



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

July 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!



Greenway Farms pictures from Teresa

# Making

# TRACKS



### Reports from the Field

#### Benton MacKaye Trail Maintenance Saturday June 1, 2019

For National Trails Day, Larry Van Dyke (of BMTA), Steve Barnes, Betsy Parsons and I worked on the section along the Hiwassee up from Reliance, TN. We got most of the tread reworked east from the picnic area to the next bridge. After the bridge we got another 50-75 feet completed or started. In the heat we ran out of energy. We did brush out from Big Bend to where it hits the road. We worked west from the picnic area to the big bridge plus about 20' on west side of bridge. Still a small distance to clear as we did not want to disturb a large black snake on the trail digesting its lunch. We brushed out the east end up to where the trail starts climbing. We did remove a number of small trees from the trail. Boe Rudder

#### Greenway Farms Wednesday June 5, 2019

Threatening weather forecasts and grey skies did little to scare 19 hikers as they set out to conquer about 5 1/2 miles of woods and asphalt at Greenway Farms. The course was laid out so that everyone could get all the exercise they wanted/needed and still allow for all to finish within 15 minutes of each other. Hiking distances ranged from 4 to 5 1/2 miles with all completing the steep climb through the woods to the Boy Scout trail. The

weather was below 80 and shady/cloudy (great for this time of year). The Ropes Course/ Boy Scout section got everyone warmed up for the "stroll" around the loop and back

to the Quarry. Then on down the trail to the 1.3 mile trail through the field by the creek and back to the cars. Some of the more hardy/hungry then finished the day with lunch at Little Tokyo Express. Hiking were: Mac Dean (lead), Betsy Parsons, Bill Kinnaman, Caroline Woerner, Edith Behringer, Joyce Campbell, Larry Parks, Renee Grace, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Tom Carter, Tom Long, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Joy Ward, Joe Teringer, Vicki Hill, Steve Hill. Teresa Dean, reporting.



### Upcoming Outings

#### Smokies, Fork Ridge/Deep Creek Saturday July 6, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Distance: 15.4 miles

Elevation: 700 feet gain, 4700 feet descent

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Join trip leader Ken Smith on a shuttle hike from Clingmans Dome Road to Deep Creek Campground. After dropping cars at Deep Creek, we will shuttle to the trailhead of the Fork Ridge Trail to begin our descent, covering the full 5.1 miles to Campsite #53 at the Deep Creek Trail. Be advised there is a river crossing at this point that will require water shoes. After joining the Deep Creek Trail, we will follow this and additional 10.3 miles to our cars. Fork Ridge is a continual downhill trek, dropping about 2800 feet. Deep Creek Trail, from campsite #53 to the Deep Creek Campground, is a more moderate but undulating terrain with an additional descent of 1900 feet and about 700 feet of elevation gain. Suggested overnight in Bryson City for an early start on Saturday morning. Interested parties should contact Ken Smith via email, [KenSmith323@gmail.com](mailto:KenSmith323@gmail.com), or by text or phone call at 864-809-1800.

#### Cold Mountain

#### Saturday July 13, 2019

Cancelled due to worries about the difficulty in the heat of July. Will likely be rescheduled in cooler weather.

#### Hiwassee River Float Trip Wednesday July 17, 2019

Location: Reliance, TN

This great event became an annual one many years ago! Look up Webb Brothers Float Service in Reliance, TN, to read about the funyaks. Other choices for enjoying the river are to walk along the river or sit beside the river in a camp chair until the rafters arrive at the picnic area at Big Bend and the chef has the hot dogs cooked to order! Mark this date and be thinking about your "covered dish" to share with grilled hot dogs as the main entree! Details from Che as we get closer.

#### Smokies, Round Top Saturday July 20, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Distance: 7.5 miles

Elevation Gain: 900 feet

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

We will start on Wear Cove Gap Road near Metcalf Bottoms Picnic area and finish at the Townsend Wye. This is one of the least used trails in the entire park. This will be a car shuttle hike. At the finish of the hike at the Wye, you will get wet crossing the Little River. Based on recent rain or no rain for that week, the creek crossing should be about knee high for most people. Please bring water shoes. Even though this is a shorter "Smokies" hike, it is needed for several map markers. We will be back in Ooltewah around 5-6 PM. Hike leader, Wayne Chambers, 423-593-3717.

### Upcoming Outings

Here's a photo from our July 2015 Round Top hike which was taken by a professional photographer. The three of us fell behind the main group and we crossed in the wrong place. Oh well, it's a fun memory. Barbara



#### Can't Hardly Saturday July 27, 2019

Location: Lookout Mtn, Ascalon

Distance: 3 miles

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

#### Smokies, Snake Den Ridge Saturday August 10, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Distance: 10.6 miles

Elevation Gain: 3350 feet

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

The trail begins and ends in Cosby campground. Meet at Food City at Ooltewah exit at 4 pm August 9. Drive to Newport, dinner, and sleep in motel. Begin hike morning of the 10th and drive back to Chattanooga after completing. Contact Che, [mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net](mailto:mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net) to sign up for this hike.

## Upcoming Outings

### Chattanooga River Walk Saturday August 24, 2019

Location: Chattanooga

Diehl and I are working on a short and long hike along the Riverwalk for this Saturday date. We want to offer a choice for the hikers joining us on this hike. We are planning a lunch where we can all meet and the hikers on the short hike can eat and return home. The hikers on the longer hike can continue hiking after lunch. Please let us know early if you are interested in this hike. Merry Boggs boggs@hotmail.com or 423-314-4108.

### Berry College and Rome, GA Saturday August 31, 2019

Saturday, August 31, 2019

Location: Berry College Wildlife Management Area and Rome, GA Riverwalk

Driving time: 90 minutes from Chattanooga

Distance: 8 miles or 20 miles

Elevation: less than 900 ft.

