



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

May 2021

### 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 – we’re getting closer!  
Surely? Hang on!**

### COVID-19 Safety Guidelines:

1. Car shuttles or carpooling optional; masks are suggested. Hikers not comfortable with this may drive to the trailhead.
2. While assembling, preparing for the hike, masks are suggested.
3. Any potential hiker who is feeling ill, has traveled within the past 14 days to a location with a significant number of the COVID-19 virus, or has been exposed within the past 7 days to a person who has been confirmed as or is even suspected of having COVID-19 must not come on a hike.
4. Hike leader may impose limits on number of participants.
5. Hike leader may limit to club members only.
6. Before, during, and after a hike, participants must maintain an appropriate distance from each other.
7. After-hike socials, dinners, etc. may be done with appropriate caution.

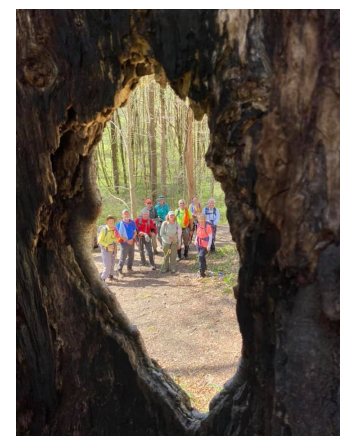
These are guidelines that we feel are reasonable. Now that vaccinations are available, maybe we can relax, but just a bit! Note that we have always taken the position that the hike leader has the final say, period. Let’s exercise appropriate caution, be respectful of one another, and not put a hike leader in an awkward situation. Thanks!



### Reports from the Field

#### **Walls of Jericho Saturday April 3, 2021**

It was back to an old springtime wildflower favorite! The bluebells were a bit past their prime but were still a sight to see. And there were plenty of other blossoms available as we descended into the valley and then climbed up to the walls. We enjoyed clowning around the old hollow tree down in the ‘flatlands’, with the veterans introducing that opportunity to act like a little kid to the newcomers. And likewise, when we had waded that cold, cold creek and reached the walls, the veterans were happy to show the way for the newcomers to scramble all the way up to see the upper falls. A great day, a great hike, and lots of flowers were enjoyed by Renaud Courbiere, Reggie Jay, Joyce Campbell, Tim Chomyn, Rita Pendergast, Jenny Hopkins, Rick Glisson, Bill Needham, Barbara McCollum co-leading, Terri and Noel Holcombe, and John Rowland co-leading and reporting.



Pictures from Rick (both above) and Renaud (right)

### Upcoming Outings

#### Window Cliffs St Natural Area

**Saturday May 8, 2021**

Location: just NW of Sparta, TN

Distance: 5.5 mi.

Elevation gain: about 300-400 ft.

Rating: Moderate or less

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 1.5 hrs.

We haven't had an amphibian hike in a while, so let's try one.

Window Cliffs is a narrow ridge rock formation with large holes (windows) in it; it's not the most spectacular payoff at the end of a trail but it's nice, and it's different. However, getting there is most of the fun. There are 20 creek crossings, 10 each way. The sign at the parking lot says, "Caution advised..." on 9 of them; the other one is just an ankle-deep splash. But the 9 will be anywhere from knee deep to... well, all the way up to there! It's not that long a hike, with a short manageable climb on either end, but it won't be fast-paced, at least not when we're wading.

I'm just wearing my old backup boots the whole hike. You need something you can hike in and wade in, with a snug fit, strong sole, and good traction. There are small rocks in the creek that will hurt your feet, and there are large rocks that can be very slippery! And if you show up without poles, I'll send you home! Bring along a towel, a change of clothes, pants/shorts especially. And if you want to take a camera/cell phone, make sure you've got a waterproof plan for carrying it! Likewise for your wallet, etc. Contact John Rowland at [jrowland\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:jrowland_1@hotmail.com).



#### Bald River Trail

**Saturday May 15, 2021**

Location: near Tellico Plains, TN off the Cherohala Skyway

Distance: 9+ mi.

