

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

JANUARY 19, 2024 FRIDAY CHEROKEE REMOVAL AND HIWASSEE WILDLIFE REFUGE JUDY PRICE -
Canceled due to inclement weather

January 25, 2024. THURSDAY Booker T. Washington State Park

We will hike the 3.9 easy Outer Loop trail which skirts the Chickamauga Lake for some nice views. Bring water and a snack! Depart from the Cleveland Park and Ride commuter parking next to the Mapco at I-75 and Hwy. 60 at 10:00 or meet at the trailhead at 10:30. The hike will be cancelled in the event of poor weather. For questions or to sign up please Text Kelly Ducham at 239-784-7337 or e-mail at dkss2063@hotmail.com

JANUARY 27, 2024 SATURDAY OUTDOOR EXPO AT WESTMORE CHURCH IN CLEVELAND.

The club will have a booth at the expo and will hand out information and meet with attendees to discuss who we are and what we do. The cost is \$20 per person for the meal of wild game, and give aways. Doors open at 5:00pm for the displays, supper at 6:00pm and program at 7:00. Go to Westmore Outdoors Expo and Dinner 2024 for tickets. Jack and Margaret Callahan will staff the booth. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 for additional information.

EUREKA TRAIL

FEBRUARY 1, 2024 | THURSDAY | ATHENS TN

Join in for a fun walk on the Eureka Trail. Beginning at 10:30 am, we will walk five to six miles along the easy, wide, gravel path. This is a multi-use trail so there may be bikers and horseback riders out for the day. We will begin our walk at the main trailhead located at 1400 East Madison Avenue in Athens, Tennessee. There are restrooms available. Bring water and a snack! The hike will be canceled in the event of poor weather. For questions or to sign up, please contact Hike Leader Kelly Ducham by text at 239-784-7337 or email at dkss2063@hotmail.com.

RED CLAY STATE HISTORIC PARK

FEBRUARY 5, 2024 | MONDAY | CLEVELAND TN

Beginning at 10:30, we will walk the 1.7-mile Council of Trees Trail which will take us past the Overlook Tower. Then we will walk around the meadow and view the historical Farmstead buildings and the Blue Hole Spring. If interested, we will visit the James F. Corn Interpretive Facility which contains exhibits on the 19th century Cherokee, the Trail of Tears, Cherokee art, a video theater, gift shop and small library. Carpool will be available from Cleveland, if interested. If meeting us at the trailhead, as you enter the park take the road to the right and head to the parking area near the amphitheater. There are restrooms available at the Interpretive Facility. Bring water and a snack/lunch! For questions or to sign up, please contact Hike Leader Kelly Ducham by text at 239-784-7337 or email at dkss2063@hotmail.com.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 2024 | THURSDAY 6 PM | ETOWAH SENIOR CENTER

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. The club will furnish drinks, cups, and eating utensils. The program is **Benton MacKaye Trail** by Clare Sullivan.

OUTER LOOP | BOOKER T. WASHINGTON STATE PARK

FEBRUARY 12, 2024 | MONDAY

Depart from Cleveland Park and Ride [commuter parking](#) next to the Mapco at I-75 and Hwy 60 at 10 am or meet at the trailhead at 10:30 am. We will hike the 3.9-mile easy Outer Loop Trail which skirts Chickamauga Lake for some nice views. Bring water and a snack! The hike will be canceled in the event of poor weather. For questions or to sign up, please text Hike Leader Kelly Ducham at 239-784-7337 or email dkss2063@hotmail.com for details. • Kelly Ducham

GRAYSVILLE MOUNTAIN RMA SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

FEBRUARY 17, 2024 | SATURDAY

Ten miles, moderately strenuous due to rocky terrain, seasonal creek/drainage crossings. (My Garmin indicated 1877' total ascent/1778' total descent.) We will pass rock bluffs and rockhouses, waterfalls, and magnificent overlooks. Weather permitting, we will take a break at Gilbreath Falls or Cranmore Cove Overlook for lunch. The last miles of the hike are mostly downhill and then flat. There is an eight-and-a-half-mile shuttle and we will need at least one volunteer driver. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

ENTERPRISE SOUTH NATURE PARK

FEBRUARY 22, 2024 | THURSDAY | CHATTANOOGA TN

Beginning at 10:30 am, we will hike a four-mile loop beginning at the entrance where the Poe Run Path begins. There is a good incline on this trail but we will take it easy and slow as needed. Carpool will be available from Cleveland, if interested. If meeting us there, as you enter the park, turn left at the parking area across from the Visitor Center. There are restrooms available at the Visitor Center. Bring water and lunch/snack! The hike will be canceled in the event of poor weather. For questions or to sign up, please contact Hike Leader Kelly Ducham by text at 239-784-7337 or email at dkss2063@hotmail.com.

BUSHWHACK TO FALLS ON ROCK CREEK

FEBRUARY 24, 2024 | SATURDAY | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

Difficult five-to-six mile off-trail hike and scramble to see several waterfalls on a remote portion of Rock Creek above Rainbow Falls and below Benton Falls. Meet at the Clemmer Trailhead on Highway 30 just north of Parksville Lake at 9:00 am. Wear appropriate clothing and sturdy boots and bring work gloves to wear as needed. Bring a lunch and water and first aid kit. This is not a hike for the faint of heart! It will be very difficult. Contact Hike Leaders Clare Sullivan and Jack Callahan at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com.

