



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

May 2018

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 June 4, 2018

*****Annual Dues*****

Yes, the \$20 annual dues were due April 1, 2018, unless you have joined since the first of this year or have already paid for this year. Go to the website, "About Us" tab, and "Renewal Form" tab, to print the form.

An Honor to One of Our Own

Luke Spiekermann (thank you!) brought this to our attention:

Friends of South Cumberland State Park produce an annual Trails and Trilliums Festival on a weekend in April; that's something we need to make note of for future reference. Of special note, the Saturday evening Wine and Wildflowers event this year was, quoting from Nooga.com, "highlighted by the presentation of this year's Trails and Trilliums Tribute Award to longtime Friends supporter and outdoor journalist Bob Butters, whose many articles about the outdoor wonders of the southern Cumberland Plateau and South Cumberland State Park have appeared on his blog, www.Nickajack-Naturalist.com, as well as at Nooga.com." Bob also happens to be one of our longest-tenured members. We congratulate him for receiving this honor and thank him for his many, many contributions to the hiking and outdoor lifestyle that we all enjoy! And thanks to Nooga.com for their outdoor coverage, as well!



Reports from the Field

Walls of Jericho Wednesday March 28, 2018

This wonderful trail system was private land and long closed to public hiking. When it was opened the Chattanooga Hiking Club just had to check it out. Due to John Rowland's leadership, one time our annual trek took another fork in the trail and instead of going down toward Hurricane Creek and then the falls via the Alabama side trail, we tried the Tennessee side and hit it just right to find the most amazing bloom of Virginia Bluebells we had ever encountered. The Tennessee trail brings you through the forest and the "as far as the eye can see" blooming Bluebells and Dutchman's Britches as the trail then intersects with the Alabama trail, becomes one, and continues on to Hurricane Creek on the way to the Walls. The Tennessee trail is rougher underfoot so we have learned to go down and back on the Alabama trail diverting a very short distance at the intersection to get the full view of the flowers. It seems this has become an annual excursion in the latter part of March. Lots of other flowers to be seen: Fire Pink, Twin Leaf, Trout Lily, Blood Root, Star Chickweed, Phlox, Jack in the Pulpit, to name a few. Many who have hiked this trail have said never again as the steady uphill 3 miles comes at the end. Found many of them back out there on this day - challenged to see the beautiful flowers through the eyes of the newcomers. Be wary of hiking to the Walls of Jericho with rain in the forecast as Turkey Creek (which you must cross) easily floods and you can get trapped on the "wrong" side. Challenged and rewarded: Jenny Hopkins, Rachel Bryant, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Bill Kinnaman, Jean Dickinson, Renee Grace, Joy Ward, Tom Long, Larry Park, Patti Giles, Charlie Breeding, Debbie Lambert, Kathy Seymour, Lynn McGee, Renee Grace, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Che Carico reporting, John Rowland leading.



Pictures from Teresa

Upcoming Outings

Saturday May 5, 2018**Moonshine Trails**

Location: Lula Lake Land Trust, Lookout Mtn

Distance: 5 miles, plus an optional 2

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 25 minutes

The newly finished Moonshine Trails are located across the road from Lula Lake Land Trust. There are several stream crossings, mostly over foot bridges. Some sections include large boulders and rhododendrons and mountain laurels. After the 5 mile loop, there's an optional 2-mile round trip hike to view Lula Lake and perhaps hike to the bottom of Lula Falls. May 5 is a regularly-scheduled Open Gate Day at Lula Lake with parking available at the core property. A \$2 per person suggested donation is asked. Rain date is Sunday, May 6. To register for this hike, contact the leader, Jenny Hopkins, 423-605-3456 (jenhop60@gmail.com).

Saturday May 12, 2018**Cove Mountain**

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Distance: 12.4 miles

Elevation Gain: 2650 ft or 900 ft depending on direction

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 2 hrs one way

The Cove Mountain Trail is one of the prettiest trails for Mountain Laurel in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. There may even be some yellow Lady Slippers still blooming. Based on the interest level, we can either start at Laurel Falls or Cove Mountain with the latter being more of a challenge. If we have enough interest, we'll do a key swap. If we are unable to execute a key swap, we'll start at Laurel Falls, one of the most popular trails in the park, and end at Cove Mountain which requires a shuttle. Sights along the Cove Mountain trail include Cataract Falls, Phils View (named for the Smokies' first ranger), and a remodeled fire tower which determines the types and quantities of poisons released into the air. Since this trail follows along the park boundary, we will pass private homes, rental chalets, a ski resort, and a public hunting area. Hike leader plans to make it a day trip. To register, contact Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143.

