

Newsletter of the Chattanooga Hiking Club

February 2022

Club Information



As we move into 2022, we are very proud that we have been able to keep the club active, engaged and growing during this challenging two-year pandemic.

The Chattanooga Hiking Club (CHC) has continued with regular Wednesday hikes and is refocusing on expanding our weekend activities both near and far. *See page 2 and 5 for planned outings. More will be added each month.*

With the increasing use of our Facebook site, we are getting more and more interest in CHC. As a result, the board is reviewing our website and will make changes so that it is easier to navigate and join the club. We are being more diligent in monitoring Facebook to ensure that only club oriented information is promoted and discussed. Anyone can join the Facebook group but they are not a member of the Club until they pay dues and join.

We invite prospective members to attend a couple of hikes, and if they enjoy the group, we request they officially join. Our dues are \$20 per year/per family. Dues are used to help fund repairs and/or make improvements to trails in and around the Chattanooga area. So if you are a current member and discussing the club with others or get questions, please let them know about hiking, information and dues.

Our weekend outings will be listed in our newsletter,



on the website, and at times, cross-promoted on Facebook. Wednesday hikes will continue to be through email several days prior. Only members who have requested information (see page 5) will receive those weekly updates.

And as a reminder, always register with the hike leader if you plan to attend a hike. The hike leader has the discretion to set a limit on number of hikers, cancel or change hike or outing, and will communicate details typically via email. If you do not RSVP, you may not be able to participate.

Thanks everyone for your enthusiastic support, and we look forward to a beautiful spring hiking season.

New Newsletter Feature



Our members travel near and far on some amazing adventures. We are sharing some of these escapades in our new **“Members on the**

Move” feature in each newsletter.

Last month Barbara McCollum told us about a group trip to Utah’s beautiful state parks. This month, Suzanne Dorough talks about her extraordinary time hiking the 500-mile Camino de Santiago in Spain. Our hope is these stories will inspire and give you ideas (and expert advice!) for future travel. See page 4.

If you have a trip you’d like to share, please send information to Shelly Lewis, newsletter editor, at lewishshellytn@yahoo.com.

It’s easy to do with a three paragraph write-up and some photos.

Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

Date: Sunday, Feb. 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.

Date: Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022

Location: Savage Gulf

If car pooling, meet at Tractor Supply in Soddy Daisy (222 Sequoyah Rd) at 8:15. We will leave there at 8:30. For those not car pooling meet us at Savage Day loop trail head (Savage Gulf Natural Area Ranger Station) We will hike Savage Day Loop. 6 mile rated easy. Hike will begin at 9:30. Times are Chattanooga EST. Contact Rita Pendergast 904-501-8852 or email at Rita.pendergast11@gmail.com.

Date: Saturday, Feb 26, 2022

Location: Stringers Ridge (new hiking trail connection and parking info).

Trail: White Oak Connector; Blue Trail Loop

Distance: about 5 miles

Rating: easy moderate

Pace: Standard

Meet at 9 am at White Oak Park in Red Bank by picnic pavilion. We will walk through the park to the recently opened White Oak connector trail to Stringers Ridge, located on Midvale Ave (about half a mile walk). In Stringers Ridge, we'll hike about three miles on the Blue Trail with a quick side trip to the overlook to downtown Chattanooga. This is a friendly-paced hike perfect for first timers and newcomers. To register please contact Shelly Lewis at 925-683-6095 (text message) or email lewishellytn@yahoo.com

Date: Sunday, Feb.27, 2022

Location: Lookout Mountain

Trail: Skyuka

Distance: 9 miles

Elevation Gain: 1400 feet (per Strava)

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Many or most of us have eaten lunch at pretty Skyuka Springs, but have you traveled there out and back on the Skyuka trail? This trail through the forest begins partway up Lookout Mountain and is reached by a vigorous uphill stretch on the Kiddie trail. (There's a very short rocky section on the Kiddie trail.) Parking at the trailhead seems to be limited to Reflection

Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

Riding members, so we'll carpool from nearby. Hike leader Elizabeth O'Connor, text 423-313-3525 or email o39connorelizabeth@yahoo.com.

