



News and Events May 19

Join Chattanooga's cycling community for a special tribute and haul that kayak out of the garage. It's paddling season! Look for the lightning bolt ⚡ to see new events and activities this week.

⚡ Ride of Silence May 20

This Wed., May 20, Chattanooga bicyclists will honor local advocate and friend David Meek in the [Ride of Silence](#), beginning at the Finley Stadium north parking lot at 7 p.m. The group ride will honor Meek, who died last March in a bicycle/truck accident, and other cyclists worldwide who have been killed and injured while riding on public roadways. The 12-mile route will be ridden slowly with police support at intersections, so that as many cyclists as possible can join in. All bicycles are welcome, helmets are required, and silence is mandatory. For more information, visit the [Chattanooga Bicycle Club Website](#).

⚡ BYO-Boat Kayak Trip May 23

The [Tennessee Valley Canoe Club](#) will host a free, public Bring Your Own-Boat kayak trip through the Tennessee River Gorge on Sat., May 23, beginning at 10 a.m. The 3-hour paddle—one-way with a car shuttle—will go through the spectacular scenery around Raccoon Mountain. Participants should have a sea kayak or recreational kayak, and be prepared to paddle at a 2 – 3 mile per hour pace. Pack a lunch, plenty of water, and sunscreen. Contact trip leader Eric Fleming at eric598@bellsouth.net to register and get directions to the put in. Deadline to register is 4 p.m. on May 22.

⚡ CNC's Paddlers Perch Grand Opening May 30

The [Chattanooga Nature Center \(CNC\)](#) will introduce its new Paddler's Perch at a grand opening celebration on Sat., May 30, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Perch, which has been funded by the Lyndhurst Foundation, is an elevated creek-side cabin that can be rented for overnight stays by CNC members and paddlers traveling the [Tennessee River Blueway](#). The grand opening day will feature guided canoe trips, hikes and live music. The Lookout Valley High School Band Boosters will sell hot dogs, chips and Coke products during the event. Cost to the public will be \$7 adults/\$4 for children and seniors age 65+ or free for CNC

members. To learn more about the grand opening or CNC, call (423) 821-1160.

✦ **South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Beginner Hike May 31**

The [Chattanooga Hiking Club](#) will lead a free, 3-mile [beginner hike](#) on the Brainerd Levee and South Chickamauga Creek Greenway on Sun., May 31, at 2 p.m. This slow-paced hike will run along a portion of the Brainerd Levee and the S. Chick Greenway near Camp Jordan. Participants should meet in the [parking lot](#) behind the Q'doba Grill on Brainerd Rd. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water, sunscreen, and camera or binoculars for wildlife viewing. No pre-registration is necessary, just show and go. Email Hike Leader Donald Box at donaldbox@bellsouth.net with questions.

Events

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.

✦ **Savor Stringers Ridge Fundraiser May 22**

[The Trust for Public Land](#) will host a fundraiser for the Save Stringers Ridge campaign on Fri., May 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the penthouse of the Bridge View on Northshore. Tickets to the event are \$25 per person and include wine and gourmet cheese from Greenlife Grocery and old Appalachia music by the Hamilton Boys and Christie Burns. Guests may [RSVP online](#) or call (423) 265-5229.

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 is 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. 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](#).

✎ "Running the Sahara" Chattanooga Premiere May 27

The [Arts and Education Council](#) and "[Runner's World](#)" magazine will host the Chattanooga premiere of "[Running the Sahara](#)" on Wed., May 27, 6:45 p.m. at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre. The movie follows expedition leader Charlie Engle and two other runners as they run across the Sahara Desert. Tickets are \$25 and include a pre-screening reception, a gift bag filled with sponsor swag, admission to film, and a Q & A with co-star Engle. The film tour benefits [H2O Africa](#), a clean water initiative addressing the water crisis in Africa.

