



**Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club**

April 2022

Club Information

Our weekend spring hikes are listed on page 2, and we'd like to add more for May and June. We need hike leaders for weekend hikes. Our Outings Coordinator, Tim Chomyn, gives some good tips on page 6 for leading hikes, and Tim is always available for assistance and advice. Several new members successfully led hikes (i.e. didn't lose anyone and all seemed to enjoy themselves) in February and March. Our seasoned club members typically attend and help out. As a reminder, check our website and Facebook posts as new hikes will be added throughout the month.

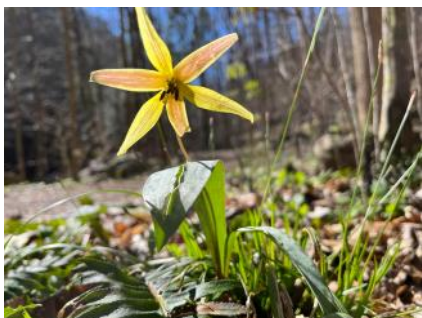
For April, we have two back to back strenuous — Smokey Mountains after all — hikes where we are sure to have wildflowers. Check page 2 for details. Closer to home we have a hike at Enterprise South and Sitton's Gulch at Cloudland Canyon. Expect wildflowers at both!

There are also volunteer opportunities listed on page 4 including ongoing "greeter" positions at Lula Lake.

Don't forget to Save the Date (May 21, Cloudland Canyon) for our Club Picnic. And, join our Chattanooga Hiking Club Facebook page for updated information. Happy Hiking!

**Website: www.chatthiking.com
Facebook: Chattanooga Hiking Club**

Wildflowers are popping up all over. This image from Sunday, March 20, Sitton Gulch Trail, Cloudland Canyon. See page 4. Photo: Stormy



Membership Renewal

Dues are due! To renew your membership, please print [Membership Renewal\(PDF\)](#) from website, fill out and mail with your check made payable to the Chattanooga Hiking Club. Don't have a printer? You can include your check with a handwritten note "Renewal" along with date, name, address, phone, and email to:

Chattanooga Hiking Club
c/o Susan Basch
5507 S. Highway 341
Chickamauga, GA 30707

PLEASE NOTE: If you have joined the Club since January 1st, 2022, your membership will be in effect through March 31st, 2023.



Our members travel near and far on amazing adventures. We are highlighting some of these escapades in our new "Members on the Move" feature in each newsletter.

This month, Shelly Lewis will share her Rim to Rim hike at the Grand Canyon with her husband Lance.

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, or lots of photos and just a few words!

Happy Trails.

Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

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. This beautiful trail takes us through old growth forest with a variety 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. 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 beautyseeker01@gmail.com or 201-888-0378.

Saturday, April 9, 2022

School House Gap

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Driving time: 2 hours one way and 4 hours total

Rating: Moderately Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Meet at the Townsend Wye for car shuttle--at least 1 car at the end of the hike . 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.

Sunday April 10

Enterprise South Nature Park

Distance: 4.8 miles

Elevation Gain: 500 feet

Pace: Standard

We'll hike a loop of Hawks' Ridge and Dogwood Ridge trails. If we've timed it right, we'll see about 100 pink ladyslippers. If not, I'll show you where to find them next year. Directions to start: Entering Enterprise South, the visitor center will be on your right. Continue straight less than a mile to the mountain bike parking area (pit toilets). Text Eli O'Connor 423-313-3525.

Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

Saturday April 16

Location: Cloudland Canyon—Sitton's Gulch Trail (Trenton, GA)

Distance: 5 miles

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

This should be a nice wildflower hike. There are options to extend hike or do less distance on your own. Rocks and roots so plan accordingly. There is a \$5 parking fee if you don't have GA State Park pass. Please bring \$\$ for drivers if carpooling. Carpools meet at Cummings Hwy Walmart parking lot @ 8:30. Hike starts at 9:30 from trailhead. Hike Leader: Gwen Brimer, Must RSVP for more details and in case of weather cancelation. gwenbrimer@epbfi.com or 423-605-4443.

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. Contact for this event is Che Carico mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net.

Start training. Upcoming Strenuous Hikes! (More info in next newsletter).

- May 14, Virgin Falls, Sparta
- June 4, Summit Knob Trail, Harrison
- June 25, Gregory Bald, Smoky Mountains

SAVE THE DATE

Spring Picnic

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Cloudland Canyon

Details coming soon.

