



## Newsletter of the Chattanooga Hiking Club

August 2022

### Club News

The Chattanooga Hiking Club Board of Directors decided to change our Facebook page (FB) from public to private. FB recently changed the settings for public groups like ours. The setting change allowed anyone to join a public group without admin approval and to comment freely.

As it is, we have some 2.5K members, with only a tiny fraction being actual club members. When this FB page was created for our club several years ago, the intent was to help further communication among members and to help grow our club. That intent remains. Yet we are no longer comfortable with being a public group because we value everyone's privacy.

For those who are not club members, we welcome you to come hike with us a couple times before deciding to join. Annual dues for your household are only \$20. This helps pay for administrative expenses such as our website [www.chatthiking.com](http://www.chatthiking.com), post office box rental, postage, pavilion rentals for our potluck gatherings, etc. When we accumulate excess funds, we make donations for various trail projects.

Recent donations include helping fund new camp sites for Tennessee River Gorge Trust, the new 15-mile trail system in progress by Lula Lake Land Trust, and a bridge completed by Friends of the Cumberland Trail.

We hike every Wednesday, and those details are emailed to club members a few days prior. Rarely are they announced on FB. Most of our upcoming weekend hikes can be found on the website. Occasionally, the hike leader may decide to announce those hikes on FB.

In addition, we will be offering occasional "short notice" hikes. (see page 2).

Chattanooga has experienced quite a growth spurt in the last few years, and many new residents have moved here because of the outdoor spaces. We hope everyone will encourage newcomers to join the club and take advantage of the wealth of knowledge our long-standing members have to offer.

Happy hiking!



# Making

# TRACKS



### Hiwassee River Float-July 27

Don't miss this annual event on the Hiwassee River. Sign up today! **Head count needed by July 25.** Must RSVP to Che Carico.



Mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net. More information can be found on Page 2.

### Save the Dates

#### Fall Picnic

**Saturday, September 24, 2022**  
**Cloudland Canyon State Park**  
Picnic Shelter #1  
More Details to Come!

The picnic will include a short membership meeting from the Board of Directors.



#### Len Foote Hike Inn

**Wednesday-Thursday,**  
**February 22-23, 2023**  
**Amicalola Falls State Park**



Thanks to Wayne Chambers, we have our 2023 date for the annual Hike Inn event. More information coming, but please hold that date as this event fill up quickly.

**REI is offering a Virtual First Aid Course on July 20, 2022. See page 5 for details.**

## Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

### Wednesday, July 27 (Rain Date August 17) Hiwassee River Raft Trip and Picnic (see page 1)

This great event became an annual many years ago! Look up Webb Brothers Float Service in Reliance, TN [www.webbbros.com](http://www.webbbros.com) to read about the funyaks. Those not rafting will be helpful setting up the picnic at Big Bend and can follow the trail beside the river for a bit of a hike. Bring a camp chair and a covered dish to compliment grilled hot dogs. The rafters will float down the river from the put-in to Big Bend where the chef will have cooked the hot dogs to order. This is a potluck. Alternate date if thunderstorms in forecast is August 17. Must RSVP to Che Carico [Mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net](mailto:Mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net).

### July 25-27 (Monday – Wednesday) Smokies: Eagle Creek/Jenkins Ridge Backpacking Trip

Ken Smith and Sandy Barlett will be leading this three day/two night backpacking trip in the Smokies. We will start this adventure via a boat shuttle with Fontana Marina, departing at 8:30 on July 25. We'll hike up Eagle Creek Trail making day one about a 10-mile day with 3200 feet of elevation gain and overnight at the Spence Field Shelter. Day two we'll follow the AT over to Jenkins Ridge Trail, descending to Hazel Creek and proceed down to Lake Fontana at Proctor and spend the night at campsite #86. Day two will be about 14 miles with 1000 feet of elevation gain while losing 4200 feet. Day three we'll be up and packed to catch the boat shuttle at 9:00 a.m. from Proctor and head back to Fontana Marina. Reservations for the shelter and campsite can be made 30 days prior to the hike, so be sure to let us know if you plan to join us by mid-June. Notify Ken at [KenSmith323@gmail.com](mailto:KenSmith323@gmail.com) or call him at 864-809-1800 with your interest or questions.

