

Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

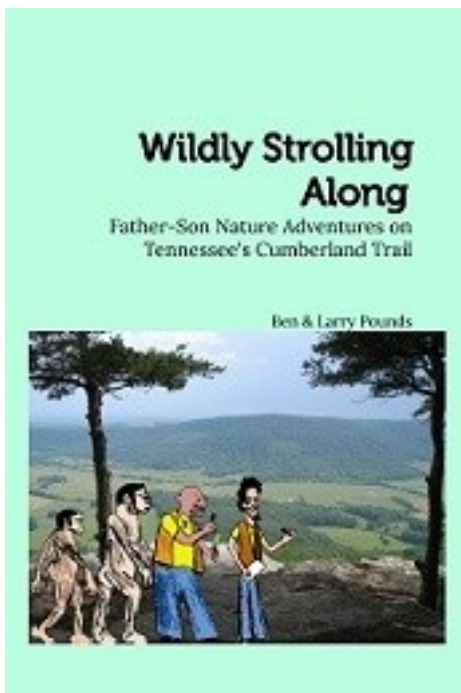
November 2017

Club Meeting

The Chattanooga Hiking Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of even numbered months at the Outdoor Chattanooga offices on River Street. Directions to the meeting site are on the club website: chatthiking.com

Next meeting – Monday February 5, 2018

At our October meeting our program was a slide show from Ben Pounds, who with his father Dr. Larry Pounds, a 67 year old plant ecologist, hiked all the existing parts of the Cumberland Trail. Ben has written about their experiences with each other and the natural world around them, and the human history of the area, and other aspects in a book “Wildly Strolling Along: Father-Son Nature Adventures on Tennessee’s Cumberland Trail.” It was quite an interesting and enjoyable presentation, and several of us purchased a copy of his book. For anyone who may be interested, paperbacks of the book are available on the web at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.



Reports from the Field

Richie Gulf Wednesday September 27, 2017

This "work in progress" Ritchie Gulf trail is in the Prentice Cooper state forest but originates near the Pot Point House on Mullins Cove Road in the upper parking lot. The Wednesday hikers have watched it progress from a barely scratched out hard to follow trail to one almost polished up for recreational hiking. Many volunteers have helped bring this trail along including Chattanooga Hiking Club members out for trail work on several occasions, the trail runners, and today we found an SECC group hard at work building magnificent steps out of magnificent stones! The leader for us today was Mariah Prescott from the TN River Gorge Trust. The greatest distance hiked was 2.5 miles in and out to where the trail ties into the Pot Point loop trail above and beyond Blowing Wind Falls. She has now proposed a work day for us in the near future as we have seen the improvements already made. Planning to come back soon were: Susan Garrett, Stormy McGauley, Boe Rudder, Suzanne Dorough, Bob Rahn, Edith Behringer, Bill Kinnaman, JD Dickinson, Barbara Miller, John Rowland, Charlie Breeding, Linda Keown, Patti Giles, Susan Basch, Betsy Parson, Larry Park, Che Carico reporting, and Mariah Prescott leading.



Rock work on the left very recently done by the fine SECC folks, and on the right rock work done a couple years ago under the supervision of our own Bill Kinnaman - pictures from John

Upcoming Outings

Friday-Saturday November 10-11, 2017 Smokies Goshen Prong day hike

Location: Great Smoky Mtns, Clingman's Dome/Elkmont

Distance: 13.5 miles

Elevation Change: long descent

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 3 hrs each way

Putting together a trip November 10 (sleep in Gatlinburg) and hike November 11. Return to Chattanooga November 11. The road to Clingman's will close December 1, so trying to get this in before then. Will leave afternoon of the 10th as soon as all can be there. Have chosen Friday - Saturday to make it easier for those who work on Friday. I have reserved Econo Lodge Gatlinburg, 865-436-7991, 5 rooms - rate for suite with 2 kings and a sofa 171.37 after tax and with discount and 5 can sleep, and 5 standard rooms with 2 queens in each 139.23 after tax and with discount. Breakfast included. Free cancellation 48 hours ahead. Please respond as soon as possible about this trip. The proposed trail will be Clingman's Dome Bypass to AT, to Goshon Prong, to Little River Road trail and out at Elkmont 13.5 miles. There is the option of hiking to NF Gap road via Huskey Gap trail if any of you need that trail - 15.2 miles. We will have to drive back to Clingman's Dome to retrieve cars, but the drive is not as long as the drive we have made several times from Road to Nowhere. Meanwhile, if anyone can find a better rate anywhere else please let me know. We do not have to pay until check-in (no charges will be placed on my card until then). No reason for you to call Econo Lodge but I MUST know how many rooms we actually need by Nov 7 in case of cancellations. Also tell me if you will accept a roommate - or want a room by yourself. This may be hard to accommodate as so few rooms available - will depend on how many can go. If you want to plan more hiking around this one, surely can do so. Just need to make your arrangements to camp or inquire if Econo Lodge has rooms for extra days. When you decide about going, please tell me what time you can leave on Friday and who might be willing to drive. Che Carico, 718-9271, mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net