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

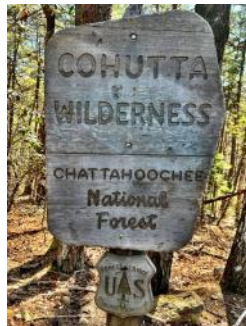
Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Cohutta Wilderness



This out and back day hike could be the most scenic hike in the Cohutta Wilderness. The hike begins at the southwestern terminus of the Hickory Creek trail. After descending easily along what was once known as "Camp 20 Trail", at the 1.6 mile marker the trail crosses Little Rough Creek. From there it is only 75 yards until the trail runs smack dab into the

Conasauga River. Turning right and moving upstream along side the scenic river the trail continues for 1.3 miles more until reaching Bray Field, a family farm/logging camp back in the 1920s. This is nice lunch spot and makes a 6 total mile hike for the day.

For those hikers craving more adventure continue on the Conasauga River Trail another one-half mile and that will make it a 7 total mile hike for the day. But alas, if that is not enough one can wade across the cold, cold and I do mean cold Conasauga River. After the river crossing continue on another 1.5 miles more and reach the top of Panther Creek Falls. This is another nice lunch spot with an incredible view.



Lunching here then returning will make it a 10 total mile hike for the day for the diehards. But the diehards have a saying, "Find something that you really don't want to do, and do it anyway."

For the alumni hikers, I am glad we enjoyed another reunion on the Hickory Creek Trail. For the newbies, I am glad you are adding your names to a special hike in CHC history. Edited report by Tony Cook; photos Renaud



**Saturday, March 5, 2022
Raccoon Mountain**
Perfect breezy weather for our Raccoon Mountain hike. Lots of good conversation, saw a beautiful corn snake, and thanked the SORBA (www.sorbachattanooga.org) bicycle volunteers working on the trails today. Several newcomers to this trail enjoyed interpretive panels along the route.



Thank you Elizabeth for leading us on this beautiful hike. Photos: Elizabeth and Shelly

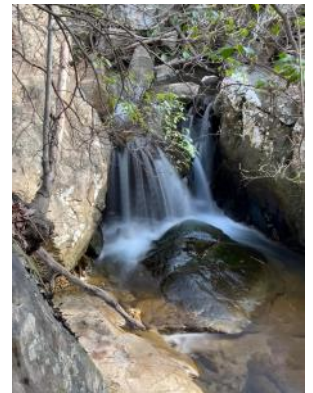


**Sunday, March 6, 2022
Glen Falls/Lookout Mt**
Again a great weather today for a hike. Glen Falls from Guild Trail in Chattanooga. A total of 5 miles with a lot of

elevation in 2h25m. Temperature around 70 degrees and sunny . The tunnel

after the falls was really cool. Thanks to Rita for leading this hike today!

More photos and video on Chattanooga Hiking Club Facebook page. Photos Renaud



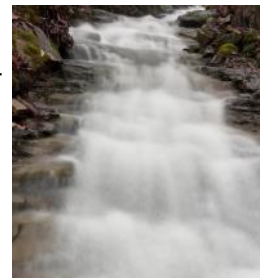
**Wednesday, March 9, 2022
Jackson Gap/Lookout Mtn**

Short hike today at Chattanooga. Jackson Gap Trail on Lookout Mountain near Cove-

nant College. Approximately 3.5 miles in 2 hours. Due to the rain yesterday, there was a lot of

water flowing across the trail.

We had a nice view on the Tennessee valley. Renaud brought some German ginger-breads for snack time. Thanks to Steve, our hike leader today !



Photos: Renaud

Reports from the Field

**Wednesday, March 16
Stringers Ridge—White Oak Park Connector**



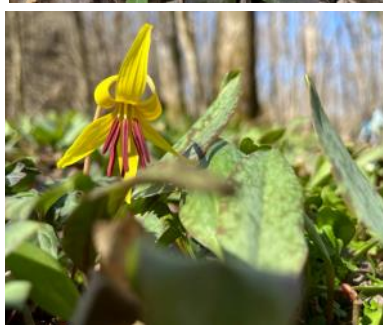
Fifteen hikers joined Che this drizzly morning for a wander through Stringers Ridge. Checked out the new connector trail from White Oak Park in Red Bank (tip... very limited parking at trailhead so park 1/4 mile away at

Dog Park in White Oak Park). Turned out to be a very nice five mile “ish” day complete with city view and yummy chocolate at the overlook. Practically had the park to ourselves with the exception of hidden statues here and there. Photos: Shelly



**Sunday, March 20
Sitton’s Gulch Cloudland Canyon**

Club members Stormy, Jenny and Debbie went on a wild-flower hunt on Sunday. Appropriately enough for the first day of Spring, they were rewarded with flowers popping up everywhere. It’s a good time right now to pay Cloudland Canyon a visit. The Sitton Gulch Trail at Cloudland Canyon is located in Trenton, GA. Find it on AllTrails. Don’t forget your GA State Park Pass or \$5 for parking.



Photos: Stormy

Volunteer Trail Project

Benton MacKaye Work Day



Although this is not a club-sponsored event, we are passing this information along if you are interested in helping on a TN/NC Work Trip. Pertinent information is below. Sign up today if interested by contacting Keith Mertz, keithmertz@hotmail.com.

