

The Cherokee Hiker

March 2010 Volume 26, Issue 3

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

~CHC Hike Calendar~

March 7, 2010 – Sunday. Turtle Town Falls, 3.7 mi roundtrip

March 13, 2010 – Saturday. Metcalf Bottoms to Tremont, 9.2 mi roundtrip

March 20, 2010 – Saturday. Beech Bottom Trail, 9.4 mi roundtrip

March 21, 2010 – Sunday. Scenic Spur Trail, 3.5 mi roundtrip

MARCH HIKES

March 7, Sunday – Turtle Town Falls, 3.7 miles, rated moderate to easy. We'll meet at the trail head in the Turtle Town Falls parking lot at 2 PM on Sunday, March 7, 2010. Call me at 423 261-2573 if you wish to come hike.

With Hwy 64 closed in the Ocoee Gorge due to the rock slide, hikers coming from Tennessee will come through Tellico Plains to get on Hwy 68 South. The Hardee's in Ocoee, Etowah or Tellico Plains are all good meeting places for anyone wanting to car pool. Anyone coming from GA or NC can meet up at the Ducktown Hardee's and head North on Hwy 68.

Directions:

- From Tellico Plains, go South on Hwy 68. Approximately 12 miles from the Coker Creek Welcome Center/Gift Shop, you'll cross a new bridge over the RR tracks. Take the second right, (on Underwood Rd at the Farner Post Office-look for the Flag).
- Cross the RR tracks, bear right and turn left on Duggan Rd.
- Bear left onto Farner Rd. The entrance is 3/4 miles on the right.
- Once you enter, keep driving until you cross a wet bridge, and the parking lot will be just ahead.
- Coming from Ducktown on Hwy 68, the Farner Post Office will be approximately 10 miles on the left.

Bring a snack and enough water. Pets are always welcome. For more information about Turtle Town Falls, log onto last year's hike write up at <http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org/hike2009-03-15.htm>.

March 13, Saturday – Metcalf Bottoms to Tremont, 9.2 miles with a car shuttle, rated moderate-strenuous

Note: This was rescheduled from December due to extreme cold/ice.

Hike leader: Randy Morris, 338-9464. Call no later than 9 p.m. on Friday, March 12 for meeting places and times.

This hike will involve three trails and include a 10 mile car shuttle in the Great Smoky Mountains

National Park. We will begin in the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area, cross the road and begin our ascent on the Curry Mountain Trail. We will gain approximately 1,200 feet over the 3.3 miles of the Curry Mountain Trail and enjoy great views of Cove Mountain and later Sugarlands Mountain and Mt. LeConte in the distance if weather conditions cooperate. We will then connect with the Meigs Mountain Trail for 1.9 miles to the Lumber Ridge Trail for 4 miles—descending approximately 1,200 feet into Tremont and the other end of our shuttle. The Meigs Mountain and Lumber Ridge trails also afford some great winter-time views. We will also take a short detour to the Huskey and Ownby family cemetery along the way. Total elevation gain is about 1,500 to 1,600 feet. All stream crossings are easy rock-hops unless there have been torrential rains just before the hike. I am rating this hike as moderately strenuous to strenuous based on the climbs and length of the hike. The trails are in great shape and the ascent and descent of the ridges are long and steady. We will have dinner on the return trip in either Townsend or Maryville. Since the drive is long, we will get a little earlier start than normal.

March 20, Saturday - Beech Bottom Trail, 9.4 miles round trip, rated moderate

Hike leaders: Carol and Bill Kamm. We'll leave from the **Ocoee Dam Deli** on Hwy 64 at 9:30 a.m. This hike will end up at the top of Jacks River Falls. Pack a lunch. For those who'd like to continue the fellowship, we'll eat supper at the Ocoee Dam Deli. For more information, directions and/or to carpool, please contact the hike leaders at 423-790-4547 (cell)

March 21, Sunday – Scenic Spur Trail, 3.5 miles, rated easy.