GUIDED TOUR OF MOCASSIN BEND NATIONAL ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT | CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

FEBRUARY 27, 2024 | TUESDAY | CHATTANOOGA TN

Mr. Jim Ogden, Park Historian, will lead us on a two-hour walking tour of some of the historic area of early settlements on the Bend. To carpool from Cleveland, contact Jack at the number below. We will meet at the gated trailhead parking on 200 Moccasin Bend Road at 9:45 am. The tour will travel through wooded areas and there will be little or no trail. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing to walk through some brush. There are no facilities where we will be so be sure to make necessary stops before you arrive. After the tour, we will eat at a local restaurant in the area. If you plan to attend, text Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

RHODODENDRON TRAIL AND BEAR PAW LOOP

FEBRUARY 29, 2024 | THURSDAY | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

We will meet at Thunder Rock Trailhead at 10:30 am and hike Rhododendron Trail and Bear Paw Loop, (then back Rhododendron Trail to Thunder Rock). This easy hike is approximately four miles, but there is a gradual uphill on the Bear Paw Loop. We will take it easy and slow as needed. Carpool will be available from Cleveland, if interested. Bring water and a snack/lunch! The hike will be canceled in the event of poor weather. For questions or to sign up, please contact Hike Leader Kelly Ducham by text at 239-784-7337 or email at dkss2063@hotmail.com.

MARCH 4, 2024, MONDAY - HIKE THE ROCK CREEK TRAIL IN CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST, TN

Begin at Hwy 64 at Thunder Rock Trail Parking and hike across the Ocoee and up the BMT 2.2 miles to the Rock Creek Trail. Hike 5.6 miles on the Rock Creek Trail. Total mileage will be 7.8 The climbs and descents are moderate. Rating for the entire hike is strenuous. There are a few minor creek crossings, one could be fairly deep. We will shuttle from the other end of the Rock Creek

Trail on Hwy. 64, a very easy shuttle. Hike Leaders: Clare Sullivan, Judy Price, (maybe Ed Sullivan) To reserve a spot, contact Cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com to be added to the list.

MARCH 5, 2024 TUESDAY WALK IN THE WOODS JOHNSON WOODS

The Walk in the Woods is at Johnston Woods off Hwy 11 just south of Cleveland. It consists of two loop trails and is considered easy. 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. The meetup location is the parking lot at Johnston Woods. Meet at 10:00 am to begin the hike. Contact Event Leader James Anderson at text 423-715-8824 if you plan to attend.

MARCH 7, 2024 | THURSDAY 10:30 AM | ATHENS TN - EUREKA TRAIL

Beginning at 10:30, we will walk five to six miles along the easy wide gravel path. This is a multi-use trail so there may be bikers or horseback riders out for the day. We will begin our walk at the main trailhead located at 1400 East Madison Avenue in Athens. There are restrooms available. Bring water and a snack. The hike will be canceled in the event of poor weather. For questions or to sign up, please text Hike Leader Kelly Ducham at 239-784-7337 or email at dkss2063@hotmail.com.

MARCH 10, 2024 | SUNDAY SODDY CREEK GORGE SECTION (NORTH)

Heiss Mountain Road Trailhead to Big Soddy Creek Gulf Trailhead. Almost nine miles, moderate to strenuous due to miles, elevation, and terrain. We will hike next to a beautiful creek and pass waterfalls and cascades. Much of the trail is downhill or flat and covered in pine needles. However, there are some steep downhill sections and seasonal creek/drainage crossings. We will exit through Big Soddy Creek Gulf trails. There is a five-mile shuttle and we will need at least one volunteer driver. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

MARCH 11, 2024 | MONDAY 10:30 AM | BOOKER T. WASHINGTON STATE PARK - OUTER LOOP

We will hike the 3.9-mile Outer Loop trail which skirts Chickamauga Lake for some nice views. Bring water and a snack! Meet at the trailhead at 10:30 am. The hike will be canceled in the event of poor weather. For questions or to sign up, please text Hike Leader Kelly Ducham at 239-784-7337 or email at dkss2063@hotmail.com.

MARCH 12, TUESDAY, 2024 PROJECT CHIMP

The hike at Project Chimps and private tour with Kathy Williams as our tour guide, has been confirmed for Tuesday, March 12. I'm advertising this with both the Cherokee Hiking Club and the BMTA. My contact at Project Chimps is letting us feed the chimps their lunch that day! We will be using their extra large mounted sling shots to shoot their cabbage, peppers, lettuce etc, into the air into their habitat area. This is so special! I promised them a minimum of \$500. in donations. There are already 6 people signed up from the Cherokee Hiking Club. The tour will begin at 10:00, then the Lunch Launch, then our lunches on the picnic table and then the hike. We may have to limit the number to 26 people (13 from each club). **If you plan to attend, you must contact Clare Sullivan by leaving a request at Cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com.**

9:30 Meet in the parking lot in front of Ingles Food Store Blue Ridge and
Carpool to Project Chimps, each hiker brings cash/check for \$25. minimum donation.

