



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

June 2023

**Hike Leaders and
Maintainers Needed**

As noted in last month's newsletter we continue to need leaders! Please consider leading a hike and reach out to Susan Faidley, our Weekend Outings Coordinator. She has compiled a list of potential hiking trails and is available to help in considering what hikes you might want to schedule in the near future. She is also a great resource for help with planning and logistics. For those of you who are unsure because you are new to the club, please send her questions about planning and leading a hike! Susan's email is susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

In addition, Prentice Cooper State Forest continues to need help in trail marking, clearing storm damage and fallen trees, and bridge repair. If you are interested in helping with trail maintenance please contact Bill Kinnaman, our Trail Maintenance Coordinator. Bill's email is billkinnaman@gmail.com.

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



Yellow Ladyslipper



Upcoming Outings at a Glance

Sunday, June 4: Virgin Falls State Natural Area

Trail: Virgin Falls

Miles: 9+

Elevation gain: 1,000'

Leaders: Shelly Lewis and Novi Morales

For more, contact Shelley Lewis by text at 925-683-6095.

Friday, June 9: Nickajack Lake

Trail: Standup Paddleboard to Nickajack Cave

For details contact Renaud at renaudcourbiere@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 11: Cloudland Canyon Connector

Trail: Can't Hardly Trail to Cloudland Connector Trail, then ATLATL Trail

Miles: 7

Elevation gain: 700'

Contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 17: GSMNP

Trail: Noland Divide

Miles: 11.6

Elevation gain: 5,600'

Contact Ken Smith at KenSmith323@gmail.com or text or call at 864-809-1800.

Saturday, June 24: North Chickamauga Gorge

Trail: CT from Barker Camp Road to Montlake Road

Miles: 8.5

Elevation gain: 1,000'

Contact Dan Garner at garnerd6739@gmail.com or text at 615-498-056.

Saturday, July 1: GSMNP

Trail: Mount Cammerer

Miles: 11

Elevation gain: 3,000'

Contact Susan Faidley at susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

Wednesday Day Hikes

The Wednesday group hikes many of the same trails as the weekend hikers. The schedule is not published in advance, but 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.

Reports from the Field

Wednesday, May 10

Cumberland Trail from Hall Mountain Road

On May 10, 19 people enjoyed a beautiful day hiking the newest section of the Cumberland Trail from Hall Mountain Road on Signal Mountain. We followed this moderately easy trail for 3 miles to our turnaround point. This section of the CT continues for several miles until the walking becomes much more difficult and finally intersects the CT section that heads to Montlake Road (both can be accessed from Barker Camp Road). After the initial descent, we met up with North Chickamauga Creek's headwaters coming off Signal Mountain and stayed by the creek for the remainder of the hike. The mountain laurel



and rhododendron were just beginning to bloom. Everyone agreed this hike was a great addition to the Chattanooga area. The most unique part of the day was the dead rattlesnake we found being consumed by carrion beetles! Hiking today were Che Carico, Debbie Lambert, Betsy Parson, Helen Layne, Susan Garrett, Chris Bresson, Dan Garner, Cara Cameron, Cheryl Traylor, Wendy Gunn, Wanda McCarter, Steve Whipple, Bill Laroque, Bob Shafto, Gale Hill, Donna McCarthy, Mike McCarthy and Tom Carter. Susan Faidley reporting.



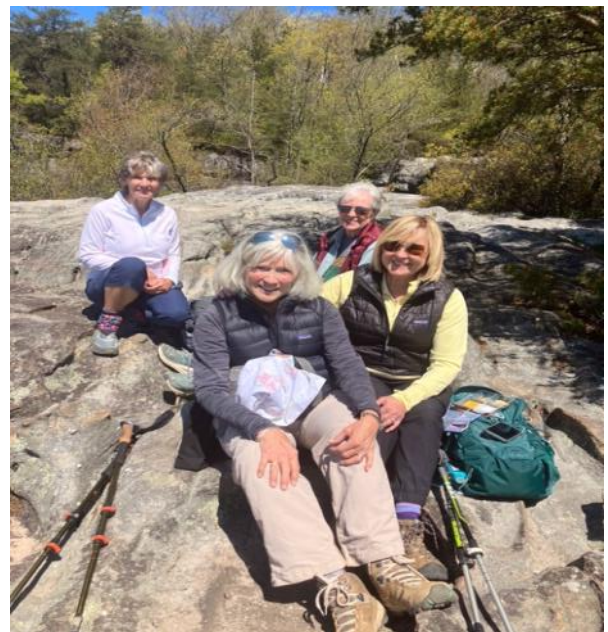
Reports from the Field

Wednesday, May 3

Cumberland - Black Mountain Overlook



A most glorious spring day was in store for 12 enthusiastic hikers. Blue skies, cool temps, and an abundance of spring wildflowers made this a memorable hike. Pink Lady's Slippers were spotted right away and, as we hiked to the top, we saw yellow trillium, mayapples, larkspur, fire pink, Solomon's seal, showy orchis, Wake Robin trillium, and Jack-in-the-Pulpit. A most special surprise along the way was the unexpected appearance of John Rowland! He did not want us to miss the Yellow Lady's Slippers and, with his guidance, we found them once again. Thank you John!