Hike leader: Randy Morris. Please call Randy at 338-9464 by Saturday evening March 20 to confirm attendance or if you have any questions.

This trail, located near the Hwy 30/64 intersection, goes to a nice waterfall in the Rock Creek Gorge Scenic Area. Although the hike is easy, please be aware there are two stream crossings which could require wading if there has been recent rainfall—especially given the recent wet weather. When dry, these are easy “rock-hops”. The trail head is on Hwy. 30 about 100 yards from US 64. Given the recent weather the stream cascades and waterfall should be beautiful. We will leave from the overflow parking lot at Hardee's in Ocoee at 1:45 p.m. Call Randy at 338-9464 by Saturday evening March 20 to confirm attendance or if you have any questions.

Other hikes in March: be sure to check the club website at <http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org> for more March hikes that may be planned on short notice.

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

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

March 11, Thursday – Monthly Club Meeting, 6:30 pm, at the Baptist Student Center at Cleveland State Community College. *Directions are as follows:*

We will meet in the large multipurpose area as we enter the Baptist Student Center building. The address is **1475 Norman Chapel Rd. N.W.** and is off Peerless Rd.(turning onto Norman Chapel at Wesley Methodist Church) Large sign in front says Baptist Student Center. It is a large rustic building (dark brown) on the immediate left as you face the fork on the campus entrance to CSCC. Park in front or in the extra parking in the CSCC parking lot across from the BSC.

From I-75 North: take Cleveland Exit 25. Turn right off the exit (east). Turn left at the first traffic light (Westside Drive) and go approximately one mile until the road ends at Norman Chapel Rd. Turn left on Norman Chapel (going under the interstate). The Baptist Student Center is immediately on the left.

General note: The BSC is directly across the street facing the CSCC main campus.

April 8, Thursday – the April Monthly Club Meeting. This meeting will be the annual joint meeting with the **Hiwassee Hiking Club**. The evening’s speaker will be club member **Russ Miller** who will speak on wilderness survival (as well as a brief discussion of first aid). Russ is a very experienced wilderness safety consultant with vast experiences—including being the Risk for the 1996 Olympics on the Ocoee River. He teaches classes for whitewater guides, industry first responders and others—including the class “Wilderness First Responder”. For more information, check out his website at www.wsc2.com. I encourage you to come to fellowship with the Hiwassee club, enjoy the great food, and hear Russ’s presentation.

General topics from our Club President:

- At the February meeting the club’s Facebook site was discussed. A topic “under advisement” is what, if anything, the club policy on hike pictures being displayed on the Facebook site should be. If you would like to voice your opinion I encourage you to come to the March meeting when it will be discussed again.
- If you haven’t paid your 2010 dues, please do so ASAP. We plan to drop members from the active club roll who have not paid by the end of March.

---Randy Morris

April 2-3, Friday-Saturday – 2-Day Sustainable Trails Workshop

9:00 a.m. to 3:30-ish p.m. This event, taking place in Tellico Plains, Tennessee, is sponsored by the **Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen (SABCH)**. The focus will be on maintaining and constructing heavy-duty trails that can support large animals, along with human traffic.

Purpose: The purpose of this event is an educational teaching experience for volunteers and forest/park service personnel covering trail layout/design, construction and maintenance. It will not cover the crew leader experience due to time constraints. The workshop is designed around modern, low impact natural surface trail design and construction practices and complies with current specifications by most land agencies.

Instructor: Walter Bready is the Georgia Trails Education Specialist, taking on this position in 2005. He worked for 24 years in the computer service business, and more recently serves in a field staff position for the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association. He had worked on natural surface trails for many years and then in 2001 completed crew leader training, studying trail design and crew leadership with Mike Riter. Currently living in Woodstock, Georgia he is on the staff at Gainesville State College, where he teaches a trail school for trail enthusiasts and advocacy group members.

