



## News and Events May 26

National Trails Day will be here in a couple of weeks and our downtown kayak trips begin June 4! See below. Look for the lightning bolt ⚡ to see new events and activities this week.

Catch “Outdoorchatt” Tweets on [Twitter](#).

Sign up for the City of Chattanooga’s Parks and Recreation Newsletter [here](#).

### South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Beginner Hike May 31

The [Chattanooga Hiking Club](#) will lead a free, 3-mile [beginner hike](#) on Sun., May 31, at 2 p.m. The slow-paced hike will run along a portion of the Brainerd Levee and the South Chickamauga Creek 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](mailto:donaldbox@bellsouth.net) with questions.

### ⚡ Downtown Kayak Trips Begin June 4

Outdoor Chattanooga will begin hosting [downtown kayak excursions](#) on the Tennessee River every Thurs., Fri., and Sat., beginning June 4 and running through Aug. 15. The trips, which are suitable for adults and kids ages eight and older, will take participants around Maclellan Island, the museum bluffs, and Ross’ Landing. Cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for kids ages 8 -13. To learn more or make a reservation, email [ruth@outdoorchattanooga.com](mailto:ruth@outdoorchattanooga.com) or call (423) 643-6889.

### ⚡ Bike2Work June 5

Join Chattanooga’s cyclo-commuters for free coffee and camaraderie at the monthly [Bike2Work](#) breakfast on Fri., June 5, from 7 to 8:30 a.m., at the south end of the Walnut St. Bridge near the Holmberg pedestrian bridge. First time bicycle commuters and people who are interested in trying bicycle commuting are encouraged to come. Questions? [Email Minya James](#) or call (423) 643-6888.

## ✓ **National Trails Day in Chattanooga June 6**

Many local and regional outdoor organizations will be hosting special hikes and trail maintenance activities on Sat., June 6, in honor of [National Trails Day](#). Please join one of them as a volunteer or participant.

[American Hiking Society](#) and the [National Park Service](#) - Hike/Bike Chickamauga Battlefield

[Benton MacKaye Trail Association](#) - Benton MacKaye Trail Walk-Through

[Chattanooga SORBA](#) - Raccoon Mtn. Trail Ride Day

[Cumberland Trail Conference](#) - Little Possum Bridge project

[Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department](#) - Hike or Bike the Enterprise South Nature Park trails.

[Lula Lake Land Trust](#) - National Trails Day Open Gate Day

[Northwest Georgia SORBA](#) - Grand Opening Raisin Woods Mtn. Bike Park

[Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen](#) - Mill Branch Trail maintenance

[Tennessee Trails Association, Soddy-Daisy](#) - Hike the Cumberland Trail's Possum Creek Gorge

## **Events**

### **"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.

### ✓ **CNC's Paddlers Perch Grand Opening This Saturday, 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 of CNC, call (423) 821-1160.

### ✓ **Rock/Creek Used Gear Sale June 6**

Rock/Creek, at Two Northshore on Manufacturer's Rd., will host a [used gear sale](#) on Sat., June 6. Peddlers interested in a free space to sell gear should make a reservation by June 1. Space is limited. Contact [will@rockcreek.com](mailto:will@rockcreek.com) or call (423) 265-5969 to reserve a space.

## **Adventures**

### **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**

### ✓ **Win New Bicycles from Blood Assurance**

Visitors to any [Blood Assurance](#) facility or blood drive can now register to win two Cannondale Adventure 3 bicycles. Though a blood donation is not required, Outdoor Chattanooga encourages you do it. One donation can benefit up to three patients in need at local hospitals. Get more information by contacting Lacey Wilson at [laceywilson@bloodassurance.org](mailto:laceywilson@bloodassurance.org) or calling (423) 752-8464.

### ✓ **It's a Test**

In [these pictures](#) from last week's Ride of Silence, as dusk was falling, which rider is the most visible? The first five email replies that we receive—according to time stamp—to [ruth@outdoorchattanooga.com](mailto:ruth@outdoorchattanooga.com) will win a free bicycle tire patch kit from Cycle Works and a free, 14-day trial membership to the Rush.

### **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](#).

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Soddy-Daisy TTA Trail Construction May 30**

The [Soddy-Daisy Chapter](#) of the Tennessee Trails Association will host a trail work day on Sat., May 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.

