



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

October 2023

Request for Donation Suggestions

The Chattanooga Hiking Club’s Board of Directors is asking for your suggestions for allocating the approximately \$3,000 the Club would like to donate to like-minded organizations in our area. If you have a suggestion you’d like us to consider, please provide the following information via email to Susan Basch, Club Secretary, at sbasch@nexband.com, no later than October 15, 2023. The Board will not consider your suggestion without the following information:

Name of organization

Name of the contact person for the organization and their contact information

Description of the actual project/use for the requested donation (Be specific, donations will not be made to an organization’s general fund.)

Requested amount

For example, the Club made four donations of \$1,000 each last year to:

- Lula Lake Land Trust – Signage for the new Durham Trail System
- Friends of Cloudland Canyon – Sitton’s Gulch drainage project
- Land Trust for Tennessee – New Walden’s Ridge Park trails
- Len Foote Hike Inn – educational programs



Upcoming Outings at a Glance

Saturday, October 7: Pot Point/Prentice Cooper

Trail: Ritchie Hollow Trail to Snooper's Rock

Miles: 8

Elevation gain: 1,476'

Contact Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com.

Sunday, October 22: Lookout Mountain

Trail: Durham Trails

Miles: 8.3

Elevation gain: 900'

Contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 28: Great Smoky Mtn National Park

Trail: Spence Field Day Hike

Miles: 13.5

Elevation gain: 3,000'

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

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.

Website: www.chatthiking.com

Facebook: Chattanooga Hiking Club

Trail News & Updates

New Walden’s Ridge Park:

[Park Plan - Walden's Ridge Park \(waldensridgepark.com\)](http://waldensridgepark.com)

New Multi-Use Trails at Aetna Mountain:

[Aetna Mountain Biking Trails | TRGT](#)

LLLT Events:

[Events - Lula Lake Land Trust](#)

Latest Cumberland Naturalist (from long-time member Bob Butters):

[The Cumberland Naturalist – Exploring Nature and the Outdoors in the Heart of the Southeast](#)

Reports from the Field

**Wednesday, September 6
Reflection Riding**



Fifteen hikers met at the Nature Center to visit the memorial dedicated to Betty Petty. Betty was a much loved member of the club, and we paused to honor her and share some memories. Ten of us continued on to Skyuka Springs for lunch. We returned along Lookout Creek to the arboretum - enjoying a monarch waystation and numerous late summer blooming shrubs along the way. Thanks to Susan and several veteran members for sharing their Betty stories!

**Saturday, September 16
Mount LeConte**

Mount LeConte stands at 6,593 feet and is the third highest peak in the GSMNP. The leader enjoyed taking 6 hikers who were new to LeConte, which many consider to be the crown jewel of the Smokies! This was a strenuous hike with a full day of walking on rocky and steep trails. Luckily, the weather was pleasant, and the rain held off until after we finished the hike. We stayed in Gatlinburg the night before with dinner at the Cherokee Grill. After an early start, we hiked the Alum Cave Trail up and back, hiking through Arch Rock, admiring the Alum Cave Bluffs and taking in the views at Cliff Tops, where the clouds parted upon our arrival! We then took a tour through LeConte Lodge and enjoyed a well-deserved rest in the rocking chairs on the porch. Participants were Brian and Amanda Kinder, Paul Roubekas, Renaud Courbiere, John Prescott, Randy Medley, and Susan Faidley, leader.



Reports from the Field

**Wednesday, September 20
Emery Creek Falls**



Emery Creek is a moderate but challenging in and out hike that crosses the creek 22 times round-trip, in addition to several smaller creeks. Due to the multiple crossings we had some challenges. We also met a copperhead snake and several yellow jackets. After a light lunch near the falls, we did some unintentional bushwhacking to rejoin the trail. It was a fun and enjoyable hike of 6 miles with temperatures around 77 degrees Fahrenheit. Thanks to Rusty, our hike leader, and the carpool drivers!

**Sunday, September 24
Sitton's Gulch**

Our hike was from the Sitton's Gulch trailhead to the Cloudland Canyon waterfalls. We hiked a total of approximately 5.3 miles in three hours with a pleasant hint of fall in the air. There was a significant number of stairs, but almost no water flowing today. We enjoyed some new members and several guests. A special thanks to Rita, our hike leader today!



<h2 style="text-align: center;">Upcoming Outings</h2>

Saturday, October 7

Ritchie Hollow Trail to Snooper's Rock

Location: Prentice Cooper State Forest

Driving Time: ~20 minutes

Distance: 8 miles

Elevation gain: 1,476'

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

We'll begin the hike on Ritchie Hollow Trail in Prentice Cooper State Forest. As we meander through a mature hardwood forest, we'll make a quick stop at the stunning 30-foot Blowing Wind Falls and then continue toward Snooper's Rock, where we'll connect with the Cumberland Trail System's Pot Point Loop Trail before getting to our turnaround point. We'll break at Snooper's rock for snacks/lunch and enjoy a view of the Tennessee River. These trails were built by the Tennessee River Gorge Trust in partnership with others, and some of the non-technical portions were built by volunteers from the Chattanooga Hiking Club. For more information, contact Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com.

