



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

November 2022



Christmas Hike/Potluck Lunch

Save the Date

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Time: Hors d'oeuvres 11:30; lunch noon

Location: Cloudland Canyon (Group Camp Facility)

RSVP: Stormy McGauley stormymcgauley@gmail.com

Family and friends are most welcome but please let us know how many are attending. There will be a hike option before and short club business meeting during the luncheon. Watch your email for more details closer to the date.

To reach the Group Shelter, turn left after passing the guard house and turn left again at the Group Shelter sign. Approximately 1/4 mile off the main park road. Don't forget Cloudland Canyon has a \$5 parking fee per vehicle. .

We Need Hike Leaders! Let's Get More Fall Hikes Scheduled

Even if you've never led a hike, there are plenty of CHC members who will help with suggestions and planning.

In addition, we are accepting "Pop-Up" hikes or short notice hikes.

We only need a week's notice from hike leaders.

Talk to Tim Chomyn, Outings Chair, for more information.

Chomyn@catt.com.



Pop-up hikes will be emailed, posted on website and Facebook (if hike leader requests).



Keep up-to-date with the Club

Facebook Page: Chattanooga Hiking Club

Website: www.chatthiking.com

Newsletter Editor Wanted!!

We are looking for a new newsletter editor! You should have some experience with MS Publisher or Word. Shelly Lewis our current newsletter editor will be out of town for quite awhile so will no longer be able to manage the newsletter

She'll be available for assistance remotely. Contact her at 925-683-6095 or

lewishshellytn@yahoo.com if interested.

Upcoming Weekend Hikes

Saturday, November 5, 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

Trail Conditions: Rocky for .5 mile

The Mullens Cove Loop is my favorite hike in the Chattanooga area! There should still be some color in the leaves, while some of the fall foliage will likely be off the trees offering us great views of the river. This trail rolls with some ups and downs, but no long climbs. There will be several streams to cross, but they should be easy to rock hop, unless we have a lot of rain beforehand. 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 need 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. Directions upon registration. To register, contact Susan Faidley beautyseeker01@gmail.com or 201-888-0378.

Sunday, November 13

Durham Trails

Location: Lookout Mountain

Distance: approx. 8-9 miles

Elevation: approx. 900' elevation gain

Rating: Moderately strenuous

Pace: standard

For the last 2 years, Lula Lake Land Trust has been working hard creating the new Durham Trail system, including several of our club members on various volunteer work days. The grand opening is expected in spring 2023. If you want a sneak peek at some of the trails, we have been granted access on November 13. Contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com to sign up and get directions to the trailhead.

Upcoming Hikes and Events

Nov 17- 20 - Car Camp - Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

THIS EVENT IS FULL. Contact Susan for waitlist if interested

Hike leader is Susan Faidley,
beautyseeker01@gmail.com, 201-888-0378

Saturday, November 26, 2022

Blood Mountain

Location: Blairsville, GA

Driving time: 2 hours

Distance: 13.4 miles

Rating: moderately strenuous

Elevation Gain: 3,294 feet

Pace: Standard

This is a popular hike along the AT. On a clear day, the views are gorgeous!! If the weather is poor, we may reschedule. We will hike from Neels Gap on Hwy 19 to Lake Winfield Scott where we will have lunch. We will return by the same rout. Blood Mountain is the highest peak along the AT in GA. It is believed, Blood Mountain was the site of a bloody battle between the Cherokee and Creek Indians. At the end of the hike, we will have time to visit the Mountain Crossings Outfitters Store at Neels Gap. Contact Tim Chomyn at Chomyn@catt.com or (706)346-6746 if interested.

Christmas Lunch and Hikes Cloudland Canyon

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Lunch — Hors d'oeuvres 11:30; lunch noon. Please bring dish to share. This is a fun event with lunch, camaraderie, raffle prizes and more. There will be a short business meeting at the lunch.

Hikes — Like last year, we plan to have two pre-lunch hike options; a short (2-mile) and a longer (5-mile). More information will be posted in the December newsletter.

Volunteer Opportunity



Benton MacKaye Trail Association

When: Saturday, November 19, 2022

Where: Section 13c - Big Bend >> Towee Creek

Meeting Location: Big Bend parking lot on Powerhouse

Time: 9:00 AM

What to Bring/What to Wear: 2 liters of water, food/snacks, gloves, long pants and boots. Bring safety glasses and hard hats if you have them.

