



News and Events February 17

We're late getting the newsletter out this week because of a couple very special events. See below. If you saw us on the news Monday night, you know that we're getting close to move-in day at the [Outdoor Chattanooga Center](#). Look for the lightning bolt ⚡ to see new events and activities.

National Geographic Adventure Magazine Adventurer of the Year in Chattanooga Feb. 28 for Free Event

James Hooper, one half of the team that earned "[National Geographic Adventure Magazine's](#)" [Adventurer of the Year award for 2008](#), will come to Chattanooga on Sat., Feb. 28 for a special presentation at the Tennessee Aquarium Auditorium at 7 p.m. The event, presented by [Brewer Media Group](#), Outdoor Chattanooga, and the [Tennessee Aquarium](#), is free and open to the public. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Hooper will present slides and videos that chronicle his and partner Rob Gauntlett's adventures, which began with a successful summit of Mt. Everest and continued with a manpowered journey from the north to south pole in 2007/2008. Additional sponsorship for this event comes from [Artech Design Group](#), [Red Point Management](#), and [Rock/Creek](#). Learn more on [our Website](#).

Telluride Mtn. Film Festival Feb. 26

[LookOutdoorNews.com](#) will bring the [Telluride Mountain Film Festival](#) to Chattanooga on Thurs., Feb. 26, 7 p.m., at the [Chattanooga Theatre Centre](#). The annual festival features independent films about everything from saving natural resources to shredding class V rapids and bike polo. Tickets are \$10, available only at the door. All ticket proceeds will to toward non-profit outdoor organizations, specifically [SORBA-Chattanooga](#), [Southeast Climbers' Coalition](#) and [Appalachian Voices \(Voices Against Mountain Top Removal\)](#).

Events

Durham Mine Fossil Dig at CNC Feb. 21

The [Chattanooga Nature Center](#) will host a fossil collecting program at the Durham Mine site, located in the [Lula Lake Land Trust](#), on Sat., Feb. 21, from 10 a.m to 1 p.m. Participants will meet at CNC for a brief orientation and then car caravan to the mine site. Bring digging tools, hammers, flat chisels, buckets or flats and newspaper to wrap the specimens. Dress warmly and bring a snack. Space is limited. Pre-registration and prepayment are required. Cost is \$9 Adults, \$5 children (\$7 Adults, \$4 children for CNC Members). Call 821-1160 ext. 0 to reserve a space.

Southern 6K Trail Race Feb. 22

[The Boonies](#), [Rock/Creek](#), and [Sunbelt Snacks](#) present the [1st Annual Southern 6K Trail Race](#) on Sun., Feb. 22, at 2 p.m. The short, family-friendly event will take place on Southern Adventist University's Biology Trail. Everyone ages 8 and above is invited to participate and compete for prizes. Entry race fee is \$25 (\$20 for SAU students). Proceeds from the event will go directly to the University's Outdoor Education program and will help with development and maintenance of the Biology Trail. Contact [Mark McKnight](#) at (423) 266-8200 for more information.

✓ Scenic City Half Marathon and Charity Challenge Feb. 28

The [Chattanooga Track Club](#) presents the [Scenic City Half Marathon, 5K and Charity Challenge](#) on Saturday, February 28 at 8 a.m. Finley Stadium will serve as the start for the half marathon and a 5K run and 1K run/walk. In the Charity Challenge, a portion of each runner/walker entry fee will be donated to a participating charity of the racer's choice (\$5 from half marathon entries, \$2.50 from 5k entries). Pre-registration or day-of registration are both available.

Adventures

✓ Tennessee Trails Association Beginner Hike Feb. 21

The [Soddy-Daisy Chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association](#) will lead a beginner hike at Cloudland Canyon State Park, 10 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 21. The trail is an easy walk along the canyon, with minimal elevation changes, and numerous overlooks. Once back at the starting point, hikers will have an option to take the spur trail to the bottom of the two waterfalls or call it a day. For more details, visit the Soddy-Daisy TTA [Google calendar](#). To register, [contact the hike coordinator](#).

