



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

May 2019

Club Meeting

The Chattanooga Hiking Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of even numbered months (except December) at the REI store at 2507 Lifestyle Way, behind the Embassy Suites off Shallowford Road.

Next meeting – Monday June 3, 2019

Have you renewed your membership?

April 1 is time to renew membership. If you have joined the club since the first of the year, your membership is good through March 31, 2020. And of course if you've already renewed, thank you! There is a renewal form available on the website, under the "About Us" tab. You can print it and mail it in along with your check. Or bring it to the meeting Monday evening. And please tell us about any changes to your address, phone number, email, etc.



Picture above from Tim and at left from Jenny

Making

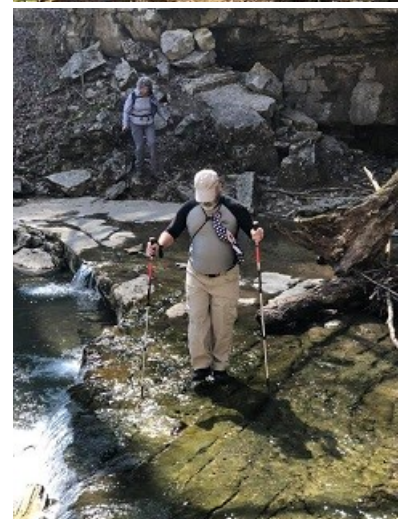
TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Walls of Jericho Wednesday March 20, 2019

The trip to "the Walls" has become an annual tradition in the latter part of March. The trail is in the Forever Wild property on the Tennessee/Alabama border. Cascades and a waterfall await at the end/turnaround of the trail and along the way the field of highly sought Virginia Bluebells stretch way into the forest. Hikers today were not disappointed by the flowers including Dutchman's Britches, Trout Lily, Twin Leaf (leaves but no blossoms), Hepatica, wild Geranium, Star Chickweed, and Squirrel Corn. Perhaps a little disappointing was the crossing of Turkey Creek - water was lower than expected and was crossed by rock hopping - no real challenge there. Just around the bend from Turkey Creek crossing is the wide-open expanse of reasonably flat rocks and the cascades - perfect for spreading out lunches. A few of the newcomers were coaxed on by Debbie to climb the short but tricky wall to an upper waterfall. This is not as hard as it looks! Hiking out is a bit more demanding as it is now uphill all those miles (3) you came down. Another demanding but well worth it trail. Safely out were: Betsy Darken, Bill Kinnaman, Jean Dickinson, Jennifer Yarbrough, Jenny Hopkins, Mary Ann Langevin, Renee Grace, Susan Basch, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Tim Chomyn, Wanda McCarter, Bill Needham, Diehl Boggs, Merry Boggs, Che Carico reporting and Debbie Lambert leading.



Upper picture from Jenny, lower from Tim

Upcoming Outings

Ace Gap, Beard Cane, Cooper Road Saturday May 4, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 15.4 miles

Elevation: Gain 2000 feet, Descent 2200

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Drive Time: 2.5 hrs

We'll spend Friday night in Townsend where we'll arrange to drop cars at the Abrams Falls parking area in Cades Cove prior to sunset. Saturday morning we'll simply drive up Old Cades Cove Road to the Ace Gap trail head to begin our hike, hiking the entire 5.6 miles length where we'll join Beard Cane trail. Beard Cane is 4.2 miles but has a crossing of Hesse Creek which may require water shoes. From Beard Cane we'll intersect with Cooper Road trail, following it to our cars at Abrams Falls Parking area. To register, contact hike leader Ken Smith at KenSmith323@gmail.com or call at 864-809-1800.

