



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

October 2021



Fall Picnic Highlights



A huge thank you to Che Carico and Stormy McGauley for our wonderful annual picnic. Over 30 members, family and friends celebrated together. Many started with a beautiful five mile

hike prior to the picnic led by Stormy. The day and setting were truly perfect. Che and Stormy, we so appreciate all you do for the club.

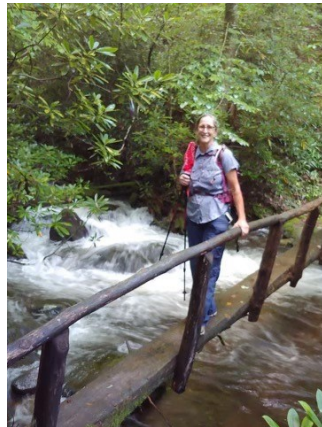
Congratulations to Joyce Campbell and Pam Park, lucky winners of the REI certificates. More photos on page 4.



Members on the Move

Bonnie Smith Does It! 900 Mile Map Completed
Betsy Parson reporting

On September 2, 2021, club member Bonnie Smith finished her 900 mile map. Not one to have a big fuss made over her, it was just the two of us hiking Gregory Ridge and Gregory Bald. We also made our way out to Doe Knob and back to make this one challenging hike! I wanted to recognize her accomplishment. Rick Glisson said she probably had to drive 9000 miles to hike all these trails since she lives in West Tennessee. Congratulations Bonnie for hiking every trail in the Great Smoky Mountains.



Reports from the Field

Turtletown Falls, Wednesday September 15

This relatively easy/moderate hike was in the Cherokee Forest past Turtletown Tennessee. We hiked approximately five miles in a little over three hours on a very peaceful lollipop loop. We



enjoyed our lunch in front of Turtletown Falls about halfway through the hike.



Several of us hiked further downstream to see the lower falls. A few hikers had the pleasure of meeting (at a distance) a copperhead snake. The mushrooms season is

almost over but we spotted quite a few anyway.

A few drops of rain at trail's end greatly increased on the drive home.

Attendees: Chris Levan, Bill Kinnaman, Jo Jo Ciervo, Shelly Lewis, Gwen Brimer, Reggie Jay, Wanda Budan, Che Carico, and Renaud Courbiere leading and reporting.



After the hike Renaud visited the Fields of the Woods, just 15 minutes away from the hike. It is best known for its 300-foot-wide, mountainside representation of the Ten Commandments.

Upcoming Outings

Volunteer—Lulu Lake Land Trust (LLLT) Wednesday, October 6 9 am– LLLT office

Rather than work on the new Durham Trail system, they want us to work on a new section of trail on the south end of LLLT's property that connects to the core preserve. The trail is already in place, but it needs a lot of trimming and some widening. If you have toppers, bring them. There is a registration page especially for Chattanooga Hiking Club members. For questions or link to register—please email Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com.

West Rim Loop Trail Wednesday, October 27

Location: Lulu Lake Land Trust

Mileage: 6 miles

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Private access hike for club members at the core property when foliage should be hitting its peak. More details to follow via email to club members.

Biking the Virginia Creeper Wednesday, November 3

Location: Abington, VA

Mileage: 17 mile (bike ride)

Rating: Easy/Moderate (80% downhill, lots of scenic stops)

This is an overnight trip staying at Abington, Virginia Tuesday night, November 2 and biking on November 3.

Cost of bike rental, shuttle, helmet, water is about \$27.

You can bring your own bike/equipment. The ride is about 17 miles along the Virginia Creeper Trail, a 35-mile multi purpose rail trail. Please contact Wayne Chambers, 423-593-3717 or waynevc@epbfi.com if interested. Hotel cost approximately \$95.

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

Any potential hiker who is feeling ill, has traveled within the past 14 days to a location with a significant outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, or has been exposed to a person who has been confirmed as having COVID-19 must not come on a hike.

Car shuttles or carpooling seem to be much more acceptable. Hikers not comfortable with this may drive to the trailhead alone but please check with the hike leader about the availability of parking space. The hike leader may impose limits on number of participants

Please carry a mask with you even if you park your car and ride with someone else. It may not be needed, but if you have to go into a building when you weren't planning on it, you might want to have one.

Upcoming Trainings



Mastering your iPhone Training

Member Renaud Courbiere (hiking extraordinaire and technology guru) is offering an ongoing training series on the ins and outs of using your iPhone for safety and enjoyment, especially while hiking.

Potential areas of interest are photography,

hiking apps, Facebook and more (see ideas below!).

Renaud's enthusiastic and patient teaching style will ensure that you will learn a lot - and enjoy it! This series is a work-in-progress so we need to hear from you on what you'd like to learn. Then we will coordinate dates, times and locations for instruction. Sorry Android and other users, at this point, it's specific to the iPhone however, you are welcome to join and learn. Many of the skills/Apps will be applicable.

Please contact Renaud by email if you would like to attend and choose several topics of interest. Most likely, we will have an evening training at a central location in Chattanooga.

Renaud's email: renaud@courbiere.com

What can we learn???

