



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

September/October 2020

### 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 – likely not until February, 2021 (???) The room at REI is problematic, and alternatives all seem to present problems as well.**



Hiwassee pictures from John

# Making

# TRACKS



### Reports from the Field

#### Hiwassee Float Trip Wednesday August 12, 2020

It was a perfect bluebird sky day for floating the Hiwassee! Lots of water was being released, so the river was full and swift - not so many places to get stuck on rocks. A group of 13 drove their own cars to Webb Brothers Float Service in Benton. Most rented single duckies and 1 portaged his canoe to the put in with the help of Barbara and Greg. Yes, we did ride in the "cattle truck" from Webb's to the put in, but everyone wore masks for this part of the trip. Social distancing was easy while on the river!

Wildflowers bloomed on the riverbanks. It was sad when we floated past our usual picnic site at Big Bend - missed the great food and other great friends. The virus situation had made us wary of stopping and gathering there even though in wide open space. Instead we "kept on rolling, rolling, rolling down the river" to the bridge, gave up our boats, changed into dry clothes, and drove across the bridge to Flip Flops for lunch. Easy to social distance here also as spacious pavilion with large picnic tables and benches lend to spreading out. The menu is limited as they specialize in burgers and fries!

Enjoying the float were: Betsy Parson, Silvia Peixoto, Noel Holcomb, Terri Holcomb, Joyce Campbell, Gary Petty, Judy Petty, Carolyn Brannon, Barbara McCollum, Greg McCollum, and Che Carico reporting.

John Rowland and Bill Kinnaman hiked up the Clemmer trail and John joined the river rats for lunch.

#### CT Rock Creek Loop Wednesday August 26, 2020

On a hot, muggy morning six energetic folks met to hike the upper trailhead of the Rock Creek Loop on the Cumberland Trail. We hiked counterclockwise from the upper trailhead, making a loop back up and including the spur out to Leggett Point and back. The distance was 4.4 miles when including the spur to Leggett Point. It was a surprise to meet Teresa and Mac Dean on their way from the lower trailhead as we crossed paths! Enjoying the hot and humid outing were Bill Kinnaman, Charlie Breeding, Susan Garrett, new hiker Donna Bloh, and Patti and Ned Giles. The hike was led by Bill Kinnaman with Patti Giles reporting.

### Reports from the Field

#### Possum Creek Gorge

##### Wednesday September 2, 2020

Heiss Mountain road to Perkins Point and back. The forecast was for temp to reach 100 degrees but 5 hikers came out today!! We had been warned this is one of the hardest sections of the CT. Yes, rocks and roots, ups and downs. The highlights were the new bridge over Big Possum Creek, bright yellow daisy-like flowers, an interesting white "blossom" that grew on fallen branches like lichen, a 3 tiered waterfall, great rock walls and cavelike overhangs, red berries of the many jack in pulpits, and a massive blowdown the coordinates for which we sent to CTC. Trudging along drinking lots of water were Charlie Breeding, Debbie Lambert, Donna Bloh, Che Carico reporting and Susan Garrett leading.

Quotes for the day: "not much flat on this trail" Don Deakins. "We've gone up this mountain 4 or 5 times!" Charlie Breeding

#### Edwards Point from Signal Mtn schools

##### Wednesday September 9, 2020

Maybe it was a little cooler than previous days, but something brought out 14 hikers today! This trail immediately begins in the heavy shelter of overhanging leafed trees. There is a kiosk at the beginning with a map that shows the colors of the trail sections which change as you progress to the point. Even though blazed, the trail is a bit difficult to follow as so many spurs cross over the main route. Especially in the last mile down to the point, look carefully for yellow blazes. This is the time of year for the emerging mushrooms of varied size, shape, and color that can be found along the trail. The trail ends as it intersects with the Cumberland Trail and a beautiful view of the Tennessee river below the bluff. As always it is a great pleasure to take new hikers on these treks. They make new friends and they seem to love learning of the trails. Enjoying a bit cooler and less humid day were: Bill Kinnaman, Donna Bloh, Patti Giles, Doug Graydon (finally off the medical list just in time to unravel our confusion as we took a wrong turn), Janna McKenna, Spears McAllester, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Cecile Shenouda, Wanda Budan, Wendy Gunn, Joyce Campbell, Che Carico reporting, Susan Garrett leading.

PS. If you hike this trail, on the return watch carefully for yellow blazes and then the yellow ribbon tied around a big tree on the right that indicates the turn from the jeep road back into the woods onto the footpath.

#### Pot Point Nature Trail

##### Wednesday September 16, 2020

It was an amazing day! A bit of a chill in the air as 15 hikers met at the upper parking lot at the Pot Point House on River Canyon Road. Susan led the hikers to the trail below the house and proceeded along the river through the butterfly garden where fall bloomers were splendid. The trail then entered the deeper woods and carried on for a total of 2 miles. Curving uphill and to the right the trail crossed the road and started more steeply uphill. We ran into Elliot Berz from the TN River Gorge Trust who is building camping platforms on a spur off of the trail above the road. The Trust has preserved this property, built and maintained the trails in the area and has marked them with sturdy trail signs including a kiosk at

### Reports from the Field

(continued...)

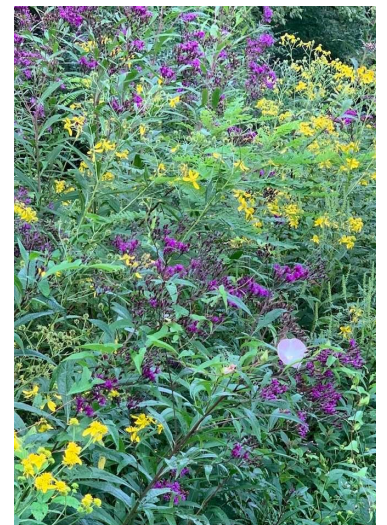
the trailhead. Switchbacks and a more strenuous footpath uphill led the way to a high point, straight and flat for just a bit, then downhill completing the loop back to the parked cars. Total distance 4.1 miles. It was refreshing hiking the trail clockwise and I think the better choice. First time for most of us. A gorgeous day in the gorge for: Suzanne Dorough, Tom Carter, Patti Giles, Ned Giles, Bill Kinnaman, Silvie Peixoto, Cecile Shenouda, Renaud Courbiere, Tristan Carico, Mac Dean, Teresa Dean, Charlie Breeding, Joy Ward, Che Carico reporting, Susan Garrett leading.

The Ritchie Trail also starts from this parking area.

10 stopped at River Drifters for lunch on the way home - outside dining and delicious!



Pictures from Teresa (above and below left), and Joy (below right)



## Outings Schedule

01/09/21 Flats Mtn, Citico Wilderness

J Doyal

If you would like to lead a Saturday hike, especially if you have a Covid19-friendly hike in mind, please contact Barbara 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](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



Another nice late summer flower picture from Joy

### 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** - Jenny Hopkins

**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)