Smokies boat(!) camp Wednesday-Saturday May 8-11, 2019

We will meet Steve Claxton for shuttle over to campsite # 74 - all of our gear (tents, food, etc) will be carried on the pontoon and dropped off at the campsite. No need to backpack. The trails targeted are the Springhouse Branch section from Whiteoak Branch to Forney Ridge Trail and back to campsite (14 miles), and the Bear Creek trail from the campsite to junction with Welch Ridge and back (12 miles). Day packs will be carried for the hikes. Cost will be campsite reservation (\$4 per night per person x 3 nights)* and ride on Pontoon to camp and back. Need to talk to Steve about boat cost. Che.

AT, Goshen Prong, Little River Saturday May 25, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 13.5 miles

Elevation: Gain 200 feet, Descent 3300

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Drive Time: 2.5 hrs

After spending the night in Townsend, we'll drop cars at Elkmont as we head up Clingman's Dome Road to start our hike. After the .5 mile hike up to the AT, the remainder of the hike will be downhill, following the AT for 1.9 miles to Goshen Prong. Goshen Prong will be a steep downhill for the first four miles of the 7.6 mile trail. From there it's an easy 3.6 miles out Little River Trail to our car. To register, contact hike leader Ken Smith at KenSmith323@gmail.com or call at 864-809-1800.

National Trails Day Saturday June 1, 2019

Look for details of a trail maintenance activity on the website and in June's newsletter.

Upcoming Outings

Benton MacKaye, sections #5, #6, part of #7 Friday-Sunday June 7-9, 2019

Location: near Ellijay, GA

(From Wilscot Gap, GA to US 76)

Distance: 10.9 miles (Saturday); 8.9 miles (Sunday)

Elevation: 2000 feet

Rating: Moderately Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Need shuttles both days

Drive Time: 1.5 hrs to E. Ellijay

You will need lodging on the night of Saturday, June 8. (Also Friday night, June 7, if you come early). Some people are staying at the Best Western in East Ellijay (706-515-1500). Cabin rental around Cherry Log might be an alternative (contact Boe Rudder). Please make your lodging reservations as soon as possible. Call/Text Catherine Love @ 334-329-4807 or email: lovecat@charter.net to register for this hike.

Benton MacKaye, section #12 Friday-Sunday June 28-30, 2019

(From Ocoee River Hwy 64 to Hiwassee River, Reliance)

Distance: 9.0 miles (Saturday); 8.3 miles (Sunday)

Elevation: 1650 feet (one long section is 400 ft/mi gradient)

Rating: Moderately Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Need shuttles both days

Driving Time: 3 hours (between Ooltewah and Reliance)

You will need lodging on the nights of Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29. Three (3) campsites have been reserved/paid at Thunder Rock Campground (4 people/2 cars per site; \$32 per site (includes both nights)). Call/text Catherine Love @ 334-329-4807 or email: lovecat@charter.net to register for this hike and to secure one of the reserved campsites if desired.

Cold Mountain Saturday July 13, 2019

Location: Shining Rock Wilderness area

Driving time: 3 hours from Ooltewah, TN

Distance: 10.6 miles round trip

Elevation: 3,000 feet

Rating: Very difficult

Pace: Slow

Cold Mountain, made famous by author Charles Frazier, is perfect for a hiking day trip. The best months to hike are May through October as snow covers the top of the peak for much of the other months. It is a strenuous 10.6-mile round trip to the summit in the remote Shining Rock Wilderness area of the Pisgah National Forest. The hike is ultra-scenic and the summit views are well worth the difficult 3,000 feet in elevation gain. The trail is challenging but not technical. We will start on the Art Loeb Trail, located at the Daniel Boone Scout Camp near Waynesville, NC. At 6,030 feet above sea level, Cold Mountain is one of the 40 summits of the Carolina Mountain Club's SB6K Challenge (South Beyond 6,000 ft.). This hike will require a 2-night stay (July 12-13) in the Waynesville, NC area, so please contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143 to register for the hike and receive plans for hotel accommodations. **Please note** hikers must be in good physical condition to participate in this difficult hike.

