

# The Cherokee Hiker

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Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. • 2349 Varnell Road • Cleveland, TN 37311  
[www.cherokeehikingclub.org](http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org)

## ~CHC Calendar~

<b>May 4</b>	<b>Upper Oswald Dome</b> (Sunday hike)
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>May 17</b>	<b>Cheoah Bald</b>
<b>May 18</b>	<b>Rhododendron Trail</b> (Sunday hike)
<b>May 24</b>	<b>Pot Point</b>
<b>May 31</b>	<b>Bob's Bald</b>

**Welcome New Members!!!** Deborah Bond & Terry McCoy and Patricia Cornell.

## MAY HIKES

**May 4 – Upper Oswald Dome, 3+ Miles, Easy, w/500 ft. elevation gain.**

**Leaders:** Effaleda & Bob Lee, 568-2501

This will be a wildflower hike featuring pink lady slippers. Starting at the top of Oswald Dome, we will stroll along the almost level trail until it starts its steep descent to Quinn Springs. Some years, the leaders have observed as many as 74 blooming plants along this part of the trail; other years as few as 20.

The most difficult part of the trip will be the drive up to Oswald Dome. Although passable by automobiles, the unpaved mountain road has its rough spots. Parking is limited to five or six vehicles at the gate but hikers can be shuttled the last mile from a larger parking spot if necessary. This is an in and out hike; however, if anyone wants to hike all the way down to Quinn Springs and arrange their own car shuttle back to the top, that is OK.

**From Athens:** Meet at Comcast at 1:15 PM to carpool or meet at FS 77 (at the Chilhowee Campground sign) at 2:15.

**From Benton & Cleveland:** Take Hwy 64 East to Chilhowee campground sign (FS Road 77). Turn left on FS Road 77 and ascend the mountain 7.5 miles to another Chilhowee Campground sign. Instead of turning right and going downhill about 1/2 mile to Lake McKamy, continue straight ahead on FS Road 77 which becomes an unpaved road at the sign. This road eventually ends at the gate and parking space for Oswald Dome.

**May 17 – Cheoah Bald, 16 Miles, Difficult.**

**Leaders:** Bill & Diana Ristom, 476-2945

**May 18 – Rhododendron Trail, 2.5 Miles, Easy.**

**Leader:** Jane Bohannon, 745-9534 or cell 381-8388

This is a lovely, newly built 1.2 mile trail extending from the Thunder Rock/Ocoee Powerhouse #3 and follows the Ocoee coming out at the picnic area just below the Ocoee Whitewater Center. It is a very easy, (handicap accessible) walk with a beautiful section of board walk that juts out over the river where you can halt and gander at rafters and kayakers floating by. Athens and Etowah area hikers meet in Bi-Lo parking lot at Etowah @ 1:30 PM. Hikers in the Cleveland area meet at Ocoee Hardee's @ 1:45 PM and car pool from there. I will meet you at the trailhead @ 2:30 PM. **Directions:** Your turn off of Hwy 64 will be the Thunder Rock Campground sign, which directs you across a bridge. After crossing the bridge you will see the trail head sign on the left. There is a small parking lot at the trail head and also a small parking area near the Thunder Rock Campground entrance which is just across the gravel road.

**May 24 – Pot Point Loop, 10.2 Miles, Moderate or 13.4 Miles, Strenuous.**

**Leader:** Richard Harris, 253-6358 (h), 513/260-1184 (c); [HarrisRi@aol.com](mailto:HarrisRi@aol.com)

This 13.4 mile hike (short loop 10.2 miles) on the top of Signal Mountain near Chattanooga is part two in the series of hikes near the southern terminus of the Cumberland Trail. Part one was our hike earlier this year on the Mullins Cove Loop. Part 3, not yet scheduled, is from Signal Point to the Cumberland Trailhead. Though the Pot Point trail follows the Cumberland Escarpment, in many places it drops below the edge then back up, i.e., the trail "undulates" a lot. In some places, the hiking is quite rocky. The views looking down into the Tennessee River Gorge are fantastic and well worth the challenges of the trail. After the hike, we may again eat dinner at Pastoria's, the Italian Restaurant on Signal Mountain.

**Directions:** We will meet at the Park and Ride lot on the southwest corner of Exit 25 in Cleveland at 8:30 AM, or at the Burger King Parking Lot at the base of Signal Mountain on US 127 at about 9:15 AM, or at the Snooper's Rock Parking Area in Prentice Cooper State Forest around 10AM. Please contact the leader no later than Friday evening at 6PM. (Expanded info and pictures are on the website.)

**May 31 – Bob's Bald, 7 – 8 Miles, Moderate.**

**Leader:** Richard Harris, 253-6358 (h), 513/260-1184 (c); [HarrisRi@aol.com](mailto:HarrisRi@aol.com)

This moderate hike will take us from the Wolf-Laurel Trailhead up the Stratton Bald Trail to Stratton Bald, then over to Bob Bald where we will eat lunch. At over a mile high, the 360 degree vistas from the grassy bald are incredible. We will leave the bald via the Fodderstack/Benton MacKaye Trail to Beech Gap. After retrieving our cars from the starting point, we will go to the Harris's log home in the mountains for Cincinnati Chili. The basic hike is 8 miles, but we will offer a side hike to Naked Ground with a great view down into the Little Slickrock Creek watershed. This side hike adds another 500 ft. elevation gain on the hike back out.