Saturday May 19, 2018**Glen Falls**

Location: Lookout Mtn

Distance: 5 miles

Elevation Gain: minimal, 200-300 ft

Rating: Easy

Pace: Standard

Glen Falls is still a little-known place to hike on the side of Lookout Mountain. The waterfall is quite interesting and might be running pretty full with the rain we have had. There is a small pool at the base of the falls, crossed by a bridge with cascades below. There is a rock tunnel that we'll step through just above the falls. Hike leader is Patti Giles, pattiwgiles@gmail.com.

Upcoming Outings

Saturday May 26, 2018**Stringer's Ridge**

Location: North Chattanooga

Distance: 6 mile loop

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

For the Memorial Day weekend, we'll stay close to home and enjoy a hike in the 92-acre urban wilderness of Stringer's Ridge in Chattanooga. We'll cover about 6 miles on the hike/ bike Blue Loop consisting of the Hill City, Double-J, and Gig City trails, with a jaunt up the Cherokee trail for a great vista of downtown Chattanooga from the observation deck. Meet at the Spears Avenue Trailhead parking lot at 8:30 am. Hike Leader: Edie Behringer, 423-290-7210, ebehringer@att.net

Friday-Sunday June 1-3, 2018**Benton MacKaye Project Car Camp**

Location: Cherokee National Forest near Tellico Plains, TN

Driving Time: 1.5 hours

Don't miss the second series of the Benton MacKaye Trail, a two-year club project to section hike the entire 287.3 miles from Springer Mountain, Georgia, to the Great Smoky Mountains. The June series will be a car camp at McNabb Creek Group Campground near Bald River Falls in the Cherokee National Forest, a primitive campground which can accommodate small RV's, campers, and tents. There are no hookups or potable water, but there are porta toilets. Saturday's hike is 14.5 miles and Sunday's hike is 12.2 miles. Please see the Benton MacKaye Trail Project on the club's website for more hiking details (Section 6). You don't have to sign up for the entire project to enjoy this fun weekend of camping, food, fellowship, games, and hiking. There are plenty of other trails nearby and some great fishing, too. **ADVANCE RESERVATIONS NEEDED BY MAY 15TH FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.** Campground reservations have already been made for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights with expenses to be divided among campers. Contact Cathy Love with technical questions lovecat@charter.net or 334.329.4807. To register, contact Barbara McCollum, bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143.

Thursday-Friday June 14-15, 2018**Little Hump/Big Hump road trip**

Location: Roan Highlands east of Johnson City, TN

Distance: 8.2 miles

Elevation Gain: 2,200 ft (in 3 chunks)

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 3 hrs to Johnson City

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS NEEDED -- This is probably one of THE BEST HIKES for long range views that you can find. We'll depart Ooltewah early Thursday morning, drive to Johnson City, have lunch, then visit Rhododendron Gardens near Carver's Gap. We'll have dinner at Cootie Brown's in Johnson City with plans to stay overnight at The Sleep Inn. On Friday morning, we'll depart early for the Roaring Creek trailhead to begin our spectacular hike along the Appalachian Trail to Big Hump and Little Hump Mountains. Flame azalea, rhododendron, and wildflowers will be abundant. It will be an in and out hike. Contact hike leader Barbara McCollum bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143 with questions or to register for the trip.

Reports from the Field

Laurel-Snow/Buzzard Point Pocket Wilderness Wednesday April 4, 2018

Great wildflowers on this trail! However, with the bridge still out over Laurel Creek, only the bravest should try to rock hop or scoot across the fallen trees at the site of the missing bridge. Today's hikers made choices accordingly. Some turned around at the bridge site (soon to be replaced) having seen some wildflowers and others went on across and took the left fork onto the Snow Falls trail. This section was covered with white Trillium and lots of Phlox. Arriving at the top of the mountain a left turn on the service road takes you to Buzzard Point (our stop for lunch) and a right turn on the service road takes you to Snow Falls. As the Cumberland Trail nears completion through this area, the trails will be marked differently and the trail we are most familiar with will be considered a spur trail. There are strips of orange tape marking the new CT connector that has been roughed out. This trail is a good one for differing goals for the day - in and out allows selecting your choice of distance and the rushing water in Laurel and Richland Creeks is a blessing for all. Enjoying the sunshine then off for home, Screen Door, or Monkey Town Brewing Company were: Betsy Parson, Bill Kinnaman, Boe Rudder, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Tom Long, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Larry Parks Sr., Larry Parks Jr., Susan Parks, Edith Behringer, Kathy Seymour, Cecile Shenouda, Renee Grace, Jean Dickinson, Rhonda Parks, Debbie Lambert leading and Che Carico reporting.

