

# Cherokee Hiking Club 2015 Hike and Event Schedule

(Tentative)

## January

- 1/11, Sunday - Annual Calendar Planning Meeting, 2PM, Family Resource Center,
- 1/17, Saturday - Thunder Rock Hike - 3.5 miles, easy, leader Clayton Pannell. We will hike the Benton-MacKaye Trail (BMT) and the Thunder Rock Express. We will meet at the Thunder Rock parking lot off Highway 64 at 9:00 a.m. See the January newsletter for more info.
- 1/24, Saturday - 1/31, Saturday - Wilderness Wildlife Week at Pigeon Forge - go to <http://www.mypigeonforge.com/events/wilderness-wildlife-week/> for information.
- 1/31, Saturday - Dry Pond Lead Trail (Benton MacKaye Trail) - 9 miles, Strenuous (first 4 miles is all uphill) - Leader Randy Morris - Park at Thunder Rock Campground Lot. More info on this hike will be emailed out soon.

## February

- 2/12, Thursday - Monthly Meeting, 6PM, Golden Corral in Cleveland. Ann Gray will reserve it.
- 2/21 Saturday - 2/22 Sunday - Pickett State Park hikes, optional overnight stay at the Jordan Motel and eat at Bacara's Family Restaurant (German), Jamestown. Ann Gray, leader. **CANCELLED.**
- 2/28 Saturday - Carter Lake, GA Hike, easy-moderate, 4.5 to 5 miles. Leader James Anderson. No hunting season this time!

## March

- 3/7, Saturday - Cloudland Canyon Hike, moderate-strenuous, 8 miles. Water falls. Leader Buddy Arnold.
- 3/12, Thursday - Monthly Meeting, 6PM, Gee Creek Campground in the Hiwassee/Ocoee State Park. Park employees are invited as well. Bring a pot-luck supper, Leon Bates will speak on wildflowers. *Directions:* HWY 411 from Benton (North) cross the Hiwassee River, the park is on the second road to the Right, the first road is to the Still Water restaurant.
- 3/14, Saturday - East Lakeshore Trail Hike, 3.5 miles, easy. Located around Vonore, trail system connects to 30 miles of trails. Leader Clayton Pannell.
- 3/21 Saturday - 3/22 Sunday - Benton MacKaye Trail Backpack from Beech Gap on new BMT section to hiker-friendly TAPOCO Lodge, strenuous, first day 6 miles, second day 7 miles. Shuttle vehicles needed. Leader Rick Harris.
- 3/21 Saturday - Day Hike to Bob Bald from Beech Gap. Day hike part of the 3/21-22 backpack, for those only wanting a day hike. 6-7 miles, moderate with 900 foot elevation gain. Leader Brenda Harris.
- 3/28 Saturday - Shakerag Wildflower Hike, 3-5 miles, moderate. Aiming for the height of the spring wildflower bloom, so date not absolutely definite. Leaders Randy Morris & Leon Bates.

## April

- 4/9, Thursday - Monthly Meeting, 6PM, Sugarloaf Recreation Area below Parksville Ocoee #1 Dam, near Highway 314 intersection with Highway 64. Bring a folding chair and pot-luck supper. Tables are available there.
- 4/10 Friday - 4/12 Sunday - Trails and Trilliums Weekend with Hikes, South Cumberland State Park, sponsored by the Friends of the South Cumberland. See [www.trailsandtrilliums.org](http://www.trailsandtrilliums.org) for more info.
- 4/11 Saturday - John Muir Trail/Benton MacKaye Trail Cleanup, 3 miles with car shuttle or 6 miles both ways, easy. Bring hiking poles for a few dicey areas in the middle. Also bring clippers, light saws, loppers. Leader Debbie Flower.
- 4/18 Saturday - 4/19 Sunday - Ocowassee Festival at Gee Creek Campground with Hikes - CHC VP Leader Leon Bates will be leading several hikes. CHC members are welcome to come out; wear your t-shirts! Good advertisement for new members.
- 4/21 Tuesday - 4/25 Saturday - GSMNP Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Gatlinburg. CHC VP Leon Bates will be leading several hikes. Registration will be at the Gatlinburg Convention Center and online. See [www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org](http://www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org).
- 4/25 Saturday - Cleveland State Community College Trail Cleanup, 4.5 miles, easy. Bring clippers, light saws, loppers. Leader Rebecca Levings.

