



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

October 2022



## Membership Dues Support Partners

The board of directors of Chattanooga Hiking Club is grateful for the 175+ members who annually pay \$20 dues to keep our club humming along for all these years. What does CHC do with these funds? After paying for the website, postage, and other small administrative expenses, we make donations to various organizations. We are pleased to announce the club recently made \$1,000 donations to each the following:

[Lula Lake Land Trust](#) - for trail signage on the new 12+ mile Durham Trails system scheduled to be completed in Spring 2023. Once completed, these trails will be available for daily use, unlike LLLT's limited-access core preserve.

[Friends of Cloudland Canyon State Park](#) - for regrading and drainage improvements on the popular Sitton's Gulch Trail.

[The Land Trust for Tennessee](#) - for assistance in completing the trails at Walden's Ridge Park on the side of Signal Mountain. See [www.Waldensridgepark.com](http://www.Waldensridgepark.com) for more info and to see the trail map.

[Len Foote Hike Inn](#) - for their ongoing outdoor educational program.

Please encourage friends and fellow hikers to join Chattanooga Hiking Club if they are not members. Visit our website at [chatthiking.com](http://chatthiking.com) and click the tab "about us"

to see how to join.



## New Tennessee State Park



It's a historic day for Tennessee! On September 21, 2023 Gov. Bill Lee and Commissioner David Salyers of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation announced the creation of Savage Gulf State Park, bringing the total of Tennessee's state parks to 57. The new park includes land formerly managed as part of South Cumberland State Park including the nearly 19,000-acre Savage Gulf State Natural Area.

The park offers approximately 60 miles of hiking to remarkable vistas, waterfalls, and historical locations such as the Stage Coach Road. The Tennessee General Assembly provided \$30,380,000 for future improvements, including a visitors center, RV campground, and infrastructure to support new facilities. For now, current access points remain as is. Read the full press release at [tnstateparks.info/savage\\_gulf](http://tnstateparks.info/savage_gulf). Photo credit: Tennessee State Parks

## Members on the Move

Occasionally, we highlight members who have traveled near or far on an amazing travels. In this issue, John Rowland shares his week-long river raft adventure through the Grand Canyon last summer. See more on page 5. Plus there is a link to many photos with John's typical educational and witty comments.



## Upcoming Special Events

**Saturday, October 15, 2022**

### Appalachian Trail: Springer Mountain to Hightower Gap

Location: Blue Ridge, GA

Driving Time: 2 hours one way from East Ridge, plus a 6 mile shuttle

Distance: 9.3 miles with slight additional mileage to shelter and waterfall

Rating: Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 1800 - 2000 ft

Pace: Standard - expect hiking time to average about 2 mph

Trail Conditions: Some rocky trail but not significantly so

Have you ever considered doing sections of the famed Appalachian Trail? We will start at the southern terminus for the first hike. Once we park at the Springer Mountain Trailhead on FS road 42 (6.5 miles of a good gravel road), we will hike 1 mile south to the beginning and summit of Springer Mountain. Here everyone is sure to want a picture at the rock and plaque signifying the start of this epic 2190 mile long trail through 14 states! We will retrace our steps back to the parking lot and continue northbound for 7.3 more miles. This hike is a little rocky at times, but never difficult terrain.

There is enough elevation gain to make it pretty strenuous, but it is up and down rather than one long climb. (This is definitely not a beginner hike.) The popular Three Forks and Long Creek Falls await us half way through the day. The hike will have a limit of 14, and there will be a car shuttle to set up. I have a good friend that will lead probably 2 of our cars before the hike on a 12 mile out and back shuttle, and then he will return to meet us at the end. A bonus of this hike is to possibly (we might be a little early) greet southbound thru-hikers ending their long journey from Mt Katahdin in Maine. To register, contact Susan Faidley at [beautyseeker01@gmail.com](mailto:beautyseeker01@gmail.com) or 201-888-0378.

