



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

March 2022

### Club Information

Spring is on the way! And that means wildflowers. Don't forget to set your clocks forward for Daylight Savings Time on March 13. Longer days mean longer hikes!

We love wildflower hikes and are looking forward to March, April and May. Most of the March and April weekend hikes are listed in this newsletter, but don't be surprised if our enthusiastic hike leaders continue to add more. So check the website frequently and pay attention to Facebook if you use that site.



Oconee Bells

We have had quite a few new members join CHC recently. The Board voted to host a spring potluck picnic on May 21 as a mix and mingle. We'll also do some board business so please plan to attend. More details soon.

We are moving the date of the newsletter distribution to the middle of the month. Starting in March, you will receive the April newsletter by March 16. This should help members plan for future hikes and events.

Thank you to all of our hike leaders. We couldn't have our wonderful adventures without you.

Website: [www.chatthiking.com](http://www.chatthiking.com)  
Facebook: Chattanooga Hiking Club



### SAVE THE DATE

#### Spring Picnic

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Cloudland Canyon

Details coming soon.

# Making

# TRACKS



### Membership Renewal

The Chattanooga Hiking Club operates on an April 1 to March 31 year. Memberships should be renewed by April 1 of each year. To renew your membership, please print [Membership Renewal\(PDF\)](#) from website, fill out and mail with your check made payable to the Chattanooga Hiking Club. Don't have a printer? You can include your check with a handwritten note "Renewal" along with date, name, address, phone, and email to:

Chattanooga Hiking Club  
c/o Susan Basch  
5507 S. Highway 341  
Chickamauga, GA 30707

PLEASE NOTE: If you have joined the Club since January 1st, 2022, your membership will be in effect through March 31st, 2023.



Our members travel near and far on amazing adventures. We are highlighting some of these escapades in our new "Members on the Move" feature in each newsletter.

Last month Suzanne Dorrough shared her beautiful adventure hiking the 500-mile Camino de Santiago in Spain. This month, Jenny

Hopkins talks about her annual trip to the rugged White Mountains in New Hampshire with her son. (Page 5)

If you have a trip you'd like to share, please send information to Shelly Lewis, newsletter editor, at [lewissellytn@yahoo.com](mailto:lewissellytn@yahoo.com).

It's easy to do with a three paragraph write-up and some photos.

*Happy Trails.*

## Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

**Date:** Saturday, March 5, 2006

**Location:** Raccoon Mountain

**Trail:** Electric Avenue

**Distance:** 7 miles

**Elevation Gain:** 500 feet

**Rating:** Easy/moderate

**Pace:** Standard

Electric Avenue is my favorite trail on Raccoon Mountain. We'll hike it to Laurel Point and back, enjoying some views along the way with the leaves still down. We'll take a snack break at Laurel Point, with an optional lunch downtown at Conga after our hike. Text hike leader Elizabeth O'Connor at 423-313-3525 or email [o39connorelizab@yaho.com](mailto:o39connorelizab@yaho.com).

**Date:** Sunday, March 6, 2022

**Location:** Lookout Mountain

**Trail:** Glenn Falls from Guild Trail

**Distance:** about 5 miles

**Elevation Gain:** 1,200 ft

**Rating:** Moderate

**Pace:** Standard

Parking is limited at the start of this trail, so let's meet at Food City in St. Elmo (3801 Tennessee Ave.) at 8:10 leaving there by 8:30. We will carpool to the Guild Trail parking on Ochs Hwy starting the hike at 8:45. We will hike up to a beautiful waterfall and descend on our return. Text Rita Pendergast at 904-501-8852.

**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2022

**Location:** Bear Paw and Chestnut Mountain Loop

**Driving Time:** 60 minutes from Ooltewah Food City

**Distance:** Around 9 miles

**Elevation Gain:** 1279 Feet

**Pace:** Standard

We will park at the Ocoee Whitewater Center, parking fee is \$3 per vehicle. Hike starts across bridge from Visitors Center on the Bear Paw Loop, which will lead to Chestnut Loop. Majority of trail follows logging roads. Stop on trail for lunch and then follow loop back to Visitor Center. Allow 4.5 hours for the hike. Register with hike leader Susan Basch [sbasch@nexband.com](mailto:sbasch@nexband.com).