10:00 Private Tour while the Chimps are in their habitat

11:00 Lunch Launch from the roof of their villa

11:30 Hikers eat lunch at the picnic tables by the pond

12:00 Hike the 4 mile trail around the property

Visit the Project Chimps Gift Shop.

Visit the Project Chimps website or sign-up for their Instagram page for interesting stories about the Chimpanzees.

MARCH 14, 2024 THURSDAY MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Pot luck supper at 6:00 pm, followed by a presentation by James and Phyllis Anderson on their trip to Scotland and Ireland. Meet at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah.

MARCH 16, 2024 SATURDAY HIKE/BUSHWHACK TO LOWERY TOP

Meet at the Oswald Dome Trailhead of Highway 30 at 9:00 am. This hike begins with a steady 8 to 10 percent grade for almost three miles then leaves the trail for another 1.5 miles to the lunch location. The views are worth the effort. Wear good hiking shoes and long pants, as there are briars and brush. Bring lunch and water. Text Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

MARCH 17, 2024 | SUNDAY | CLEVELAND TN - CLEVELAND STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE NATURE TRAIL

We will hike approximately two miles on this short but sweet trail that will give you a cardio workout! We have the option to repeat a loop in the opposite direction if we want to add miles and continue hiking. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for complete meetup details!

MARCH 18, 2024 HIKE TO CANEY CREEK VILLAGE

Begin at 1,604 ft. elevation and hike down to 840 ft. elevation to see the remains of Caney Creek Village, then hike back up. This village existed from 1912-1941. It had electricity, indoor plumbing, mass transit, a lighted tennis court and a hotel. It's known as the only community in America that never had a vehicle or horse in the community. The remains are visible because the concrete foundations were made of the same grade of concrete as the dams on the Ocoee. Members of the community built the flume along the Ocoee. Length of the hike is 6 miles. Rating: Moderate Hike Leaders: Clare and Ed Sullivan If you plan to attend, drop a note to Cherokeehikngclub@gmail.com.

MARCH 21, 2024 | THURSDAY-CHILDERS CREEK TO BIG BEND | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

Impromptu hike along the Hiwassee River. Six miles round trip. Rating moderate. Meet at Childers Creek Trailhead at 10:30 am. Should see lots of wildflowers this time of year! Contact Hike Leader Leslie Auriemmo at LAuriemmo@yahoo.com if interested

MARCH 25, 2024 | MONDAY - GEE CREEK FALLS | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST LOOP TRAIL | HIWASSEE OCOEE RIVERS STATE PARK

We will hike approximately 2.6 miles total from the Gee Creek Trailhead through a former mining area to the falls and back. Then we will drive to the state park to hike the easy one-mile Loop Trail. We hope to see many wildflowers so these hikes will be very leisurely. Bring food and water; wear appropriate hiking footwear. Contact Hike Leaders Kelly Ducham and Judy Price at cherokehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details

APRIL 2, 2024 TUESDAY HIKE IN THE NO NAME FALLS AREA TO VIEW WILDFLOWERS

Approximately 2.5 miles easy walk on a short loop walk to view the wildflowers along the stream.

Meet at the Clemmer trailhead off Highway 30 just north of Parksville Lake at 10:00 am. Bring water and a lunch or snacks. Event Leader Ruth Pannell. Text Ruth at 423-506-9623 if you plan to attend.

APRIL 4, 2024 GUIDED TOUR OF FORT LOUDOUN STATE HISTORIC SITE

Meet at the parking lot in front of the museum visitor center at 9:30 am to get signed in and join our tour guide at 10:00 am. We will get a guided tour in the museum, with a video, then walk about 1.2 mile total as we are guided around the old fort site. The tour will last about two hours depending on the interest and questions asked. For lunch we can eat at the pizza house in Vonore or try a restaurant in Lenoir City. To carpool from Cleveland, and if you plan to attend the event, contact Event Leader Jack Callahan text at 423-284-7885.

APRIL 5, 2024 TUESDAY BLACK MOUNTAIN TRAIL IN CRAB ORCHARD, TN.

Nine plus/minus moderate miles with 1600 foot elevation gain. There is a cave, enormous rock formations a spring house and a great view at the top. Meet at MacDonalds parking lot in Spring City Tn at 9:30 am to carpool to the trailhead. Contact Event Leader, Sue Robinson at text 423-519-9751 if you plan to attend.

APRIL 6, 2024 SATURDAY GUIDED TOUR OF THE WARDEN FIELDS HISTORIC SITE

Join in on a historic three mile hike in the Warden Fields, also know as the Jeffery Community, area near Citico Creek. This is an easy hike with no stream crossings. The Jeffery area was a village of local mountain families before it became a logging camp of Badcock Lumber Co. It was a collection point for logs to be transported to Vonore along the Little Tennessee River. The land was later purchased by the Forest Service, and built a wardens cabin there, hence the name. Chris will lead an interpretive hike on the history of the area. This will be a great event with a lot of interesting local history. Meet at 10:00 am at the Cherochala Skyway Visitors Center in Tellico Plains to carpool to the trailhead. Hike leaders Chris Hollinghead, Rick and Brenda Harris. Text Rick Harris at 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

APRIL 11, 2024 | THURSDAY 6 PM - MONTHLY CLUB MEETING | CHARLESTON TN CITY PARK PAVILION

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. The club will furnish drinks, cups, and eating utensils. The program is Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) by Jack Callahan.

