



**Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club**

April 2023

Club Information

Our weekend spring hikes (page 2) are limited right now. However, we hope this will change soon! We need hike leaders for weekend hikes. Our new Outings Coordinator, Susan Faidley, is requesting help with planning and leading hikes. She is always available for assistance and a great source of advice. New members and seasoned hike leaders are encouraged to both suggest and lead hikes. As a reminder, check our website and Facebook posts as new hikes will be added throughout the month.

For April, Susan has a strenuous hike scheduled on another section of the Appalachian Trail. There is also a hike at the new Durham Trails on Lookout Mountain led by Jenny Hopkins. April hikes are sure to include lots of wildflowers. Check page 2 for details.

Don't forget to save the date, April 22, at Cloudland Canyon for our Club Picnic. And, join our Chattanooga Hiking Club Facebook page for updated information. Happy Hiking!

**Website: www.chatthiking.com
Facebook: Chattanooga Hiking Club**

Wildflowers are popping up all over. This photo is of fire pink from late March . Photo: Jenny



Membership Renewal

Dues are due! To renew your membership, please print the Membership Renewal (PDF) from the website, fill out, and mail with your check payable to the Chattanooga Hiking Club. As an alternative you can include your check with a handwritten note "Renewal" along with date, name, address, phone, and email to:

Chattanooga Hiking Club
c/o Susan Basch
5507 S. Highway 341
Chickamauga, GA 30707

PLEASE NOTE:
If you have joined the Club since January 1, 2023, your membership will be in effect through March 31, 2024. After a brief grace period, members who haven't paid their 2023-2024 dues will be deleted from the Club's Membership Directory and email lists.

Club Officers for 2023

The votes have been counted. Congratulations to the new Officers and thanks to all for your willingness to serve the CHC.

- President** - Stormy McGauley
- Vice President** - Tony Morales
- Treasurer** - Jenny Hopkins
- Secretary** - Susan Basch
- Membership Database** - Susan Basch
- Outings** - Susan Faidley
- Midweek Outings** - Cheryl Carico
- Newsletter** - Betsy Archer and Steve Barnes
- Webmaster** – Renaud Courbiere, Christianne Montoya
- Trail Maintenance** - Bill Kinnaman

Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

Saturday, April 8, 2023

Collins Gulf - Stagecoach Road Loop Hike

Location: Gruetli-Laager near Savage Gulf State Park

Driving Time: 1 hour from Chattanooga

Distance: 12 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 1760 ft.

Pace: Standard

Trail Conditions: Some rocky trail and stream crossings

This challenging hike has always been my favorite on the Cumberland Plateau! It has a little bit of everything....waterfalls including Suter Falls and Horsepound Falls, spring flowers, beautiful rock formations, the Collins River with house size boulders, swinging bridges and nice overlooks! The area down to Horsepound Falls is well known for its flowers, so we will take our time through there to enjoy them. Hikers need to have experience with stream crossings and through small boulder fields with possibly wet rocks. And, if we have had much rain, we might not be able to cross the Collins River requiring us to backtrack. If this hike appeals to you, and this description fits your experience level then please join us!

***Water shoes are required.**

Hike leaders are Barbara McCollum and Susan Faidley

Please register with Susan Faidley:

susanf.chchiker@gmail.com

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Durham Trails on Lookout Mountain

Location: Near Durham on Lookout

Driving time: 30 minutes from St. Elmo

Distance: 8-mile loop

Rating: Moderate

Elevation Gain: 800 ft.

Pace: Standard

Please contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com to sign up and get details.

See an article on the opening of the Durham Trails, which includes thanks to the Chattanooga Hiking Club and others for their efforts at helping develop some of the new trails at:

<https://www.chattanooga.com/2023/4/3/466754/Lula-Lake-Land-Trust-Adds-Miles-Of.aspx>

Upcoming Outings—Weekend Hikes

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Cloudland Canyon

Distance: 5 miles

Elevation Gain: 500 feet

Pace: Standard

The Club's Spring "potluck" picnic and annual meeting will be Saturday, April 22 at Cloudland Canyon State Park. There will be a short (~ 5 miles) hike before the picnic. More details to follow!



Saturday, April 29, 2020

Appalachian Trail: Woody Gap to Neels Gap

Location: Suches, Georgia

Driving Time: 2.5 hours from Chattanooga, + shuttle

Distance: 11 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 2500 ft.