**Saturday, October 22, 2022**

### Buzzard's Roost

Location: Dalton, GA

Distance: 10.4 miles

Rating: Moderate

Elevation Gain: 1410 feet

Pace: Standard - expect hiking time to average about 2 mph

Trail Conditions: Rocky in spots

Should be beautiful fall hike, and if clear there is a 360 degree view on top of mountain. Trails well-maintained and shared with mountain bikes. Please register with hike leader Rita Pendergast by phone or text 904-501-8852

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

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

We are accepting "Pop-Up" hikes or short notice hikes with only a week's notice. Tim Chomyn, Outings Chair, for more information. [Chomyn@catt.com](mailto:Chomyn@catt.com).

## Upcoming Weekend Hikes

**Saturday, November 5, 2022**

### Mullens Cove Loop

Location: Prentice-Cooper State Forest

Driving Time: 20 min from foot of Signal Mountain

Distance: 10 miles

Rating: Moderately Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 1700 ft

Pace: Standard

Trail Conditions: Rocky for .5 mile

The Mullens Cove Loop is my favorite hike in the Chattanooga area! There should still be some color in the leaves, while some of the fall foliage will likely be off the trees offering us great views of the river. This trail rolls with some ups and downs, but no long climbs. There will be several streams to cross, but they should be easy to rock hop, unless we have a lot of rain beforehand. This area is best known for Snooper's Rock, and its terrific view of the TN River gorge. While the Mullens Cove Loop starts from the Cumberland Trail parking area, it is not officially part of the CT, however, we will intersect the CT, where it makes its way over to Signal Point in a 13.7 mile hike, which we can do another day! Hikers need recent previous experience with at least 7-8 miles of hiking and some hills. Since the hike is local and there is good parking available, we will meet at the trailhead. Directions upon registration. To register, contact Susan Faidley [beautyseeker01@gmail.com](mailto:beautyseeker01@gmail.com) or 201-888-0378.

### Nov 17- 20 - Car Camp - Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

Location: Close to Oneida, TN

Driving Time: 3 hours to 3.5 hrs one way

Distance: Hikes offered will likely be from 3 to 10 miles

Rating: Easy to Strenuous

Elevation Gain: Varies

Pace: Standard

Trail Conditions: Varies with the trail

Join the CHC for a car camp in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The group site contains private showers, a pavilion with electricity, and campfire ring. Most hike distances between 5 and 10 miles a day. There are ranger led programs and tours offered, too. The night sky might provide us with views of the Milky Way. November 23rd is the new moon. The group site is \$375 for 3 nights. You may choose to stay from 1-3 nights. Please let me know of your interest right away! I am compiling a list and at the end of August, I will need to request payment from everyone based on the number of hikers attending and the number of nights you are staying. For 3 nights for 20 hikers, the total cost to everyone is only 18.75. There are already 12 possible and confirmed people. 25 will likely be the limit.

Information regarding the hikes offered will be emailed to those on the list, as I decide. I am really hoping to have two hikes a day, so there is something for everyone. Check out this link and let me know if you have any interest: <https://www.nps.gov/biso/index.htm> Hike leader is Susan Faidley, [beautyseeker01@gmail.com](mailto:beautyseeker01@gmail.com), 201-888-0378

**Reports from the Field**

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**Wednesday, August 24, 2022  
Laurel Falls/Snow Pocket Wilderness**

The Laurel/Snow Pocket Wilderness has long been a favorite for Chattanooga hikers. The distance to Laurel Falls round trip is 4.8 miles. The trail is rough with some elevation gain, includes a crawl through a cave/tunnel, and has typical CT rocks and roots under foot. Steve Boone led an extension beyond the usual in and out for those who wanted more distance and to explore the trail to Bryan's Overlook (Raven's Point). This made 6.7 miles total in and out. But wait! An additional 2 miles when added from Bryan's Point netted a total of 9 miles from the trailhead to Gooch Arch and back. The extended trail included a steep climb (not very long but rough ) through a fissure in the rock, up to the bluff, and on to Bryan's Overlook. The creek crossings were shallow and the remaining walk out to Bryan's Point was almost a stroll. Che Carico reporting, Steve Boone leading. New Hikers today were Delores Kennedy and Sharon Harbarger

