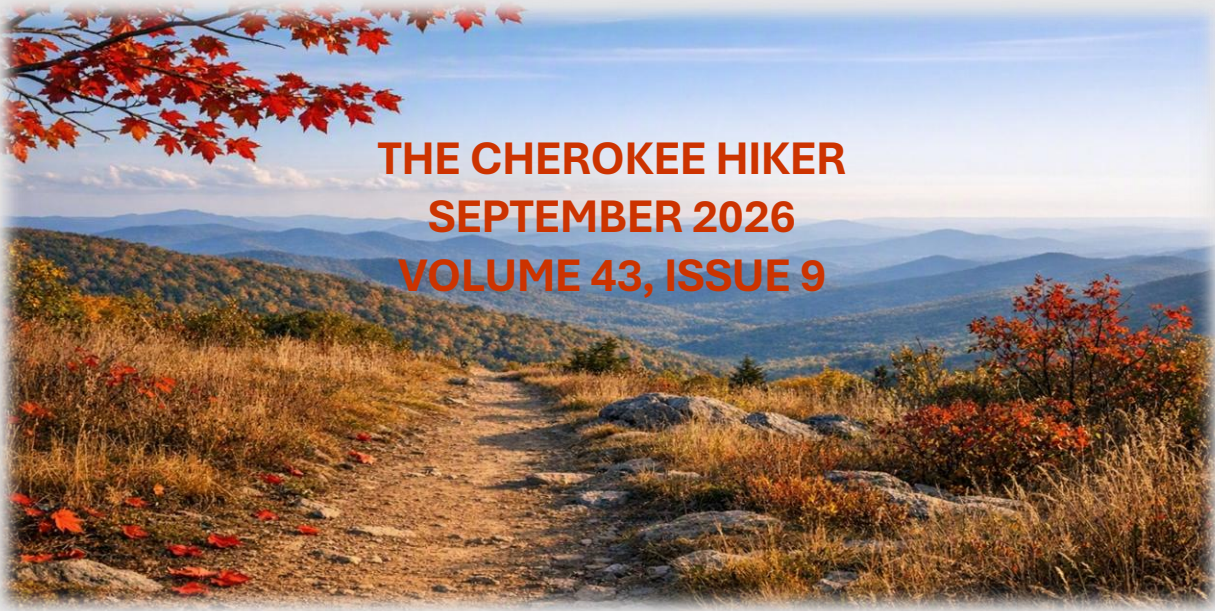




NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Hiking is not for everyone. Notice the wilderness is mostly empty.” Sonja Yoerg

For some time, I have been thinking that it would be helpful for our club to have a mission statement. There are four primary reasons I believe a mission statement would be helpful:

1. **A mission statement defines our club** by showing the public, at a glance, who we are and what we value.
2. **A mission statement unites our members** by giving us a concise statement of our shared purpose.
3. **A mission statement facilitates and shapes our annual planning** as we seek to provide programs and adventures that are consistent with who we are.
4. **A mission statement makes it easier to promote our club within the community** because it can be displayed on our website, our club presentation display board, and handouts that members may share with people who are interested in learning more about our club.

After considerable thought, I wrote a mission statement that I believed reflected who we are as a club and sent it to our publicist, Phyllis Anderson. She reviewed the statement and provided a much better and more accurate description of who we are. Thank you, Phyllis.

The statement was then sent to our Executive Committee for further review, and a few additional minor changes were suggested. Below is the proposed mission statement, followed by a list of activities that demonstrate how we are currently putting this mission into practice.

Please carefully read and review the mission statement as presented.

Proposed Mission Statement

Our purpose is to inspire individuals to engage in outdoor adventure while providing the organization and support needed for successful experiences. We are dedicated to promoting a variety of activities that encourage exploration and enjoyment of the natural world. Our efforts are focused on organizing events and opportunities that make it easy for individuals to participate and connect with others who share a passion for outdoor pursuits.

Activities Currently Provided

From easy to moderate to strenuous, there is something for everyone:

Meetings & Social

- Monthly club breakfast: Great for casual chats
- Monthly meetings: Features special guest speakers.