**Directions:** We will meet at the Tellico Plains Hardee's at 9AM. (Expanded info and pictures are on the website.)

**\*NOTE:** As a courtesy, **ALWAYS** contact the hike leader **in advance** of the hike to facilitate planning.\*

## Club News

**April Meeting Minutes:** The annual joint meeting of the Cherokee & Hiwassee Hiking Clubs was held on Thursday, April 10. The Pannell's were again gracious in allowing us to meet at their church. Thank you to Kay Smallwood and Clayton for the time and effort expended to prepare and clean up for us. An invocation was given by Clayton followed by fellowship and a delicious potluck meal. Twenty-eight members and ten guests attended. The meeting was called to order by Clayton Pannell at 7:30 PM. Minutes of the March meeting and treasurer's report were omitted.

**New Business:** Matt Henry, Recreation Technician for the Forest Service and Leslie Smith, Recreation Manager for the Forest Service were introduced. Matt will be working with Ken on the Trails Program. Matt and Leslie thanked the clubs for our support and interest in trails and special thanks was extended to Ken Jones for his many hours he spends on trail maintenance. Randy Morris discussed Fontana Hiking Club activities and has information for anyone who wishes to participate.

**Old Business:** Ken Jones discussed the work trip on the John Muir Trail on National Trails Day scheduled for June 7. Participants will meet at the junction of Hwy 411 & Hwy 30 at 9:00 AM. Tee shirts and other tokens of appreciation will be given to participants.

**Hikes completed:** See Below

**Upcoming hikes:** See Above

Our guest speaker was James Anderson, who did a very interesting and entertaining presentation on his climb to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. James made an appeal for the people of Tanzania, who are in great need. James will collect and send good used camping and hiking equipment to the porters and guides who assist hikers up Mt. Kilimanjaro. James's guide wants to attend college so that he can seek employment with the Forest Service. James will send him a good used laptop computer if anyone would like to donate one.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

**May Club Meeting:** The Cherokee Club will have the May 8 monthly meeting picnic style at Fletcher Park in Cleveland at 6:30 PM. Bring a covered dish and a friend or two; drinks & ice provided by the club. Fletcher Park is located at 1575 Tennessee Nursery Road, NW. **Directions:** From Keith St., turn right onto Harrison Pike. Take HP to Tennessee Nursery Road. Turn right. Go approximately one mile. The park is on the left.

## Recent Hike & Event Reports

### **April 25- John Muir Clean-Up Hike**

The weather fooled everyone. It was a beautiful day as three devoted hikers tramped 3 miles from Childers Creek to Big Bend cleaning the John Muir Trail. The trail was almost litter-free as we had less than a quarter of a bag of garbage, so we turned our attention to trail maintenance. Debbie & Jane clipped and Clayton repainted the diamond blazes. We saw many familiar wild flowers and also some unique ones such as the columbine, lousewort, pink trillium and squaw root. We met several fishermen and 15 rafters "waiting for the river to rise." Hikers: Clayton Pannell, Jane Bohannon and Debbie Flower.

*~ submitted by Debbie Flower*

## **Upcoming Events**

### **June 7 - National Trails Day**

Come join us in celebrating National Trails Day with a work trip on the John Muir Trail / Benton MacKaye Trail. We will be working on constructing a new trail segment that fixes several long standing problem areas on the existing trail. The work will consist of digging in the dirt with pulaskis and mattocks in an area close to Towee Creek and the Hiwassee River. This event is sponsored by the Ocoee / Hiwassee Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest, Hiwassee Hiking Club, Cherokee Hiking Club, Chattanooga Hiking Club, and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association. Tools and safety gear will be provided, but remember to bring plenty of food and water. T-shirts will be awarded to the first 24 participants, and there will be other door prizes available to everyone who helps make this event a success. Meet at the intersection of US 411 and Hwy 30 in the vacant lot across from the store at 9 AM. For additional information, contact Ken Jones at 745-2451

NOTE: The hikes planned for the Sequoyah Hiking Club for the month of May are posted on the website at [www.sequoyahhikingclub.org](http://www.sequoyahhikingclub.org). Members of the Cherokee Hiking Club are also welcome on these hikes. There are quite a number of good hikes scheduled for this coming month. Don't miss out on the fun.

~Rick Harris, Webmaster

Phil and Lettie Burress have purchased a cabin in Cosby, TN that will also be available for rent. Besides being cozy, peaceful and secluded, it is ideally located near some great hiking trails. Check out the following websites to learn more: [www.mybearfootcabin.com](http://www.mybearfootcabin.com) or [www.rabbitcreekcabins.com](http://www.rabbitcreekcabins.com).

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