

Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

June 2015

Club Meeting

The Chattanooga Hiking Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of even numbered months at the Outdoor Chattanooga offices on River Street. Directions to the meeting site are on the club website: chatthiking.com

Next meeting – Monday Jun 1, 2015

We're going to the movies! Andy Johns, Festival Director with the recent Lookout Wild Film Festival, has loaned us a copy of one of the films from the festival. It is titled "Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition; Everglades to Okefenokee". It is a one hour film. Soft drinks and popcorn are optional, but you may want to bring your own folding chair for extra comfort.

Newsletter Changes & New Website

This is the second of the "electronic" newsletters. Feedback has been great, thank you! So I guess we're settled in on that subject. Now hopefully your next newsletter will be available from a **newly rebuilt website!**

John

Newsletter on the Website

If you have acquired an abbreviated printed copy of this newsletter, the full version is available through a link on our website, Chatthiking.com.

Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Mingus Creek/Newton Bald Friday April 24, 2015

A backpacking trip had been planned for today. Wisdom prevailed and Wayne changed from a 1 night - 2 day backpacking trip up Big Creek to a day hike including Mingus Creek and Newton Bald due to storms in the forecast for Friday night and Saturday. Even this plan was almost thwarted as the Mingus Creek Trail was closed for park ranger weapon firing practice at the firing range that is on this trail. Wayne talked the ranger into letting us go on up the trail as we would surely get beyond the firing range before their practice began. So UP we went 5.8 miles with an elevation gain of over 3000 feet. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch at Deeplow Gap (about halfway) and then continued UP to the junction with the Newton Bald trail. Here at the junction Wayne allowed a welcomed break before starting DOWN the 4.7 miles back to our cars. We enjoyed basking in the sunshine and kidding Monty and Bob for sharing a pillow as they tried to catch a little nap. Flowers of note: Painted Trillium, Phlox, Blue Kohosh, Anemone, Squaw Root, Wild Geranium, Bluets, many Showy Orchis, May Apples, white Trillium, Bishop's Cap, Maiden Hair fern, Dolls Eye, Solomon Seal and Solomon Plume. Lots of rushing creek water along the way, little rock hops, views of surrounding mountains, sighting of a surviving American Chestnut, and the fragrance of damp woods. Well fed in Andrews at Monte Alban and home late were: Carolyn Brannon (a new hiker), Monty Simmons, Barbara McCollum, Sonja Parker, Bob Butterfield, Beth Jones, Che Carico reporting, and Wayne Chambers leading.



Upcoming Outings

Saturday May 30, 2015**Sugarlands Mtn/Rough Creek/ Little River/ Huskey Gap day hike**

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 13.6 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 1000 feet

We will start our hike on Clingmans Dome Rd on the Sugarland Mountain Trail. This is a downhill hike. We will continue downhill completing the Rough Creek Trail to the Little River Trail, then to the Huskey Gap Trail, climb it to the intersection on Sugarland Mountain, and go down Huskey Gap to Newfound Gap Rd. We will have a car shuttle involved. This is a very pretty hike with several creeks and crossings. Hike leader-Wayne Chambers, 423-855-9926.

Saturday June 6, 2015**National Trails Day****John Muir Trail maintenance**

Location: Hiwassee, TN

Rating: Strenuous

Driving Time: 1 hour

We will join the Cherokee Hiking Club to celebrate National Trails Day. The work trip will be on the Towee Creek reroute of the John Muir Trail/Benton MacKaye Trail with digging side hill tread on a slope above the Hiwassee River. We'll join the Cherokee folks at the Quinn Springs Campground Shelter along TN 30 east of Reliance at 9 AM for free breakfast and to be shuttled to the work site. Wear boots and long pants, bring water and lunch. Helmets, eye protection and gloves will be provided along with a free T-shirt. Afterwards, supper will be provided back at Quinn Springs campground. Our leader will be Steve Barnes, but contact Boe Rudder if you plan to attend, boerudder@yahoo.com or 423.400.1103

Saturday June 13, 2015**Keown Falls day hike**

Location: Walker County, GA

Distance: 4.5 miles

Rating: Moderate

Elevation Gain: 1180 feet

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 45 minutes

Located on John's Mountain, Keown Falls is in the Cohutta National Forest. The hike is a double loop made up of the Keown Falls loop and the John's Mtn.

