

Newsletter of the Chattanooga Hiking Club

January/February 2022



Welcome to 2022! We look forward to an exciting year with a focus on increasing our quantity of hikes (especially weekends) and adding new adventures.

Thank you to Tim Chomyn who stepped

up to revamp our Outings program. To be successful we need hike leaders. The club is happy to make suggestions from easy to strenuous hikes based on your preference. If you are willing to lead a hike, please contact Tim at chomyn@catt.com

As noted before, we will be using Facebook frequently to communicate new hikes and information, so if you want the most up-to-date info, please join our Facebook page (Chattanooga Hiking Club).

You do not need to be a member of the Club to join the Facebook page but you do need to be a member to receive the newsletter or informational emails. As a reminder, yearly dues are coming up in April!

Finally, we will continue monitoring the Covid situation as the year progresses and do have some guidelines listed on page 5 of this newsletter. We wish everyone a very happy and healthy 2022.



Making

TRACKS



Christmas Party 2021



On December 15, 2021, the Club ended the year in celebration with a lovely potluck Christmas lunch at Cloudland Canyon State Park. It was our first year enjoying the Group Camp indoor venue,

and it turned out to be a perfect fit for our club. We have already reserved this space for 2022.



Several motivated hikers explored the park and of course



got close to waterfalls prior to the lunch. We had a delicious assortment of food and dessert followed by a lively raffle. Nearly everyone who attended walked away with a prize.

HUGE shout out to Lula Lake Land Trust for providing a 1-year pass to the core preserve on Open Gate Days as a door prize. William Needham, you

got very lucky!

A great thanks to our board members past and present and also all volunteers for making this day possible.



Upcoming Outings

Date: Saturday, January 29, 2022

Location: Buzzard's Roost MBT Hike

Distance: 10.4 miles

Elevation gain: 1,410 feet

Location: Dalton GA

Buzzard's Roost is a moderate 10.4 mile hike near Dalton. It is rocky in spots, otherwise it is a well maintained trail. It is multi use for mountain bikes and hiking. Directions: The trailhead is 30 minutes south of the 24/75 split. Use Google Maps and type in Buzzards Roost MBT. DO NOT use the AllTrails app. It doesn't get you to the trailhead. Meet at the trailhead at 8:45. We will start hiking at 9:00. There is a big parking lot at the trailhead. Bring necessary equipment for hiking and lunch. If it is clear, there is a 360 view on top of the mountain. Hike leader is Tim Chomyn. Please Register by emailing chomyn@catt.com or by text at 706-346-6746.

Date: Sunday, February 13, 2022

Location: Cloudland Canyon State Park

Trail: Bear Creek Backcountry Trail

Distance: about 7.5 miles

Elevation Gain: 1,300'

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Meet at 8:45 in the main parking area near the bathrooms and be ready to begin hiking at 9:00. Bring \$5 (exact cash) to pay vehicle parking or an annual Georgia Parks Pass. There's a steep descent to Bear Creek, which must be crossed to continue the trail. Be prepared with water shoes and trekking poles. To register, email Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com.



Save the dates—Details to be announced via email, newsletters, and Facebook.

- Saturday, February 19 Savage Gulf Rita Pendergast
- Saturday, February 26 Smokies Carolyn Brannon
- Saturday, March 19 Chestnut Loop Susan Bosch
- Saturday, April 9 Smokies Schoolhouse Gap Barbara McCollum
- Friday—Sunday, April 29-May 1 Car Camp Smokies Che

We need hike leaders, especially on weekends. Please contact Tim Chomyn; chomyn@catt.com or text 706-346-6746. Remember you must be a dues-paying member to receive detailed emails about upcoming hikes. See page 5 for membership.



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.

Reports from the Field

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**Sunset Rock, Lookout Mountain, Wednesday
December 1, 2021**



Nice hike from Cravens House to Sunset Rock. Approximately 4 miles in 2.5 hours and 700ft elevation. We had a very pleasant weather and 17 participants

attended the event. The Bluff trail is never disappointing and the view from Sunset Rock was really nice. We had a great time despite the elevation and a carpet of leaves covering the trail. Janna joined Renaud for a picture at the top of Sunset Rock. *Renaud Corbiere reporting and photos.*

Moonshine Trail, December 8, 2021

Twenty hardy hikers traveled through a pea soup fog Wednesday morning, December 8th to hike 6 1/2 miles along the Chattanooga Connector Trail and the Moonshine White Lightning Trail. A few of us



continued onto the Firewater and Bathtub Gin trails beyond the Gerber Branch to log 9 + miles. The sun came out and it turned into a beautiful blue sky day. Thank you to co-leaders Jenny Bellan Hopkins and Stormy McGauley! *Susan Basch reporting and photo*

New Year's Day Hike, Enterprise South

Had a great New Years Day hike at Enterprise South. The temp was 75 and distance was about 4.5 miles. Couldn't believe the



temp today! Twelve people hiked including Barry and Beverly Ligon, Bob Shafto, Gwen Brimmer, Joyce Campbell, Ned and Patty Giles, Rita Pendergast, Steve Barns, Tom Long, Wayne Chambers and *Tim Chomyn reporting and photo*

**White Oak Mountain, Mountain Bike Trails,
January 12, 2022**



We enjoyed despite the 30 degrees Fahrenheit a beautiful sunny weather this morning. It was an approximately 2 hours and 4 miles hike with some technical trails at White oak mountain near Chattanooga.