Tools Needed: Weed eaters and swing blades and one or two chain saws.

Plan for the Day: Brush out and saw out blowdowns. Please bring a brushcutter/weed eater if you have it!

Watch for additional information in emails and on the [BMTA website!](#)

To RSVP Contact:

Keith Mertz,

keithmertz@hotmail.com

You Also Can Register [Online](#).



Reports from the Field

Saturday, October 1, 2022

Sunset Rock Lookout Mountain



It was a perfect weather for our hike today. Susan organized a challenging trail from Kiddie Trail to Sunset rock, Point Park, Craven's House and back to Reflection Riding Arboretum. A total of approximately 8 miles and 1750ft elevation in 5 hours. The group included experienced and newbie hikers, and we all climbed to the top of a rock at Point Park. We finished our hike at a Mexican restaurant. Thanks to Susan Faidley for making this possible and to the drivers (the parking at the bottom of the kiddie trail is reserved for

Reflection riding arboretum members). Renaud reporting and photos.

Wednesday October 5, 2022

Fort Mountain

The hike was planned, the participants were registered, the emails were sent, and the staging area was set – Ingles in Chatsworth – or was it Ingles in Ringgold? No matter,



we all figured it out and gathered in Chatsworth to start our first challenge of the day; carpooling. Twelve people, seven vehicles, this should not be too difficult... Fifteen minutes later four vehicles were off to face the second challenge: crooked mountain roads to the top of Fort Mountain. Thankfully, no one got car sick, or at least no one admitted it! We gathered on the platform at Cool Springs overlook for challenge number three: a group photo. Did I mention 12 people?

Tightened up people, tightened up, no one bites, it is still early in the day. And then reality set in, challenge number 4. "We are headed down there?" "Yes, DOWN there. I put DOWN in all caps in my description so everyone would understand we were hiking DOWN." Away we went, 2 miles of DOWN. To ease the pain we had lessons on tree id, bird id, scat id and the use of an app that assists with id of all sorts. Those lessons slowed us down but made the hike DOWN a bearable one.

Finally we bottomed out and the group had good news and bad. The good news, we were finished with the bulk of the DOWN. The bad news, challenge number five; we had three and half miles of UP. Once again, the hike UP was broken into bearable chunks with plenty of great conversation and id of the local flora and fauna. About a mile into the UP we stopped at the Mill Creek Falls for a snack break and then continued our journey. Knowing that we eventually would parallel the road, we

Reports from the Field (cont'd)

(cont'd page 3) had some discussion of bailing out and walking the road rather than the trail. But at every bail out opportunity everyone decided to continue on the trail. The trip leader had stated that once we hit the Gahuti we would have three good pulls UP before finally arriving back at the parking lot. At the end of the day, the group consensus was that the trip leader cannot count!

All in all, it was a great hike through hardwood forest mixed with old growth Hemlock trees and lots of fall wildflowers. The company was the best part of the hike including two new hikers with the group. Oh, did I mention that this hike included a lot of DOWN and UP?

Quote of the day: " That was not funny ! " Dina Klotz In response to our leader stating: "I sure hope I counted these uphill climbs correctly and there are not more than three!"

Ode to trail scat!: The Poo Poo U Almamater
It starts with an 'S' and it ends with a 'T'

It comes out of you and it comes out of me
I know what you're thinkin' don't think like that
Be scientific and call it SCAT!

Off on a new to us trail at Fort Mountain: Dina Klotz, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Tim Chomyn, Renaud Corbiere, Sue St. James and grandson Joel (new hiker), Brian Kinder, Joe Teringer, Che Carico, Rob Baran (new hiker), Rusty Garrison leader, instructor. Che reporting. Photos Renaud

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Rock Creek section of Cumberland Trail (5.4 miles)

It has been said this is one of the prettiest sections of the Cumberland Trail yet it has the typical difficulties of footing over rocks, roots, steep ups and downs. As you begin, the forest floor is covered with pine needles, soft and fragrant- deceptive. Soon the trail begins to wind downhill with switchbacks and has areas of large boulders. When finally approaching the Rock Creek bridge, the downhill is quite steep with cracks to step between. This part is short lived. After crossing the bridge the trail goes up somewhat then down into a flat campground area beside Rock Creek where

today we paused a good bit of time for lunch, Dove chocolate, and Wendy's good chocolate Halloween offerings. After crossing several dry creek crossings and viewing the gorge from an overlook, we crossed Boiling Springs Branch and began the last leg of the trip up and out at the Leggett Road Upper trailhead. Out on this gorgeous day were: Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Steve Tipple, Betsy Parson, Brian Kinder, Tony Morales, Novi Morales, Che Carico reporting, Steve Boone and Greg Clark leading and photos



