

The Cherokee Hiker

March 2007

Volume 23, Issue 3

Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. • 2349 Varnell Road • Cleveland, TN 37311

CHC Calendar

March 3 Conasauga River Trail (HHC)
March 10 Tellico River Cleanup
March 10 Women in Outdoors Seminar
March 11 Old Copper Road
March 17 Farr Gap/JKWSA
March 24 Starr MTN

Renewal Time! Last Call for 2007 Dues!

If you have not submitted your 2007 membership dues, please do so ASAP. Send a check for \$10 made payable to Cherokee Hiking Club (address above) or remit to Ann Gray. **The March Newsletter will be the last for those whose membership has lapsed.**

March Hikes

MAR 3 Mullins Cove - HL Randy Morris
Postponed; to be rescheduled.

MAR 3 Conasauga River Trail, 4.9 Miles, Easy to Moderate.

HL – Steve Cartwright, 423/745-5254 or 8633, 476-1933

Trail begins on FS 221, continues along ridge for 2 miles, balance of hike continues on an old railroad bed along the river. Expect to see early spring wildflowers. Bring lunch & water. Meet at Bi Lo parking lot in Etowah @ 0900; Ocoee Hardee's @ 0930.

MAR 11 Old Copper Road Trail, 4.6 Miles, Easy to Moderate.

HL's - Boyd & Martha Firestone, 336-3133 (Home) or 309-8024 (Cell)

Trail follows the Ocoee River upstream from the Whitewater Center. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Ocoee Hardee's @ 130PM or at Whitewater Center @ 2PM. (Fee for parking is \$3 or ½ price w/ Golden Age Passport.)

MAR 17 Farr Gap/Joyce Kilmer WSA, 4.5 Miles w/ additional 1 Mile Stiff Knee/BMT (to form Loop), Difficult. HL – Ken Jones, 423/745-2451

This hike is off- trail, so be prepared to negotiate blow-downs & elevation gain. Hike traverses a new Wilderness Study Area utilizing abandoned roads & trails. Lowest point is Tallassee Creek; highest is Farr Gap. Meet at Etowah Bi Lo @ 0800. Please call to confirm participation IN ADVANCE as group is limited to 10.

MAR 24 Starr Mountain Trail (#190), 9.8 Miles, Moderately Difficult (due to length).

HL – Clayton Pannell, 423/263-9730 or *****deleted on purpose*****

Trailhead begins in Gee Creek parking lot. Hike to top of Starr MTN. Great views all the way, east & west; 4.9 miles each way in & out. Several rocky sections so good hiking boots are recommended. It is possible to do a fractional portion of hike w/ permission of HL. Meet at Bi Lo parking lot in Etowah @ 0800 or at trailhead @ 0830.

Other March Events

Mar 10 Tellico River Cleanup

POC – Mary Jane Burnett (Tellico Ranger Station) 423/253-2520.

Arrive b/w **0800 & 1000**. Work will continue throughout the day. Bring work gloves, lunch and water. Other items furnished. Ken Jones is our local POC. Interested parties may contact him @ 423/506-8128. A carpool can be coordinated; otherwise, meet at Tellico RS.

Mar 10 Women in the Outdoors. 0900 – 300PM

POC – Wanda Messer, Event Coordinator 423/336-5330 or Barbara Reed 423/421-8009.

Cost: \$40/person. Location: TWRA Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, Birchwood, TN. ***Pre-registration strongly suggested.*** Fee includes three classes and nice lunch. Classes include archery, turkey call & hunting techniques, handgun & rifle safety, fly fishing, outdoor survival, taxidermy and many others. Blocks of instruction will be 2 hours in length and are provided by certified instructors. This event is sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Foundation.

