



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

December 2022



## Christmas Hike/Potluck Lunch Save the Date

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

**Time:** Hors d'oeuvres 11:30; lunch noon

**Location:** Cloudland Canyon (Group Shelter Facility) - see page 2.

**RSVP:** Stormy McGauley [stormymcgauley@gmail.com](mailto:stormymcgauley@gmail.com) by December 10, 2022

Family and friends welcome but please let us know how many are coming! See pre-lunch hike option (page 2)

### Protected: 14 Acres in Hamilton County (Story and photo from Land Trust of Tennessee)



We're celebrating a newly protected property that will complement the patchwork of public and privately protected lands in Chattanooga. On November 3rd, the Land Trust received a donated conservation easement on Signal Mountain, permanently protecting Williams

Point Preserve at the southeastern tip of Walden's Ridge, a prominent geological feature of the Cumberland plateau.

The protection of this property will ensure the sandstone cliff bands, hardwood forest, sensitive plants, and wildlife habitats remain undisturbed. Views of this property are regularly enjoyed from the base of Signal Mountain and the Tennessee River, and its protection will benefit the community by preventing further development along the cliff band and escarpment below. We are grateful to the Jones family for conserving the natural resources and character of this beautiful place.



**On a recent hike, Wanda's winter gear coincidentally matched a woolly worm crossing the path. Is this a predictor of upcoming weather? Here's a fun fact from Che.**

North Carolina's Mountain people have long relied on the woolly worm's markings to predict the severity of the upcoming winter. The belief that the coloration of the woolly worm's coat matches the harsh and mild periods of the winter has several variations. For instance, the 13 bands on the caterpillar's body, colored brown and black, are said to correspond to the 13 weeks of winter, and the darker a band, the harsher that week will be. Another version holds more generally that a predomination of dark bands means a hard winter, and a majority of brown bands predicts a mild season. Guess we shall see!

### Members on the Move

Tim Chomyn shares his adventure hiking the Inka Trail in Peru including a visit to the City of Cusco. Read all about it on Page 3.



## Upcoming Hikes and Events

### Christmas Lunch and Hikes Cloudland Canyon - Group Shelter Wednesday, December 14, 2022

**Lunch** — Hors d'oeuvres 11:30; lunch noon. Please bring dish to share. There will be a short business meeting at the lunch.

Group Shelter Turn left after passing the guard house and turn left again at the Group Shelter sign. Approximately ¼ mile off the main park road. Don't forget Cloudland Canyon has a \$5 parking fee per vehicle. Bring exact change.

**Hikes** Jenny Hopkins will lead a 5-mile West Rim Loop hike. Hikers must arrive by 8:45 a.m. and it involves a 2-mile drive down the road to that trailhead. Contact Jenny at [jenhop60@gmail.com](mailto:jenhop60@gmail.com) by December 10.

There may be a shorter 2.5 mile option. Same hike, except it'll be just the loop portion of West Rim, not the lollipop. Beginning 9:45 (need hike leader for this).

### Sunday, January 1, 2023 Mullens Cove Loop Location: Prentice-Cooper State Forest Driving Time: 20 min from foot of Signal Mountain Distance: 10 miles or 6.5 miles Rating: Moderately Strenuous Elevation Gain: 1700 ft Pace: Standard

#### Trail Conditions: Rocky for .5 mile

The Mullens Cove Loop has long been a favorite for our New Year's Day hike! There are 2 options to choose from - the full 10 miles or 6.5 miles. The shorter hike will end at Snooper's Rock. With the leaves down, we will have great views of the river! So this is a nice time to enjoy this trail. There are ups and downs, but no long or steep climbs. The cumulative elevation will be about 1700 ft for the 10 mile option. There will be several streams to cross, but they should be easy to rock hop. This area is best known for Snooper's Rock, and its terrific view of the TN River gorge. To register, contact Susan Faidley at [beautyseeker01@gmail.com](mailto:beautyseeker01@gmail.com) or 201-888-0378.

### Wednesday-Thursday, February 22-23, 2023 Len Foote, Amnicola State Park



Annual Len Foote Hike Inn overnight. Although this event is full, please contact Wayne Chambers to get on the waitlist. The rate this year is \$56 per person with two in each room. Space typically opens up closer to the date. Contact Wayne through email or text at

[waynevc@epbf.com](mailto:waynevc@epbf.com) or 423-593-3717. For anyone who hasn't made the trip with us, you can Google Len Foote Hike Inn for more information. This is always a great fun-filled trip for the club.

## Upcoming Hikes and Events

### We Need Hike Leaders! Let's Get More Winter Hikes Scheduled

Even if you've never led a hike, there are plenty of CHC members who will help with suggestions and planning.

In addition, we are accepting "Pop-Up" hikes or short notice hikes.

We only need a week's notice from hike leaders.

