



## News and Events April 7

We begin our second year of Chickamauga Battlefield history bicycle rides this coming Saturday. Look for the lightning bolt ⚡ to see new events and activities this week.

### ⚡ Battlefield Bicycle Tour Apr. 11

Outdoor Chattanooga and [Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park](#) will host the first of our 2009 Chickamauga Battlefield historical bicycle tours this Sat., Apr. 11, 9:30 a.m., at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitors Center.

Sponsored by the [Friends of the Park](#) and the [Chattanooga Bicycle Club](#), the leisurely 6 to 8-mile rides will feature park history from National Park Service interpretive rangers. Participants should bring their own bicycles. Helmets are required for all riders aged 16 and under and highly recommended for all riders. Free loaner bicycles will be available, by reservation, for riders 5' tall and over. To reserve a loaner bicycle or learn more, [call \(706\)](#)

## Events

### ⚡ Waterfest IX April 17 & 18

The Coosa River Basin Initiative's paddle sports and environmental education extravaganza happens on Fri., April 17, from 5 to 9 p.m. and Sat., Apr. 18, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Rome, Ga. Events include a 13-mile canoe and kayak race on the Oostanaula River, Canoe and Kayak Tug-O-War competitions at Ridge Ferry Park, and an Environmental Fair. Ridge Ferry Park April 17 5:00-9:00pm Canoe & Kayak Tug-O-War April 18 10:00am -6:00pm Canoe & Kayak Tug-O-War, Canoe-a-thon and Race, Environmental Fair, Environmental Quiz Bowl Headlining the Fair will be Jason Clark with his Snakes of Georgia live snake show and singer, songwriter, storyteller Andy Offutt Irwin with his Environmental Epic concert program. The Fair will also include an environmental scavenger hunt for children and CRBI's annual Environmental Quiz Bowl featuring teams from eight area elementary schools. [www.coosa.org](http://www.coosa.org) Contact: Joe Cook, 706/232-CRBI (2724)

### ⚡ The Art of Simple Living at CNC April 18-19

Dates: April 18-19 or May 16-17

Cost: \$50

Ages: 18 and up

The Chattanooga Nature Center and Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanical Garden will host a special retreat this retreat will introduce participants to methods they can use to decrease their experience of stress, while increasing delight of their senses, through understanding Mindfulness (connections of body with mind), Connections with Nature, and Sustainable Living. This retreat is facilitated by Dr. Jean Lomino, CNC Director, who teaches graduate courses in outdoor education, nature journaling and wilderness stewardship, and Claire Blum, RN CDE, who utilizes her training in mindfulness and experiential learning to help people discover ways to honor and care for their bodies. Space is limited; to register, email [jlomino@chattanature.org](mailto:jlomino@chattanature.org), or call 423-821-1160.

## **Adventures**

### **Wild about Wildflowers at Cloudland Canyon Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25**

Each Saturday in April, join the park naturalist at [Cloudland Canyon State Park](#), in Rising Fawn, Georgia for an easy, guided wildflower hike. The hikes will include flower identification, cultivation tips and good exercise. Bring water and a sack lunch. Limit is 40 participants. \$3 parking. Call (706) 657-4050 for time, meeting place, and more information.

### **↗TTA-Soddy-Daisy Guided Hikes Apr. 4 & 10**

The [Soddy-Daisy Chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association](#) will host hikes on Saturdays, April 4 and 11. On Apr. 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the group will lead a 7.5 mile hike on the Rock Creek Gorge section of the Cumberland Trail. On Apr. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., TTA will lead a 5-mile beginner hike in Prentice Cooper State Forest. The hikes are free but advanced reservations are requested. Email hike coordinator [Don Deakins](#) to make reservations. More information is available on the [TTA Soddy-Daisy event calendar](#).

### **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 4, 11, 18, and 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.

### **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.

## News

### **✎ Call for Presentations - Southeastern Water Trails Forum**

The Southeast Watershed Forum will present the first annual Southeastern Water Trails Forum in Chattanooga on Oct. 29 and 30, 2009. The forum is currently accepting submissions for oral presentations about water trails. Presentations should be relevant to these themes: the economic benefits of water trails, challenges of fundraising, planning, and constructing trails, success stories, marketing strategies, mapping challenges and strategies, and the development of interstate water trails. Submitters should send a 1-page presentation proposal, including name, contact information, title and brief description of the presentation (not to exceed 300 words), and AV needs, to [kd@southeastwaterforum.org](mailto:kd@southeastwaterforum.org) by May 15. For more information, call Jeff Duncan at (423) 987-6127.

### **Grand Opening and Outdoor Expo Pics**

Our [grand opening](#) and 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Outdoor Expo were hits, in spite of the late March chill. Hundreds of people came out to play!

### **State Bottle Bill Makes Significant Headway**

Our friend Marge Davis at [Pride of Place](#) contacted us last week to let us know that the Tennessee State Legislature is poised to pass a viable bottle bill for our state. There are some key committee votes coming up this week, then the bill may actually go to the floor for a vote. Some of you might remember Marge from when she cycled through Chattanooga last year as part of a state-wide campaign. Learn about the TN State Bottle Bill's progress [here](#).

### **2008 Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan Now Online**

The [2008 Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan](#) is now available on-line. The Plan highlights the benefits of greenways and trails and also offers innovative solutions to planning, development and implementation problems that can be encountered during development. There are also limited numbers of hard copies and CD copies available. For more information, please email or call [Bob Richards](#) at (615) 532-0753.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Preservation Trust Annual Park Day Apr. 4**

[Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park](#) is seeking volunteers to participate in the Civil War Preservation Trust's annual Park Day on Sat., Apr. 4, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. This year, Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP will host projects at Chickamauga Battlefield and at Moccasin Bend Archeological District. Registration for Chickamauga Battlefield begins at 8:30 a.m. at the battlefield Visitors Center. Registration at Moccasin Bend begins at 8:30 a.m. on the Seradino Property. Follow the signs from Hwy. 27 to get there. All volunteers receive a free Park Day 2009 t-shirt. For more information, call (423) 752-5213 ext. 137.

## **Website of the Week**

The Tennessee Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association has a new website at [www.tntota.com](http://www.tntota.com) and is adding new information to the site daily.

A Comprehensive Master Plan for Tennessee to help provide direction for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in Tennessee is in the works and the draft plan should be available for public comment around the end of April, 2009.

If you know of any Trail of Tears significant places that you think should be certified and will share them with the TN Greenways and Trails Program, contact Bob Richards.

### **Last Week's WebSite:**

If you haven't put out your hummingbird feeders, now is the time. How do we know? Check out [Hummingbirds.net](http://Hummingbirds.net).

## **Coming Up . . .**

### **April**

- 18 [Chattanooga Dragon Boat Races](#)  
[Chickamauga Chase](#)  
[✓ Grapevine Classic Disc Golf Tournament](#)
- 26 [3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scenic City Triathlon](#)

### **May**

- 1 [Bike2Work](#)
- 1-2 [Relay for Life of North River](#)
- 2 [3State/3Mountain Challenge](#)
- 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](#)
- 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](#)
- 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](#)

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](#)