



News and Events Feb. 24 & Mar. 3

We are moving into [our new digs](#) next week, so there will be two issue's worth of news in this week's e-blast. The next newsletter will be coming to you from [200 River St. in Coolidge Park](#) on March 10. 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 Presentation

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. Attendees should enter through the Aquarium's River Journey Members Entrance. 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 playlist for the screening is now [available online](#). 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).

⚡ Beginner Hike with Chattanooga Hiking Club Mar. 1

Outdoor Chattanooga and the [Chattanooga Hiking Club](#) will host a 3-mile beginner hike on the Collegedale Greenway on the afternoon of Sun., Mar. 1. The Greenway is paved and fairly level and it follows the course of Wolftever Creek. Interested participants should [contact Outdoor Chattanooga](#) at (423) 643-6889 for details and to make a reservation. Limit is 12 people.

Outdoor Chattanooga's Outdoor Expo & Gear Swap March 28

Come on out and play with us at our new home! Outdoor clubs, conservation organizations, outfitters, gear swappers, activities, and tours of our new Outdoor Chattanooga Center at 200 River St., in Coolidge Park will highlight our [3rd annual Outdoor Expo](#). Come join us for a celebration of everything outdoors in Chattanooga on Sat., Mar. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We'll throw the party. All you gotta do is come out and play. Vendor and Gear Swap spaces are still available for \$25, but they are filling up fast. Find out more on [our Website](#).

Events

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.

✂ Friends of the Cumberland Trail Traditional Music Concert Feb. 28

[The Friends of the Cumberland Trail](#) invites the public to an Old Time concert and square dance on Sat., Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Decosimo-Rogers Studio, 1427 Williams Street, Chattanooga. The featured performer is 87-year-old Clyde Davenport from Jamestown, TN, a National Heritage Award Fellow, and the keeper of over 200 quick tempo breakdowns and solo tunes dating as far back as the Civil War. Tickets are \$10. Funds raised will support the Friends of the Cumberland Trail. For more information, email [Joseph Decosimo](#).

Adventures

Raccoon Mountain Day Hike 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](#).

✂ Prentice Cooper Hike with TTA Feb. 28

On Sat, February 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., join the [Soddy-Daisy Chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association](#) for a 5-mile hike in Prentice Cooper State Forest. Trail features will include Indian Rock House and views of the Tennessee River Gorge. Learn more about the hike on the Soddy-Daisy TTA [Google calendar](#). To attend, please [register with hike coordinator](#).

✂ Enterprise South Nature Park Program's Family Fitness Walk Feb. 28

The City of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department will host a [Family Fitness Walk](#) at the Enterprise South Nature Park on Sat. Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. The event is free and open to the public but reservations are required.

Call or [email Rhonda Seeber](mailto:Rhonda.seeber@tossociety.org) at (423) 643-6079 to learn more or make your reservation.

TOS February Field Trip Feb. 28

The [Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society](#) holds monthly field trips to view various bird species. In February, TOS will host a special trip to view barn owls and woodcocks on Feb. 28. The trip is free and open to the public. For details, [email Cathy Lockwitz](mailto:Cathy.Lockwitz@tossociety.org).

✎ Soddy-Daisy Rail Trail Hike with TTA Mar. 7

On Sat., Mar. 7, at 10 a.m., join the [Soddy-Daisy Chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association](#) for a 6-mile walk on the proposed [Soddy-Daisy Rails to Trails](#) rail bed. The railroad line runs from U.S. 27 to the TVA Sequoyah facility. Learn more about the hike on the Soddy-Daisy TTA [Google calendar](#). To register, contact the [hike coordinator](#).

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

“Attending a school of architecture, there is always lots of paper by the printers and copy machine in the computer lab. Some papers have impressive drawings on one side; at Christmas I wrapped all of my presents in this cool paper. Most of the paper has been printed on only one side. When I can (with papers for personal use and unofficial documents), I use the other blank side to print the paper again. For documents you can't use already-used-paper, remember to print on both sides.”

- Jeremiah Smith
Andrews University, MI
(from Collegedale, TN)

Last week's response:

“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

✎ You Did WHAT in Your Kayak?

In the “Don't Try This at Home” category . . . have you ever heard of snow kayaking? From [mountain passes](#) to [the bunny hills](#) to what whitewater boaters

[do in January.](#)

✓ **TVA River Neighbors Newsletter, Feb., 2009**

Keep up with river conservation and energy issues in TVA's monthly newsletter, [River Neighbors](#). This month's issue covers topics such as land use plans, news on the installation of new dam warning systems, and a call for help from anglers.

✓ **MIT Electric Wheel May Revolutionize Bicycle Commuting**

According to a report [on MSNBC.com](#), Grad students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have come up with a self-contained, battery-powered bicycle wheel that may revolutionize how we use bicycles.

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, due to structural deficiencies. The bridge, located in Chickamauga Battlefield on Alexander Bridge Rd., provides park access across West Chickamauga Creek in the southeast corner of the battlefield. The closure was recommended by both the GA Dept. of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. The bridge is open to cycling and pedestrian traffic. 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.

[Classes, Clinics & Meetings](#)

✓ **Bicycle Task Force Meeting Mar. 10**

The public is encouraged to attend the next meeting of the [Chattanooga Urban Area Bicycle Task Force](#) on Tues. Mar. 10, at 12:30 p.m. at the Development Resource Center, 1250 Market Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402. The BTF is now actively involved in the 2009 update of the area's Bicycle Facilities Master Plan. They need representatives from around Chattanooga to participate in the process. Student representation from area colleges is especially encouraged. Please phone or [email Chattanooga Bicycle Coordinator Philip Pugliese](#) at (423) 643-6887 for more information about how you can serve.

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](#).

✂ **Street Smarts Mar. 14**

Bicycle commuting season is just around the corner, so get some [Street Smarts](#) on Sat., Mar. 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the downtown Development Resource Center, 1250 Market St., Chattanooga. [League of American Bicyclists](#)-certified instructors teach basic bicycle maintenance, rules of the road, and emergency maneuvers, all the things your honey-bunny needs to be safe riding in traffic. Cost is \$25 and the class is open to adult and kids ages 16 and older. Helmet and bicycle are required. For more information or to register, [email Philip Pugliese](#) or call (423) 643-6887.

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-

Website of the Week

We honor [adventurer Rob Gauntlett](#), who with partner James Hooper, won National Geographic Adventure Magazine's Adventurer of the Year award for 2008. Gauntlett was killed in climbing accident in the French Alps last January.

Last Week's WebSite:

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

Coming Up . . .

March

28 [Outdoor Chattanooga Outdoor Expo, Gear Swap & Grand Opening](#)
[✂ Rock/Creek River Gorge Trail Race - ***New Date***](#)

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 [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](#)