Janna showed us her new Christmas gift, a sharp Silky saw made in Japan. Susan had an interesting cold head protection. Some of us went for lunch to Whistlestop. Thanks to Greg for leading this hike and to Che for the organization. *Renaud Corbiere reporting and photos.*



Members on the Move

**Utah's Might Five
By Barbara McCollum**

Utah is a hiker's paradise. We day hiked in all five national parks - Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, and Zion - with overnight accommodations at Airbnb's in Moab, Teasdale, and Washington, Utah. Accommodations at Bryce were at Ruby's Best Western Inn.



Utah also has many state parks and national monuments.



We were fortunate to hike in two national monuments-- Natural Bridge and Grand Staircase Escalante. In Grand Staircase, we

hiked to Lower Calf Creek Falls, one of the most famous waterfalls in Utah. Sunset at Deadhorse Point State Park near Moab was spectacular along with sunrise at the enchanting Bryce Canyon.

Our favorite hikes included Devil's Garden including the primitive trail in Arches, Chesler Park Loop



in the Needles District of Canyonlands, Cassidy Bridge (named for Butch Cassidy) in Capitol Reef, Queen's Garden in Bryce, and both Angels Landing and The

Narrows in Zion. No trip to Utah is complete without a hike to the infamous Delicate Arch in Arches where we enjoyed a picnic and sunset our last evening in Moab.



October was a perfect month to hike in Utah. The cottonwood trees in Capitol Reef, Grand Staircase Escalante, and Zion were at peak color. With the golden afternoon glow of the cottonwoods in Zion, we enjoyed an evening of photography along the Virgin River which



provided the perfect spot to photograph The Watchman. We had no rain throughout our 15-day trip, and the temperatures

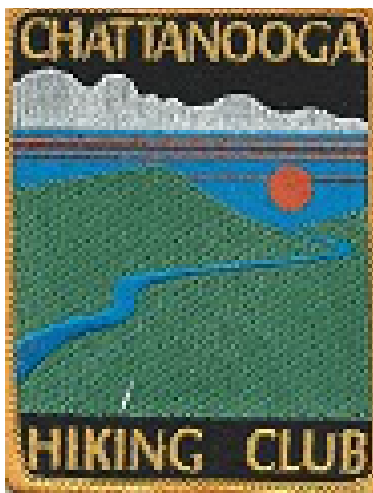
were cool during the evening and pleasant during the day.

Favorite restaurants: Antica Forma pizza in Moab, the Chuckwagon Deli in Torrey, Fruit Pie Heaven at the Gifford House in Fruita, and Oscar's Café in Springdale.

Hikers included Carolyn Brannon and Tom Bock (transportation experts), Joyce Campbell (Airbnb expert), Terri Holcomb (early riser coffee maker), Janet Hale (most positive award), and Barbara McCollum (organizer and reporter). Photographs from Carolyn and Barbara.

Want to share your latest adventure with other club members? Please email information (and photos) to newsletter editor—lewisshellytn@yahoo.com.

Club Information



The Chattanooga Hiking Club (CHC) is primarily about hiking, backpacking, camping and making new friends. Our dues are \$20 a year per family. The CHC membership form can be found on our website www.chatthiking.com.

We also have an active Facebook page (Chattanooga Hiking Club). You do not need to be a member to join the page although in most cases, only members are permitted to post.

After a couple of hikes with the club, you are expected to join and pay membership dues. Once you pay, you will receive a membership card in the mail.

Dues are used to help fund repairs/improvements to trails around the Chattanooga area.

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 com

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

With Covid still out there, let's continue to exercise caution.

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.

Hikers not comfortable with carpooling 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.

Let's continue to exercise appropriate caution and be respectful of one another. Thanks!

Other Stuff

Help Benton MacKaye Trail become the 12th National Scenic Trail



The Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) Board of Directors is seeking Congressional approval for the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) to be designated a National Scenic Trail.

You can help by writing your Congressional representative via an email or personal note about the importance of this designation. To date, only 11 long-distance trails have received the prestigious designation, the Appalachian Trail (AT) being the first. These trails epitomize the splendor, diversity and historical significance found in the wide array of the American landscape.

The BMTA needs to complete the trail – especially in North Georgia -- before new development encroaches on unprotected portions of the BMT's corridor. Having the USFS as an overseer of the BMT as a National Scenic Trail may make it easier for BMTA to do just that.

To find your representative and for some key points on the BMT and the importance of this designation, visit www.bmta.org or email Joy Forehand, jwfbgr@gmail.com.



Past and current board members at 2021 Christmas Party

Club Officers and Support:

President - Stormy McCauley (423) 505-4525

Vice President - Gary Petty (423) 488-5954

Treasurer - Jenny Hopkins

Secretary - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

Membership Database - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

Outings - Tim Chomyn (706)-346-6746

Newsletter - Shelly Lewis (925) 683-6095

Webmaster - Renaud Courbiere (423) 503-1179

Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019

Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico (423) 718-9271

Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)