The rock formations at the top are always impressive. We had lunch at our favorite overlook. Afterwards, five hikers went back to the trailhead while five hiked the "Pink Lady Slipper" loop and the Below Bluff Trail. Those enjoying this 8 1/2 mile hike were Susan Garrett, Joyce Campbell, Chris Bresson, Steve Barnes, Steve Boone, John Prescott, Michael Kjeldgaard and his son, David, with Debbie Lambert leading and reporting.

Reports from the Field

**Tuesday & Wednesday, May 23-24
Virginia Creeper Bike Trail**

A group of CHC members ventured to Virginia to participate in the club's annual excursion on the Virginia Creeper Trail. This is a 17-mile, mostly downhill bicycle ride through scenic countryside. Thanks to Wayne Chambers for organizing!



Note: We are sorry to report that our tireless Wednesday hike planner and outings coordinator was injured due to a fall near the end of the ride. She is back home and we look forward to her recovery and return to the trail. We definitely miss her! In the interim various members will attempt to keep some Wednesday hikes on our outings schedule.

Trail Maintenance Tip

Words of wisdom from Bill: Consider hiking with pocket clippers and removing small branches, briars, and weeds that overhang or intrude on the treadway. This was common practice for Donald Box and Boodie Fox on their many hiking club excursions.



Reports from the Field

**Wednesday, May 31
Cloudland Canyon State Park**

A great group of folks turned out for this hike along Cloudland's beautiful Sitton's Gulch Trail. After venturing up the gorge to the base of Hemlock Falls, half the group returned to the cars, while several hardy hikers continued up to Cherokee Falls and then added a portion of the West Rim Loop for a total of 7.5 miles and 1,200 feet elevation gain. It was perfect hiking weather with a delightful breeze.



Rock/Creek Discount

Show your Chattanooga Hiking Club Membership Card, along with your ID at any Rock/Creek Outfitters store for 10% off one item.

**Applies to one non-sale, in-stock item. Cannot be combined with other discounts or promotions. Offer does not apply to gift cards, boats, boards, coolers, & electronics. In-store only.*

Club Officers and Support

- President** - Stormy McGauley
- Vice President** - Tony Morales
- Treasurer** - Jenny Hopkins
- Secretary** - Susan Basch
- Membership Database** - Susan Basch
- Outings** - Susan Faidley
- Midweek Outings** - Cheryl Carico
- Newsletter** - Betsy Archer and Steve Barnes
- Webmaster** - Renaud Courbiere, Christianne Montoya
- Trail Maintenance** - Bill Kinnaman
- Website:** chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)

Upcoming Outings

Sunday, June 11**Cloudland Canyon - Ascalon Road Trailhead****Distance:** 7 miles**Elevation Gain:** 700 feet**Rating:** Moderate**Pace:** Standard 2.0 mph

We'll hike a meandering loop beginning with the beautiful Can't Hardly Trail, which connects to Cloudland Connector Trail, then ATLATL Trail, back to CCT for a short distance before connecting to Kindergarten Trail, back to CCT and the parking lot. Each vehicle needs to pay \$5 exact for parking or have an annual Georgia Parks pass. Contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com to register and get the exact location and time.

Saturday, June 17, 2023**Noland Divide Trail and After Hike Picnic****Location:** Great Smoky Mountains National Park**Driving Time:** 2.5 hours from downtown**Distance:** 11.6 miles**Rating:** Strenuous**Elevation Change:** 800 feet ascent, 4,800 feet descent**Pace:** Standard

Join Ken Smith as he completes his map and becomes an official member of the 900 mile club. For those coming over on Friday, we will meet for a group dinner at Pasqualino's Italian Restaurant in Bryson City at 6:30 p.m. On Saturday, we will leave Bryson City at 8:00 a.m. and head up to the trailhead on Clingmans Dome Road. The hike is mostly downhill with only one steady 600-foot climb over 1.7 miles. After the hike we may have a celebration picnic at the Deep Creek Picnic Area. Check with Ken for details. Please RSVP to Ken Smith at KenSmith323@gmail.com or text or call at 864-809-1800.

