



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

May 2023

Hike Leaders Needed

To Present and Prospective Hike Leaders

Hiking is what we do, and we can't do it without our leaders! So, I hope those of you who are ready to step up and lead will be considering what hikes you might want to head up in the near future.

For those of you that aren't sure yet because you are new to the club, please ask me questions about planning and leading a hike! It can be a rewarding experience to take people to beautiful places! And a pop-up hike is great — maybe you are thinking that you wouldn't mind company on your upcoming weekend hike. If you want to post something last minute, just let me know!

Susan Faidley, Weekend Outings Coordinator
susanf.chchiker@gmail.com

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



Jack-in-the-pulpit

Making

TRACKS



Upcoming Outings at a Glance

Saturday, May 13: Reflection Riding

Trail: Lookout Mountain Wanderings

Miles: 10

Elevation gain: 2,000'

Contact Susan Faidley at susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 20: Enterprise South Nature Park

Trail: Poe Run Path and Deer Hollow Trail

Miles: 4.7

Elevation gain: 419'

For more, contact Shelley Lewis by text at 925-683-6095 (preferred) or email at lewissshellytn@yahoo.com.

Sunday, May 21: Cloudland Canyon State Park

Trail: Bear Creek Backcountry Loop

Miles: 7.3

Elevation gain: 1,300'

Contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com.

Tues/Wed May 23-24: Virginia Creeper Bike Trail

We'll drive up on Tuesday (about 3.5 hours from Chattanooga) and bike on Wednesday.

For details, contact Wayne Chambers at waynevc@epbfi.com or by text at 423-593-3717.

Saturday, June 10: Great Smoky Mountains

Trail: Mt. Cammerer

Miles: 11 (out and back)

Elevation gain: 3,000'

Contact Susan Faidley at susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 11: Cloudland Canyon State Park

Trail: Can't Hardly Trail

Miles: 7

Elevation gain: 700'

Contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com.

See page 4 for details on these hikes.

Wednesday Day Hikes

The Wednesday group hikes many of the same trails as the weekend hikers. The schedule is not published in advance, but 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.

Reports from the Field

Wednesday, April 12

Wildflower Hike and Lunch at Crawfish Creek

A big thanks to Gwen and Ronnie Brimer for hosting the Chattanooga Hiking Club for a wildflower hike and luncheon at their beautiful farm, Crawfish Creek, near LaFayette, GA. Hikers spotted at least 24 blooming wildflowers and some even enjoyed a wild ride on the Ranger driven by Ronnie. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food with a special delicacy prepared by our hostess—poke sallet, bacon, and cornbread. A beautiful day for hiking, wildflowers, food, and fellowship.



Sunday, April 16

Durham Trails (Lula Lake Land Trust)

A delightful group of ladies turned out for an 8-mile hike on Lula Lake Land Trust’s beautiful new Durham Trails. The timing was right for a variety of wildflowers, including a lovely patch of pink lady slippers.



Reports from the Field

Sunday - Wednesday, April 16-19, 2023

Big South Fork National Recreation Area Camping



On a cloudy Sunday, 22 hikers met at the Big South Fork National Recreation Area south of the Tennessee-Kentucky border for several days of hiking and camaraderie. The sun came out as the group set up camp at Bandy Creek Campground. The facilities included an enclosed pavilion with tables, grills, electricity, and a giant fireplace, where Gilbert Treadwell built a warm fire each morning. The first hike included one of the premier features in the BSF—the Twin Arches, along with a loop to the Charit Creek Lodge. A large group of 16 hikers followed as Gilbert discussed the local geology and how the arches were formed.



A second group made a tour of the John Litton Farm They trekked from a bluff above into the Fall Branch Gorge. After a great evening meal hikers gathered around a large campfire ring, shared stories, and enjoyed s'mores. John Hyler led stargazing trips for the group. On the second day, hikers ventured to the Leatherwood Ford where they enjoyed the abundance of wildflowers with our experts, identifying over 30 species. Some hikers climbed another mile to the top of the ridge to the Angel Falls Overlook, which provides a spectacular view of the river and gorge. A few hardy hikers spent another night and enjoyed the Oscar Blevins farm loop on the last morning. Many thanks to Susan Faidley for coordinating the trip and Che Carico for arranging exceptional dining.

