

Tennessee State Natural Areas

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2012 EVENTS

www.tn.gov/environment/na/

Events are as accurate as possible but are subject to change. Please call to verify.



Natural areas represent some of Tennessee's best examples of intact ecosystems and serve as reference areas for how natural ecological processes function.



Tennessee is fortunate to have more than 80 natural areas across the state. Guided hikes and tours of these ecologically significant areas are offered throughout the year and are sponsored by the Division of Resource Management and regional conservation groups.

Please Note: For most events space is limited and reservations are required. Trips may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Leave your phone number and/or email address with the hike leader so they can reach you if plans change. If you have reserved a spot on a hike but are unable to attend, please let the hike leader know, so someone on the waiting list may take your place. Events are as accurate as possible but are subject to change. For more information about a specific Natural Area, including descriptions, directions and maps visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas.

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| Jan. 21 | Winter Hike at Taylor Hollow State Natural Area |
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| July 21 | Water Garden Pontoon Tour |
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| Oct. 19 | Hill Forest Natural Area Hike |
| Oct. 20 | Hike to the Walls of Jericho |
| Oct. 27 & 28 | White Pelican Canoe Float |
| Nov. 7 | Early Fall Hike to Snow Falls and the Buzzard Point |
| Nov. 17 | Reelfoot "Love the Lake" Lakeshore Clean-Up |
| Nov. 17 & 18 | Deep Swamp Tromp |
| Dec. 8 | Pogue Creek Wilderness Holiday Hike |

Jan. 14 Day Hike at Virgin Falls SNA

Journey through the scenic beauty of one of Tennessee's best-loved hiking trails at Virgin Falls State Natural Area. We will take the strenuous 8-mile trail to the falls. This trail descends off of the Plateau, and meanders along a creek passing caves, sinks, and waterfalls. We will have lunch at the falls, which is remarkable due to the water pouring out of a cave mouth at the top of a bluff then falling over a hundred feet before being swallowed up by a sinkhole at the bottom. The trail then backtracks up and out of the gulf to the parking area. We will not go if it is raining or it is predicted to rain. Consult a weather report before the trip. Dress warmly in layers, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch. As with any strenuous backcountry hiking trip, please do not attempt this hike unless you are in good condition and able to negotiate difficult trail situations. Reservations required: RSVP by January 11 to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431, or Forrest.Evans@tn.gov. The first 10 reservations can take advantage of van transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program.

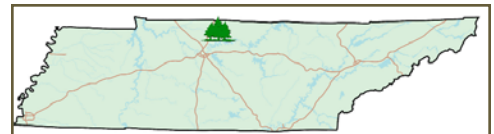


Virgin Falls SNA

Meet at 7:30 a.m. CT the Nashville Kroger store parking lot at 5544 Old Hickory Blvd, Hermitage near Summit Medical Center east of downtown Nashville.

Jan. 21 Winter Hike at Taylor Hollow SNA

Join Roger McCoy for a guided hike at Taylor Hollow State Natural Area. Winter provides an opportunity to observe the dissected landscape of the Eastern Highland Rim and even in the coldest months, Taylor Hollow does not disappoint its visitors. Winter also allows us to hike off trail without fear of trampling the hollow's sensitive vegetation. We will follow the established trail into the stream bottoms and then hike off trail up moderately steep slopes and finally descend back to the point of entry. Our walk should last approximately two to three hours. While afield, we'll discuss some basic winter shrub and tree identification, forest ecology including the influence of slope aspect and forest succession, observe some large trees, over-wintering basal rosettes of wildflowers, interesting fossils, and possibly ice formations from Taylor Hollow's small waterfall. The hike is moderate to difficult, but those accustomed to hiking should have no problems. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Reservations are required; contact Roger at roger.mccoy@tn.gov or 615-532-0437.

