



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

December 2023

Annual Christmas Potluck Party



YOU'RE INVITED!

WHEN: Wednesday, December 13

WHERE: Cloudland Canyon State Park,
Group Shelter #1

TIME: 11:30 a.m. for hors d'oeuvres,
noon for lunch. Please bring a dish to
share along with the necessary
serving utensils.

HIKE: Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the shelter if
interested in a 5-mile hike before the
festivities. Please register for the hike
with Jenny Hopkins at
jenhop60@gmail.com.

NOTE: No need to RSVP for the
potluck. Please feel free to come early
if you'd like to help set up, or you are
welcome to stay afterwards to help
clean up!

Making

TRACKS



Upcoming Outings at a Glance

Saturday, December 2: Cumberland Trail

Trail: Shackleford Ridge Park to Mushroom Rock

Miles: 7.5

Elevation gain: 1,000'

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

Saturday, December 9: South Cumberland State Park

Trail: Raven's Point

Miles: 8.5

Elevation gain: ~1,200'

Contact Kendrick Mills at LKMills@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 16: Lookout Mountain - Santa Hat

Trail: Reflection Riding to Point Park and return on the
Bluff Trail

Miles: 8.5

Elevation gain: 1,800'

Contact Novi or Pam at 702-600-2020 or 423-667-8091.

Sunday, January 7: Lookout Mountain

Trail: Guild Trail to Glenn Falls

Miles: 4

Elevation gain: 550'

Contact Rita Pendergast at rita.pendergast11@gmail.com.

Important Hiker Links

Chattanooga Hiking Club:

www.chatthiking.com

Facebook: Chattanooga Hiking Club

New Walden's Ridge Park:

www.waldensridgepark.com

Lula Lake Land Trust Events:

www.lulalake.org/events.html

The Cumberland Naturalist:

<https://cumberlandnaturalist.com/>

Reports from the Field

Wednesday, November 1

Graysville Mountain CT section to Cranmore Overlook

It was sunny but cold day to hike. Nine participants hiked the Graysville Mountain CT with lots of color and leaves on the trail for 6.3 miles with 902' elevation gain. Thanks to Charlie, the hike leader, and to Randy for the photo.



Wednesday, November 8

General Bragg Trail

What a beautiful day to hike: sunny, 77 degrees, and surrounded by great colors. We hiked the Gen. Bragg Trail in Chickamauga Park, a distance of around 5 miles. After the hike some of us enjoyed lunch at the Park Restaurant.



Monday, November 6

Rockmont Park

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the River to Clouds Route was held in St. Elmo. Many years in the making, the route begins from the Far Enough Trail off Old Wauhatchie Pike in St. Elmo and continues 34 miles to Cloudland Canyon State Park. For more info see: [River to Clouds Route — Thrive Regional Partnership](#). Thanks to Jenny for representing the CHC at this event.

Reports from the Field

Sunday, November 12

Bear Creek Backcountry Trail

On a cool November morning a great group of members turned out to hike 7.5 miles (with 1,400' elevation gain) on Cloudland Canyon's Bear Creek Backcountry Trail. With almost no water in the creek, the crossing was easy-peasy! Thanks to Jenny for leading.



Saturday, November 25

North Chickamauga Creek

A group of five members enjoyed a scenic hike in North Chickamauga Creek Gorge led by Dan Garner. After a shuttle from the Montlake Trailhead to Barker Camp Trailhead we traversed nearly 10 miles down the gorge. It was a lovely day with very little water flowing in the local streams so the waterfalls were scarce. The group took a break for lunch at the Boston Branch Overlook and enjoyed some great vistas on a clear sunny day with the trees mostly bare of leaves.



Reports from the Field (cont.)

Wednesday, November 15

Camp New Dawn

This was our special club event for Thanksgiving. It was attended by Chattanooga Hiking Club members, former members, spouses, and friends! The Chandlers' hospitality at Camp New Dawn (McLemore Cove near Chattanooga) was immeasurable. We were looking forward to renewing acquaintances. Jennie Chandler, her son Alan, and Greg were our hike leaders today for a walk around the centennial farm. A total of 12 hikers hiked approximately 2 miles in two hours. We met pigs, donkeys, goats, sheep,



Angus cows, and dogs. We were joined by several more members and had lunch at Jennie's house on the hill. Thanks to the Chandler family and Che for organizing, and the carpool drivers.



