FOOTSTEPS

NEWSLETTER of SEQUOYAH HIKING CLUB

-TAKE ONLY PICTURES —— Aug/Sept 1998 —— LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS—

JULY MEETING



The July meeting was a hot dog supper at the home of Bobbie Arp. Although a detailed report is not available, a very lovely supper was enjoyed by those who were in attendance.

AUGUST MEETING

The August meeting was held at Stefano's. Those present were Bobbie Arp, Johanna Cooley, Paul Gamble, Freda and Houston Lowry, Helen Maxwell and Liz Yates.

The Habitat for Humanity hikes were announced. The H for H had apparently decided on the hikes and announced that Sequoyah Hiking Club would lead them without checking with anyone in the club as far as is known. It was the consensus of those present that in the future any hikes in which the club is to be involved and is to lead should be recommended and approved by the club prior to the final scheduling of the hikes. This decision will be conveyed to the Habitat for Humanity organization.

The club voted to donate \$100 to Habitat for Humanity with the understanding that this is a donation from the individuals of the club.

THIS BELATED NEWSLETTER

It is obvious that this newsletter is late. There is an excellent reason. It is not because of the editor's tardiness. Helen gave the "publisher" the minutes of the August meeting at the end of the August meeting. The minutes were taken to the publishing house and placed in a secure and safe place. The security was great; so much so that the minutes remain securely hidden. This newsletter and it's information is from memory, late and subject to minor errors which may be corrected at the September meeting.



HIKES

The hikes for Habitat were on September 12. They will be reported at the September meeting and in next month's *Footsteps*.

There were deer hunts for hunters using bows in the Tellico Mountains in the area of Sycamore Creek on the weekend of September 20. For this reason the Sycamore Creek hike was canceled.



COMMENTS FROM THE WILD

Helen Maxwell sent a couple of items that we think will be of interest to you. They were in the Hiwassee Hiking Club's newsletter. Shortly before that I received the same comments, with several additional ones, by email. These are actual comments left on Forest Service comment cards by back packers completing wilderness camping trips:

- * "A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call."
- * "Escalators would help on steep uphill sections."
- * "Instead of a permit system for hikers, the Forest Service needs to reduce worldwide population growth to limit the number of visitors to wilderness."
- * "Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands."
- * "Found a smoldering cigarette left by a horse."
- * "Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill."
- * "Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests."

- * "Please pave the trails so they can be plowed of snow in the winter."
- * "Chair lifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them."
- * "The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals."
- * "Need more signs to keep area pristine."
- * "A McDonald's would be nice at the trail head."
- * "The places where trails do not exist are not well marked."
- * "Too many rocks in the mountains."

TREAD LIGHTLY PLEDGE

(From Hiwassee Hiking Club newsletter)

Travel and recreate with the minimum impact.

Respect the environment and the right of others.

Educate yourself; plan and prepare before you go.

Allow for future use of the outdoors; leave it better than you found it.

Discover the rewards of responsible recreation.

CALENDAR

Sept. 26, Monday - Hiking club's September meeting, 7PM at Stefano's

Oct. 4, Sunday - Indian Memorial Wild Fowl Reserve, Leader - Johanna Cooley (?), 442-3643; leave Wal Mart @ 2 PM

Oct. 10, Saturday - Conasauga River hike; Wal Mart at 8:00 AM.

Other hikes will be planned at the September meeting.

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