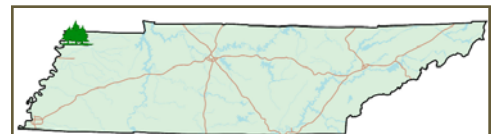


Taylor Hollow SNA

Meet in front of 671 Phillips Hollow Road, Westmoreland, in northeast Sumner County at 10 a.m. CT. (<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=671+Phillips+Hollow+Rd,+Westmoreland,+TN+37186,+USA&sa=X&oi=map&ct=title>).

Jan. 21 Reelfoot Lake Hike & Tour

Join Robin Wooten, Tennessee Natural Areas Program & David Haggard, West Tennessee Regional Interpreter for a day of adventure at Reelfoot Lake State Park & Natural Area in northwest Tennessee. Tour includes observing eagles and waterfowl, a hike into the cypress forest, and a stop on the Earthquake dome to learn about the New Madrid Earthquakes. Visit the Battle of Island #10 civil war site including the mass burial, native American mounds, and the overlook on the Chickasaw Bluffs. Meet at the visitor center. Tour is from 1- 5 p.m. CT. Cost is \$10 per person to cover shuttle transportation. Reservations required: call Reelfoot Lake Visitor Center at 731-235-9652. For more information email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov or David.Haggard@tn.gov.



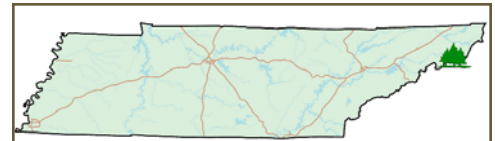
Reelfoot Lake SNA

2595 State Route 21E, Tiptonville
Reservations required: call Reelfoot Lake Visitor Center at 731-235-9652. For more information email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov or David.Haggard@tn.gov.

Feb. 11 Roan Mountain Invasive Exotic Species

An Update on Volunteer Opportunities

Attend the Winter Naturalists Rally at Roan Mountain State Park and enjoy a program that will include speakers on the historical landscape of the Roan, the current forest, and opportunities to volunteer for stewardship. Volunteers are needed to sign up for a garlic mustard (pull time to be decided) on the Roan and in the state park this spring. We'll be signing folks up at this Winter Naturalist's Rally, so be sure to come, sign up, and also enjoy all the other great presentations! Reservations required: Contact David Hall, 423 772-3500, dhall@friendsofroanmtn.org.



Roan Mountain State Park
1015 Hwy 143
Roan Mountain , TN 37687

Feb. 18 Hill Forest SNA Hike

Come enjoy a winter afternoon hike through the Hill Forest Designated State Natural Area. This 2.5 mile hike will give you a view of big trees in winter and an appreciation for the rolling hills, ridges and hollows which outlines the natural areas topography. The hike will take approximately 3 hours. Bring water, wear sturdy walking gear, and dress for the weather. We will meet at 9 a.m. CT. Brian Bowen, Tennessee Natural Areas Program, Julia Landstreet, Friends of Warner Parks are the hike leaders. Sponsors: TN Resource Management Division, Friends of Warner Parks, & Warner Parks. Reservations required: call Warner Park Nature Center at 615-352-6299 or email wpnc@nashville.gov. Meeting location information will be provided at this time.



Hill Forest SNA

Hill Forest is located approximately ten miles west of downtown Nashville and approximately one mile west of the US Hwy 70/US Hwy 100 split off of Hwy 70. The natural area is between Hwy 70 and Hwy 100 across from Edwin Warner Park.

Feb. 25 Short Springs SNA Exotic Adventure

Join our State Parks Natural Areas staff for a morning of volunteer stewardship (9 a.m. - noon CT) at Short Springs State Natural Area near Tullahoma. We need your help to remove invasive exotic plants near the trailhead of the natural area! Eradication of privet, bush honeysuckle, and English ivy will help to prevent it from entering the pristine natural area that supports two state-listed endangered plant species: Nestronia (Nestronia umbellula) and broad-leaved bunchflower (Melanthium latifolium). After the plant pull, participants will have the opportunity to hike down to the popular Machine Falls. Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and bring your favorite work gloves for this invigorating Saturday morning of volunteering. Thank you for your support! Leader: Robin Wooten, Tennessee Natural Areas Program Reservations are required; contact Robin at 615-532-4799 or Robin.Wooten@tn.gov.