Course: Textbook of Trail Solutions will be included in fee. Friday instruction will cover trail design and layout. Saturday instruction will cover construction and maintenance. Mornings will be in classroom situation. Afternoon session will be field application-wear appropriate attire and have rain gear handy. Short test, 10 true/false and 10 multiple choice will given each day. Class size is limited to 16 students.

Cost: Cost will be **\$60** for the two day training and lunches. If you can only make one of the two days, please call Joanne Mitchell at (423) 337-6194. Preference will be given to those who sign up for two days. A lunch is provided each day. If you have dietary restrictions, please note on the registration form, attached to this newsletter.

Driving Directions:

- From Madisonville, go East on Hwy 68 to Tellico Plains.
- Just past the Hardee's, turn LEFT onto Cherohala Skyway and follow the signs to Tellico Ranger Station.
- When you get to the Ranger Station, stay to the right and go to the parking area behind the white buildings.
- Driving time from the Hardee's to the Ranger Station is about 10 minutes.



For more info on the SABCH, see www.SABCH.org
 Or call (423) 337-6194 (landline)
 (865) 719-4573 Verizon Cell

April 9-11, Friday-Sunday – “Spring in Tennessee”

The **Alabama Wildflower Society**, to which CHC members **Leon and Pat Bates** also belong, is hosting an early wildflower adventure, to be led by Leon & Pat. CHC members are welcome. The following blurb about this event is from the Spring newsletter of the AWS (Vol 40, Issue 1). (*Emphases are mine*):

This trip to the southern Blue Ridge will provide AWS members with a glimpse of familiar plants and animals in a mountainous region.

Event headquarters will be at the **Whitewater Inn** (www.ocoewhitewaterinn.com), located at the intersection of US 64 and US 411 at Ocoee. Contact the Whitewater Inn for reservations (1-888-716-2633). Rates for nonsmoking rooms with two queen beds are **\$85.99** plus tax (\$10 each additional person). Make reservations for this meeting one month prior to the date if possible; however April is a relatively slow month, so reservations may be available later. A continental breakfast is available at the Whitewater, plus other restaurants are nearby.

An alternate lodging site is the **Black Bear Cove Resort** (www.blackbearcove.com), phone 866-438-2633. Accommodations are more upscale, but they do not serve breakfast, and no eating establishments are nearby. There is camping at the resort.

Registration for members begins at 4PM Friday in the motel conference room. Members who arrive on Friday are welcomed to Pat and Leon's house in Laurelwood for heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Directions to the Bates house:

- From Chattanooga take I-75 North to Exit 20 (Cleveland).
- Turn right onto the APD 40 bypass.
- Follow the APD 40 bypass and exit to the Cherokee National Forest at Hwy 64 East.
- Follow Hwy 64 for approximately 8 miles to the intersection with Hwy 411. The Whitewater Inn (120 Whitewater Drive) is on the left opposite McDonald's.

Dinner/Meeting:

- The site for the dinner and program is the Black Bear Cove Resort, located approximately 11.2 miles north of the Whitewater on US 411.
- Turn right onto TN 30 just past the start of the four-lane US 411.
- Turn left in approximately 0.3 miles.

Dinner includes one meat, three sides, and dessert with salad, rolls, and drink. The cost is **\$18** (*Editor's note*: this is a corrected amount) and should be sent to Margie Anderton, 271 County Road 68, Killen, AL 35645 as soon as possible (there is a deadline of one month ahead). NOTE: If you send monies to Margie for both trips at once, please designate what amounts apply to each trip.

