



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

August 2018

### 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](http://chatthiking.com)

**Next meeting – Monday October 1, 2018**

**There will be no August meeting**



Amadahy picture above from Barbara, Emery Creek picture at left from Jenny

# Making

# TRACKS



### Reports from the Field

#### **Amadahy Trail, Carter's Lake Saturday June 30, 2018**

Amadahy is a name of native American origin (most likely Cherokee) and means "forest water". The very lovely Amadahy Trail is a family-friendly 3.6-mile loop around Carters Lake near Chatsworth, Georgia. Owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, it is Georgia's deepest reservoir lake. Stately hardwoods and pines along the scenic shoreline help to shade the trail, plus there are no private docks or houses to obstruct views of the lake. The trail is open to hikers, bicycles, and friendly dogs on leashes. It was 72 degrees when we started hiking at 9:45 a.m., but the day grew a little warm and humid before our noon finish. A group of Rome, Georgia hikers made for a great turnout including Wade and Gayle Monk, Rex and Raleigh Hussmann, Bob and Kathy Steinbruegge, and Mary Ann Pawlowski. CHC members included Noel and Terri Holcomb, Tom Long, and Barbara McCollum, reporting.

#### **Emery Creek Wednesday July 11, 2018**

Emery Creek is a beautiful trail in the Cohutta Wildlife Management Wilderness. Its greatest challenge is the area of big rocks disturbing the footpath in the first .8 miles and then the first of 8 water crossings. The first crossing can be thigh deep and swift although on this day it was ankle/calf deep and more easily navigated. The next 7 crossings are easier and refreshing - we had taken water shoes and once they were on they stayed on for the rest of the hike. The footpath is easy enough to be walked with water shoes rather than boots and the crossings come frequently enough to make taking boots on and off impractical. The trail gently climbs to a junction with a left turn spur to the lower water falls - Emery Creek falls. Bearing right takes you on more steeply uphill to the top of the ridge where you will see a series of four cascades. This is where we turned around, trekked back down to the lower falls, enjoyed packed lunches, then headed back to parked cars and home. Enjoying 5.4 miles of adventure were: Angela Evans, Barbara McCollum, Betsy Parson, Bill Kinnaman, Charlie Breeding, Jenny Hopkins, Larry Parks, Mac Dean, Renee Grace, Suzanne Dorough, Teresa Dean, Wanda McCarter, Tim Chomyn, Joe Teringher, Che Carico reporting, Angela Evans and Che Carico leading.

(To avoid an unnecessary road walk to the trailhead, do not stop at first parking area. Continue on up the dirt/gravel road until it swings sharply uphill to the right as the road seems to end. On the left is the parking closest to the beginning of the trail.)

## Upcoming Outings

### Gibbs Gardens

#### Saturday August 4, 2018

Location: Ball Ground, GA

Distance: less than 5 miles

Rating: Beautiful and fun

Pace: Casual saunter

Something different for the first weekend in August - a visit to beautiful Gibbs Gardens located on 292 acres in Ball Ground, Georgia, an hour north of Atlanta. The gardens include 220 acres making it one of the nation's largest residential gardens. Gibbs Gardens has 16 different gardens including three feature gardens: Manor House Gardens, Japanese Gardens, and the Waterlily Gardens. Admission is \$20 per person or \$16 for age 65 and over. Group rates are \$16 for 10 or more. The Arbor Café is located on the grounds and makes for an exquisite place for lunch. Advance reservations needed. For more information, visit their website: [www.gibbsgardens.com](http://www.gibbsgardens.com) or contact the hike leader. According to Jim Gibbs, owner of the property, August is his favorite month in the gardens. Perfect for photographers, walkers, and those looking for something less strenuous. To register contact Barbara McCollum, [bpmccollum@yahoo.com](mailto:bpmccollum@yahoo.com) or 770.289.7143.

#### Saturday August 11, 2018

### Greeter Falls

Location: Savage Gulf State Natural Area

Distance: 3.5 - 4 miles

Elevation Gain: minimal

Rating: Moderately Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 1 hour

Help Barbara celebrate the big "6-0" by joining her, Steve Barnes, and John Rowland on a day to cool down, celebrate, eat, and have fun. We'll meet up in Chattanooga at the Brown's Ferry Exit off I-24, drive to the Greeter Falls trailhead near Monteagle, and hike the Greeter Falls Loop Trail. This loop leads to four waterfalls, numerous bluffs, and two historic sites. Terrain is rocky under the bluffs. On the return hike to our cars, we'll sneak off on the Blue Hole Trail to a great swimming hole for those who wish to partake. You can swim in your hiking clothes, but be sure to bring a change of clothes for the after-hike celebration: lunch at Papa Ron's Italian café in Monteagle. What better way to spend a hot summer day than enjoying waterfalls, swimming, and eating? If you don't wish to hike, feel free to join us for lunch. To register for the hike or lunch, please contact Barbara at [bpmccollum@yahoo.com](mailto:bpmccollum@yahoo.com) or 770.289.7143.