Outdoor Adventures Close to Home & Far Away

- Bicycling
- Camping
- Hiking
- Kayaking and canoeing
- Wednesday walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Special Events & Service

- Museum trips: Cultural outings
- Trail maintenance: Volunteer work to help keep paths clear.

This mission statement will also appear on the handout for our September club meeting. During the October club meeting, I will open a discussion to consider the adoption of this mission statement. If a motion is made and seconded for approval, the mission statement will stand as approved by our club. If the statement needs further revisions, the revisions will be made and presented again at the November club meeting.

See you at our next scheduled club meeting at the Etowah Senior Center on Thursday, September 10, 2026. Our presentation will be “Getting Involved: Trail Maintenance” presented by Rick Harris.

Rob Coombs, Club President



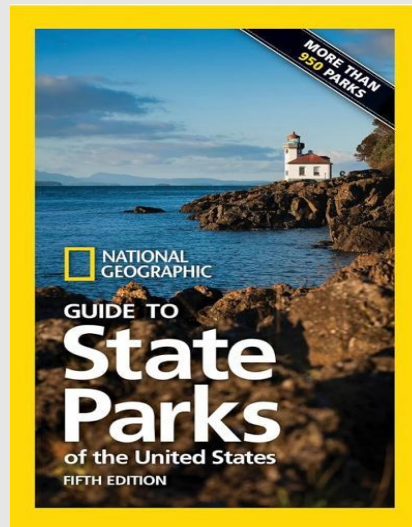
HIKE CLUB BOOK RECOMMENDATION . . .

HIKE CLUB BOOK RECOMMENDATION . . .

National Geographic Guide to the State Parks of the United States (Fifth Edition).

“Bask in the spectacular beauty, thrilling terrain, and quiet peacefulness of the country's finest state parks with this comprehensive National Geographic travel guide. Beautifully written descriptions tell the stories of the parks, from their wildlife, natural features, and history to their most popular current activities such

as hiking, biking, horseback riding, water sports, and rock climbing. The 5th edition of this book was written in 2018 and remains the best review of over 950 state parks. To date, the next edition is unknown.



REMINDER:

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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Thursday, September 10, 2026 - Thursday 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 Rick Harris entitled "Getting Involved: Trail Maintenance."

Friday, September 11, 2026 - Boyd Gap to Old Copper Road Trail - Hike Leader: Ken Cissna. Location: Boyd Gap to Old Copper Road Trail to Thunder Rock Campground. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Bring: Lunch. Brief Description: Dog friendly trail. ~ 5 miles. Beautiful walk along Big Lost Creek. One stream crossing will probably get your feet a little wet so come prepared. Contact: kcissna@bmta.org.

Thursday, September 17, 2026 - 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.

Friday, September 18, 2026 – Note: This hike has been changed **from** Rocky Flats Trail **to** Falls Branch Falls and Conasauga Falls Trails due to the Citico area roads being closed after the major flooding. Hike Leaders: Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog.) Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com; Cell phone 513-260-1184 for specific details if you are interested in attending.

Monday, September 21, 2026 - Friday, September 25, 2026 - Joe Wheeler State Park - Hike Leaders: Margaret & Jack Callahan. Location: 4401 McLean Drive, Rogersville, Alabama 35625. Rating: easy. What to Bring: Camping equipment and food for days planned to stay. There are cabins and a lodge available for those who desire not to camp. Contact Email: Jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Cell phone: 423-284-7885.

ITINERARY

Monday September 21, 2026

Travel to Joe Wheeler SP, 4401 McLean Dr., Rogersville, AL.

Meet at campsite A23 at 6:00 p.m. CST to discuss the week's events and travel plans.

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Hellen Keller Home tour, 300 N Commons St W, Tuscumbia, AL, tour reserved at 10:30 a.m., cost \$10/\$8 for seniors. Tour lasts approximately 1.5 hours. It is a one-hour drive from JWSP.

Rosenbaum Home, 601 Riverview Dr, Florence, AL guided tour reserved for 2:00 p.m., cost \$10/\$5 for seniors. Tour lasts approximately 1.5 hours. Approximately 15-minute drive from Hellen Keller home.