Pace: Standard

Trail Conditions: Some rocky trail

This is our third section hiking the famed Appalachian Trail! We will start where we left off at Woody Gap on our second hike. We will have to put a car shuttle in place ourselves or by paying a little to hire an AT shuttle driver, so none of us have to drive back to retrieve cars at the beginning of the hike. This section of trail is somewhat rocky on Blood Mountain, but not too difficult. However, there is enough elevation gain to make it quite strenuous, as we do climb Blood Mountain. But the pay-off views are well worth the climb. The hike will have a limit of 12 to 16 people depending on the shuttle. This outing is for experienced hikers who are members of the CHC. Please register with hike leader, Susan Faidley: susanf.chchiker@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Spring Picnic

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Cloudland Canyon

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

Sunday, March 19, 2023
Sitton Gulch and Cloudland West Rim



On a chilly but sunny morning a group of hikers met at the Sitton's Gulch Trailhead, ready to tackle an early spring walk and climb to the West Rim of Cloudland Canyon. Another objective was to admire the many wildflowers blooming all along the trail. Daniels Creek was

flowing and Hemlock and Cherokee Falls were gushing in full force. Tackling the steep stair climb to the top of the gorge, the hikers caught their breath and then enjoyed the views from the gorge and the plateau along the West Rim Trail. After the exhilarating walk everyone proceeded back down along the scenic creek to the parking area. Several hikers made a short but colorful detour along the wildflower loop. There were multiple wildflowers all along the stream valley with trillium, foamflower, and trout lilies especially abundant. Thanks to Rita Pendergast for leading and Steve Barnes reporting.



Wednesday, March 15, 2023
North Chickamauga Creek

Che and Susan met with a group of regulars and several new hikers at the trailhead. After a frosty beginning they ascended the old mining road above beautiful North Chickamauga Creek and before reaching the old coal mining tippie remains and the entrance to an old "doghole" mine. There were a couple of slips and falls but no major casualties as we split into two groups. Che led one group to return via the rugged Hogskin Loop while Susan and Dan proceeded on along the bluff towards the stairway to Boston Branch Overlook and the link to the Cumberland Trail. There were clear vistas to the east towards Soddy as well as the southern view over Boston Branch. This area of the North Chickamauga Creek Gorge State Natural Area is one of four proposed new State Parks in Tennessee. Hikers enjoyed the impressive overhanging bluffs and the distant views of the gorge. After lunch at the base of a waterfall near the Stevenson Branch campsite they returned to the parking area. The hike was rugged but pleasant and the cool spring weather made for a refreshing Wednesday walk. Thanks to Che, Susan, and Dan for leading.



Reports from the Field

Note: With the change in officers and new newsletter folks getting up to speed, the field reports are limited in this edition. We will include more in future editions. In the meantime please refer to the Club's Facebook page for recent reports.

Facebook: Chattanooga Hiking Club



Trail Maintenance

Benton MacKaye Work Day



Although this is not a club-sponsored event, we are passing this information along in case you are interested in helping on a BMTA Work Trip. Pertinent information is below. For details, contact Nelson Ashbrook: tn-ncmaintdirector@bmtamail.org

When: Saturday, April 22, 2023

Where: Section 18d/e -Big Fat Gap -Yellowhammer Gap

Plan for the Day: Remove blowdowns, protruding limbs, overhanging branches.

Bring: Water, snacks, gloves, sturdy boots. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Visit the website at www.bmta.org.



Outings Schedule

See page 2 for details on some of our future hikes. Additional hikes may be scheduled that don't appear in the newsletter, so be sure to check the website and on Facebook. To register for a hike, contact the hike leader listed at the end of the hike details on page 2.

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, send an email to MidWeek@chatthiking.com and ask to 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.

Other Stuff

Rock/Creek Discount Info

Show your Chattanooga Hiking Club Membership Card, along with your ID at any Rock/Creek Store for 10% off one item.

Applies to one non-sale, in-stock item. Cannot be combined with other discounts or promotions. Offer does not apply to gift cards, boats, boards, coolers, & electronics. **In-store only.*

Members on the Move

Our members travel near and far on amazing adventures. We hope to continue highlighting some of these escapades in our **Members on the Move** feature in the newsletter initiated by Shelly last year.

If you have a trip you'd like to share, please send information to Steve Barnes at sebarnestorm@gmail.com.

It's easy to do with a three paragraph write-up and some photos, or lots of photos and just a few words!

Helpful Hints for Weekend Hike Leaders

Hikes can be scheduled for any Saturday or Sunday. If there is a long hike scheduled, and you want to lead a short hike, two hikes can be scheduled for the same day. Please contact Susan (susanf.chchiker@gmail.com) if you would like to lead a hike even if you do not have all the details. Try to get descriptions to Susan by the 15th of each month for the following month.

Before each hike, keep track of hiker contact info in case a hike needs to be canceled or changed. A good tip is to use the Consent Form to keep track of sign-ups.

Rule #1: DON'T LOSE ANY HIKERS!

- Wait a few minutes after designated leave time for any later comers.
- Always designate a sweep.
- Either the group or a designee should wait at all trail intersections until the last hiker is accounted for.

Prior to your hike, you can promote it via our Facebook page by letting Renaud know.

After the hike, please send a write-up with photos to Renaud (renaudcourbiere@gmail.com) for Facebook and Steve (sebarnestorm@gmail.com) for the newsletter. For more information, contact Susan Faidley (susanf.chchiker@gmail.com).

Club Officers and Support:

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Vice President - Tony Morales

Treasurer - Jenny Hopkins

Secretary - Susan Basch

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