the bridge either before or after the hike. We can decide to eat lunch in the area or on the trail. Hike difficulty is rated *Moderate* with rocks and roots along the trail. Bring boots, hiking stick or poles, water. (Lunch to be decided.) Contact Anne Anderson ahander@aol.com or 423-284-7032.

Saturday, March 8, 2025 - Etowah Indian Mounds Tour

This is a guided tour of Etowah Indian Mounds by Ranger Kevin Mardell. Those who attended the New Echota Tour will remember Mr. Mardell as he was our guide there. The cost is \$6.00 per person for adults, \$4.00 for seniors. Pack a lunch and we will eat on the park grounds. Meet at 8:15 A.M. in Cleveland at the Park and Ride at I-75 exit and Hwy 60 next to the Mapco station to carpool or arrange with hike leader to meet at the trailhead. We will travel to Etowah Mounds State Historic Site at 813 Indian Mounds Ridge; approximately three miles south of Cartersville, Georgia. We will return at 4:00 p.m. Hike difficulty is rated *Easy*. Text Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

Monday, March 10, 2025 - Dutch Settlement, CNF

Hike to the area of the historical "Old Dutch Settlement" of the 1840s on 70,000 acres in the Sylco Mountains in the Ocoee District of the CNF and look for artifacts. The hike is five miles and the hike difficulty is rated *Moderate*. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. Departure time is 9:00 A.M. Meet at the King Slough Boat Launch Parking Lot, 250-348 Sugar Loaf Drive, Ocoee, TN. Hike leaders are Ken Jones and Claire Sullivan. For additional information contact Clair Sullivan at clare7982@gmail.com or 404-8490872.

Thursday, March 13, 2025 - Thursday Monthly Club Meeting

Potluck supper at 6:00 P.M. followed by a presentation by Johnny Arnett on the Master Gardener Program. Meet at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah.

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

Meet at Chattanooga Nature Center at 10 A.M. This is a short steep hike, so the hike difficulty is *Moderate* to *Strenuous*. Bring water & snacks, optional lunch stop in Chattanooga after the hike. Hike two miles with 1243' of elevation gain to Sunset Rock and then return to the Nature Center, four miles total. Contact Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256 or email jennifergeologist@gmail.com for more information.

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 - Ghost Town of Caney Creek

Hike: inside the Ghost Town of Caney Creek. Location: Private Boat Take Out parking lot on Hwy 64. Time: 9:30 A.M. What to bring: canoe or kayak, paddles, life jacket, snack/lunch, camera, water. Other: We will explore the Ghost town of Caney Creek without hiking down the 3-mile Caney Creek Trail. The road to the trailhead takes 1.5 hours since it's in poor condition. It takes 15 minutes to paddle to the extinct village. We'll explore the remains of the village that was "ahead of its time" from 1918-1941. The village had concrete sidewalks, city lights, city water, fire hydrants, indoor plumbing, public transportation, telephones and tennis courts. This hike is rated *Moderate*. For additional information, contact Clair Sullivan at clare7982@gmail.com or 404-849-0872.

Thursday, March 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, March 22, 2025 - Mount LeConte

Meet at the Alum Cave Trail at 7:30 A.M. Hike up to LeConte Lodge and back. Must be in good physical condition. Hike difficulty is rated *Strenuous*. This is a 12-mile hike with significant elevation gain. We will depart at 3:00 P.M. Friday, March 21, and return after the hike Saturday, March 22. Bring water, lunch, warm clothes, windbreaker, rain gear, headlamp or flashlight. You must contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 - Walk in Johnston Woods

Meet in the trailhead parking area at Johnston Woods off Hwy 11 just south of Cleveland at 8:30 A.M. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water to drink. Hikers have the option of walking the 1.2-mile loop and then the 2.9-mile loop for a total of 4.2 miles or just one of the loops. Hike difficulty is rated *Easy*. 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.

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

We will hike in the Laurel-Snow State Natural Area near Dayton, TN and visit both Laurel Falls then climb up the gorge to Buzzard Point where we will have lunch. The hike will be approximately eight miles in length. I am rating it as *Strenuous* because of the climbs out of the gorge to both the falls and Buzzard Point. More information can be found by searching the Cumberland Trail. We will meet in Cleveland at 8:30 A.M. and carpool over to Dayton for the hike. Please email or text Randy Morris at randytaylor@morris.com or 423.650.0485 for meetup location and to sign up for the hike no later than 8 P.M. on 3/27.

APRIL AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 - Black Mountain

Thursday, April 10, 2025 – Thursday Monthly Club Meeting, Mesa Verde/Wemenuche Backpacking

Saturday, April 12, 2025 – Shake Rag Hollow

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 – Murphy NC River Walk, Lunch, and Museum Tour

Thursday, April 17, 2025 – Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Monday, April 28 – Friday, May 2, 2025- Group Camp Indian Boundary Lake Campground

April 2025 – Andrews Valley Breathtaking RailBike Ride

PLAN AHEAD...