Wednesday September 23, 2026

Historic Mooresville AL, located 1/4 mile south of Exit 2, I-565, west of Huntsville, AL.

Guided tour begins at 10:30 a.m. Meet at the tavern, a white building with black trim, immediately in front of you as you drive into the tiny town. Cost is \$10 per person (Jack will collect ahead of time if you plan to attend.) Tour is a walking tour, approximately 0.6 miles, and will be held regardless of the weather. Tour lasts about 1.5 hours. There are NO public restrooms on site. Drive time from Joe Wheeler SP is approximately one hour.

Pond Spring, Joe Wheeler Home and Farm, 12280 Al Hwy. 20, Hillsboro, AL. Guided tour begins at 2:30 p.m. Cost \$10/\$5 seniors. Group of 10 or more, \$4 each. Tour begins at 2:30 p.m. Drive time from Mooresville to Pond Spring is approximately 40 minutes.

Thursday, September 24, 2026. Local day hikes in the park

Friday September 25, 2026, return home.

Tuesdays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Tuesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway - PLEASE NOTE AN IMPORTANT CHANGE: WEDNESDAY WALKS ARE NOW GOING TO BE TUESDAY WALKS. Every Tuesday 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 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.

OCTOBER AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 - Fort Loudoun State Park - Hike Leader: Leslie Auriemmo. Location: Fort Loudoun State Park. Departure Time: 9:30 a.m. Return Time: Noon. Hike Difficulty: Easy. Bring: Water.

Brief Description: 5-mile hike through Fort Loudoun State Park over easy undulating terrain. Nice views of the Fort and lake. For those interested, after the hike, you may tour the fort and visitor center. Admission to both are free. Contact: Lauriemmo@yahoo.com. Cell Phone: 423-331-8967.

Thursday, October 8, 2026 - Thursday Monthly Club Meeting - Join us at the home of Janet and Rob Coombs for hamburgers, games, and fellowship. Bring an appetizer or dessert. Hamburgers and drinks will be provided.

Friday, October 9, 2026 – PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS HIKE WAS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 16.

BMT Tellico River to Campsite 11 on Bald River Road - Hike Leaders: Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Meet at Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center Departure Time: 9 a.m.; Return Time: 4 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderately Strenuous. Bring lunch, water, wading shoes, and your dog on leash. Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 7-mile hike begins at the Fish Hatchery on Tellico River Rd above Green Cove on the BMT, climbs up Sugar Mtn then down the south side into the valley of the Upper Bald River Wilderness. Once it crosses Brookshire Creek above a small waterfall, we will leave the BMT and continue to follow the Brookshire Creek Trail downstream to come out onto Bald River Rd at Campsite 11. There are 6 stream crossings, so either wear shoes you don't mind getting wet or plan on changing into water shoes at each stream crossing. Since this trail is partly in Wilderness, it will be limited to 12 hikers. Afterwards, we will retrieve our shuttle vehicles and perhaps eat supper in Tellico Plains. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com; Cell phone: 513-260-1184.

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 - Brady Mountain, Cumberland Trail - Hike Leader: Sue Robinson. Location: Crab Orchard. Meet at Spring City McDonalds at 9:30 a.m. eastern time to carpool. Departure Time: 10:00 a.m. Return Time: 3:00 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderately Strenuous. Elevation gain is about 1,100 feet. Bring: Food, Water. Brief Description: In/Out 5 - 6-mile hike with significant elevation gain at start of hike. We will hike up 2.5 miles to scenic overlook of grassy gap and enjoy view. We can continue hiking along ridge line to see an arch. May shop at American Grill in Spring City after for food/ lunch. Contact: cell phone: 423-519-9751 (please text, not call).

Thursday, October 15, 2026 - 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, October 24, 2026 - Mt LeConte - Hike Leader: Jennifer Schroll. Location: Smoky Mountain National Park. Departure Time: 7 a.m. Return Time: unknown. Hike Difficulty: Strenuous. Bring: water and lunch. Brief Description: Leave early from Cleveland. Meet at Home Depot at 7a.m. (maybe earlier). Drive to trailhead or shuttle spot. Hike up the steep Alum Cave Bluff Trail 3000 ft. elevation gain, 11 miles round-trip. Stop for supper on the way home. Contact: jennifergeologist@gmail.com; Cell phone: 423-284-1256.