Saturday November 18, 2017

Flats Mountain day hike

Location: Citico Creek Wilderness near Tellico Plains, TN

Distance: 6 miles

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 1 hr each way

I'm leading a Flats Mountain trail hike in Citico Creek Wilderness near Tellico Plains; the hiking club is very welcome to go. The purpose of the hike is to promote the Cherokee Wilderness bill stalled in Congress. There will be spectacular views of entire Citico Creek Wilderness, along with outstanding views of Indian Boundary recreation area. Will Skelton, author of Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide is going. Hike leader is John Doyal. 423-315-0965.

Reports from the Field

Hazel Creek, Bone Valley, Welch Ridge, Cold Springs Gap, High Rocks, and Ollie's Cove Friday-Sunday September 30-October 1, 2017

The weather became our best friend for this weekend of hiking and camping. The temps for daytime were high 70s and high 40s (a bit chilly) at night with absolutely NO rain! Campsite 82 on Hazel Creek was the destination on the first day. The distance hiked was 12.4 miles which included the spur to Bone Valley and back. Carts are available to fishermen who hike into the many campsites along Hazel Creek for multiple days of fishing and who need more gear than they can carry. We rented one of these and piled our gear into it, then took turns pulling or pushing it along the trail. For the first 4.5 miles this seemed like a good idea. However, now rather tired and having stopped to change a wheel, the last 2.3 miles had more uphill than previously encountered. Rather than give in we forged on until our scout, Carolyn, came back to report the campsite was within sight! It is called the Calhoun and is wrapped around by Hazel Creek. Supper, a roaring fire, and bed time! Daily total 12.4 miles. Then on day 2 after breakfast and with day packs loaded, the hike began by continuing up Hazel Creek and at least 16 creek crossings! At the last crossing we filled our water bottles and prepared for the almost straight uphill 2 mile section to finally top out (after 10 switchbacks) at the junction with Welch Ridge. This was a good stop for rest and lunch. Downhill all the way from here? Not so much as there were rather strenuous uphill sections on Welch Ridge including the spur to High Rocks (well worth it!). Then there was Cold Springs Gap trail - gullied, lots of rocks, and sometimes wet with normal runoff. There were 5 boots off water crossings on this trail. Dark did catch us so the last 2 1/2 hours were spent with flashlights and headlamps. We stepped back onto Hazel Creek trail gratefully having no mishaps except one falling into the creek at the last crossing. It was easy underfoot from here but continuously uphill that last 1.75 miles in the shine of the moon. Exhausted and quick to bed! Daily total 17.7 miles. Day 3 was strike camp day and an 8.4 mile hike/pull/push cart back to Lakeshore. The good news is that it was a bit easier with the pitch being mostly downhill. Three "horses" took off after a period of sharing the load - Terri, Barbara, and Carolyn "headed to the barn" so they get the most credit for the gear portage out. At the Lakeshore trail junction with Hazel Creek we left the cart and gear with Steve Claxton who took it on down to the lake and the pontoon boat. He had agreed to bring the boat and gear around to shore at Ollie Cove giving us a chance to also "get this trail" too. Steve safely delivered us back across the lake, surrounded by beautiful mountains, to our parked cars and the beginning of our drive home by way of Monte Alban Mexican in Andrews. Daily total 9.1 miles. Blessed by safekeeping, perfect weather, personal success, great leadership, and new memories stored away were: Carolyn Brannon, Monty Simmons, Terri Holcomb, Bonnie Smith, Che Carico reporting, Barbara McCollum and Wayne Chambers leading.

Picture from Carolyn



Reports from the Field

More Hazel Creek, etc., pictures from Carolyn



Nobody had a AAA card?



**Historic Mining Section of the CT
Wednesday October 4, 2017**

Find lots of history by googling the historic mining in Soddy Daisy, TN. Our hike today followed the trail from Sluder Lane/ Hotwater Road to the Mowbray Pike trailhead on Hotwater Road. The distance for this section is 5 miles rated moderate to strenuous. Lots of evidence of long past coal mining including signs marking sites of mines with family names. The trail

Reports from the Field

(continued...)

