

# The Cherokee Hiker

August 2007      Volume 23, Issue 8

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

## ~CHC Calendar~

**August 5    Whigg's Meadow**

**August 9    Monthly Meeting**

**August 18   Lost Creek Fisherman's Trail**

**August 26   Hiwassee River Canoe Trip**

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! *Mike & Pat Davis*

## AUGUST HIKES

**August 5 – Whigg's Meadow**, 3 miles, Easy to Moderate. (Sunday afternoon)

Hike Leader: Clayton Pannell, 263-9730.

Hike from Mud Gap to Whigg's Meadow off the Cherohala Skyway (just inside NC). We will walk up an old road to a field and then hike through the field to the top of Whigg's Meadow w/ 360 degree views. Temperatures should be cool at this elevation. Meet in Etowah at the Bi Lo parking lot at 1:30 PM to carpool to Mud Gap. Hiwassee Hiking Club members are welcome on this hike.

**August 18 – Lost Creek Fisherman's Trail**, 2+ miles, Easy.

Hike Leader: Ken Jones, 506-8128 or 745-2451.

The hike starts at the Lost Creek Campground on White Oak Flats Road. The trail follows the creek upstream for about one mile before it becomes faint and begins to disappear. There is one Lost Creek crossing to wet your feet. We can elect to hike part of the Benton MacKaye Trail afterwards if anyone would like to continue. Meet at the intersection of US 411 & Hwy. 30 at the Hiwassee Corner Market at 0900 AM.

**NOTE:** If you intend to participate in a hike, please contact the hike leader **in advance** of the hike.

## Other AUGUST Events

**August 26 – Hiwassee River Canoe Trip**, Leisurely & Fun. (Sunday afternoon)

River Guide: Linda Davis, 476-3894 or 715-1700.

Meet at 2 PM at the Hiwassee Corner Market at the junction of Hwy 411 & Hwy 30. BYOC (bring your own canoe) or arrange to share the ride with someone who has a canoe.

## Club News

**July Meeting Minutes:** On Sunday, July 1 at 7:30 PM, Ann & Bill Gray hosted the July meeting. Following a covered dish meal, Clayton Pannell welcomed 38 attendees and thanked the Gray's for their generous hospitality. A brief business meeting was called to order at 8:40 PM. Aggie Scott read the Secretary's Minutes of the June meeting and the Treasurer reported a current balance of **\*\*\*deleted on purpose\*\*\***. Both reports were approved. No old or new business was reported. Clayton invited comments on the Natural Bridge/Red River camping trip. Aggie Scott referred to Debbie Flower's detailed report, which was accepted for publication in the Cleveland Daily Banner! Several members gave reports on unscheduled hikes completed on a variety of trails in June. Upcoming & Completed hikes (See above & below.) Ken Jones mentioned that work on the Bald River Trail has been completed. It was decided to hold the August meeting at Sugarloaf Park picnic area. No decision was made on the location of the September meeting. The business session was adjourned at 9 PM. Everyone moved to the front lawn in anticipation of viewing the big fireworks display. Unfortunately, heavy rain earlier put a damper on the event. However, always prepared, Ann Gray provided sparklers and held a history quiz challenge. Belinda Mantooth was crowned the winner and awarded door prizes: a pair of red long johns and a book entitled America.

**August Meeting: Thursday, August 9** at 6:30 PM at Sugarloaf Park. The park is located on Hwy 64 on the right, just prior to Ocoee #1. If you are traveling west on Hwy 64, the park is on the left just past the dam. Bring appropriate picnic style dishes to share. The club will provide ice, plates and utensils.

## Recent Hike & Event Reports

July 14 – Conasauga River Trail. A surprisingly large group of 16 met at the Hardee's in Ocoee for the trip to the Conasauga River area. The hikers were leaders Boyd & Martha Firestone, Jim Brown, Jon David Derryberry, Joanne Jackson, Jane Bohannon, Sandra Corn, Aggie Scott, Reggie Jay, Lettie Burrell, Carol & Carroll Guhne, Linda Davis, Clayton Pannell and his guests Linda Caldwell, Director of the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association and her husband Jim Caldwell. After reaching the trailhead, all vehicle drivers continued to the end of the trail and returned in one car to begin the hike uphill on the trail which leveled out after a quarter to a half mile. Through the forest the trail became quite overgrown and is in dire need of major lopping. After reaching the junction with Iron Mountain Trail, we continued toward the river, stopping for an early lunch at a lovely spot on the water. A rock skipping competition ensued among several hikers. The trail continued along the river, where we observed turtles, fish and an occasional human in the water. Other wildlife seen included 3 harmless snakes and quite a few little frogs (toads?). Most "called it a day" at the end of the trail, but Jane & Joanne stayed behind to cool off in Taylor's Blue Hole. Upon leaving, they reported that a small black bear ran across the road in front of their car. They also stopped at Gee Creek Campground for additional swimming and there spotted a copperhead in the river. It seems they experienced most of the excitement of the day. ~Submitted by Martha Firestone

July 22 – Benton Falls Trail. Hike Leader: Edmond Gray. Hikers: Jane Bohannon, Mike & Pat Davis (1<sup>st</sup> time hikers with the club), Joanne Jackson and Aggie Scott. This was an easy Sunday afternoon hike to a beautiful, stair-stepping waterfall. A light rain followed the hikers to the falls, but it only sprinkled on the return trip. Jane saved the day with shared rain gear for three of her fellow hikers. Way to go, Jane. Mike kept Edmond's reputation intact, as he is usually the only male on his hikes. (We haven't yet figured out how he does that!) It seems Edmond is trying to take Clayton's "rainmaker" title from him, as it was a perfectly clear day all around Benton Falls. ~Submitted by Jane Gray

The Cherokee Hiker is published monthly by Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. For additional information, please contact Evette Strickland, Newsletter Editor at **\*\*\*deleted on purpose\*\*\*** or 263-7959.

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