



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

September 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

Next meeting – Monday October 1, 2018



Pictures from Ken Smith

Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

AT to Charlie's Bunion, Dry Sluice/Bradley Fork Saturday July 21, 2018

The unsettled July weather threatened the July 21 Smokies hike but the day turned out to be mostly sunny and dry. The Fork Ridge Trail, the planned hike, had a river crossing and after heavy rain hit overnight, the group decided to switch to the Dry Sluice Trail. After starting the day at Peter's Pancakes in Cherokee, Bonnie Smith, Betsy Parson and Ken Smith headed up to Newfound Gap, hiked north on the AT to Charlies Bunion before heading down Dry Sluice, in and out on Cabin Flats and out Bradley Fork to Smokemont Campground. The total hike was 14.31 miles with 1,690 feet of elevation gain but 4,464 feet of descent. On the way out on Bradley Fork, Betsy and Ken were walking side by side when Bonnie pointed out that they had stepped right in front and right behind a stretched out Black Snake! Neither had seen it until Bonnie pointed it out. Good thing it wasn't an aggressive snake!

A special thanks to Rick Glisson for his scouting report on the river crossing on Fork Ridge Trail. Even with the heavy early morning rain, the river crossing was only knee deep, something good to know for when we reschedule this trail. Ken Smith reporting.

Fall Creek Falls Paw Paw trail Wednesday July 25, 2018

It had been a long time since any of us had hiked in this area, so we stood around for a bit questioning who would be our leader! We finally decided on John in the lead and Mac carefully placed along the line with his GPS to keep us on the loop in the direction we had chosen - counter clock wise. This beautiful woodland trail features 3 spur trails to overlooks in the gorge and of the waterfalls. The one with the best view of Cane Creek falls from a distance was the last spur, going off to the right, before completing the loop back to the "lollipop stick" to exit. At the picnic shelter above the under-construction nature center we regrouped then continued on to find and hike the Gorge Overlook/Woodland trail. The overlook of the gorge and Cane Creek falls was splendid as there was so much water falling over and into the gorge. The short spur brings you down to a bluff with a clear view of the falls. Some pulled out packed lunches and rested here and others headed back to the nature center with plans to go to Cookie Jar and/or to the Screen Door for lunch. Noticing heat and humidity with fairly short distance hiking were: Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Patti Giles, Larry Parks, Boe Rudder, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Joy Ward, Bill Needham, Charlie Breeding, John Rowland, Renee Grace, Sue Christensen, Susan Basch, Che Carico, reporting.

Upcoming Outings

CT Roaring Creek section Saturday September 1, 2018

Location: Graysville, TN

Distance: 11.4 miles

Elevation gain: 900 ft

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

The first 0.9 mile is along the creek. We will then turn up Graysville Mountain for a 1.1 mile climb to the ridge crest. The elevation gain is 900 feet. I recommend using hiking poles due to the loose shale on the side of the mountain. There are great views from the ridge top of Cranmore Valley. The trail is finished for about 7 more miles. We will hike 3.7 miles to Gilbreath Creek and turn around. This will be an in and out hike back to the cars for a total distance of 11.4 miles. Hikers that want to go less distance can turn around at any point on the trail. Those that are interested can have lunch at the Monkey Town Brewery in Dayton. Hike leader is Boe Rudder: boerrudder@gmail.com or 423.400.1103

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 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.

CT Rock Creek Gorge section Saturday September 15, 2018

Location: Soddy Daisy, TN

Distance: 5.4 miles, optional + 3.4

Elevation gain: 300 ft

Rating: Moderately Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Caution: Slippery when wet. Ladder climb.

We will leave at 8:00 am from the Tractor Store parking lot in Soddy Daisy. We will then drive to Upper Leggett Road and leave a few cars, then drive back to Retro Hughes Trailhead parking to begin the hike. The CT descends into Rock Creek where we will cross Rock Creek on an 80-foot long footbridge. On the northern end, we have the option of hiking

Upcoming Outings

continued...