Reports from the Field

Wednesday, April 19

Audubon Acres

Fourteen CHC members enjoyed a wonderful 4.5 mile hike at Audubon Acres. It included passing a cabin built in the mid 1770s, through the site of an ancient Native American village, over a swinging bridge, along the peaceful Chickamauga Creek, and within view of gorgeous wild flowers.

Submitted by Thomas Carter.



Saturday, April 22

Potluck Lunch at Cloudland Canyon State Park

About 36 members of the Chattanooga Hiking Club turned out for a delicious picnic at Cloudland Canyon State Park. The picnic followed a beautiful 5-mile hike on the West Rim Loop trail led by club president Stormy McGauley. A great day was had by all!



Trail Maintenance

Benton MacKaye Trail

Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m.

Section 12d - McFarland to Lost Creek

Bring food/snacks, gloves, long pants and boots. Also bring safety glasses, hard hats, brush trimmers, loppers, and blazing materials if you have them.

Contact Nelson Ashbrook at nelsonashbrook@gmail.com.



Prentice Cooper State Forest

Interested in giving back?

Prentice Cooper State Forest could use help with trail marking, clearing storm damage and fallen trees, and bridge repair. If you are interested please contact Bill Kinnaman at billkinnaman@gmail.com.

Rock/Creek Discount

Show your Chattanooga Hiking Club Membership Card, along with your ID at any Rock/Creek Outfitters 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.*

Club Officers and Support

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

Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)

Upcoming Outings

Saturday, May 13: Reflection Riding**Driving time:** About 15 minutes from Chattanooga**Trail:** Lookout Mountain Wanderings**Miles:** 10**Elevation gain:** 2,000 feet**Rating:** Strenuous**Pace:** Moderate (about 2 to 2.5 mph)

Lookout Mountain offers so much, from gentle easy trails to combinations of several trails and great opportunities to stay in shape. Chances are we'll see others training for big adventures. We'll start and end on the Kiddie Trail and have lunch at Skyuka Springs. Expect to accumulate a good bit of elevation with lots of hills along the way.

Contact Susan Faidley at susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 20: Enterprise South Nature Park**Driving time:** About 15 minutes from Chattanooga**Trail:** Poe Run Path and Deer Hollow Trail**Distance:** 4.7 miles**Elevation gain:** 419 feet**Rating:** Easy**Pace:** Standard (about 2 mph)**Trail conditions:** Shady, well-groomed paths

This is a nice gentle hike with some up and down to make it fun on our way to a small, pretty lake. Interesting old military explosive storage bunkers add a bit of history along the way. Lots of trail connectors extend this hike if you'd like to add mileage. If you are new to the hiking club or looking for an easy pace and good conversation, this is the hike for you.

Contact Shelly Lewis by text at 925-683-6095 (preferred) or email at lewissshellytn@yahoo.com.

Sunday, May 21: Cloudland Canyon State Park**Driving time:** About 40 minutes from Chattanooga**Trail:** Bear Creek Backcountry Loop**Miles:** 7.3 miles**Elevation gain:** 1,300'**Rating:** Strenuous**Pace:** Standard (about 2 mph)**Parking:** Fee to enter Cloudland Canyon State Park

This is a challenging hike in Cloudland Canyon State Park. The trail descends down in to the canyon, crosses the creek and goes back up the other side. Depending on recent rainfall, there could be a wet creek crossing. Expect beautiful scenery and waterfalls!

For details and to register, contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com.

Tues/Wed May 23-24: Virginia Creeper Bike Trail**Driving time:** About 3.5 hours from Chattanooga**Miles biking:** About 17 miles, mostly downhill

We'll drive up on Tuesday and stay in Abingdon, Virginia. On Wednesday, we'll rent bikes in Damascus, Virginia, and shuttle to White Station on the Virginia Creeper Trail. We have a block of rooms reserved at the Country Inn and Suites (888-595-2353) for May 23 at a rate of \$98 plus tax (mention Chattanooga Hiking Club). On Wednesday morning, we'll meet at 9:15 at Sun Dog Outfitters to rent bikes (helmets included) and leave at 9:45 by shuttle.

