



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

September 2022

## Fall Picnic

**Saturday, September 24, 2022**  
**Cloudland Canyon State Park**  
Picnic Shelter #1  
Noon—please bring a dish to share



Prior to the picnic, there will be a 4.8-mile moderate hike along the West Rim Loop. **See page 2** for more information on hike and picnic.

There will be a short membership meeting at the picnic

## New Parking Fees to be Implemented at Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2023

Beginning March 1, 2023, all visitors parking in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) will need a parking pass.



The parking pass system is part of the park's Park it Forward program. According to a recent news release from the park, all revenue will stay in the GSMNP for maintenance, enhanced visitor experience and resource protection. Parking fees will be \$5 for a daily pass, \$15 for a seven day pass and \$40 for an annual pass.

There is no fee to drive through the park, and there is a 15-minute grace period for those who stop along the way.

The GSMNP is the most visited national park with over 14.1 million visits in 2021, a 57% increase over the last decade.

<https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/2023-fees.htm>

# Making

# TRACKS



## Paddleboard Adventure

**Wednesday, September 21, 2022**  
**South Chickamauga Creek**  
**9:30am-1:30pm**  
Contact Renaud Courbiere



[renaudcourbiere@gmail.com](mailto:renaudcourbiere@gmail.com)  
**See page 2 for details.**

## 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](mailto:Chomyn@catt.com).

**See page 2-3** for current fall hikes. Pop-up hikes will be emailed, posted on website and Facebook (if hike leader requests).



## Upcoming Special Events

Wednesday, September 21,  
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
South Chick Creek Paddleboard guided Tour

Location: [Sterchi Farm Park Trailhead and Creek Access to South Chick Creek](#)

Cost: \$65 per person  
Min/Max Attendees: 4 min / 12 max

Distance: 5 miles

Duration: 3.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy/moderate

Includes: Paddleboard equipment (paddleboard, paddle, life-jacket), paddleboard instruction and guided tour on South Chickamauga Creek.

**What to bring:** Clothes appropriate for the activity and temperature, a hat, sunscreen, dry bag, sack lunch to enjoy at the paddleboard tour, insect repellent, and a water bottle. Change of clothes and a towel for afterwards.


Other Considerations: Free parking and restroom facilities on site. This recreation area is in an urban setting. Please help us practice Leave No Trace principles.

**Optional Add-ons:** Seat back for comfort (limit 4)

### Description:

South Chickamauga Creek is a free-flowing creek and natural oasis in an urban setting that few people explore. It is home to several threatened or endangered species of aquatic animals, as well as a wide variety of migratory birds and native waterfowl. Outshine Adventures will provide all the equipment and a guided tour for members of the Chattanooga Hiking Club to soak up the scenery and view wildlife during a 5-mile leisurely-paced paddle board tour. We will keep an eye out for Great Blue Heron, osprey, turtles and other wildlife while we pass under train trestles and bridges. Once we complete the paddle, we will take time to enjoy a picnic lunch at Sterchi Farm Park. This is a 5-mile paddle and lasts about 3.5 hours with shuttle, which will be organized with the group by leaving cars and the takeout and carpooling to the put in. Those with their own kayak or paddleboard equipment can join for half price. Contact club member-Renaud [renaudcourbiere@gmail.com](mailto:renaudcourbiere@gmail.com) to book this adventure.



 **Saturday, September 24, 2022—Noon, Cloudland Canyon State Park, GA. Annual Club Fall Picnic. Picnic Shelter #1.** Bring a dish to pass, with serving utensils & whatever you'd like to drink. Club will provide paper goods and plastic utensils. No need to register. There is a \$5 parking fee unless you have Park pass.



### 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. More information coming, but please hold that date as this event fill up quickly.

## Upcoming Weekend Hikes

Saturday-Sunday,  
September 17-18  
Yellow Daisies at Stone Mountain and Arabia Mountain

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.



### Saturday, September 24, 2022, Cloudland Canyon

West Rim Loop Trail Saturday September 24, 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 Shelter #1 in plenty of time to join the Picnic! To register for the hike, contact hike leader Shelly Lewis, [lewishshellytn@yahoo.com](mailto:lewishshellytn@yahoo.com).