✓ Raccoon Mountain Dayhike with Chattanooga Hiking Club Feb. 28

The [Chattanooga Hiking Club](#) will lead a moderate-paced 9-mile hike around the multi-use trails on Raccoon Mountain, Sat., Feb. 28. The hike will start at the Laurel Point Picnic area and go around the TVA reservoir, with stops at the Visitor's Center and scenic overlooks. For more information about the hike, [email hike leader Chris O'Connor](#).

TOS February Field Trips

The [Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society](#) holds monthly field trips to view various bird species. In February, TOS will host field trips to Stevenson, AL and Nickajack Lake on Feb. 21, and a special trip to view barn owls and woodcocks on Feb. 28. Both trips are free and open to the public. For trip details, [email Cathy Lockwitz](#).

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

✎ How do you Re-use?

How do you reuse your trash to keep it out of the landfill or recycle bin?

“I save the plastic bags that my morning newspaper comes in to pull up poison ivy! You slide your hand down into the bag, it covers and protects all the way up your arm. Grab that nasty sucker, yank it out, reverse the bag, keeping the offending plant inside and toss in garbage. If you just use gardening gloves to pull it up, they get the oil on them and invariably you touch your face, etc and transfer the oils. (I speak from experience!)”

-Sue Lowery

Last week we had a question:

What can you do with ½ gallon, wax-covered paper cartons that have held milk, O.J., etc? Any ideas?

✎ Battlefield's Alexander Bridge Closed to Vehicular Traffic

[Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park](#) has announced the immediate closure of Alexander's Bridge to vehicular traffic. The bridge, located in Chickamauga Battlefield on Alexander Bridge Rd., provides park access across West Chickamauga Creek in the southeast corner of the battlefield. Inspections by the Georgia Department of Transportation, confirmed by the Federal Highway Administration, identified significant structural deficiencies. The closure was recommended by both agencies. The bridge is open to cycling and pedestrian traffic. Efforts are underway to identify options for restoring motor vehicle access across Chickamauga Creek via Alexander's Bridge Road as soon as possible. For more information about the closure, contact [Sam Weddle](#) at (423) 752-5213 ext.113.

✎ How Much Energy Does Your House Use?

From U.K.'s "The Guardian:" [Smart Meters](#) are gizmos that can be plugged into your home's power meter to see how much energy you are using at any given time. Now [Google](#) is pilot testing a Web-driven tool called a [Powermeter](#) that receives information from networked smart meters in homes to analyze your energy use. Both programs are being tested in the U.K. right now.

Chickamauga Park Seeking Public Input on New Management Plan

As a part of the process for a new General Management Plan (GMP), [Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park](#) will host public meetings to obtain public input for the future of the historic park on Tues., Mar. 10 at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitors Center, and on Thurs., Mar. 12 at Walker Pavilion in Coolidge Park. Both meetings will happen from 4 to 8 p.m. The last general management plan for the park was adopted in 1988. A new General Management Plan will serve as the foundation and framework for management of the park for the next 20 years. Contact Sam Weddle at (423) 752-5213 ext. 113, or visit the [park planning website](#) for more information.

Youth Participation in the Outdoors Down in 2007

A report from the [Outdoor Foundation](#), a non-profit division of the Outdoor Industry Association, participation in outdoor activities and sports was up overall in 2007. However, the report also notes an 11% decline in participation among children ages 6 to 17 with the sharpest declines among youth ages 6 to 12. The report surveyed 60,000 Americans ages six and older. It is used to sight trends in outdoor recreation participation, with focused looks at youth, diversity, and gender.

