



## Newsletter of the Chattanooga Hiking Club

June 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 October 7, 2019

(We have decided to forgo summer meetings..)

### Happy Anniversary to Us!

2019 marks our 30th year, so we're going to have a picnic at Cloudland Canyon on Saturday, October 19. There will be covered dishes to feed the multitudes, a little bit of hiking (or maybe more for those with more energy), lots of current members, but hopefully lots of former members or friends that we just don't see much any more. So mark the date on your calendars, round up some old pictures, dust off your best tall tales, and join us for a day of hiking, food, friendship, and laughter!



Pictures from Barbara

## Making

# TRACKS

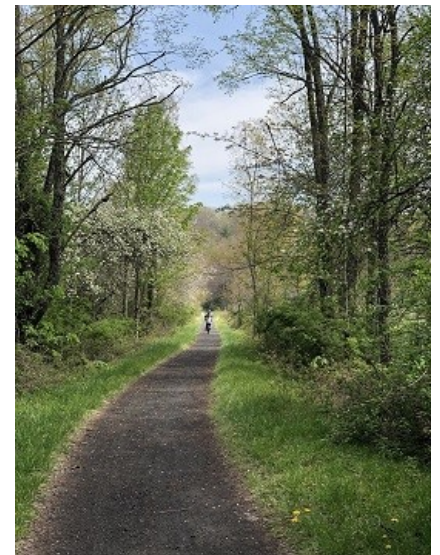


### Reports from the Field

#### Virginia Creeper bike ride

#### Thursday April 25, 2019

Biking the Virginia Creeper Trail near Damascus, VA is quickly becoming a semi-annual tradition with the club. Originated by Wayne Chambers, the trip usually involves driving to Abingdon, VA on Wednesday, dinner in Abingdon, and an overnight stay in a nearby hotel. On Thursday morning we travel into the famous trail town of Damascus (the Appalachian Trail "AT" goes through the middle of downtown) and congregate at SunDog Outfitters which provides the bicycles, helmets, and shuttles to the starting point at Whitetop Mountain—the second highest mountain in Virginia. A few days prior to this particular trip the weather forecast didn't look too good, so most of the bikers decided to take a rain check. For Carolyn Brannon and Barbara McCollum, we opted for a more positive outlook and didn't believe the weatherman. Fortunately, our optimism paid off and we were rewarded with a beautiful two days of traveling and biking. We met up with friends of Carolyn's—Maudie Miller and Mike Hicks for a delicious dinner in Abingdon at Pecan 128 on Wednesday night followed by some Dominoes (Mexican Train) at the hotel. Thursday morning, we were shuttled to Whitetop Mountain by the very pleasant driver, Lee, who has an infinite supply of corny jokes. We leisurely biked the 17 miles downhill to Damascus stopping numerous times for photos, wildflower identification, and a few steps on the AT for Mike and Maudie. After lunch in Damascus, we said our goodbyes to Mike and Maudie and were shuttled again by Lee to Abingdon so we could finish the trail back to Damascus for a total of 34 miles for the day. Wayne doesn't normally bike this section, but we decided it was worth an attempt since we had traveled so far. Equally as lovely to the Whitetop to Damascus section, we were rewarded with numerous wildflowers, beautiful views of the mountains, and cattle grazing in nearby pastures. This section requires more pedaling, but we managed to complete it in two hours. Our day ended at 5:30 p.m. Hopefully the Spring trip will be rescheduled by Wayne, and I'm hoping for another trip in the Fall. Barbara McCollum, reporting.



<b>Upcoming Outings</b>
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**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](mailto:lovecat@charter.net) to register for this hike.

**Immodium Falls  
Saturday June 15, 2019**

Location: Soddy-Daisy  
Distance: 9.5  
Elevation: 1000 feet gain, 1000 feet loss  
Rating: Moderately Strenuous  
Pace: Standard  
Also known as Little Possum Creek Trail on the Cumberland Trail System. We will meet Tractor Supply at the Sequoyah Rd. at 8:00am. Please sign up because this hike will require a car shuttle. If you are willing to help with the car shuttle, please let me know so we can make these arrangements ahead of time. There is also a water crossing. Hikers will need plenty of water, bug spray, and snacks and lunch. You can contact Merry Boggs at [boggs@hotmaill.com](mailto:boggs@hotmaill.com) or 423-314-4108.

**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](mailto:lovecat@charter.net) to register for this hike and to secure one of the reserved campsites if desired.

<b>Upcoming Outings</b>
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**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](mailto: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.

