



**Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club**

May 2022

Club Information

We are eagerly approaching the end of April and early May. After a month of many rained out and even snowed out hikes, we are ready to roll. Check out page 2 and 3 for details on upcoming weekend hikes. It's not too late for some lovely wildflower viewing. For Wednesday hikes, you will be notified of details a few days before each hike.

As a reminder, you must be a member to receive future-newsletters, email updates and information about Wednesday hikes.

Our hike leaders frequently add or amend hikes after the deadline for the newsletter. Please check the website, or better yet our Facebook page for frequent updates. Don't forget to always RSVP to the hike leader prior to attending.

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

Lucky for us, our long-standing members know many of the best spots for wildflowers and quite a few are extremely skilled at identifying them.

Here is a recent photo of a beautiful field of Virginia Bluebells on the way to Walls of Jericho waterfall hike on March 30 (see page 4). Thank you John Rowland for the secret path to find these. Photo: Renaud



Membership Renewal

Final reminder for current members to renew for 2022! Next month, the email list will be updated to reflect current membership. We welcome new members as well! What do we do with your \$20 annual dues? After paying website fees, postage, and other small administrative expenses, CHC rents pavilion space for our potluck gatherings and annual Christmas party. We also contribute to various trail/bridge projects in the area. In recent years we have donated to Tennessee River Gorge Trust, Lula Lake Land Trust, and Friends of Cumberland Trail Association. We'd love to have you become a member!

Here's the link to the renewal form on the website.
<https://chatthiking.com/renewal-form.html>

Or simply send your name, address, email and check 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.



**Spring Picnic
Saturday, May 21, 2022
Cloudland Canyon
See page 3**

Our members travel near and far on amazing adventures. I have been highlighting these stories in our "Members on the Move" feature in each newsletter. No volunteers for this newsletter. I would love to feature someone next month.

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

Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

Saturday, April 23, 2022

Mullens Cove Loop

Location: Prentice-Cooper State Forest

Driving Time: 20 min from foot of Signal Mountain

Distance: 10 miles

Rating: Moderately Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 1700 ft

Pace: Standard, 2mph

Trail Conditions: Rocky for .5 mile

The Mullens Cove Loop is a great spring hike. And we will still have views of the river! This trail rolls with some ups and downs, but no long or steep climbs. There will be several streams to cross, but they should be easy to rock hop, unless we have a lot of rain beforehand. While there will be a few wildflowers, this area is best known for Snooper's Rock and its terrific view of the TN River gorge. While the Mullens Cove Loop starts from the Cumberland Trail parking area, it is not officially part of the CT, however, we will intersect the CT where it makes its way over to Signal Point in a 13.7 mile hike, which we can do another day! Hikers do need to have had recent previous experience with at least 7-8 miles of hiking and some hills. Since the hike is local and there is good parking available, we will meet at the trailhead for which I will give directions upon registration. To register, contact Susan Faidley at beautyseeker01@gmail.com or 201-888-0378.

Sunday, April 24, 2022

Sitton's Gulch Trail

Location: Cloudland Canyon, Trenton GA trailhead.

Distance: 5 miles. Daniel Creek to Hemlock Falls.

Rating: moderate

(Options of longer strenuous or less distances on your own)

Pace: Standard

Wildflowers should be plentiful for this hike. For carpooling, meet at Cummings Highway Walmart parking lot @ 8:30. Hike start time 9:30 at trailhead. Wear hiking boots/sturdy shoes. \$5 for parking. Gas \$ for driver if carpooling.

Hike Leader: Gwen Brimer, gwenbrimer@epbf.com or 423-605-4443. Must email/text to RSVP for directions/info/weather cancellation.



Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

Sunday, May 1

Location: Moonshine Trails on Lookout Mountain

Distance: 10 miles

Elevation gain: 950'

Rating: moderately strenuous

Pace: standard 2.0-2.5 mph

We'll meet at Covenant College and hop on the Chattanooga Connector Trail for 2 miles to the junction of White Lightening, taking us to Gerber Branch. Loop around on Firewater and Bathtub Gin before returning. Sections of this trail system are flush with mountain laurels, which hopefully will be beginning to bloom. Be ready to begin hiking before 9 a.m. To register/directions Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com

Saturday, May 7, 2022

Virgin Falls, Sparta TN

Location: Virgin Falls State Natural Area

Driving Time: 1 hour 45 minutes from Chattanooga

Meeting Time at Trail Head: 9 am ET (8 am CT) – Virgin Falls in Central Time Zone

Distance: 9+ miles including 8.4 mile lollipop loop and a couple short side trails

Rating: Strenuous

Elevation: 1000+ ft. (up on the way out)

Pace: Standard/Fast

Trail Conditions: Rocky, uneven at times, cable crossing.

Explore the beautiful and mystical Virgin Falls on this strenuous 9+ mile journey. There are three other falls: Big Branch, Big Laurel and Sheep Cave. Virgin Falls seems to originate and disappear with no visible water source though we'll hike up and around to peek into its subterranean source: a cool (literally and figuratively) cave on top. This is one of the best rated hikes in Tennessee but make a note that it is strenuous so please be prepared. At this time, I don't have backup for both a fast and slow group so we will keep a pretty fast pace on this. With lunch at bottom, I'm estimating at least 6-7 hours. I will pre-hike a few days before to see if trail is accessible so you must RSVP for updates. Hike leader: Shelly Lewis RSVP at lewishellytn@yahoo.com or 925-683-6095 (text)

Sunday May 15

Summit Knobs

hiking/equestrian unit for Enterprise South Nature Park

Distance: 6.0 miles

Elevation gain: about 500 feet

This is an out and back hike on a quiet rolling trail, mostly through the woods, with one easy stream crossing. Half. mile open and sunny stretch within the first 2 miles, near the solar farm. This trail was my outdoor refuge during Covid and it's still pretty special to me. Text RSVP Eli O'Connor at 423-313-3525.

Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

West Rim Loop Trail

Saturday May 21, 2022

Location: Cloudland Canyon State Park, GA

Mileage: 4.8 miles (loop)

Elevation: 250 ft.

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

This hike will start and end at Picnic Shelter #1 for those interested in hiking before the Club's Fall Picnic. Plan on meeting at the picnic shelter at 8:45 a.m. We will head out at 9:00 a.m. to hike the West Rim Trail which is a 4.8 mile lollipop loop. The trail is rated moderate for roots and rocks and offers impressive views of the Park's canyon at several overlook points. We will be back at in plenty of time to join the Picnic! To register for the hike, contact hike leader Shelly Lewis at

Lewisshellytn@yahoo.com.

Club Spring Picnic

Saturday May 21, 2022

Time: 12 Noon

Location: Cloudland Canyon State Park, GA - Picnic Shelter #1

Please join us for a potluck picnic. Bring a dish to pass, with serving utensils if needed and whatever you'd like to drink. The Club will provide paper goods and plastic utensils. Public parking gets crowded on weekends. Considering arriving early as you may need to walk a distance. \$5 parking fee if you don't have park pass. You do not need to register for the picnic but please contact Stormy McGauley at Stormymcgauley@gmail.com if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!



Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

Saturday June 4, 2022

Gahuti Back Country Trail

Location: Ft. Mountain State Park

Driving time: 1 hour

Distance: 9.7 miles

Rating: moderately strenuous

Elevation Gain: 1,919 feet

Pace: Standard

This is a popular hike at Ft Mountain State Park outside Chattsworth, GA. There are wild flowers, historical areas and views. There is a stone wall, estimated to have been built more than 2,000 years ago by Native Americans. Additionally, there is a stone fire tower and views. There is a \$5.00 park fee charged for each car. The trail is rocky and rooty in places. We will have lunch along the trail. It is best to carpool from the Ingle's in Ringgold. Please contact Tim Chomyn, chomyn@catt.com or 706-346-6746 to sign up.

Weekend Hiker Leaders Needed!

