



News and Events May 12

Server problems caused a delay in getting the newsletter out this week. Our apologies. Time to sign the kids up for Rapid Learning whitewater camps. See below. Look for the lightning bolt ⚡ to see new events and activities this week.

⚡ Show the World How you Bike to Work

CNN [I-Reports](#) is soliciting photos, essays, and videos reporting how the average guy or girl bikes to work. Send your report in this week, which is National Bike to Work Week.

Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride May 16

Outdoor Chattanooga and [Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park](#) will host a Chickamauga Battlefield historical bicycle tour on Sat., May 16, 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 ride 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) 866-9241.

Sign up for Rapid Learning Camps

The [Rapid Learning Whitewater Kids Club](#) is signing up kids ages 8 to 18 for their beginner and intermediate kayaking camps in June and July. Beginner camp happens June 15-17. Beginners spend one day practicing skills at Greenway Farm, the do an overnight camping trip to the Hiwassee River to try what they have learned. Cost is \$200 and includes all gear, instruction, camping expenses and meals, and transportation to and from Greenway Farm. Intermediate camp takes place July 15-17, entirely on local whitewater streams. Cost is \$250 and is also inclusive. Email [Marcus Hulse](#) or [Tiffany Ellison](#) or call OutVenture at (423) 842-6629 to learn more.

Events

✓ **South Chickamauga Creek Day May 16**

The [South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Alliance](#) will spend a day on the creek at Audubon Acres, Sat., May 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A \$1 admission charge will give guests access to activities like guided nature walks, canoe rides, fly casting demonstrations, rain garden workshops, music and storytelling. The public is invited to bring a picnic lunch and spend the day. For more information, call (423) 892-5237 or (423) 892-1499.

Greenway Challenge Adventure Race May 16

The [Greenway Challenge Adventure Race](#) will take to the trails around Greenway Farm on Sat., May 16, beginning at 7 a.m. The event will consist of trail running, cycling (mountain or cyclocross bikes), paddling, obstacle courses and mystery events. Teams of two and three people will compete to raise money for the [North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy](#). The early registration discount has been extended to Wed., May 6. [Online registration](#) is open until Thurs., May 16 at 11:59 p.m.

Blue Cross Market St. Mile and Mystery History Quest May 16

The Chattanooga Track Club will host the annual Blue Cross Market St. Mile and Mystery History Quest on Sat., May 16, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Tennessee Aquarium Plaza. The Market St. Mile features a series of one-mile races, divided by age and gender, and the Mystery History Quest is an historical "scavenger hunt" around the downtown area. Both events are fun for families and individuals. Pre-register online at [Active.com](#) or print a downloadable application from the Chattanooga Track Club [website](#).

✓ **Free Fly Fishing Demo Day May 16**

Choo Choo Fly & Tackle will host a free fly fishing demo day on Sat., May 16. Crosby Beane, Eastern U.S. Business Manager for Hardy of North America, will share secrets and tips for catching "the big one", while debuting some of the latest and greatest products. Free casting and fly fishing lessons, food, and drink will be offered throughout the day. Email Ben Austin at banjoaustin@gmail.com to sign up or call (423) 267-0024 for more details.

The Art of Simple Living at CNC May 16-17

The [Chattanooga Nature Center](#) and [Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanical Gardens](#) will host a special retreat May 16 and 17 about understanding mindfulness (connections of body with mind), connections with nature and sustainable living. Dr. Jean Lomino, executive director of CNC and Claire Blum, RN CDE, will utilize their training in mindfulness, experiential learning, and the natural world to help people discover ways to honor and care for their bodies and reduce stress. Space is limited. Cost is \$50 and the seminar is geared for people ages 18 and older. To register, [email Jean Lomino](#) or call 423-821-1160.

