



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

December 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**



Work day picture from Jenny



Gibbs Garden saunterers from Barbara

# Making

# TRACKS



### Reports from the Field

#### **Lula Lake/Moonshine Trails Work Day Wednesday October 23, 2019**

It was a brisk yet sunny start, but a large group of hikers turned up at Lula Lake Land Trust ready to tackle two areas of an old trash heap on the Moonshine Trails. We hiked in about half a mile and pulled out our trash bags. After nearly 2 hours, our bags were bursting at the seams! We collected lots of glass, including some beautiful unbroken bottles that were saved by a couple of collectors. Also discovered were old shingles (probably asbestos!), tires, several rusted springs from car seats and other "treasures". We hauled out an impressive pile!! Everyone then hiked to a beautiful clearing along Gerber Branch to rest and enjoy our lunch. A few hearty souls then hiked an additional 3 mile loop on Firewater and Bathtub Gin trails. Today's hearty volunteers were: Betsy Parson, Bill Kinnaman, Gary Petty, Judy Petty, Jean Dickinson, Cynthia Skidmore, Renee Grace, Richard Park, Stormy McGauley, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Joe Teringer, Che Carico reporting, Susan Basch and Jenny Hopkins leading.

#### **Gibbs Gardens Saturday November 2, 2019**

It was a splendid day for seven hikers to enjoy a saunter around world-class Gibbs Gardens located near Ball Ground, Georgia. The highlight of the day was the brilliant foliage of the Japanese maples located in the exquisite Japanese Gardens. While visiting the Manor House Gardens (personal homes of the Gibbs), we caught a glimpse of Mt. Oglethorpe, the former southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail, and vowed we'd hike that mountain one day. A beautiful calico cat at the Manor House was petted and cajoled by several in the group which made for some fun photos. Even "Calico" was getting ready for winter by showing its recently-acquired fur. We all enjoyed lunch at the Arbor Café under a huge canopy of hardwoods, and then another saunter through the gardens to end a perfect day. Saunterers included Tim and Elaine Chomyn, John Rowland, Terri Holcomb, Mary Ann Pawlowski, Jana Collins (guest), and Barbara McCollum, reporting.

## Upcoming Outings

### Chickamauga Battlefield Saturday December 14, 2019

Location: Chickamauga Battlefield, Fort Oglethorpe, GA

Mileage: 9-mile loop

Elevation Gain: 100 feet

Rating: Moderate because of the mileage, but the terrain is easy  
Pace: Standard

During the Battle of Chickamauga, eight brigade commanders, four Union and four Confederate, died while leading their troops. "Pyramids" made of artillery shells were constructed at the sites where each of these officers received their mortal wounds. This hike visits each of those eight sites. We'll have a late lunch at the Park Place restaurant for anyone interested. To register for this hike please contact hike leader Susan Basch at [sbasch@nexband.com](mailto:sbasch@nexband.com), or (706) 633-6159.

### Pot House Christmas Hike/Lunch Wednesday December 18, 2019

A bit later than usual. She has all the details.



### Snooper's Rock on New Year's Day Wednesday January 1, 2020

Location: Prentice Cooper Wildlife Mgmt Area.

Distance: options: 3.7, 5.3 miles

Rating: options: Easy, Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 35 minutes

Our traditional New Year's Day hike with options: We will all begin with an easy 3.4-mile hike starting at the Cumberland Trail parking area, passing by Indian Rock House, passing many through-the-trees views of the river, and going to Snooper's Rock. So, everybody gets to visit Snooper's Rock, an iconic viewpoint in this area. Cars will be placed on Tower Road, .3 mile away, to allow folks who choose this shorter option to then leave. Other cars will be placed there as well, and the moderate option will be to then drive a bit more out Tower Road, and hike to Ransom Hollow Overlook and back, 1.6 miles round trip. That will give us another nice view of the river! And as usual, a little cold weather won't stop us! Hike leader is John Rowland, preferably via [jrowland\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:jrowland_1@hotmail.com) or 423 802-7704.