APRIL 12 FRIDAY - FLATS MTN TRAIL (pages 68, 76)

Moderate, 6.2 miles with shuttle. Flats Mountain overlooks the Indian Boundary Recreation Area. We will leave shuttle vehicles at the bottom at Beehouse Gap on Citico Creek Rd, then drive to Eagle Gap at Mile 18.4 on the Skyway. The trail is for the most part downhill, but we will start out with a climb on an old road to the top of Flats Mtn. There is also another climb about half way through the hike. After the hike we will retrieve our vehicles at Eagle Gap on the Skyway. The central part of the trail is often brushy with blackberry bushes, so wear long pants. We will eat lunch about mile 3 on the hike in an unnamed gap. Contact Hike leaders Rick and Brenda Harris text 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

APRIL 13, 2024 | SATURDAY SODDY CREEK GORGE SECTION (SOUTH)

Little Soddy Trailhead to Mowbray Pike Trailhead. Five miles, moderate, elevation change 450 feet. We will hike through a historic mining area, along a ridge with beautiful views, and past other remarkable sights. There are some seasonal creek/drainage crossings. There is a three-mile shuttle and we will need at least one volunteer driver. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

APRIL 16, 2024 THURSDAY BIG SODDY CREEK TRAIL

Big Soddy Creek Gulf trail in Soddy Daisy is considered part of the Jim Adams wilderness walkway. The trail is basically wide and easy along the creek with the waterfall right on the trail. There is an option for a steeper area at the end of the primary trail. There are a number of swimming holes along the way or wading areas. In and out is about 4 miles on the wide trail - can be really pretty when wildflowers are out but it's good anyway. It is a well-used pathway and always a pleasant walk. Meet at the Fresh and Low on Georgetown Road, Cleveland, at 10:00 am to carpool to site. Event Leader Lettie and Jim Whisman, text Lettie at 812-779-6274 if you plan to attend.

APRIL 18, 2024 THURSDAY - BUGGY TOP/SHAKE RAG HOLLOW

First we will hike to Buggy Top Cave entrance, about a 4 mile round trip, a moderate hike with lots of rock formations. Completing that hike we will have lunch at the student cafeteria at the University of the South. Then we will move on to the wildflower hike on Shake Rag Hollow, on the east end of the campus. This hike is about three miles, with a couple of short sections of steep grade. Lucia has a contact if anyone would like to stay at a B&B overnight at Sewanee before or after the days event. Contact event leaders Lucia Case text at 404-210-9634 or Anne Anderson text at 423-284-7032 if you plan to attend. Meet at the Park and Ride at 9:00 am in Cleveland at Exit 25/Highway 60 to carpool. **NOTE: THE BUGGY TOP CAVE PORTION OF THIS HIKE WILL BE RESCHEDULED FOR THE FALL.**

APRIL 20, 2024, SATURDAY TOUR COKE OVEN MUSEUM AND REMAINS AT DUNLAP TN.

The museum opens at 10:00am. It is constructed to the original design of the original company structure that was there during the height of the operation. It is filled with hundreds of artifacts of the period which give a great history of the operation of the coal mines and the oven's operation. There are the remains of some 285 coke ovens on the site, and many are in almost original condition, and are an easy walk to see and observe. We will spend about two hours at the historic site, then drive about 5-6 miles to the Cookie Jar Restaurant for lunch. If you plan to attend, text Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

APRIL 23, 2024 TUESDAY NEW ECHOTA RANGER GUIDED TOUR

Meet at the parking lot in front of the museum at 9:45 am. The tour begins at 10:00am and will begin in the museum and the viewing of a short video, and tour of the museum. Then we will be guided outside to the many period building on site. New Echota was the Capitol of the Cherokee Nation for several years in the 1830s prior to the removal. The tour will last about two hours and will be about one mile of easy walking. After the tour we will have a picnic lunch on site. There will be a small fee for the tour. Bring your lunch and water or soft drinks. For anyone wanting to carpool from Cleveland, Meet at the Park and Ride at exit 25, I-75 and Highway 60 at 8:30 am. Event Leaders, Judy Price and Jack Callahan. Text Jack at 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

APRIL 29-MAY 3, 2024, MONDAY TO FRIDAY GROUP CAMP AND DAY HIKES, STANDING INDIAN CAMPGROUND NEAR FRANKLIN NC.

This is a very nice campground. It has showers in the regular camping areas, and restrooms in the group areas. For now, I have reserved regular Sites 61 and 62. Site 61 is a single site and we can have up to five people there and two vehicles. Site 62 is a double site and we can have up to 10 people and four vehicles. These are the club members that have indicated they will likely attend:

Sue Robinson, Bruce Lee, James Anderson, Jack Callahan (2), Charlie Snow, Sandra Fenton, Michelle Ritter, Marti Owensby (?), Jennifer Schroll, and me (total of 11). Jack made a reservation for a site, so the two sites I have should be enough for the current group. We can add more and get another site or a group site if desired. If folks are interested in going together for group meals in the evenings, let me know. You will need to bring food for your breakfasts and lunches. I put together a list of possible hikes for the group. I have options each day for those that may want something less strenuous (see below). There are many hikes in the area, so if you have other suggestions, let me know.