Club News

February Meeting Minutes: 20 members and 1 guest met on Thursday, February 8 at the Golden Corral for the monthly meeting. At 7:30 PM, President Clayton Pannell called the meeting to order. Secretary Jane Bohannon read the January minutes, which were approved. Ann Gray, Treasurer, reported a current balance of \$***deleted on purpose*** in club funds. No old business. New business: It was reported by Evette Strickland that the Polk County Fire Hall #5 Community Room is available for the our March meeting. A motion was made and the club voted to meet there on Thursday, March 8 at 6:30 PM. No additional business. Upcoming & completed hikes were discussed (see details below). Clayton reminded the club of the Joint meeting with the Hiwassee Hiking Club scheduled for April 12 @ the Wesley United Methodist Church. HHC will provide the speaker for the event. Which club will furnish drinks, ice and tableware is yet to be determined. The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

March Meeting: RETURN of the POTLUCK! The March meeting will be held on Thursday, March 8 @ 6:30PM at the Polk County Fire Station #5 Community Center. Bring a covered dish & enjoy the wonderful fellowship that our club is blessed with (not to mention the many fine cooks!). Business meeting begins at 7:30 PM. The club will supply beverages, ice and utensils. While there is no charge for use of the room, a donation will be gladly accepted. We will “pass the hat” so please consider contributing a dollar or two. The PCFS #5 is on Hwy 411 - 12.1 miles on the left from the intersection of Hwy. 64 traveling north; it is 1.7 miles on your right if you are coming from Bowater Road. It is just south of the Hiwassee River where Hwy 30 & 411 intersect.

Recent Hike & Event Reports

27 January – 7 hikers, 2 HHC members, 3 CHC members and 3 guests from the “unofficial” Sweetwater Hiking Club (SHW) hiked 6.8 miles to **Oswald Dome** on a beautiful, sunny day. (The trail was in excellent condition due to the efforts of Ken Jones & Clayton Pannell.) Unimpeded views to the north & west made for a great, albeit steep winter hike. Not much wildlife – some Dark-Eyed Juncos and a Pileated Woodpecker. On the return trip, we passed a Mennonite family going up led by a 4 year old boy and a puppy named “Starr.” Buggies & horses awaited their return at the trailhead. Hikers included HL Steve Cartwright, Marc Bernatti, Jane Bohannon, Kent Chapman, Hasmukh Kanabar, Tim Stephenson & Evette Strickland.

28 January – 3 hikers ignored ominous weather predictions to complete a 6 mile section of the **BMT/Thunder Rock Express Trail**. Weather was cool & breezy w/ temperatures in the 30’s. However, it was warm enough for Clayton to shed his winter gear – believe it or not! There were no bugs or snakes and only 2 bikers were seen on the trail. The consensus was that it was a moderate rather than an “easy” hike. One hiker returned to the parking are in socks & sandals – guess who? The brave hikers included Jane Bohannon, Lettie Kirkpatrick & HL Clayton Pannell.

3 February – A joint delegation of Cherokee & Hiwassee Club members traveled to Birchwood, TN for the **Sandhill Crane/Cherokee Heritage Event**. They viewed a live raptor show & listened to the accompanying lecture. After lunch at the school, they shuttled to the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge to see large flocks of Sandhill Cranes and a solitary Whooping Crane. After braving the stiff winds along the Tennessee River, they returned to Birchwood Elementary to hear Cherokee myths & stories by Freeman Owle of Western Carolina University. Music was also provided (dulcimer, guitar & banjo instrumentals). Participants: Jane Bohannon, Linda Davis, Della & Raymond Miles and Esther Nunley. Evette & Jack Strickland watched cranes on Sunday.

10 February – 4 hikers braved cold temperatures & strong winds to hike **Dry Pond Lead Trail**. Fabulous views of surrounding mountains were beheld from the ridge tops as visibility was unparalleled. By unanimous consent, the hike was lengthened to over 11 miles as we hiked from Thunder Rock Campground up the Dry Pond Trail over to Kimsey "Highway" & followed the entire length of Dry Pond Lead back to Thunder Rock. Hikers included James Anderson, Linda Davis, HL Randy Morris & Evette Strickland.

24 February – Led by the intrepid James Anderson, 8 hikers enjoyed a beautiful, mostly sunny 6.8 mile hike on the **Brush Creek Trail**. As promised, the hike was level and easy. We lunched with a view of Lake Ocoee before completing the hike. Participants included Phyllis Anderson, Jane Bohannon, Martha Firestone, Ann Gray, Esther Nunnley, Aggie Scott, Evette Strickland & our fearless leader James Anderson, outnumbered 7:1! We also shared the trail with many mountain bike enthusiasts. No wildlife sightings except one dead, yellow warbler. One blister (Ann Gray).

The Cherokee Hiker is published monthly by Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. All are welcome to submit articles for publication. For additional information, please contact Evette Strickland, Newsletter Editor @ *****deleted on purpose***** or 338-1461.

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