



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

November 2023

Call Out to Potential Hike Leaders

It's easy to be a hike leader! We're looking for hikers who want to share some of their favorite routes. Hikes can be long or short. Just pick a favorite hike you'd like to share and we'll help you set it up. We're looking for hikers who would like to lead either Wednesday hikes or weekend hikes (or both).

Want to know more about what it takes to be a hike leader? Email Che Carico at MidWeek@chatthiking.com for Wednesday hikes. If you can lead weekend hikes, contact Susan Faidley at susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, December 13
Cloudland Canyon State Park
Join us for our
Annual Potluck Christmas Party!
Details to follow...

Hiker Links

Chattanooga Hiking Club:

www.chatthiking.com

Facebook: Chattanooga Hiking Club

Walden's Ridge Park:

www.waldensridgepark.com

Lula Lake Land Trust:

www.lulalake.org

Cumberland Naturalist:

www.cumberlandnaturalist.com

Making

TRACKS



Upcoming Outings at a Glance

Wednesday, November 1, Cumberland Trail

Trail: Graysville Mountain section

Miles: 8.7

Elevation gain: 1,427

Contact Charlie at charlie_breeding838@epbfi.com.

Wednesday, November 8: Chickamauga Battlefield

Trail: General Bragg Trail

Miles: 5

Elevation gain: Mostly flat

Contact Tom Carter at thomas_carter@comcast.net.

Sunday, November 12: Cloudland Canyon State Park

Trail: Bear Creek Backcountry Trail

Miles: 7.3

Elevation gain: ~ 1,300'

Contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com.

Wednesday, November 15: Camp New Dawn

Join us for a Thanksgiving get together. We'll enjoy hiking around the farm and lunch. Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch. Contact Alan Chandler at admin@campnewdawnga.org for more information.

Saturday, November 25: Prentice Cooper State Forest

Trail: Mullens Cove Loop

Miles: 10 or 6.5

Elevation gain: 1,700' (10-mile loop)

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

Saturday, December 9: South Cumberland State Park

Trail: Fiery Gizzard Trail to Raven's Point

Miles: 8.6

Elevation gain: 1,200'

Contact Kendrick Mills at LKMills@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 16: Lookout Mountain

Trail: Reflection Riding to Point Park on the Bluff Trail

Miles: 8.5

Elevation gain: 1,800 feet

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

For details on these hikes, see page 3.

Upcoming Outings

Wednesday, November 1**Trail:** Cranmore Overlook out-and-back**Location:** Cumberland Trail/Graysville Mountain**Driving time:** ~ 40 minutes**Distance:** 8.7 miles**Elevation gain:** 1,427**Rating:** Moderately challenging**Pace:** Standard

We'll meet at Tractor Supply (222 Sequoyah Road, Soddy Daisy) at 8:30 a.m. and carpool to the Roaring Creek trailhead. An alternate, shorter hike is being planned for those who are interested. For more information, contact Charlie Breeding at charlie_breeding838@epbfi.com.

Wednesday, November 8**Trail:** General Bragg Trail**Location:** Chickamauga Battlefield**Driving time:** ~ 20 minutes**Distance:** 5 miles**Elevation gain:** Mostly flat**Rating:** Moderate**Pace:** Standard

The General Bragg Trail combines several marked trails within the north part of Chickamauga Battlefield. We'll meet at the lower parking lot of the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at 9 a.m. Contact Tom Carter at thomas_carter@comcast.net to register.

Sunday, November 12**Bear Creek Backcountry Trail****Location:** Cloudland Canyon State Park**Driving time:** ~ 30 minutes**Distance:** 7.3 miles**Elevation gain:** 1,300'**Rating:** Moderately strenuous

You will need \$5 (exact change) or an annual Georgia Parks Pass for parking. For more information, contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com.

Wednesday, November 15**Camp New Dawn****Location:** 245 S. Cedar Lane, Chickamauga, Georgia**Driving time:** ~ 20 minutes**Hosted by:** Jennie and Alan Chandler

Camp New Dawn is pleased to host the Chattanooga Hiking Club for its Thanksgiving gathering. There will be

options for hiking around the farm, including a tour of the original farm building. We will have a meal at Jennie's house, to include a choice of two entrees, hot sides, salad, bread, dessert and drink. The cost is \$15 per person, payable by cash or check. Register by contacting Alan Chandler at admin@campnewdawnga.org.

