



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

November 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 February 3, 2020**



*Making*

**TRACKS**



### Reports from the Field

#### Edwards Point

**Wednesday September 25, 2019**

Plagued by heat and drought, we have found ourselves hiking shorter distances with shorter driving time. The meeting place was the trail head at the visitor's side of the SMMHS football field. Entering here the trail choice was to the right on the blue Perimeter trail soon branching left on the orange/yellow marked trail toward Edward's Point. This trail is marked, at times clearly, but at times just need to follow your instinct down the jeep trail (yellow blazes) toward the bluff and the point. It was a clear day with somewhat of a breeze and the view of the Tennessee River Gorge, upriver and down, splendid. There is speculation about hiking from the point down Middle Creek to Suck Creek - an obscure hike for another day! You can find trail maps for this area by googling Signal Mountain trails. There was quite a network created before the school was built by Sam Powell and Bill Fronk. Always having a good time with hiking friends were: Bill Kinnaman, Bill Needham, Hank Konigsmark, Jean Dickinson, John Rowland, Richard Park, Spears McAllister, Sue Christensen, Susan Basch, Suzanne Dorough, Wayne Chambers, Karin Dering, Bill Prince, Boe Rudder, Che Carico reporting, Susan Garrett and Charlie Breeding leading.



Picture above from JD; at left from Susan Basch

### Upcoming Outings

#### Gibbs Gardens Fall Colors Saturday November 2, 2019

Location: Gibbs Gardens, Ball Ground, GA

Distance: 2-3 miles

Elevation Gain: minimal

Rating: Easy

Pace: Saunter

Driving time: 2 hours from Ringgold Rd, Chattanooga

Gibbs Gardens, a world class garden in north Georgia will be celebrating its annual Japanese Maples Color Festival from October 25-November 17. The Manor House Gardens and 200 acres of exiting natural woodlands incorporate a design with additional autumn color. All walks traverse the slopes allowing visitors to view the myriad colors of fall as one enormous garden. Hundreds of Dwarf burning bush are used through the gardens to introduce brilliant red color. Maple trees, dogwoods, crape myrtle, and companion plants like Calycanthus with brilliant yellow foliage were added for additional autumn color. Japanese Maples of many different varieties are planted by the hundreds each year and irrigated weekly to ensure a maximum array of colors during the fall. Admission is \$20 or less (group and senior discounts available). Contact Barbara McCollum at bpmcollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143 to register. The Chattanooga group will carpool and meet Georgia folks at the Cracker Barrel at the I-75 and Hwy. 140 exit. Check <https://www.gibbsgardens.com/>



Pictures from John, October 31, 2018



### Upcoming Outings

#### Hannah Mountain Saturday November 9, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN

Distance: 16.2 miles

Elevation gain: 900 ft.

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 2 hrs

This trail includes 3.4 miles on Parson's Branch Road which is still closed and Rabbit Creek trail to Abram's Falls visitors' center and parking. An early start will be needed as the distance is 16.2 miles and time will have changed. Cade's Cove gates open at daylight this time of year. Suggested motel for Friday night Nov. 8: Riverstone Lodge 865-448-6677; \$79 per night; no breakfast provided. This is cheapest rate for Townsend Nov. 8 - it's a holiday weekend - Veteran's Day. Reply to Che ASAP: mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net to coordinate roommates. Wayne Chambers and Ken Smith will be in charge of trail details.

#### BMT Sections 22-23 Backpack Friday-Monday November 15-18, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NC

This is the 31 mile, 3 day/2 night backpack to complete the BMT through the Smokies (Yay!). Smokemont to Big Creek. I'm buying backcountry permits for a group size of eight (8). I've got four (4) car-camp sites at Smokemont on Friday night. (There may still be room for one more person.) Contact Cathy Love at lovecat@charter.net.

#### Jake's Creek/Miry Ridge Endurance Hike (EH) Saturday November 16, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN

Distance: 16.6 miles

Elevation Gain: 3200 ft.

Pace: 3-3.5 mph

Rating: Very strenuous

This is a new hike category focused on fast paced, strenuous hikes. The hike will cover Jakes Creek and Miry Ridge. There will be a few water breaks and maybe a brief lunch pending weather. Contact Chris O'Connor hike leader at gatorcritter@gmail.com or 423-991-3220 for more info.

#### Black Friday day hike Friday November 22, 2019

A possibility, based on interest. Contact John at jrowland\_1@hotmail.com. Location to be determined. Keep checking the website.

#### Trail Maintenance Saturday November 30, 2019

Location to be determined.

