



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

April 2021

Club Meeting

The Chattanooga Hiking Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of even numbered months (except December) at the REI store at 2507 Lifestyle Way, behind the Embassy Suites off Shallowford Road.

**Next meeting – we're getting closer!
Surely? Hang on!**

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines:

1. Car shuttles or carpooling optional; masks are suggested. Hikers not comfortable with this may drive to the trailhead.
2. While assembling, preparing for the hike, masks are suggested.
3. Any potential hiker who is feeling ill, has traveled within the past 14 days to a location with a significant number of the COVID-19 virus, or has been exposed within the past 7 days to a person who has been confirmed as or is even suspected of having COVID-19 must not come on a hike.
4. Hike leader may impose limits on number of participants.
5. Hike leader may limit to club members only.
6. Before, during, and after a hike, participants must maintain an appropriate distance from each other.
7. After-hike socials, dinners, etc. may be done with appropriate caution.

These are guidelines that we feel are reasonable. Now that vaccinations are available, maybe we can relax, but just a bit! Note that we have always taken the position that the hike leader has the final say, period. Let's exercise appropriate caution, be respectful of one another, and not put a hike leader in an awkward situation. Thanks!



Reports from the Field

Signal Mtn Schools to Edwards Pt, Mushroom Rock

Wednesday February 24, 2021

It was a splendid day to follow Charlie along the Blue blazed Shackelford Ridge trail to its intersection with the Yellow/Orange blazes marking route to Rainbow Lake and route to Edward's Point. Be careful to choose the right color depending on your destination! At Edward's Point you encounter the CT and the breathtaking view from the huge rock bluff. This was a good place to "set a spell" and enjoy lunches. The next section (now on the CT) took off toward Mushroom Rock mostly encountering gentle ups and downs and rock hopping small streams. There was also the sound of rushing water from waterfalls always more noticeable after a good rain. Mushroom Rock looms suddenly high overhead and marks the place where the CT pitches downhill to Middle Creek bridge. By turning right from Mushroom Rock, one will find their way back to the school property where our cars were parked making an almost 9.6 mile loop. Proud to have completed more miles than usual since the virus restrictions began were: Greg Clark, Joe Tehringer, Jenny Hopkins, Susan Basch, Debbie Lambert, Gary Petty, Bill Prince, Wayne Chambers, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Joy Ward, Bill Needham, Janna McKenna, Bob Shafto, Renaud Courbiere, Joe Bowers, Mac Dean, Teresa Dean, Che Carico reporting and Charlie Breeding leading.



Pictures from Joy (left) and Teresa (right)

Upcoming Outings

Reports from the Field

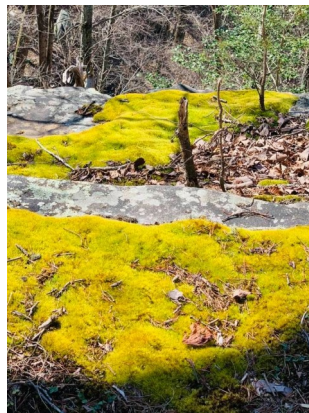
**Pinhoti Trail, Snake Creek Gap to Pilcher’s Pond
Sunday April 18, 2021**

(rain date Sunday April 25)

Location: Snake Creek Gap Trailhead off GA Hwy 136
Drive time: about 45 minutes from downtown Chattanooga
Mileage: 10 miles, in and out
Elevation: about 1,300 ft.
Rating: Strenuous
Pace: Standard

Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the large gravel parking area off GA Hwy 136 for Snake Creek Gap at John's Mountain WMA, and begin hiking by 9:00 a.m. We'll cross the highway to pick up the trail heading south, climbing up and over the ridge. We'll break at Pilcher's Pond for lunch, and return. This hike is for club members only. Please contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com to register. Co-leading is Susan Basch.

Reports from the Field



More pictures of Edwards Point to Mushroom Rock, from Joy (above) and Susan Basch (below)

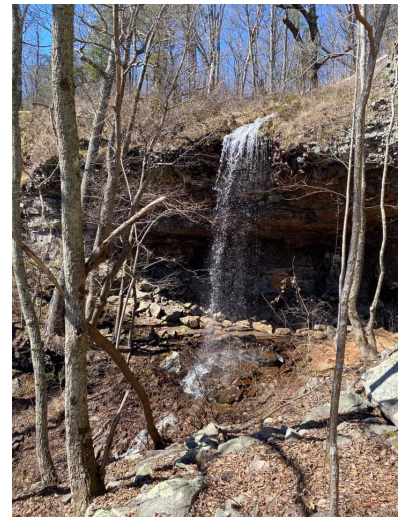


**Keown Falls, John’s Mountain Loop
Wednesday March 3, 2021**

Everyone loves a waterfall, and today we were fortunate enough to see more than one even though the second doesn't have a name. Located about an hour's drive south of Chattanooga, John's Mountain and Keown Falls is part of the Chattahoochee National Forest near Villanow, Georgia. As we climbed the mountain, we continued on the loop trail with just a momentary view of Keown Falls as the hike leader wanted to save the best for last. It was a steep climb on stone steps with hand railings to a wooden platform with seating. This provided a much-needed rest stop before continuing to the top of the mountain. This section of trail is also part of the Pinhoti National Recreation trail.