History Center Walking Tour May 19

The [Chattanooga History Center](#) will present its fifth walking tour, The Stanton

Addition, based on a section of Maury Nicely's "Chattanooga Walking Tour and Historic Guide" at 7 p.m. on Tues., May 19. The History Center's Executive Director and Curator, Dr. Daryl Black will serve as tour guide. The fee is \$3. Pre-registration is required, and the deadline is May 16. For more information or to pre-register by May 16, call (423) 265-3247, ext. 10.

✍️ **4th Annual Toddler Olympics May 21**

The MOMS Club of Chattanooga will host the 4th annual Toddler Olympics on Thurs., May 21, at the Shepherd Recreation Center, 2124 Shepherd Rd., Chattanooga. The free event will feature special running and throwing events for kids ages six and under, prizes, and special activities. Sign in begins at 10:45, with opening ceremonies at 11:15 a.m. For more information, contact Ivy Strickland at (423) 855-2697.

✍️ **Scenic City Marathon and 1/2 Marathon May 23**

Registration is still open for the [Scenic City Trail Marathon and 1/2 Marathon](#) on Sat., May 23, at 8 a.m. The event takes place on the Raccoon Mountain Trail system, which are fast and forgiving for both experienced and novice trail runners. Entry fee is \$40 for the full marathon, \$35 for the half and proceeds benefit The Boonies Wilderness Trail Running Association. Contact events@rockcreek.com for more information.

✍️ **Hipfest Funny Bike Parade May 23**

Outdoor Chattanooga will host the start of a Funny Bike Parade on Sat., May 23, at 10 a.m., as part of [Hipfest](#), the North Shore Merchant's Collective spring celebration. Adults, kids, and families are encouraged to bring their favorite "funny" bike to the Outdoor Chattanooga center, 200 River St., to ride in the parade around Coolidge Park. Hipfest will run all over the North Shore from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Other events will include art activities for kids, music, sidewalk sales, and a bike raffle at Suck Creek Cycle to benefit The Trust for Public Land's [Save Stringer's Ridge](#) campaign.

✍️ **St. Jude Hunter Pace Benefit May 24**

On Sat., May 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the [Hidden Hills Farm](#) will host a Hunter Pace event to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Teams of two to four competitors will ride a five to eight-mile course through woods, across mountains, and a couple of optional jumps. The course will be designed to simulate the conditions encountered during a foxhunt. Participants can also gather donations for taking part in the ride and win prizes from St. Jude's for amounts raised. Cost is \$25 per rider. For more information, call (423) 488-3993 or email info@hiddenhillsfarm.com. The event is not open to spectators.

✍️ **Chattanooga Chase May 25**

The oldest road race presented by the Chattanooga Track Club, the [Chattanooga Chase](#) starts at Riverview Park on Mon., May 25 (Memorial Day). The event includes an 8k race, and 1 mile walk/fun run through Chattanooga's Riverview

neighborhood. Categories are open for adults and kids ages 14 and under. Race day registration opens at 7 a.m. or register online at [Active.com](#).

News

✓ **Chattanooga Featured in Mother Nature News**

Chattanooga and our green, outdoorsy lifestyle was the subject of a weekly “Green Destination of the Week” in [Mother Nature News](#) recently. Check it out.

✓ **NPS Seeks Public Comment on Moccasin Bend Stabilization Project**

The National Park Service has released an [Environmental Assessment \(EA\)](#) evaluating alternatives for stabilizing approximately 5 miles of riverbank at Moccasin Bend, which is being degraded due to erosion and theft. The EA is also available for review Mon. - Fri. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center information desk, 3370 Lafayette Road in Fort Oglethorpe, GA. A copy of the EA may be obtained by calling (423)752-5213x113 or by writing to Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park, P.O. Box 2128, Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742. Comments will be accepted either electronically or in writing through June 3, 2009.

✓ **Check Your Carbon Footprint**

How do you rank in living “green?” We’ve been learning a lot from our new building, which uses a cistern to flush our toilets and a computerized HVAC system to monitor the building temperature. The Nature Conservancy has a good, generalized carbon footprint [calculator](#). See how you rank.

