

# The Cherokee Hiker

November 2007

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

## ~CHC Calendar~

<b>November 3</b>	<b>Lula Lake Falls</b>
<b>November 8</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>Flats Mountain</b>
<b>November 24</b>	<b>Urban River Walk, Chattanooga</b>
<b>December 1</b>	<b>Little River/Cucumber Gap</b>

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 MEMBER! **Dee Inman**

## November HIKES

### **November 3 – Lula Lake Land Trust, 3 miles, Easy to Moderate.**

Hike Leader: Ann Gray.

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 *normally* 150 feet. 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 0900. Additional hiking at nearby Cloudland Canyon.

### **November 10 – Flats Mountain, 6.2 miles, Moderate.**

Hike Leader: Clayton Pannell

Hike from Eagle Gap to Beehouse Gap with a car shuttle. We will park some vehicles at Beehouse Gap and then go up to Eagle Gap to start the hike. Most of the trail will be downhill from Eagle Gap. The trail goes up through two wildlife clearings and then down the top of Flat Mountain, with views into the Citico Wilderness and west to Indian Boundary. Plan on leaving Hardee's in Etowah at 0830.

### **November 24 – Urban River Walk, Chattanooga, Variable mileage, Easy.**

Hike Leader: Linda Davis.

This walk begins along the Tennessee River with views of the bluffs as well as architectural highlights of Chattanooga. We will stop for coffee and later have lunch at a restaurant to be chosen by participants. Meet at the Medical Center Pharmacy on Ocoee Street in Cleveland at 0830. Join us and walk off some of that Thanksgiving excess!

## **December 1 – Little River/Cucumber Gap Loop, 5.5 miles, Easy to Moderate.**

Hike Leaders: Boyd & Martha Firestone.

This hike is in the Elkmont area of the Smokies. It is a loop trail that begins on an old roadbed along the Little River. After 2.5 miles Cucumber Gap Trail merges with the Little River Trail. The area is known for a large number of Fraser magnolias (aka “cucumber trees”) for which the trail & gap are probably named. Area inhabited by numerous Pileated Woodpeckers w/ views of Burnt Mountain (3400’) in late fall. Meet at 0900 at the BiLo parking lot in Etowah.

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

## **Club News**

**October Meeting Minutes:** The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee Hiking Club was held at 6:30 on Friday, October 12 at Martha and Boyd Firestone’s home with fifteen members and one guest attending. Following a delicious pot luck supper on the Firestone’s deck, President Clayton Pannell called the business session to order at 7:40 PM. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary and were approved as read. The treasurer’s report was given by Ann Gray. The reported current balance was -----.

**Old business:** None

**New business:** We need the following offices filled for next year: president and newsletter editor. Nominations for these positions were sought, but no one accepted the responsibility at this time.

**Hikes completed:** Clayton reported on the John Muir cleanup with five participants. Robert Owenby and Clayton went back a few days later and sawed out some large trees to clear the trail. Aggie Scott reported on the Big South Fork camping trip. During the trip hikes were done on the Grand Gap Loop, the Oscar Blevins Trail and the Twin Arches Trail. Debbie and David Flower and Ann Gray led the hikes. Lettie Burress reported on the Ramsey Cascades hike which had 12 participants. Marc Bernatti reported on a hike to Coker Creek Falls, Turtle Town Falls and McFarland Road. Lettie and Phillip Burress hiked on the Chimney’s Trail. Al reported on a 36 mile back packing trip to Fontana Dam. While hiking the Oswald Dome Trail, Clayton saw four wild turkeys.

**Upcoming hikes:** See below.

Since there was no further business, it was announced that the next meeting will be November 8<sup>th</sup> at Al Rymer’s home. Note: The starting time will be 6PM! The December 15<sup>th</sup> (Saturday night) meeting will be at Ann and Bill Gray’s home. Bring pot luck items. The meeting was adjourned by Clayton Pannell at 8:20.

**November Meeting: Thursday, November 8** at 6:00 PM at the home of Al Rymer. Bring crackers, sour cream, shredded cheese, salads, desserts, fruits, etc. as side dishes for the chili which Al will provide. The club will provide ice, beverages, plates and utensils.

**Directions:** Take Hwy. 411 north for 13 miles (from Hwy 64). Cross the Hiwassee River and take a right at Cowboys Restaurant onto Savannah Shores Road. Go .6 mile. The house is on the right down a long, paved driveway that passes a locomotive! From Hwy. 163, turn right onto 411 going south. Take left on Savannah Shores (in front of Cowboys). If you cross the Hiwassee River, you have gone too far.