Reports from the Field

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**AT/Boulevard/Trillium Gap
Saturday March 23, 2019**

Great snow hike this Saturday with Ken Smith and Cheryl Hale. 17 miles 2400 feet elevation gain. Newfound Gap - Boulevard to Leconte then down Trillium to Rainbow Falls. Thanks Ken for organizing! Bill Needham reporting.



Pictures from Tim

Pictures from Cheryl, Bill, and/or Ken

**Shake Rag Hollow
Wednesday March 27, 2019**

This section of trail is part of the Perimeter Trail which encircles the Sewanee Campus. It is famous for its variety of wildflowers and every week as the spring bloom begins, one variety will be in its prime. The name Shake Rag comes from the rag customers shook over their heads as they hiked down into the gorge to pick up their previously ordered moonshine! If you shook a rag over your head, you were not identified as a revenuer! Phacelia, dutchman's britches, trillium, phlox, hepatica on the wane, a few trout lilies, celandine poppy scattered along the way. We began hiking clockwise from the university gates along the bluff to Beckwith's Point, turned down at Green's View, through the gorge back and up and out toward the university gates. A group took the spur to Piney Point and back to then rejoin the main trail. Lunching at Mountain Goat Cafe were: Barry Ligon, Betsy Parson, Beverly Ligon, Bill Kinnaman, Boe Rudder, Caroline Woerner, Cecile Shenouda, Debbie Lambert, Edith Behringer, Jack Lambert, Linda Keown, Luke Spiekerman, Mac Dean, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Spears McAllister, Susan Garrett, Susan Basch, Suzanne Dorough, Tom Carter, Wayne Chambers, Joy Ward, Joe Tehringer, Bob Shafto, Betsy Darken, Vicki Chambers, John Budka, Merry Boggs, Diehl Boggs, Tracy Spiekerman, Carl Dumsday, Che Carico reporting, Teresa Dean, Wanda McCarter, Debbie Lambert leading.



Pictures from Jenny



Look close... What a great picture!



Pictures from Joy



and Teresa

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

**Chasteen Creek, Hughes Ridge to Peck's Corner, upper Bradley Fork
Friday-Saturday March 29-30, 2019**

What makes a perfect Smokies hike:
 Everyone meets in Ooltewah on time and ready to go!
 Great dinner at new place, Haywood Smokehouse, Dillsboro, NC.
 Smokey Mtn Inn and Suites new for us and quite comfortable - does have continental breakfast.
 Plenty of time for breakfast at Peter's Pancakes in Cherokee as so close to trail head at Smokemont.
 Without too much pressure, on the trail by 8:30, temp in upper 50s, sun beginning to show above the mountain ridge.
 Spring beauty, tooth wart, ferns, trout lily, hepatica, vinca - not in abundance but beautiful none-the-less.
 Mostly climbing for 10.2 miles to Peck's Corner AT shelter. Privy here and close water source.
 All safely there well before dark!
 After a restless night with the usual shelter night sounds and a bit chilly, sun begins to rise, coffee pots rattle, meager breakfasts broken out, packed up and ready for hike back to Smokemont (9.9 miles) again by 8:30.
 Allowing for 2 hikers to spur off to Cabin Flats and Smokemont Loop, all reunited and back on the road again headed to our traditional restaurant when returning from this side of the GSMNP - Monte Alban - mid-afternoon.
 Making memories again!!! Carolyn Brannon, Monty Simmons, Joyce Campbell, Boe Rudder, Wayne Chambers, Jean Dickinson, Bill Needham (all the right stuff!), Betsy Parson, Tom Sewell, Che Carico, reporting.
 Shelter words of reflection fFrom: So Will I
 "If the stars were made to worship, so will I.
 If the mountains bow in reverence, so will I."
 Arrangement by Leonard Ahlstrom and Jamie Harvill



Pictures from Bill

**Abrams Falls via Little Bottoms
Saturday March 30, 2019**

It was a small group, but we were all on a mission – mostly to get in a good workout! And maybe enjoy the beauty of Abrams Creek in the Smokies. We spotted a few wildflowers and took note of the astounding amount of wind damage in that area from a few years ago. With much of the canopy gone, it gets hot on those exposed hillsides in the afternoon! Enjoying good company and a satisfying day of exercise were Merry and Diehl Boggs, Spears McAllester, and John Rowland, reporting.