### Saturday, August 6, Clemmer, Slick Rock and Clear Creek loop

**Location:** Eton, GA  
**Distance:** 9.5 miles  
**Elevation gain:** 1,788 feet  
**Rating:** Moderate  
**Pace:** Standard  
**Drive time:** 1 hour from Ooltewah

This is a moderate to possibly difficult loop hike. It is a multi use trail for bikes and hikers. There are about three water crossings. If rain, the trail may be muddy in areas. There is an optional hike to Benton Falls. The trail is less than an hour from Ooltewah. Please contact Tim Chomyn at (706) 346-6746 or email to [chomyn@catt.com](mailto:chomyn@catt.com) if interested.



## Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

### Saturday, August 13 Charlies Bunion GSMNP

**Location:** Smoky Mountain National Park  
**Distance:** 8 miles  
**Elevation gain:** 1,886 feet  
**Rating:** Moderate  
**Pace:** Standard  
**Drive time:** 3 hours

Charlies Bunion is a popular hike in the Smokies with great views. We will need to get to the trailhead early to beat the crowds and get a parking place. There will be an option to spend Friday evening in Cherokee. Please contact Tim Chomyn at (706) 346-6746 or email to [chomyn@catt.com](mailto:chomyn@catt.com) if interested.

### Saturday-Sunday, September 17-18 Yellow Daisies at Stone Mountain and Arabia Mountain Registration starts July 1, 2022

Every year in September, an explosion of yellow flowers covers granite outcrops (also known as monadnocks) in Stone Mountain, Arabia Mountain, and Panola Mountain just outside of metro Atlanta. These are yellow daisies and they are one of the fall wonders in several of Georgia's finest parks. They are found in only four states: Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina.



Barbara McCollum is organizing an overnight trip to Stone Mountain and Arabia Mountain. We'll drive to Stone Mountain on Saturday morning and have the option of hiking the Cherokee Loop Trail or riding the tram to the summit. On Sunday, we'll visit Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve where the yellow daisies will be putting on their best show. We'll stay overnight somewhere in the Stone Mountain area on Saturday. There are RV camping options at Stone Mountain Park for those interested. Contact Barbara at [bpmccollum@yahoo.com](mailto:bpmccollum@yahoo.com) for more information.

## More Hikes to Come!

We realize that it is difficult for people to make commitments to lead hikes a month or more in advance. To include more hikes and hike leaders, we are approving short notice hikes. We will only need a week's notice. Each Tuesday, new hikes will be posted on the website, Facebook and at times by email to members. Use our standard write-up including distance, location, elevation gain if known, rating, pace and approximate drive time and submit to Tim Chomyn for approval. See you on the trail!

Contact Tim Chomyn (706) 346-6746 or at [chomyn@catt.com](mailto:chomyn@catt.com) if interested in leading a hike.

Reports from the Field



Saturday, June 18, 2022 Laurel-Snow State Natural Area, Dayton, TN The heat and humidity earlier in the week gave way to a fantastic day of hiking 12.3 miles with this great group along Richland

Creek to Laurel Falls. Some pressed on up the switchbacks to Buzzard Point. We were provided a shade canopy much of the way. The biggest challenge was several downed trees over the trail to navigate over( or under), and scrambling thru a tiny rock enclosure. A delicious sit down meal together at the Screen Door Kitchen topped off the day. Hike Leader, reporting, photos: Pam Dowden



Wednesday, June 22, 2022 The Lost Sea Adventures, Sweetwater, TN We had a fun event today to stay away from the very hot weather

(100 degrees). 10 Chattanooga Hiking Club members went to Sweetwater TN and visited the lost sea (56 degrees). It is one of the world largest underground lake. We then had lunch at the Hunter's bakery and café in Sweetwater TN. Hike Leader Che Carico. Reporting and photos: Renaud Courbiere