Sunday, October 22

Durham Trails on Lookout Mountain

Driving Time: ~30 minutes

Distance: 8.3 miles

Elevation Gain: 900'

Rating: Moderate

The Durham Trails were opened as part of the Lula Lake Land Trust on an old coal mining community known as Durham. The property was once a bustling mining town, dating back as far as 1891. On this approximately 8-mile loop, you can expect moderate hills, some rocky terrain, and beautiful scenery. You will need \$5 (exact change) or an annual Georgia Parks Pass for parking. For more information, contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com.



Saturday, October 28

Spence Field Day Hike

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Driving Time: ~2.5 hours (one way) from downtown

Distance: 13.5 miles

Elevation Gain: 3,000'

Rating: Strenuous

Some of the nicest views in the Smokies are from Spence Field, which is an Appalachian grassy bald. There are great views of Rocky Top and Thunderhead, both well-known peaks. Beginning at Cades Cove, we pick up the Anthony Creek Trail and begin a 5.2-mile climb. After a rest and lunch, we follow the Appalachian Trail for 2.9 miles to Russell Field. We descend on the Russell Field Trail. This is a strenuous hike, both for mileage and elevation gain. For more, contact Susan Faidley at susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

Sunday, November 12

Bear Creek Backcountry on Lookout Mountain

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.



Members on the Move

Jeeping in Colorado

Ouray is a quaint, small town nestled in the Colorado Mountains. A group organized by Stormy McGauley was blessed to have a real Colorado Jeep experience. We landed in Montrose and, with time to spare, went to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. This started the week of oohs and ahs over the beauty and magnitude of our surroundings. After picking up groceries, we headed for Ouray. Stormy calls this her “happy place” and there is no doubt about the reason why. Vintage stores, great restaurants, surrounding mountains and a small river bubbling through the town is a perfect place to relax. Each day we walked the 3-mile Uncompahgre River Walk, drinking in the mountain views and enjoying and falling in love with the Aspen trees. And then the fun began “Jeeping.” What an adventure we experienced high up in the mountains (13,000 feet), where the snowcaps, joyful streams, wildflowers, waterfalls, ice blue lakes, and mining dwellings of days gone by were beyond imagination.



We were blessed one evening to be awed by a sunset of unbelievable magnitude as well as a sunrise that was indescribable. Many of us have trekked the mountains of Europe and our southern neighbors and yet this was different. All that can be said is God was especially generous when he created the Colorado mountains. Nothing tops the scenery.



Members on the Move



With all terrain Jeeps, we were able to go where many... even hikers do not traverse. In addition to Jeeping, some of the crew enjoyed 4- to 6-mile challenging hikes with breathtaking views. Jack took a couple of days to fly fish. There was something for everyone. Our trip was enriched by Bill’s nomadic Jeeping friend Mike, who joined us for a few days. Thanks to Stormy, Wayne, Bill, Steve, and Jack for providing safe travels over challenging terrain. Truly, this was a week of fun and adventure that will long be a highlight of our memories. Happy adventurers were: Stormy McGauley, Wayne and Vickie Chambers, Jack and Debbie Lambert, Joyce Campbell, Suzanne Dourough, Wanda McCarter, Bill Needham, and Steve Barnes.

Submitted by Joyce Campbell.



Member Inquiry on Ideas for Non-hiking Meetings

I can no longer hike like I used to. Therefore, I don't sign up for hikes because I would be a hold-up to others on the hike.

I still have the desire to be in the woods, on the trails and be with my dear friends. Or to say it in another way, "The body is weak but the spirit is strong."

I wonder if there are others in a similar condition. I'm reaching out to them for any ideas on how to solve this problem. There must be a way.

Please let me know if you are like me and/or have a possible solution to this situation. billkinnaman@gmail.com

Opportunity for New Hike Leaders

Just a reminder that the club needs a little of your time and experience, so we can offer more hikes to newcomers especially! I know that summer has been busy for lots of us, and the heat can really dampen our enthusiasm for hiking, but we are into cooler weather. We need additional hikes for October, November, and December.

It would be great to have more weekend hikes that are 5 to 8 miles in the Chattanooga area. Hikes of that distance are perfect to add to the weekend offerings. Hikes can be emailed as pop-up outings, even if you decide just a few days before. And they can be Saturday or Sunday.

Please consider reaching out to Susan to learn more about what it takes to lead a hike. She is available to help in considering what hikes you might want to schedule and 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



Tips for the Trail

In late summer and early fall when populations peak, yellow jackets' normal natural food sources of flowers and insects dry up. They become more aggressive and are a threat to hikers. Their nests are often located in a soil cavity such as an abandoned hole, mouse nest, or hollow tree. Disturbing ground nests on or along the trail can cause yellow jackets to attack. If you encounter a swarm of yellow jackets, try to escape as quickly as possible as they are prone to chase and sting you. Cover your head and face with your hands and move away from the source of the swarm. Here are more safety tips:

- Be aware and look out for nests/bees while hiking.
- Cover your skin with clothing—repellent won't work against yellow jackets.
- Keep food and drinks sealed and avoid perfume and bright colors.
- Warn others—in a group be sure to alert others by yelling "BEEs".

A yellow jacket can sting multiple times and can be very serious. If you are allergic to yellow jacket stings, use an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen). It is possible for anaphylaxis to occur with a yellow jacket sting, in which case immediate medical care is required. **Note:** We have had reports of several encounters recently.

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!