More details of the following can be found in the 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
- Utah National Parks Trip September 16-22. Camping at Zion NP nights of September 16, 17, 18. The 6-month reservation window opens this month. I plan to get an electric site in Loop A or B Watchman Campground. Bryce Canyon NP night of September 19. Some of us are staying at the lodge. Reservations can be made now for the Lodge. Arches NP nights of September 20,21,22. 6-month reservation window opens this month. There are lots of hotels just outside Zion in Springdale and just outside Arches in Moab. For more information contact Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256 or jennifergeologist@gmail.com .

PAST EVENTS

Monthly Club Meeting, February 13, 2025 (minutes on last page)



Athens Regional Park Loop Trail, February 18, 2025

It was a rather brisk day for a morning walk at the Athens Regional Park. Seven hikers and Smokey the dog walked the three or so miles. We enjoyed a nice climb to get us warm and then looped around by the creek. A particularly interesting section included some palm plants and extremely green grass near the creek. We passed by a lake where several fishermen were fishing for trout that had recently been stocked there. After the walk, several of us went over to Michael's Restaurant and enjoyed a nice lunch and conversation. Those attending were: Rob, Janet, Kathy, Nicka, Bob, Phyllis, and the event leader, James.



February 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.

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

Minutes

Cherokee Hiking Club
Monthly Club Meeting
6:00 P.M., February 13, 2025
Etowah Senior Center

President Rob Coombs opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The meeting Sign-in Sheet was distributed and 15 members signed. Phyllis Anderson won the Tonight's Lucky Winner door prize. Rob Coombs began the meeting sharing a quote and thoughts from John Muir - "In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks."

I. The Treasure's Report was given by Jennifer Schroll. The current balance in the club treasury is \$3,014.08.

II. Unfinished Business

A. Rob Coombs expressed appreciation for the following members who have accepted positions on our Executive Committee for 2025 -

Rob Coombs, President
Otis Pannel, Vice President
Jennifer Schroll, Treasurer
Phyllis Anderson, Publicist
Rick Harris, Webmaster
Margaret Callahan, Hostess

B. Rob Coombs asked our club members to review the following documents on our website: 1. Constitution and By-Laws. Suggested revisions by club members will be accepted and reviewed between 2/13/2025 - 3/6/2025. A vote on the acceptance of the bylaws as written will be held during the March 13, 2025 club meeting.

2. Executive committee job descriptions can be found on our website and any suggestions for any changes should be sent to our president who will ask the Executive Committee to review.

3. Lead a Hike Request Form - This form is now available on our website. Jennifer Schroll asked if the form can be in a format to allow members to fill out the form on a computer and, then send it to the president. Our president will explore this option.

C. A discussion of where to meet for our October Fall Group campout was on the agenda. Rob Coombs reported that he had reserved the Group Camp at Big South Fork for October 12 - October 16, 2025 explaining that the October calendar for the group camp at Big South Fork was filling up. Cancellation policy allows for the reservation to be cancelled 2 weeks in advance. He asked for other alternatives. Fall Creek Falls and Norris, Center Hill Lake were suggested as possibilities. It was mentioned that offsite people still need to pay on the reservation at Big South Fork since everyone uses the pavilion. Other options will continue to be explored.

D. The following new members have been added to our club roster.

1. Nancy & Steve Dennison
2. Sonia Doss

III. New Business

A. Rob Coombs shared that the Monthly Club Presentations and Presenters are now included on our calendar on our website.

B. Hikes / Meetings / Events since our last meeting included:

1. Christmas Party
2. Annual Hike Club Meeting
3. Outdoor Expo - thanks to Janet, Otis, Jack for manning the booth
4. Public Meeting for Ocoee White Water Center

C. Hikes/Activities scheduled for the month ahead are listed on our website. Rob Coombs shared that the calendar will be continued to be updated throughout the calendar year. Members should fill out the Request to Lead a Hike form found on our website and send it to the president who will review the form checking to see if all the needed information is included and, also, if the date conflicts with another club hike. He will then forward the Request to Lead a Hike form to the webmaster and the publicist.

Members present shared thoughts about the following scheduled hikes:

1. 2/15 - Dry Pond Lead on the BMT - Randy Morris
2. 2/18 - Athens Regional Park Loop Trail - James Anderson
3. 2/20 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast - Jack Callahan
4. 2/22 - CCC Camp Tour at Sylco, TN - Jack Callahan
5. 3/5 - Buggytop Cave and the Natural Bridge - Anne Anderson
6. 3/8 - Etowah Indian Mounds Tour - Jack & Ranger Kevin Mardell
7. 3/10 - Dutch Settlement , CNF - Ken Jones and Claire Sullivan
8. 3/19 - Ghost town of Caney Creek - Clair Sullivan
9. Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway - Jack Callahan

IV. Our presentation for the evening was entitled Tips for Being a Good Hike Leader, presented by Janet and Rob Coombs.

- V. Our next meeting will be held March 13, 2025. At this meeting we will vote on our updated Constitution and Bylaws. Our presentation for the evening will be the Master Gardener Program presented by Johnny Arnett at the Etowah Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted by Otis Pannel, Vice President on February 13, 2025