Ask for specifics on meeting place at Big Fat Gap.

When: Saturday, March 26, 2022

Where: Section 18d-Big Fat Gap—Yellowhammer Gap

Plan for the Day: Remove blowdowns, protruding limbs, overhanging branches.

Bring: Water, snacks, gloves, sturdy boots. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Visit website at www.bmta.org for this or future events. Remember every section maintainer must be BMTA member.

Lula Lake Land Trust

Volunteers Wanted!



Lula Lake Land Trust is recruiting volunteers for Open Gate Days, the first and last weekend of each month.

Chattanooga Hiking Club membership dues support Lula Lake Land Trust. Volunteering is a wonderful way to get involved in a local organization. They need volunteers, either in the later morning into the afternoon (11:00am-2:00pm) and in the late afternoon/evening (2:00pm-5:00pm) to assist with parking (morning) and making sure people know to start heading up to the gate by 3:30/4:00.

Benefits for volunteering include access into the Core Preserve based on the number of hours they volunteered, with advance permission from a staff member.

If anyone is interested please contact Daniel Roberts at daniel@lulalake.org

Members on the Move

Rim to Rim Grand Canyon—In a Day
By: Shelly Lewis



Freak snowstorm three days before hike leaves trail slick and icy. Yeah for shoe spikes. 6am North Kaibab, Oct. 15, 2021

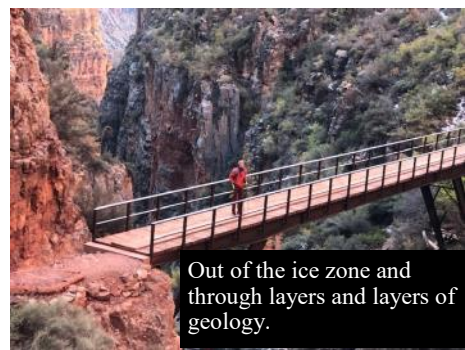
I'm enthralled by the Grand Canyon. It takes my breath away. Having lived in Arizona, the South Rim "touristy side" was my familiar stomping grounds. I've completed Rim to Colorado River and back on that side several times.

My husband Lance and I always had Rim to Rim (North Rim to South Rim or vice versa) hike on our bucket list. In fact, we had it all planned in May of 2020 at a leisurely pace over several days.

Lodges booked on both sides, and a cabin at Phantom Ranch. Scored! A sensible plan for our ages.

Then the pandemic hit, and everything came to a standstill. All reservations canceled.

In 2021, with things re-opening, I tried again. I'm no martyr by any means and really tried to recreate our original plan breaking this into several sane days. But no luck getting accommodations.



Out of the ice zone and through layers and layers of geology.

So that pretty much leaves one option—hike it in a day! I was a bit nervous but thanks to 20+ mile

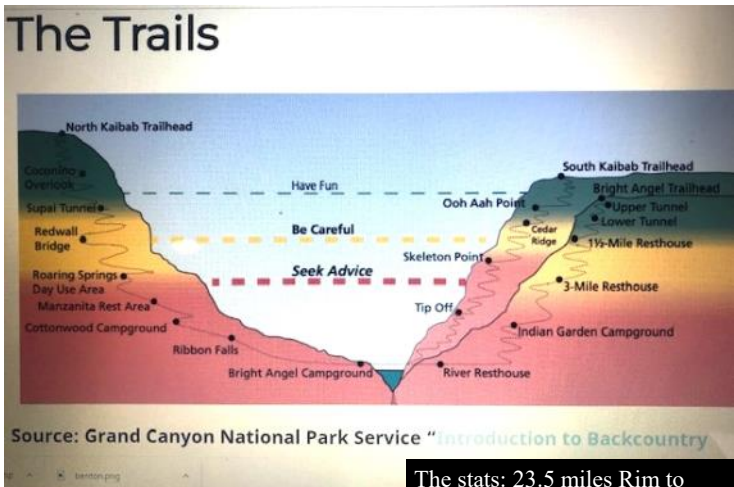
training hikes at Cloudland Canyon and round and round and round Stringers Ridge, I felt I was prepared for distance. Elevation and altitude are another story—trudged ahead with fingers crossed.

Planning a Rim to Rim is a logistic puzzle, and that's without the complicated Canyon weather—will it snow, torrential rain, a heatwave, all of those?!

The canyon rims, as the crow flies, are only ten miles apart. To get from one to the other is a four hour car ride or the 20+ mile hike. On top of that, the North Rim accommodations are only open from mid-May to mid-October. To miss the intense summer heat, your



Finally, a glimpse of the South Rim. Find out the hard way it's farther (and steeper) than it looks.



