



## News and Events March 31

We're open! In spite of chilly weather, 50 exhibitors and hundreds of people came out last Saturday and Sunday for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Outdoor Expo and the grand opening of our new facility in Coolidge Park. Look for the lightning bolt ⚡ to see new events and activities this week.

### **Bike2Work Begins April 3**

Join Chattanooga's bicycle commuters for coffee, breakfast, and good conversation at 2009's first [Bike2Work](#) on Fri., Apr. 3, from 7 to 8:30 a.m. at the south end of the Walnut Street Bridge in downtown Chattanooga. Don your cycling gear, and come meet some folks who are already pedaling to work. Email or call [Chattanooga Bicycle Coordinator Philip Pugliese](#) at (423) 643-6887 for more information.

### **⚡ Spring Wildflower Hike at Audubon Acres Apr. 5**

The [Chattanooga Hiking Club](#) will host a free, 2-hour spring wildflower hike at the [Chattanooga Audubon Society's Audubon Acres](#) on Sun., Apr. 5 at 2 p.m. The hike will be appropriate for adults and children ages 8 and older when accompanied by an adult. Interested participants should wear sturdy shoes, and bring water and a snack. No reservations are necessary. Just come on out and enjoy the spring show! For more information call Outdoor Chattanooga at (423) 643-6888.

## **Events**

### **Ducks Unlimited State Convention Apr. 3-5**

[Ducks Unlimited](#) will hold their annual state convention in Chattanooga, at the Doubletree Hotel, Fri. – Sun., Apr. 3 – 5. The organization conserves, restores and manages wetlands and associated habitats for waterfowl in Tennessee and the U.S. For more information about the convention, call or [email Bob Foster](#) at (423) 593-0226.

### **Reflection Riding Open House and Native Plant Sale Apr. 3 - 5**

[Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanical Garden](#) will host an open house and native plant sale, Fri. - Sun., Apr. 3 - 5. The event, which runs from 9 a.m. to 5

p.m. Fri. and Sat. and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sun., features hardy native plants, trees and shrubs for sale as well as a number of activities like guided wildflower and tree I.D. walks along with some more strenuous hikes, live music and a variety of educational opportunities. Admission is free. To learn more, [email Reflection Riding](#).

### **Chattanooga Eco-Expo Apr. 7**

ChattanoogaHasFun will host their first annual [Eco-Expo](#) on Tues., Apr. 7, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Chattanooga Trade & Convention Center. The expo will showcase how to live and work green, Chattanooga's first [fuel efficient car show](#), [seminars on green solutions](#), and the premiere of the "[Green Habitat House Documentary](#)," a film that spotlights one of America's first LEED-certified Habitat for Humanity Houses. The expo is free and open to the public. Screenings of the Habitat documentary, at 7 and 7:30 p.m., are \$20, and all proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity.

### **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

### ✓ **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

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

### Last Week's WebSite:

Take Root Chattanooga has planted a new Website. [Check it out](#).

## Coming Up . . .

### **April**

- 17 [✓ Waterfest IX](#)
- 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](#)