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 - Piney River - Hike Leader: Doug Lynch. Location: Spring City, Tennessee. Departure Time: 9:30 a.m. Return Time: 3:30 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Brief Description: Meet at McDonald's in Spring City, TN at 9:30 a.m. Moderate hike of 8 miles. Beautiful hike along a creek. Contact Email: dhiker10@gmail.com; Cell Phone: 865-850-7243.

Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 26 - Tuesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway - Every Tuesday 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 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.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

July 17-25, 2026, Mt. Katahdin and Mt. Marcy Trip

Four club members – James Anderson, Charlie Snow, Otis Pannell, and Jennifer Schroll met up at the Big Moose Campground outside Millinocket, ME. The campground had nice campsites and a few Adirondack sites. James and Charlie had a huge site right next to the bathhouse. Unfortunately, they had some noisy neighbors. Jennifer and Otis were downhill from the bathhouse. Early the next day (5:30am) we drove together to Baxter State Park where we discovered a very long line of cars waiting to get into the park.

FINALLY, we made it to the Katahdin Stream Parking and Campground where the Hunt Trail takes off for Katahdin. This is the AT trail.

The trail starts out gently climbing through a forest alongside Katahdin Stream then crosses over the stream and becomes very steep and rugged.

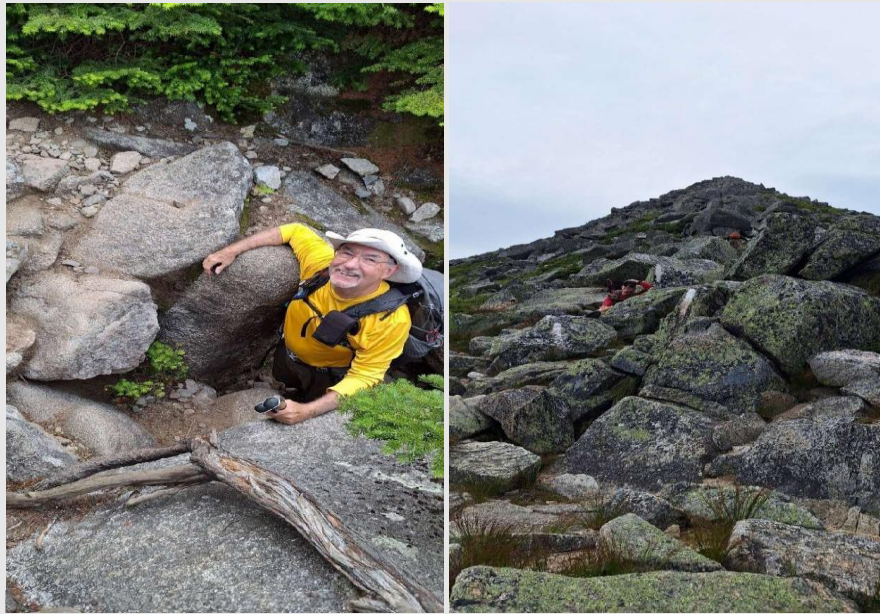


The next section of trail breaks out of the trees and becomes the hardest, steepest trail I have ever done. It is an almost vertical climb over house-size rocks.



We tapped out just short of the table-lands section of trail. Weather was coming in and we didn't have the time to reach the summit without climbing down in the rain. This rock section would be very

dangerous with wet rocks. It was a heartbreaking decision, but we barely made it back to the trees before it started raining. At least I made it 1.5 miles farther this time.



On Sunday, we all drove back into Baxter State Park and went to the Roaring Fork Campground. This is the trailhead for the Chimney Lakes Trail to Mt. Katahdin. We took a short hike to Sandy Stream Lake to get a good picture of Mt. Katahdin and stretch our legs a little. Too bad the mountain was covered in clouds, but it was a nice hike. After, we all headed to the Sawmill Restaurant in Millinocket for lunch. Great food!



