

The Cherokee Hiker

November 2008

Volume 24, Issue 11

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

~CHC Calendar~

November 1	Possum Creek Gorge
November 2	Twin Rocks Creek
November 8	Flatts Mountain Trail
November 13	Monthly Meeting
November 16	John Muir Trail (Reroute)
November 29	Linda Davis Memorial Walk

Welcome New Members!!! Maggie & Jim Griffin, Mike & Phyllis Callaway and Kathy Seymour

NOVEMBER HIKES & OTHER EVENTS

November 1 – Possum Creek Gorge, 8.8 miles, Moderate to Difficult.

Leader: Randy Morris

We will hike part of the Possum Gorge Segment of the Cumberland Trail (CT) to Imodium Falls for a total of 8.8 miles. There is one stream crossing over Little Possum Creek which at the time of the hike “preview” on Sunday, October 26 was easily “rock-hopped”. The section had excellent fall colors which may even improve by the hike date. There is some elevation gain in the hike (as the trail winds in and out of “hollers”) but no prolonged strenuous climbs. Although the drought has caused the stream flow to the waterfall to be significantly reduced, the C-shaped falls are quite unusual and beautiful. We may have further information and pictures of the hike, garnered from the scout hike, sent in an email and/or available on the club’s website prior to the hike date. Good information on the hike can also be accessed on the CT website at www.cumberlandtrail.org.

We will meet at the commuter parking lot off of Exit 25 in Cleveland at 8:30 a.m. for the trip over to Sale Creek to begin the hike. If participants are interested we may also have an early dinner in Dayton after the hike. If interested in attending, please call Randy by Friday evening, October 31 at 338-9464.

November 2 – Twin Rocks Creek, 2.5 miles, Easy.

Leaders: Effaleda & Bob Lee

This 2 1/2 mile hike located near Spring City is a spur trail that makes a loop off the lower portion of the Piney River trail. Fall colors should still be good at this low elevation. Views from the twin rocks are good. The hike is rated easy with about 400 feet of elevation gain. A wire caged ladder must be climbed to reach the rocks.

To Carpool: Meet at Belk's Plaza (east end) in Athens at 1:15 p.m. Directions to Trailhead: At Spring

City, turn right on 68 and drive one mile and turn left on Shut In Gap road, the last road to the left before crossing the Piney River bridge. Continue one more mile and park at the picnic area on the right. For those driving directly to the trailhead, please arrive by 2:15. November 2nd is the first day of standard time and we should be off the trail well before dark. This is a joint hike of the Hiwassee and Cherokee Hiking Clubs.

November 8 – Flatts Mountain Trail, 6.2 miles, Moderate.

Leader: Brenda Harris

We will hike from Eagle Gap to Beehouse Gap with a car shuttle, therefore most of the trail will be downhill. Along the Flatts Mountain ridgeline, the views of the Indian Boundary Lake and the Citico Wilderness are awesome!

Everyone is invited back to the Harris' house for supper. Please bring whatever you want to drink and Brenda will supply the rest. You are also invited to ease your aches and pains in the hot tub (bring a bathing suit).

Directions: Plan to leave the Etowah Hardee's at 9 AM or the Tellico Plains Hardee's at 9:30 AM.

November 16 – John Muir Trail Reroute, 3 miles, Difficult.

Leader: Clayton Pannell

Meet in the parking lot across from the Hiwassee Corner Market at Hwy 411 and Hwy 30 at 2 PM. We will car shuttle to the parking lot at the Appalachian Power House, after leaving some vehicles at Towee Creek parking lot. We will hike up the old John Muir trail to where the relocate joins the John Muir and then hike the new trail back to Towee Creek. This hike is about 3 miles and I rate it difficult because of some steep climbs. The leaves should be down and I look forward to seeing the view from the new trail.

November 29 – Linda Davis Memorial Walk (Hwy 153 Dam to Coolidge Park), 8+ miles, Easy.