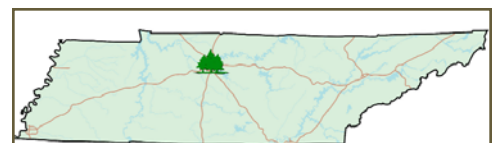


Short Springs SNA

Short Springs is a 420-acre natural area located in Coffee County approximately three and a half miles northeast of Tullahoma.

Feb. 26 Radnor Lake Waterfowl Identification

Join our State Parks Natural Areas staff & Radnor Lake staff for an informal viewing of overwintering waterfowl at Radnor Lake, Tennessee's first natural area from 1 - 4 p.m. CT. Radnor Lake is a popular spot for migratory waterfowl and a variety of other wildlife. Through spotting scopes visitors will possibly see Bufflehead, Canvasbacks, Lesser Scaup, American Coots, and other waterfowl. Radnor Lake staff also hosts ongoing viewing opportunities during the winter months, for more information about those programs, please contact the park office at 615-373-3467.



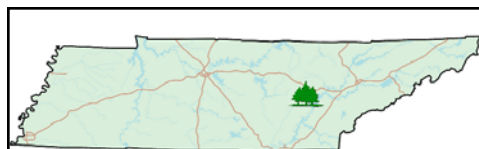
Radnor Lake SNA

Meet at the Otter Creek Road Causeway. For more information email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov.

March

March 3 Ozone Falls Stewardship Day

Please join Robin Wooten, Tennessee Natural Areas Program & Nancy Schelin, Volunteer Coordinator, Tennessee State Parks for an opportunity of environmental stewardship at one of Tennessee's most popular State Natural Areas. Ozone Falls State Natural Area is just 10 miles east of Crossville and possesses the beautiful 110 foot Ozone Falls. We will be working near the trailhead and along the trail to remove the invasive plants and trash. Please join us Saturday morning as we battle these exotic pest plants to make room for our native wildflowers and other vegetation. Please wear sturdy shoes, long pants, warm clothes, and bring your favorite work gloves. Snacks will be provided. Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. - noon C.T. Thank you for your support of Tennessee State Natural Areas! Reservations are required; contact Robin at 615-532-4799 or Robin.Wooten@tn.gov.

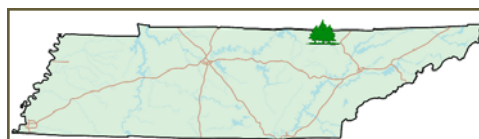


Ozone Falls SNA

Take I-40 and exit at the Crab Orchard exit. Turn left off the exit ramp and go to the intersection of U.S. Highway 70. From Knoxville go west on I-40 and exist at Crab Orchard. From Crab Orchard exit, turn right on U.S. Highway 70 going east. The highway takes you straight to Ozone Falls, which is on the right about four miles from the interstate exit.

March 10 The Rowdy, Rugged Rugbians Spiraea Pull

The Rowdy, Rugged Rugbians continue their battle to save the Rugby State Natural Area from a dreaded Japanese spiraea invasion. Much progress has been made at this location in the Cox Branch drainage in the last three years, but this will be our first spring pulling. Why? Because we're thinking it will be much better to pull the plants before they even have ANY chance of setting seed in the fall. Plus, the spiraea is an early leaf setter, so we'll be able to see it very well, since nothing much else will be leafed out in the shrub layer in late March (except Japanese honeysuckle shrubs and if we spy those, we'll pull them, too)!!! Bring your gloves, wear layers and we'll work a few hours in the morning. We always have fun. Just ask any of the Rowdy, Rugged Rugbians! For more information email Lisa Huff at lisa.huff@tn.gov.

