

The Cherokee Hiker

April 2007

Volume 23, Issue 4

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

CHC Calendar

March 31 Turtletown Falls
April 14 John Muir Work Trip
April 19 Planning Session for Buffalo River Trip
April 22 Rhododendron Trail
April 28 Rock Creek/Cumberland Trail

If you wish to receive *The Cherokee Hiker*, 2007 membership dues are \$10. Make checks payable to Cherokee Hiking Club (address above) or remit cash to Ann Gray.

Welcome New Members!

Lisa Harding & Gail Sandsjo

APRIL HIKES

MAR 31 Turtletown Falls, 4.5 Miles, Easy.

HL Al Rymer, 263-5839 or 506-9350 (C)

At the last minute, Al was inspired to add one more hike to the March Calendar. He claims these are the area's most beautiful falls. Bring lunch & water. Meet at the Bi-Lo in Etowah @ 0900 or at the trailhead @ 1000.

APR 14 John Muir Work Trip & Hike, 3 Miles (each way), Easy.

HL – Debbie Flowers, 476-3907 & **Clayton Pannell**, 263-9730

Our portion of the trail begins at Childers Creek. We will work on the 3 miles of trail up to Big Bend. The trail is in very good shape; no power tools or sling blades necessary. Expect to see early spring wildflowers. Bring lunch & water, gloves & clippers. Trash bags provided. Meet at Childers Creek Trailhead @ 0900. Car shuttle optional; to be determined by participants.

APR 22 Rhododendron Trail, 2.5 Miles, Easy (handicap accessible).

HL – Jane Bohannon, 745-9534 or 381-8388 (C)

This is a lovely new trail that follows the Ocoee from Thunder Rock (Powerhouse #3) to the Whitewater Center picnic area; a great opportunity to observe rafters & kayakers. To carpool, meet at Bi-Lo in Etowah @ 1:15 or at trailhead @ 2:30. Benton & Cleveland hikers may choose to carpool from the Ocoee Hardee's @ 1:45, but Jane will not make this stop. Note: This is a Sunday hike.

APR 28 Rock Creek/Cumberland Trail, 9 Miles, Moderate w/ some Elevation Change.

HL – Randy Morris, 728-0805 to confirm attendance or 338-0464 for questions.

We will hike the Rock Creek Loop, a connector trail, to a beautiful gorge overlook & part of the Upper Rock Creek Trail. Nice trail, but rocky in places. Rated moderate but could be strenuous for some due to length. Go to www.cumberlandtrail.org (burgundy segment b/w Soddy Daisy & Dayton is Rock Creek) to view additional info. Meet at commuter parking lot at Exit 25 in Cleveland @ 0830 to drive to Sale Creek, TN.

Other April Events

APR 19 - Planning Session for Buffalo River Canoe Trip – Carroll & Carol Guhne, 476-8922. A meeting will be held at the home of Carroll & Carol Guhne to discuss logistics & all relevant details for the scheduled Buffalo River Canoe Trip. Dates for the trip are **May 19 – 26**. Highlights of the trip will include overnight cabin stay in Silver Hill, Arkansas, hiking, fishing and camping on sandy beaches. For additional information, please plan to attend this meeting. Carol Guhne will provide refreshments. Some details will be provided at the April monthly meeting as well.

Club News

March Meeting Minutes: 19 members and 2 guests met on Thursday, March 8 at the Polk County Fire Station, #5 for the monthly meeting. Following a scrumptious potluck supper, President Clayton Pannell called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Secretary Jane Bohannon read the February minutes, which were approved w/ corrections. Ann Gray, Treasurer, was absent but reported a current balance of \$***left out on purpose*** in club funds. Old business: Steve Cartwright has procured the guest speaker for the joint club meeting in April. CHC will provide tableware. New business: A \$40 donation (for use of the Community Room) was made by participating members of CHC to the Chilhowee Support Group, with proceeds benefiting the PCFS#5. No additional business. Upcoming & completed hikes were discussed (see details below). The meeting adjourned at 8 PM after the finalization of plans for the April 12 meeting of Hiwassee & Cherokee Hiking Clubs, an agreement to have the May meeting at Fletcher Park in Cleveland & a humorous reading by Al Rymer.