## **Recent Hike & Event Reports**

### **October 5 – 7, Big South Fork Camping Trip**

Great weather greeted the 11 Cherokee Hiking Club members as they arrived at Bandy Creek Campground in Big South Fork Recreation Area, although the early bird was rained on as she set up her new tent. Late Friday afternoon, 5 members hiked the Oscar Blevins Loop Trail (3.7 miles). Points of interest on Oscar's farm were the original log cabin, barn, smoke house and out buildings. On Saturday, 5 members hiked the Grand Gap Loop Trail (6.8 miles). This was an easy hike which stayed near the rim of the gorge with beautiful views of the gorge and the river. Maples were in full color and acorns "rained" down throughout the trip, but no one was hit. Four members hiked the 1.4 mile round-trip trail to the Twin Arches. These arches are considered to be the largest in the Big South Fork and quite possibly the largest in the eastern United States and are well worth the effort to get there. A black snake crawled along the trail and hikers left him and climbed many steep wooden steps with hand rails and several log steps. Fall leaves were surprisingly beautiful. After this hike the group enjoyed a picnic lunch at Pickett State Park. Ann's chicken salad sandwiches were a treat and her five flavored pound cake was a hit around the campfires at night time. On Sunday, 4 members hiked the Angel Falls Rapid Trail. This was an easy 4 miles out-and-back following an old rail road bed along the river. The falls were actually a trickle as the river flow was near non-existent. However, the massive boulders and the high water lines indicated that this would be a very aggressive part of the river with normal water flows. We all missed Clayton!!! It took several people to try to replace him (2 to make the blueberry pancakes & 3 to lead the hikes, and 4 people to write up the trip). Debbie, Dave, and Ann led the hikes. Jane & Debbie made the pancakes, but they will never get a job at the Pancake House. We followed Clayton's tradition of early to bed and early to rise, and hike, hike, hike!!!! Campers and hikers were: Martha & Boyd Firestone, Ann & Bill Gray, Joanne Jackson, Jane Bohannon, Aggie Scott, Linda Davis, Ed Talone, Debbie & Dave Flower.

~submitted by Dave & Debbie Flower, Ann Gray, and Jane Bohannon

### **October 20 – Fort Mountain, GA Gahutti Trail**

We had a beautiful sunny fall day with the temperatures in the 60s and 70s for our 8 mile plus trek around the top of Fort Mountain near Chatsworth. Evette, Randy, and James enjoyed the beginnings of the fall color change as they hiked the valleys and ridges of the Gahutti trail. Fall was just beginning to show with a few trees turning crimson and a few others golden. Much to our surprise there was a little running water in some of the small streams along the top even though we are in the midst of an extreme drought. Along the way we heard several turkeys calling to each other - no I'm not referring to Randy and Evette - these were the wild variety that lives up there. At the end we treated ourselves to a fantastic view from the overlook near the old stone fort. The air was so clear we could see the steam rising from the cooling towers of Watts Bar nuclear plant which we estimated to be about 75 miles away. We could even see beyond that to the Cumberland Plateau up near Rockwood, TN. An item of note is that the State of Georgia has now built a very nice set of steps down to the overlook which makes it much easier to get to. Previously you had to climb up and down the rocks. All considered it was a great day to be able to get out and experience the beauty of the outdoors!!!

~submitted by James Anderson

## **October 27, Blood Mountain, GA**

Three hikers made the beautiful drive down below Blairsville, GA to Blood Mountain on a nice, but sometimes breezy, fall day for a trek up the mountain. We took the 0.7 mile Byron Herbert Reece Memorial Trail to the intersection with the AT and then followed it 1.5 miles up the mountain to the summit. We were blessed with clear skies, beautiful fall colors and long-distance views from the summit which is in excess of 4,400 feet. After enjoying lunch on the rocks at the summit, we decided to increase the distance of the hike by a couple of miles and return a different route. We hiked on the AT off the summit to Bird Gap and took the 1.8 mile Freeman Trail around the side of the mountain to rejoin the Reece trail at Flatrock Gap. We witnessed more great views to the south along the Freeman Trail and came across two snakes on this lesser-used path—a garter snake and a ring-necked snake. Total distance of the hike was a little over 6 miles. Hikers were Jack & Evette Strickland and hike leader Randy Morris.

~submitted by Randy Morris

## **Other Items of Interest**

**BMTA Annual Meeting:** November 2 – 4 in Blairsville, GA. Join members of the Benton-MacKaye Trail Association for three days of hiking & activities. The annual meeting will be Saturday, November 3 at Riverbend Restaurant at Pappy's. Cost for evening meal is \$12 per person (adults). Featured speaker is Bob Williams, with entertainment provided by Bert Kunze on accordion & guitar. Lodging is available. For additional information contact Linda Davis.

The SEFTC (Southeast Regional Foot Trails Coalition) needs volunteers. If you are interested in representing the Cherokee Hiking Club as Representative or as an Alternate, please contact me.

~submitted by Diana Ristom

The Cherokee Hiker is published monthly by Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. For additional information, please contact Evette Strickland, Newsletter Editor.

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