Contact Tim Chomyn to get involved. Easy to strenuous, near or far. We'll help you get started.



Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

Wednesday, March 23, 2022
Monteagle Mountain



Cool hike today to Shake Rag Hollow on Monteagle Mountain (Sewanee Perimeter Trail). The flowers are famous on this trail. Distance 5 miles in approx 2.5 hours - a loop including Shake Rag Hollow trail and steep climb up to the Beckwith Trail, then looping back to the cars.



After the hike we visited a nice hiking store and had a good Italian lunch together. Thanks to Che our hike leader today!
Reporting and photos: Renaud

Weekend March 25-26, 2022
Devil's Fork State Park, South Carolina
Oconee Bells Weekend

Saturday, March 25 -
This morning, approximately 25 Chattanooga Hiking Club members, met at Devils Fork State Park SC at the Oconee Bells trail for a short hike. The Oconee Bell is



a rare flower of the southern Appalachians with a very limited range in the wild. Unfortunately due to high winds, our boat ride was cancelled for the following day. Ken thankfully had another plan. We met then at Bad Creek Hydro parking lot to explore the Whitewater Falls. After a short hike, we reached Upper Whitewater Falls. According to the U.S. Forest Service, "With a 411-foot plunge, Upper Whitewater Falls in North Carolina is the highest waterfall east of the Rockies." We then continued on the interesting and challenging trail to our lunch location.

Devil's Fork State Park Photos:



A smaller group continued to the lower Whitewater Falls (completely different waterfall) platform. A quite impressive waterfall too. We hiked approximately 7 Miles in 4 hours. Terri introduced Renaud to a southern specialty: Coke with salted peanuts. A big thank you to Barbara for organizing this weekend expedition and Ken for leading Saturday's

hike!



Sunday, March 26—Barbara booked a boat tour at the Devil Fork State Park on the Lake Jocassee for the Chattanooga Hiking Club. 14 members joined the 3 hours tour. Our guide David explained us about the location and the lake environment. We could see several waterfalls and the serviceberry flowers. We stopped on the shore to observe the Oconee Bell flowers and our guide met a rough green snake. The weather was cold but sunny. MORE PHOTOS PAGE 5

Reporting and photos Renaud



Reports from the Field

More Photos Devil's Fork/Lake Jocassee



Reports from the Field

Wednesday, March 30, 2022
Walls of Jericho



Today was an annual tradition with a trek to the Walls of Jericho north of Scottsboro, Alabama. The hike is known for an abundance of wildflowers and waterfalls, and our timing was perfect to see the famous Virginia Bluebells in full bloom. The hollow tree still stands even though the top has lost some of its branches. The snake season is back and we met 2 snakes. This was a 8.1 miles hike with 1,597 ft. in elevation gain. Approximately 15 members joined this challenging hike. The temperatures were pleasant and



we had fun! Congratulations to our oldest hikers today 75 years old. Thanks to the carpool drivers, to Wendy for the cookies and to Che, John for organizing this hike. Renaud was the hike leader today along with reporting and photos! Flower photos courtesy Mac Dean (same hike!)



Reports from the Field

Wednesday, April 6, 2022
The South Chickamauga Creek Greenway



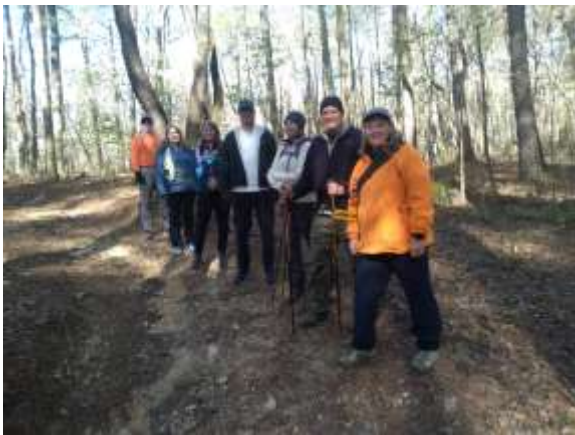
The trail is complete! 12 miles of hardpack gravel and beautifully constructed boardwalk link Camp Jordan with the Riverwalk which then continues down river to St Elmo. With an uncertain forecast it seemed a good time to explore the newest section completing this trail. Wildflowers were to be found along the trail: bluets, spring beauty, toad shade trillium, wild azaleas, and Carolina