3.4 more miles on the Rock Creek Loop Trail. Others may just continue on to the cars. On the loop trail we will see 2 overlooks, one on the CT and one on the Loop Trail. These offer spectacular views of the gorge. Please pack a lunch and drinks as needed. Hike Leader: Carolyn Brannon:

cbrannon1985@gmail.com

Lost Creek Saturday September 22, 2018

Location: Cherokee National Forest, Reliance, TN

Distance: 7 miles

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 45 minutes

We will hike a section of the Benton MacKaye Trail near the Hiwassee River at the mouth of Lost Creek. We plan to begin at the outfitters near Reliance and walk across the railroad bridge to the trail. This trail follows the scenic Lost Creek which has several cascades and small side waterfalls as well as rocky bluffs. The hike will proceed upstream to where the creek crosses FS103 near Lost Creek Campground. We will then return back downstream along the canyon back to our vehicles. This is a moderate hike with unique geology and a few rocky sections. Hike leader is Steve Barnes: sebarnestorm@gmail.com

GA Pinhoti section #25 Saturday September 29, 2018

Location: GA Hwy 136, 10 miles west of I-75

Distance: 10.4 miles

Elevation gain: approx. 600 ft

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

This hike will be an in-and-out hike, 5.2 miles each way, from Snake Creek Gap to Swamp Creek, with no shuttle required. The trail begins with a steady (not a killer) climb up the side of Mill Creek Mountain for approximately 1 mile. From there it's a pleasant 3.5 mile ridge walk until we descend .7 miles to Swamp Creek, where we'll eat our lunch, then retrace our steps for a total distance of 10.4 miles. The trail is rocky, but they are little rocks, not the kind you have to climb up and over! Allow 6 hours for the hike. Hike leader is Susan Basch: sbasch@nexband.com

Reports from the Field



Fall Creek Falls picture from John

Red Clay State Park Wednesday August 1, 2018

What is it that they say? "Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor slush" will keep the hikers off the trail? 14 of us had misguided faith the rain would stop soon and went on to check in at the visitor's center at Red Clay. There we appreciated the artifacts preserved about the Cherokee Nation, and the historical presentation about the Trail of Tears. The rain did not stop but, armed with umbrellas, we walked the paved paths of the grounds to see the log homes, a barn and other out buildings built there demonstrating their village way of life. There is a newly built amphitheater on the property and an eternal flame on a hill above the Blue Hole that has been burning since 1984. We did not walk the woods trail because of the "depth" of the water and mud at its beginning. As the rain continued to come steadily down, a few returned to Chattanooga and some drove on into Cleveland to the Renfro sock outlet. Armed with bargains and more socks than a body might need, the next stop was Uncle Larry's on Apison Pike for catfish and vegetables. Certainly not working on their cardio today were: Beverly Ligon, Barry Ligon, Tom Carter, Joe Teringer, Betsy Parson, Sue Christensen, Bill LaRoque, Susan Basch, Vanessa Turner, Barbara Miller, Larry Parks, Teresa Dean, Che Carico reporting, and Mac Dean the reluctant leader!!



Picture from Susan

Reports from the Field

Gibbs Gardens Saturday August 4, 2018

The dog days of summer called for something a little different and refreshing. So, we decided to place world-class Gibbs Gardens near Ball Ground, Georgia on the schedule. Based on the turnout and the number of photographs taken, it was considered a "hit." The weather forecast had not been favorable for several days prior, but the sun came out and provided a picture-perfect day. Mr. Jim Gibbs of Gibbs Landscaping (Atlanta, GA) purchased 292 acres in 1980 and spent the next 32 years building the gardens. They were opened to the public in 2012. Three feature gardens—Manor House, Japanese, and Waterlily provided stunning beauty and color at every turn. The gardens were designed for different colors to emerge every three to four weeks and delightful sculptures were strategically placed throughout the gardens including a space dedicated to the Gibbs grandchildren. The Waterlily Gardens featured an exact replica of the bridge in Monet's Gardens in Giverny, France. In the Japanese Gardens, the group walked over the crooked bridge to rid ourselves of evil spirits. At the Manor House Gardens (private residence of the Gibb's), we enjoyed a view of Mount Oglethorpe, which used to be the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail prior to the opening of Amicalola Falls State Park. Also observed during our stroll was National Summit Day and the walk to the Manor House provided a 150-foot summit. A leisurely lunch under the tall trees of the Arbor Terrace Café was a welcome rest stop. After meandering for over three hours through the gardens full of blooming annuals and perennials, several in the group decided to purchase annual passes which hopefully means a return trip for the club. New club members, Annette Finley and Trey Causey, joined veteran members Betsy Parson, Carolyn Brannon, John Rowland, Joyce Campbell, Sonja Parker, Susan Basch and Tom Long. Guests from Rome included Steve and Ginger Smith. As a retired Arborist, Steve was happy to provide tree identification. Happy to share one of her favorite places with the club was Barbara McCollum, reporting.