**Wednesday, August 31, 2022  
Falling Water Falls – Signal Mountain**

The trek from Mabbit Springs to Falling Water Falls on Signal Mountain is a moderate 4.6 miles - some ups and downs and some uneven ground - and a high bluff at the turnaround point above the falls (stay away from the edge as hikers have slipped to their death from the bluff!). There are private property signs along the way but instructions were to "stay on the trail and do not go up the slope!" The parking at the trailhead has been greatly improved and there may be as many as 8 spaces!! It was fun leading new hikers along this old familiar trail as they marveled at the beautiful woods. On days after a lot of rain the creek crossings may be more difficult as rock hops, Today almost dry! New hikers: Paige Hubers, Michael Aguado, Ray Rocque having returned with his GPS and photography skills. Dianne Guffey, Bill Ragsdale, Betsy Parson, Bill LaRoque, Rusty Garrison, Steve Barnes, Steve Whipple, Wendy Gunn, Wanda Budan returning as regulars. Ray Rocque and Mike Aguado leading Che Carico reporting

**Wednesday, September 14, 2023  
Cumberland Trail – Hell's Kitchen**

Great little hike to Hell's Kitchen with the Chattanooga Hiking Club today. It was about 4 miles round trip. The first mile along the creek was very easy & peaceful as the creek provided the background music for our conversations. As we started the ascent to Hell's Kitchen the topography provided some challenges, but working together everyone navigated around/under the blow-

downs & rocks, and side stepped along some very narrow parts of the trail. It was fun rock exploring/climbing at the top for a few of us. We had a picnic on the rock formations which included great conversations. Rusty even taught us a new song. We also saw a plethora of picture worthy moments along the way: bear scat on the trail, lovely flowers, a cute little toad, a wonderful creek, & nice mushrooms. Just a smattering of leaves were falling to the ground with touches of color. Bring on fall & more lovely weather hiking!! Reporting and photos Janna McKenna



**Reports from the Field**

**Friday-Sunday, September 16-18  
Stone Mountain, Georgia**



What a great weekend we just spent together with the club. Around 15 members joined the weekend leader Barbara near Atlanta GA at Stone Mountain Park. The park is the most visited tourist site in the state of Georgia. Our first hike was guided by

Jane an acquaintance of Barbara to present us the Yellow Daisies and guide us around the impressive Stone Mountain. Stone Mountain is a granite dome monadnock. Stone Mountain is well known for not only its geology, but also the enormous rock relief on its north face, the largest bas-relief artwork in the world. The carving, completed in 1972, depicts three Confederate leaders, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson. It was an approximately 6 miles hike. After we finished the hike and we went to have



lunch at the Metro restaurant. Renaud Reporting



This was our second hike of the day to the top of Stone Mountain. At its summit, the elevation is 1,686 feet (514 m) above sea level and 825

feet (251 m) above the surrounding area. The challenging hike to the top is approximately 1 mile. Thanks to Barbara's perfect planning we arrived at the top and had the privilege to enjoy a beautiful sunset. Thanks to our private yoga teacher we had a lot of fun during our improvised yoga class. Renaud reporting



Last hike of the weekend. It was a ranger guided hike with the Chattanooga hiking club at the Davidson Arabia Mountain. The donated land and now park features large ex-

**Reports (cont'd)**

posed granite formations, wetlands, pine forest, oak forest, streams habitat and two lakes. Plant species include the rare red diamorpha in the winter and yellow daisies in the fall. The area included granite rock quarries and abandoned structures form the mining operations. Thanks to Barbara P. McCollum for the organization and to our local guides for this hike. Renaud Reporting



Photos: Renaud, Barbara, Mac

**Wednesday, September 21, 2023  
Chickamauga Creek Paddleboard Adventure**



What a gorgeous day... great weather and group for our special Chattanooga Hiking Club paddle board adventure on the South Chickamauga Creek. 5 miles in approximately 4 hours. A great peaceful way to discover Chattanooga differently. We had a lot of fun and enjoyed a relaxing ride down the creek with a friendly current. Susan jumped into the refreshing water and Che did a great job. We saw a blue



heron, two deer crossing the creek, a huge fish and a beaver. Thanks to Sunshine from Outshine Adventures for organizing this event. Renaud leading, reporting and photos.



