



## News and Events January 13

Chattanooga is into the dead of winter, but that doesn't keep us from playing outside. Look for the lightning bolt ⚡ to see something new this week.

### Outdoor Chattanooga's Outdoor Expo – Sign Up Now!!!!

Outdoor Chattanooga will host our third annual [Outdoor Expo and Gear Swap](#) on Saturday, March 28, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Coolidge Park. Clubs, camps, outfitters, conservation organizations: sign up now to get your exhibition spot. 10'X10' spaces are \$25 and all proceeds will go toward Outdoor Chattanooga's free, public programs. This year's expo will also be the grand opening for our new [Outdoor Chattanooga Center](#). Call or [email Ruth Thompson](#) at (423) 643-6889 to reserve your spot.

### New Year's Re-use-alution

We are getting a bunch of really cool responses to our question: How do you reuse your trash? Since scrap prices have hit the cellar along with everything else, some recycling centers in major population centers are limiting the amount of bottles, cans, paper, scrap metal, etc. that they can take for recycling. We don't want this stuff going into landfills. Here's this week's suggestion:

Newspaper makes great mulch. Search [Lasagna Garden](#) or [Sheet Mulching](#) on the Internet. Shred all junk mail, student work, etc. then vermicompost it. Search [Red Hen Enterprises](#) or [vermicomposting](#). Smash glass and make mosaics. Use bottles for edging an [herb spiral](#) or garden. DON'T BUY DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BOTTLES. Buy a stainless bottle and refill it anywhere. Take the [permaculture](#) approach: once it comes on your property, it is YOUR responsibility.

-Brandy Davis

### Last week's response:

"At the Tennessee Aquarium, we re-use yogurt containers to hold small seafood for the fish. Things like brine shrimp, krill and bloodworms fit nicely in them. We also re-use plastic hospital trays and bed-pans that our volunteers bring us for larger food containers. Instant Ocean bags are used to re-package seafood when we cut blocks in half and the cardboard Instant Ocean boxes make great shipping boxes because they are so sturdy. Cardboard boxes are also used as enrichment for the Macaws, and plastic jars and such are used to hide food for the Octopus. We have been saving our Styrofoam fish shipping

boxes as well and recently found an Atlanta fish shipper that will pick them up from us if we accumulate too many.”

-Carol Haley Farmer, Assistant Curator of Fishes, Tennessee Aquarium

Send an email to the [Outdoor Chattanooga newsletter editor](#) and tell us how you re-use.

## **Pictures from Outdoor Chattanooga's New Home**

We have electrical outlets, fresh paint, and a new loading dock/back porch. The next step for [our new building](#) is to get power run underground. Then the crew can begin putting in the final touches. The next time that you're taking a stroll on the Walnut Street Bridge, look down [into Coolidge Park](#) and watch the progress.

## **Events**

### **✈ Dragon Boat Races Early Registration Deadline Jan. 15**

Attention Chattanooga dragon boaters! Get your team registration sent by Jan. 15 and receive \$100 off the team fee for the [3rd Annual Chattanooga Dragon Boat Festival](#). Presented by General Shale Brick, on Sat., April 18, on Chickamauga Lake. The festival, which will pit corporate and community teams against each other in 41-foot canoes, will benefit the T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital Foundation. In its first two years, the festival has raised over \$150,000. [Downloadable registration forms](#) are on the dragon boat festival Website. For more information email or call [Penny Behling](#) at (865) 742-4306.

### **✈ Cross-a-'Nooga Jan. 24 & 25**

[Scenic City Multisport](#), the [Tennessee Bicycle Racing Association](#), and [Scenic City Velo](#) will host Cross-A-'Nooga #1 and #2 at Camp Jordan on Sat., and Sun., Jan. 24 and 25. The USAC-sanctioned cyclocross events will feature relatively flat terrain with categories for Juniors through Masters for men or women. [Online registration](#) is open until 12:30 a.m., Fri., Jan. 23.

### **✈ Polar Bear Paddle Jan. 24**

The City of Rome, Ga. will host their 3rd annual [Polar Bear Paddle](#) on Sat., Jan. 24, at 10 a.m. in at Dixon Landing in Rome. The three to four-hour downstream float will take participants down the Etowah River through downtown Rome. The event is free and open to all canoeists and kayakers with their own boats and novices are welcome. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Event hats and hot chocolate will be available for purchase, shuttle service will be available for \$5, and canoe and kayak rentals are available by contacting [Alan Crawford](#) at (706) 291-7449. All proceeds go toward the Heritage Riverways Foundation.

### **✈ Chattanooga Quail Unlimited Membership Drives Jan. 24, 31, & Feb. 21**

Chattanooga [Quail Unlimited](#) chapter #850 will hold membership drives at the Sportsman's Warehouse store, 6241 Perimeter Dr., on Saturdays, Jan. 24, 31, and Feb. 21 to reestablish the local chapter. Chattanooga QU will have a membership booth, conduct seminars, give away prizes, and offer wild game

snacks. On Jan. 24 and 31, Brent Blackmon, owner of the [Crow Creek Hunting Preserve](#), will discuss the topics of quail hunting, quail management, and other related topics at 1 and 3 p.m. On each day, Blackmon will give away a 1/2 day two-person, guided hunt. Entries must be present to win. Details for the Feb. 21 event are TBA. For more information, contact QU regional director [Jon. B. Calhoun](#) at (423) 303-0640.