## Reports from the Field

### More pictures from Gibbs Gardens



Pictures from Barbara and John

## Reports from the Field

### Roaring Creek/Hell's Kitchen Wednesday November 6, 2019

The Access Fund and Southeastern Climbers Coalition (SCC) have purchased two bouldering and climbing access properties outside of Graysville. The climbing area is called Hell's Kitchen and creates public access to the climbing at the impressive Dogwood Boulders. The 10 acres are adjacent to the Cumberland Trail State Park. SCC and Access Fund have completed a 2 mile approach trail to the boulders and an amazing and remote boulder field. Today we scouted out this spur with the encouragement of Don Deakins. However, he had warned that this segment is rugged and uphill all the way to the climbing boulders. It does not have the polish of the Cumberland Trail but is well worth the effort, remembering that it is downhill all the way back to its intersection with the Graysville Mtn. trail. Most of us not experienced in climbing just could not imagine the avid climbers hiking up that trail with all of their gear! Spears, Barbara, Tim, and Bill LaRoque turned up the mountain and hiked another mile on the CT toward the Cranmore Cove overlook. This Graysville Mountain section will be completed soon as property is acquired on highway 30 for trailhead right of way and parking on that end. Challenged but safely back were: Bill Kinnaman, Jean Dickinson, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Debbie Lambert, Barbara McCollum, Tim Chomyn, Bill LaRoque, Susan Garrett, Edith Behringer, Spears McAllister, Wanda McCarter, Suzanne Dorough (son John SCC trail developer), John Rowland, Renee Grace, Cynthia, Joe Teringer, Betsy Parson, Bob Shafto, Charlie Breeding, Joy Ward, Stormy McGauley, Wayne Chambers, Deloris Ladd, Carol Baker, Tom Baker, Che Carico reporting, Barbara McCollum leading.

### Smokies, Hannah Mountain Saturday November 9, 2019

Ten members and guests met in Townsend TN on Friday night, November 8 in order to get an early, predawn start the next morning. Driving into Cades Cove just as they opened the gates, the group slowly wound its way around the loop road to Abram Falls parking lot to drop cars, then on to the gate at Parson Branch Road to start the trek. A big thanks to Che and Wayne who provided shuttle services. As Parson Branch Road is closed to vehicle traffic, we had to hike the 3.4 miles up the road to Hannah Mountain trail head, following it to Rabbit Creek trail. The group maintained a steady pace until stopping for a quick lunch, then continued on, navigating what seemed like an endless uphill segment towards our waiting cars. Two stream crossings, the first a tough rock hop, then just before the parking lot, a wet crossing across Rabbit Creek was required. While an easy crossing, the water was painfully cold, but all emerged back at the cars over an hour before sunset. The total hike was 16.34 miles which the group covered in 8 hours and 2 minutes while gaining 2,610 feet and a descent of 2,911 feet. Hikers included Bonnie Smith, Pat Hill, Joyce Campbell, Cheryl Hale, Barbara McCollum, Joe Teringer, Cynthia Skidmore, Betsy Parson, and Ken Smith reporting.

## Reports from the Field



Hannah Mountain picture from Barbara

### Camp New Dawn Hike & Lunch Wednesday November 20, 2019

Today we surely went "down to the farm" on the property of Jennie and Dick Chandler in Chickamauga, GA--located in the heart of historic McLemore Cove. We roamed through woods, across fields, rock hopped a couple of creeks, and cast wary eyes at the fenced beef cattle lowing nearby. The historic preservation of the original farm ( acres have been added) has been of utmost importance to the Chandler/Everett family. Old buildings hold farm equipment dating back to 1918. Stacked stone fences, sometimes broken down, often marked boundaries.

The sun was shining brightly, breezes noteworthy, and the temperature was reasonable as we finished up the hike and history lesson given by Jennie. Upon entering their home, we knew immediately of the level of hospitality being shown to us. Tables were set for all 40 plus of us and an incredible meal prepared by catering chef/son, Alan was served. For a couple of hours all cares were set aside by grateful hearts in this beautiful setting.

You, too, can visit Camp New Dawn. Google or check Facebook for Camp New Dawn and New Dawn Farm for a full understanding of the opportunities for children, families, groups to learn and grow in this Christian environment. Restoring the Everett farm and bringing this wonderful camp to North Georgia has been fulfilling yet hard work for the Chandlers.

### Trail Maintenance Sunday November 24, 2019

Due to the weather the BMT maintenance trip had to be moved from Saturday to Sunday, November 24th. We still had a good turn out from the CHC, Steve Barnes, Rita Pendergast, Ralph Van Pelt, Tom Sewell, and me. There were a total of 16 participants. We logged and brushed out 6.3 miles of the trail in blustery, cold air in two teams. These are the sections just south of the Lost Creek CG. All of the sections from Hwy 64 to Reliance have been cleared recently. That is about 19.5 miles. Boe Rudder, reporting.