Saturday, June 25, 2022 Smoky Mountains National Park Gregory Bald hike today to see the flame azaleas! They were a bit past prime but still beautiful! The temps were moderate up top, about 70 and breezy! Saw a timber rattler and a bear on Wolf Ridge

trail! Hike Leader: Rick Glisson, Tim Chomyn

Reports from the Field



Wednesday, June 29, 2022, Lulu Lake Land Trust We had a group of 20 eager hikers come explore Lulu Lake Land Trust's new trail system. The Durham Trails have been in the works for the last couple of years, and several of us have volunteered at various times to help. CHC donated \$1,000 towards this 15-mile trail project, but this time we simply hiked and explored about 6.5 miles. The trails have yet to be named, so there are no signs or blazes. Some trails are still in progress. Grand opening is expected in Spring 2023. Until then, access is available for hikers and mountain bikers only through Cloudland's 5 Points Trailhead, where one can take the Durham Rail Trail off Kettlebottom Trail, cross Durham Road and explore. It's a large maze of trails, so enter at your own risk of getting lost! Jenny Hopkins leading and reporting



Wednesday, July 6, 2022 - Cohutta Wilderness



We did an approximately 5 miles hike in 5 hours on the Jack's River Trail - Cohutta Wilderness- a great adventure with some challenging river crossings. We saw a family of wild boars. Tony showed

us his original army boots from the Vietnam War. We ate some blackberries, and some people went in the river on purpose and some others not on purpose.



We had good weather (quite hot as usual in summer) but the river was very helpful to cool down. This hike was in honor of Arlene Swallows. Arlene did this hike

with us on July 2, 2014. We recalled her words from that day and also shared many other pleasant memories of her. We had a special ceremony in her honor at the end of the hike. Sadly, Arlene passed away unexpectedly on October 11, 2014. She was so very much loved and admired. Hike Leader: Tony. Reporting and photos: Renaud



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Friday, July 8, 2022 -- Fall Creek Falls

Friday hiking at Fall Creek Falls, via The Betty Dunn Nature Center, to Caney Creek swinging suspension bridge trail around to the overlook, descended to the falls, and the hike back up. A few took advantage of the Caney Creek swimming hole. Not a super long hike but oh so enjoyable with



friends. The Fall Creek Falls newly opened lodge restaurant didn't open till late afternoon, but the snack bar was yummy. Planning to do a fall hike back out to this lovely mountain soon. It's so worth the trip! Hike Leader, reporting,



photos: Pam Dowden



Photos from our Hikes and Events



## Outings Schedule

07/27/2022	Hiwasee River Float	C.Carico
07/25-07/27/22	Smokies Backpack	K. Smith
08/06/2022	Clemmer, Slick Rock	T.Chomyn
08/13/2022	Charlies Bunion	T. Chomyn
09/17-09/18/22	Stone/Arabia Mtns	B. McCollum

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.

### 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.

## 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, you will 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

### 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. There are always volunteer opportunities so contact [Daniel@lulalake.org](mailto:Daniel@lulalake.org) if you are interested in helping. Help always needed on public open gate days which are the first and last weekend of the month.

### Tennessee River Gorge Trust News.

Your \$20 dues help fund the Boulder Field Campground for the Tennessee River Gorge Trust (TRTG). The campground was featured in the latest edition of Outdoor Chattanooga



The Boulder Field Campground at Pot Point is a free, backcountry campground located off the Pot Point Nature Loop and includes three sites with platforms, picnic tables, and fire rings.

Thank you to the Lyndhurst Foundation, Black Creek, and Chattanooga Hiking Club for making this campground a reality! Visit our website to book your stay this summer- <https://www.trgt.org/boulder-field>.



**Join REI on July 20, 2022 for a Virtual First Aid Course** looking at common wilderness injuries and how to treat them quickly and effectively. This presentation will cover injuries from bug-bites and burns to sprains, strains, and minor cuts. REI experts will also give you information on how best to setup your wilderness first-aid kit and more in this informative program. Sign up. The course in one hour and various times are available beginning at 5:30pm. <https://www.rei.com/events/99408/virtual-wilderness-first-aid>

### Club Officers and Support:

**President** - Stormy McGauley [stormymcgauley@gmail.com](mailto:stormymcgauley@gmail.com)  
**Vice President** - Gary Petty [pettygw@gmail.com](mailto:pettygw@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer** - Jenny Hopkins [Jenhop60@gmail.com](mailto:Jenhop60@gmail.com)  
**Secretary** - Susan Basch [sbasch@nexband.com](mailto:sbasch@nexband.com)  
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