Greeter Falls

## Upcoming Outings

### Biology Trails

#### Saturday August 18, 2018

Location: Southern Adventist College, Collegedale TN

Distance: 8 miles

Elevation gain: 1200 ft

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 25 minutes

The Biology Trails have about 20 total miles of trails expertly laid out with trail maps at most intersections. These are multi use trails for bikers and hikers. Remember bikers have the right of way. In general, you do not see many people on these trails. This will be an 8 mile moderate hike with a total of 1,200 ft. elevation gain. There will be a brief break at about 4 miles. Total hiking time will be about 3 1/2 hours. The college is located in Collegedale about 25 minutes from Chattanooga north on I-75. Hike leader is Tim Chomyn 706 347-6746 or [chomyn@catt.com](mailto:chomyn@catt.com).

#### Saturday August 25 or Sunday August 26, 2018

### Betty Petty memorial hike

Location: Chattanooga Nature Center/Reflection Riding

Distance: maybe 4 miles

Rating: Easy

Elevation gain: minimal

Pace: Leisurely at best

I'll be stair climbing Saturday morning, so I've decided to let the participants choose the date and time for this one. We can go Saturday afternoon or Sunday afternoon; they close at 6:30, otherwise I was thinking of a sunset hike. Maybe the weather will be an influence. It will be the usual going out the Reflection Riding loop road to where it circles back, then returning via the old road bed that goes along the base of Lookout Mtn past Betty's bench. Contact John Rowland, [jrowland\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:jrowland_1@hotmail.com) or 423 802-7704; please get in touch early so I can gather info on who wants to do what and make a decision.

#### Smokies, Pin Oak Gap to Big Creek picnic area

### Saturday September 8, 2018

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 15.4 miles

Elevation gain: 1250 ft

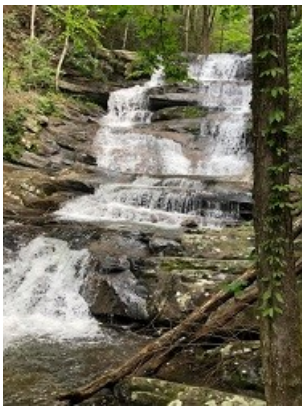
Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Starting from Pin Oak Gap off Balsam Mtn Road, we'll take Balsam Mtn trail to Gunter Fork trail, then down to Big Creek trail and out via Big Creek. Elevation gain is in the first 3 3/4 miles. At 4 miles it becomes mostly level and downhill until trail's end. We'll spend the night of Sept. 7 at Rolling Brook Inn in Maggie Valley. Transportation to trailhead assisted by Barbara McCollum. Need to know of your interest in order to determine number of rooms and possible roommates. Contact Che Carico, [mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net](mailto:mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net) or 423 718-9271, to sign up, or for Rolling Brook Inn reservation number and additional info.

There are thoughts of staying at Laurel Gap shelter Saturday night after going all the way to the AT that day; then go out Gunter Fork and Big Creek on Sunday. Talk to Che if that interests you. In either case, the car shuttle will be a considerable endeavor.

Reports from the Field



Emery Creek pictures from Tim

Benton MacKaye Project Saturday July 14, 2018

The third installment of this project was to be two days of hiking beginning at Beech Gap on the Cherokee Skyway near the Tennessee/North Carolina Border to the Fontana Visitor's Center in the Smoky Mountains. Day one: Beech Gap to Tapoco Lodge/Hwy. 129 for 15.1 miles; and day two: Hwy 129 to Fontana Visitor Center for 14.2 miles.

After meeting up in Robbinsville, North Carolina on Friday evening, the group decided to have dinner at the Tapoco Lodge and place a car at the ending trailhead to make Saturday's shuttle easier. We enjoyed a lovely dinner on the terrace of the Tapoco Tavern overlooking the Cheoah River. In retrospect this turned out to be the high point of the trip!

Picture from Barbara



Reports from the Field



Pictures from Barbara above, from John below

(continued...)