Keep checking the website.

#### Len Foote Hike Inn Overnight Wednesday February 12, 2019

The cost is \$55/pp. I will start my list now. Wayne Chambers, waynevc@epbf.com

### Reports from the Field

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

It takes a pontoon boat ride to get to the Lakeshore Trail at Proctor campsite # 86 with all the gear we had! The plan was to set up camp at # 86. After a good night's sleep (with a good bit of rain) the pontoon returned to take us with our day packs to Forney Creek (#74). In the afternoon after hiking to Pilkey Creek, the pontoon returned and took us back to camp. The second morning the ride was back to the previous day's pickup point at Pilkey and from here we hiked on into camp. A bit of rain this night too! Visits to the "spa" found by Tom Sewell allowed a bit of "washing up". Next morning was break camp day. We hauled our gear back down to the ramp for pickup by Fontana Marina driver Karl. He headed back to the marina as we started the last section of trail from Proctor to Eagle Creek and Lost Cove. Part of our experience was a campfire, shelter from the rain under Monty's tarp, hot coffee with breakfast, and cold beer and champagne staying cold in Hazel Creek. No bears sighted near camp - just one running up the bank as we passed by in the boat and a huge print in the mud at our pickup point at Pilkey Creek. Monty, Che, and Wayne x 2 finished marking maps and Betsy (so close to finishing), Tom, Pat, and Mindy "got" critical trails for their maps. The trip began with a good lunch at the Firewood Grill in the Fontana Resort and ended there again on the porch with hugs and farewells for the journeys home to South Carolina, 3 in Georgia, and 4 in Tennessee. The Fontana Marina folks were great to work with. This was a relief as our trip had been coordinated with Steve Claxton in whom we had great confidence and who had died suddenly several weeks before. It was tough not finding Steve in his Paradise! New friends and old forever: Wayne Chambers, Tom Sewell, Pat Hill, Mindy Hogg, Monty Simmons, Betsy Parson, Ken Smith and Che Carico.

#### S Chickamauga Greenway Wednesday October 2, 2019

The city of Chattanooga continues to build the hiking/walking/biking connection with the Tennessee Riverwalk on out to Camp Jordan. The South Chickamauga Creek section began today at the Sterchi Farm. The wide walkway carries you along the creek for a while, through open grassy spaces, and along fabulous board walks ending at Faith Road. Bids are being accepted for completing the final section which will connect to the Brainerd levi with final ending at Camp Jordan. The completion date is spring of 2020 and what a recreational treasure! Take your family to experience this newest section. Enjoying total of 4 miles on this forecasted to be really hot day and lunch at Track's End were: Barry Ligon, Betsy Parson, Betsy Darken, Beverly Ligon, Bill Kinnaman, Charlie Breeding, Gary Petty, Joe Teringer, Larry Parks, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Tim Chomyn, Wayne Chambers, Karin Dering, Tammy Headrick, Che Carico reporting, Ned and Patti Giles leading.

### Reports from the Field

#### Hiwassee Refuge Wednesday October 9, 2019

Chattanooga Hiking Club hikers have viewed our beautiful Tennessee Valley from all angles: from high on bluffs looking down into the Tennessee river gorge, from duckies floating down the Hiwassee river, switch backing up and down the Cumberland Trail, and now from the confluence of the Tennessee and Hiwassee rivers. We wandered deep into the property of the Hiwassee Refuge which includes over 2500 acres of fields set aside for the protection of the Sand Hill cranes. The refuge property also boasts 3500 acres of water making a total of 6000 acres. Plenty of corn planted for all wildlife in the refuge but not a successful crop as a result of our drought this year. There is a sheltered viewing platform for viewing close ups of the birds using your own binoculars. We walked to several successful breeding ponds and several in the developing stage for crappie that have been and will be released into Tennessee rivers. From March until November 15, hikers and bikers are allowed past the gate to enjoy this property. Following Don again on a day that turned out to be quite comfortable in the middle of an extreme temperature week were: Bob DeHart, Judy Varner, TC Varner, Jean Dickinson, Bill Kinnaman, Suzanne Dorough, Renee Grace, Susan Garrett, Pat Lavin, Rosemary Hurayt, Che Carico reporting and Don Deakins leading.