Upcoming Outings

(continued...)

loop. The Keown Falls loop is 1.5 miles and the John's Mtn. loop is 3 miles. Starting at the base of Keown Falls we hike for .6 miles and a steep 630 feet to the top of the falls. From there we will continue on the John's Mtn. loop uphill for .8 mile and a 550 elevation gain to the top of the Mtn. There are observation decks above the falls and on top of John's Mtn. It is mostly downhill from there. We will head back to the falls and take a snack break where the trail goes under the falls. The water coming over the falls is dependent on any rain. From there we will descend back to the parking lot. There is some poison ivy along the Keown Falls trail. There are restrooms at the parking lot. Call Tim Chomyn in the evening at **(706) 346-6746** or email to chomyn@catt.com. Co-leader will be Boe Rudder.

Saturday June 20, 2015**Kidde Trail Lookout Mtn loop day hike**

Location: Chattanooga Nature Center, west side of Lookout Mtn

Distance: 10.7 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Elevation Change: 700-800 feet?

We'll be going up Kidde Trail, then out to Skyuka Springs. From there it's up John Smart Trail, then the Jackson Trail and Bluff Trail over to Sunset Rock. We'll finish by going down Gum Springs Trail, then Kiddie Trail again. Hike leader is Sarah Frost, sfrost3274@aol.com

Saturday June 27, 2015**Scenic Spur (Rock Creek No. 78) day hike**

Location: Ocoee, TN

Distance: 3.4 miles

Rating: Easy

Elevation Gain: minimal

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 30 minutes

The Scenic Spur Trail is located in the Cherokee National Forest. The trail head is on Hwy. 30 about 100 yards from US 64. This is an easy walk to a nice waterfall in the Rock Creek Gorge Scenic Area. During rainy periods the stream and waterfall are flowing full. Although the hike is rated as easy, please be aware there are a couple of stream crossings which could require wading if there has been recent rainfall. During dry periods, these are easy "rock-hops". This is a short walk for a spring day but we may revise the plan if it is too wet. (sebarnestorm@gmail.com)

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field



Mingus Mill, all pictures from Barbara



Mingus Mill/Newton Bald hikers before...
...and after!



Shake Rag Hollow
Wednesday April 22, 2015

Shake Rag Hollow on the Sewanee Perimeter trail is famous for its diversity of wildflowers! After parking just outside the Sewanee campus stone gates you will descend (following blue blazes) down a rocky path featuring creeks and waterfalls into the gorge below. Here the trail becomes reasonably flat as it runs under great overhangs. Every week in April will feature different blooming wildflowers. The best today were the lavender Phacelia mixed in with the deep purple Larkspur spreading through the forest as far as the eye could see. Also spotted was a Wood Poppy, Dolls Eye in early blooming stage, Dutchman's Britches, Squaw Root, and pink Lady Slippers. This portion of the trail is only 1.8 miles and ends with a steep climb up to Green's View. At this point we continued left and followed the rim along the Beckwith Point Trail back to our parked cars. Then off to lunch at Papa Ron's and shopping at the Mountain Outfitter. Pleased by the beauty of this trail were: Bill Kinnaman, Boe Rudder, Gwen Brimer, John Rowland, Kathy Seymour, Linda Busby, Margaret Newton, Patricia Smith, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Stormy McGauley, Sue Christensen, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Teresa Dean, Tim Chomyn, Tom Carter, Trish Appleton, Wanda McCarter, Sonja Parker, Susan Schott, Tom Long, Barbara McCollum, Cecile Shenouda, Wayne Chambers, Larry Parks, Tom Carter, John Dever, Susan Dever, and Che Carico reporting.



Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field



Shake Rag rock climbing and Lady Slipper from Teresa



Another Shake Rag picture from Teresa



(continued...)

the Mountain Laurel were just popping out keeping the Trillium (deep burgundy/white/yellow) company. It was like being in a fairyland. Of course, the trail immediately starts UP again to the top of Brock Mtn. (2,400') and then wanders down to Piney Flats Branch where there is a delightful little creek. Bill tromped across in his waterproof boots and I rock hopped to a big moss covered tree and hooched across on my hands and knees. The trail ascended up to a flat piney area where we called it quits for the day and pitched camp. Bill had fun showing off his new Thermarest backrest that connects to his sleeping pad, while I sat on a knotty ol' log and took his picture. Our tents were pitched on about 4" of duff where we slept warm and cozy with no interruptions from the critters.

The next morning we were on our way by sunrise and soon crossed McFarland Hwy and continued to descend down to White Oak Flats Rd. Walking along Lost Creek was enchanting...HUGE trilliums (Trilliums on steroids)...I thought I was in a Jurassic garden. After we made it back to Bill's car our first stop was Webb's Store for a Cold Diet Coke and a Energy drink. By the way, the only humans we bumped into were a couple driving on the Kimsey Mountain Highway. JD reporting.



Thunder Rock to Hiwassee backpack Friday-Saturday May 1-2, 2015

Bill and I backpacked from Thunder Rock Camp to the Hiwassee in Reliance, TN - 17.7 miles. Our hike began with a steady climb up to the top of No Name Mountain (2,853'), passing the intersection of Rock Creek Trail. The BMT continues up with a steady 15% grade, but with the cool temps and stiff breeze we cruised right up to the top where the BMT turns left and the Dry Pond Lead trail continues straight. We began descending down into Deep Gap and bumped into the Kimsey Mtn. Hwy. Looking carefully we saw the DOUBLE DIAMOND blaze and turned before reaching the gate and the road. All along the trail we were seeing spotlights of orange and white throughout the woods. Early spring flowers bordered the path and



Pictures from JD

Reports from the Field

Ace Gap

Wednesday May 6, 2015

The Ace Gap trail is one of the easiest 11+ mile hikes in the Smokies but that is all relative! We found it not to be as flat as we were expecting, but quite beautiful! Having met in Ooltewah and leaving promptly at 7, we were on the trail by 10. It wasn't long until the first Pink Lady Slipper was spotted, giving us hope the forest floor at a remembered spot would be covered with them. Sure enough, about 2 miles in we found the spot covered with Catesby Trillium, Dwarf Iris, and more Lady Slippers than ever seen in one place. Finding these lovely flowers here is one of the reasons our dear friend Arlene Swallows began to name Ace Gap as her favorite trail. As a tribute to her memory we read the poem that John had published in the newsletter with her pictures and we spread a vial of her ashes among the flowers. Surviving a snake encounter and another of Wayne's Smokies treks were: Wanda McCarter, Tom Long, Larry Parks, Suzanne Dorough, Sarah Frost, Tim Chomyn, Charlie Breeding, Debbie Lambert, Gwen Brimer, Susan Garrett, Margaret Newton, Priscilla Watts, Boe Rudder, Bill Kinnaman, Kathy Seymour, Stormy McGauley, Teresa Dean, Che Carico reporting, and Wayne Chambers leading. Snake encounter in Wanda's words: " I wasn't worried about snakes on this trail since it is well traveled, not only by us, but also by a large group from the Smoky Mtn Hiking Club ahead of us on the trail. I was hiking relatively close behind Wayne; Suzanne was directly behind me and Susan behind her. I usually look down while hiking, but was trying to hear Wayne so I was looking forward. Wayne, unaware, must have stirred up the snake by his pole placement. I somehow caught a glimpse of movement below me and looking down I knew immediately it was a very large snake moving extremely fast across my boot tips, slithering back and forth. It was so fast, I saw his big fat body and his tail whipping left and right but not his head. His tail hit my ankle as I was screaming and jumping back into Suzanne, who then jumped back into Susan (Key Stone Cops!). Since I followed its movements into the leaves I was able to point it out to Wayne and he confirmed it to be a big fat copperhead!"