Leader: Belinda Mantooth

Join us for a Memorial Hike in honor of club member Linda Davis, avid hiker and outdoor enthusiast. Enjoy Chattanooga's unique park that runs along the Tennessee River and work off that Thanksgiving Dinner. We will hike 8 miles with a shuttle; approximate hike time will be 3 hours.

Pack a picnic lunch and dine al fresco while taking in the scenic beauty (weather permitting) or we can have lunch after the hike at one of many local restaurants. Suggestions for restaurants include Rembrandt's, Between the Bridges Café, Durty Nelly's, City Café, Bea's Restaurant or Anker's Hoagies. We will vote.

Meet @ 9:00 AM at Candies Lane commuter lot beside the Shell Station in Cleveland (exit 25) to carpool. Or link up at 10:00 AM at Coolidge Park. Please call in advance so we can decide picnic v. restaurant.

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

Club News

October Meeting Minutes: The monthly meeting of the Cherokee Hiking Club was held on October 9, 2008 at 5:30 PM at the home of Al Rymer. Thank you, Al, for sharing your place by the Hiwassee with us. There were 26 members and 8 guests present. Following a wiener roast & potluck, President Randy

Morris called the business session to order at 7:15 p.m. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Jane Bohannon and approved as read. Ann Gray reported the current balance.

New Business: A nominating committee for choosing 2009 club officers was appointed. The following members were chosen to serve: Debbie Flower, Martha Firestone, and Belinda Mantooth. Their recommendations will be presented at the next meeting.

Old Business: Club tee shirts are still available in all sizes for a cost of \$15.00.

Boyd Firestone made a motion to support the by-laws and mission of the Southeast Foot Trails Coalition and Marc Bernatti seconded the motion. Rick Harris will follow up on how much financial support the SEFTC will need from the club. The vote was unanimous for supporting the SEFTC initiative. Since we need a second representative, Randy will ask Diana Ristom serve.

We followed up on Richard Carroll's request for leading hikes for the Cleveland area Boy Scouts. There were no volunteers from the club.

Ken Jones and Clayton Pannell discussed the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition proposal for wilderness designation. Concern was expressed about future clearing of the massive dead hemlocks without the use of power tools and the continuous need for clearing and brushing out trails. There were also concerns about limiting the number of group participants on hikes and campouts and lack of access to wilderness areas if the proposal is passed.

A paper ballot vote will be conducted at the November meeting as to whether the club will support the SAFC Wilderness Proposal. INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED WILDERNESS EXPANSION CAN BE ACCESSED VIA THE CLUB WEBSITE AT www.cherokeehikingclub.org. **Please review the information.** Absentee voting will be allowed. (Form & instructions at end of newsletter.)

Upcoming hikes: See Above.

Hikes completed: See Below

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

November Club Meeting: The November meeting will be held at Antonio's Corner Restaurant, 3700 Michigan Avenue in Cleveland at **6:00PM** on Thursday, November 13. **Directions:** Antonio's is located at the corner of Michigan Avenue & Stuart Road, east of the YMCA. For additional information call 559-9716. For a change of pace, we will order from a menu rather than bringing a potluck dish. The restaurant features Italian & Greek cuisine and also pastries!

Recent Hike & Event Reports

October 4 – Cleveland State Work Trip

A total of 15 workers made a good turnout for the opening of the new trail connector at Cleveland State. Eight members greeted seven from CSCC, including four students, before breaking into two groups – one brushing and one digging - and heading up the ridge. The additional help allowed us to get double the work done, much to the delight of Suzanne Bennett, CSCC's horticulturalist who oversees the 80-acre grounds.

President Randy Morris stood with CSCC President Dr. Carl Hite at the repaired trailhead marker to get things started. Both expressed appreciation for the volunteers' efforts. Dr. Hite, it turns out, is a skilled

and hardworking trail builder (though he may not have been aware of that before Saturday!). He, Randy and others spoke informally during this outing about extending and improving the trail as a community resource, and possibly connecting it to the Cleveland/Bradley County Greenway.