silverbells in bloom. There were trains moving on trestles with engineers waving and blowing their whistles! Today's trek began at Sterchi Farms access where you can find immaculate bathrooms, a pavilion with picnic tables, and a wide paved ramp giving access to the creek for those carrying fishing poles. Go to the Greenway and take your out of town guests. It will make you proud! Che reporting., Theresa photos

Sunday, April 10, 2022
Enterprise South

With already friends and new friends, we had a fun hike at Enterprise South.

Chris O'connor, the ladyslipper whisperer, found for us one ladyslipper in bloom, and not on the trail where we saw so many almost-



ready plants. Can you find the pink bloom in the photo? As it rapidly warmed up, we also saw dwarf crested iris, violets, chickweed, little brown jugs, and wild oats. Eli reporting and photos

Wednesday, April 14, 2022



Thanks to Gwen's and Ronnie's great hospitality at their Crawfish Creek Farm in Lafayette, Georgia, we had a nice day with the Chattanooga hiking club members. We had two different

hikes. A wildflower hike a little hilly but mostly flat with rutted, muddy areas along creeks with approximately 1.9 mi. and a longer hike on a approximately 5.2 mi. strenuous trail which included the wild-

flower section in the middle. We had also fun with Ronnie's Polaris ATVs. Gwen prepared two pots of chili and Ronnie shared his famous ham soup with mixed vegetables.



Barbara, Louis and Renaud started a Tilley hat chapter.

Renaud reporting and photos



Outings Schedule

04/23/2022	Mullens Cove/Prentice Cooper	S Faidley
04/24/2022	Sitton's Gulch/Cloudland Cyn	G. Brimer
05/01/2022	Moonshine Trails/Lookout Mt	J. Hopkins
05/07/2022	Virgin Falls/Sparta TN	S. Lewis
05/15/2022	Summit Knobs/Enterprise Sth	E. O'Connor
05/21/2022	Cloudland Canyon Hike	S. Lewis
05/21/2022	Cloudland Canyon Picnic	
06/04/2022	Ft. Mountain State Park	T.Chomyn
06/25/2022	Gregory Bald	R Glisson

See Page 2 & 3 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.

Welcome New Members

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

Sandy Bartlett • Diane Gaffey • Janet Hale • Joy Krause • Spears McAllester • Kathy Seymour • Jennifer Walls • Ashley Welch



Here's one example of what our club does with surplus from your \$20/year annual dues. We contributed to [Tennessee River Gorge Trust](#) to help make these campsites possible.

Other Stuff

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.

When: Saturday, April 23, 2022

Where: Section 14a (Hwy 68 Crossing—Coker Creek Bridge)

Bring: Water, snacks, gloves, sturdy boots. Dress appropriately for the weather. Bring Chainsaw and or brush cutter—hand tools provided

Visit website at <https://bmta.org/volunteer> for this or future events. Remember every section maintainer must be BMTA member.

Lula Lake Land Trust—Volunteers Wanted!

Club members will recall we made a donation to Lula Lake Land Trust for the new 15 mile Durham Trail system they've been working on. It'll eventually connect to Five Points (part of Cloudland's trails). LLLT is organizing trail work days for the following **Saturdays: April 30, May 28, and June 18**. If you're interested in volunteering, contact **Daniel Roberts**, LLLT's



Community Engagement Coordinator, at daniel@lulalake.org

The club will be scheduling another Wednesday work day just for us, probably in June. Details will follow.

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 lewishshellyTN@yahoo.com
Webmaster - Renaud Courbiere renaudcourbiere@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes sebarnestorm@gmail.com
Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)