



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

November 2021

**Club Meeting**

The Chattanooga Hiking Club has postponed or had limited membership meetings during the pandemic. We are working on another meeting before the end of the year, and we hope in 2022 to resume regular meetings. In the meantime, the Board will keep membership informed via the website, newsletters, and emails.

**Thanks Volunteers!**

Thank you Jenny Hopkins and club volunteers for supporting our partner Lulu Lake Land Trust this month. Details and photos on Page 5.

**National Take A Hike Day**



National Take a Hike Day is November 17th. Let's celebrate all month. There are over 150 miles of hiking trails on public lands within a 15-minute drive of downtown Chattanooga. Our club schedules hikes every Wednesday and most weekends (see page 2 for November weekend hikes). During Covid,

we've slimmed down on Saturday hikes but expect to add more as time goes by. Watch your email for more information.

For Wednesday hikes, a schedule is not published in advance. Our Midweek Hike Coordinator, Che Carico will send a notification of each week's plan 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.

We are always looking for new hike ideas and hike leaders. You must be a member to receive emails about future hikes. *Photo Credit: Jenny Hopkins*



**Reports from the Field**

**Deep Creek Campgrounds  
October 1-3, 2021**

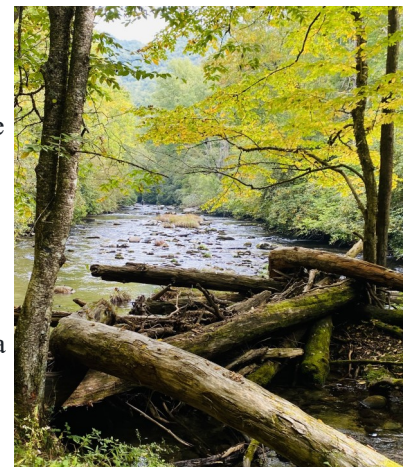


Located next to one of the most popular creeks in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Deep Creek Campground provides traditional primitive camping with the stunning backdrop of the Smoky Mountains.

Whether blanketed in bright wildflowers in the spring or vivid colors in the fall, the scenery at Deep Creek never disappoints. It is open

from April through October and reservations must be made.

Our group found campsites beside one another and within sight and sound of the rushing Deep Creek. Teresa and Mac were located on the hill above us in the comfort of their camper. The camper allowed electricity via a generator for our crock pots with two nights featuring soup and cornbread,



veggies, and cookies. Wine was a featured beverage as we sat around a campfire each night telling tales and laughing a lot! Hot coffee awaited the morning risers prepared in Rita's big pot.

## Upcoming Outings

### Biking the Virginia Creeper Wednesday, Nov 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. Thanks to Wayne Chambers for organizing. Over 20 members, family and friends are planning to attend. Look for fun photos in December newsletter.

### Saturday, Nov 13 (rain date is Nov 20)

#### Cumberland Trail

Location: Signal Mountain

Rating: Moderate

Distance: 7.5 miles

Elevation Gain: About 1000 Ft

This hike will start behind the Signal Mountain High School (soccer field parking lot) and will end at the Rainbow Lake Wilderness Park trailhead. We will have a short car shuttle, so all hikers should meet at Rainbow Lake TH at 9:00.(can google map the directions) We will hike to Mushroom Rock, after which we will pick up the Cumberland Trail and follow it along the bluff to Edwards Point. This trail will be rolling, but with minimal elevation change. With the leaves down, there should be good views of the TN river. We will descend from Edwards Point and cross Middle Creek on a suspension bridge and climb about a half mile to our finish at Rainbow Falls TH. Parts of the trail will be a little rocky, but we will not be doing the section of the Cumberland Trail that leads to Signal Point. Hike leader is Susan Faidley. Please register with me at least 24 hours ahead. [beautyseeker01@gmail.com](mailto:beautyseeker01@gmail.com)

### Friday, Nov 26 (Day After Thanksgiving Hike) TBD

Let's burn those calories (and avoid Black Friday shopping) with a vigorous post-holiday hike. We are planning a combo family-friendly hike that can be extended to a more vigorous longer excursion for those that need it. Watch the website or your email in the next few weeks for more details.



## Reports from the Field

### Deep Creek Camping Trip Cont'd



Mac and Teresa planned the hikes: Day 1 Deep Creek trail to the junction with Martin's Gap trail and back; Day 2 waterfall loop to include Juney Whank Falls, Tom Branch Falls, and Indian

Creek Falls. Day 3 we decided to skip a short hike before heading home as rain was in the forecast, Sure enough as we placed our names on the Everett Street Diner list for breakfast the rains came. BEST breakfast here before getting back on the road!

Sleeping well in spite of the pesky stink bugs invading our tents were: Teresa and Mac Dean, Joyce Campbell, Rita Pendergrast, Gwen Brimer, Monty Simmons, Betsy Parson, Reggie Jay, and Che Carico.

Shake out your camping gear and plan to go car camping the next time a trip is planned!

*Che Carico reporting; Reggie Jay photo credit.*



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](http://www.chatthiking.com) for more information.

Reports from the Field

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Fort Mountain State Park, October 13

Fort Mountain State Park, October 13 (Cont'd)



This Wednesday we traveled to Fort Mountain GA At one time, the Fort Mountain area was well known for its talc mining operations. There are five abandoned talc

mines in the area. The three that we visited are located within Fort Mountain State Park.