**Date:** Saturday-Sunday, March 25-26, 2022

**Location:** Devils Fork State Park, SC and surrounding area

**Driving Time:** 3 hours

**Distance:** no more than 10 miles

**Rating:** Moderate

**Pace:** Standard

Couple of spaces available to see the Oconee Bells in the foothills of South Carolina. Overnight accommodations either at a hotel in Seneca, SC or camping at Devils Fork State Park Salem, SC. After the morning's hike, we will have a private boat tour of Jocassee Lake with a naturalist where we will see more Oconee Bells and hidden waterfalls. Our last destination on Sunday is a short hike to see upper and lower Whitewater Falls. To register or more info, contact Barbara McCollum at [bpmccollum@yahoo.com](mailto:bpmccollum@yahoo.com) or 770.289.7143.

## Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

**Friday, April 8, 2022**

Ramsey Cascades

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Driving Time: 3 hours one way

Distance: 8 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 2400 ft.

Pace: Standard

This is one of the most popular hikes in the Smokies - and for good reason! This beautiful trail takes us through old growth forest with a variety of species of huge trees, glorious cascades, and wildflowers leading to more difficult and the climb starts in earnest. There will be lots of large roots and rocks, especially as we get closer to the final cascading waterfall, which is the highest in the Smokies. Be prepared to rock hop. Hike leader plans to spend the night before in Gatlinburg. For those driving up the day of the hike, it will be an early start. A car pool can be arranged and everyone can meet at the leader's hotel for the drive to the trailhead. To register, contact Susan Faidley at [beautyseeker01@gmail.com](mailto:beautyseeker01@gmail.com) or 201-888-0378.

**Saturday, April 9, 2022\***

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Driving time: 2 hours one way and 4 hours total

Rating: Moderately Strenuous

Pace: Standard

We'll meet up at the Townsend Wye and organize a car shuttle--at least 1 car at the end of the hike to shuttle drivers back to the Townsend Wye. Hike begins at Chestnut Top trail, continue to Schoolhouse Gap for one mile, and then finish the hike on the Turkeypen Ridge trail. Chestnut Top is perhaps the most spectacular wildflower trail in the park. Perhaps a meal afterwards at Aubrey's in Maryville, TN. Hike leader plans to spend Friday night in Townsend. To register, contact Barbara McCollum at [bpmccollum@yahoo.com](mailto:bpmccollum@yahoo.com) or 770.289.7143.

*\*If you plan to stay in Townsend or vicinity on Friday, make your own accommodation reservations early!*

**Date:** Thursday, April 28 – Sunday, May 1, 2020

**Location:** Elkmont Campground, Great Smokey Mountains National Park

**Outing:** Camping

Will travel to Elkmont Campground on the 28th, set up camp. Hike longer trails Friday and Saturday, strike camp on Sunday and hike Twin Creeks (also visit House of Fairies) on Sunday and head for home. All of this is subject to change!! Friday and Saturday will hike as much as we can. Choices not yet final are Baskins Creek, Old Sugarlands, Grapeyard Ridge, Ramsey's Cascades.

You will need to make your own campsite reservation. There is more information about this event on website. Contact for this event is Che Carico [mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net](mailto:mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net). Please email for information on how to register for campsites if you need assistance.