Shakerag Hollow Wednesday April 11, 2018

This section of the Perimeter Trail is a must in the month of April as it is famous for its variety of flowers and the site of weekly tours led by Monteagle naturalists. About a 50 minute ride from Brown's Ferry, the trail head and parking is just before the stone gates to Sewanee. Our plan was to hike down into the gulch and climb out to Greensview, then hike the bluff back making approximately a 4.3 mile hike. At the junction to Piney Point I described that spur and noted it had been many years since I had hiked to the Point. None of those out today had. It was Wanda who said "let's do it!" and everyone else agreed. This added 1.8 miles to our original plan but was beautiful and well worth it not so much for flowers but for the view, big cave like rocks and clear water streams. The Hollow was bloomed out with White Trillium, Larkspur, Phacelia, a few Dutchmen's Britches still fresh, one reported Jack, Celandine Poppies galore, Star Chickweed, and Anemone just to name a few. Some carried lunches, some hiked through and headed home, and some headed to our favorite Papa Ron's. Buoyed by the beauty of the day were: Bill Kinnaman, Boe Rudder, Cecile Shenouda, Charlie Breeding, Edith Behringer, Larry Parks, Luke Spiekermann, Nancy Hoover, Renee Grace, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Barbara Miller, John Dever, and Che Carico, reporting.

Reports from the Field

Coker Creek Falls Saturday April 14, 2018

The hike required a shuttle from BMT Hwy 68 trailhead to Coker Creek Falls trailhead parking lot. We started the hike at Hwy 68 BMT trailhead. This section is 3.8 miles of ridge top and downhill hiking. The trail is in good condition and had more wildflowers than I expected. At the intersection with the John Muir trail we hiked 0.3 miles across the Coker Creek bridge. We then hiked north on Coker Creek Falls trail 3.0 miles to the parking lot. There were a few blowdowns we had to navigate but not too difficult. This trail was absolutely covered in wildflowers. I have never seen so many nodding trilliums in one area. The Bloodroot had already bloomed but the Stonecrop, Dwarf Iris, an occasional spice bush and Wood Anemone were all at peak. There was Solomon's Seal, Chickweed and Jack-in-the-Pulpit along the trail. A lot of Halberd-leaved Violets, May-apples, Fire Pinks and other unidentifiable plants. Also saw the purple & yellow tubular honeysuckle but don't know its name. We needed someone who knows wildflowers. It was a great day for a hike. Temperature was mild, and it was partly sunny to sunny for most of the hike. The rains did not start until we were headed back. Participants were: Steve Barnes, Ronnie Williams, Marc Bernatti, and Boe Rudder, leading.



Pictures from Ronnie Williams

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

**Estelle Mine trail to Crockford-Pigeon WMA
Wednesday April 18, 2018**

The trek began at the Estelle Mine trail head on highway 193 after placing cars at the other end in the Pocket parking lot. The Pocket is at the end of Pocket Road after turning off of Hogjowl Road. Each time I go the trail blazes are somewhat better, but you have to look for these directional arrows placed far apart. Enter the trail near the end of the drive around oval in the big field. Strike off up the hill eventually coming to a gravel road; turn right and stay on this watching for the small triangular signs with dark brown arrows. At a somewhat confusing junction keep in the middle of the road and continue right and downhill. Eventually, after the road flattens out, you will find a sign on the edge of the woods pointing left and onto a footpath. The official trail blaze color for the trail is orange. Fairly easy to now follow this footpath all the way to the Pocket. There are 4 tunnels

along the way - quite passable if you duck your head upon entering and with a flashlight or headlamp to watch for snakes and uneven rocks! The Shirley Miller wildflower trail features a boardwalk and flowers of all varieties. You can continue on up to the waterfall from the end of the boardwalk, in and out hike, then return and complete the boardwalk loop. Benches provide comfortable rest stops along a stream - a good lunch spot, too. Made calm by the serenity of this area were: Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Debbie Lambert, Stormy McGauley, Angela Evans, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Luke Spiekermann, Larry Parks, Boe Rudder, Bill Kinnaman, Tom Carter, Rebecca Beckman, Charlie Breeding, Barbara Miller, Cecile Shenouda, Jenny Hopkins, Betsy Parson, Renee Grace, Che Carico reporting and Susan Garrett leading.