Source: Grand Canyon National Park Service "Introduction to Backcountry"

The stats: 23.5 miles Rim to Rim, North Rim elevation is 8250', elevation loss going down 5761'. South Rim elevation is 6,860' with gain on Bright Angel trail 4380'.

hiking window is merely a few weeks in May and a few weeks end of September to October. We picked October 15. A surprise snowstorm welcomed us.

We left our car at South Rim, took a shuttle to North, stayed the night at Kaibab Lodge, just outside the park. Took the lodge shuttle to the trailhead at 6am and down we went. I don't like heights. I don't like slipping. That first mile down was treacherous with ice. Thankfully, we had spikes for our shoes and had no problem. I knew we'd be coming up the South Rim in the dark, so had headlamps ready to go.

We took a little side trip to see Ribbon Falls which I'd say was worth it — a mile or so added to hike. The weather overall was quite pleasant in the mid-60s at the bottom and, of course, in the thirties as we neared the top. There are water refilling stations along the way so I only carried a liter or so of water. We snacked every few hours plus enjoyed a nice stop at Phantom Ranch for their famous lemonade before the big climb.



At the top of and behind Ribbon Falls

Those last three miles up the South Rim on Bright Angel Trail are wicked hard, out of this world difficult. We were doing most of it in the dark. Someone told me, no matter how tired and excruciating that last section is, don't forget to look up, as the stars are amazing ... and they really were.

We finished around 7 pm, approximately 13 hours later. Would I do it again? At the time I'd say NEVER but in writing this — hmmm, I wonder?!



Outings Schedule

04/08/2020	Smokies, Ramsey Cascades	S Faidley
04/09/2022	Smokies, Schoolhouse Gap	B McCollum
04/10/2022	Enterprise South	E O'Connor
04/16/2022	Cloudland Canyon	G. Brimer
04/28-05/01 2022	Smokies, Camping	C Carico
05/14/2022	Virgin Falls	S. Lewis
06/04/2022	Harrison (17-mile) summit	T. Chomyn
06/25/2022	Gregory Bald	R Glisson

See Page 2 for hike details for some of these outings. More information along with additional hikes may be scheduled that don't appear in the newsletter so check the website and Facebook too. Be sure to register with hike leaders, contact info on page 2.

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. If you are a member, send an email to MidWeek@chatthiking.com and ask to be added to the group list. As a reminder, always RSVP for Wednesday hikes if you plan to go so the hike leader can contact you should weather cancel or plans change.

Other Stuff

Helpful Hints for Weekend Hike Leaders

Hikes can be scheduled for any Saturday or Sunday. If there is a long hike scheduled, and you want to lead a short hike, two hikes can be scheduled for the same day. Please contact me if you would like to lead a hike even if you do not have all the information. Get descriptions to me by the 15th of each month for the following month.

Before each hike, keep track of hiker contact info in case a hike needs to be canceled or changed for some reason. A good tip is to use the Consent Form to keep track of sign-ups.

Rule #1: DON'T LOSE ANY HIKERS!

- Wait a few minutes after designated leave time for any later comers.
- Always designate a sweep.
- Either the group or a designee wait at all trail intersections till the last hiker is accounted for.

Prior to your hike, we can promote it via our Facebook post so please let Renaud know if you'd like to do that. After the hike, please send write-up and photos to Renaud (renaudcourbiere@gmail.com) for Facebook post and Shelly (LewisshellyTN@yahoo.com) for newsletter. No need to include names of hikers. If you have any questions, contact Tim Chomyn (706)346-6746 or chomyn@catt.com.

Other Stuff

Tennessee River Gorge—New Outdoor Recreation Map

TRGT is adding an interactive outdoor recreation map to their website. Whether it be by boat, foot, cycle etc, there are so many ways to access and enjoy the Tennessee River Gorge. This interactive map will not only provide a visual representation of the Gorge, but also contain interactive icons. The map features a variety of recreational activities that can be accessed through TRGT's protected lands and neighboring public lands. The map is available on the website www.trgt.org under Blog or this link should take you there. www.trgt.org/blog
Source: Tennessee River Gorge Trust

Welcome New Members

We'd like to welcome the following new members to the club. We're so glad you are here!

Steve Newton • Hank Konigsmark III • Susan Elder • Rick Patton • Karen Padgett • Maria Bingham

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 McGauley stormymcgauley@gmail.com
Vice President - Gary Petty pettygw@gmail.com
Treasurer - Jenny Hopkins Jenhop60@gmail.com
Secretary - Susan Basch sbasch@nexband.com
Membership Database - Susan Basch sbasch@nexband.com
Outings - Tim Chomyn chomyn@catt.com
Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico Mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net
Newsletter - Shelly Lewis LewisshellyTN@yahoo.com
Webmaster – Renaud Courbiere renaudcourbiere@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes sebarnestorm@gmail.com
Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)