



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

June 2017

## 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](http://chatthiking.com)

## Next meeting – Monday June 5, 2017

**The Wind River Range** in western Wyoming contains more than 40 named peaks over 13,000 feet, including Gannett Peak, Wyoming's highest at 13,804 feet. Seven of the largest glaciers in the Rocky Mountains are found here, including the single largest glacier in the American Rockies. There are over 1,300 named lakes in the Wind River Range, and the headwaters of the Green River can be found here. The Continental Divide crests the Wind River Range's entire length. (<http://www.visitpinedale.org/explore/mountain-ranges/wind-river-mountain-range>). With over 2.5 million acres and 600 miles of trails, each and every visit to the winds can be totally different. Michael Pollock, Executive Director of the Lula Lake Land Trust, will share his experiences, pictures, and recommendations from nearly 25 years' worth of expeditions to the "Winds".

## National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3

We plan to help with the BMTA efforts this year, as the Ocoee Ranger District has planned a work trip to celebrate National Trails Day on the first Saturday in June. We will be working on brushing out the Fisherman's Trail that runs along the Hiwassee River. Plans are to have a cookout for a late lunch. We will likely carpool and meet others at the Quinn Springs Pavilion near Reliance at 8:30 am. If you plan to participate contact Steve Barnes at [sebarnestorm@gmail.com](mailto:sebarnestorm@gmail.com) or (423) 339-3019.

PS Bring at least 2 quarts of water, snacks, and wear sturdy boots and long pants.

# Making

# TRACKS



## Reports from the Field

### Horsepound Falls Wildflower Hike Saturday April 29, 2017

It was as beautiful day for this hike, sunny, warm, but with a welcome cooling wind (occasionally). This was a new hike for all but the leader. After visiting the overlook at the Collins West campground, we began the rocky descent down to Suter Falls (full due to the very heavy recent rains, and brilliant in the morning sunlight). Crossing the unique foot bridge (2 metal ladders joined together with a "one person limit") in front of the falls we began the rocky climb and then lengthy stretch (a quarter of a mile?) of large rocks along the hillside. Finally, we began descending on a



much easier trail, working our way down and eventually reaching Horsepound Falls, our lunch destination. Viewing blooming wildflowers was the reason for this hike. However, the combination of the unusual spring and the lateness of this April hike resulted in a disappointing number and density of wildflowers. We only identified 20-25 (plus a few we failed to identify). 35-40 have been identified in previous years. Horsepound

Falls also was very full and forceful. An amazing 3' tall rock stack had been built at the edge of the river using probably 50-60 various sized and shaped rocks. (It must have taken a lot of time and patience to build this stable stack that resisted the force of the wind coming down the river.)



Following an enjoyable lunch, we began the climb back up to "that rugged, rocky stretch" and eventually to our cars. One of our experienced hikers commented, "That was the most beautiful lunch spot of any hike I have been on." Enjoying the day, the outing, the experience, and the fellowship were Susan Basch, Edie Behringer, Teresa & Mac Dean, and Donald Box, reporting.

Pictures from Donald

**Reports from the Field**

**Reports from the Field**

**Black Mountain  
Wednesday May 3, 2017**

A web comment about this section of the Cumberland Trail is that "it is a beast!" Maybe so with some uneven ground and quite an uphill haul from Windless Cave to the top, but the trip is well worth it! The flowers are always splendid and the new access trail to Windless Cave is beautifully laid out and easy to follow. By following the white blazes, you will find yourself starting the uphill trek, passing through huge boulders typical for the Cumberland Plateau, and emerging on top. Continue following the white blazes and bear right, continuing on the blazed trail to find the boulders and overlook for lunch and rest. There is a loop (1.5 miles) on the mountain top which can be accessed by driving up. This makes an easy trip for those not wanting the long hike from below. Noted today were yellow trillium, larkspur, wood sorrell, star chickweed, fire pink, very tall may apples with huge white blooms, and our beloved pink lady slippers! It was home via Frazier's Produce in Sale Creek where the owners had set aside flats of freshly picked strawberries - we had called ahead to reserve. Feeling good about a sunshiny day and breezes that lessened the effects of a forecast of 80+ high were: Wayne Chambers, Susan Garrett, Tim Chomyn, Bill LaRoque, Bob Rahn, Wanda McCarter, Boe Rudder, Diehl Boggs, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Larry Parks (back on the trail after knee surgery), Suzanne Dorough, Edith Behringer, Stormy McGauley, Mary Ann Langevin, and Che Carico, reporting.