Pictures from John

#### Virginia Creeper Bike Ride Wednesday October 9, 2019

Eleven people took the plunge for a brisk trip 17 miles down the Virginia Creeper. A long sleeve base layer was sufficient. We were hoping for some color in the mountains, but it was a fantastic ride anyway. Many of our group were first time Creeper riders, and everyone had a great time. Some haven't ridden a bicycle in 50 years. Riders were Sue Christensen, Barry and Beverly Ligon, Susan and Bob Garrett, Betsy Parson, Bonnie Smith, Jerry Wright, Rita Pendergast, and Wayne and Vicki Chambers leading.

## Reports from the Field

### Len Foote Hike Inn Saturday October 12, 2019

On October 12th four hikers did an in and out to the Hike Inn for a total of 10 miles. Two of the hikers had not been to the Hike Inn before and they were impressed with the facility and their conservation efforts. It was a beautiful day with temps around 65 degrees. The hikers included Doug Walters, Tammy Hendrix, Anne Moore and hike leader Tim Chomyn.



Picture from Tim

### Fort Mountain Gahuti Wednesday October 16, 2019

It wasn't the prettiest of days; but we kind of pushed the envelope and ignored some significant chance of rain and went anyway. I'd never been to the west overlook at Fort Mountain, and the primary objective of this outing was to check that out, along with the nearby tower and the primitive stone wall that gives Fort Mountain its name. And then we wanted to incorporate a little hiking. Well, the west overlook was a total bust – we couldn't see ten feet in the fog. But we did salvage a bit of hiking, taking the east side of the Gahuti Trail back to the road crossing near the park entrance, then a little farther on Gahuti before turning down to the lake and the picnic area. And about halfway through the hike we did begin to see a bit of sunshine and blue skies. Cheerful hikers despite the somewhat dreary start were Barbara McCollum, Beverly and Barry Ligon, Betsy Darken, Bill Kinnaman, Bill LaRoque, Boe Rudder, JD Dickinson, Jennie Chandler, Renee Grace, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Tim Chomyn, Wanda McCarter, Tom Sewell, Mindy Hogg, and John Rowland leading but doing a poor imitation of our Che.

P.S. I went out to the west overlook before leaving, and it was quite nice once you could actually see something! Maybe we'll try a repeat next winter or spring and hope for clearer weather.



## Reports from the Field

### West Rim Loop, Cloudland Canyon Saturday October 19, 2019

Nineteen sturdy hikers ignored the threats of dire weather and hiked from Picnic Shelter #4 to the West Rim Loop, hiked the Loop, then headed back to the shelter in time for our 30th Anniversary Picnic! We had a few sprinkles on the trail, but fortunately the serious rain held off until later in the day. Braving the elements were: Tom Baker, Carolyn Brannon, Bob Butters, Joyce Campbell, Che Carico, Tim Chomyn, Susan Faidley, Susan Garrett, Rick Glisson, Janet Hale, Jenny Hopkins, Debbie Lambert, Will Latham, Spears McAllester, Barbara McCollum, Steven Miller, Pam Park, and Richard Park. Susan Basch leading and reporting.

### 30th Anniversary Picnic Saturday October 19, 2019

A large contingent of Chattanooga Hiking Club folks (around 40!) gathered at Cloudland Canyon for a picnic to mark 30

years as a club. Some of us hiked before, others just arrived in time for lunch; but eating together has always been a big part of what keeps us together! Although it was quite chilly and a little bit damp, the warmth of friendship, a lot of lively conversation, and some great food made for a very enjoyable couple of hours.

John



Pictures from John

## Outings Schedule

11/02/19	Gibbs Gardens Japanese Maple Festival	B McCollum
11/09/19	Smokies, Hannah Mtn	C Carico
11/15-18/19	BMT backpack Smokemont to Big Creek	C Love
11/16/19	Jake's Creek/Miry Ridge	C O'Connor
11/22/19	Black Friday hike?	
11/30/19	Trail maintenance	
12/14/19	Chickamauga Battlefield	S Basch
01/01/20	New Year's Snoopers Rock	J Rowland
02/12/20	(Wed.) Len Foote Hike Inn overnight	W Chambers

## Other Stuff

### We're building a bridge! Literally! Well, actually, we're helping.

At the October club meeting, it was announced that the club was going to provide up to \$4000 for materials and labor for the replacement of a Cumberland Trail bridge between Signal Point and Rainbow Lake. The existing bridge is old, run-down, and perhaps (or maybe not "perhaps"! ) becoming a hazard. And it's a high-traffic location! We are proud to give back to the Cumberland Trail especially, since we enjoy hiking so many parts of it so often. And this is really in our own "back yard"! There will be a plaque recognizing our contribution, so hikers for a long time to come will know that we've tried to do our share.

John

### A couple more pictures from the picnic



**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.

### 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)