Rating: Moderate+

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 1 hr.

Waterfalls and a forest hike. First 2 miles you will climb on some tough terrain and then it is more level. Be prepared for possible water crossing. Hike to the last waterfall, eat lunch, and return to cars. Limited parking at Bald River Bridge so it's a good idea to share a ride if you are comfortable doing that and have been vaccinated. Hike leader: Reggie Jay, 423-718-1941, [jennicj46@yahoo.com](mailto:jennicj46@yahoo.com)

### Upcoming Outings

#### Graysville Mtn RMA segment of the CT

**Saturday May 29, 2021**

Location: near Graysville, TN

Distance: 6 mi.

Elevation gain: about 900 ft.

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving time: about 40 mins. from downtown Chattanooga

A fine trail for those who enjoy hiking over rocks with a bit of a climb - so characteristic of the Cumberland Trail in this area - and highlighted by the occasional waterfall and sweeping overlooks. Our turn around point will be Cranmore Cove Overlook at 3 miles. Meet at 8:45 am at the Roaring Creek Trailhead parking lot off Brayton Mountain Rd, Graysville, and plan to begin hiking at 9 am. You will need sturdy shoes and trekking poles, water and snacks. Contact Edie Behringer at [ebehringer@att.net](mailto:ebehringer@att.net) to register for this hike.

#### Covenant College to Moonshine Trails

**Sunday Jun 13, 2021**

Location: Covenant College, Lookout Mtn

Distance: 10 mi.

Elevation gain: about 900 ft.

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving time: about 20 mins. from downtown Chattanooga

Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the end of South Campus Road on the southern end of the Covenant College campus, and be ready to hit the trail by 9:00. We'll hop on the Chattanooga Connector Trail for 2 miles and pick up White Lightning Trail to scenic Gerber Branch, loop around Firewater and Bathtub Gin Trails, coming back to Gerber Branch for a quick lunch break before heading back to the cars. The elevation gain is all quite gradual; there are no serious climbs. Hike leader reserves the option to limit the group size to club members only. To register, contact Jenny Hopkins at [jenhop60@gmail.com](mailto:jenhop60@gmail.com)

#### Cades Cove car camp, Smokies

**Friday-Sunday Jun 18-20, 2021**

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Distance and Elevation gain: TBD

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

A group site has been reserved in the Cades Cove campground for 2 nights. The main hike will be on Saturday (to be determined) and other options to be developed - maybe a moonlight walk or the Cades Cove Loop. Perhaps on Sunday, we can go to Abrams Falls or do the Rich Mountain Loop. Another option is simply to come and enjoy the camaraderie and choose your own hike or ask others if they are interested in something not as strenuous.

The only requirement is to share hiking stories around the campfire! This car camp is limited, so please talk to Joyce regarding cost, tent site options and availability. Hopefully everyone will be fully vaccinated by June. If you are interested in attending and are not vaccinated, please contact one of the co-leaders. Co-leaders: Joyce Campbell and Reggie Jay. Please call or email to register: Joyce Campbell 423.314.7535 [ntcjl@gmail.com](mailto:ntcjl@gmail.com) or Reggie Jay 423.718.1941 [jennic46@yahoo.com](mailto:jennic46@yahoo.com)

**Reports from the Field**

**Reports from the Field**

**More pictures from Walls of Jericho**



Pictures from Renaud (above left), John (above right), and Rick (below)



Picture from Renaud

**Big Soddy Creek Gorge, Mobray Pk/Hotwater Wednesday April 7, 2021**

Another Cumberland Trail section was the goal for today. The meeting place was the Tractor Supply at the Sequoyah Road exit and from here we carpoled for the first time since the virus began as parking is limited at both ends of this trail section. The trail is typical Cumberland Trail with ups and downs, rocks and roots, creek crossings. As it was early spring, not many wildflowers were out. The boulders seen from the trail (and around which it wound) were impressive. Total distance 5.5 miles. There had been rain the week before, so spirits were high to be back on the trail on a pretty day. Enjoying this trek were: Betsy Parson, Bill Kinnaman, Jean Dickinson, Joyce Campbell, Renaud Courbiere, JoJo Ciervo, Shelly Lewis, Bill Kinnaman, Joy Ward, Mac Dean, Wayne Chambers, Teresa Dean, Linda Benton, Gwen Brimer, Che Carico, Debbie Lambert. Greg Clark leading.



