

The Cherokee Hiker

October 2007

Volume 23, Issue 10

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

~CHC Calendar~

October 5 - 7	Big South Fork Camp Trip
October 12	Monthly Meeting
October 20	Ft. Mountain/Gahutti Trail
October 27	Blood Mountain, GA
November 3	Lula Lake Falls

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! **Jim & Linda Caldwell**

October HIKES

October 20 – Ft. Mountain/Gahutti Trail, 8 miles, Moderate.

Leaders: James Anderson, 476-1028.

The Gahutti Trail is an 8 mile hike basically circling the top of Fort Mountain within the State Park outside of Chattsworth, GA. The hike is considered moderate because of its length. It does have a bit of up and down, but it starts out at the top of the mountain and for the most part, stays there. Depending upon the weather and whether enough leaves have fallen, there should be some good views from the trail. As a brief side trip we will also walk out to the overlook platform that gives an expansive view to the west, including the metropolis of Chattsworth!! If you are interested in going, call for the meeting place and time.

October 27 – Blood Mountain, 4.5 miles, Strenuous.

Leader: Randy Morris, *****deleted on purpose***** or 728-0805 to confirm; call 338-9464 with questions.

We will leave from the parking lot behind Hardee's in Ocoee at 8:30 AM for our drive below Blairsville, GA to the Blood Mountain area. We will park at the Reece State Memorial Parking Lot and access the AT via the 0.7 mile Byron Herbert Reece Memorial Trail. We will then follow the AT 1.5 miles or so to the summit. We will have lunch on the 4,461 foot summit—the highest point on the AT in Georgia—and enjoy the near 360 degree views. The length of the hike is approximately 4.5 miles, but the hike is strenuous because of the significant elevation gain of approximately 1,000 feet in only a little over 2 miles. After lunch on top, we will return via the same trails to the parking lot. Since this hike takes place during hunting season, be prepared to wear the required fluorescent orange on the upper part of your body.

November 3 - Lula Lake Land Trust, 3 miles, Easy to Moderate.

Hike leaders: Ann & Bill Gray, (H) 479-7511; (c) 240-8863 Ann's; (c) 715-7764 Bill's.

The hike is rated easy to moderate because of a half-mile elevation gain. The area features a spectacular bluff view overlooking Flintstone, GA and two beautiful waterfalls, one of which is 150 feet. (Falls may be impacted by the drought.) There is one port-a-john and several picnic tables. Bring lunch. Some may decide to stay until 5:00 PM and dine at the Canyon Grill, which is pricey but very good. Reservations are required (706) 398-9510 and casual dress is fine. Meet in Cleveland at the Medical Center Pharmacy on Ocoee Street at 9:00 AM. Additional hiking at nearby Cloudland Canyon is possible.

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

Other October Activities

October 5 -7 – Big South Fork Camping/Hiking Trip

Trip coordinator: Jane Bohannon (423)-745-9534 or cell (423)-381-8388; Hike leaders: David & Debbie Flower.

We will be staying at Bandy Creek Campground which is located in the Tennessee portion of Big South Fork. Adjacent to the campground is the Bandy Creek Visitor Center and the Bandy Creek Stables. We have group campsites in B loop reserved in Clayton Pannell's name--- B8 Debbie & David, B7 Aggie Scott, B13 Jane & Joanne, B14 Boyd & Martha. Sites are very close together and all sites have electric & RV hookups, a fire ring and access to showers. Additional campers in our group will share these sites. Bathroom is on C loop. Total cost for each site for the 2 nights is \$22.00, which will be divided between the numbers of people who stay on each site. **Directions:** North Bound I-75 exit at Hwy 63, the Oneida-Huntsville Exit (#141). Follow Hwy 63 west for 21 miles through Huntsville to U.S. 27. Turn right on U.S. 27 and drive north 7 miles to Oneida. At the first traffic light, turn left on Hwy 297 west and follow 297 approximately 15 miles to reach the Bandy Creek Visitor Center & Campground (office # 423/ 286-8368). In case of an emergency: Park Visitor Center (423) 286-7950 or (606) 376-5073.

Club News

September Meeting Minutes: The monthly meeting of the Cherokee Hiking Club was held at 6:30 PM on Thursday, September 13 at Sandra and Bill Corn's home in Etowah with thirteen members and one guest attending. Following a delicious potluck on Sandra's screened-in porch, President Clayton Pannell called the business session to order at 7:25 p.m. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary and were approved as read. The treasurer's report was given by Clayton due to Ann Gray's absence. The reported current balance is \$***deleted on purpose***.