section is typical of the CT with sharp downhill, equally sharp uphill, rocks and roots underfoot, huge exposed rock rising above, ferns, fall blooming wildflowers, views of the Tennessee River today partially obscured by low brush, and cool forested paths stretching forward in places. Parking at both ends has been greatly improved, so plenty of space for the car shuttle. Follow the well-marked white blazed CT using a spur with blue blazes marking the exit to the Sluder Lane parking area. Proud to claim the CT as a linear state park in Tennessee and appreciative of the work to build it were: Joy Ward, Suzanne Dorough, Sue Christensen, Edith Behringer, Gail Stokes, Wayne Chambers, Jennifer Yarbrough, Renee Grace, Jean Dickinson, Wanda McCarter, Luke Spiekerman, Bill Kinnaman, Teresa Dean, Rachel Bryant, Mac Dean, John Rowland, Barbara Miller, Tom Carter, Susan Garrett, Wendy Gunn, Sharon Hogan, Bob Rahn, Betsy Parson, Linda Keown, Ed Park, Bill LaRoque, Patti Giles, and Che Carico, reporting.



Picture from Teresa

**Skyuka Trail, Nature Center, Red Wolf Exhibit
Wednesday October 11, 2017**

The Skyuka trail head is on highway 318. There is a limited amount of parking near the sign pointing the way to Skyuka Springs. Down on highway 72 is a larger parking area which will then require a short careful walk up to the trail head. Today we left most cars at the parking area across from the trail head for the Kiddie trail and then transported hikers to the area on the corner of 72 and 318. The trail starts out uphill for a short distance, levels off, then climbs gently to another plateau where you will find the intersection to the Kiddie trail coming up from the right. We continued on until we came upon the intersection where we could reflect and admire the memorial tribute to Betty Petty, an avid Chattanooga hiker and leader who was tragically killed in an auto accident. From Betty's memorial we traveled to the right and slightly downhill and headed for the Nature Center. After stepping out onto the dirt road we turned left and continued by looping away from and then back toward the main Nature Center area. The boardwalk took us to the Tree House (structure designed by Bill Kinnaman) and then on to the wolf and bird protective area. What luck that it was feeding time! We were treated to a very informative lecture by Tish Gaillmard about the red wolves, their potential extinction, their current numbers, and efforts to promote the species. Tish has a passion for protecting the wolves and generously shared her passion with us! The forest was decorated with purple asters, goldenrod, and unusual mushrooms. Still blessed by no encounters with snakes or yellow jackets on this still hot and humid day were: Patti Giles, Sue Christensen, Wayne Chambers, Bill Kinnaman, Susan Basch, Edie Behringer, Gail Stokes, Susan Garrett, and Che Carico reporting.

Reports from the Field

Clingman's Dome, Welch Ridge, Jonas Creek, Forney Creek, to Road to Nowhere Friday October 13, 2017

Bypass trail to AT from Clingman's Dome, AT to Welch Ridge trail, Jonas Creek trail, portion of Forney Creek, White Oak Branch, Lakeshore Drive. Two hikers took the Springhouse Branch trail and exited via Noland Creek. Moist forest, incredible views of mountains as far as the eye can see,



cooling breeze on this potentially hot summer day, a wonderland of fallen trees coated with vibrant green moss, rushing creeks along almost every step, and the fragrance of Christmas trees - that is what Chattanooga hikers found and enjoyed and why they pursue trails and marking a Smokies map! This hike began at the Clingman's Dome parking lot with the bypass trail up to the AT; it continued on the AT to the junction with the Welch Ridge trail; passed up the junction with Hazel Creek where we had lunched two weeks ago; and stopped for lunch at the junction with Jonas Creek. Here we found Rick Glisson and Tim Chomyn who were hiking this 17.2 miles uphill! Their reason was for training purposes and as a result facilitated a key swap car shuttle. John Rowland also helped with the shuttle by taking some of the hikers up to Clingman's and then returning (via Peter's Pancakes) to the Road to Nowhere. He started up the trail toward the hikers coming down. We all met up at the junction with the Forney Creek trail.



Pictures from Barbara



Pictures from John

Reports from the Field

(continued...)

John turned around here and hiked out with us enduring the seemingly unending uphill trek on White Oak Branch to Lakeshore Drive, hiking with headlamps through the tunnel on the Road to Nowhere, and ending where our cars were parked. Tired but satisfied with miles and safe keeping were: Wayne Chambers, Sandy Barlett (comes from Ohio to do this), Monty Simmons, Boe Rudder, Ken Smith (from S. Carolina), John Rowland, Tim Chomyn, Rick Glisson, Betsy Parson and Bonnie Smith (included Spring House Branch), Tom Sewell, Tom Long (helped with car placement, hiked for a short while on this part of the AT then off to get another AT section), Che Carico reporting, Barbara McCollum and Wayne Chambers leading.