- Sharing photos with Airdrop
- Photo effects—long exposure, portrait, cropping, enhancing, etc.
- Shoot a video in camera mode
- Set your emergency health info
- Google and iPhone photo search
- Using AllTrails (online and offline)
- Using iPhone compass
- Using IOS15 features
- Learn about Shazam and Merlin
- Anything else if interest to you!!

Reports from the Field

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Lulu Lake Land Trust, Wednesday, September 22



Even an early morning downpour couldn't keep this hearty bunch from hiking the core preserve at Lula Lake Land

Trust. The rain quickly ended, and the sun appeared! We originally were scheduled to work on the new Durham Trail system, but torrential rains forced that task to be stalled. Instead, LLLT offered us the opportunity for private access to the core property.

We hiked a 5.5 mile loop. Rock Creek was swollen, and the falls were gushing! Enjoying the first day of Fall were Jo Jo Ciervo, Ray Rocque, Richard Park, Shelly Lewis, Stormy McGauley, and Jenny Hopkins, leading and reporting.



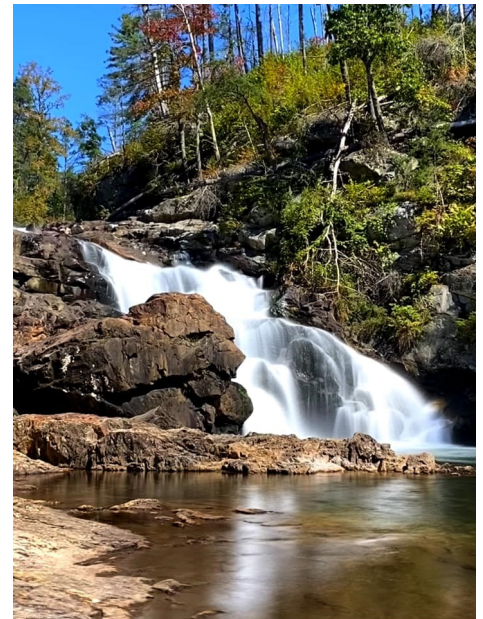
Jacks River Falls, Wednesday, September 29

Great weather today for our hike to Jacks River Falls. The Beech Bottom trail is the shortest trail to the diamond of the Cohutta



Wilderness - the Jacks River Falls. The moderate hike is an out and back with a total hiking distance of approximately 10 miles and 5 hours. You need to drive a 12 mile long, dusty, gravel road to get to the trail head.

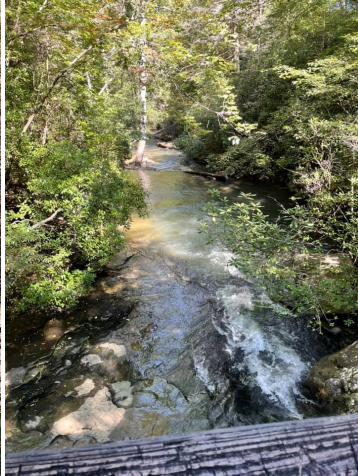
A big thank you to the drivers. Some of us saw a bear, others a snake skin and there are rumors that someone even went swimming at the bottom of the falls. Thanks to our hike leader Tony. Report and photos thanks to Renaud Courbiere.



Reports from the Field

**Fall Picnic and Hike Photos
Saturday, September 25
Cloudland Canyon State Park**

Wonderful hike and picnic at Cloudland Canyon State Park
Photo credit: Linda Benton and Shelly Lewis



Club Information	Other Stuff
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Membership

As a reminder, you must be a due-paying member to receive email messages about upcoming hikes and events. Annual membership dues are \$20 per household, which includes a membership card good for 10% off non-sale items at Rock Creek Outfitters. Visit www.chatthiking.com for more information.

Lulu Lake Land Trust News

This fall, Lulu Lake Land Trust is opening the gates to the public on select Fridays outside of its usual open gate days. With a \$15 per-car reservation, the land trust will [be open](#) on Oct. 1, Oct. 15, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, and Dec. 3, in addition to the first + last weekends of the month.

The land trust also offers annual passes. It's annual Trail Blazer race is on Sat., Oct. 23. Visit www.lulalake.org for more information.

Iconic Edwards Point Protected

The Tennessee River Gorge Trust purchased 32 acres containing the iconic area known as Edwards Point atop Signal Mountain. Edwards Point was a gap in an extensive conservation landscape of protected properties. With this land acquisition, TRGT along with the Prentice Cooper State Forest and the Town of Signal Mountain now protect an area that spans miles from Middle Creek and Signal Point to Suck Creek.

Edwards Point was not the only land purchased in this project that protected 281 acres. Two additional properties were also purchased by the Tennessee River Gorge Trust. These parcels include an expanse of forest below Signal Mountain Road and a property on Aetna Mountain which contains an ecologically unique mountain bog.

The land was purchased through public and private donations. TRGT has a capital campaign in process. Read more about this acquisition and future goals at www.trgt.org. (source for this article: TRGT website).

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

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 - Open

Newsletter - Shelly Lewis (925) 683-6095

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 (includes link to newsletter)

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 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.