✓ **Innovative Ideas Include Pedal Train**

In an article last week for the New York Times blog, Allison Arieff profiled a cartoonist/designer/urban planner named Steven Johnson. Some of his ideas are way out there, but scroll down to check out [the pedal train](#).

Abandoned Rail Line to Rail Trail in McMinn County?

Recently, the [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy \(RTC\)](#) has learned of an upcoming railroad corridor abandonment in McMinn County. Around May 1, 2009, the CSX Railroad Company filed for the abandonment of 6.4 miles of track within McMinn County, TN. RTC is providing the information so citizens near the rail line can take advantage of the opportunity to develop a multi-use trail. Action should be taken quickly. Learn how by visiting the [RTC Trail-Building Toolbox](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

✓ **Tennessee River Gorge Trust Volunteers Needed**

Wed., May 13 - One or two volunteers are needed to assist Executive Director, Jim Brown, with fence repair, weed-eating and mowing. Work will start at 10 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch. Contact Sarah at 266-0314 or via e-mail at sarahq@trgt.org to sign up.

Thurs., May 14 - Work Day at Pot Point from 11:30 to 4 p.m. – Spend the day sprucing up the grounds. Tasks will include cleaning out the TRGT garage,

organizing tools, and brush removal. Contact Sarah at 266-0314 or via e-mail at sarahq@trgt.org to sign up.

Classes and Clinics

The University of Tennessee, Chattanooga Extension Service will co-host a six-hour workshop on earth-friendly landscape management for the home owner in two separate sessions: Tues., May 26, at the Collegedale Municipal Bldg. and on Tues., June 23 at the Red Bank Pavilion. Each class will go from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The workshop will cover a nine-step approach to turf grass management, mulching and soil amendments, innovative and practical ways to conserve and manage rain water, and landscape design principles. Cost is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple and includes take home materials and lunch. Class size is limited to 25 and pre-registration is required. Call (423) 855-6113 to learn more.

Website of the Week

[Walden's Ridge Whitewater](#) is a comprehensive Website devoted to kayaking the Creeks of Walden's Ridge, Lookout Mountain, and the Sequatchie Valley. Put together by whitewater paddlers, the site contains timely and accurate information (in spite of the Webmaster's disclaimers).

Last Week's WebSite:

[Tennessee Greenways and Trails](#) has created a Website to use as a resource for the state's growing trail system. The site contains information, maps, events, and guides on trails statewide. Check the site frequently for updates on maps and events.

Coming Up . . .

May

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](#)

20 [Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride](#)

19-21 [Chattanooga Mountains Stage Race](#)

July

3 [Bike2Work](#)

12 [BMW of Chattanooga Waterfront Triathlon](#)

18 [Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride](#)

August

7 [Bike2Work](#)

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

- 22 [✍ Missionary Ridge Road Race](#)
[Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride](#)
- 29 [✍ Raccoon Mtn. 5K and 10K](#)

September

- 4 [Bike2Work](#)
- 5 [Raisin' Hope Ride](#)
- 19 [Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride](#)
[✍ TN River Gorge Overnight Kayak Trip](#)
- 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](#)
[✍ Tennessee River Rescue](#)
- 6 [The Adoption Tour](#)
- 10 [Chattanooga Head Race](#)
[✍ Joe Johnson Run for Mental Health 10K](#)
- 17 [Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride](#)
[✍ Signal Mtn. Road Race and Pie Run](#)
- 24/25 [Dam to Dam Paddle](#)

November

- 6 [Bike2Work](#)
- 7/8 [Head of the Hooch](#)
- 14 [Upchuck 50K Trail Race](#)
[✍ Chickamauga Battlefield Marathon, ½ Marathon & Jr. Marathon](#)

December

- 12 [✍ Wauhatchie Trail Run](#)
- 19 [Lookout 100K & 10K Trail Race](#)