For more details, contact Wayne Chambers at waynevc@epbf.com or by text at 423-93-3717.

Saturday, June 10: Great Smoky Mountains**Location:** Great Smoky Mountains National Park**Driving time:** 2.5 hours from Chattanooga**Trail:** Mt. Cammerer**Distance:** 11 miles (out and back)**Elevation gain:** 3,000 feet**Rating:** Strenuous**Pace:** Standard (about 2 mph)**Trail conditions:** Some rocks, but mostly good trail**Parking:** Parking permits are required in GSMNP

This is a beautiful hike starting on the Low Gap Trail at Cosby Campground, and following the Appalachian Trail to the side trail for Mt Cammerer. At almost 5,000 feet, the tower provides outstanding 360-degree views. With a clear day, this is one of "crown jewels" of the Smokies. The tower is a stone structure (built by the CCC) making it easy to get onto the platform. For more information or to register, contact Susan Faidley at susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 11: Cloudland Canyon State Park**Driving time:** About 40 minutes from Chattanooga**Trail:** Can't Hardly Trail to Cloudland Connector**Miles:** 7**Elevation gain:** 700'**Rating:** Moderate**Pace:** Standard (about 2 mph)**Parking:** Fee to enter Cloudland Canyon State Park

We'll hike a meandering loop beginning with the Can't Hardly Trail, which connects to the Cloudland Connector, then ATLATL, before connecting to the Kindergarten Trail. For details, contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com.

Members on the Move

Wild and Rugged Patagonia

A 28-day trip to Patagonia introduced four members of the Chattanooga Hiking Club to one of the world's last wildernesses and took them on an incredible voyage through two of the most beautiful landscapes on the planet: Torres Del Paine National Park in Chile and Argentina's Los Glaciers National Park. The four members were Ken Smith, Noel and Terri Holcomb, and Barbara McCollum.



Views from the Los Cuernos Trail

The trip included flights from Atlanta to Buenos Aires and back, as well as five internal flights within Argentina to Iguazu, El Calafate, and Ushuaia.

The journey began with a trip to Iguazu Falls National Park located on the Argentina-Brazil border. Iguazu Falls has 275 waterfalls and span 2.7 kilometers. The Falls are a part of the Argentina subtropical rainforest and certainly a hiker's delight. We hiked the most popular trails including the Low Circuit, Upper Circuit, and the Devil's Throat.

Next up, the KE Adventures Spires and Ice trip, which began in El Calafate, and included the sought-after 'W Trek' in Torres Del Paine National Park. After trekking in the French Valley, we took on Los Cuernos trail before one of the highlights of the trip: the trek up to the base of the majestic, soaring Paine towers in the Valle Ascencio. Just when we thought this experience couldn't be topped, we

entered Argentina's Los Glaciers National Park and explored the photogenic Perito Moreno Glacier before enjoying hikes around the stunning peaks of Mont Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre near El Chalten.

Our trip ended on the Land of Fire and Ice, Tierra Del Fuego, specifically Ushuaia. We hiked, rafted and



Trekking in Ushuaia

cruised on and around many of the beautiful inlets and channels including a cruise on the Beagle Channel. The scenic harbor town of Ushuaia is surrounded by the Andes where travelers to Antarctica begin and end their cruises.

Our favorite food was Chilean Lamb and Argentinian Steak while our favorite town was El Calafate, an outdoorsman's paradise. Wildlife sightings included guanacos (similar to llamas), sea lions, gentoo penguins, numerous birds including the Andean condor, black-necked swan, and Chilean Flamingo. We had hoped for a Puma sighting, but no such luck. Patagonia is incredibly beautiful and we all feel fortunate to have taken such a memorable trip.

Submitted by Barbara McCollum.



Last night dinner in Ushuaia