Trips:

On Saturday, we will trek along the banks of the scenic Hiwassee River and view wildflowers in adjacent cove hardwood forests. We will begin our trip at the Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park nature trail, and then we will travel to a nearby USFS picnic area for lunch. (Be sure to bring a lunch). After lunch, we will travel upstream to the Childer's Creek Trailhead of the John Muir Trail. Here we will walk in the footsteps John Muir made in 1867 when he explored this area and described the Hiwassee as having "forest walls vine-draped and flowery as Eden". This riparian habitat also supports colonies of the threatened and endangered Ruth's Golden Aster. Note: these trail sections are relatively level and were designed to accommodate senior citizens.

After returning to the Trailhead, wildflower members and friends will have the option of returning to the Inn or taking a scenic side-trip upriver via auto to the upper Hiwassee. We will return to the Black Bear Cove Resort in time for the dinner and program at 6PM.

On Sunday, we will travel east on Hwy 64 along the Ocoee River and Parksville Lake to the Cherokee National Forest and turn left on FS 77 just past the Ocoee District Ranger Station on the way to the Chilhowee Recreation Area at McCamy Lake. The "CCC" Boys built this small lake in the 30's and added several connecting trails. A round trip of approximately 3 miles to Benton Falls will provide a chance to view a 65-foot waterfall plus wildflowers within numerous forest habitats. Alternative short trails will be available. Bring lunch and a \$3 user fee per car for this USFS recreation site.

For those interested a Sunday afternoon trip is available.

Editor's note: if anyone is interested in finding out more about the Alabama Wildlife Society, you can visit their website at www.alwildflowers.org. The chapter to which Leon and Pat Bates belong is the **Shoals Chapter**. You can also contact Leon or Pat at 256-710-5508 (Leon's cell) or 256-710-6509 (Pat's cell). Below is a picture of a Yellow Trillium, one of the many beautiful flowers you may see on this excursion:



May 20-23, Thursday-Sunday - Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition Meeting in Monteagle, TN. This

is a repeat of the announcement in the February Club newsletter. The SEFTC meeting is a multi-day fun-filled conference with daily hikes and informative sessions relating to hiking trails, trail maintenance and building better hiking clubs. There will be keynote speakers on Thursday night as well as at the end of the conference. Since the conference is being held on top of Monteagle Mountain at the Dubose Center, the hikes will be at such places as Fiery Gizzard. As the final schedule is developed, it will be posted on the website, www.southeastfoottrails.org. Please plan on attending. *The price goes up on April 1!*

For more information and to register, please see the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition website, mentioned above.

New Benton-MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) Guidebook: our own **Rick Harris**, who is also our webmaster, helped to author the newly published BMTA Guidebook, which focuses on the TN/NC Section of the B-M Trail. The picture at the right shows the front page. Rick received no profits from this effort; all the profits have gone to the BMTA. The Guidebook can be purchased for **\$10** off the BMTA website (www.bmta.org), at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center, the gift shop next to the CS Visitor Center, the motorcycle shop in Tellico Plains, and the Tellico Kats sandwich shop in Tellico Plains. It also may be available at other local visitor centers, bookstores, and outdoor stores in the area. CHC member **Ken Jones** is working on getting it into all these spots locally.

Join the rest of the Cherokee Hikers on Facebook! Our presence is growing on Facebook; we had around 8 members when the February newsletter came out, and now we are up to 40! To connect, press the CTRL button on your keyboard, and then click the image below to navigate to the CHC Facebook page.