Reports from the Field



Ace Gap pictures from Teresa

Crawfish Creek Farm

Wednesday May 13, 2015

What a great day to be invited by Gwen and Ronnie Brimer to come down to their 500 acre farm near Lafayette for hiking and a covered dish lunch! The Brimers co-own the property with their daughter Kristin and son-in-law Chris Curtis. They have owned the property 4 years and in that time have worked very hard bush hogging, opening and marking hiking trails, building and repairing out buildings, and making remarkable improvements to the existing farm house. Blue, red, and white blazes marked the choice of trails based on distance each person wanted to hike. They were not without steep ups and downs, there were beautiful wild flowers (especially Mountain Laurel) still in bloom, views from mountain tops, rock hopping creeks, and we had Ronnie on the gator to come and show us the way when we made a wrong turn after failing to pay close attention to Gwen's trail route descriptions! Renee, Bob, and Charlie wet their hooks in the lake, but not enough fish were caught to make a meal. The delicious lunch featuring a variety of sandwiches, salads, fruit, desserts, tea, lemonade and beer was enjoyed at tables throughout the rambling house and on the long screened porch that extends the entire length of the front of the house. Celebrating a beautiful day, gracious hospitality, and long friendships were: Charlie and Agnes Breeding, Renee Grace, Bill Kinnaman, Bob and Karen Rahn, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Linda Busby, Cecile Shenouda, Gordon Sweeney, Jennie Chandler, Mary Hannon, Trish Appleton, Debbie Lambert, Wayne Chambers, Larry Parks, Sarah Frost, Tim and Elaine Chomyn, Patti Giles, Barbara McCollum, Gail Stokes, Tom Long, Nancy Hoover, Bill and Pat Slack, Kathy Seymour, Anne and Pete Rittenberry, Teresa Dean, Che Carico reporting, and Gwen and Ronnie Brimer hosting.

Reports from the Field

Enterprise South**Saturday May 16, 2015**

The morning of May 16th started off overcast and rainy at Enterprise South Nature Park. As a result a number of the participants decided not to hike.

However, four of us (Tom Long, Steve Barnes, Kathy Seymour and her hiking Papillon, and I) decided to start in the rain. We had not hiked five minutes when the rain ceased. We continued to hike, crisscrossing numerous trails for the next 2.5 hours before returning to our cars. We hiked just over seven miles. The trails were fairly easy and in great shape despite the previous day's heavy rains. A great way to start the weekend. Boe Rudder reporting.

Savage Gulf**Wednesday May 20, 2015**

When our absent leader, Che, asked Renee over the phone if we had a good hike, Renee told her, "Well, there was some drama!" True, but the lost eventually recognized the error of their ways, turned themselves around, and returned to the flock. As Bill has earlier noted, when She isn't here to lead us the wheels always seem to come off! But other than that the day was quite pleasant; we saw quite a few nice mountain laurel blossoms along the farther reaches of the Day Loop. The falls were nice, not roaring with a huge water volume, but still a pretty sight. And for most of the group, lunch at The Cookie Jar in Dunlap was a treat as always. The hikers (who hopefully learned a lesson in sticking together) were Art Dees, Bill Kinnaman, Bob Rahn, Boe Rudder, Gail Stokes, Hank Konigsmark, Kathy Seymour, Larry Parks, Renee Grace, Stormy McGauley, Susan Garrett, Tim Chomyn, John Dever, and John Rowland reporting.

Reports from the Field

Savage Gulf**Saturday May 23, 2015**

Eight of us met guest hiker, Mistie, in the parking lot for the Savage Gulf Ranger Station prior to beginning our pleasant 8¼-mile hike. Leisurely we began on the Savage Day Loop Trail, detoured onto the South Rim Trail for a mile or so to one of my favorite overlooks (the "Step Down" overlook). Backtracking to the Savage Day Loop (with a visit to the base of Savage Falls), we progressed onto the North Rim Trail to a lunch break at an overlook. Returning again to the Savage Day Loop, we completed the loop back to the Ranger Station. Enjoying a beautiful day, the companionship, and brilliantly blooming mountain laurel were Madelaine Box, Joyce Campbell, Tim Choyrn, Mistie Clements, Tom Long, Sonja Parker, John Rowland, Boe Rudder, and Donald Box, reporting.