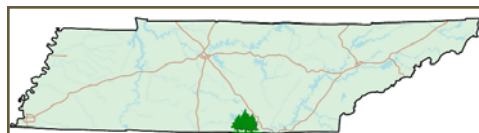


Rugby SNA

We'll meet at the Harrow Road Café for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. ET and then head into the natural area at Cox Branch at 9:30 to continue pulling Japanese spiraea in this area.

March 10 Early Spring Hike at Walls of Jericho SNA

Journey through the springtime beauty at the Walls of Jericho State Natural Area in Franklin County. This strenuous 8-mile hike descends 600 feet into the "Walls" and continues along the creek to an amazing canyon of sheer rock bluffs, caves, and waterfalls. Dress appropriately for the weather, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch. This hike is strenuous and participants should be in good physical condition. The trip will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Leader: Forrest Evans, Tennessee Natural Areas Program. Reservations required: RSVP by March 9 to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431, or Forrest.Evans@tn.gov. The first 10 reservations can take advantage of transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program.



Walls of Jericho SNA

Meet at the Nashville Target store parking lot off of Bell Road near Hickory Hollow at 7:30 a.m. CT.



March 10 Deep Swamp Canoe Trip at Reelfoot Lake

Join our experienced naturalists for a half-day canoe float through seldom explored areas of Reelfoot Lake. Observe old growth cypress forest, a heron rookery and an Eagle nest as we leisurely paddle through the cypress swamp. Large fish swimming, ducks taking flight, and an occasional snake making an appearance add excitement to the trip. A variety of bird life such as songbirds, ducks, herons, owls, or an eagle are likely to be seen. Cost is \$20.00 per boat if park canoe is used. Private canoes are no charge. We suggest you bring snacks, drinks, a change of clothes, camera and binoculars in a waterproof, floatable container. Trip is approximately 3 hours and begins at 1 p.m. CT. This is one of the most unique adventures offered in West Tennessee! Leaders: Robin Wooten, Tennessee Natural Areas Program & David Haggard, West Tennessee Regional Interpreter, Tennessee State Parks. Reservations required: call Reelfoot Lake Visitor Center at 731-235-9652. For more information email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov or David.Haggard@tn.gov.



Reelfoot Lake SNA

Reservations may be made by calling the Reelfoot Lake Visitor Center at 731-253-9652.

March 11 West Tennessee Woodland Hike at Meeman-Shelby

Join Robin Wooten, Tennessee Natural Areas Program & Samantha Cox, Park Interpretive Specialist, Meeman-Shelby State Park for an afternoon of hiking on the 3 mile Woodland Trail. The hike is moderate to strenuous and goes up and down a number of rolling hills through a bottomland forest. Participants will learn about the colorful local history and see some champion trees which grow well due to the extremely fertile soil near the Mississippi River. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. A camera, snacks and water, and walking stick are recommended. Some areas of the trail are tricky to negotiate! The hike will last approximately 3 hours. Reservations are required; contact Robin at 615-532-4799 or Robin.Wooten@tn.gov.

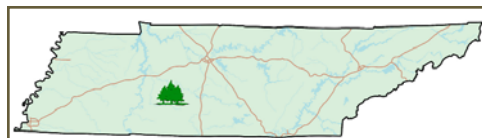


Meeman-Shelby SNA

Meet at 1 p.m. CT at the Meeman-Shelby State Park office and we will carpool to the trailhead. Reservations are required; contact Robin at 615-532-4799 or Robin.Wooten@tn.gov.

March 17 Early Spring Hike at Devil's Backbone SNA

This spring hike will follow the 3 mile moderately strenuous (most will find it easy) loop trail through the natural area. The trail runs along a high ridge featuring dry, oak-hickory forest and traverses down slope to a moist soil hardwood forest indicative of the Western Highland Rim region of Tennessee. Consult the weather forecast; the hike will be cancelled in case of bad weather. The trip leader will interpret the ecology of the natural area. Leader: Allan J. Trently, Tennessee Resource Management Division, Natural Areas Program. Reservations required: RSVP by March 15th to Allan J. Trently, 731-512-1369 or allan.trently@tn.gov. If you need to call me on March 17th, call my cell at 731-234-4887 (coverage at Devil's Backbone is not reliable).



