



News and Events February 10

Oh boy! We're recycling and cleaning like crazy in our old office, anticipating our move to Coolidge Park in a very few weeks. Look for the lightning bolt ⚡ to see something new.

Pictures from Outdoor Chattanooga's New Home

Our cistern should be installed this week and the floors have been stained and sealed. And now you can see through the front doors. [Our new building](#) is ohhhh so close to being finished. We'll be moving in soon, then getting ready for . . .

Outdoor Chattanooga's Outdoor Expo & New Location Grand Opening March 28

Outdoor Chattanooga will host our third annual [Outdoor Expo and Gear Swap](#) AND grand the opening celebration for our new [Outdoor Chattanooga Center](#) on Sat., Mar. 28, 2009, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Coolidge Park. We'll have a full day of activities in the park and in the building. Clubs, camps, outfitters, retailers, conservation organizations, and gear swappers: [register now](#) to get your exhibition spot. 10'X10' spaces are \$25 and all proceeds will go toward Outdoor Chattanooga's free, public programs. Spaces are already filling up. Call or [email Ruth Thompson](#) at (423) 643-6889 to reserve your spot.

New Year's Re-use-alution

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

Here's a question from Rick Loggins at Normal Park:

What do others do (recycle-wise) with their used wax-covered paper cartons? Per the city recycling rules, we cannot deposit the wax-covered paper cartons into the mix-paper dumpster. I'm talking about the half-gallon cartons that are used for juice, soy milk, and the like. What are others doing with these cartons, recycle-wise?

Last week's response:

Our family eats a fair amount of breakfast cereal. We reuse the inner liners as food storage bags. They are surprisingly leak proof, and ideal for leftover meats, especially baked chicken, drippy roasts, or anything with barbeque sauce on it. These work for microwave reheating also. An added advantage: after the leftovers are consumed, you can throw

away the bag virtually guilt free, knowing that you won't be wasting gallons of (hot) water trying to clean a greasy, plastic storage container.

If you have the cereal box liner, you also have the cereal box. Don't forget to snip the "Box Tops for Education" coupon before sending the box to the recycle bin. Lots of schools collect these. No kids or grandchildren? Find an elementary school teacher. Save them in a recycled envelope (hint: credit card solicitation), and periodically give them to someone whose school regularly collects them. These can also be found on many other food products and even toilet paper. Someone will benefit from your efforts, so spend a few seconds clipping and saving.

-Buck, Cleveland, TN

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

Events

"HEAT" at UTC Feb. 12

The [University of Tennessee, Chattanooga Biology and Environmental Science Department](#) invites the public to a free screening of the PBS documentary, "[HEAT](#)" on Thurs., Feb. 12, from 6 to 10 p.m. the University Auditorium in the UTC Student Center Building. The film is an in-depth examination of the causes and solutions for global warming. The evening will include exhibits by local environmental organizations and a panel question and answer session after the movie. For more information, email [Dr. David Aborn](#) or [Frank DePinto](#).

✓ Scuba Gear = Free Popcorn at IMAX Feb. 13

Attention all divers: wear your scuba gear and get a free medium popcorn if you come to see the Chattanooga premiere of "Under the Sea 3D" at the [Tennessee Aquarium IMAX](#) on Fri., Feb. 13. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, \$6.00 for kids. Show times are 11 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m.

✓ Whoooo is your Valentine at CNC Feb. 14

The [Chattanooga Nature Center](#) will host a special Valentine's Day meet 'n greet with their resident screech owl on Sat., Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. Guests will then have the opportunity to make an owl-themed Valentine to give to a special someone. Cost is \$7 adults, \$4 children, plus a \$2 materials fee. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Call 821-1160 ext. 102 to reserve a space.

✓ 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.

✍ **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 go toward non-profit outdoor organizations, specifically [SORBA-Chattanooga](#), [Southeast Climbers' Coalition](#) and [Appalachian Voices \(Voices Against Mountain Top Removal\)](#).

Adventures

✍ **SORBA-Chattanooga Group Mtn. Bike Ride Feb. 14**

The Chattanooga Chapter of the [Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association \(SORBA\)](#) will host a group ride on the Booker T. Washington State Park singletrack trails on Sat., Feb. 14 at 9:30 a.m. The Booker T. Trails are suitable for intermediate skilled mountain bikers. Interested cyclists should meet in the upper parking lot by the pool. The group will complete multiple loops of the 6.5-mile trail system. Participants can ride as few or many loops as they like. Email ride leader [Jeffrey Schaarschmidt](#) for more information.