Rating: Moderately Strenuous for 8 miles, Difficult for 20 miles

Pace: Standard

Choose your hike - 8 miles on trails at Berry College to include the Old Mill, Reservoir and the House o'Dreams. Or, continue on with the group training for the El Camino to make it a 20-mile day. After leaving the Berry trails, we'll have to do a short road walk to the Braves stadium for access to the Riverwalk along Rome's Oostanaula and Etowah Rivers. The Riverwalk is an asphalt trail. A little history will be thrown in the historic downtown area including a visit to the grave of Ellen Axson Wilson (President Woodrow Wilson's first wife) at Myrtle Hill Cemetery as well as a walk by the Omberg House, the site of the first oophorectomy. We'll also visit Julia Omberg's gravesite and you can determine for yourself whether she survived the oophorectomy. We'll end up in downtown Rome for a nice meal, a visit to Honeymoon Bakery (pastries and gelato) and maybe some musical entertainment while in downtown. To register for either or both (the Berry hike or the Rome Riverwalk) contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com.

### Smokies, Lakeshore Trail "Boat Camp" Thursday-Sunday September 26-29, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Drive to Fontana Lake Thursday, September 26 and we'll be transported by pontoon boat with Steve Claxton to campsite 86 and spend the night. On Friday, Steve will transport us by pontoon to campsite #74 where we'll hike the Lakeshore trail for 8.7 miles to campsite #76 where Steve will pick us up and take us back to camp. On Saturday, we'll be transported back to campsite #76 where we'll continue hiking on Lakeshore Trail for 12.3 miles back to camp for our final night. Sunday we'll hike a short 4.4 miles to campsite #90 where Steve will pick us up and take us back to our cars. Contact Che, mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net to sign up for this trip.

Visit steveclaxton.com and watch the video for his fishing camp to get an idea of his camp and services. The trip requires a minimum of four and maximum of seven so sign up early. Cost (TBD) will include transportation from our cars to camp and boat shuttles each day (to be negotiated), along with the meals and camp set up as described in the video.

## Reports from the Field

### Soak Creek Wednesday June 12, 2019

We revisited this newest to us beautiful section of the ever growing Cumberland Trail. The day was a bluebird one as the temperature forecast was so much cooler than previous weeks. The rain possibility seemed slim. Don Deakins once again led a group of eager hikers down the Stinging Fork trail ending at the recreation area at the Piney River trailhead (6.5 miles) on Shut-In Gap Road. It was cool, the ferns big and lush, the rock bluff formations under which we hiked monstrous, and jack in the pulpits everywhere! The jacks were a little past prime but still so tall most everyone could spot them without assistance from Debbie or Wayne. The trail, being CT typical, had rocks and roots in places, some gentle forest passage, the companion of the creek most of the way, two short but steep climbs, and what was agreed upon by all - some of the most impressive step stonework we have seen. The last 1.55 miles is an old logging road and is a bit testy with the rocks underfoot. The joy of a great hike was felt by: Richard Park, Betsy Parson, Jennifer Yarbrough, Boe Rudder, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Edie Behringer, Susan Basch, Jennie Hopkins, Caroline Woerner, Renee Grace, Elaine Lagoda, Che Carico reporting, Don Deakins leading. Enjoy Don Deakins' trail videos: [youtu.be/tuY7gky\\_ztw](https://youtu.be/tuY7gky_ztw)

### Imodium Falls Saturday June 15, 2019

Five hikers meet early Saturday to start our 9.6 mile car shuttle hike on the Cumberland Trail. Thanks to the kindness of Mac Dean, who volunteered to pick us up at the end of the hike. There was no need to drop cars at the ending point. The morning temperatures were amazing. A nice cool start to our hike. Luckily, the heat did not join us until the last couple of hours of our day. In some parts of this trail, the foliage was growing over the trail. We felt as if we were bushing whacking our way. Along the trail we encountered a turtle, a small rattlesnake, and a tick. Imodium Falls and our water crossing were non-existent. I kept thinking that we had heavy winter rains, but today it seemed as if we needed rain. We had a great time visiting and catching up and enjoying the beauty this trail has to offer. A special THANKS to Mac who met us at the end... where we all enjoyed a glass of wine! (A new tradition to be continued...!) Attendees: Diehl Boggs, Joyce Campbell, Joe Teringer, and Teresa Dean, Merry Boggs reporting.



Picture from Merry

## Outings Schedule

|             |   |            |
|-------------|---|------------|
| 07/06/19    | Smokies, Fork Ridge to Deep Creek             | K Smith    |
| 07/13/19    | Cold Mountain ( <b>postponed</b> 'til cooler) | B McCollum |
| 07/17/19    | Wed. group Hiwassee float trip                | C Carico   |
| 07/20/19    | Smokies Round Top                             | W Chambers |
| 07/27/19    | Ascalon, Can't Hardly                         | S Barnes   |
| 08/10/19    | Smokies Snake Den Ridge                       | C Carico   |
| 08/17/19    | DeSoto State Park                             | S Basch    |
| 08/24/19    | Chattanooga Riverwalk                         | M Boggs    |
| 08/31/19    | Berry College & Rome, GA                      | B McCollum |
| 09/14/19    | Flat Creek Loop, Blue Ridge                   | S Basch    |
| 09/20/19    | (FR) Smokies Thomas Divide                    | T Sewell   |
| 09/21/19    | Smokies Noland Divide                         | K Smith    |
| 09/26-29/19 | Smokies Lakeshore "Boat Camp"                 | C Carico   |

**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 Teresa at Greenway Farms



### 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)