April Meeting: The April meeting will be held on Thursday, April 12 @ 6:30PM at the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in Etowah. Bring a covered dish & share in the fellowship between the Hiwassee & Cherokee Clubs. Our club will supply utensils & tablecloths. A SHORT business meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Afterwards, a special presentation will be given by Dr. Allen Moore of Tennessee Wesleyan College. He will speak about his portion of the plant study in the Hiwassee-Ocoee State Park as part of the Tennessee State Parks ALL TAXA BIODIVERSITY INVENTORY. Please plan to attend this very special event. Wesley Memorial is located on 10th Street, just off Tennessee Avenue. Parking is on 10th Street and in the rear near the social hall.

Recent Hike & Event Reports

10 March – Tellico River Cleanup. Ken Jones, Clayton Pannell & Evette Strickland represented the CHC. We met at the Tellico River Ranger Station @ 0800 where we were presented with gloves, bags and a goody bag of sundries. All told, 212 people worked together in 2 states (NC & TN) to collect over **2 TONS** of trash. Participants came from multiple states including AL, CO, GA, MI, NC & TN. The event will next take place on March 8, 2008. Mark your calendars!

10 March – Women in the Outdoors. Jane Bohannon, Linda Davis & Ester Nunley traveled to the TWRA Hiwassee WR in Birchwood for food, fun and fellowship with like-minded women. Linda & Esther speared a grouse in Archery class. Esther took a Fly Fishing class. So great was her enthusiasm that she purchased rod, reel & tackle box prior to departing! Jane did some target shooting in the Rifle & Hand Gun class, practiced her backing skills in an 18 foot boat hitched to a truck and all three women attended an Outdoor Survival class.

11 March – Old Copper Road. Martha Firestone led **16 hikers** on a lovely warm, sunshiny day along the Ocoee River. After hiking to trail's end (2.3) miles, several elected to extend the hike by adding a walk to the dam at Ocoee #3 Lake and back to the Whitewater Center. Participants included Marc Bernatti & one of his 8 Mastiffs, Phyllis Biggs & grandson Tristan Vines, Jane Bohannon, Linda Davis, Ann & Bill Gray, Edmund & Gail Gray, Doreen Johnson, Jerry & Sandra Liner, Clayton Pannell, Aggie Scott, Mickey Walls and Dawn West. Great job, Martha!

17 March – Farr Gap Loop. Four Hikers enjoyed a nice “no backtrack” loop hike through the new Joyce Kilmer/ Wilderness Study Area including Slickrock. The starting temperature was 28 degrees, but it warmed to 38 with plenty of sunshine. Recent blowdowns had been cleared using ATV's so the hike provided a very pleasant off-trail experience w/ lots of variety including high ridgeline views and streamside walks beside tumbling waters. Hikers included HL Ken Jones, Jerry Liner, Clayton Pannell & Al Rymer.

17 March – Hiwassee River Cleanup. Although unaware of this event until a couple of days prior, CHC members Jane Bohannon & Evette Strickland joined with 25 others to help pickup litter along Hwy. 30, Childers Creek and the Fisherman's Trail. We worked from 9 – 12, after which a wiener roast was held at Reliance Fly & Tackle Store. Members of Trout Unlimited held a demonstration to analyze stream cleanliness based upon the numbers and varieties of insects found in a streambed. It was lots of fun and we hope to help expand participation next year.

24 March – Starr Mountain. Three hikers participated in the hike to the top of and across Starr Mountain on Trail #190. Spring flowers were out in abundance including lots of Bloodroot and a Serviceberry tree in full bloom. Weather was cool to begin, but jackets were removed within a half mile of the start. By the end of the 9.8 mile hike at 2:15, it was like summertime. Hikers included HL Clayton Pannell, Evette Strickland and new comer Della Mae Miles.

25 March – Gee Creek Wilderness Trail. Al Rymer led an impromptu afternoon hike, short in duration (1.5 miles) but long on wildflowers. A partial list includes Smooth Yellow, Halberd-leaved & Longspurred Violets, Meadow Parsnip, several varieties of Trillium, Crested Dwarf Iris, Squaw-root, Partridge-berry & Prostrate Bluets. Participants included guests Yola Anderson, Mona Gill, Stacey Sandsjo and CHC members Lisa Harding, Gail Sandsjo, Evette Strickland and HL Al Rymer.

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 @ EvetteDCS@aol.com or 338-1461.

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