After lunch, James and Charlie watched the World Cup Finals at the Big Moose Lodge. Otis and Jennifer went exploring. We were directed to Abol Bridge to get a good picture of Mt. Katahdin and a great short trail called Blueberry Ledges. Yes, there were blueberries. Otis enjoyed speaking with an AT angel at a kiosk along the AT where it enters Baxter State Park and Otis reminisced about staying at Abol Bridge when he thru-hiked the AT.

I got my picture of Katahdin that I wanted.



We ended the Katahdin part of the trip with a campfire at our campsite and ate peach cobbler with fresh blueberries.

On Monday, James and Charlie headed to the airport to fly home, and Otis and Jennifer headed toward Mt. Marcy, New York. Otis and I enjoyed great views of the Presidential Range including Mt. Washington driving across New Hampshire and into Vermont. Otis regaled me with stories of hiking the AT and the Long Trail. We stopped for Creamies! It is a maple flavored soft-serve ice cream with maple sugar bits sprinkled on top. Yummy! We stayed at a historic B&B for the night, took a ferry across Lake Champlain, and arrived in the Lake Placid area.



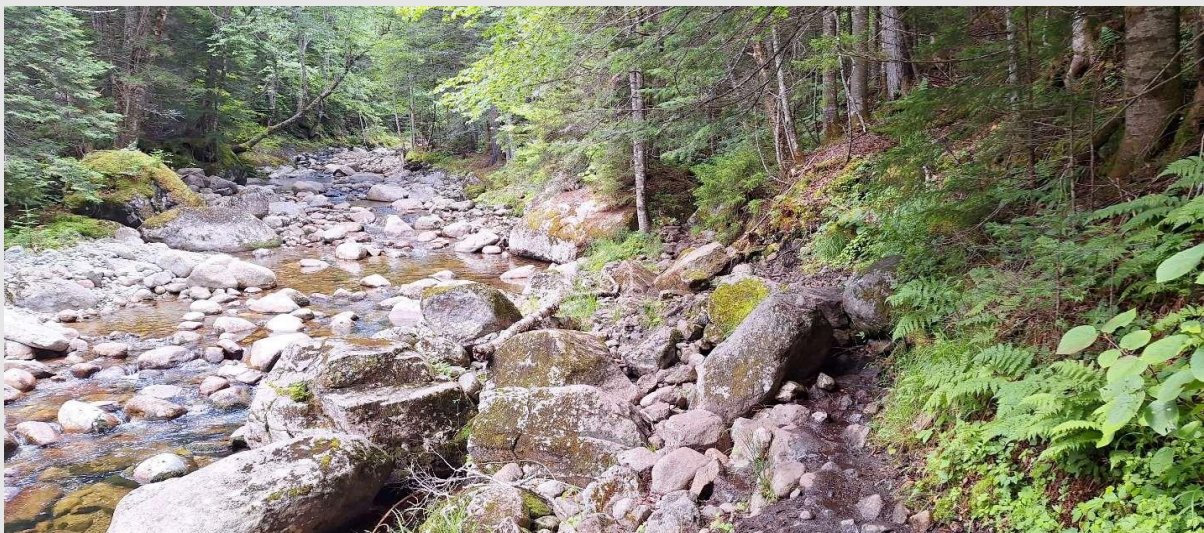
Otis and I checked out the ranger station at ADK Loj. This is the trailhead for many trails in the High Peaks Wilderness including Mt. Marcy. Good thing we did. Two of the trails that we were planning to hike were inaccessible. The rangers suggested an alternate route from the Garden Trailhead. They swapped bear barrels with us. Apparently, the bears in this area have figured out the BearVault -type barrels and they are not recommended. As predicted, there were storms overnight. Just so you know, it was a very nice 70 degrees when it wasn't raining. I believe the temps in TN were 96 degrees with a heat index.