## **Adventures**

### **✓Enterprise South Public Tours Jan. 13 &15**

The [City of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Dept.](#) will offer free van tours of the new Enterprise South Nature Park on Tues. and Thurs., Jan. 13 and 15, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Interested public should pre-register by calling City Parks and Recreation at (423) 643-6079. The tours will include a look at the area being developed for the Volkswagen Plant, history about the Volunteer Ammunitions Plant, and an opportunity to give suggestions and ideas to the Parks and Recreation Department leadership for development of the nature park.

### **Bike Polo Back on Schedule every Wednesday Evening**

Outdoor Chattanooga's weekly pickup bicycle polo games are back on a regular schedule every Wednesday evening, beginning around 5:30 p.m. at the [Ross' Landing Green](#) on the downtown waterfront. Any interested players are welcome. Helmets are required, and lights are strongly recommended. Rainy or muddy conditions cancel. Email or call [Minya James](#) at (423) 643-6888 to learn more.

### **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**

### **✓Rob Gauntlett Dies in Climbing Accident**

[Rob Gauntlett](#), the youngest climber ever to summit Mt. Everest and National Geographic Explorer Adventurer of the Year, [died last Saturday](#) in an ice fall on Mt. Blanc in the French Alps. Gauntlett, 21, and partner James Hooper came through Chattanooga last year, as part of their [180 Degrees: Pole-to-Pole](#) trek. The adventure, which was launched to bring attention to global warming, was done entirely using man, dog, and wind power. Gauntlett and Hooper were met in Chattanooga by Outdoor Chattanooga staff and members of the Velo Vixens Cycling Club.

### **Climbing Gym to Open Jan. 17**

The new [Urban Rocks Climbing Gym](#) has now opened on Amnicola Highway. The "official" grand opening takes place on Sat., Jan. 17. With the [Tennessee Bouldering Authority's](#) indoor gym and the multitude of great climbing rock in the area, Urban Rocks adds to Chattanooga's prestige as a climbing destination in the U.S.

## **Classes and Clinics**

### **Challenge Course Facilitation Workshops at SAU Jan. - Apr.**

[Southern Adventist University's Outdoor Leadership](#) program will offer challenge course facilitation workshops the second Tuesday of each month, Jan. through April. The three-hour workshops, in experiential format, will cover games that get groups started in January, developing debriefing skills in February, high ropes set up and tear down in March\*, and tower climbing and participation in April\*. Cost is \$30. Registration in advance is required as space is limited. To register or get more information, email [Steve Bontekoe](#). \*Some Challenge course experience is preferred for the April and March dates.

### **John C. Campbell Folk School Winter Classes**

The John C. Campbell Folk School, in Brasstown, N.C., offers a full schedule of [outdoor lifestyle classes](#), lasting from a few hours to several days. Subjects include everything from traditional crafts to bamboo fly rod making, hiking with naturalists, birding in Appalachia, wildflower studies, and photography for naturalists. Call the folk school at (800) 365-5724 for more information.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **SORBA's Enterprise South Trail Work Day Jan. 17**

The Chattanooga chapter of the [Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association](#) will host their first official trail work day at the Enterprise South Nature Park on Sat., Jan. 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. SORBA has signed a memorandum of understanding with the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County to construct 10 miles of trail. SORBA will provide tools and lunch. Volunteers should bring work gloves, water, and loppers, if they have them. Visit the [SORBA Chattanooga online calendar](#) for details and directions.

## **Website of the Week**

In honor of Rob Gauntlett, who died in a climbing accident on Mt. Blanc last Saturday, we feature [180 Degrees: Pole-to-Pole](#).

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

[LookOutdoorNews](#) is a new Chattanooga blog that is devoted to, well, everything outdoors in Chattanooga, especially when it comes to climbing walls, jumping stumps, and getting dirty.

## **Coming Up . . .**

### **February**

22 [Southern 6K Trail Race](#)

### **March**

28 [Outdoor Chattanooga Outdoor Expo, Gear Swap & Grand Opening](#)

### **April**

- 4 [Rock/Creek River Gorge Trail Race](#)
- 18 [Chattanooga Dragon Boat Races](#)
- 26 [↗3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scenic City Triathlon](#)

## May

- 2 [3State/3Mountain Challenge](#)
- 9 [Tour de Cure](#)
- 23 [Scenic City Trail Marathon & ½ Marathon](#)

## June

- 6 [National Trails Day](#)
- 13 [Blue Cross Riverbend Walk/Run](#)
- 19-21 [Chattanooga Mountains Stage Race](#)

## July

- 12 [BMW of Chattanooga Waterfront Triathlon](#)

## August

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

## September

- 5 [↗Raisin' Hope Ride](#)
- 26 [TN River Blueway Canoe and Kayak Race](#)

## October

- 3 [Rock/Creek Stump Jump 50K](#)  
[Sequatchie Valley Century](#)
- 10 [Chattanooga Head Race](#)

## November

- 14 [Upchuck 50K Trail Race](#)

## December

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