



News and Events April 21

It's time to Splash into Spring and start paddling! And cyclists will have a chance to speak up about biking in Chattanooga on Monday. Look for the lightning bolt ⚡ to see new events and activities this week.

⚡ Bike Chattanooga Public Advocacy Forum Apr. 27

On Mon., Apr. 27, at 6 p.m., [Bike Chattanooga](#) will hold a special open house to introduce the public to the issues, programs, and initiatives that the organization supports and advocates in Chattanooga and Hamilton County. The free, open meeting will focus on how the community at large can make conditions better for bicyclists of all ages. For more information about the meeting, [email Minya James](#) or call (423) 643-6888.

⚡ Splash Into Spring with Rapid Learning Apr. 28

Outdoor Chattanooga and OutVenture will host [Splash into Spring](#), the annual kick-off event for the Rapid Learning Whitewater Kids Club, on Tues., Apr. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga's Maclellan Gymnasium indoor pool. Families with kids ages 8 to 18 who are interested in learning how to whitewater kayak are invited to attend. OutVenture will have staff, volunteers, information and lots of boats on hand for people to check out.

⚡ Kick-Off National Bike Month at the 3State/3Mountain Expo May 1

Join the Chattanooga bicycling community at the [3State/3Mountain Challenge Expo](#) on Fri., May 1, from 2 – 10 p.m. at the south entrance (solar array) of Finley Stadium to launch [National Bike Month](#) in Chattanooga. The free expo will host bicycle vendors, clubs, and cycling organizations from all over the Chattanooga Area. At 3 p.m., Mayor Ron Littlefield and Asst. Chief Mike Williams of the Chattanooga Police Dept. will officially launch National Bike Month with members of the Chattanooga City Council and Chattanooga cycling community.

Volunteer for Outdoor Chattanooga

Do you have a love of the outdoors and a desire to share it with others? Outdoor

Chattanooga is looking for volunteers of all ages to help us man our building in Coolidge Park during public hours this spring, summer and fall. Volunteer responsibilities include directing Chattanooga residents and visitors to outdoor recreation opportunities in the area, assisting with our outdoor summer programs, helping with classroom and meeting room needs. If interested, please call or [email Ruthie Thompson](mailto:Ruthie.Thompson@chattanooga.gov) at (423) 643-6889 or fill out an [Outdoor Chattanooga volunteer application](#) and send it to: Outdoor Chattanooga, 200 River St., Chattanooga, TN 37405.

Events

✓ Chattanooga Green's Community Commitment Event Apr. 22

The Chattanooga Green Committee will host a free "Community Commitment Event" on Earth Day, Wed., Apr. 22, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga's University Center, in the Tennessee and Chattanooga Rooms to enlist local citizens in volunteering in the implementation the Chattanooga Climate Action Plan. Mayor Ron Littlefield will introduce the event at 5:30 and the public is invited to come ready to sign up to do their part to create a more sustainable Chattanooga. [RSVP](#) at the National Conversation on Climate Action Web site.

✓ 3State/3Mountain Challenge Registration Ends April 23

Registration for the Chattanooga Bicycle club's 2009 3 State/3 Mountain Challenge closes at midnight on Thurs., Apr. 23. The May 2 event features three ride lengths: 100 miles (three mountains), 62 miles (1 mountain), or 25 miles (no mountain). Ride fee is \$49. Interested riders can [register online](#) or [download a registration form](#) and mail it, postmarked Apr. 23, to the Chattanooga Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 11495, Chattanooga, TN 37401.

Fisherman's Dream Bass Tournament Apr. 25

The third annual Fisherman's Dream Bass Tournament will take place at the Chester Frost Park boat ramp on Sat., Apr. 25. Lakes to be fished are Chickamauga, Nickajack, and Watts Bar. The event will include five hourly Big Fish winners. Pre-event meeting is at Sportman's Warehouse at 6 p.m. Fri., Apr. 24. Entry fee is \$150.00 per boat plus \$10.00 big fish. Proceeds will benefit the Silverdale Baptist Academy Athletic Department. For more information, call Brent Brady at (423) 718-0326.

Scenic City Youth Duathlon and Sprint Triathlon Apr. 25 & 26

The [3rd Annual Scenic City Youth Duathlon](#) and [Sprint Triathlon](#) and will take to the roads and waterways around Chester Frost Park, in Hixson, TN, on Sat., Apr. 25 and Sun., Apr. 26. The duathlon, which begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday, will feature two races for kids 5 and under and ages 6 to 12. The sprint triathlon begins at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday. For more information about both events, visit [Scenic City Multisport](#).