**Wednesday May 10, 2017  
Cumberland Trail, Boston Branch**

15 hikers started out on the Upper Hogskin Loop toward Boston Branch Overlook and an intersection with Stevenson Branch Trail. The trail goes through an old coal mining area. We passed through the remains of a coal tippie and past the start of a mine. Just beyond that was a major challenge. A large swarm of yellow jackets was guarding the trail. Fortunately, there was a way around them up against the cliff wall. We continued on to the Boston Branch Overlook with its spectacular views. The stairs and ramp just past the overlook have been rebuilt and are much better than before. Climbing the stairs brought us to an old roadbed. We followed that for about a mile. In the section where the abandoned mining equipment was stacked Charlie got a nice surprise from a bunch of snakes. He quickly moved back to the trail. We continued on to where the trail crossed a large branch. A tree had fallen across the cable guides and most did not attempt to cross. A small group (Stormy, Bill and Susan) explored the proposed new section that will connect with Montlake. The distance to that point is about 3.2 miles. We ate lunch there near a small waterfall. The return trip was uneventful other than Stormy walking me into the ground. We took the Lower Hogskin Loop on the return trip. It was a beautiful day for a hike but was the first really hot day of the season. Hikers were Betsy Parson, Bill LaRoque, Bill Needham, Bob Rahn, Carla Schunk, Charlie Breeding, Edith Behringer, Linda Keown, Mary Ann Langevin, Stormy McGauley, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Allen Dance, Wanda McCarter, and Boe Rudder reporting.



Bob the fisherman - from Allen Dance

**Smokies, several trails around Cherokee  
Friday-Saturday May 12-13, 2017**

It's not always about the hiking—sometimes it's about the camaraderie, socializing, flora and fauna, and last, but not least—eating. All were accomplished on this trip to the Smokies. Nine hikers met up in Smokemont early Friday afternoon and quickly conquered two short trails before the rain—the Benton MacKaye Connector and Tow String. A picnic lunch was at the parking area near the historic Smokemont Baptist Church and then it was off to the trails. Hiking some or all of these trails were Betsy Parson, Boe Rudder, Carolyn Brannon, Che Carico, Joyce Campbell, Monty Simmons, Rick Glisson, Greg McCollum, and Barbara McCollum. Lloyd's on the River was our overnight accommodations, a new selection for the club. Dinner was at Pasqualino's Italian in Bryson City, a longstanding favorite of the club. Ken Smith, Tim Chomyn, and Shelly Claiborne joined the group for dinner. A walk around Bryson City after dinner in search of ice cream was fruitless. It was back to the hotel and some socializing on the rocking chair porch and a nice view of the river. Breakfast on Saturday morning was in Cherokee at Peter's Pancakes (another club favorite). The group of 12, waiting on the arrival of three more hikers driving on Saturday morning, enjoyed "backpacker pancakes" as well as other breakfast delights. A car shuttle was placed in Smokemont for some of the hikers who chose to hike an additional 8 miles from the advertised route. A little drizzle on Saturday morning didn't dampen our spirits as we drove into Round Bottom to start the day's hike. After the obligatory group photos, the four hikers who were hiking 16+ miles set off while the remaining 12 hikers followed close behind. Hiking Beech Gap II, Hyatt Ridge (campsite 44 included) Enloe Creek, Chasteen Creek, and some of Bradley Forks were Ken Smith, Tim Chomyn, Rick Glisson, and Shelly Claiborne. Hiking the 8 miles of Beech Gap II and Hyatt Ridge including campsite 44 were: Ashley Miller, Betsy Parson, Boe Rudder, Carolyn Brannon, Che Carico, Greg McCollum, Barbara McCollum, Jameson Miller, Joyce Campbell, Lora McBride, Monty Simmons, and Bonnie Smith. The trails were lush and green from the previous night's rain. A most abundant display of False Solomon's Seal on Beech Gap II was spectacular. The spotting of a rare Painted Trillium on Hyatt Ridge was exciting, and a young grove of approximately 30 American Chestnut trees on Beech Gap II was spotted by Boe. Thanks to all for another great trip to the Smokies and for welcoming and supporting the rookie hiker. Thanks also to those who helped with the shuttle and for those who supported Che, who was nursing an injury, but was determined to hike these trails. Barbara McCollum, reporting.