Many thanks to all who contributed to making this first project, the restoration of a trail loop, a big success. On this outing (visitors underlined) were: Chuck Barkley, Suzanne Bennett, Jane Bohannon, Alena Campbell, Joseph Campbell, David Flower, Debbie Flower, Edmond Gray, Carl Hite, Katie Humphrys, Joanne Jackson, Randy Morris, Eric Richards, Bill Ristom and leader Diana Ristom. Special thanks also to Gary Smith, who's done a lot of work on the trail but couldn't make this event.

~submitted by Diana Ristom

October 12 - Bluff Trail at Lookout Mountain

On an absolutely magnificent day for a hike, four ladies and Edmond Gray enjoyed a relaxing day on the bluff of Lookout Mountain. How does he always manage that? The views were incredible and the company most stimulating. Joanne Jackson, Belinda Mantooh and Verna Townsend followed Gail Gray on this beautiful afternoon. We used a car shuttle from Point Park to the trailhead behind Covenant College. A sightseeing tour was presented on the way up to the trailhead and again when we went back to retrieve the second vehicle. Joanne and Verna were on their own after the hike. Whether they returned to Cleveland and Athens is unknown. Hopefully they didn't stray too far off the beaten path.

~submitted by Gail Gray

October 18 – John Muir Trail Clean-up

On a clear cool morning three club members came out to pick up trash and to do some lopping on our section of the John Muir trail from Childers Creek to Big Bend. Some of the leaves had already fallen; the wet leaves made for a soft and quiet walk on the trail. Our section of trail is in very good shape with no new blow downs. We only picked up one bag of trash; the trail was very clean. After the work/hiking trip we stopped at the picnic area between Reliance and Hwy 411, a great place for lunch. Thanks to Jane Bohannon and Verna Thompson for their help.

~submitted by Clayton Pannell

October 25 – Hangover Trail

One shy of the 12-person group size limit, eleven hikers set out from Beech Gap at 9:30 AM as a big storm system was beginning to clear. Though some of the earlier going was in a gray cloud bank, the only water to moisten our clothing came from the overhanging brush. At the overlook, conditions were breezy and quite cool, but with some warm sun and about half the full view. Surprisingly, the leaves hadn't yet reached peak color. (We need to go back in two weeks!)

There was a lot of activity on the trail, notably a large scout group and several from the [Atlanta Outdoor Club](#). At the meadow, we met a couple who found themselves in late afternoon with not enough time to make it back down the mountain by dark. Good Samaritan Rick Harris gave them a ride after they hiked out with us. Total time on the trail was 8.5 hours, then several headed to the Tellicafe for dinner to round out a fine day.

There were nine members and two guests (underlined) - James Anderson, Mark and Donna Cameron, Tom and MacKenzie Fetter, Rick and Brenda Harris, Randy Morris, Bill and Diana Ristom, and Kathy Seymour. Note MacKenzie, age 9, made it with no problem. We hope she and her dad join us on more outings in the future!

Lost & Found: A pair of white-framed eyeglasses was left at Al's house at the OCT meeting. Call 506-9350 or 263-5839 to claim.

Cherokee Hiking Club Vote on Supporting Wilderness Additions within the Cherokee National Forest

_____ Yes, please send a letter from the club supporting the additions to the Cherokee National Forest wilderness areas of Big Frog, Little Frog, Citico/Slickrock Creek and Bald River.

_____ No, I oppose sending a support letter from the club.

To vote by proxy, send a copy of the ballot to Randy Morris via mail at the address below. The envelopes will be opened and counted at the club meeting on November 13. Only ballots from 2008 club members will be counted, and you must have a return address on the envelope to ensure that the ballot is from a club member. Envelopes will be opened at the meeting and mailed ballots will be added to the ones collected at the meeting. Ballots must be received by USPS mail no later than Wednesday, November 12. Send proxy ballots to:

**CHC/Randy Morris
198 Crews Drive
Benton, TN 37307**

To vote by proxy you must follow the directions below the ballot EXACTLY.

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