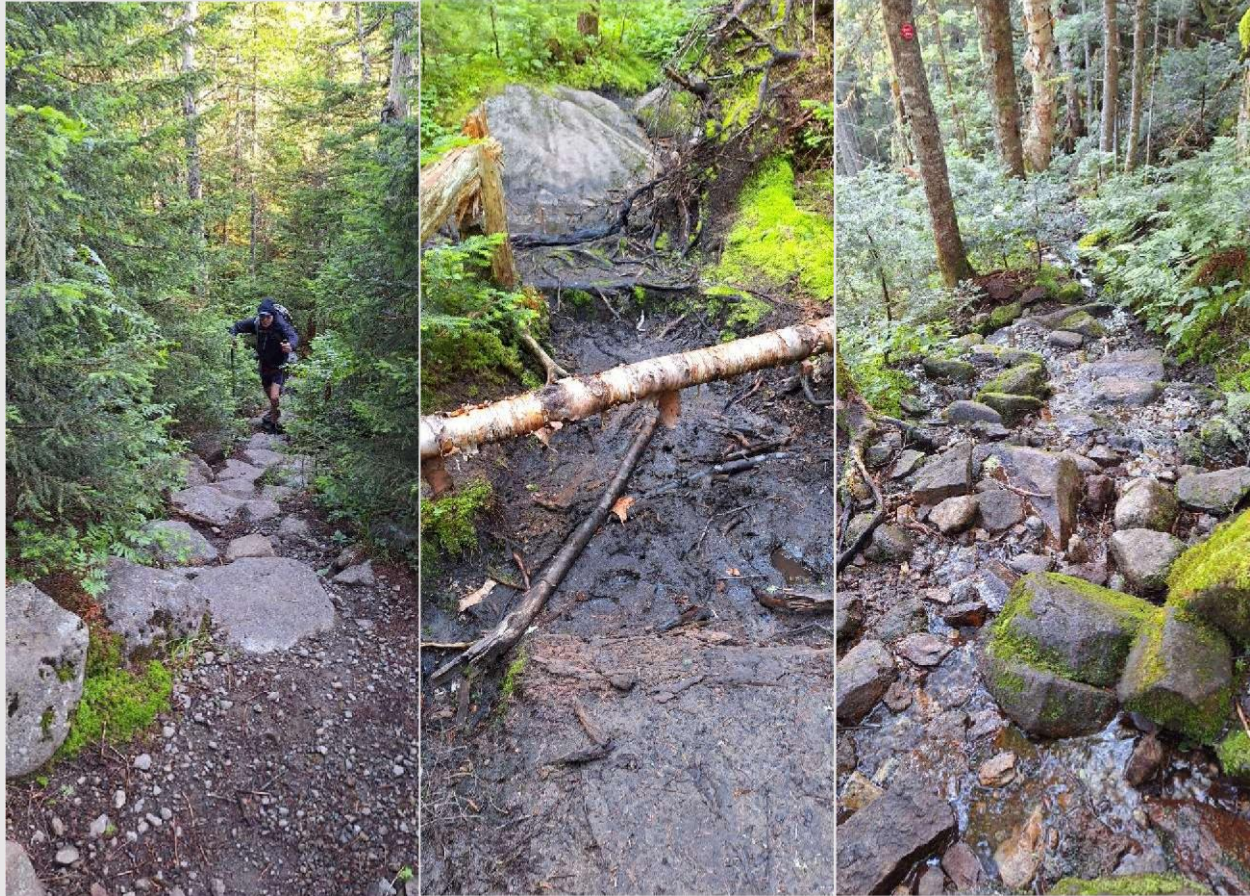
The trail to Mt. Marcy started in a beautiful evergreen forest for the first 3.5 miles.



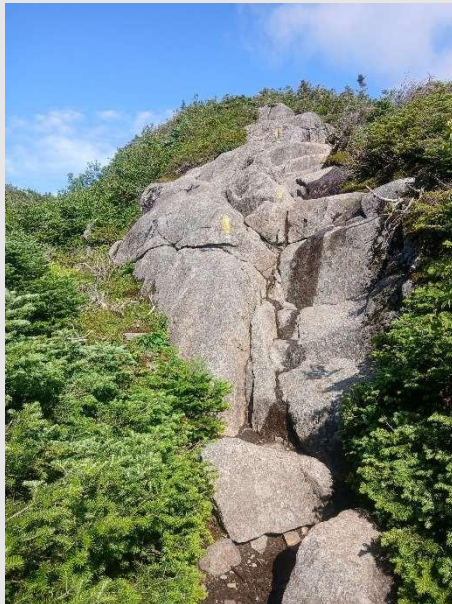
We stopped to eat lunch at the Johns Brook Lodge. Next stop Bushnell Falls.