**Berry College
Saturday April 3, 2019**

This beautiful campus and outstanding school were founded in 1902 by Martha Berry. We have been privileged to hike on its many trails within 27,000 acres, always led by Barbara McCollum. Today was another beautiful day coming between many days of rain! As the sun shone, we visited the alumni center for a break after the drive to Rome, then struck off with Barbara to begin the climbing portion of the hike to The House of Dreams. The many newcomers were thrilled with the beauty of the old house, the grounds, the tower, and the Koi pond! After lunch we then headed down the mountain taking a series of forest trails following Barbara and Terri Holcomb and being "swept" by Helen Owens. The route today took us by the lake and along a creek side trail, loaded with wildflowers, back to the Old Mill - at least 7 miles. After resting a little while the cars were retrieved, most then continued a short distance into Rome for yogurt at Jandy's. Home with pleasant reflections were: Beverly Ligon, Barry Ligon, Luke Spiekerman, Wayne Chambers, Vicki Chambers, Renee Grace, Wanda McCarter, Jenny Hopkins, Betsy Parson, John Budka, Suzanne Dorough, Carl Dumsday, Susie Dumsday, Charlie Breeding, John Rowland, Stormy McGauley, Betsy Darken, Che Carico reporting and Barbara McCollum, Terri Holcomb, and Helen Owens leading.



Picture from Barbara

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

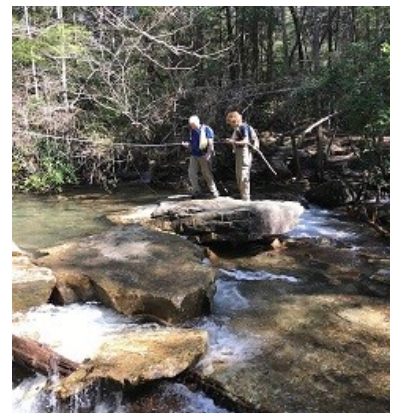
More from Berry College...



Pictures above from John, at left from Luke

Virgin Falls
Wednesday April 10, 2019

Another break in the string of bad weather days for this trip to Sparta and Virgin Falls in the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness! This demanding trail was a challenge for most, but all said well worth it! Many had never been. The wildflowers were splendid, the falls thunderous, and the pine needles on the new trail to Martha's Pretty Point softened the walk. Yes, it is a long drive to Sparta but a great trail in the wilderness! The park has had many improvements including a ranger station at the trailhead, rock work creating steps in tough places, CLEAN portable potties at the trail head, and new wooden ladder steps on the spur trail between Martha's Pretty Point and the main Virgin Falls trail. The main route boasts three waterfalls: Big Branch Falls, Big Laurel Falls, and the magnificent Virgin Falls, a side trip to the Sheep Cave, and a climb to the top of Virgin Falls. Challenged but so glad to have walked here with club friends were: Merry Boggs, Diehl Boggs, Betsy Darken, Suzanne Dorough, Mary Anne Langevin, Renee Grace, Bob Shafto, JD Dickinson, Bill Kinnaman, Susan Garrett, Charlie Breeding, Barbara Miller, Spears McAllister, Joy Ward, Che Carico reporting, John Rowland, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean and Stormy McGauley leading.