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

Wednesday, February 9, 2022  
Rock Creek/Cumberland



Nice hike with a great weather today. We were on the Rock Creek Trail which belongs to the Cumberland Trail. Thanks to Che organization, we left some cars at different locations (thanks to the

drivers) and we hiked all together around 6 miles. Then Jason, Bob, Renaud and Greg hiked further 3 miles back to the Trailhead. We started the hike with 33 degrees Fahrenheit and finished with 63 degrees. A perfect blue sky for this a bit challenging hike. We saw different small falls and creeks during the hike and enjoyed the sound of the flowing water. Thanks to Greg our hike leader today ! Renaud reporting and photos



Sunday, February 13  
Bear Creek Backcountry Trail at Cloudland Canyon State Park



At 22 degrees with sunny skies, our group of 11 set off on the steep descent to Bear Creek. The water level in the creek wasn't as low as most would have liked, yet Tim and Rick made the wide crossing and continued on. The rest of us climbed back up and hiked the Backcountry Loop, a new trail called Meadowlands Trail, and Overlook Trail

(where it was extremely windy and cold!) to give us about 6.3 miles. A handful decided to add in West Rim Loop for bonus miles. We all had a wonderful day. Hike leader Jenny Hopkins also reporting and photos.



Saturday, February 26, 2022  
Stringers Ridge



Good time exploring Stringers Ridge from new White Oak Park connector trail in Red Bank. Hiked about five miles with nice view from overlook. Had some of our new members on

this hike. Thanks Tim for helping with Shelly's first hike lead. Hike leader Shelly Lewis reporting and photos.

Saturday, February 19, 2022  
Savage Gulf

We did a really nice 5.5 mile hike in Savage Gulf. Savage Day Loop, adding in a view of Savage Falls and adding in a little of the North Rim trail to a bluff. We crossed two swinging bridges. Eleven wonderful hikers braved a very chilly morning and some mud on the way out. Thanks to Tim for helping Rita with her first hike lead. Hike leader Rita Pendergast reporting.

Sunday, February 27, 2022  
Skyuka Springs



Weather cooperated for 4 of us to enjoy a rain-free hike to Skyuka Springs. We saw 2 deer and crossed many shallow streams from all the rain. No wildflowers quite yet! Hike leader Elizabeth O'Connor reporting and photos.

Reports from the Field

Len Foote Hike Inn  
Wednesday-Thursday, February 16-17, 2022



Over 40 club members, family and friends enjoyed the annual trip to Len Foote Hike Inn at Amicalola Falls State Park. Most members hiked the 5 miles in the afternoon to get there. Another group led by Jenny Hopkins hiked the strenuous AT Approach Trail

to Springer Mountain then backtracked to the Inn—12.5 miles with some 3,000' elevation gain.

Although we did get some rain, the Inn and mountain view were beautiful as always. After checking into our cabins and warming up with coffee and hot chocolate, we had a wonderful dinner in the dining hall. The rest of the evening was spent in the Sunrise Room singing and sipping wine.



Charlie, Jack, Bill, Janna and Susan provided the entertainment.

Thank you Wayne Chambers who began this club hike tradition many years ago. The participation has grown from eight to filling the 40 bunk rooms. And, by choosing January/

February, we get a bargain rate of half the usual charge. Make sure to check out photos plus videos on our Facebook page. Photos: Renaud, Jenny, Tim



## Members on the Move

Adventure in the White Mountains  
By: Jenny Hopkins



My love of the majestic White Mountains in New Hampshire began in 2015. After seeing photos of my son's hiking trips, I suggested we embark on a mother-son trek. At that time I was an avid walker but only an occasional hiker. I told him "I'm up for anything".

Little did I know how strenuous and

challenging the Whites are! We began with the ascent (part of the AT) to Mt. Liberty (4459'). It was brutal. To make things worse, I was carrying an overloaded, ill-fitting, borrowed backpack. We then hiked along Franconia Ridge, which includes Little Haystack Mountain and Mt. Lincoln to Mt. Lafayette (5260'). It was a perfect bluebird day, and the views off both sides of the ridge were incredible.

We arrived late at Greenleaf Hut, after the "croc" began serving the 6 pm dinner. We had hiked only 8 miles, yet it took a full 8 hours. Yes, no matter how fast one normally hikes, a mile an hour in the Whites is to be expected.



There are boulders, and then more boulders, including some difficult scrambles. I was exhausted, yet exhilarated!