Talk to Tim Chomyn, Outings Chair, for more information.  
[Chomyn@catt.com](mailto:Chomyn@catt.com).

Pop-up hikes will be emailed, posted on website and Facebook (if hike leader requests).



### Newsletter Update 2023

We are still looking for a new newsletter editor! Beginning in 2023, our weekend hikes and events will be on the website rather than in a monthly newsletter. Hikes may also be posted on our Facebook page (at the hike leader's discretion). Wednesday hikes will still be sent via email a few days before.

At times, we may send out more frequent emails for scheduled weekend hikes and popup hikes. So please check email, website and Facebook often.

**Website:** [www.chatthiking.com](http://www.chatthiking.com)  
**Facebook Group:** Chattanooga Hiking Club

### Lookout Wild Film Festival



Tickets are in sale for the Lookout Wild Film Festival **January 12-15**. Tickets are \$60 for the weekend till the end of November. After that, they go up to \$80. If you can get by the Walker Theater box office yourself, you can save the sky high Ticketmaster fees. Join us if you can! <https://lookoutfilmfestival.org/>



**Members on the Move**

**Hiking the Inka Trail to Machu Picchu**

By Tim Chomyn



In September 2022, Rick Glisson, Bill Needham and I traveled to Peru to hike the Inka Trail, a roughly 26 mile hike reaching an elevation high of 13,800+ feet. On day one Bill and

Rick hiked through the Sacred Valley. The next four days were on the Inka Trail on our way to the ancient city of Machu Picchu. The hike was hard, gorgeous and epic. The Andes are rugged mountains with steep ascents and descents.

To prevent erosion the Inkas built stone steps and a lot of them!!! The government only allows 500 people daily to hike the Inka Trail and you must use guides. We used Alpaca Expeditions and loved them. Alpaca is the top-rated outfitter for good reasons. Only one to use! They provided all transportation, meals, and hotels.



Rick and Bill completed a third hike to Rainbow Mountain. I was tired. We only carried a day pack while hiking which included water, snacks, and some layers. Alpaca carried all our gear which was limited to about 8 lbs. They also

provided tents and wonderful meals. Everything was set up for us at each stop. The price was about \$1,600 each plus airfare. The price included everything. We felt it was a steal!

I mentioned steps. There were a lot of steps! The second day was the hardest with about 8 miles of steps up and about 1.5 miles of steps down. Just about anyone in the club could do the hike if you have been hiking a lot in the mountains. You go at your own pace, slow and easy. The guides provided great historical information along the way.

We highly recommend this hike as a bucket list item for everyone. In addition, nearby Cusco, Peru is a lovely and safe city with wonderful people.





**Reports from the Field**

**Saturday, November 5, 2022**  
**Signal Mountain**



Today 12 members of the Chattanooga Hiking Club, along with 3 prospective members enjoyed a great 8-mile hike on the Cumberland Trail! We began at the Shackleford Ridge

Park and walked to Mushroom Rock, where we picked up the Cumberland Trail and followed it with great views of the Tennessee River to Edwards Point for lunch.



Somewhere along the way we lost two hikers, but oh well, that's a pretty good percentage to

only lose two! However, when we reached the Middle Creek Crossing, we lost three more hikers! And then there were 10. Those willing to brave more rocks and a steep climb, including a scramble over missing stairs up to Signal Point, continued on as they were determined to reach the



southern terminus of the Cumberland Trail. These were tough hikers today with no concern for the rain we might encounter or the many leaf-covered rocks That made for some interesting

and very careful hiking! It was wonderful to be hiking with this group today with old friends and new friends! And by the way, the five we lost are all now accounted for! Thanks Susan for leading/reporting/photos.

**Reports from the Field**

**Wednesday, November 9, 2022**  
**Grassy Mountain and the Songbird Trail**



The gang was all registered, the meeting locations were set as well as the times. Or were they? Was it 8:15 or 8:45? Was there time to stop at Hardee's for a biscuit? Sure there was! Does this sound like a repeat to the start of the October Fort Mountain hike? Hmm, YES! Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent!

Once we all gathered, the real adventure began – driving up to the trailhead. An hour's drive on dirt roads including a stop at Barnes Creek Falls, heightened our anticipation. Then there was the locked gate! The Conasauga Lake Day Use parking lot was closed for the winter. So, we drove a little further down and changed our route slightly.

We hiked up the new Songbird reroute to the Grassy Mountain Trail. The reroute in this direction is a wee bit more strenuous than hiking the other direction. But, everyone made it without too much difficulty. Once we hit the Grassy Mountain Trail, we made a few rest stops during the climb up. We finally hit the top of the ridge and the Grassy Mountain fire tower road. From there it is an easy hike to the top of the mountain – 3,691 feet tall.