Upcoming Outings

Saturday, December 2

Shackleford Ridge Park to Mushroom Rock

Location: Signal Mountain

Driving Time: ~30 minutes

Distance: 7.5 miles

Elevation Gain: 1,000' cumulative

Rating: Moderate

Trail Conditions: Some rocky sections

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

Join us for a 7.5 mile hike (6.5 miles on the Cumberland Trail) from the Shackleford Ridge County Park on Signal Mountain to the famous 20-foot-high sandstone pedestal known as Mushroom Rock, and then continuing on the CT to Edwards Point with its beautiful view of Chattanooga, down to cross Middle Creek, and up to Signal Point with another great lookout. There will be excellent views of the Tennessee river with the leaves down. The section from Edwards Point to Signal Point is pretty rocky, but we will take our time getting through this section. There will be a 15-minute car shuttle.

Saturday, December 9

Raven's Point

Location: South Cumberland State Park

Driving time: ~1 hour

Distance: 8.5 miles

Elevation Gain: 1,200' cumulative

Rating: Moderate

Trail Conditions: Some rocks and roots with creek beds

Contact: Kendrick Mills at LKMills@gmail.com.

Come hike through one of the finest creek canyons in the region, with numerous small waterfalls and blue holes, followed by a long, smooth stroll along the bluffs above. The hike's destination is the outstanding view from Raven's Point. We will start from the Fiery Gizzard Trailhead in Tracy City, walk along the creek bed and then ascend the Dog Hole trail up to the bluff, where the path is fairly level for several miles. We'll take the spur trail out to Raven's Point, then reverse our course back to the trailhead. There is only one short, steep ascent about a quarter of a mile up to the bluff. If we get some much-needed rain, Blue Hole Falls, Zenner Falls, Sycamore Falls, and a beautiful blue hole will fill for our enjoyment. We'll plan to carpool from the Chattanooga area out to Tracy City.

Upcoming Outings (cont.)

Saturday, December 16

Reflection Riding to Point Park and Return on Bluff Trail

Location: Lookout Mountain

Driving Time: ~20 minutes

Distance: 8.5 miles

Elevation Gain: 1,800'

Rating: Moderate to Strenuous

Trail Conditions: Some rocks and roots

This hike will be our 2nd annual Santa Hat hike. So, we encourage you to wear your Santa hats and come out to share the holiday spirit!

Sign up with Novi 702-600-2020 or Pam 423-667-8091.



Happy 2024!

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Guild Trail to Glenn Falls

Location: Lookout Mountain

Driving Time: ~20 minutes

Distance: 4 miles

Elevation Gain: 550'

Rating: Moderate

Trail Conditions: Some rocks and roots

This hike will begin at 9:00 a.m.

To register, email rita.pendergast11@gmail.com.

Club Officers and Support

President - Stormy McGauley

Vice President - Tony Morales

Treasurer - Jenny Hopkins

Secretary - Susan Basch

Membership Database - Susan Basch

Outings - Susan Faidley

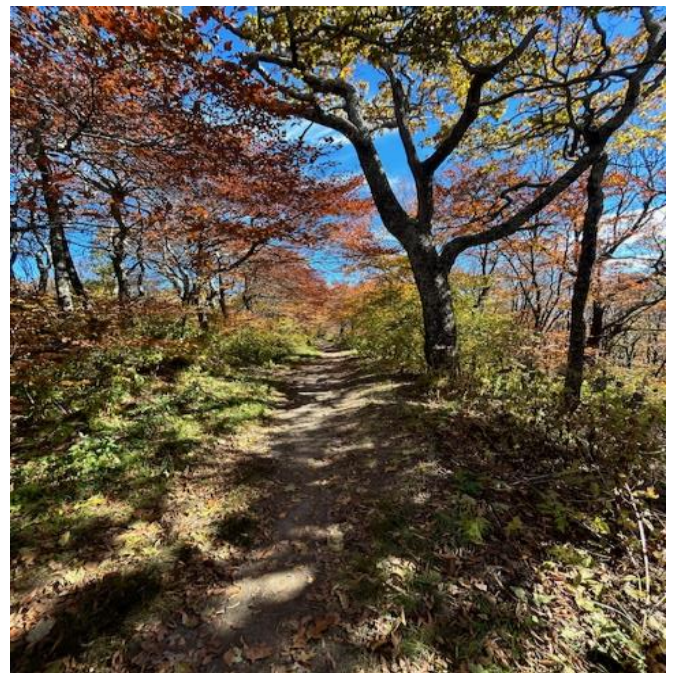
Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico

Newsletter - Betsy Archer and Steve Barnes

Webmaster - Renaud Courbiere, Christianne Montoya

Trail Maintenance - Bill Kinnaman

Visit our website chatthiking.com to learn more about upcoming hikes, read archived newsletters, and more!



Hiking News

Long-time hiker and trail maintenance director for the Benton MacKaye Trail Association and Tellico Plains resident Rick Harris has authored a new guide book. The guide focuses on hiking and backpacking trails in the Tellico area. For information contact Rick at Harrisri@aol.com.