



Newsletter of the Chattanooga Hiking Club

July 2022

Lulu Lake Land Trust Volunteer Opportunities



On June 1, 2022, CHC members cleared trails at LLLT. Hard at work were Steve Barnes, Gwen Brimer, Pam Dowden, Renaud Courbiere, Susan Garrett, Susan Basch, Rick Patton, and Jenny Hopkins. **Read**

more on Page 4.

Additional individual volunteer opportunities at LLLT are **listed on page 6.** They always need help on their public open gate days which are the first and last weekend of the month during the summer

Hike Leaders Needed

Hike Leaders Needed!

We need hike leaders for the following dates: July 16, 23 and 30, August 20 and 27. Some suggestions are below, and all can be found on AllTrails and include waterfalls. Most are within an hour of Chattanooga and are moderate, a few hard.

- Sawmill Campground by Stone Door 9.3 miles Moderate
- Laurel Greeter Falls 9.4 miles Moderate
- Collins Gulf Trail to Horsepound Falls 4.5 miles moderate
- Panther Creek Falls 9 miles Hard
- Savage Gulf Mountain Oak Loop 8.9 miles Moderate
- Clemmer, Benton Falls, Clear Creek and Clemmer Spur Loop 9.9 miles Moderate
- Hickory Creek, Panther Creek Trail 9.3 miles Moderate
- North Pocket Loop Trail 5.9 miles Moderate. 9.7 miles Hard

Contact Tim Chomyn (706) 346-6746 or at chomyn@catt.com if interested in leading a hike. He will help with planning

Making

TRACKS



Special Event

Hiwassee River Float and Picnic July 27, 2022

This great event became an annual many years ago! Look up Webb Brothers Float Service in Reliance, TN 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 CheCaricoMtnhikerche@bellsouth.net.

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.

Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

Saturday, June 18, Laurel Falls (Hike Full – Waitlist Available)

Location: Dayton, TN

Distance: 4-5 miles

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Drive time: 1 hour from Chattanooga

Hike Pocket Wilderness-Laurel Falls waterfall hike in Dayton, TN! This popular out and back trail is moderately challenging, taking about 2 hours 45 minutes to complete. With the summer weather growing hotter, it will be welcoming to follow the rocks and creek for much of the hike, observing the historical coal mines, creek crossing, and beautiful foliage along the way. Bring snacks, and plenty of water! We will stop at the Screen Door Kitchen, within 15 min of the trail in Dayton afterwards for delicious, hearty meal with interesting food offerings. Hike leader Pam Dowden, psdowden@gmail.com or text 423.667.8091 for waitlist (notified by Friday, June 17)

Saturday, June 25, 2022

Gregory Bald via Wolf Ridge Trail

Location: GSMNP

Driving Time: 2 1/2 hours from Ooltewah, TN Food City

Distance: 16 miles roundtrip

Rating: Very Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 4000 ft

Pace: Slow to Standard

Hike to the top of Gregory Bald just in time to see the beautiful Flame Azaleas in full bloom! This is a challenging hike that will take 8-9 hours total time so be prepared! The views and blooms at the top make it well worth it, however. Plan is to meet at Ooltewah Food City by 7AM for the carpool, to arrive at the trailhead at 9:30AM and start hiking. Because of the long day you may choose to meet with others the night before in nearby towns such as Murphy, NC which is about 1 hour 15 minutes from the trailhead. Contact Rick Glisson (hike leader) to sign up or for further information richard.glisson@icloud.com or 704-756-5195.

Saturday, July 9, Emery Creek Trail, Kid Friendly

Location: Eton, GA

Distance: 5.9 miles

Elevation gain: 902 feet

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Drive time: 1 hour from Ringgold

This is our first Meet-Up hike and not sponsored by the club. Tim Chomyn is the hike coordinator. Since this is a Meet-Up hike, hikers can hike any part of the trail or length according to their ability. Emery Falls is a moderate hike with a creek crossing and a waterfall. This will be the first hike where kids are invited. There is plenty of water to enjoy. Also, there are picnic tables along the creek. Flip-flops are not recommended for hikers. It is an out and back hike and there will be a snack break at the waterfall. Accompanying adults will be responsible for the safety of their children. A recommended age will be 10 and above, however parents are the best judge of your child's capabilities. Portable water for all is a must, especially children, due to the possibility of dehydration. You can meet at the Ingle's in Ringgold at 8:30 to follow or carpool, or at the trailhead at 9:30. Use the AllTrails app to

Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

find the trailhead. If water levels are high, the hike will be canceled and rescheduled. Please contact Tim Chomyn at (706) 346-6746 or email to chomyn@catt.com if interested.

Wednesday, July 27

SAVE THE DATE

Hiwassee River Raft Trip and Picnic (see page 1)

Mark the date and be thinking about your covered dish.

Bottled water on ice will be needed and a large bag of charcoal. Must RSVP to Che—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 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 if interested.