Lunch at the fire tower was great due to the spectacular views now that the leaves were off the trees. From the top we hiked back down the Grassy Mountain Trail, passing the first intersection of the Songbird reroute and on to the beaver pond. Then it was an easy hike back to the parking lot. It was a great hike with Che, Wanda, Suzanne, Betsy, Wayne, Jerome and Rusty. Thanks to Rusty Garrison for leading. Che reporting

PS: Do not pass up opportunities to follow Tony, Rusty or Jerome on one of their hikes in the Conasauga Wilderness. The trails will be challenging but well worth it!



**Reports from the Field (cont'd)**

**Sunday, November 13, 2022**

**Durham Trails**

It was 28 degrees, windy, and gray skies when 10 members of the club began hiking this morning on the new Durham Trails. Brrrr! But we thoroughly enjoyed every step of our nearly 8 mile hike on these beautiful trails. Work still in progress, but Lula Lake Land Trust expects completion by spring, at which time access will be available daily! Thanks Jenny leading/reporting/photos



Durham Trails

**Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

**Camp Jordan along the Levee Trail**

We had a good time with an easy brisk walk from Camp Jordan to Shallowford Road via the Brainerd levee. On our way back we stopped at Hooters for lunch, and then went back to the levee for a short return to Camp Jordan. We saw a blue heron, antlered deer with family and many wooly worms. Wanda's warm weather clothing colors same as wooly worms. Temperature 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Distance of approximately 8.5 miles in 3 hours. Thanks to Wayne and Che, our hike leaders today. Renaud reporting/photos.



**Saturday, November 19, 2022**

**Buzzard's Roost, Dalton, GA**

Great hike to Buzzards Roost today with the Chattanooga Hiking Club. 10.5 miles and 1,200 ft elevation gain. A beautiful day and great views!! Thanks Tim leading/reporting/photos



**Reports (cont'd)**

**Saturday, November 26, 2022**

**Blood Mountain,**



A great hike today to Blood Mountain along the AT in Georgia. Beautiful weather and fabulous views. One of the best hikes in GA!! We hiked from Byron Reece parking to Blood Mountain and then to lake Winfield

Scott and back. Approximately 12-13 miles with 2600ft of elevation gain in 6 hours. Blood

Mountain is the highest point on the AT in Georgia. We could also see Brasstown Bald, the highest point in Georgia and Mont Yonah. The hike can be done in round trip of



4.3 miles by just going to the top and back. You get all the vistas! Great family hike that way!! Thank you to Tim and Susan our hike leaders today and to the drivers. Renaud /Tim reporting/photos



Outings Schedule

|                |                          |                            |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 12/14/2022     | Christmas Party and Hike | S. McGauley/<br>J. Hopkins |
| 01/01/2023     | Mullens Cove             | S. Faidley                 |
| 02/22-02/23/23 | Len Foote Hike Inn       | W. Chambers                |

See Page 2 for hike details for some of these outings. More information along with additional hikes may be scheduled that don't appear in the newsletter so check the website and Facebook too. Be sure to register with hike leaders, contact info on page 2.

Congratulations Hike Members!

Two Chattanooga Hiking Club members Steve and Renaud



raced at the Chickamauga Battlefield half marathon



today ! Steve finished his first half marathon in an impressive 1h58m34s (152/692 participants). Renaud finished in 2h17m06s (323/692). Way to go!

WELCOME

The Chattanooga Hiking Club now has over 170 dues paying members. Welcome to our newest members—we're so glad you joined!

- \* Farnel and Angie Grayson
- \* Susan Paul
- \* Kim Stephenson
- \* Mason Yost



Photographers and Story Writers:

Che Carico, Tim Chomyn, Renaud Courbiere, Susan Faidley, Rusty Garrison, Jenny Hopkins,

Club News

Remembering Sarah Frost



With sad news we announce the passing of a dear friend and fellow hiker. Sarah Frost passed away at the UT Medical Center on November 12, 2022. The specific cause of death was not mentioned, but she had some significant health issues over the past year. She

was a star in the sky for those who knew her. She was by far the toughest hiker in the club and no one could keep up with her. Before retiring, she had been a teacher and principal. She had a love of the outdoors and hiking, completing all the trails in the Smokies and the AT. She will be missed by all!!

Wednesday Day Hikes

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. If you are a member, you will be added to the group list. As a reminder, always RSVP for Wednesday hikes if you plan to go so the hike leader can contact you should weather cancel or plans change.

Club Officers and Support:

- President - Stormy McGauley stormymcgauley@gmail.com
- Vice President - Gary Petty pettygw@gmail.com
- Treasurer - Jenny Hopkins Jenhop60@gmail.com
- Secretary - Susan Basch sbasch@nexband.com
- Membership Database - Susan Basch sbasch@nexband.com
- Outings - Tim Chomyn chomyn@catt.com
- Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico Mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net
- Newsletter - Shelly Lewis lewisshellyTN@yahoo.com
- Webmaster - Renaud Courbiere renaudcourbiere@gmail.com
- Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes seabarnestorm@gmail.com