Pictures from Teresa

**Big Creek, Camel Gap to AT, to Low Gap,
down to Cosby campground
Saturday April 21, 2018**

After rescheduling this hike 3 times due to weather, Chattanooga hikers had a day fit for this 15.8-mile sequence of trails in the Smokies put together by Wayne Chambers. The sky was blue with a low temp that soon began to warm up to 67 degrees by midday at the Camel Gap/AT junction. The wildflowers were the best we had ever seen! There were not just isolated flowers along the way. There were "fields" of flowers stretching into the woods as far as the eye could see!



Sometimes the footpath cut through the mounds of White Fringed Phacelia as if through a snow bank.

In abundance was Phlox, Trout Lily, Bishop's Cap, Wild Geranium, Star Chickweed, Anemone, Spring Beauty, Bluets, Stone Crop in bloom, Blue Bead Lily, White Trillium, Sweet White Trillium, Dutchman's Bitches, Dwarf Iris, just to name a few! Even a Showy Orchis sighting! The route we took started off with a gentle elevation gain for about 7 miles before Camel Gap took a steeper slant pulling uphill to its junction with the AT. Then another very steep half mile up before the trail began to descend. Once turning onto Low Gap, the trail became even steeper downhill. Rushing waters and more beautiful flowers were ever present. There was an alternate sequence:



Low Gap out of Cosby up to AT, down to Big Creek, reunite with other hikers at Camel Gap, then on to finish with them; Betsy, Bonnie, and Rick took that route to expedite the car shuttle. The shuttle back to get cars left at Big Creek is long but at Big Creek you are right beside US 40 and the route back to Newport. Ruby Tuesday served our dinner before the drive back home (dinner Friday night was at Cracker Barrel). Comparing notes about the day and naming the flowers seen were: Bill Needham, Betsy Parson, Bonnie Smith, Rick Glisson, Joyce Campbell, Carolyn Brannon, Boe Rudder, John Rowland, Monty Simmons, Che Carico reporting, and Ken Smith leading.



Pictures from John



Outings Schedule

05/05/18	Moonshine Trails, Lookout Mtn (M)	J Hopkins
05/12/18	Smokies Cove Mtn (S)	B McCollum
05/19/18	Glen Falls (E)	P Giles
05/26/18	Stringer's Ridge (M)	E Behringer
06/01-03/18	BMT Series	B McCollum
06/09/18	Panther Creek, Cohutta (S)	A Evans
06/14-15/18	Big Hump/Little Hump (road trip)	B McCollum
06/23/18	Gee Creek (S)	B Rudder

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, notification of each week's plan is sent out by email on Sunday or Monday. Please call Che at (423) 718-9271, leave your email address, and ask to be added to the group list; or email her at MidWeek@chatthiking.com and likewise ask to be added to the group list.

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

Charit Creek Lodge in October

From Barbara McCollum

(11 people have signed up so far...)

I have secured **22 reservations for Charit Creek Lodge** in Big South Fork near Jamestown, TN for the night of **Wednesday, October 24, 2018**. I have two detached field cabins - one for the men and one for the women as well as the corn crib which will accommodate two people. My goal is to put 10 people in each detached cabin and two in the corn crib. The cost is \$115 per person and includes an evening and breakfast meal. Meals are provided in the lodge and served family style.

Charit Creek Lodge is similar to LeConte Lodge in its accommodations with no power in the cabins or the main lodge, but there is a solar shower and flush toilets in the bathhouse. Bed linens are provided; however, you must bring your own towels and washcloths. Not sure I can place couples in the same cabin but will do my best to accommodate everyone.

I will take the first 21 who sends a check for \$115 (single) or \$230 (couple) payable to me: Barbara McCollum, 10 Huntington Rd., S.W., Rome, GA 30165-8553.

My tentative plan is to leave Chattanooga fairly early Wednesday morning, eat lunch at Litton's in Knoxville, and then drive to the trailhead to begin the hike. There are two options for hiking into the lodge--one is only 1.4 miles and the other is around 5 miles which includes the Twin Arches route. We will hike out Thursday morning and possibly do another hike in the park before returning home on Thursday afternoon.

I encourage hikers to look at the Charit Creek Lodge website (<http://www.ccl-bsf.com/aboutus/>) before sending their check. There is a 28-day cancellation policy with a cancellation fee involved and I suggest interested parties read 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

Membership Database - Susan Basch (706) 375-7750

Outings - Barbara McCollum (770) 289-7143

Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

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

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

Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019

Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico (423) 781-9271

Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)