I attached a copy of a map [at the end of the Upcoming Events section] showing the general area with the Appalachian Trail (AT) shown on the map in orange.

- Day 1, April 29

Arrive at campground and set up camp. Check-in is at 2:00 pm.

Do a shorter hike in the campground vicinity, possibly Kimsey Creek. Note: This is a relatively easy hike with about 200 feet elevation gain the first 2 miles. There is a nice view of the stream, but there will be at some point some wet areas. So, plan to have waterproof shoes, water shoes, or a change of socks ready.

- Day 2, April 30, Standing Indian Mountain Hike or Option for Park Creek Loop

Option 1: 9:00 am drive about eight miles to Deep Gap on AT via Hwy 64 and Forest Road 71. Park at Deep Gap on AT. Hike 2.7 miles to Standing Indian Mountain and return (5.4 miles total), about 1000 feet elevation gain. Rated strenuous due to elevation gain. Nice trail and well-graded without too many very steep sections. Water available to treat or filter about one mile in near Standing Indian Shelter. Wonderful view on top. For those that want to hike more, you could return to the campground via the Kimsey Creek Trail, another about 3.6 miles.

Option 2 for those wanting a less strenuous hike: Park Creek Trail. About 5.5-mile loop trail near campground. This hike has only about 300 feet elevation gain. Does not have overlooks but nice views of the stream. Recent reviews have noted one large down tree and possibly some smaller trees to work around. Some have noted the trail was hard to follow in spots, so use of GPS device recommended. Probably should wear long pants.

- Day 3, May 1, Albert Mountain, Two Possible Routes

Option 1: 9:00 am, hike via Blackwell Gap Trail to AT, 1.8 miles, about 500 feet elevation gain. On AT, go south 3.1 miles to Albert Mountain, about 750 feet elevation gain, last 0.5 miles steep, 1250 feet total elevation gain for the hike. Return mostly downhill, total hike about 8.8 miles. Water available at Long Branch Shelter about half way out. Views at top wonderful. Rated strenuous.

Option 2: 9:00am. Drive about two miles to Bear Pen Gap trailhead. Hike about three miles to Albert Mountain, about 350 feet elevation gain. Return, total hike six miles. Last 0.3 miles very steep. Rated moderate. Note: There is another option to drive to a parking area and just hike 0.3 miles to top.

- Day 4, May 2, Two AT Hikes from Winding Stair Gap, One south, One north

Option 1: Northbound Hike to Silar Bald. Drive about eight miles to Winding Stair Gap, Hwy 64. Hike north on AT for 4.3 miles to turnoff to Silar Bald, about 0.2 to top. About 1500 feet elevation gain total. Return to Winding Stair Gap. 8.9 miles total. Rated strenuous. Great views on top of bald. Last time I did this hike, trail up to the bald was somewhat overgrown, so long pants recommended. Water available along the trail.

Option 2: Leave shuttle vehicle at Rock Gap. Drive to Winding Stair Gap. Hike south on AT 3.6 miles south to Rock Gap 3.6 miles, elevation gain about 500 feet. A longer option would be to hike another 2.5 miles to Glassmine Gap and then 1.7 back to Campground, adding about 4.2 with about another 500 feet elevation gain (about 7.8 miles total, about 1000 feet elevation gain), no shuttle required if using the longer route.

- Day 5, May 3

Break camp and return or do other hikes if desired. Check out at campground required by 11:00 am.

Contact Event Leader Buddy Arnold at we_arnold@outlook.com or 601-415-3551 for more information or to sign up for the event.

MAY 7, 2024 TUESDAY PINEY FALLS /RIVER TRAIL

Hike 1.6 miles to Piney Falls, two large waterfalls. Trail is rocky with some short steep sections and an optional cable climb. This hike could be extended based on the group by driving to another trailhead along the Piney river for an in/out hike. Meet at the McDonalds in Spring City at 10:00 am. Contact Hike leader Sue Robinson at text 423-519-9751 if you plan to attend.

MAY 8 WEDNESDAY, HAIG MILL LAKE PARK DALTON

This is a 3.5 mile walk around the lake. Rated as moderate because there are some roots and rocky areas but nothing significant in elevation or difficulty. Picnicking there would be easy enough there's a pavilion area, but there are several really good places to eat in downtown Dalton as well. The trail at Haig Mill Lake Park in Dalton Georgia is one we discovered after the Westmore outdoor night. Hike leaders Lettie and Jim Whisman, text Lettie at 812-779-6274 if you plan to attend.

MAY 9, 2024, THURSDAY CLUB MEETING AT MACAMY LAKE IN CHILHOWIE CAMPGROUND, CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

Come early and do one of several hikes including Trailing Arbutis, Benton Falls or the short walk around the lake. The club will

provide hotdogs and all the fixins for supper. Members are encouraged to bring a dessert. We will eat at 5:00 pm. There is a parking fee required per vehicle. Event leader Jack Callahan.