Hidden Hills Spring Horse Show Apr. 26

The [Hidden Hills Spring Horse Show](#) will give amateur riders the chance to show off their favorite steeds in a friendly competitive environment on Sun., Apr. 26 at 1 p.m. The event is un-rated and all classes will take place on large grass arenas. Judges review the rider/handler and/or the presentation of the horse, not the horse itself (except for general condition, appearance and care). All classes are open to both English and Western riders. All riders under 18 must wear an approved horse riding helmet. Entry fees are \$5 per class for pre-registration. A \$10 post entry fee will apply. [Email Hidden Hills Farm](#) for more information.

✍ **Registration Now Open for Rock Creek Stump Oct. 3**

Yes, we're telling you about registration for an October event, but this one fills up fast. Register for the [Rock Creek Stump Jump](#) before time runs out.

✍ **CNC Lecture and Discussion Series: "Connecting with the Cosmos" in May**

The [Chattanooga Nature Center](#) will host a free series of lectures called, "Connecting with the Cosmos: A Communion of Matter and Energy," each Tuesday in May, 6:30 p.m., at the CNC auditorium. The lectures will provide a cosmic view of nature and how, life, the human experience, and even the human spirit, fit into an immensely powerful universal plan guided by a natural law that shapes our destiny. Topics are: Where do we come from? (May 5), Ecosystems: Why Do We Care? (May 12), the Diversity of Life (May 19), the Dimensions of Mind (May 26).

Adventures

✍ **Adventure Guild Walnut Wall Now Open**

The Walnut Wall in Coolidge Park is now open for climbing to the general public each weekend on Sat., 1 – 9 p.m. through Labor Day, Sat., 1 – 7 p.m. through Thanksgiving, and Sun., 2 – 7 p.m. The Adventure Guild offers individual pricing options for one climb or a whole day of climbing, and group climbs and instruction. [Email Kim Stock](#) or call (423) 321-2505.

✍ **Open Gate Days at Lula Lake Apr. 25 and May 2**

Spring is the perfect time to check out the [Lula Lake Land Trust](#) property on Lookout Mountain. The trust hosts public open gate days on Saturdays, Apr. 25 and May 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring you, your bikes, and your dog (as long as he's leashed).

✍ **Family Mtn. Bike Ride Apr. 25**

Friends of Suck Creek Cycle will host a family mountain bike ride on Sat., Apr. 25, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Laurel Point on Raccoon Mountain. A variety of ride options will be available, from easy to challenging. Parents are encouraged to bring trailers and trail-a-bikes. For more information, call Suck Creek Cycle at (423) 266-8883 or [email Mike Skyles](#).

Soddy-Daisy TTA Guided Hikes

The [Soddy-Daisy Chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association](#) hosts weekly guided hikes on the Cumberland Trail and other areas around Chattanooga. Email hike coordinator [Don Deakins](#) to make reservations and get directions to trail heads. More information is available on the [TTA Soddy-Daisy event calendar](#).

Sat. Apr. 25, 9 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Flipper Bend Loop, which is maintained by the North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy and located atop the Cumberland plateau on the south side of North Chickamauga Creek. The moderate hike will be nine to ten miles in length and relatively level.

↗ *Sat. May 2, 9 a.m. - 3p.m.* - Trail Maintenance on SDTTA chapter Adopted Trail. Join TTA for some light duty trail work as they complete raking this section of trail. Hike from Hotwater Road to Posey Point and then begin working towards Deep Creek. Participants should bring a steel tined rake and work gloves. Length of hike approximately three miles.

↗ *Sat., May 9, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.* - *Piney River Trail* - Moderate 8-mile hike. The group will form a caravan if anyone is not familiar with the destination.

Spring Bird Walks with CNC April and May

[The Chattanooga Nature Center](#) and the [Tennessee Ornithological Society](#) will lead a series of early morning birding walks on Saturdays, April 25 and May 2 and 9 at 7:30 a.m. at [Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanical Gardens](#). Interested birders should wear comfortable walking shoes and bring binoculars. Cost is Adults: \$7, Children-ages 4-11: \$4, and Seniors: \$4, and free to CNC and TOS members. For more information, call the Chattanooga Nature Center at (423) 821-1160.

Bike Polo Has Moved to Coolidge Park

Our weekly bicycle polo pickup game has moved to Coolidge Park. Bring your beater bike and helmet and join the fun, beginning at 6 p.m., on the Theatre Centre side of the park. [Email Minya James](#) for more information. Rain, sleet, snow, lightning, or soggy conditions cancel.