Pictures from Renaud

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

**New access to CT Cain Creek & Furnace Rock  
Wednesday April 14, 2021**

"Took out" behind Don Deakins today to experience the newly opened access trail from the gate at the end of the Barker Camp Road. Stepping onto the trail Don led us to connect with the old rocky road that goes down to Furnace Rock and the Cain Creek bridge. Previously the access was a hard pack, graveled, rutted road to a circular clearing which also gave access to the Stephenson's Branch section of the CT. The water was clear and plentifully running down Cain Creek and under the fairly new bridge over it. After a long enough break which included exploring the south end of the bridge and the trail as it disappeared out of sight toward Hall Road on Signal Mountain, we began the VERY steep (but short) climb on the north end of the bridge that allows one to loop out and back to the CT and its junction with the new access trail. From here we hiked along the CT toward Panther Creek, resting again at a beautiful boulder overlook. Returning we completed our route via the access trail - a much prettier route than walking the old road from the turnaround parking area back to the gate. We think we tracked 6 miles. Thanking Don for showing to us another newly completed section of the CT project were: Bob Shafto, Charlie Breeding, Jo Jo Ciervo, Joe Bowers, Lori Bowers, Mac Dean, Teresa Dean, Shelly Lewis, Greg Clark, Che Carico reporting, Don Deakins leading. And especially thanking the devoted builders of the Cumberland Trail!!! Tennessee should be sooo proud!

**Lula Lake trail maintenance  
Wednesday April 14, 2021**

In addition to the CHC donating \$1,000 to Lula Lake Land Trust toward the development of the Durham Trails, a group of 10 members helped put some finishing touches on a portion of some of the completed trails. Upon completion within the year, this 550 acre property on Lookout Mountain will have 12 miles of new trails and will be open for daily use. The new trails will connect to the northern end of the Five Points trail system, plus have new trailhead parking on Durham Road. We were excited to find a section with pink lady slippers! Other wildflowers spotted were dwarf crested iris and yellow stargrass, plus lots of mountain laurel, including one beginning to bloom. Hard at work on this beautiful spring day were Bill Kinnaman, Bill Needham, Jim Eldridge, Joyce Campbell, Mary Ann Langevin, Steve Barnes, Susan Basch, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, and Jenny Hopkins, reporting.