Saturday, November 25**Mullens Cove Loop****Location:** Prentice Cooper State Forest**Driving time:** 20 minutes from the foot of Signal Mtn.**Distance:** 10 miles or 6.5 miles**Elevation gain:** 1,700' (10-mile loop)**Rating:** Moderately strenuous**Pace:** Standard

The Mullens Cove Loop has long been a favorite. There are two options to choose from: the full 10 miles or 6.5 miles. The shorter hike will end at Snoopers Rock for great views of the river. There are ups and downs, but no long or steep climbs. To register, contact Susan Faidley at susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 9**Fiery Gizzard Trail to Raven's Point****Location:** South Cumberland State Park**Driving time:** ~ 50 minutes**Distance:** 7.3 miles**Elevation gain:** 1,200'**Rating:** Moderately strenuous

Come hike through one of the finest creek canyons in the region. The hike's destination is the outstanding view from Raven's Point. There is only one short, steep ascent about a quarter of a mile up to the bluff. We'll plan to carpool from the Chattanooga area out to the Tracy City trailhead. For more information, contact Kendrick Mills at LKMills@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 16**Reflection Riding to Point Park on the Bluff Trail****Location:** Lookout Mountain**Driving time:** ~ 15 minutes**Distance:** 8.5 miles**Elevation gain:** 1,800'**Rating:** Moderately strenuous

Join us for our 2nd annual Santa Hat hike! Come out and share the holiday spirit. Contact Novi (702-600-2020) or Pam (423-667-8091).

Members on the Move

Hiking the Dolomites

Italy conjures up images of the Colosseum in Rome or the canals in Venice. But there's a corner of Italy that has some of the most spectacular hiking in Europe. North of Venice, and just south of Switzerland and Austria, the Dolomites offer beautiful scenery and hiker-friendly routes.



My husband, Alan, and I hiked part of the Alta Via 1, one of the most popular routes in the Dolomites. We began with a cab ride from Cortina to the trailhead on Lake Braies. Hiking between 8 and 12 miles a day, depending on the route and the elevation gain, we ended each day with a hearty meal and a warm bed at one of the many Dolomites rifugios, or mountain “huts.”

We used a tour company to make all our travel arrangements. Although the style of accommodations in rifugios can vary, we were lucky to have private rooms (but with shared baths), and excellent food at each hut we visited. At Rifugio Lavarella, we enjoyed an after-hike beer at the highest elevation brewery in Europe. Each morning, a trail-ready breakfast set us up for the hike that day. The rifugios also offered sack lunches (for purchase) to carry on our hikes.



Months before our trip, we made arrangements with the tour company, giving them our preferences for hiking distances and accommodations. They made all the arrangements, including our hotel in Cortina—the site of the 2026 Winter Olympics—before and after the hike.

The terrain was often tough, with 3,000-plus foot elevation gains over 6 or so miles. The descents were just as strenuous, especially on the knees, but there was plenty of scenery to keep us distracted. The Alta Via 1 is a well-traveled route and we met many other hikers along the way (but no other Americans). For us, it was definitely a bucket-list adventure.

Submitted by Betsy Archer.



CHC Makes Donations

Much of the funds we take in from annual fees are donated to organizations that support hikers. This year, we asked for your recommendations on organizations that would benefit from our donations. Now, the votes are in. The CHC recently donated \$1,000 to each of the following groups:

- Benton MacKaye Trail Association
- Lula Lake Land Trust
- Friends of the Smokies

Thank you to everyone who nominated some very worthy organizations.



Hiking News

The 34-mile-long River to Clouds Route trail, which stretches from the Chattanooga Riverwalk in St. Elmo to Cloudland Canyon State Park in Rising Fawn, Georgia, will be unveiled on November 6.

The trail has been a collaborative effort between both public and private property holders on Lookout Mountain. Mountain bikers, hikers, and trail runners can all take advantage of the trail, with different segments suited for different uses. More information is available on the [Thrive Regional Partnership](#) site.

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!