MAY 10, 2024 FRIDAY STONE DOOR TO GREETER FALLS HIKE

Approximately 6.5 mile moderate hike with shuttle required. Current plans are to drop a vehicle at the Greeter Falls trailhead and drive to Stone Door trailhead to begin hike. We will not go into the gorge at Stone Door, but stay on the rim trail. Meet at the Greeter Falls at 10:00 am CDT, or meet at the Park and ride at exit 25 in Cleveland TN at 9:00 am EDT to carpool to the trailhead. Event Leaders Marrie Lasater and Jack Callahan. Contact Jack Callahan at text 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

MAY 11 SATURDAY - WARRIORS PASSAGE TRAIL (Pages 40, 48)

Moderate, 6.2 miles with shuttle. We will leave vehicles at the lower trailhead on Old Furnace Rd, then drive to the top of Waucheesi Bald. High clearance 4WD vehicles recommended, especially the last half mile to the top of the bald. This hike starts at the top of Waucheesi Bald by the site of the old firetower, now communication towers, on a small bald with views into the surrounding mountains. We will hike steadily downhill for over 2300' with one short uphill till we reach Wildcat Creek. We will have to ford Wildcat Creek and possible Tobe Creek (depending on water levels), so bring water shoes, extra socks, and a small towel. From Wildcat Creek, we have an uphill climb to Old Furnace Rd. We will eat lunch at Tobe Creek. Hike leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, contact Rick at text 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

MAY 21, 2024, TUESDAY GLEN FALLS HIKE

A three mile out and back hike with a total of about 300 feet. If you plan to attend, you must contact Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll, text 423-284-1256, to determine the carpool location as parking is limited at the Ochs trailhead. Tentatively meeting at 10:00am then an optional lunch in Chattanooga after the hike.

MAY 30, 2024, THURSDAY TOUR OF THE HISTORIC TUNNEL HILL SITE

Join on a guided tour of the historic hand dug railroad tunnel completed before the Civil War, along with the museum and several period structures including a home that was used as a field hospital. Cost is \$15 per person at this time. Meet at the Food City parking lot just off the Cleveland bypass on the south side of town on SE McGrady Drive at 9:15 am to carpool to the site. Contact Event Leader Jack Callahan at text 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

JUNE 4, 2024, TUESDAY BOOTH WESTERN ART MUSEUM AND LUNCH AFRTERWARDS AT GRAND OAKS HOME.

Tour the Booth Western Museum (admission adults \$13, seniors \$11). The museum has some of the most outstanding collection of western art, including several Remington's. On display will be highlights of the Eddie Basha collection, part of the largest private collection of Western American and American Indian Art in the world. We will tour the museum from 10 till around noon, then make the short drive to Grand Oaks for a lunch in a stunning home in Cartersville (cost about \$15 per person). To carpool from Cleveland, meet at the Food City parking lot on SE McGrady Drive in south Cleveland at 8:15 am. If you plan to attend, you must register with the Event Leader Jack Callahan at text 423-284-7885.

JUNE 13, 2024 THURSDAY MONTHLY CLUB MEETING POT LUCK SUPPER

After the meal and a short business meeting Leslie Auriemmo will give a presentation on the newly formed Friends of the Cherokee National Forest. Join to hear what this group will be doing and how we might interact with them.

JUNE 18, 2024 TUESDAY DAY HIKE TO MT LECONTE IN THE SMOKIES

This is an 11 mile round trip hike with a climb of 2,853 feet. Pack a lunch and sufficient water (water is available at the lodge so you can refill there). It is approximately a three hour drive from Cleveland to the Alum Cave trailhead where the hike will begin. There is a parking fee to park anywhere over 15 minutes in the GSMNP. Contact event leaders Rob and Janet Coombs for additional details.

JUNE 24, 2024, MONDAY - BOB BALD (Pages 62, 70)

Moderately Difficult, 7 miles round trip with 900' climb. We will park at the state line at Beech Gap on the Skyway. The first 2 miles is on an old FS road with only minimal climbing. When we reach the end of the road, we will head up the BMT to Bob Bald, a climb of 900' and quite steep in places. Once we reach the top we will enjoy the views and eat lunch, then head back to Beech Gap on the Skyway. Hike leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, text Rick at 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

JULY 9,2024 TUESDAY FALLS BRANCH FALLS

Moderate, 2.4 miles with a 500' climb out of the gorge of the falls.

We will drive on the Skyway to mile 22.5 at the West Rattlesnake Trailhead. From there we will hike down an old roadbed for about a mile, then steeply descend into the gorge, cross the creek (usually not requiring water shoes), then hike up to the base of the falls on

a difficult trail. We will eat lunch there, then return the way we came, mostly uphill. The falls are spectacular and are about 90' high. Text Event Leader Sue Robinson at 423-519-9751 if you plan to attend.