**Can't Hardly  
Saturday July 20, 2019**

Location: Lookout Mtn, Ascalon  
Distance: 3 mi  
Elevation: relatively level  
Rating: Easy  
Pace: Standard  
Driving time: 20 minutes from downtown Chattanooga  
The hike will begin at the Ascalon Road trailhead. We plan to hike out the main CCT trail to the Bear Creek bridge and return on the Can't Hardly trail. We will take a water/snack break near the midpoint. Contact Steve Barnes at [sebarnestorm@gmail.com](mailto:sebarnestorm@gmail.com) or [423-339-3019](tel:423-339-3019)

**Reports from the Field**

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**BMT Section 21 - Lakeshore to Smokemont  
Friday-Monday April 26-29, 2019**

One to Remember! If we had known it was going to be that hard, we would have ..... (answers hidden – what happens on the trail stays on the trail )

25 PLUS MILES !, 5200’ of UPS and 4800’ of DOWNS !  
(NOT INCL minor undulations and bonus side-trails/add-ons !!)  
LOTS of SUN, high of 80 degrees! , with FULLY-LOADED PACKS !!

It’s probably best to just let everyone speak for themselves about this one.

Question: What about this trek was most memorable to you?

Answers:

Carolyn: Drinking tea with my niece Susanna while watching the sunset on Newton Bald. An abundance of wildflowers all along the way!

Cathy: Playing Frisbee between tents at sunrise atop Newton Bald; LOVE Camp #52 !!

Rick: Reaching Smokies 500 mile milestone! Got the pin!

Sandy: Wildflowers, knee high water crossings, Susanna’s leaf trick to fill water containers, new friends, Camp #52 sunset !

Susanna: Reaching Newton Bald for sunset to split dinner and tea with my aunt Carolyn!

Tom: Hiking on the BMT and the MST, with spectacular views along Sunkota Ridge !

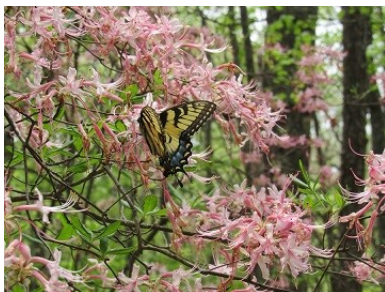
Attending: Carolyn Brannon, Cathy Love, Rick Glisson, Sandy Barlett, Susanna Starling, and Tom Sewell.

Reporting: Cathy Love

**Tommy Point, Savage Gulf  
Saturday April 27, 2019**

A cool start to the day – 49 degrees, jacket weather for a little while – but as the day went on it was quite pleasant. We saw a few wildflowers, a few really nice overlooks of Savage Gulf, and multiple blowdowns of multiple trees. According to a ranger, they had two tornadic episodes last November that really wreaked havoc with the trails; most have been cleared by a lot of good chainsaw work, but a couple obstacles, probably more recent, still caused us to take a work-around. But the view from Tommy Point of the

confluence of all the gulfs is still a wonderful, very worthwhile goal. I was joined by Joe Teringer; John Rowland reporting.



Pictures from John

**Little Cedar Mountain  
Wednesday May 1, 2019**

A perfect day to travel to Nickajack Dam area to hike this wonderful trail just off I-24 at exit 158. The trail is easy under foot with a few rock sections and a couple of moderate uphill climbs if you maximize the figure 8 yielding 5 miles. It also boasts views of the Tennessee River, surrounding mountains, and a pond. Near the pond an owl called out as we approached. A family of armadillos has been spotted near the overlook but not today. The array of splendid wildflowers found on this trail on a previous spring hike were not in evidence. However, ferns were lush, we sited several clumps of fire pink and many little purple flowers as yet to be identified. There were cooling breezes along the way. We so appreciate the trail building efforts of our friends, and in this case, it is Bob Butters. Under his direction we drove on down to Shellmound Recreation area for lunch protected from the sun in a shelter with picnic tables and bathrooms nearby. Enjoying the lake front site with the blue herons and Jenny's oatmeal/apricot cookies were: Joe Tehringer, Bill Kinnaman, Susan Basch, Wendy Gunn, Patti Giles, Larry Parks, Beverly Ligon, Barry Ligon, Sue Christensen, Cathy Whittier, Donna

Mahrous, Tom Long, Wayne Chambers, Vicki Chambers, Renee Grace, Diehl Boggs, Merry Boggs, Joyce Campbell, Che Carico reporting, Stormy McGauley marking trail route with cornmeal, Debbie Lambert, Jenny Hopkins, and Susan Garrett leading.



