



## Hiwassee Hiking Club

**Date:** September 2008

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We continued our adventure to the Old Grist Mill site and store, taking a bathroom break and recovering. We proceeded to the campsite where we enjoyed homemade chili, fruit salad, slaw, veggies and homemade ice cream (Butterfinger flavoring) around a campfire. How did we have homemade ice cream? We took turns cranking a hand crank ice cream machine! -five minutes a piece-Sunday we broke campsite and had a light breakfast of instant oatmeal. We said goodbye to Barbara and Paul who planned to complete a 7.1 mile hike out of the cove themselves before heading home. We continued to Metcalf Bottoms to hike the trail to the Little Greenbrier School house and the Walker Sister's house (total 3.6 miles). It just happened to be homecoming day at the school so when we emerged from the wooded trail area we found tables of food and many people congregating inside and outside the school house. We were invited to stay but humbly bowed out and continued another 1.1 miles to the Walker Sister's homestead. On this trail we came within 20-feet of two deer peacefully grazing on the edge of the roadway to the homestead. We took a few minutes to enjoy their presence before they decided to continue deeper into the woods. We spent a few minutes walking around the homestead checking out the spring and the rooms in the house before heading back toward the school house. We stopped by the creek for a short snack break and preceded to the school where we tried to connect to our trailhead without interrupting the homecoming, park officials were there. Toward the end of the trail we spotted a snake near a stump marked similar to a copperhead but it didn't have a broad head, we suppose it may be a corn snake. We parted at Metcalf Bottoms at about 1 p.m. and headed home. We hiked a total of approximately 13 miles for the total trip including a few off road hikes along the cove road.

Park personnel were fabulous and we wouldn't hesitate to do a return trip. All had a good time. The wildlife was great Special thanks to Ron for his kitchen expertise and yummy chili, Barb and Paul Ketron for good food and some spur of the moment hike exploration, Joann for bacon and veggies, Sherri for homemade Butterfinger ice cream, and Jane for hot dogs and for being the fire wood marshal. It couldn't have been a success without everyone contributing. Participants were, Paul and Barbara Ketron, Jane Bohannon, Joann Jackson, Sherri Stewart, and leaders, Esther and Ron Nunley.

### **An announcement-**

On Monday, 11 August I walked the trail of the Athens Regional Park with Ms. Triria Chapman, Assistant Program Director for the Athens Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Chapman who came to our club meeting last Monday evening (4 August) is interested in enlisting the help of the club to get more people (especially children) out in the park enjoying the beauty of the trail and the park in general. Hence, I spent some time today identifying trees, and wild flowers with her (that I knew). She has many ideas, and one thing that might help us is to organize some hikes there in conjunction with the city which could give our club some exposure, and hopefully get us some new members. So please keep this effort in mind, and lets lend our support to the city's efforts.