



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

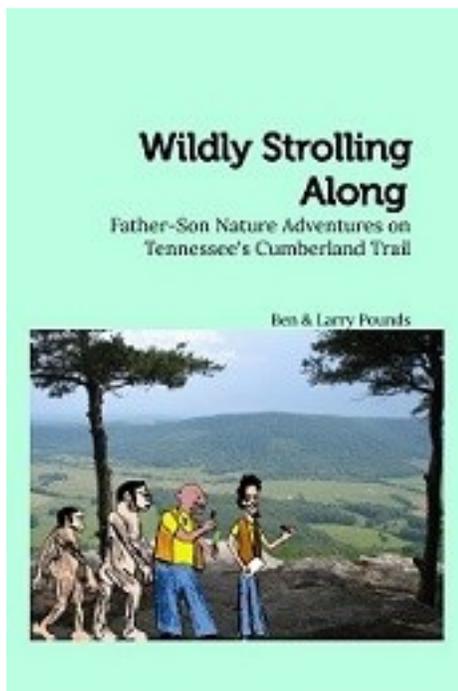
October 2017

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

Next meeting – Monday October 2, 2017

Tennessee's Cumberland Trail, stretching from Signal Point in Chattanooga to Tristate Point near Cumberland Gap, may not be done yet, but many of its miles are already available for exploring and, in a new book, two men have done just that. Together, Ben Pounds, at that time a recent college graduate, and his father Dr. Larry Pounds, a 67 year old plant ecologist, hiked on the existing parts of the Cumberland Trail, writing about their experiences, each other, the natural world around them, the human history of the area and other aspects in their book "Wildly Strolling Along: Father-Son Nature Adventures on Tennessee's Cumberland Trail." Ben will narrate a slide show for us, and he will have copies of his book for sale, for \$15, credit cards accepted. In addition, paperbacks of the book are available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.



Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Raccoon Mountain Wednesday September 6, 2017

The system of trails built primarily by SORBA with bikers in mind is multi-use, clearly marked, and well maintained. You will enjoy the beautiful forest around you, the clear blue lake on the top, the views of the Tennessee River gorge, views of the city, and the hospitable and informative visitor's center. Noticeable also is the silence in these woodlands except for the river side - may hear passing motor boats and barges! There are 50 miles of trails on the top of the mountain and maps that show you how to hike them all or sections. Today's hike began by leaving cars at the visitor's center then driving around to Laurel Point to begin. From the parking area we hiked down to intercept the River Gorge trail, turned right and continued until it came to the Megawatt trail where we turned left, caught the short 6 Flags loop along the way, and ended back at the visitor's center. There were a few decisions to make as the trails are not all named or marked. Good sense will keep you on track as you keep the dam on your right and the river on your left (when hiking clockwise from Laurel Point). Mac and Sue were following their Motion XGPS tracker apps which were very helpful for making our way. We picked up the cars and went back to Laurel Point (this drive is one way) to get the ones left there including Mac's truck which we had loaded up in order to make this shuttle without driving around the lake more than once! Off to home, eating packed lunch, or off to the Cafe and Toast for Thai food were: Joy Ward, Sue Christensen, Patti Giles, Linda Keown, Bill Kinnaman, Edie Behringer, Susan Basch, Bob Rahn, Tom Long, Stormy McGauley, Larry Parks, Wanda McCarter, Mac Dean, Teresa Dean, Susan Garrett, Rachel Bryant, Jennifer Yarbrough, and Che Carico reporting.



Picture from Teresa

Upcoming Outings

Friday October 13, 2017

Smokies Welch Ridge day hike

Location: Great Smoky Mtns, Bryson City/Clingman's Dome

Distance: 17.2 miles

Elevation Change: long 4500 ft descent

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 2.5 hrs each way

We'll plan to stay overnight in Bryson City on Thursday, October 12th and place cars at Tunnel to Nowhere to make Friday morning more efficient. There is also the possibility of a key swap or hiring a shuttle which would cost approximately \$15/hiker. The hike will start on Friday morning at Clingman's Dome on the Appalachian Trail. We'll hike southbound on the AT to Welch Ridge trail, where we'll start descending to Jonas Creek, and then on to Forney Creek at Campsite 70, Whiteoak Branch and out the Lakeshore Trail. There will be some ascent on Whiteoak Branch and the Lakeshore Trail. Stream crossings on Jonas Creek may necessitate water shoes. If we handle our on shuttle, we'll need to retrieve cars at Clingman's Dome which means a late return. Contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143 to register.



Views from the AT south of Clingman's Dome - John



Reports from the Field

Shackleford Ridge Park, Rainbow Lake, Edward's Point Loop

Wednesday September 20, 2017

The Parks Board has placed a new kiosk and trail map sign on the hill beside the visitors' bleachers at the SMMHS football field. It is placed at the beginning of a spur trail (Orange) that connects with the Yellow/Orange trail and for a short distance the Blue trail. The Orange/Yellow trail continues as one until the Orange splits left down a washout and the Yellow continues straight. Fairly soon the Orange trail makes a subtle left heading toward Middle Creek. Watch for the trail to then turn off right before getting to the creek. From here it follows the creek under huge rock bluffs and over rough terrain. Along this section you will run into the CB swinging bridge where you can cross and hike on out to the Rainbow Lake entrance on Ohio Avenue. Keeping straight following Orange the trail forks uphill and soon becomes the Cumberland Trail (White blazes) as it heads to the bluff and eventually Edward's Point. There is a beautiful view of the Tennessee River Gorge and today the area was rather free of litter sometimes left behind by 4 wheeler visitors. We sat for a reasonable time for lunch and then in groups turned uphill, found the yellow blazes, and continued on to complete our loop. We left Edward's Point and the Cumberland Trail

(White blazes) behind us as from here it remains on the bluff to Mushroom Rock and beyond. Our loop began and ended at the ample parking lot at the stadium bleachers. Challenged a bit by the heat and humidity were: Bob Rahn, Edith Behringer, Larry Parks, Mac Dean, Renee Grace, Stormy McGauley, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Tom Long, Teresa Dean, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Wendy Gunn, Boe Rudder, Charlie Breeding, and Che Carico reporting.



Pictures from Teresa

Outings Schedule

10/13/17 Smokies day hike (S)
11/18/17 Citico Creek day hike (M)

B McCollum
J Doyal

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.

Other Stuff

Some of our folks were in the Smokies in early September, but their plans were washed out by the Hurricane du Jour! But they did salvage this great sighting of a bull elk! Thanks to Betsy Parson for the picture!



And then there's this...



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 - Susan Basch (706) 375-7750
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)