Saturday June 24, 2023**North Chickamauga Gorge Trail****Hike:** CT from Barker Camp Road to Montlake Road with Upper Hogskin Branch Loop**Location:** Soddy Daisy**Driving Time:** 20 min from downtown**Distance:** 8.5 miles**Rating:** Difficult**Elevation Gain:** 1,000 feet**Pace:** Approx. 2 mph

Trail Conditions: Numerous Creek fords, some rugged ascents, ladders, some overgrowth, short sections with narrow footing

This hike has some of the most spectacular scenery of any

hike in our immediate area. From Barker Camp Road, we walk a mile on an old gravel road to intersect the CT, then traverse about 2.5 miles along the north rim of the gorge, passing the wonderful Panther Branch Overlook. The trail then descends 1/2 mile to ford Coopers Creek. We then climb a short ladder and hike past Stevenson Campsite and Falls. From here, the trail becomes difficult and steeply ascends 2/3 mile to a higher escarpment. The trail arrives at the Strip Mine Falls, then climbs a wood staircase to an old mine road, which affords a little over a mile of relatively easy, flat walking. We then reach the marvelous Boston Branch Overlook and then hike 1 mile of difficult but scenic trail to an old mine shaft. Once past that, the trail is an additional 1.2 miles, most of which is a descent with easy hiking, two reasonably easy creek crossings, (unless recent rains cause more runoff) arriving at the cars at the southern trailhead. Hike Leader is Dan Garner. Please register with Dan at garnerd6739@gmail.com or text at 615-498-0560.

Saturday, July 1, 2023**Mt. Cammerer****Location:** Great Smoky Mountains**Driving Time:** 2.5 hours from downtown**Distance:** 11 miles out and back**Rating:** Strenuous**Elevation Gain:** 3,000 feet**Pace:** Standard (about 2 mph)

Trail Conditions: Some rocks, but mostly good trail
This is a beautiful hike starting on the Low Gap Trail from the Cosby Campground, and then following the Appalachian Trail to the side trail of Mt. Cammerer. At almost 5,000 feet, the tower provides outstanding 360 degree views. On a clear day, this is one of the "crown jewel" hikes of the Smokies. And if the day is not so clear, we still get a beautiful, steep and challenging climb for 3 miles up Low Gap Trail, and then enjoy an easier 2 miles along the Appalachian Trail. The tower is a wonderful stone structure (built by the CCC), making it easy to get onto — no scary, 100 rickety steps to climb. Mt. Cammerer is named after a national park director who was instrumental in establishing the Smokies as a national park. This is a difficult climb, and while we will have rest stops and will not hike at a fast pace, participants need to have experience with similar mileage and elevation gain. The hike leader is Susan Faidley. Please register via email at susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

Members on the Move

Peruvian Adventure

The journey began in Cusco, Peru. Tony, Novi, and Joyce spent the next four days acclimating to 11,200' altitude, as well as becoming familiar with the culture, history, the beautiful local people, and the so many dogs we saw everywhere. Interesting is that all the dogs were friendly and so well-nourished. Joining us on the journey were four friends who traveled from Las Vegas, Nevada.



On the last day we were up at 2:45 a.m. to prepare for our entrance to Machu Picchu. We stood as the sun rose above the Andes Mountains and through the Sun Gate, illuminating our first view of this magnificent Inca citadel structure built from the labor of thousands of people. A trip of memories, never to be forgotten. Truly worth every step we took over the 26 miles.

Submitted by Joyce, Novi, and Tony

On May 12 we all, as well as nine other adventurers from around the world, were transported to Piskacucho, where we began our hike at 8,502 feet. The Urubamba River is bordered by amazing greenery and vibrant flowers. We completed our hike that day at Ayapata – 10,954 feet elevation. The next day — our hardest day of the four-day trek — our group, with minimal difficulty, made the hike up to Dead Woman's Pass at 13,828 feet – this was the most dreaded part of the hike. Our day did not end when we summited, however, as we still had a trek down to Paqaymayu at 11,480 feet. back up to Runkurakay Pass at 12,959 feet, and then back down to our campsite, Chaquigocha at 12,033 feet, where we slept under a galaxy of stars and the Milky Way.

Each day we were surrounded by the magnificent views of the snowcapped Andes Mountains and by night God's wonderful galaxy of stars. Our comfort needs were met by the porters who transported our personal belongings, tents, and food.

The food was prepared by a first-class chef. We were blessed with guides who were well versed in the history of the Inca culture and provided ongoing education and assistance.