✎ Climbing Organizations to Hold Fundraisers May 29 and 30

Two climbing organizations in Chattanooga will host fundraisers for the [Southeast Climbers Coalition](#) on the weekend of May 29 and 30. [Urban Rocks Gym](#) will host a bouldering competition on Fri., May 29, 6 p.m., at their facility on Amnicola Hwy. Cost is \$15; \$10 to SE Climbers and \$5 for the winner's pot. [The Adventure Guild](#) will host a Climb-a-Thon at the Walnut Wall on Sat., May 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Climbers will raise funds from sponsors at \$10 per climb, with all funds going to SE Climbers. Interested participants should email or call Kim Stock at (423) 266-5709 for entry forms and more information.

Adventures

✎ Prentice Cooper Dayhike May 23

The [Chattanooga Hiking Club](#) will host a moderately strenuous 8-mile hike in the Snooper's Rock area of Prentice Cooper State Forest on Sat., May 23. Scenery will include rock formations, numerous views of the Tennessee River, some fairly open wooded areas, and several streams and cascades. There will be a few short climbs and a number of rocky areas. Email hike leader Donald Box at donaldbox@bellsouth.net for more information and directions.

✎ Chestnut Mountain Dayhike May 30

The [Chattanooga Hiking Club](#) will host a 7.7-mile hike on part of the Tanasi Trail system in the Cherokee National Forest on Sat., May 30. The hike is a tree-shaded hike that offers occasional views of the Ocoee River and Big Frog Mountain. Email hike leader [Chris O'Connor](#) for directions and more information.

News

✓ Outdoor Chattanooga in Chattanooga Magazine

Check out the May/June issue of [Chattanooga Magazine](#) to see a great article by Richard Simms about Chattanooga's Outdoors. Some of our all-star volunteers went out on the water with us that chilly morning for the photo shoot.

✓ Camping Tips for Parents with Tykes

[Tiny Trekker](#) offers a top ten list of gear for parents who want to take their little kids camping. We heard about this through [Leave No Trace](#).

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](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

✓ Soddy-Daisy TTA Trail Construction May 23 & 30

The [Soddy-Daisy Chapter](#) of the Tennessee Trails Association will host two trail work days on Sat., May 23 and 30, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to prepare the site and haul materials for construction of a bridge on the

[Cumberland Trail](#) over Little Possum Creek. The bridge will connect 30 miles of trail through the Rock, Possum, and Soddy Gorges. Contact [Don Deakins](#) for directions to the work site or for more information.

Classes and Clinics and Camps

✓ Appalachian TU Meeting May 21

The [Appalachian Chapter](#) of Trout Unlimited will host speaker Robert Prytula at their monthly meeting on Thurs., May 21, 6:30 p.m. at Greenway Farm in Hixson. Prytula will present on fishing the White River in Arkansas and the unique fishing opportunities that it presents. He will address wade fishing as well as fishing from a drift boat. The public is welcome. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

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, then 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.

Earth-Friendly Landscape Management May 26 & June 23

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.

✓ SAU Camps 2009

The Southern Adventist University [Outdoor Leadership Program](#) will host a series of summer camps for kids ages 11 to 15, beginning June 8. Four-day camps will focus on outdoor activities like caving, climbing, kayaking, and sailing. To learn more, email Steven Bontekoe or pre-register online at [Raceit.com](#).

Website of the Week

[Hiking in the Smokys](#) provides detailed trail information within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Trails are listed by location, difficulty, and features.

Last Week's WebSite:

[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).

Coming Up . . .

June

- 5 [Bike2Work](#)
- 6 [National Trails Day](#)
[✓Rock/Creek Used Gear Sale](#)
- 11-13 [✓Paddle Alabama](#)
- 13 [Blue Cross Riverbend Walk/Run](#)
[Chattanooga Rat Race Open Water Swim](#)
- 14 [✓SORBA Chattanooga Benefit at Chattanooga Market](#)
- 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](#)
[Missionary Ridge Road Race](#)
- 22 [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](#)
- 29/30** [Southeastern Water Trails Forum](#)

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](#)