Saturday, October 15, 2022 Springer Mountain

Yesterday was a very long hiking day. We started at 6:30am from Chattanooga to meet on the Benton Mackaye Trail in Georgia. We then hiked to Springer Mountain, the trailhead of the Appalachian Trail. Susan organized a shuttle so that we

Reports (cont'd)

could hike the first section of the AT from Springer Mountain to Hightower Gap. The hike was relatively strenuous with approximately 11 miles in 6h45m and 2000ft elevation. Thanks to Gilbert we learned more about the Benton McKaye Trail and who he was. We made a small detour to Long Creek Falls. During the hike, we had some special events. Brian unwillingly showed that he is a stuntman, Trish unwillingly discovered a yellow jacket nest during our lunch, we met a 2022 Sobo AT thru hiker and some of us rode back to the parking area on the back of Gilbert's truck. We then went to dinner together before arriving back to Chattanooga around 11pm. Thanks to Susan for organizing this event, to Gilbert our local guide and to the drivers. Reporting and photos: Renaud

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 Lulu Lake Land Trust



Huge shout out to [Lulu Lake Land Trust](#) for allowing private access to members of our club this morning for a delightful 6 mile hike amongst stunning foliage. Reporting and hike leader Jenny Hopkins

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 Chickamauga National Battlefield

It was 37 degrees Fahrenheit this morning, but a nice sunny day for our Wednesday hike. We did a total of 6.5 miles in approximately 2h30 minutes. 18 hikers joined Susan and Jenny, our



hike leaders today. We hiked on the Chickamauga Ramble Trail at the Chickamauga National Battlefield Park. We discovered a snake skin. Barbara explained how she learned on a past trip to Italy that you **do not** put pineapple on pizza. Rusty, Rob and his wife came especially from Chatsworth GA to hike with us. We had then a southern lunch at the Park Place restaurant in Chickamauga. Thanks to our hike leaders Susan and Jenny. Renaud reporting and photos.

Reports from the Field

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Hiwassee River Gorge

We enjoyed the last colorful days of fall with a club train ride -- 50-miles round trip through the beautiful lower Hiwassee River gorge. This 4.5-hour trip took us to the top of the Hiwassee Loop, where the tracks cross over themselves as they corkscrew up the mountain near Farner, Tennessee. It was nice to spend time together and discover the region by rail. Che kindly shared some Halloween treats and we listened to the detailed information about the different locations and the history of this area. We were seated in the car number 3 built in 1947. Thanks to Che our event leader and to the carpool drivers! Reporting and photos: Renaud

Reports from the Field



More October Hike Photos



Outings Schedule

11/05/22	Prentiss Cooper	S. Faidley
11/13/22	Durham Trails, Lookout	J.. Hopkins
11/17-11/20/22	Big South Fork	S. Faidley
11/26/22	Blood Mountain	T. Chomyn
02/22-02/23/23	Len Foote Hike Inn	W. Chambers

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



The Chattanooga Hiking Club now has over 170 dues paying members. Welcome to our newest members—we're so glad you joined!

- * Rob and Janet Baran
- * Chris and Ruth Bresson
- * Paul Jacobs
- * Vicki McCoy
- * Kelly Motter
- * Lynn Newton
- * Jerome Parrott
- * MaryAnn Robbins
- * Richard Simmons
- * Stacy Street
- * Mathew Stulich
- * Karen Webb

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.

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.

Hike Registration: When signing-up for an outing, please specify exact number of people attending. Do NOT just show up with a friend or family member unannounced! This puts your hike leader in an awkward position as most hikes involve some planning of transportation. We frequently hike in wilderness areas and other places where the number of hikers in a group is limited. If that is the case, and the hike is already full, you may be turned away!

Cancellations: Hike leaders use their own discretion regarding the weather. It is possible that a leader may decide that, due to weather conditions, they do not feel safe hiking on that day. The leader will call, email, text, etc., if deciding to cancel before the day of the hike. In the event that the decision to cancel is made on the day of the hike, the leader will give you the courtesy of showing up at the designated meeting place to announce that the hike is cancelled.

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