This section of trail was rockier with sections of mud bog that were tricky to navigate. At Bushnell Falls, we lost the trail when it turned to cross the creek. (so did a lot of other people). Just after the creek crossing, we noted a really nice campsite, but we traveled another 1.5 miles of rugged, boggy trail to Slant Rock Campsite.





The next day we started up the last 2 miles of trail to Mt. Marcy. The trail was very steep and rocky before it broke out of the trees and became an alpine climb up.





After summitting Mt. Marcy, Otis and I hiked back to our camp at Slant Rock, broke camp, and hiked on down to the nice campsite at Bushnell Falls. While enjoying our celebratory Crème Brûlée, we saw a marten! Really Cool! It was an awesome, fantastic Trip!



August 20 Club Breakfast at Old Fort Restaurant in Cleveland, TN, hosted by Jack Callahan Didn't get pictures this month, but the breakfast was delicious and fun as always.

August 21, 2026, Warriors Passage Trail Leader: Richard Harris, Co-Leader: Brenda Harris
Attendees: Richard & Brenda Harris, Stephanie & Rodger Gordon, Clare Sullivan, Trina Jordan, Chris Damm, Charlie Snow, Joe Carson, Kim Corley & Tyler Burns and Nahme (our dog)
Distance: 6.5 miles
Ascent: 450 feet Descent: 2600 feet

Eleven humans and one canine tackled the Warriors Passage Trail on this hot and steamy day. It had rained a lot the night before and the Tellico River was high and muddy this morning, so we decided to hike from the top of Waucheesi Bald to the Wildcat Creek crossing, then backtrack to Wildcat Road where we stationed a few vehicles. That way, we did not have to try crossing Wildcat Creek in high water conditions.

In spite of all the rain the night before, the tread was not very slippery and only one person went to ground on a slippery rock (that was me). We started at the top of Waucheesi Bald and hiked down the firetower road to where the trail left the road. At the top, we checked out the views of the surrounding mountains and all the antennas, then made a stop to check out the Twin Springs campsite where Cherokee Indians used to camp with the excellent water sources. The trail below the road to Wildcat Creek was in very good shape with only three blowdowns. We took a water break at Mule Pen Gap, then ate lunch at the Tobe Creek crossing. We then crossed Bald River Rd then Wildcat Rd. after hiking through the burned over area between the two roads (an arson fire from many years ago by John Irons who went to jail for several years as a result). We then hiked down to Wildcat Creek then back up to our vehicles.

Most of us afterwards went to Tellico Brewery for beer and food from the Peach Street Grill. We stayed there and talked for hours. We were afraid the owners would throw us out as closing time approached. This was a great hike, in spite of the hot steamy weather. We were all pretty exhausted by the end of the hike.

We had a few new folks join us on this hike. During the hike, Rick Harris gave the history of the trail. It was used as a Cherokee Indian route 300 years ago to get from Unicoi Gap to Tellico Plains. The trail was built by Boy Scout Troops from Knoxville, completed in 1965. The troop members did a tremendous amount of research on its history and the route and kept to the original route as much as feasible. Information on the trail along with all the research documents can be found at www.warriorspassage.org. The trail is also now part of The Cherokee 70K/130K Ultra, a long-distance annual running marathon organized by East Coast Adventures. Their motto is "Waucheesi ain't easy". Definitely true.







August Walks on the Cleveland Greenway led by Jack Callahan-Every Wednesday! Contact Jack to join in.



August 20 Club Breakfast at Old Fort Restaurant in Cleveland, TN, hosted by Jack Callahan Didn't get pictures this month, but the breakfast was delicious and fun as always.

MINUTES

There are no minutes to report for August as there was no monthly meeting.

NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

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

TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW

Check the Facebook page for future workdays.

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

*The link for the PDF of the BMTA's Annual Meeting Hikes is:

<https://bmtamail.org/annualmeeting/2026/26-05-Hike-Descriptions.pdf>

Thank you, Joy Forehand, for providing this information.