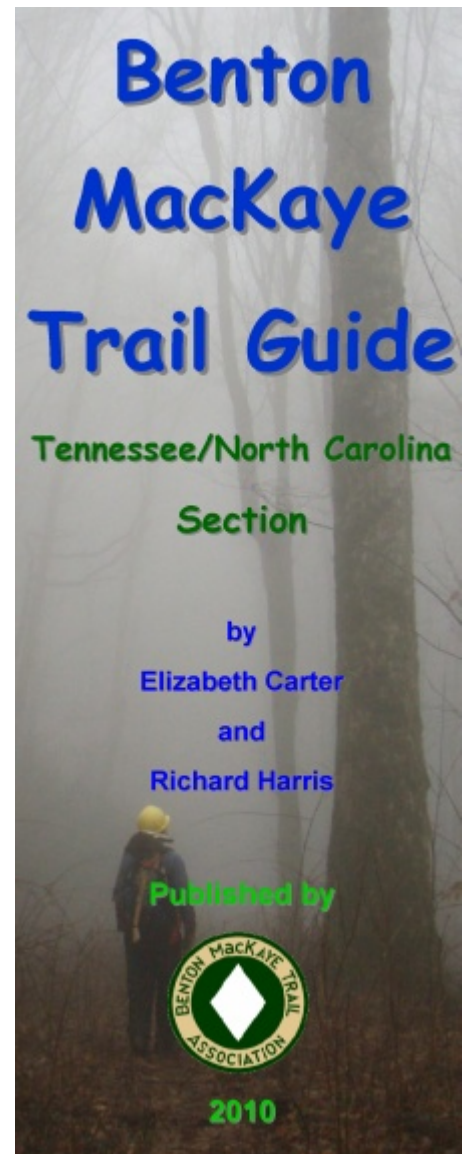


You can post your hike commentaries and any other anecdotes, and see what others in the CHC and other nature-oriented organizations in the area are doing. Any member in the Club can join. You must first join Facebook, which is free. At this time we are only posting graphics or pictures that do not show members, in order to preserve their privacy on this widely used social networking site. Also, we ask that members refrain from posting members' addresses, phone numbers or email addresses. If you need any help joining Facebook, or manipulating the privacy settings on FB, you can contact Rebecca Levings, the newsletter editor, at reblev155@aol.com or lively@myarbonne.com.

Recent Hike & Event Reports

January 31, Sunday - Athens Regional Park

It was thirty-seven degrees and sunny as we started the hike along the lake, then along North Mouse Creek, progressing to the wooded area, and back to the trailhead. It was great to be out with six dear friends after hibernating during the recent snow. There were several people in the park enjoying the



melting and thawing out process with us. We walked in snow, mud, and standing water enjoying each other's company and God's beautiful creation. Hikers included Effaleda and Bob Lee, Doug and Barbara Jackson, Ruth Gafford, Sheri Stewart and Sophie (Sheri's hiker dog), and hike leader Jane Bohannon.

February 6, Saturday – Bean Mountain (Oswald Dome)

Three hikers and one canine braved the cold to hike the 8 miles up Oswald Dome from the Quinn Springs parking lot. The 2,200 foot climb kept us fairly warm going up, but it was quite chilly during our quick lunch and descent. The top of the mountain was in the clouds with a light snowfall occurring (as well as left over snow from earlier in the week) so it was quite pretty—especially the young white pines covered in ice. We were fortunate enough to experience good winter-time views of the Gee Creek Wilderness, Delano area and a few peaks of the river gorge to the east. Given the past few days of bitter temperatures and snow/ice it was nice to get out and enjoy nature—even given the chilly conditions. Making the trip were James Anderson, Kathy Seymour (with trusty dog Rosie) and hike leader Randy Morris.

February 21, Sunday – Fort Loudoun State Park Hike

Eleven members of the Cherokee and/or the Hiwassee Hiking Club, and one guest had a pleasant warm Sunday afternoon to hike around the park. It was definitely a preview of Spring with a temperature of 64 degrees. The views of the lake and snow capped mountains were rewarding.

Hikers were members Jane Bohannon, Mae Miles, Sheri Stewart, Paul and Barbara Ketron and their grandson, Hayden Fesmire, Aggie Scott, Lettie and Phil Burress. Becky Levings, and hike leaders Effaleda and Bob Lee. Aggie Scott arrived early and took some pictures of the Fort itself; she reported that the layout of the Fort is quite large. The first picture shown below is courtesy of Aggie, and the second is the group picture taken by one of the hikers.