**MORE FALL HIKES NEXT PAGE  
(PAGE 3)**



## Upcoming Weekend Hikes (Cont'd)

**Saturday, October 15, 2022**

### Appalachian Trail: Springer Mountain to Hightower Gap

Location: Blue Ridge, GA

Driving Time: 2 hours one way from East Ridge, plus a 6 mile shuttle

Distance: 9.3 miles with slight additional mileage to shelter and waterfall

Rating: Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 1800 - 2000 ft

Pace: Standard - expect hiking time to average about 2 mph

Trail Conditions: Some rocky trail but not significantly so



Have you ever considered doing sections of the famed Appalachian Trail? We will start at the southern terminus for the first hike. Once we park at the Springer Mountain Trailhead on FS road 42 (6.5 miles of a good gravel road), we will hike 1 mile south to the beginning and summit of Springer Mountain. Here everyone is sure to want a picture at the rock and plaque signifying the start of this epic 2190 mile long trail through 14 states! We will retrace our steps back to the parking lot and continue northbound for 7.3 more miles. This hike is a little rocky at times, but never difficult terrain.

There is enough elevation gain to make it pretty strenuous, but it is up and down rather than one long climb. (This is definitely not a beginner hike.) The popular Three Forks and Long Creek Falls await us half way through the day. The hike will have a limit of 14, and there will be a car shuttle to set up. I have a good friend that will lead probably 2 of our cars before the hike on a 12 mile out and back shuttle, and then he will return to meet us at the end. A bonus of this hike is to possibly (we might be a little early) greet southbound thru-hikers ending their long journey from Mt Katahdin in Maine. To register, contact Susan Faidley at [beautyseeker01@gmail.com](mailto:beautyseeker01@gmail.com) or 201-888-0378.

## Upcoming Weekend Hikes (Cont'd)

**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](mailto:beautyseeker01@gmail.com) or 201-888-0378.

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

Location: Close to Oneida, TN

Driving Time: 3 hours to 3.5 hrs one way

Distance: Hikes offered will likely be from 3 to 10 miles

Rating: Easy to Strenuous

Elevation Gain: Varies

Pace: Standard

Trail Conditions: Varies with the trail

Join the CHC for a car camp in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The group site contains private showers, a pavilion with electricity, and campfire ring. Most hike distances between 5 and 10 miles a day. There are ranger led programs and tours offered, too. The night sky might provide us with views of the Milky Way. November 23rd is the new moon. The group site is \$375 for 3 nights. You may choose to stay from 1-3 nights. Please let me know of your interest right away! I am compiling a list and at the end of August, I will need to request payment from everyone based on the number of hikers attending and the number of nights you are staying. For 3 nights for 20 hikers, the total cost to everyone is only 18.75. There are already 12 possible and confirmed people. 25 will likely be the limit.

Information regarding the hikes offered will be emailed to those on the list, as I decide. I am really hoping to have two hikes a day, so there is something for everyone. Check out this link and let me know if you have any interest: <https://www.nps.gov/biso/index.htm> Hike leader is Susan Faidley, [beautyseeker01@gmail.com](mailto:beautyseeker01@gmail.com), 201-888-0378

**Reports from the Field**

**Wednesday, July 13 Shackleford Ridge Park, Yellow-Orange Loop**



As does Lookout Mountain, Signal Mountain has a myriad of trails. To find maps and descriptions go to <http://atlas.utc.edu/signalmntn/> and pick one! On this hot day, nine hiking friends began their walk at the kiosk and newest trailhead for the Shack-

leford Ridge Loop (blue). This trailhead is at the edge of the gravel parking lot to the left of the visitor's bleachers just off Sam Powell Parkway. Soon choose the orange/yellow blazes, then bear left and downhill on the orange blazes. Look carefully for the orange blazes to strike off along the creek toward Rainbow Lake. Our intention was to cross the Rainbow Lake swinging bridge and loop back to our starting point via the Bee Branch Loop. However, finding the trail so rough with jutting rocks and rain washed out tree roots, it was a gift to have Ray (with his GPS), Steve and Susan put their heads together, finding the path out via the Edward's Point yellow trail. This route was not as rough, it was a loop, and yet we "got our miles - 6.6" in spite of the map change. New hikers today were Novi and Tony Morales. Susan Faidley, Ray Rocque, Steve Whipple returning hikers. Che reporting.

**Wednesday, July 20, 2022 Savage Day Loop**

Savage Day Loop offers hikers a good view of Savage Gulf and a good waterfall along this 4.6 mile relatively easy Tennessee trail. The trail begins next to the ranger station. The trail is well marked with white blazes and signs. After a mile, the trail will split right and left, beginning the loop part of this lollipop. This description heads to the right. Just short of another mile after the split, the North Rim Trail will branch off to the right. Stay straight. From here you'll be walking along the canyon rim. There's not much of a view until you get to Rattlesnake point where a plaque recognizes Samuel and Ellen Werner who originally bought and protected this land.