Saturday's hike started at 8:30 a.m. and 66 degrees. After a mile or so on an old forest service road where we enjoyed a multitude of Turk's Cap Lily, we started climbing a ridgeline to Bob and Stratton Balds, the latter of which was abloom in lavender phlox! After leaving the balds, trail conditions and weather quickly changed. Clouds rolled in which prevented us from enjoying one of the highlights of this section - the Hangover. A lack of trail maintenance for most of the trail and an almost 5,000 ft. descent made for a long and challenging day. Most hikers agreed it was their most difficult day on the trail. A couple of rain showers and 99 percent humidity didn't help. After climbing over and under through numerous blowdowns, we finally made it to the Tapoco Lodge at 7:15 p.m. Almost 11 hours on the trail. We all decided the air conditioning, varied menu, and nice assortment of cold beverages would help to make our broken bodies feel better. Given the difficulty of Saturday's trail conditions, we decided as a group to bail on Sunday's hike. Completing a 14-mile "in and out" hike back to Beech Gap were John Rowland and Susan Basch. Completing Beech Gap to Tapoco Lodge were Tim Chomyn, Bill Needham, Carolyn Brannon, Cathy Love, and Barbara McCollum, reporting.

The Benton MacKaye Project is a two-year project offered to Chattanooga Hiking Club members to complete the 288-mile trail over 10 installments. A lack of trail maintenance, remoteness of certain sections, weather, and difficulty in reducing mileage in certain sections have caused a much more difficult project than originally anticipated. A decision will be made later this year whether to revamp the project. The last installment of 2018 will be a 3-day, 2-night backpack in the Smoky Mountains along the Lakeshore Trail. To register for the next section, contact Barbara McCollum at [bpmccollum@yahoo.com](mailto:bpmccollum@yahoo.com) or 770.289.7143. See the club's website for more details on the project.

Reports from the Field

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More fun and games from the BMT Project hike - pictures above from Tim, pictures below from John



Hiwassee Float Trip  
Wednesday July 18, 2018

The river was running higher than usual on this day of our annual duckie float trip. For this reason, the one-man inflatable craft were less likely to get stuck on rocks with a smoother ride - mostly! Hikers also met with the results of days of rain in that their attempt to hike was met with LOTS of overgrowth, and mud from the overflowed river bank. Meeting at Big Bend for the "covered dish" hot dog roast was joyfully received by both veterans and newcomers of this annual event. John had brought his newly acquired canopy which offered shade for picnic table seating. He also took over duties as "Master Chef" as Wayne was out post-op from shoulder surgery and Bill was out due to important doctor's appointment. An impressive feast was laid out having been brought to the river bank in coolers. John "cooked to order" from gentle roasting to blackened hot dogs - beef and vegetarian. Loaded up and back on the river and in cars for traveling home were: Tim Chomyn, Gary and Judy Petty, Charlie Breeding, Tristan Carico, Seth Carico, You-jin Seo, Jane Anne Seal and Joy Ward (veterans for one man duckies now), Barry and Beverly Ligon, Debbie Lambert, Susan Garrett, Renee Grace, Betsy Parson, Susan Basch, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, John Rowland, Larry Parks, Edith Behringer, Patti Giles, Boe Rudder, Che Carico reporting.

(We enjoy the outfitting care given by Webb Brothers Outfitters and the adventurous ride to put in hanging on in the slat-sided farm truck.)



Pictures from John

## Outings Schedule

08/04/18	Gibbs Gardens, GA	B McCollum
08/11/18	Greeter Falls (M/S)	B McCollum
08/18/18	Collegedale Biology Trails (M)	T Chomyn
08/25 or 26/18	Betty Petty hike (E)	J Rowland
09/01/18	Cumberland Trail	B Rudder
09/08/18	Smokies, Gunter Fork (S)	C Carico
09/22/18	Lost Creek	S Barnes
09/29/18	GA Pinhoti	S Basch
10/06/18	Smokies	W Chambers
10/13/18	BMT trail maint	S Barnes
10/17-18/18	VA Creeper bike ride	W Chambers
10/20/18	Chickamauga Creek	S Basch

**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, notification of each week's plan is sent out by email on Sunday or Monday. Please call Che at (423) 718-9271, leave your email address, and ask to be added to the group list; or email her at [MidWeek@chatthiking.com](mailto:MidWeek@chatthiking.com) and likewise ask to be added to the group list.

### 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 their 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



The BMT Hikers from Greg McCollum and various colors of Bee Balm from Tim



### 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

**Membership Database** - Susan Basch (706) 375-7750

**Outings** - Barbara McCollum (770) 289-7143

Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

**Newsletter/Webmaster** - John Rowland (423) 802-7704

**Membership Information** - Chris O'Conner (423) 991-3220

**Trial Maintenance** - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019

Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

**Midweek Outings** - Cheryl Carico (423) 781-9271

**Website:** [chatthiking.com](http://chatthiking.com) (includes link to newsletter)