Pictures from Teresa



Pictures from Jenny

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

**Pinhoti Trail from Snake Gap to Pilcher’s Pond  
Sunday April 18, 2021**

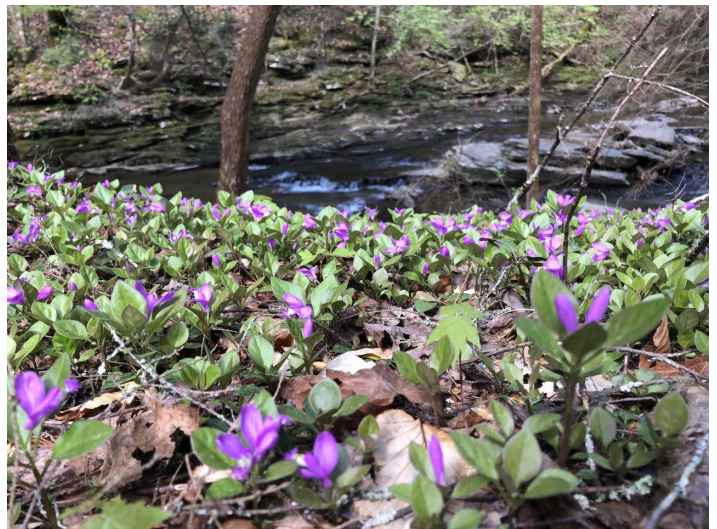
On a perfectly clear sunny, albeit chilly, morning, we met at the Snake Creek Gap trailhead on GA Hwy 136 and began our trek up and over the ridge. It didn't take long for the delayering to begin! Along the way, we spotted many beautiful wildflowers, including the biggest patch of fire pink any of us had seen. Also spotted were Catesy's trillium (also called bashful wake-robin), spiderwort, crested dwarf iris, phlox, sweetshrub, and dogwoods. We encountered several blowdowns, but only one created a fun adventure of squeezing beneath (much too high to climb over). Shortly after Jenny told everyone of her Wilderness First Aid training the weekend prior (and saying she hoped to never have to use it), there were two separate mishaps that very nearly needed to be put her newfound knowledge to use. Yikes! After a lunch break at Pilcher's Pond, the group turned back to the cars, whereupon Jenny herself fell in the parking lot! Three different people tracked the hike, and mileage varied from 10.2 to 10.6, with elevation gain between 1,200' and 1,750'. It felt like the latter. Enjoying this beautiful day were Christianne Montoya, Diana Sumner, Jim Eldridge, Joe Terringer, Renaud Courbiere, Rita Pendergast, Sarah Barnes, Tim Chomyn, with Susan Basch leading and Jenny Hopkins reporting.



Pictures from Tim

**Lower Piney River segment of the CT  
Wednesday April 21, 2021**

Thirteen eager hikers hiked the Piney River Trail from Newby Branch Trailhead to Shut in Gap Rd. The published distance is 8.5 miles but all those with GPS had readings closer to 10 miles. We started out with temperatures in the upper 30's to low 40's under cloudy skies that even spit a little snow and sleet on us. But our spirits were not dampened! And were we ever rewarded! The abundance of spring wildflowers made this day extra special – from hillsides of gay wings to buckeye bushes all in bloom to lovely patches of crested dwarf iris. There was purple phacelia, fire pink, white and yellow trillium, and jack in the pulpit. Even a yellow lady slipper was spotted! The creeks and rivers were flowing, and the cascades did not disappoint. Those who enjoyed this day of hiking were: Steve Boone, Mike Kjeldgard, Che Carico, Bill Needham, Susan Garrett, Joe Terringer, MaryAnn Langevin, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Betsy Parson, Greg Clark, and Charlie Breeding. Hike leader was Debbie Lambert.



Pictures from Debbie

## Outings Schedule

05/08/21	Window Cliffs (M)	J Rowland
05/15/21	Bald River, Tellico (M)	R Jay
05/29/21	Cumberland Trail (M)	E Behringer
06/13/21 (SU)	Moonshine Trails (M)	J Hopkins
06/18-20/21	Cades Cove car camp	J Campbell / R Jay
07/10/21	Lost Creek, Reliance (E/M)	R Jay
07/24/21	Little Cedar Mountain	S Barnes
08/21/21	Smokies, Round Top (M)	R Jay

Look for details on some of these later hikes on the website.

If you would like to lead a Saturday hike, 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

### Lula Lake News

Recently Lula Lake Land Trust mentioned us in one of their outreach emails. It was regarding their recent trail-building initiatives.

“Our plan was to start development on a new, 5-mile trail for daily public use that connects to 5 Points mountain biking area at our Durham property (map below). We reached out to our community partners and received grants from the Riverview Foundation, REI Co-op, and Chattanooga Hiking Club.”

And, as reported above, some of us got our hands dirty with some actual trail work there. We're proud to have been able to help!

### Help Wanted

Anyone out there with plans to be in the club for the long term who has experience with Microsoft Publisher? I'm looking for someone to be my backup in creating the newsletter, and to possibly be my replacement in the future.

Likewise, does anyone have any website building and management experience? Even if you don't, are you computer savvy/comfortable enough to pick up a few things if I teach you? It's not all that difficult. More likely I'll just need a backup for this, but we do need someone to be that backup.

Thanks!

John Rowland at [jrowland\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:jrowland_1@hotmail.com)

### 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)