Cumberland State Park Activities

The South Cumberland State Park in Monteagle, TN offers special hikes, seminars, and other activities every week. Visit the Friends of [South Cumberland Park](#) for a complete calendar.

Classes and Clinics

↗ **Challenge Course Facilitator Training May 4-8 at SAU**

[Southern Adventist University's Outdoor Leadership](#) program will be offering a 40-hour introductory challenge course facilitation training class on May 4-8. Cost is \$275.00 and includes two meals a day as well as a facilitator tool kit. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. To register or to learn more, [email Steve Bontekoe](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

✂ **Comcast Clean-Up Day Brainerd Levee Apr. 25**

The public is invited to help with a South Chickamauga Creek clean-up day on Sat., Apr. 25 at 8 a.m. Volunteers will help pick up trash, clean brush, and do general cleanup work. Those that help get a free pass to the TN Aquarium and a special Earth Day party. To learn more, call or [email Laurie Shipley](mailto:Laurie.Shipley@comcast.net) at (423) 296-2060.

✂ **SORBA Trail Work Day at Enterprise South May 2**

The Chattanooga Chapter of the Southeast Off-Road Bicycle Association ([SORBA](#)) will host a trail work day at the Enterprise South Nature Park on Sat., May 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help clear trail in preparation for construction. SORBA will provide lunch. For more information and directions to the work site, [email SORBA](mailto:SORBA@SORBA.org).

News

✂ **Action Alert: Water Bills in State Legislature**

Several bills are being considered in the [Tennessee General Assembly](#) that would take away protections from streams and watersheds, and could potentially have negative impact on recreational use of these watersheds. Some of the proposed bills are now subject to Action Alerts from the World Wildlife Fund. Please take a few minutes to read details on the proposed bills at the [Tennessee Clean Water Network](#).

Public Input: 2010-2020 Tennessee State Recreation Plan

The [Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation](#) is currently soliciting public input on the 2003-2008 Tennessee State Recreation Plan in preparation for putting together a long-range vision to guide policies for the next decade. The more the public gets involved with input on how we use parklands, facilities and programs, the more effective the plan will be. Please take a few minutes to take TDEC's online survey and give your suggestions [at TDEC](#).

✂ **Petty Thefts at Trail Heads and Parks**

One of the many unfortunate side effects of a recession is an increase in petty thefts, especially car break-ins. When you park at a trail head, public park, or any of our popular play places, please secure your valuables in the trunk or take them with you. And, **new this week**, a local kayaker reports that his boat and gear was stolen from his truck while he was parked downtown last week. Remember to lock everything up, folks.

Website of the Week

If you aren't already, follow Outdoor Chattanooga on [Twitter](#). We'll give you instant updates on our latest news and events.

Last Week's WebSite:

Among the activities that the Chattanooga History Center offers are walking tours of the Riverfront, Southside, and other areas of historical significance. Their [new](#)

[Website](#) launched last week.

Coming Up . . .

May

- 4-9 [Chattanooga District, TN Senior Olympics](#)
- 7-9 [Southeastern Foot Trails Conference](#)
- 9 [Tour de Cure](#)
- 16 [Riverfront Relay for Life](#)
[Greenway Challenge Adventure Race](#)
- 19 [↗Chattanooga History Center Walking Tour](#)
- 23 [Scenic City Trail Marathon & ½ Marathon](#)
- 29-31 [Tennessee Valley Canoe Club Paddle School](#)

June

- 5 [Bike2Work](#)
- 6 [National Trails Day](#)
- 13 [Blue Cross Riverbend Walk/Run](#)
[↗Chattanooga Rat Race Open Water Swim](#)
- 19-21 [Chattanooga Mountains Stage Race](#)

July

- 3 [Bike2Work](#)
- 12 [BMW of Chattanooga Waterfront Triathlon](#)

August

- 7 [Bike2Work](#)
- 8 [Greenway 5-Mile Trail Race](#)

September

- 4 [Bike2Work](#)
- 5 [Raisin' Hope Ride](#)
- 26 [TN River Blueway Canoe and Kayak Race](#)
- 27 [Komen Race for the Cure](#)

October

- 2 [Bike2Work](#)
- 3 [Rock/Creek Stump Jump 50K](#)
[Sequatchie Valley Century](#)
- 6 [↗The Adoption Tour](#)
- 10 [Chattanooga Head Race](#)

November

- 6 [Bike2Work](#)
- 7/8 [Head of the Hooch](#)
- 14 [Upchuck 50K Trail Race](#)

December

19 [Lookout 100K & 10K Trail Race](#)