Savage Gulf hikers from Madelaine

Outings Schedule

05/30/15	Sugarlands Mtn day hike (S)	W Chambers
06/06/15	Trail maintenance (S)	S Barnes
06/13/15	Keown Falls day hike (M)	T Chomyn
06/20/15	Kidde Trail Lookout Mtn day hike (S)	S Frost
06/27/15	Scenic Spur day hike (E)	S Barnes
07/04/15	open because of the holiday (but watch the website)	

Other Items



Lunch at
Papa Ron's

Wednesday Day Hikes - Che Carico - The Wednesday group hikes many of the same trails as the weekend hikers. Since a schedule is not published in advance, please call Che at (423) 886-5135 on Monday or Tuesday and listen to the week's hiking plan or before Sunday email her at MidWeek@chatthiking.com to be added to the email distribution list to receive the week's plan every week.

Hike Difficulty Ratings

The information below is provided as a guide only. Each hiker assumes the risks associated with hiking in the great outdoors, including the responsibility of paying any bills associated with rescue efforts or medical care. The wise hiker always carries water, food, and first aid items.

Easy (E): 6 miles or less; mostly level or only slight incline.

Moderate (M): 6-10 miles with an elevation gain that will generally not exceed 350 feet per mile, with a total elevation gain of no more than 1000 ft.

Moderately Strenuous (MS): 6-10 miles in length, but include rocky trail conditions, tricky stream crossings, or elevation gain of more than 1000 ft but less than 2000 ft.

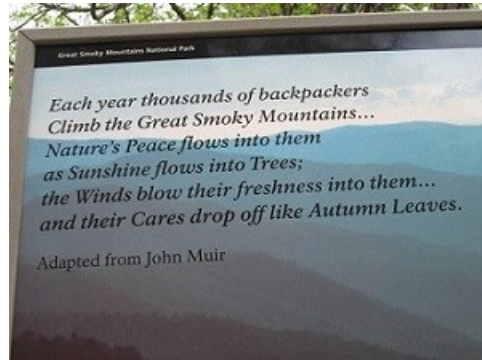
Strenuous (S): a distance of 10-14 miles or with more than 2000 ft total elevation gain, but no more than 3000 ft.

Extremely Strenuous (S+): Usually involves distances of more than 14 miles or more than 3000 ft in elevation gain. There might be very steep/rugged climbs, deep stream crossings, or unmentioned trails.

Pace: Standard pace is 2 miles an hour; less on steep or rugged terrain. Fast pace is 2.5 to 3 miles an hour or more and may not vary much regardless of terrain.

Attention: When calling to go on an outing, please specify exact number of people who will be attending. Do NOT just show up with a friend or family member unannounced! This puts your hike leader in an awkward position as most hikes involve some planning of transportation. Also we frequently hike in wilderness areas and other places where the number of hikers in a group is limited. If that is the case, and the hike is already full, you may be turned away!

Cancellations: Hike leaders are entirely at the own discretion regarding the weather. It is possible that a leader may decide that, due to weather conditions, they do not feel safe hiking on that day. Lightning kills many people every year and can strike hikers on a trail. Also many of the areas where we hike are prone to flash floods that can kill or injure. The leader will call if deciding to cancel before the day of the hike. In the event that the decision to cancel is made on the day of the hike, the leader will give you the courtesy of showing up at the designated meeting place to announce that the hike is cancelled.



Sign at Big
Creek Ranger
Station in the
Smokies—
Barbara

Summer Len Foote overnight trip

I have 10 rooms reserved, 20 people for Wednesday, August 19. They have had a rate increase since our February trip. The new rate is \$99.00 per room, or \$49.50 per person. I have 10 people with interest from the first notice. Please let me know for sure if interested since we now have the date. Wayne

Club Officers and Support:

President - Gary Petty (423) 488-5954

Vice President - Stormy McGauley (423) 505-4525

Treasurer - Donald Box (423) 892-6754

Secretary - Kendra Cross (423) 785-7425

Outings - Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

Newsletter/Webmaster - John Rowland (423) 802-7704

Membership Database - John Rowland (423) 802-7704

Membership Information - Chris O'Conner (423) 991-3220

Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019

Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico (423) 886-5135

Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)