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 if interested.

Upcoming Outings

Reports from the Field

**Save the Date September 17-18, 2022
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 for more information. Registration for this trip will start July 1, 2022.



“Freedom is not free. It has cost the lives of over 1.1 million men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms since the birth of our nation”.

Wednesday May 18, 2022, Gratitude Hike – Chickamauga Battlefield

Today was the Gratitude hike. As an expression of our deep and abiding gratitude to fallen veterans we did a 4-mile hike at Chickamauga Battlefield in their honor. The hike included a memorial ceremony at the top of Horseshoe Ridge where we called out the names of some of those who died in the service of our country, as a gesture that



when someone calls your name, you have not been forgotten. We unfolded an American Flag in their memory and in the memory of all of the others that they represent, made some pictures, then refolded the flag, and continued our hike as a symbolic gesture that the freedom they gave us endures. Thanks to Che and Tony our hike leaders today. Renaud reporting

Saturday, May 21, 2022 Cloudland Canyon

Saturday, May 21, Hike and Picnic
Thanks to everyone who came to Cloudland Canyon State Park today for the club’s

spring potluck! About a dozen hikers arrived early to hike the 5-mile West Rim Loop, led by Stormy McGauley. A couple dozen more arrived in time to partake



in a delicious feast. Thanks to Susan M. Basch for holding down the fort, guarding the food, and arranging tablecloths while the others hiked. Perfect weather, and a wonderful time was had by all.

Jenny H Reporting

Reports from the Field

Wednesday, May 25 South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Trail.

We started at the Sterchi Farm Trailhead and walked toward the Youngstown Trailhead and then return to Sterchi Farm (approx 6M total in 2h30). The trail was quite slippery but easy, no rocks, roots or elevation. We met a black racer which was trapped in a net but luckily a staff from the trail caught it

and Renaud cut the plastic net. We saw a great blue heron in the river. Gwen showed us the par-cours location and Mac and Renaud did some exer-



cises (photos and video on Club's Facebook page). Thanks to Gwen our hike leader today ! Renaud reporting

Wednesday, June 1 Durham Trails Work Day for Lula Lake Land Trust



While only eight club members came, we worked hard all morning raking and trimming along a section of trail that will accommodate adaptive-use mountain bikers.

Lula Lake's land manager Pat Kelly said that what we accomplished would have taken him and his assistant 3-5 days to do! Including the hike in and a roundabout detour out, we even managed to hike nearly 3.5 miles of trails. The Durham property is beautiful! LLLT expects completion of the 15 miles of trails to be in Spring 2023. But we don't have to wait! The club has been invited back to hike, and a date will soon be set. Jenny H reporting



Reports from the Field

Saturday, June 4 Fort Mountain State Park



Had a great day on the Gahuti Trail in Fort Mountain State Park. The views were spectacular and wildflowers were in bloom! Hiker included Cindy Wilkins (new hiker), Pamela Dowden, Rick Glisson, John Hyler and Tim Chomyn. Tim reporting

Photos from our Hikes and Events



More Photos from our Hikes and Events



Thanks to our photographers: Renaud, Jenny, Tim, Stormy, Mac, Rick G.

Lots more fun photos, videos and advice can be found on Chattanooga Hiking Club Facebook Page
Website: www.chatthiking.com
Facebook: Chattanooga Hiking Club

Outings Schedule

06/18/2022	Laurel Falls	P. Dowden
06/25/2022	Gregory Bald	R. Glisson
07/09/2022	Emery Creek Trail	T. Chomyn
07/25-07/27/22	Smokies Backpack	K. Smith
08/06/2022	Clemmer, Slick Rock	T.Chomyn
08/13/2022	Charlies Bunion	T. Chomyn

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.

**Benton MacKaye Trail
Saturday, June 25 TN/NC - Calling All Volunteers
Help in Tennessee**

Where: Sections 17a-b (Whigg Meadow area >> Pheasant Field Trout Hatchery)

When: Saturday, June 25, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM

Working on seven-mile section of the Sycamore Creek Trail. There's plenty of work and a job for everyone. Trail workers will enjoy the benefits of working on a beautiful section with great views (especially from Whigg Meadow). The day will conclude with Chow Time at the Sycamore Creek Trailhead, catered by Chef Patty.

More info (including carpool locations) and RSVP - Pam Mathews at pamelahallmathews@yahoo.com or register online through website: www.bmta.org.



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. It's not too late to sign up for Friday June 24th. Also, contact Daniel if you are interested in helping on public open gate days which are the first and last weekend of the month.

LULA LAKE

TRAIL WORK DAYS

Lula Lake Land Trust has been hard at work building 15 miles of new trails known as Durham, and we need help!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15TH AND FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH
9:00am

TO SIGN UP: email daniel@lulalake.org

Located off Durham Rd. before Five Points.
GPS Coordinates will be sent ASAP upon sign up

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)