## May

- 5/2 Saturday - Big Frog Mtn via Chestnut Trail - Leader James Anderson, 8 miles strenuous.
- 5/3 Sunday - Scenic Spur Hike - Leader Ruth & Clayton Pannell, 3 1/2 miles, easy.
- 5/14, Thursday - Monthly Meeting, 6PM, Charleston Park in Cleveland, bring pot-luck supper. Ann Gray will reserve it.
- 5/16 Saturday - Boyd Gap to the Ocoee Whitewater Center, partly on the Old Copper Trail, 5 miles, moderate. Car shuttle. Leader Ruth Pannell.
- 5/31 Sunday - Rhododendron Trail, 3 miles both ways, easy. Leader Joanne Jackson (Rebecca Levings is backup leader if Joanne is not back from Texas).

## June

- 6/6 Saturday - National Trails Day Events in Tellico Plains, cosponsor TN Wild. Leader Rick Harris.
- 6/7 Friday - 6/13 Friday - Camping Trip (with hikes) at Apple Tree S.P. Campground, Topton NC. Leader Clayton Pannell. Rick Harris will contact the Mountain High Hikers for more info on this new state park.
- 6/18, Thursday - Monthly Meeting, 6PM, Michaels Restaurant in Etowah.
- 6/27 Saturday - Fall Branch Falls Hike - Leader Brenda Harris, 3 miles moderate overall. Hike 1.5 miles to the falls, eat lunch and take pictures. Hike 1.5 miles back. Parts are strenuous and rocky. Meet at the West Rattlesnake Parking Area on the Cherohala Skyway at 10:30 AM.

## July

- 7/11 Saturday - Coker Creek Falls Trail - Leader Marc Bernatti, moderate 3.5 miles. Car shuttle.
- 7/12 Sunday - Hiwassee River Float Trip - Leader Clayton Pannell, from Gee Creek Campground to Patty Bridge, meet at 2 PM at Gee Creek CG. Bring your own or rented canoe/kayak.

## August

- 8/1 Saturday - Whigg Meadow Hike - Leader Brenda Harris, 3.2 miles moderate, lunch on the Whigg and pick blueberries & huckleberries (bring a basket or bag). Optional: afterwards eat and happy hour at the Outpost afterwards in Tellico Plains. Meet at the Mud Gap Trail Head at 10:30 AM off the Cherohala Skyway (mile 3.5 on the NC side).
- 8/13, Thursday - Monthly Meeting, 6PM, Golden Corral (or preferably Cheddars if they have opened) in Cleveland.
- 8/15 Saturday - Hiwassee River Float Trip - Leader Clayton Pannell, from Gee Cree Campground to Patty Bridge, meet at 2 PM at Gee Creek CG.

## September

- 9/5 Saturday - Bald River Falls / Cow Camp Loop Hike - Leader Rick Harris, 4 miles, moderate.
- 9/12, Saturday - Monthly Meeting, 5PM, Hike around McCamy Lake at Chilhowee, then pot-luck dinner/meeting at 6PM at picnic area by the lake.
- 9/19 Saturday – the Narrows Hike on the John Muir Trail / Benton MacKaye Trail - Leader Ruth Pannell. 5 miles round trip, moderate. Hopefully we will see the bloom of the rare “Ruth’s Golden Aster” (this is the true name of the flower, not named after Ruth Pannell, even though she is a great fan). Meet at the circle at the very end of the public road leading to the TVA Appalachia Power House in Reliance.
- 9/26 Saturday - Blood Mountain AT Hike - Leader Randy Morris, 6 miles, strenuous.

## October

- 10/3 Saturday - Clear Creek Hike on Chilhowee Mtn - Leader James Anderson, 6 miles moderate
- 10/8, Thursday - Monthly Meeting, 6PM, Whitewater Grill in Ocoee.
- 10/17 Saturday - 10/18 Sunday - Benton MacKaye Trail Backpack from TAPOCO lodge to Fontana Dam - Leader Rick Harris.
- 10/24 Saturday - John Muir Trail / Benton MacKaye Trail Cleanup - Leader Debbie Flower. Bring clippers, loppers and/or light hand saws.

## November

- 11/7 Saturday - Graysville Mtn Section of the Cumberland Trail; this is a new section. Leader Randy Morris, 8 miles round trip, moderate, along Roaring Creek.
- 11/12 Thursday - Monthly Meeting, 6PM, Monterrey Mexican Restaurant in Cleveland.
- 11/14 Saturday - Cleveland State Community College Trail Cleanup - Leader Rebecca Levings. Bring clippers, loppers and/or light hand saws.
- 11/21 Saturday - While Oak Mtn Trail Hike near Collegedale - Leader Chris Swain. Date tentative.
- 11/28 Saturday - Linda Davis Memorial Hike on the Cleveland Greenway; the annual “walk off the Thanksgiving fat” hike. Leader Randy Morris, 8 miles, easy.

### **December**

- 12/12 Saturday - Christmas Party, December club meeting and Dirty Santa gift exchange, 6PM, location to be determined.
- Date to be determined - Enterprise South Hike (near the VW plant) - Leader Richard Foster.