One item worth noting is that there was a pretty good elevation change (understatement!) from where we started to where

the mines are, then back. Fort Mountain has a system of trails, recreation, camping, and a



lake. The park is one often visited by Chattanooga hikers but until this day never had we even heard of the talc mines. That is what happens when you set off following Gary Petty who is in search of history and old things! (Cont'd next column)



Our hike leader Gary was also challenged to find the exact locations of the mines. Our group took it easy and had lunch while Gary was exploring the area.

After Gary was still struggling to find the second mine the group went back to the start, only Betsy and Renaud went with Gary bushwhacking to find the second mine.

After many explorations, Gary was able to find the second mine only 10 feet away from the trail. Betsy even went inside the mine for some exploration.

A total of 7 miles in approximately 5 hours. We saw some nice mushrooms and a salamander. Che quoted Wayne saying "he will not hike this trail again" and Renaud saying "it was not a beginner hike". Betsy quoted Gary saying "ok give me 5 more minutes, it must be only some yards away".

Stepping out on an adventure were: Wanda McCarter, Renaud Corbiere, Wayne Chambers, Chris Levan, Wanda Budan, Betsy Darken, Greg Clark, Tom Sewell, Carolyn Sewell, Che Carico, Reggie Jay, Gary Petty, leading.

*Renaud Corbiere and Che Carico reporting; photo credit Renaud Corbiere and Gary Petty.*



## Reports from the Field

### Raccoon Mountain, October 20, 2021 Grindstone Ridge Section—Visitor Center to East Overlook

Another beautiful day on Raccoon Mountain! Our first view from East Overlook was the blanket of white clouds below us in the valley.

From here we drove enough cars to transport to the parking area across from the road into the Visitor's Center which is closed for now.



You can see an access to the trail, via a short bridge, across the road. This trail has ups and downs, ferns, views of the river below, deep canopy, a surprise hidden lake, big rocks for rest stops and a lunch break, and infrequent bike riders.

When you go to hike here, get a map and do your research as there are not frequent trail signs. Enjoying these deep woods so close to home were: Tim Chomyn, Susan Garrett, Wanda Budan, Michael Kjeldgaard, Ray Rocque, Bill Kinnaman, Joe Bowers, Lori Bowers, Steve Barnes, Wanda McCarter, Chris Levan, and Che Carico.

*Che Carico reporting; photo credit Tim Chomyn*

### About Raccoon Mountain Trails

Raccoon Mountain features nearly 30 miles of multi-use trail available for mountain biking, hiking and trail running. At Laurel Point picnic area, there is a large kiosk with a trail map along with restrooms and information about TVA's large pumping facility.

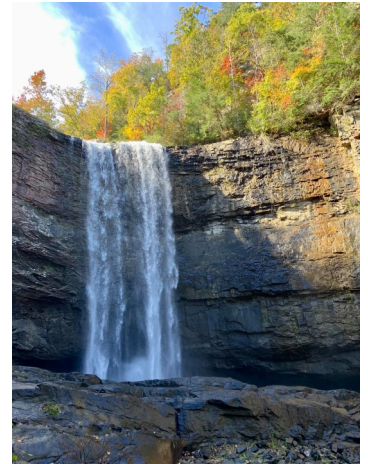
## Reports from the Field

### Lulu Lake Land Trust October 27, 2021

On a sunny fall morning, a large group of members met at Lulu Lake Land Trust for the privilege of having the core preserve to ourselves.

After being greeted by a LLLT staff member who gave us a brief history of the land trust, we embarked on a delightful 6 mile hike.

The foliage was beginning to show its colors. We hiked the loop counterclockwise in order to save the majestic 120' falls and spectacular lake for the end. Several descended to the base of Lula Falls, while others lingered at the lake.



Hiking were Charles Sahm, Charlie Breeding, Che Carico, Chris Levan, Gwen Brimer, Jennifer Yarbrough, Joe & Lori Bowers, Joy Ward, Mac & Teresa Dean, Mary Ann Langevin, Steve Barnes, Stormy McGauley, Sue St. James, Susan Garrett, Susan Basch, Tim Chomyn, Tom Carter, Wanda Budan, Wanda McCarter, and Jenny Hopkins, leading and reporting. *Photo credit Jenny Hopkins*

## Outings Schedule

11/3/2021 Virginia Creeper Wayne Chambers

11/13/2021 Cumberland Trail Susan Faidley  
(11/20/21—Rain Date)

11/26/21 (Day After Thanksgiving Hike)  
Details coming soon—check website

SEE PAGE 2 FOR HIKE DETAILS

### 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.

## Club Information

### Lulu Lake Land Trust Volunteer Event October 6, 2021



Despite rain in the forecast, this dedicated crew turned out to help Lulu Lake Land Trust with trail work this morning. Yes, we ended up drenched, but not before we enthusiastically tackled overgrown branches and briars with our loppers.

Thank you!! Susan Basch, Stormy McGauley, Joyce Campbell, Steve Barnes, Bill Kinnaman, Gwen Brimer,

Susan Garrett, and Jenny Hopkins.

As a reminder, your \$20 Chattanooga Hiking Club annual dues help support, among other things, Lulu Lake Land Trust's efforts to complete 12 new miles of trails on their Durham property.



*Jenny Hopkins reporting and photo credit*

### 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.

Please carry a mask with you even if you park your car and ride with someone else. Your carpool partners may request masks be worn in vehicles. Please be courteous to others.

### 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