JULY 11, 2024, MONTHLY CLUB MEETING SUGAR LOAF TVA PICNIC AREA POT LUCK SUPER

Ruth Pannel Event Leader

JULY 13, 2024, SATURDAY - KIRKLAND CREEK TRAIL (Pages 56, 64)

Moderate, but with 11 stream crossings, 6.7 miles. We will leave vehicles at the Bald River Rd trailhead near the Holly Flats CG, then drive a fairly long distance to Sandy Gap on the BMT. We will hike, almost all the way, downhill to the lower trailhead. At about mile 3 we reach the first stream crossing on Waucheesi Creek, then cross this creek and Kirkland Creek itself a total of 11 times. The last crossing is across the Bald River. So come prepared with water shoes, extra socks and a towel. We will eat lunch at the campsite by the first stream crossing. Afterwards, we will have to drive the long shuttle once again to retrieve our shuttle vehicles. Event Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, text rick at 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

JULY 16, 2024 TUESDAY SNORKLE, SWIM AND PICNIC ON CONASAGA RIVER

Meet at the MapCo station on 411 and Ladd Springs road at 10:00 am to caravan to the river. Options are for hikes along the river of one to two miles, swim and or snorkel, or all three. Individuals will be responsible for their own snorkel, mask, fins and life jacket. If you plan to swim bring water shoes and a towel. Everyone will be responsible for their own lunch and drinks. Facilities at the site include picnic tables and a vault toilet. There is a Ranger guided tour available for a cost of \$30 per person that we can discuss at the upcoming club meeting if individuals would like to consider doing that. If you plan to attend the 16 July event, contact Event Leader Lucia Case at text 404-210-9634.

JULY 30, 2024 TUESDAY HIWASSEE RIVER FLOAT TRIP

Paddle/float from Reliance Public boat ramp next to Hiwassee Outfitters to 411 Bridge. Meet at the boat ramp at 1:00 pm. Contact Event Leader Sue Robinson at text 423-519-9751 if you plan to attend.

AUGUST 8, 2024 NO CLUB MEETING THIS MONTH

AUGUST 12, 2024 MONDAY - WHIGG MEADOW (Pages 64, 74)

East to mildly moderate, 2.6 miles, 500' climb. We will drive to the Mud Gap Trailhead of the BMT at mile 3.5 on the NC side of the Skyway. We will hike on an old roadbed steadily uphill to the 5000' summit of Whigg Meadow, a large wide open bald with expansive views into the surrounding mountains. We will eat lunch there, then return to Mud Gap. Hike leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, text Rick at 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

SEPTEMBER 4-15, 2024 6/5 BACKPACKING TRIP IN WEMINUCHE WILDERNESS, SOUTHERN COLORADO

44 mile six day 5 night backpacking trip with the majority of trail above 10,000 feet. This is a difficult hike and the slots are limited. The maximum limit is 12 hikers. If you are interested, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 21 SATURDAY - FALL BRANCH FALLS (Pages 70, 78)

Moderate, 2.4 miles with a 500' climb out of the gorge of the falls. We will drive on the Skyway to mile 22.5 at the West Rattlesnake Trailhead. From there we will hike down an old roadbed for about a mile, then steeply descend into the gorge, cross the creek (usually not requiring water shoes), then hike up to the base of the falls on a difficult trail. We will eat lunch there, then return the way we came, mostly uphill. The falls are spectacular and are about 90' high. Hike leaders, Rick and Benda Harris

SEPTEMBER 23-26, 2024, ROAN MOUNTAIN BIRDING EVENT AND CAMPOUT

Join in for several day hikes to the balds and other nearby locations to watch and learn about many of the migratory birds that will be passing through the area. The state park has numerous cabins and there is camping available also. If you plan to reserve a cabin or camp site, suggest you do so quickly as the sites fill up quickly. If you camp, consider the first loop on the right as you enter the campground as it is on flat ground. Individual day hikes will be determined on the evening of the first night. We will have our club birding specialists the Duchams and the Dornfelds to share their expertise with us. Event leaders Kelly Ducham, Bob Dornfeld and Jack Callahan.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 SATURDAY, CLUB TRAIL MAINTENANCE OF BMT/JOHN MUIR TRAIL SECTION

The club maintains the section of the BMT/John Muri trail from Childers Creek to Big Bend. We will do maintenance on this section with Event Leader James Anderson in charge. Typical work involves brushing and loping limbs out of the trail, and trash cleanup. This

is a lovely and heavily used section of trail, and we like to have our section well maintained. Text James at 423-715-8824 if you plan to attend.

SEPTMEBER 30, 2024 MONDAY - THE HANGOVER (Pages 94, 102)

Difficult, 7.5 miles. This difficult hike will start from the Wolf Laurel Trailhead in NC, about an hour drive from the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center. We will first climb steeply about 500' to the ridgecrest to meet the Haeo Lead Trail and the BMT. We will turn right (north) and steeply descend 500' to Naked Ground, a great camping area. Then we will steeply climb up 500' to Haeo and down to the Hangover itself. On the stretch between Naked Ground and Haeo, the trail in places is often very overgrown with sticker bushes due to a fire several years ago at the same time as the Gatlinburg Fire. So wear long pants. The views are incomparable with a 360 degree range of mountains, including the Smokies and the valley of the Little Tennessee, the Tennessee, and the Cheoah Rivers. We will eat lunch at the Hangover, one of the most scenic spots in the Southern Appalachians. Warning: this is a demanding hike. Rick and Brenda Harris