Continue another half mile to a short side trail to a view of Savage Falls. Shortly after this a large sign for the South Rim Trail points to the right. Take this side trail .3 miles to Savage Falls, following the signs. Here you get a better view of the falls, which can be just a trickle if it hasn't rained in a while. Head back to where the South Rim Trail split off the main loop, then another 1.3 miles back to the ranger station. In spring Pink Lady Slippers and much more can be found on this trail. Che Carico reporting, Mac Dean leading. [www.alltrails.com/trail/us/tennessee/savage-falls](http://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/tennessee/savage-falls)

**Reports from the Field**

**Sunday, July 24, 2022 Durham Trails**

The five of us (including two new club members) enjoyed a great 8 mile hike this morning from Cloudland's 5



Points Trailhead over to Lula Lake's new Durham Trails. Hot and humid, and every breeze was welcomed! Jenny Hopkins reporting and leading.

**Wednesday, July 27, 2022 Annual Hiwassee River float and picnic**

Today was our annual event at Webb Brothers. We went on a Whitewater Adventure down the Hiwassee River!

The 5-mile trip on the Hiwassee Scenic River winds through the Cherokee National Forest, ending in the pastoral setting of the Reliance Historic District. The Hiwassee, rated Class II & III, is ideal for beginners. Approximately 20 CHC members rented



inflatable Funyaks (Duckies). While the rafters (and 3 canoes) floated down from the put in to Big Bend, Bill (the master chef),



Barbara, Wanda, Suzanne, Brae, Wayne, Vicki, Tom, Tony and Che covered the picnic tables with cloths and set out the delicious dishes for the meal. After lunch the rafters went through more rapids to finish at the Webb Brothers take out. Thanks to the carpool drivers, the "food truck"

drivers and to Che our event leader today! Renaud reporting.

John Rowland calls this the Butt Scootin' Boogie for folks who aren't accomplished navigators and are forever getting stuck on the submerged rocks. See more photos on page 6.

**Reports from the Field**

**Wednesday August 3, 2022, Lake Chickamauga, Bay Point Loop Trail**



A reunion today with dear hiking friends Merry and Diehl Boggs and granddaughter Macey. They are world travelers now but their trip this summer in the states included coming back

to Tennessee roots and long time hiking friends. The trail head is in the upper left corner of the parking above the marina. The trail is an easy and family friendly hike that runs along Chickamauga Lake. It was just right for the "little people" who came today with grandparents. When you go, check out the marina (Dockside Restaurant) which sadly is closed on Wednesday. Not to worry, the children were able to find many hungry fish to feed crushed crackers while standing on the boardwalk. The Countryside Cafe proved to be VERY delicious as our restaurant of choice when the marina was found closed. Che Carico reporting, Mac Dean and Jenny Hopkins leading

**Saturday, August 6, 2022 Benton Falls**

Five courageous folks braved the heat and humidity to hike Clemmer, Slick Rock to Benton Falls. The forest helped keep the temp down a little. It's unusual to get both views and a waterfall on the same hike, and they were beautiful! Hikers included Paul Roubekas, Tony and Novi Morales, Trish Franklin and Tim Chomyn reporting and leading.



**Wednesday, August 10, 2022 Enterprise South Nature Park**



This morning, our hikers explored Enterprise South on a hike led by new members Bryan and Dina.

Route was as follows: Started out at Parking Lot 3, made our way to the end of Poe Run Trail, Hidden Lake Trail, Boulder Point Trail, remain-

der of Hidden Lake Trail, Deer Hollow Trail, Poe Run Overlook Trail, returned to Parking Lot 3.

The total distance hiked was just over 4 miles. Fortunately, the rain held off until after we finished our hike! Bryan and Dina Klotz leading and reporting.

**Reports from the Field**



**Saturday, August 13, 2022 Smoky Mountains – Charlie's Bunion**

Great hike in the great Smoky Mountains National Park to Charlie's Bunion. An approximately 9.5 miles hike with 2200ft elevation. The 3 hours drive from Chattanooga was worth it. We had, as

Susan predicted it, a spectacular view from the top of Charlie's Bunion and most probably one of the best views in TN/NC/GA states. We started from Newfound Gap and the ascent started immediately. We visited an AT shelter (Icewater Springs Shelter) and after 4 miles we reached Charlie's Bunion to enjoy the panorama and have a quick lunch. Thanks to Barbara's suggestion we went then to the Jump Off and hiked on a very lush green trail to enjoy another spectacular view. After approximately 6 hours we were back to the trail head at the North Carolina/ Tennessee state line. A big thank you to Tim for organizing and leading this challenging hike.



There were 17 hikers including Trish Franklin, Pam Dawson, Susan Faidley, Novi and Tony Morales, Rick Glisson, Barbara McCullum, Joe Teringer, Kimmy Randolph, Spears McCalister, Sonja Parker, Renaud Courbiere, John Hyler, Charles Sahm, and Shelly and Lance Lewis. Renaud and Tim reporting. Tim Chomyn was the hike leader.