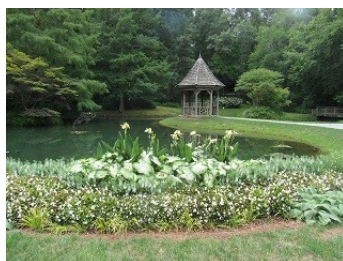
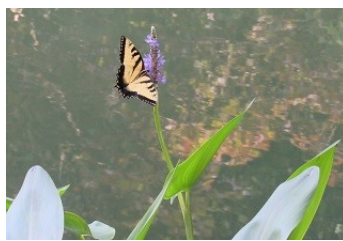


Picture from Barbara

Reports from the Field



More Gibbs Garden pictures from Barbara (above) and John



Reports from the Field

Grundy Forest Day Loop Wednesday August 8, 2018

This trail is a good choice for a half day hike when heat, humidity, and afternoon summer showers are in the forecast. A dense canopy protected the hikers as they took the counterclockwise direction for hiking to the bridge, spurring off to free-flowing Sycamore Falls, then returning to complete the loop back to the parking lot. The South Cumberland work crews have rerouted the trail to access the Fiery Gizzard. This change is well marked as they have defined the day loop and then the access to the Fiery Gizzard separately. Lots of healthy ferns, unusual mushrooms, and rocks! Remember this trail has lots of exposed roots and rocks and must be traveled with careful foot placement. We did experience a hiker's fall and injury only to find out how quickly the ranger could respond and how professional he was as he took over the situation. Thanks Bill Knapp and crew! In this case we were able to call the ranger station directly with cell service but were prepared to get out the SPOT that our club provides if needed. Glad for a happy ending were: Susan Basch, Barbara Miller, Wanda McCarter, Renee Grace, Sue Christensen, Edith Behringer, Bill Kinnaman, Joe Teringer, Jenny Hopkins, Beverly Ligon, Barry Ligon, Tom Carter, John Rowland, Bill Needham, Charlie Breeding, Larry Parks, Suzanne Dorough, Che Carico reporting and Susan Garrett leading.

Greeter Falls Saturday August 11, 2018

Another great turnout for a less strenuous, local hike to Greeter Falls in the Savage Gulf State Natural Area just outside of Altamont, TN. Savage Gulf is a 15,000-acre area in the South Cumberland State Park full of beautiful hardwood forests, tumbling creeks, sandstone cliffs and incredible waterfalls. The 3.2-mile Greeter Falls Loop offers three waterfalls as well as a historic home place. We first hiked to Boardtree Falls, and to make the hike a little longer, we hiked out to Alum Gap for a nice view of the gorge. Next, it was on to the highlight of the day—the impressive 50-foot Greeter Falls which required descending a spiral staircase and a slippery set of stairs ending in a notched boardwalk. Several hikers carefully descended to the beautiful pool created by the Falls for photographs or to get their feet wet. We also visited the 15-foot upper Greeter Falls which is equally as spectacular. On the return trip to the parking lot, we hoped to swim in the Blue Hole, but we only had two swimmers who enjoyed the cooling effects of Firescald Creek. Milder temperatures and lots of shade made for a very pleasant day. Total mileage was 4 miles with 500 feet in elevation gain. The day ended with a late lunch at one of the club's favorite restaurants in Monteagle—Papa Ron's Italian Steakhouse. Helping to celebrate a milestone birthday with another fun day of hiking and fellowship were Steve Barnes, John Rowland, Sue Christensen, Boe Rudder, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Betsy Parson, Tim Chomyn, Che Carico, Lindy Johnson, Kathy Steinbruegge, Gayle Monk, and newcomer Marti Smith. Many thanks to Steve Barnes for navigating to the trailhead and to John Rowland for leading the hike. Barbara McCollum, reporting.