### ✂ **Tennessee Wild Trail Maintenance Project May 30**

Tennessee Wild is seeking volunteers for a trail work session in the Cherokee National Forest on Sat., May 30. Volunteers will spend four to five hours removing vegetation from the Kirkland Creek Trail in the Tellico Ranger District, in the Upper Bald River Wilderness Study Area. Pre-registration is required. The exact meeting location will be provided upon registering. Call or [email Nicole Martinez](mailto:nicole.martinez@sauc.org) with the [Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition](http://www.sauc.org) at (828) 252-9223 for more information and/or to register.

### ✂ **Work Day on Williams Island May 30**

Join the [Tennessee River Gorge Trust](http://www.trgt.org) for a volunteer day this Sat., May 30 to clear a spot on Williams Island for a new camping shelter. Volunteers will be removing privet and other invasive plants that are located at the new shelter site. If enough volunteers sign up, TRGT will also plan to take the shelter apart on the main land and ship it over to the island where it will be reassembled at a later date. Email or phone [Sarah Quattrochi](mailto:sarah.quattrochi@trgt.org) at (423) 266-0314 to sign up.

## **Classes and Clinics and Camps**

### ✂ **Appalachian Trail MEGA-Transect American Chestnut Data Collection Training May 30**

A training session for volunteers who are willing to collect American Chestnut tree data while hiking the Appalachian Trail will be held this Sat., May 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the [Nantahala Outdoor Center](http://www.nantahalaoutdoorcenter.com), Hwy. 74, near Bryson City, NC. Anyone who likes to hike sections of the Appalachian Trail, and who is willing to collect data, is welcome to participate. Collected data will help guide the efforts of The American Chestnut Foundation to return the American chestnut to its natural range throughout the Appalachian region. To register for the training session or learn more, email [kathymarmet@gmail.com](mailto:kathymarmet@gmail.com) or visit the [A.T. MEGA-Transect Chestnut Project](http://www.atmega.org).

### **Sign up for Rapid Learning Camps**

The [Rapid Learning Whitewater Kids Club](http://www.rapidlearningwhitewaterkidsclub.com) 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 Hulsey](mailto:marcus.hulsey@outventure.com) or [Tiffany Ellison](mailto:tiffany.ellison@outventure.com) or call OutVenture at (423) 842-6629 to learn more.

### **SAU Camps 2009**

The Southern Adventist University [Outdoor Leadership Program](http://www.sau.edu/outdoor) 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](http://Raceit.com).

### **Website of the Week**

Glamping . . . if you haven't heard the term, it means to camp out without roughing it. [Glamping Girl](#) highlights prime glamping spots and gear that makes living outdoors less labor-intensive.

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

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

### **Coming Up . . .**

#### **June**

- 11-13 [Paddle Alabama](#)
- 13 [Blue Cross Riverbend Walk/Run](#)  
[Chattanooga Rat Race Open Water Swim](#)  
[/BYO-Boat Kayak Trip](#)
- 14 [SORBA Chattanooga Benefit at Chattanooga Market](#)  
[/Touring Kayak Clinic](#)
- 19 [/Sunset Kayak Trip](#)
- 20 [Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride](#)
- 19-21 [Chattanooga Mountains Stage Race](#)
- 28 [/Touring Kayak Clinic](#)
- 29 [/National Parks Night at the Lookouts](#)

#### **July**

- 3 [Bike2Work](#)
- 9 [/Women on the Water](#)
- 12 [BMW of Chattanooga Waterfront Triathlon](#)
- 18 [Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride](#)  
[/TN River Gorge Paddle](#)
- 24 [/Sunset Kayak Trip](#)

#### **August**

- 1 [/Nickajack Bat Cave Kayak Trip](#)
- 6 [/Full Moon Paddle](#)
- 7 [Bike2Work](#)
- 8 [Greenway 5-Mile Trail Race](#)  
[Missionary Ridge Road Race](#)
- 15 [/Touring Kayak Clinic](#)
- 19 [/Women on the Water](#)
- 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 [Upchuck 50K Trail Race](#)  
[Chickamauga Battlefield Marathon, ½ Marathon & Jr. Marathon](#)

## **December**

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