February 28, Sunday – Harrison Bay State Park Loop Trail

It was a cold gray winter's day with temperatures in the high 30's, but we had a tremendous turnout of 19 people to hike the 4.5 mile Harrison Bay Loop Trail. Besides the hike leader, James Anderson, his wife Phyllis, and his daughter Julie, the following were in attendance: Lettie Burress, Jane Bohannon, Mae Miles, Kenneth Johnson, Aggie Scott, Jennifer Bolling, Samantha Bolling, Russell Bolling, Darrell Morgan, Rhonda Morgan, Dee Harwell, Gary Harwell, Shannon Miller, and three other young people whose names we didn't get. Several were first timers for a hike with the CHC. The trail offered some nice wintertime views of Wolftever Creek Bay and the Tennessee River. There were various ducks and geese swimming in the cold water. We also saw several die-hard fishermen fishing out in the bay. Along the trail we also noticed a number of small trees where it looked like the deer had been scraping

the bark off. About half way through the hike we enjoyed a snack and a nice bench to rest on. Along the trail we encountered a few mountain bikers and a few other hikers as well. Even though we stopped several times we hiked the 4.5 miles in about an hour and 45 minutes.

Cherokee Hiking Club Minutes, February 11, 2010, David and Debbie Flower's home in Cleveland

The monthly meeting of the Cherokee Hiking Club was held February 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Debbie and David Flower in Cleveland. There were nineteen members present. President Randy Morris called the business meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. after we had enjoyed Debbie's taco soup, Mexican corn bread, her Valentine's cup cakes and all the other goodies brought by club members. Minutes were read by Secretary Jane Bohannon and corrections made related to reservations at Black Bear Cove and removing the "www." from the TNWILD website address. In the absence of Ann Gray, Treasurer, Randy reported the current balance.

Old business: Randy mentioned some possibilities for a guest speaker at the April 8 Joint Meeting. Debbie loaned us old club records dating back to 1989. The club was started by Jerry Melton in the early 1980's not long before Debbie and David joined in 1983. Rick Harris plans to continue to put our old records on PDF files. Some members have volunteered to look for other old records. So far we haven't come up with any dating farther back than 1989.

New business: The club voted to make a \$50.00 donation to the Baptist Student Center when we have the March meeting there. Alison Bullock of the National Park Service was unable to attend due to a family emergency. There are tentative plans for her to be at the March meeting to present options for volunteering at the **National Trails Symposium**. Steve Biatowas presented tee shirts to David Flower and Randy Morris for their promotion and maintenance of trails. David made a motion to send complimentary newsletters to Steve Biatowas and to Greg Kirkland, both who are Trail Technicians for the Forest Service. Marc Bernatti seconded the motion. Debbie and David Flower asked for volunteers to help with a project on **Saturday April 10 for Habitat For Humanity** (*newsletter editor note: notices of which have already been sent out to the members via email*). Proceeds will be used to build a house for Habitat For Humanity. Becky Levings, Newsletter Editor, and Rick discussed our club Facebook group. There was discussion on acquiring permission for photos. Randy suggested no photo posting until further discussion.

Hikes completed: Members reported on the following hikes completed: Laurel-Snow Falls, Athens Regional Park, and Oswald Dome. Rick reported on trail work and stated that Farr Gap to Sled Runner Gap has been cleared.

Upcoming hikes: Fort Loudon State Park, Harrison Bay State Park, Turtle Town Falls and Treemont to Metcalf Bottoms.

Randy commended Leon Bates and Kenneth Johnson for their wildflower knowledge, which they are willing to share on our hikes. The **Alabama Wildflower Society** will join Leon and Pat on April 10th and 11th and they will have a Saturday night program at Black Bear Cove on April 10th.

Next meeting: The next monthly meeting will be **March 11 at 6:30 at the Baptist Student Center at CSCC** following a potluck meal. Directions will be in the March newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Bohannon
Secretary

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