**Members on the Move**

**Down the River Without a Paddle!**

*By: John Rowland*

August 4-11, 2022, I joined 17 other guests and 5 guides on a weeklong rafting trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. I say

‘without a paddle’ because we rode on a pair of 34-foot rafts with small outboard motors; so, we were just passengers, not the means of propulsion. But that doesn’t mean we were just lounging on deck chairs drinking margaritas!

I wasn’t about to ride shotgun out on the pointed front sections on either side; I left that to the more adventurous folks. Instead, I was usually seated in what I call the second row, but with no one in front of me; so, the more serious splashes caught me in the chest and face, and there were plenty of those. That was fun! (Except for two times when the water went up my nose!)

There was a little hiking involved, although I learned early on that rough trail, high-stepping over large rocks, and keeping your balance with your lead foot often placed on deep sand was more than I was up for. I skipped a couple of the more strenuous hikes but did manage a few that led to hidden waterfalls and ancient

Native American sites. We had an elder from the Zuni tribe along with us; because of him we probably saw more of those tribal sites than most tours would.



**Reports from the Field**

Camp at night offered an optional tent, but I and several others chose to sleep out under the stars on a simple cot. We were certainly well fed three times a day! And we were also forced an incredible amount of information in seven days. In addition to the knowledgeable guides, we also had three Park Service representatives along for the ride; one of those dropped out at Phantom Ranch on day 3 and was replaced by the superintendent



of Grand Canyon National Park. Those folks were along because the trip was organized by Grand Canyon Conservancy, whose CEO was also among the guests.

But the Canyon itself was the star

of the show and the whole reason I went in the first place! The scenery was always amazing. The feeling of being down in the depths of this magnificent place was one of constant awe. And the camaraderie and shared good times among guests and guides who shared my love for the Canyon was extra special!

*John shared so many amazing photos (many with captions) but we only have room for a few. See many more by clicking on one of these links:*

[GC Rafting Aug 2022 - OneDrive \(live.com\) https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AECm%2DwckIJK3%](https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AECm%2DwckIJK3%20)

[5FeE&id=1476A5F9367B7AD%215814&cid=01476A5F9367B7AD](https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AECm%2DwckIJK3%20)



**Outings Schedule**

|                |                           |               |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 10/15/22       | Springer Mt/Blue Ridge GA | S. Faidley    |
| 10/22/22       | Buzzard's Roost/Dalton GA | R. Pendergast |
| 11/05/22       | Prentice Cooper           | S. Faidley    |
| 11/17-11/20/22 | Big South Fork            | 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

**Remembered Ones**

**Lin Fa Lee**  
By: John Rowland

If you've not been associated with the club for a couple decades or more, you will likely not know the name Lin Fa Lee. Those of us who did know him certainly remember him fondly; there is a tribute to him in the "Remembered Ones" part of our website. I had the great pleasure of meeting his daughter, May, and her two brothers at a celebration of Lin Fa's life a few years ago.

A 1988 graduate of UT Knoxville, May is funding an outdoor terrace atop an engineering building, plus two annual computer science scholarships in her father's honor. Among his many accomplishments, Lin Fa raised three very extraordinary children, not surprising since he was quite extraordinary himself.



**Fall Picnic**



We had beautiful weather for our fall hike and picnic on Saturday, September 24. Although a smaller group, it was a lovely time with good food and company at Cloudland Canyon.

Thanks to Susan Basch, Jenny Hopkins, and Che Carico for set up, and Shelly and Lance Lewis for leading the hike.



At the picnic, Jenny led a short club meeting discussing budget and donations made to various organizations (see page 1).

Our next big all club event will be our annual December Christmas party at Cloudland Canyon — more information coming soon.

**Newsletter Editor Wanted!!**

We are looking for a new newsletter editor! You should have some experience with MS Publisher or Word. Unfortunately, Shelly Lewis our current newsletter editor will be out of town for quite awhile so will no longer be able to manage the newsletter ... however, she'll be available for assistance remotely. Contact her at lewisshellytn@yahoo.com if interested.

**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 sebarnestorm@gmail.com