Friday, April 8, 2022

Ramsey Cascades

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Driving Time: 3 hours one way

Distance: 8 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 2400 ft.

Pace: Standard

This is one of the most popular hikes in the Smokies - and for good reason! This beautiful trail takes us through old growth forest with a variety of species of huge trees, glorious cascades, and wildflowers leading to more difficult and the climb starts in earnest. There will be lots of large roots and rocks, especially as we get closer to the final cascading waterfall, which is the highest in the Smokies. Be prepared to rock hop. Hike leader plans to spend the night before in Gatlinburg. For those driving up the day of the hike, it will be an early start. A car pool can be arranged and everyone can meet at the leader's hotel for the drive to the trailhead. To register, contact Susan Faidley at beautyseeker01@gmail.com or 201-888-0378.

Saturday, April 9, 2022*

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Driving time: 2 hours one way and 4 hours total

Rating: Moderately Strenuous

Pace: Standard

We'll meet up at the Townsend Wye and organize a car shuttle--at least 1 car at the end of the hike to shuttle drivers back to the Townsend Wye. Hike begins at Chestnut Top trail, continue to Schoolhouse Gap for one mile, and then finish the hike on the Turkeypen Ridge trail. Chestnut Top is perhaps the most spectacular wildflower trail in the park. Perhaps a meal afterwards at Aubrey's in Maryville, TN. Hike leader plans to spend Friday night in Townsend. To register, contact Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143.

**If you plan to stay in Townsend or vicinity on Friday, make your own accommodation reservations early!*

Date: Thursday, April 28 – Sunday, May 1, 2020

Location: Elkmont Campground, Great Smokey Mountains National Park

Outing: Camping

Will travel to Elkmont Campground on the 28th, set up camp. Hike longer trails Friday and Saturday, strike camp on Sunday and hike Twin Creeks (also visit House of Fairies) on Sunday and head for home. All of this is subject to change!! Friday and Saturday will hike as much as we can. Choices not yet final are Baskins Creek, Old Sugarlands, Grapeyard Ridge, Ramsey's Cascades.

You will need to make your own campsite reservation. Contact for this event is Che Carico mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net. Please email for information on how to register for campsites if you need assistance.

Reports from the Field

Wednesday January 19, 2022.



Mushroom Rock to Suck Creek Road & back. Eleven happy hikers braved the cold and fog for an energetic seven mile hike. Greg even spent his birthday (or at least the morning portion) with us! Thanks to the hike leaders, to Janna (one of the few who can do those group selfies—page 1) for the pictures and a happy birthday to Greg.

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Nice long hike through Prentice Cooper, Pot Point Loop today with Chattanooga Hiking Club. Started off at a cold 20 something degrees but warmed up with fast paced group! Beautiful start at Snoopers Rock overlooking Tennessee River gorge. Clear day, sunny skies and because it's winter ... no bugs/ticks which this trail is famous for in summer. Several hikers opted for shorter 5 mile out and back while others completed most of loop at 9 to 10 miles (everyone's gps a little different). Of note - lots of downed trees and not so obvious blazes so have your trail apps ready if you venture out on your own. Thanks Che for organizing and our many hike leaders blazing the trail.



Reports from the Field

Saturday, January 29, 2022

Great hike today with the Chattanooga Hiking Club to Buzzards Roost. Ten hardy souls braved cold weather in the teens to make the 11 mile trek. It was a clear and beautiful day to enjoy the 360 degree views from the top. You could see snow on Fort Mountain. Tim Chomyn leading.



Our early January 2022 Reports from the Field hikes were profiled in our January newsletter. Photos courtesy Janna McKenna, Shelly Lewis, Steve Boone and Tim Chomyn



Members on the Move

Trekking on the Camino de Santiago
Is it for you?