OCTOBER 10, 2024 THURSDAY MONTHLY CLUB MEETING AT ROB AND JANET COOMBS HOME

Bring your horse shoe and cornhole skills....MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

OCTOBER 13-17, 2024 GROUP CAMPOUT AT BIG SOUTH FORK

The club has the Group Camp Loop E reserved in the Bandy Creek Campground, where we have stayed for the past several years. There are 18 individual campsites. No electrical or water hookups at the sites. The Group Camp has a screened in shelter with electricity, picnic tables and a nice large fireplace. The camp also has a bathhouse with hot showers and flush toilets. There are many interesting trails with great views and great arches and rock formations available. We will develop individual day hikes when we arrive on site the first night. Typically, there are two or three hikes each day of varying degree of difficulty. For those who would prefer to stay at a cabin, Pickett Memorial State Park is about a 30 minute drive to the east of Bandy Creek campground. The cost for the Group campground per individual will be determined by the number of nights stayed. If you plan to attend, contact Event Leader Jack Callahan at text 423-284-7885.

OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 1, 2024 AT BACKPACKING TRIP

Day 1 Drive to Deep Gap, USFS Road 71. Shuttle or drive to Around the Bend Hostel on Hwy 76 in GA. Hike about 0.5 miles to Dick's Gap and then 3.9 miles to Plumorchard Gap Shelter.

Day 2 Hike 7.2 miles to Muskrat Creek Shelter.

Day 3 Hike 4.5 miles to Dick's Gap, then about 0.9 miles to Standing Indian Shelter. Optional hike that afternoon, out and back to Standing Indian Mountain, about 3.2 miles total.

Day 4 Hike 0.9 miles to Deep Gap and vehicles.

Note: Hostel formerly know as Top of Georgia Hostel is under new management and may thus a new name. They do offer shuttle service and vehicles can park there. We can possibly shuttle using our vehicles depending on the number of participants. Rated strenuous due to length and elevation gains. Hike coordinator Buddy Arnold, we_arnold@outlook.com and cell phone 601-415-3551.

OCTOBER 29, 2024 CHILDERES CREEK TO BIG BEND

We will hike six miles on the John Muir trail along the Hiwassee River. Meet at the Childers Creek trailhead at 9:00 am. Bring lunch and water. Rated moderate. Contact Hike Leader Leslie Auriemmo at text 423-331-8967 if you plan to attend.

NOVEMBER 2, 2024 | SATURDAY SODDY CREEK GORGE SECTION (NORTH)

Little Soddy Trailhead to Big Soddy Creek Gulf Trailhead. Approximately seven miles, moderate to strenuous due to miles, elevation, and terrain. We will pass through a former mining area. There are two creek crossings over bridges; we will hike down into the creek gorges and back up. We will exit through Big Soddy Creek Gulf trails. Estimated uphill elevation change on the entire north section is 1200 feet. There is a three-mile shuttle and we will need at least one volunteer driver. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

NOVEMBER 5, 2024, TUESDAY WALK IN THE WOODS, FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT HAWK CREEK VILLAGE

James Anderson will lead the Walk in the Woods, a 1.5 mile or 4.5-mile hike on the loop trails at Johnson woods. Following this walk, Lucia Case will lead a tour of the Hawk Creek Village, which is about one mile from the Johnson Woods trailhead located on Johnson school Road. This is a collection of interesting log structures on private property. Bring lunch if you plan to make a day of it. Contact Event Leader James Anderson at 423-715-8824 if you plan to attend the walk in the woods. Contact Lucia Case at 404-210-9634 if you plan to do the Hawk Creek Village tour.

NOVEMBER 9, 2024 SATURDAY HISTORIC CCC CAMP AT SYLCO TOWN

Bushwhack into the site of a former CCC camp to see the remains of the camp campus. While we are in the area we will attempt to find the old Sylco cemetery, schoolhouse and other building sites of the long ago abandoned town. Meet at the TVA Sugarloaf Picnic area on Hwy 64 east of Cleveland at 9:30 am to carpool to the site. Wear appropriate boots and clothing for walking through underbrush and briers. Contact Event Leader Jack Callahan at text 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

NOVEMBER 14, 2024, THURSDAY MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Meet at 6:00pm for pot luck supper at the Etowah Senior Center, followed by a brief business meeting then the much touted presentation of the "Trip to Italy", preformed mostly in Italian, by Otis Pannel and Lucia Case.

NOVEMBER 23, 2024, SATURDAY FLETCHER PARK, CLEVELAND, THE GREAT COMPAS COURSE TIMED EVENT

Bring your best compass and pacing skills and test your ability to follow the azimuth and distance course of approximately 0.2 miles in the park. Helicopters will be on call to rescue the lost souls if not making the rout in a reasonable length of time. Event Leaders, Jennefer Schroll and Jack Callahan, text Jack 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

DECEMBER 14, 2024, SATURDAY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Meet at the Etowah Senior Center for lunch with a sit down time of 12:30 pm. Arrive around 12:00 noon to claim your seat and get settled in for a great catered Christmas Dinner. After the meal, the 2025 officers will be inducted and then the always entertaining "unwashed Santa " gift exchange will be held.