Classes, Clinics & Meetings

Trout Unlimited Hosts SE Anglers for Monthly Meeting Feb. 19

The [Appalachian Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#) will hold their monthly meeting at 6:30 pm on Feb. 19, 2009 at the Greenway Farm in Hixson. The featured speaker for the meeting will be Captain Dane Law, Fly Fishing Guide and Owner of Southeastern Anglers. Dane is a United States Coast Guard licensed Captain who lives in Reliance TN on the banks of the Hiwassee River.

Chattanooga/Hamilton County Health Dept. "Basic Grant Writing" Feb. 19

The [Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department](#) will host a free class on basic grant writing on Thurs., Feb. 19, from 9 to 11:00 a.m. in the department's Sam Rose Room, east wing, 1st floor, 921 E. 3rd St., Chattanooga. The video training workshop, hosted in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Health, Division of Minority Health and Disparity Elimination, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will provide tips for beginner grant writers to help improve chances in winning grants. To register and to receive advance materials, call or [email Rozelyn Fields](#) at (615) 741-9443.

Orienteering Clinic at TN Aquarium Feb. 21

The [Tennessee Aquarium](#) will host an orienteering class for adults and children on Sat., Feb. 21, from 1 to 4 p.m. Participants will get acquainted with compass and map techniques, and then head into the wild in search of six stations hidden by the instructor. The terrain will be steep, so students should wear shoes suitable for off-trail hiking, and kids should be old enough to handle the ups and downs. Cost is \$13 (\$8 for Aquarium members) and includes water and a snack.

✂ **Free Intro to Fly Fishing Clinics Mar. 14 and Apr. 11**

Outdoor Chattanooga and Choo Choo Fly & Tackle will offer a free Introduction to Fly Fishing Clinics on Saturdays, Mar. 14, and Apr. 11 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Choo-Choo Fly and Tackle Store in North Chattanooga. The clinics will cover equipment selection, casting techniques, and information on where to find the fish. Participation is open to adults and kids ages 16 and older when accompanied by an adult. Equipment will be provided. Classes are limited to 12. To make a reservation, call (423) 643-6889 or [email Outdoor Chattanooga](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

✂ **Patrol the River Gorge with the Tennessee River Gorge Trust**

The [Tennessee River Gorge Trust](#) will offer volunteers a chance to patrol TRGT properties with executive Director Jim Brown on Thursdays, February 26, March 5, 12, 19 and 26. Specific properties will be patrolled each week, and volunteer space is limited to three people per trip. To learn more, call or [email Sarah Quattrochi](#) at (423)266-0314 ext. 3.

✂ **Invasive Plant Removal at Reflection Riding Feb. 28**

Volunteers are invited to join Dr. Richard Clements at Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanical Garden on Sat., Feb. 28 from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. To volunteer or learn more, call or [email Mary Katherine Harper](#) at 821-9582 x. 200-

Pictures from Outdoor Chattanooga's New Home

The supports for our green screen wall are going up and the painters are putting on final touches. [Our new building](#) is ohhhh so close to being finished. We'll be moving in soon, then getting ready for . . .

Website of the Week

The [Tennessee Trails Association](#) has a new Soddy-Daisy chapter. They are already busy, leading hikes and building trails.

Coming Up . . .

March

- 6 [Bike2Work Begins](#)
- 28 [Outdoor Chattanooga Outdoor Expo, Gear Swap & Grand Opening](#)

April

- 2-4 [✂ TN State Greenways and Trails Forum](#)
- 3 [Bike2Work](#)
- 3-5 [Reflection Riding Wildflower Festival & Native Plant Sale](#)
[Ducks Unlimited State Convention in Chattanooga](#)
- 4 [Rock/Creek River Gorge Trail Race](#)
[Dusk 'til Dawn Adventure Race](#)
- 7 [Chattanooga EcoExpo](#)

- 18 [Chattanooga Dragon Boat Races](#)
[Chickamauga Chase](#)
- 26 [3rd Annual Scenic City Triathlon](#)

May

- 1 [Bike2Work](#)
- 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](#)