By: Suzanne Dorough

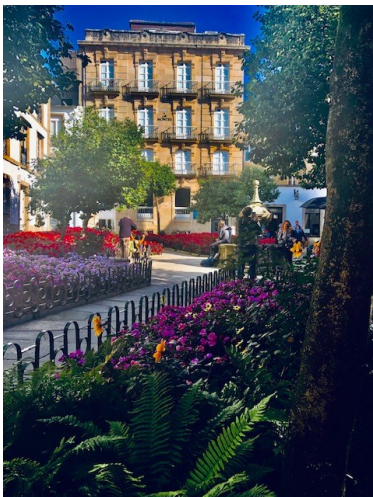


In the fall of 2021, I took off on a six-week adventure with four great friends. Our goal was to trek 500 miles through

northern Spain on the Camino de Santiago. None of us had ever accomplished such a challenging feat on our feet, but we were determined. Armed with a detailed itinerary, hotel reservations, maps, travel tips shared by experienced hikers, essential gear, and a moderate level of fitness - we took off.



The Camino is considered a medieval Christian pilgrimage. It is often referred to as the “Way of Saint James” or simply the “Way”. It has been an



important corridor of nomadic migrations for as long as 1.2 million years. The Camino is different than long-distance wilderness trails. Although you occasionally pass through uninhabited areas, the best parts are the medieval hamlets, unique villages, and urban centers. You truly feel as though you’ve stepped back in time.

We met free spirited people from all over the world and everyone was trekking for different reasons or reasons yet to be known. A great joy and gift of the Camino is the connection you form with the other ‘pilgrims’. If your time is limited, you can section-hike the Camino just as you would the Appalachian Trail. We began in St. Jean Pied- De-Port, France and ended in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. We didn’t want to miss anything!

Trekking 500 miles across Spain was never on my ‘bucket-list’, but it turned out to be a significant life-changing experience for me. If you’ve ever considered a long-distance trek, the days and miles on the Camino will most certainly transform you.



Outings Schedule

02/13/2022	Cloudland Canyon	J. Hopkins
02/19/2022	Savage Gulf	R. Pendergast
02/26/2022	Stringers Ridge (White Oak)	S. Lewis
02/27/2022	Lookout Mountain—Skyuka	E. O'Connor
03/19/2022	Chestnut Loop	S Bosch
03/26/2022	Oconee Bells-overnight	B McCollum
04/09/2022	Smokies, Schoolhouse Gap	B McCollum
04/28-05/01	Smokies, Camping	C Carino
06/18 or 06/25 (tbd)	Gregory Bald	R Glisson

See Page 2 for hike details for some of these outings. Other details will be in future newsletters and through email. Be sure to register with hike leaders.

Other Stuff

Lulu Lake Land Trust Year in Review

Lulu Lake Land Trust (LLLT) recently printed their annual year in review, which can be found on their website at www.lululake.org. Over 60 percent of LLLT’s funding is from private, corporate and foundation donations. LLLT acknowledged Chattanooga Hiking Club (CHC) as a corporate donor and for the club’s financial and volunteerism contribution during 2021. A portion of CHC members’ dues is used to support partners like LLLT

Wednesday Day Hikes

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 Carico 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.



Other Stuff



With wildflower season nearly here, our club members are big fans of the Seek app to identify those beautiful wildflowers. (Available for iPhone and Android models).

Its free and available from Google Play and the Apple Store. No registration required.

Drawing from millions of wildlife observations on iNaturalist, Seek shows you lists of commonly recorded insects, birds, plants, amphibians, and more in your area. Scan the environment with the Seek Camera to identify organisms using the tree of life. Add different species to your observations and learn all about them in the process! (source: i-naturalist website www.inaturalist.org).

LAND MANAGER

Our Stewardship focus this year has been on expanding recreation opportunities within our conservation footprint. For the past fourteen years, we have been building trails that connect Lula Lake Land Trust properties to our southern neighbor Cloudland Canyon State Park and our northern neighbors the National Park Service and the Lookout Mountain Conservancy. This year, we have opened the final 3.6 mile connection through our Core Preserve, which can be accessed with a permit on our public access days. We have also been hard at work constructing the new Durham Recreation Area. In 2021, we added 6.5 miles of new singletrack culminating a total of 11 miles of trail for the project. This work has been a true community effort with over 1,000 hours of volunteer support and contributions from partnering organizations like the Southeast Conservation Corps, Chattanooga Hiking Club, and The McCallie School. With plans for the area to open to the public in 2022, this network will add another 16 miles to the Cloudland Connector Trail System.

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 - 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