

The Cherokee Hiker

June 2009 Volume 25, Issue 6

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

~CHC Calendar~

June 3, Wed	Conausaga River Trail
June 6, Sat	Trails Day BMTA Walk-through
June 13, Sat	Raven Cliffs (5 mi) Mod
June 13-20	Buffalo River Trip – TN Valley Canoe Club
June 20, Sat	Cancelled. Mt LeConte
June 27-28, S/S	Virginia Creeper Bike Trip (17-34 mi)
June 27, Sat	BMTA – TN/NC Worktrip

Welcome New Members!!! Sheri Stewart, Athens, TN

Many Thanks!!

Cherokee Hiking Club Members have been the recipient of many heart-felt thanks for good deeds done within the local area lately. Nice thank you notes have been received and I felt it deserving to share these notes with the membership as a whole. The following notes have been received:

- “Thank you so very much for your club’s recent donation to the Food Pantry here at Wesley Memorial UMC. Anytime we receive a donation that is a group effort, we appreciate everyone involved for their caring and support.

Please keep our mission, its volunteers and the people who turn to us for help in your prayers.”

--Sincerely, Brenda Tullock, Food Pantry Volunteer

Note: This was in response to our monetary donations during the April Joint Meeting.

- “Dear Randy & The Cherokee Hiking Club,

Thank you for your participation at “It’s All About the Green!” It was a lot of fun to have you there. I hope that the club will participate again next year. Thanks for all your support!”

---Sincerely---Suzanne Bennett, Cleveland State Community College

Note: I would also like to personally thank James Anderson, Jane Bohannon and Evette Strickland for volunteering their time to “man the booth” and for bringing display items to share. Also, Rick Harris deserves much praise for his fantastic PowerPoint loop presentation showcasing hike club activities. - --Randy Morris

JUNE HIKES & OTHER EVENTS

June 3, 2009 Wed. Conasauga River Trail, northern terminus in Cohutta Wilderness, GA. 6 miles moderate. Leader: Karen Young

The trail was changed from Tearbitches to Conasauga River Trail due to strenuousness of the former. The Conasauga River Trail in GA differs from the one near Jacks River in TN. It drops steeply to the river in the first mile, then levels out and stays with the water. There are numerous crossings so be prepared for some wading. The last time I did this hike I managed to cross 6 times without getting my feet wet, but that could change! We will go approx. 6 miles round trip and stop for lunch. Bring food, water, raingear, and swim if you like. We will meet around 10. Call leader about meeting place.

June 6, Sat. Trails Day BMTA Walk-through. *Please see web site www.cherokeehikingclub.org*

June 13, Sat. Raven Cliffs (5 mi) Mod – Leader: Gail Gray

This trail is on the Richard Russell Scenic Highway (GA 348) below Blairsville GA. This hike is a little over 5 miles round trip. I would consider the hike as moderate. There are some ups and downs, but it is certainly not strenuous. We will have the sheer pleasure of passing through Booger Holler and can stop at the Booger Holler Store for a really exciting shopping experience.

We will pass numerous cascades and small waterfalls and finally by a 35-foot waterfall. The 125-foot cliffs are visible from quite a distance away. We will lunch at the cliffs.

We will leave Hardee's in Ocoee at 8:30 a.m. If the hikers wish, we can hike the shorter trail at Dukes Creek Falls (2.2 miles round trip) after the longer hike. It is only 1.3 miles south of the Raven Cliffs Trail. Hike leader: Gail Gray

June 13-20 Buffalo River Trip – TN Valley Canoe Club. Leaders: Gary and Dee Harwell

June 20, Sat *Trip cancelled due to schedule conflict.*

June 27-28, Sat/Sun Virginia Creeper Bike Trip (17-34 mi). Leaders: Gary and Dee Harwell.

June 27, Sat BMTA TN/NC Worktrip. *Please see website www.cherokeehikingclub.org*

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

Club News

June/July meeting: It was decided at the May meeting to have a combined meeting for June and July. It will be held SUNDAY, JUNE 28, at 7:30 P.M. at the home of Bill and Ann Gray. Please bring a covered dish to share. At dusk, enjoy the big fireworks display at the Tri-State Exhibition Center from the Gray's front yard.