Above: Campsite 71 on the Forney Creek trail (We made a little "trail magic" by several of us each carrying an armful of small firewood about 1/4 mile to some young campers there)

Pictures from John, these two obviously on the way IN



Red Top Mountain State Park, GA Wednesday October 18, 2017

The Wednesday hikers ventured a bit south to hike at Red Top Mountain State Park just outside of Cartersville, Georgia. Named for the soil's rich red color caused by high iron-ore content, Red Top Mountain was once an important mining area. Today's trail was the Homestead Loop which started at the park's visitors center and made its way to the shores of Lake Allatoona. The trail is well maintained and easy under foot. Both hardwoods and pines make up most of the forest which is home to deer and wild turkey. We actually saw a couple of deer scamper in the woods while on our way to the lake. The elevation of 930 ft. was scattered over several short climbs. Most of the climbing was before lunch which was enjoyed on a beautiful peninsula of the lake. After lunch, we hoped to find the chimney remains which helped to name the trail, but unfortunately, the remains were well-camouflaged and we kept hiking until we reached the junction of the Sweet Gum Trail. We decided to take this trail back to the Visitor's Center for a different view and completed the day at 5.5 miles. Enjoying an absolutely perfect Fall day on the trail were: Jenny Hopkins (who brought delicious homemade oatmeal cookies), Patti Giles, Susan Garrett, Edith Behringer, Wanda McCarter, Suzanne Dorough, Larry Parks, Sue Christensen, Linda Keown, Tom Long (who organized the Chattanooga car pool) and Barbara McCollum leading.

Outings Schedule

11/10-11/17 Smokies Goshen Prong day hike (S) C Carico
 11/18/17 Citico Creek day hike (M) J Doyal

Wednesday Day Hikes - Che Carico - The Wednesday group hikes many of the same trails as the weekend hikers. Since a schedule is not published in advance, please call Che at **(423) 886-5135** on Monday or Tuesday and listen to the week's hiking plan or before Sunday email her at MidWeek@chatthiking.com to be added to the email distribution list to receive the week's plan every week.

Hike Difficulty Ratings

The information below is provided as a guide only. Each hiker assumes the risks associated with hiking in the great outdoors, including the responsibility of paying any bills associated with rescue efforts or medical care. The wise hiker always carries water, food, and first aid items.

Easy (E): 6 miles or less; mostly level or only slight incline.

Moderate (M): 6-10 miles with an elevation gain that will generally not exceed 350 feet per mile, with a total elevation gain of no more than 1000 ft.

Moderately Strenuous (MS): 6-10 miles in length, but include rocky trail conditions, tricky stream crossings, or elevation gain of more than 1000 ft but less than 2000 ft.

Strenuous (S): a distance of 10-14 miles or with more than 2000 ft total elevation gain, but no more than 3000 ft.

Extremely Strenuous (S+): Usually involves distances of more than 14 miles or more than 3000 ft in elevation gain. There might be very steep/rugged climbs, deep stream crossings, or unmentioned trails.

Pace: Standard pace is 2 miles an hour; less on steep or rugged terrain. Fast pace is 2.5 to 3 miles an hour or more and may not vary much regardless of terrain.

Attention: When calling to go on an outing, please specify exact number of people who will be attending. Do NOT just show up with a friend or family member unannounced! This puts your hike leader in an awkward position as most hikes involve some planning of transportation. Also we frequently hike in wilderness areas and other places where the number of hikers in a group is limited. If that is the case, and the hike is already full, you may be turned away!

Cancellations: Hike leaders are entirely at the own discretion regarding the weather. It is possible that a leader may decide that, due to weather conditions, they do not feel safe hiking on that day. Lightning kills many people every year and can strike hikers on a trail. Also many of the areas where we hike are prone to flash floods that can kill or injure. The leader will call if deciding to cancel before the day of the hike. In the event that the decision to cancel is made on the day of the hike, the leader will give you the courtesy of showing up at the designated meeting place to announce that the hike is cancelled.

Other Stuff

Red Top Mountain pictures - from Barbara



An impressive footprint on the Forney Creek trail

Rock/Creek Discount Info

Show your Chattanooga Hiking Club Membership Card, along with your ID at any Rock/Creek Store.
 Chattanooga Hiking Club - 10% off one Item
 *Applies to one non-sale, in-stock item. Can not be combined with other discounts or promotions. Offer does not apply to gift cards, boats, boards, coolers, & electronics. **In-store only.**

Club Officers and Support:

President - Gary Petty (423) 488-5954
Vice President - Stormy McGauley (423) 505-4525
Treasurer - Donald Box (423) 892-6754
Secretary - Susan Basch (706) 375-7750
Outings - Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103
Newsletter/Webmaster - John Rowland (423) 802-7704
Membership Database - John Rowland (423) 802-7704
Membership Information - Chris O'Conner (423) 991-3220
Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019
Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico (423) 886-5135
Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)