Pictures from Stormy

## Reports from the Field

### **Bear Creek, Springhouse Gap Wednesday-Saturday May 8-11, 2019**

On day one of this trip we met Steve Claxton on highway 74 as it comes out of the Nantahala Gorge. We followed Steve to a put in ramp and rode to campsite #74 on Fontana Lake to begin our 3 day camping experience. The campsite is stunning as on a raised terrace beside Forney Creek which was roaring. It actually made enough sound as to interrupt the sleep of an unnamed hiker/camper! You can take more "stuff" (camp chairs, stove, cooler, cord wood) when let out on the bank by Steve as only .4 of a mile to the campsite. After setting up our camp including a canopy near the "cooking" area (a fire ring and a long log for sitting), a fire was built, and we sat around until well after dark. The next day our trek was up the Bear Creek trail to touch the Welch Ridge trail. This trail goes uphill the entire way, but gently so until campsite #75. Then more of a haul. This means it was downhill all the way back to camp. The trail to Springhouse Gap/Forney Ridge was similar as far as campsite #71. We broke out into a beautiful meadow like campsite with a very old homestead chimney and fireplace still along Forney Creek. The uphill from this point on was more strenuous as we had been warned. It did have some relieving switchbacks and occasional straight and flat stretches. Once again, it was all downhill going back to camp. Not so many wildflowers this weekend but dappled sun on the trail, healthy ferns, cooling breezes, moon and stars at night and two rattlesnake sightings. Sometime in the night it started raining so packing up was soggy. Still had hot coffee and Wayne's sweet rolls. Steve met us on the shore of the lake and as rather wet it was a cold ride back to the take-out. Spirits were not dampened, however! After supper in Cherokee we said goodbye to Ken and began our trip back to Chattanooga in the daylight! Sharing lots of stories were: Betsy Parson, Betsy Darken, Wayne Chambers, Monty Simmons, Ken Smith and Che Carico, reporting.

### **Sherwood Forest Wednesday May 15, 2019**

Our new friend and hiker, Bob Shafto, has worked on the newly created Sherwood Forest trail on Monteagle Mountain. Before returning to Maine he wanted to take us there. It is not quite complete - needs a little fine tuning, but certainly easily hiked and followed. We did run into a crew working on a section. Huge rocks, wonderful views with stones placed just right for looking out over the mountains and valleys, sooo many jack-in-the-pulpits, Mountain Laurel blooming, native American hieroglyphics, and another narrow stone bridge right out in the middle of it all. Our South Cumberland friends have been hard at work creating another beautiful trail! Grateful for all trail building efforts were: Cecile Shenouda, Charlie Breeding, Diehl Boggs, Joyce Campbell, Larry Parks, Merry Boggs, Renee Grace, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Tom Long, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Joy Ward, Joe Tehringer, Steve Boone, Susan Boone, Che Carico reporting, Bob Shafto leading.

## Reports from the Field

### **CT Mobray Pike to Hot Water Road Wednesday May 22, 2019**

We love to strike off following our friend Don Deakins! He has been so much a part of the Cumberland Trail project - building, wheeling, maps, and journaling with photos and trail descriptions. Since this is his territory you always know he is leading in the direction planned, knows the precise distance, and has a pretty good idea how long it will take. This section is beautiful! It has ups and downs, some rocks and roots but not as much as other sections, easy rock hopping stream crossings, huge boulders typical of the plateau, and historic mine sites. The unrelenting rain in the early spring led to landslides with many trees uprooted. Hotwater Road was blocked for a period of time as was this section of trail. Certainly, the road is now open and trail damage repaired. Evidence will remain of what damage had been done. In awe of the damage and the effort to restore this trail were: Bill LaRoque, Boe Rudder, Edie Behringer, Renee Grace, Spears McAllister, Stormy McGauley, Teresa Dean, Tom Carter, Tom Long, Wanda McCarter, Rosemary Hurayt, Patrick Lavin, Steve Boone, Susan Boone, Maureen Brock, Betsy Darken, Bill Kinnaman, Suzanne Dorough, Maureen Brock, Charlie Breeding, Che Carico reporting, Don Deakins leading.

### **CT Panther Creek Overlook, Furnace Rock Wednesday May 29, 2019**

Forecast was for a really hot day, but hikers turned out to follow Don Deakins once again. Having met at Walmart on Harrison Lane, we climbed Montlake Mountain via Montlake Road to Barker Camp and drove through the open gate down a VERY rutted road to the parking area. From here we hiked to the current end of the CT (North Chickamauga Creek Section), turned left and hiked along the CT to the Panther Branch overlook. Retracing our steps, we then turned down a wide rocky forest road to Furnace Rock and its swimming hole. The hot day was nowhere in sight as we sat on cool boulders for an unhurried lunch and watched some 20somethings nearby jump and dive into the water. Good entertainment! Enjoying an adventure and the cool breeze were: Betsy Parson, Wayne Chambers, Edie Behringer, Susan Garrett, Bill Kinnaman, Betsy Darken, Renee Grace, Spears McAllister, Che Carico reporting, Don Deakins leading.

Post script: Watched ticks on the "killing fields" of Don's pants which had been treated with Permethrin. You will find it in numerous insect repelling products but the one he used today was Sawyer. It works! They died or fell off his pants right before our very eyes!

## Outings Schedule

06/07-10/19	BMT slackpack N GA	C Love
06/15/19	Imodium Falls	M Boggs
06/28-30/19	BMT slackpack Ocoee-Hiwassee	C Love
07/06/19	Smokies, Fork Ridge to Deep Creek	K Smith
07/13/19	Cold Mountain	B McCollum
07/20 or 27/19	Ascalon, Can't Hardly	S Barnes
07/20 or 27/19	Smokies day hike	W Chambers
08/17/19	DeSoto State Park	S Basch
08/24/19	Chattanooga Riverwalk	M Boggs

**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 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 Barbara on the Virginia Creeper ride...



### 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](http://chatthiking.com) (includes link to newsletter)