A brief lunch break at a westward viewing platform atop the mountain provided an opportunity to identify Pigeon Mountain, Lookout Mountain and Covenant College. Once the John's Mountain Loop was complete, we started on the Keown Falls loop which was rocky and also wet from underground mountain springs spewing off the sides. Keown Falls was

most photogenic on this beautiful sunny day as well as the second one which fell over what most people would call a grotto. Despite the longest drive of the year for a Wednesday hike, 17 hikers enjoyed a delightful sunny day with most departing for home with a bad case of Spring Fever. Hikers included Terri Holcomb, Che Carico, Tristan Carico, Charlie Breeding, Bob Shafto, Wayne Chambers, Tom Carter, Wanda McCarter, Suzanne Dorough, Greg Clark, Joe Baker, Lori Baker, Jo Jo Ciervo, Jim and Susan Fontenot, Doug Graydon, and Barbara McCollum leading/reporting.



Pictures from Barbara

Reports from the Field

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**Richie Hollow to Snooper's Rock
Saturday March 6, 2021**

The secret is out about the beauty of the Ritchie Hollow trail. Fifteen club members assembled at the trailhead across the street from the Tennessee River Gorge Trust's Pot Point Cabin to begin the 4-mile trek (8 miles in and out) to Snooper's Rock. It was a good thing we started early as the parking lot was full to overflowing before we started our hike. After a round of introductions and mention of our favorite trail food (hummus, PB&J, peppermint ice cream, fruit, nuts, peanut butter crackers, sweet peppers, and Duke's beef jerky sticks), we separated into two groups. The trail starts out with plenty of rocky step ups, and at the first small waterfall, we identified some blooming Hepatica. The trail is the steepest between the trailhead and Blowing Wind Falls which was flowing abundantly with most hikers making the short, steep trek down to the Falls for a few photos. After the Falls, the trail levels out, but the beauty continued with a nice view of the Tennessee River through the leafless trees of winter. The sun was shining at Snooper's Rock for everyone to enjoy their favorite trail food (except peppermint ice cream) and a brief history of the hiking club was provided by John. On the return trek, we noticed the warm sunshine had coaxed a few more early wildflowers to show their colors including Trillium and Toothwort. Enjoying an absolutely gorgeous day on the trail were Terri Holcomb, Carolyn Brannon, Tom Bock, Rita Pendergast, Debbie Lambert, Bill Needham, Wayne Chambers, John Rowland, Reggie Jay, Helen and Ron Owens, Jim Eldridge, Janna McKenna, and Joyce Campbell. Many thanks to Debbie Lambert and John Rowland for leading the two groups. Barbara McCollum reporting/organizing.



Pictures from Barbara

**Glen Falls, Lookout Mtn.
Saturday March 20, 2021**

Some old, some new, and some returning prodigals enjoyed the hike to Glen Falls from below the Ruby Falls parking area. It was a pleasant day, we spotted a few brave early wildflowers (5 varieties, I think), and there was a lot of water flowing over Glen Falls itself and the cascades below. Enjoying a combination of new trails for most were Edie Behringer, Delores Ladd, Kathy and Terry Worley, Diana Sumner, and Scott Goocher. John Rowland leading and reporting.

**Sitton Gulch, Cloudland Canyon
Wednesday March 24, 2021**

Under overcast skies, an eager group of hikers met at the Sitton's Gulch Trailhead, ready to admire the numerous wildflowers blooming all along the trail. We were not disappointed. The purple phacelia, foamflower, and trout lilies were especially abundant. The creek was gushing! A handful were deterred by the higher than normal water crossing just below the staircase leading to Hemlock Falls. Most proceeded up to see a raging Hemlock Falls, and a few more climbed further up to Cherokee Falls before returning to the cars. Three extra hearty hikers continued up, crossed the main parking lot, and hiked over and down to Bear Creek to nearly double their mileage for the day.

Hikers were Bill Kinnaman, Bob Shafto, Cecile Shenouda, Charlie Breeding, Greg Clark, Gwen Brimer, Joe & Lori Bowers, Michael Kjeldgaard, Renaud Courbiere, Richard & Pam Park, Susan Basch, Suzanne Dorough, Tom Carter, and newcomer Ginny Mellinger, with Jenny Hopkins leading and reporting.



Pictures from Renaud



Outings Schedule

04/18/21(SU) Pinhoti, Snake Gap-Pilcher's J Hopkins/S Basch

If you would like to lead a Saturday hike, especially if you have a COVID19-friendly hike in mind, please contact Barbara McCollum

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 unmaintained 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, email, text, etc., 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



Blowing Wind Falls in Richie Hollow. Picture from Barbara.

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 - Jenny Hopkins

Secretary - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

Membership Database - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

Outings - Barbara McCollum (770) 289-7143

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

Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019

Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico (423) 718-9271

Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)