Above pictures from Tim, this one from Rick Glisson

**Reports from the Field**

**Foster Falls  
Wednesday May 17, 2017**

The trail chosen for today's hike was the new Denny Cove trail on the mountain near Foster Falls. Thanks to Bob Butters we were warned that the trail is currently still closed during the week - open now only on weekends. The road leading to this trail is only a mile from the Foster Falls State Park and that became plan B. We had already planned to go there after the Denny Cove hike to have a picnic birthday lunch to celebrate Ray Myers 85th and friends old and new! This area offered options for everyone - some hiked the entire Climber's Loop, circling back along the rim while others took the first exit of the Climber's Loop and circled back to the trail head along the rim. Everyone made the trip down to the water falls which were running with lots of water.



There were reports of wildflowers blooming along the trail, ferns, and no snakes (one snakeskin) were reported. Remember if you go, the trail will be rough with rocks and roots down in the Climber's Loop with easier walking along the rim. The falls are splendid and worth the trip down.



**Reports from the Field**

(continued...)

The tables were laden with great food! New hikers were pleased to meet Ray and he was pleased to see how easy it was to become friends with the new hikers. Lots of long time hungry hikers also enjoyed watching Ray blow out the one candle on his cake!



Planning to come again when the new trail is open during the week: Ray Myers, Donald Box, Madelaine Box, Jenny Hopkins, Susan Garrett, Stormy McGauley, Karen Rahn, Bob Rahn, Linda Keown, Sue Christensen, Renee Grace, Larry Parks, Shirley Wright, Tom Carter, Betsy Parson, Gary Petty, Bill Kinnaman, Jean Dickinson, Bill LaRoque, Edith Behringer, Patti Giles, Trish Appleton, Mary Ann Langevin, and Che Carico reporting.

All pictures from Ray

**A couple nice pictures that didn't make last month's edition...**

**Shakerag Hollow  
Wednesday April 26, 2017**



A Luna moth from JD, and a pink Lady Slipper from Teresa

## Outings Schedule

## Other Stuff

### Walking...

"Walking is the exercise that needs no gym. It is the prescription without medicine, the weight control without diet, the cosmetic that is sold in no drugstore. It is the tranquilizer without a pill, the therapy without a psychoanalyst, the fountain of youth that is no legend. A walk is the vacation that does not cost a cent." - Aaron Sussman & Ruth Goode, *The Magic of Walking*



There's no wi-fi in the forest, but I promise you'll find a better connection!

**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](mailto: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.

### Club T-shirts

If you're interested in buying a Chattanooga Hiking Club t-shirt, Bo has worked to put together an opportunity to do so. Check out this link:

[https://stores.inksoft.com/chattanooga\\_hiking\\_club](https://stores.inksoft.com/chattanooga_hiking_club)

### 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** - Gary Petty (423) 488-5954

**Vice President** - Stormy McGauley (423) 505-4525

**Treasurer** - Donald Box (423) 892-6754

**Secretary** -

**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](http://chatthiking.com) (includes link to newsletter)