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field



**Glen Falls
Wednesday August 15, 2018**

These trails lead one from the parking lot on Ochs Highway to a lovely hidden water fall just off the side of Lookout Mountain. As you start out, look carefully for the Whiteside Trail on the left as it turns uphill and away from the Guild Trail. It is rather grown up here and not marked with a visible sign. In less than a mile of ascent the trail came out on Sanders road. The Shingles Trail picked up in the closed picnic area (go around the gate) around the back side of the first bath house. From then on, the path, though quite grown up and hindered with blow downs, was visible as it cut through the vegetation to Ochs Highway again. Here we walked up the road a bit, crossed the highway, then stepped onto the Glen Falls trail. On the return trip we chose to take a right hand turn just before the ascent back up to Ochs and trek on down to Guild Road making a loop hike out of what had always been an in and out. Randy Wharton runs up this trail from St. Elmo and had told some of us this hike could be a loop. It does, however, require road walking for about 3 blocks when you come out of the woods onto Guild Road. Feeling good about exploring another trail option and ready for a good lunch at Purple Daisy were: Jennie Chandler, Susan Garrett, Wanda McCarter, Suzanne Dourough, Cecile Shenouda, Renee Grace, Bill Kinnaman, Jean Dickinson, Stormy McGauley, Sue Christensen, Joe Teringer, Richard Park, Joy Ward, Tim Chomyn, Che Carico reporting and Teresa and Mac Dean in the lead and sweeping.



Greeter Falls pictures from Tim (top & above left) and Teresa (above right & below)



Picture from Sue



Reports from the Field

Biology Trails

Saturday August 18, 2018

Six of us completed an 8-mile hike on the Biology Trails at Southern Adventist University. We managed to dodge the rain predicted for that day, though the humidity was close to 90% from the heavy rains the night before. We had three new hikers joining us today, Rita Pendergast, Amy Griffith and Annette Finley. This was their first hike with the club and they enjoyed getting on the trail. Other hikers included Rick Glisson and Shelly Claiborne. Reporting Tim Chomyn.



Picture from Tim

Bee Branch Loop

Wednesday August 22, 2018

Signal Point to Rainbow Lake, Bee Branch Loop, Rainbow Lake trail out to Ohio Avenue and road walk back to Point Park. After an appreciative gaze into the Tennessee River Gorge from the point, hardy hikers started out following Ronnie Williams on this challenging and beautiful trail in our back yard. As the southern terminus for the Cumberland Trail, it begins with the typical boulder steps and exposed roots of the CT. There are beautiful bluff views, trickling water creating streams for rock hopping, impressive mushrooms, bridges for crossing the water when it is deeper and running faster, and the sound of the powerful Julia Falls as one approaches the Rainbow Lake and Middle Creek bridge. Today we crossed the bridge and continued upstream following Middle Creek to the CB bridge, crossed it, curved right, and continued the loop back to the junction with the trail as it comes down from Ohio Avenue. A hot day but with breezes under a thick tree canopy. As always, newcomers to our trail systems are impressed with what can be found so close to civilization! Choices were made to return home or to go to the Southern Star by: Charlie Breeding, Suzanne Dorough, Edith Behringer, Susan Basch, Joy Ward, Bill Kinnaman, Renee Grace, Cecile Shenouda, Barry Ligon, Beverly Ligon, Barbara Miller, Boe Rudder, Stormy McGauley, Joe Teringer, Tristan Carico, Steve Turner, Che Carico reporting, Ronnie Williams leading.

Reports from the Field



Bee Branch Loop picture from Che

Betty Petty Memorial Hike

Saturday August 25, 2018

After a morning of climbing stairs, three of us were joined in the late afternoon by Boe Rudder for a leisurely walk along the road leading through Reflection Riding.. At the far end of the property, we turned back on a trail that wanders along the foot of Lookout Mountain until we arrived at the site of Betty's bench and marker. We took some time there to reflect on our dear friend, looking at some pictures that I keep on my cell phone. We all agreed that the one on her marker in which she is wearing that totally jaunty straw hat was exactly her! In addition to Boe, the hikers were Sarah Frost, Tim Chomyn, and John Rowland, reporting.



Pictures from Sarah

Outings Schedule

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

Other Stuff



Picture from Sarah

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 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 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.

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

Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019

Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico (423) 781-9271

Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)