The Appalachian Mountain Club operates eight "high mountain" huts, each spaced a day's hike apart. Similar to Len Foote Hike Inn, but much more rustic. Each is configured a bit differently, but most are open bunk rooms (some 3 bunks high), no showers, and only wool blankets provided. Yet the food is fabulous! After a hearty breakfast, we set out for our continued descent and over to Lonesome Lake Hut for the second night. The next day we were back on the AT to return to my son's car.

I was hooked! This became an annual event for us. The next fall we hiked the same route, and I was much better prepared. In 2017, we climbed Mt. Garfield (4500') and over to Galehead Hut. The second day we slackpacked over to South Twin Mountain, Mt. Bond, and Bondcliff, and back to Galehead Hut for another night.

In 2018, we hiked part of the Presidential Range, hitting Mt. Pierce, Mt. Eisenhower, Mt. Monroe, Mt. Jefferson, and the infamous Mt. Washington (6288'), all while staying 2 nights at Lakes of the Clouds Hut. While descending Mt. Washington, we stopped for a drink. A northbound AT thru-hiker saw the Lula Lake sticker on my water bottle and excitedly asked "are you from Chattanooga?" So was she! Small world indeed.

In 2019 we returned to the challenging yet spectacular Franconia Ridge route. As with everything else in 2020, our trip was cancelled. But 2021 found us returning to Franconia Ridge for the 4<sup>th</sup> time.

The Whites are spectacular! There are 48 peaks exceeding 4000'. Just as some have a goal to hike all 800+ trails in the Smokies, there are those who set out to climb all of them, and some accomplish it in one year or even a season.

**Outings Schedule**

03/05/2022	Raccoon Mountain	E. O'Connor
03/06/2022	Glenn Falls, Lookout Mtn	R. Pendergast
03/19/2022	Chestnut Loop	S Basch
03/26/2022	Oconee Bells-overnight	B McCollum
04/09/2022	Smokies, Schoolhouse Gap	B McCollum
04/28-05/01	Smokies, Camping	C Carico
06/18 or 06/25 (tbd)	Gregory Bald	R Glisson

See Page 2 for hike details for some of these outings. 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.

**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](mailto: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.

**Other Stuff**



With wildflower season nearly here, our club members are big fans of the Seek app to identify those beautiful wildflowers. (Available for iPhone and Android model

phones). Its free and available from Google Play and the Apple Store. No registration required.

Drawing from millions of wildlife observations on iNaturalist, Seek shows you lists of commonly recorded insects, birds, plants, amphibians, and more in your area. Scan the environment with the Seek Camera to identify organisms using the tree of life. Add different species to your observations and learn all about them in the process! (source: i-naturalist website [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)).

**Other Stuff**

**Bob DeHart**

December 19, 1933—  
January 31, 2022

Bob passed away in January at the age of 88. He has been a treasured hiker, friend to many, and builder of the Cumberland Trail. He will surely be missed!



**Welcome New Members**

We'd like to welcome the following new members to the club. We're so glad you are here!

- Laura Apyan • Sena Bolton • Elizabeth Culler • Pat Diviney • Janet & Paul Lemoine • Sharen Mayo • Marjorie Parsons • Bill Ragsdale • Karen Ramsey • Kimmy Randolph • Erin Reynolds • Tom & Carol Sewell • Todd Seaman • Chrissie Shea • Jason & Rebecca Shelton



**Rock/Creek Discount Info**

Show your Chattanooga Hiking Club Membership Card, along with your ID at any Rock/Creek Store. Chattanooga Hiking Club - 10% off one Item \*Applies to one non-sale, in-stock item. Can not 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 [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 [LewishshellyTN@yahoo.com](mailto:LewishshellyTN@yahoo.com)
- Webmaster** - Renaud Courbiere [renaudcourbiere@gmail.com](mailto:renaudcourbiere@gmail.com)
- Trail Maintenance** - Steve Barnes [sebarnestorm@gmail.com](mailto:sebarnestorm@gmail.com)
- Website:** [chatthiking.com](http://chatthiking.com) (includes link to newsletter)