May Hikes:

May 16, 2009 - Falls Branch Trail Hike Leader: Randy Morris

The sun broke through the clouds and the weather was nice for the hike down to view the 80 foot waterfall. With the sun shining through the treetops and all of the recent rainfall, the falls were quite spectacular. We enjoyed a few late spring wildflowers such as jack-in-the-pulpit along the way and enjoyed viewing some old-growth trees while walking on the trail "littered" with silverbell blossoms. Unfortunately the nice stand of hemlocks in the area has already succumbed to the hemlock wooly adelgid that is literally wiping them out in the area. After eating a snack at the base of the falls (which was quite slippery) we hiked back up the trail and went down to the Harris' for the club meeting and a nice meal of burgers, hotdogs and delicious side dishes prepared by club members. Making the hike were club members Jane Bohannon, Sunni Campbell, Rick Harris (and Jake the golden retriever), Kenneth and Jolynn Johnson, Sandra Hostetter, Bill and Carol Kamm, Ruth Gafford and Sheri Stewart of the Hiwassee Hiking Club and hike leader Randy Morris.

May 24, 2009: Rhododendron Trail. Hike Leader: Jane Bohannon

Twelve hikers and one dog set out at 2:45 p.m. for the Ocoee Whitewater Center via the Rhododendron Trail. Sheri Stewart is training little Sophie to be a hiker dog and she is doing very well. We did a total of 3.5 miles watching rafters enjoy the whitewater as we walked. Since it was Memorial Day weekend, there were many fun seekers on the river, several people just relaxing along the river, others playing in the river, and some picnickers. We bought treats from Mayfield's cooler and checked out the new café in the Whitewater Center. We also checked out the golf cart which Mickey Walls uses while doing volunteer work there. We want to thank Mickey for clearing the trail last week to make our hiking easier. There was a lot of Mountain Laurel blooming, but it was too early for the Rhododendron. We saw a garter snake about two feet long beside the trail. I think we caused the little snake to "pffff" since when startled they often secrete a foul smelling liquid from the anal glands.

There was no rain until driving home. Then there was scattered heavy rain.

Cherokee Hiking Club Minutes- May, 2009

May 16, 2009 at Brenda and Rick Harris's Home

The monthly meeting of the Cherokee Hiking Club was held on May 16, 2009 at 2:45 p.m following the Fall Branch Falls Hike. We would like to thank Brenda and Rick Harris for hosting the meeting at their home at Tellico. Fifteen members and three guests attended. Following a delicious meal of grilled burgers and hot dogs along with potluck items, President Randy Morris called the business meeting to order at 3:50 p.m. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Jane Bohannon and were approved as read. Treasurer Ann Gray reported the current balance. Randy thanked Ann for her time spent on the application to the State of Tennessee for Tax exemption for the club.

Old business: Rick Harris encouraged more participation with the BMT walk throughs which are to be done for National Trails Day which is June 6. Tee shirts will be given to participants. The report of your walk through must be received by Rick Harris or Eric Eades by July 1, although your observation of your section can be done any day prior to July 1. It does not have to occur on June 6. Rick handed out forms to be completed which will be used to describe the condition of each section of trail.

Rick gave a report on the number of hits on the club website which showed an increase in each category. Randy read a "Thank You" note from Suzanne Bennett for the club's participation in the CSCC "IT\$ Good To Be Green Festival." Our exhibit consisted of Rick's power point loop and Taylor Morris's

trifold all of which described the club's activities. There was also a display of small items used for hiking, camping, canoeing, and trail maintenance. The club also received a card from Clayton Pannell's church regarding our donation to their Food Pantry.

Rick and Brenda reported on the SEFTC conference which was held May 7-10. Brenda attended a Wilderness First Aid Class and did some hiking.

New business: Rick discussed the possibility of having rack cards printed for promoting the club. He liked the cards which the Hiwassee Club had printed. Jane will check on the cost and sponsors for the cards.

Rick showed a sample of the new Tennessee license plates which have Appalachian Trail logo on them. The cost is \$35.00. You may check CherokeeHikingClub.Org for more information on the license plates.

Hikes completed: Ann Gray reported on Leon Bate's wild flower hike. Randy reported on Three Forks to Skennah Creek and the John Muir Cleanup. Jane reported on the Piney River Trail.

Rick reported on maintenance which included work on the bridge across Citico Creek, the Indian Boundary loop trail, Brush Mountain Trail, and the Flats Mountain Trail.

Upcoming hikes: Check your newsletter, webpage, and email regarding upcoming hikes.

Next meeting: The June/July meeting will be at Ann and Bill Gray's home in Cleveland on Sunday June 28. Directions to their home will appear in the June newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. fully submitted, Jane Bohannon, Secretary

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