✍ **Up, Around, and Down Group Mtn. Bike Rides Sundays**

On the last Sunday of each month, the [Chattanooga Chapter of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association \(SORBA\)](#) will host an "Up, Around and Down Ride" on Raccoon Mountain, at 9:30 a.m. These rides will go from 16 to 25 miles and are designed for experienced mountain bikers only. For details, visit [SORBA's online forum](#) or [email vice president Erik Rippon](#). Rides are cancelled for rain or muddy conditions.

✍ **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](#).

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 5:00 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

✎ 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.

Economic Recession and the Outdoors

According to a [post by Ontario canoeist Kevin Callan on paddling.net](#), low-cost outdoor recreation like camping and hiking actually increases during hard economic times as people look for low-cost ways to spend their leisure time. The [Outdoor Industry Association](#) reports that even though overall outdoor retail sales were down 1% in 2008, the outdoor industry generally remained very strong. Online retail sales went up 18%. Camping gear and specialty items like water bottles, trail running shoes, and women's-specific sports apparel also saw significant increases.

Rock/Creek Wins Online Retailer Award

Chattanooga outdoor retailer [Rock/Creek](#) won the 2009 Online Retailer of the Year award from [SNEWS](#) and [Backpacker Magazine](#) at an awards ceremony on Jan. 22 at the Outdoor Retailer Winter Market. The awards, which also included categories for Sustainable Business, Community, Youth Involvement, Growth of Outdoor Sports, Conservation, and Best Overall Retailer. Award winners were

chosen from customer-generated nominations. Congrats, guys!

Bike Valet on Steroids at Inauguration

President Obama's inauguration attracted thousands of cyclists, many of whom found it easier to get to the ceremony than those taking motorized or public transportation. The [Washington Area Bicyclists Association](#) provided free valet service on two sides of the National Mall, as well as a plethora of information about routes, bike safety, and suggested rides to stay warm on that very cold day. Great job!

Classes, Clinics & Meetings

Street Smarts Feb. 14

Be sweet to your Valentine. Give him/her some Street Smarts. [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.

✓Tennessee Ornithological Society Feb. 12

David Stone will present information on the Rusty Blackbird at the [Tennessee Ornithological Society's](#) monthly meeting, on Thurs., Feb. 12, at 7 p.m., at Ascension Lutheran Church, 720 South Germantown Rd., Chattanooga. The public is welcome. To learn more about TOS, [email Cathy Lockwitz](#).

✓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.

Climbing Classes to Beat the Winter Blues

Both of Chattanooga's climbing gyms are offering classes for kids and adults in everything from belaying technique to core fitness this winter. The [Tennessee Bouldering Authority](#) offers classes in core fitness, beginner and intermediate climbing for adults, and climbing for juniors (ages 6-12) and youth (ages 13-17). The [Urban Rocks Gym](#) teaches belaying technique, introduction to climbing, an advanced classes in climbing, indoor lead, and self-rescue. Group climbing instruction can also be found through [The Adventure Guild](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

Work Day at Pot Point Cabin Feb. 18

The [Tennessee River Gorge Trust](#) will host a volunteer work day at Pot Point Cabin on Wed., Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers will help clear invasive plant species and other general tasks. Bring work gloves and lunch. TRGT will provide drinks and desserts. Phone or [email Sarah Quattrochi](#) at (423) 266-0314, ext. 3 for more information.

Website of the Week

[Eleven-year-old Jordan Romero](#) hopes to be the youngest person ever to successfully climb the seven summits, the highest peaks on seven continents. Thus far, Romero has reached the peaks of all but Carstenz Pyramid in Indonesia, Mt. Vinson Massif on Antarctica, Mt. Everest.

Last Week's WebSite:

The communities of Soddy and Daisy are so fired up about their proposed new rail trail that they've launched a Website: [Soddy-Daisy Rails-to-Trails](#).

Coming Up . . .

February

28 [Scenic City ½ Marathon, 5K & Charity Challenge](#)

March

6 [Bike2Work Begins](#)

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

April

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](#)
- 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](#)