Old business: Jane reminded campers for the Big South Fork camping/hiking trip to stay for the planning meeting.

New business: Evette discussed the revised hiking/outdoor activity schedule. Be sure to refer to the amended schedule. Clayton brought a note from Wesley Memorial Church thanking us for the donation made at the annual joint club meeting. Jane read an article of possible interest to hikers outlining road closings and traffic delays in the Cherokee National Forest. (Provided by Aggie Scott)

Hikes completed: Clayton reported on the Lost Creek Fisherman's/Benton McKaye trail led by Ken Jones. Jane reported on the Hiwassee Canoe trip led by Linda Davis. Debbie Flower reported on her and David's month long trip to Colorado. Debbie and Abby hiked every day in the Rocky Mountains while David went to school.

Upcoming hikes: Clayton cancelled the October 13 Chestnut Mountain hike unless another HL can be found. Sandra discussed and presented a brochure on the corn maze in Niota which started September 1 and ends October 31. The John Muir work trip/cleanup is September 15. Remember, this is our club's adopted trail which we maintain with a work trip twice a year. Randy Morris will lead Ramsey Cascades hike September 29. The Big South Fork camping/hiking trip is October 5-7. Jane and David & Debbie Flower will be coordinating the trip. Regretfully, Clayton will be unable to lead.

Since there was no further business, it was announced that the next meeting is tentatively planned for Friday, October 12 at Martha and Boyd Firestone's home. The business meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM and followed by a planning meeting for the Big South Fork camping trip.

October Meeting: Friday, October 12 at 6:30 PM at the home of Boyd & Martha Firestone. The address is: *****deleted on purpose***** 336-3133. Bring appropriate potluck dishes to share. The club will provide ice, beverages, plates and utensils.

Directions from Cleveland & Athens:

*****deleted on purpose*****

Directions from Etowah:

*****deleted on purpose*****

Directions from Benton: ***deleted on purpose*******

Recent Hike & Event Reports

September 15 - Clean up/work trip on the John Muir Trail

Five people meet at the Childers Creek trailhead on a clear and beautiful morning. We did a car shuttle to Big Bend and started working in the direction of Childers Creek. With loppers, ax, small saw and trash bag. We cleared brush and limbs from the trail and picked one bag of trash and Clayton did some mowing with a weed eater after lunch. Workers were Jane Bohannon, May Miles, Raymond Miles, Evette Strickland and Clayton Pannell. Total hours travel and work - 22 1/2

~ submitted by Clayton Pannell

September 29 – Ramsey Cascades

On a beautiful day, twelve hikers tackled the Ramsey Cascades Trail in the Greenbriar Section of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The approximately 2,200 foot elevation gain and the abundance of rocks and roots on the trail made this hike a challenging one, but everyone completed the entire hike and enjoyed the beautiful falls of the Ramsey Prong of the Little Pigeon River. Due to the drought, the river and the tributaries were low on water, but there was sufficient water for the falls to be beautiful. The hikers also enjoyed admiring the pockets of virgin forest complete with the "Greenbriar Twin Towers"—magnificent old tulip poplars that straddle the trail about 2.75 miles up the trail. It was sad to see the old growth hemlocks that are falling prey to the adelgid infestation however. The group completed a good day of hiking with a nice dinner at the Greenbriar Restaurant before returning home. Club members on the hike were Lettie Burress, Evette Strickland, James and Phyllis Anderson and hike leader Randy Morris. Guests included Jerry and Pam Cook, Phyllis Biggs, Janet Cody, Sandra Havens, Elaine Allman and Janette Jager.

~submitted by Randy Morris

Other Items of Interest

SEFTC Representatives Needed

The SEFTC (Southeast Regional Foot Trails Coalition) needs enthusiastic volunteers. If you are interested in representing the Cherokee Hiking Club as SEFTC Representative or as an Alternate, please contact me at 476-2945 or *****deleted on purpose*****.

~ submitted by Diana Ristom

CHC Newsletter Editor Needed

Volunteer needed to assemble monthly newsletter for 2008. All you need is a computer, a printer & the ability to cut and paste. Training provided. Expenses reimbursed by the club.

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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