Pictures above and below from Teresa, at left from Stormy



Reports from the Field

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**Piney River
Wednesday April 17, 2019**

Another great trail for spring wildflowers near Spring City - the Piney River Trail which is a section of the Cumberland State Scenic Trail. The hike began this day at the Newby Branch campground (after leaving a few cars at the recreation area on the river across from the lower trail head), crossed over Shut In Gap road and continued along Duskin Creek to Piney River and the trail's end at the Piney River picnic area - 8.5 miles. Lunch was beside the river at the Logging Camp with seats reserved! Crossing McDonald Branch can be tricky but today the water level was not so bad. Many varieties of wildflowers!! Gay wings, phacelia, dwarf iris, star chickweed, stone crop, jack in pulpit (Debbie counted at least 17 AFTER crossing over the bridge), yellow buckeye numerous as never seen before, red buckeye, phlox, wild geranium, bluets, dwarf iris - just to name a few. Enjoying spring's display: Bill Kinnaman, Boe Rudder, Charlie Breeding, John Rowland, Mac Dean, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, MaryAnne Langevin, Joe Teringer, Bob Shafto, Jean Dickinson, Che Carico reporting, Debbie Lambert leading. PS Parking used to be allowed at the Duskin Creek bridge, but the private owner has now asked that hikers not park there. The hike must be hiked from the recreation area on the river or from Newby Camp.

**Black Mountain
Wednesday April 24, 2019**

The Black Mountain trail is another section of the ever growing toward completion Cumberland Trail. It is a favorite as pink lady slippers live here in abundance and a few yellow lady slippers can be found near the Spring House. There is also a more clearly defined lower bluff trail which allows a loop as you come up the trail from Hwy 64 to the steps between the enormous boulders, cross the top to South overlook, and return below the boulders to reconnect with the main trail and down. Teresa and Mac Dean designed a "hike for everyone" by defining the 7.5 mile hike from the highway to the top and back down, and a 4.5 mile hike (using shuttle) to include the loop at the top and then the main trail back down to the highway. It was a beautiful day with yellow trillium, larkspur, wood sorrel, a few jacks, fire pink, and wild azaleas lining both route, pink lady slippers, and a few yellow ones not quite fully bloomed out. There was plenty of room for everyone at the South overlook yielding an incredible view of the Grassy Cove valley below. Careful not to lose precious Seattle, WA Symphony Orchestra members were: Eric Anderson (hiking club member, Principal Bassoon Chattanooga Symphony) who brought guests Walter Gray and Rachel Swerdlow, Bob Shafto, Barbara Miller, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, MaryAnne Langevin (now off to Michigan for the summer), Wayne Chambers, Cecile Shenouda, Bill Kinnaman, Jennifer Yarbrough, Susan Garrett, Tom Carter, Betsy Darken, John Rowland, Stormy McGauley, Renee Grace, Che Carico reporting, Mac and Teresa Dean leading.



Pictures from Teresa



Pictures above from Teresa, at left and below from John



Outings Schedule

05/04/19	Smokies, Ace Gap, Beard Cane	K Smith
05/08/19	Smokies backpack (Bear Creek)	C Carico
05/25/19	Smokies, AT, Goshen Prong, Little River	K Smith
06/01/19	Nat'l Trails Day trail maintenance	S Barnes
06/01/19	Smokies backpack (Lakeshore)	C Carico
06/07-10/19	BMT slackpack N GA	C Love
06/15/19	Imodium Falls	M Boggs
06/21-23/19	Grandfather Mtn car camp	K Smith
06/28-30/19	BMT slackpack Ocoee-Hiwassee	C Love
07/13/19	Cold Mountain	B McCollum

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 unmaintained 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, email, text, etc., 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

From the archives...



This popped up on Susan Faidley's Facebook page. It's from a Porter's Creek hike in the Smokies back in April, 2014. I remember lots of wildflowers and lots of people on the trail, at least the lower portion of it. Familiar faces, but some of the names were a bit hard to come by. We did finally succeed in identifying everyone, I think. Thanks, Susan! ...John

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 - Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103
Secretary - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159
Membership Database - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159
Outings - Barbara McCollum (770) 289-7143

Newsletter/Webmaster - John Rowland (423) 802-7704
Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019
Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103
Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico (423) 718-9271
Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)