**Wednesday, August 17, 2022 Moonshine Trails**



We had a great group this morning for our 8 mile hike on [Lula Lake Land Trust's Moonshine Trails](#). Unlike LLLT's limited access

core preserve, these beautiful trails are available for daily use. We ambled along Firewater, Bathtub Gin, and White Lightening and spotted numerous mushrooms, white spider lilies, and a huge spider. Unseasonably cool weather for mid-August made for a very pleasant morning. Reporting and Leading Jenny Hopkins



*Many members say they enjoy seeing the names of hikers in write-ups on past hikes. When hike reporters share the names and when space permits, names will be listed.*

**More Photos from Summer Hikes/Events**

**Hiwassee River Float and Picnic**



**A few of the hospitality crew await the floaters coming down the Hiwassee for lunch at Big Bend.**



**Until Next Year!!**

**Charlie's Bunion Smoky Mtns**



**Deep Creek Tubing—Bryson City**



**Thank you newsletter photographers:  
Tim Chomyn, Renaud Courbiere, Susan Faidley,  
Jenny Hopkins, Bryan and Dina Klotz, Novi Morales,  
John Rowland**

## Outings Schedule

09/17-09/18/22	Stone/Arabia Mtns	B. McCollum
09/21/22	Paddleboard Chattanooga	R. Courbiere
09/24/22	Cloudland Canyon—Fall Picnic and Hike	
10/15/22	Springer Mt/Blue Ridge GA	S. Faidley
11/05/22	Prentice Cooper	S. Faidley
11/17-11/20/22	Big South Fork	S. Faidley
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 too. Be sure to register with hike leaders, contact info on page 2.

**Members on the Move** feature profiling members who have had an adventure either in the United States or abroad. Look forward to sharing in future newsletters on a trip to Alaska, a rafting adventure through the Grand Canyon, and a hike on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

## Membership

Be sure to encourage folks who love to hike and explore to become members in the club. Membership information can be found on our website at [www.chatthiking.com](http://www.chatthiking.com). Look under the About Us tab for information on joining. It's \$20 per year per family.

Your dues help support local outdoor/environmental non-profit organizations. We'll share more in the October newsletter on our 2022 supported organizations!

Also, as a CHC member, you receive a discount on some items at Rock/ Creek.

## 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

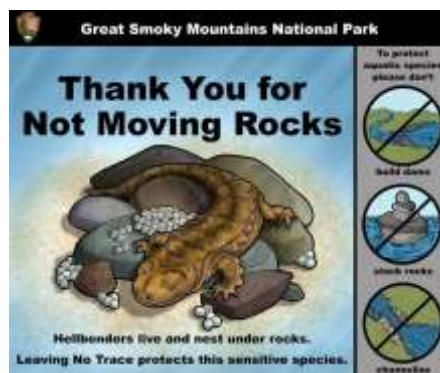
### Lula Lake Land Trust—Volunteer Days

VOLUNTEER - Lula Lake Land Trust announced trail work days on the new Durham Trails for Thursday, September 1 and Friday, September 9. Many of our CHC members have helped in the past, and can attest to the beauty of this property. LLLT is nearly finished building 15 miles of trails that will be available for daily use. Volunteers on these work days will need to hike in about 2 miles to the site. Interested?

Email [daniel@lulalake.org](mailto:daniel@lulalake.org)



### A Message from Great Smoky Mountains National Park!



While out exploring Great Smoky Mountain National Park, you've likely seen a rock cairn or two. The term rock cairn comes from the Gaelic term meaning "heaps of stones". These stacks of balanced rocks have been used as an important navigational tool throughout history. However, it is im-

portant to be aware of the downsides of building them inside our park.

Building rock cairns disturbs the natural habitat of the park wildlife including salamanders and fish that nest underneath the rocks. It can also dislodge plants and soil growing there giving way to erosion that may wash away these delicate habitats. Do your part to help us protect these habitats by not moving or stacking rocks.

Find out more here: <https://friendsofthesmokies.org/blog/dont-move-rocks/>

### 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)

**Membership Database** - Susan Basch [sbasch@nexband.com](mailto:sbasch@nexband.com)

**Outings** - Tim Chomyn [chomyn@catt.com](mailto:chomyn@catt.com)

**Midweek Outings** - Cheryl Carico [Mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net](mailto:Mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net)

**Newsletter** - Shelly Lewis [lewisshellyTN@yahoo.com](mailto:lewisshellyTN@yahoo.com)

**Webmaster** - Renaud Courbiere [renaudcourbiere@gmail.com](mailto:renaudcourbiere@gmail.com)

**Trail Maintenance** - Steve Barnes [sebarnestorm@gmail.com](mailto:sebarnestorm@gmail.com)