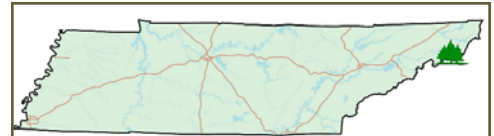
Devils Backbone SNA

Meet at 10 a.m. CT, at the Devil's Backbone parking lot off the Natchez Trace Parkway near mile marker 394, approximately three miles north of Highway 412 (see map at http://state.tn.us/environment/na/nat_areas/devils/devils.pdf).



March 31 **Garlic Mustard Pull at Roan Mountain**

Calling all volunteers! Now is the time for all lovers of “The Roan” to pitch in to help battle the terrible invaders on her doorstep: Tree-of-heaven, garlic mustard, the dreaded Japanese knotweed. Kill them! Kill them all! Oh, how I wish we could, but for this event, we’re going to concentrate on pulling garlic mustard along the Highway 143 roadside and inside the state park. Pulling garlic mustard is very easy. Volunteers will only need to bring their personal gear (good footwear, layered clothes, water, lunch, hat, gloves, etc.). Bags for disposing of the garlic mustard will be provided. If we pull the mustard for about 5 years, we should be able to get rid of it and then just monitor and pull the few stragglers that will pop up after that. It’s amazing how much you can get done in just a short while with just a few dedicated pullers! Leader: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Natural Areas Program, lisa.huff@tn.gov.



Roan Mountain

Meet at the Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center at 9 a.m. ET. Leader: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Natural Areas Program, lisa.huff@tn.gov.

April

April 9 - 15 Tennessee State Natural Areas Week (TBA)

April 21 Earth Day Events (TBA)

May

May 19 **Crawdad Hootenanny & Hike at Dunbar Cave**

Don your boots and join intrepid biologists Wooten & Withers for an aquatic excursion to a natural area best known for its historic cave. Dunbar Cave SNA is home to some of our most clever crayfish—the mudbugs, or burrowers. Bring boots you don’t mind getting wet and gloves you don’t mind getting dirty. If the raccoons don’t beat us to it, we will learn how to coax crayfish out of active burrows (“noodling”) and identify them to species. We will meet at the main office at 10 a.m. CT and hike to the margins of Dunbar Lake where we will begin our hike. We will follow the loop trail looking for fresh crayfish chimneys and their occupants. Leaders: David Withers, Natural Heritage Program Zoologist and Robin Wooten, Natural Areas Program Manager This trip is limited to 15 guests. Don’t forget to contact David to make your reservation and leave a phone number or E-mail to contact you in case we have to cancel the hootenanny on account of inclement weather.



Dunbar Cave SNA

Meet at 10 a.m. CT at the Dunbar Cave office. Reservations are required. RSVP to David Withers by May 14, 2012 at 615-532-0441 or david.withers@tn.gov. This trip is limited to 15 guests.

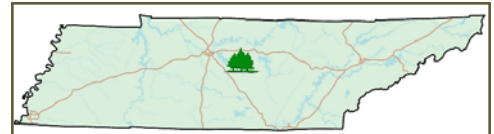
June

June 2 National Trails Day (events TBA)



June 2 Tennessee Coneflower Natural Areas Tour

Our tour will provide an opportunity to experience Middle Tennessee cedar glades and barrens visiting numerous nearby locations for Tennessee coneflower. It will be peak flowering time for Tennessee coneflower, and an opportunity to celebrate the success of its recovery. It was September 2, 2011, when it was removed off of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) because it is now a healthy thriving species with all of the extant populations protected in Tennessee state natural areas. Come enjoy seeing a rare species that was once on the brink of extinction, but today can be seen in the unique habitat of many of our Middle Tennessee state natural areas, including Couchville, Mt. View and Vesta Cedar Glades and Barrens. The event will include moderate non-strenuous hiking. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. We will return to the Target parking lot by 2:30.

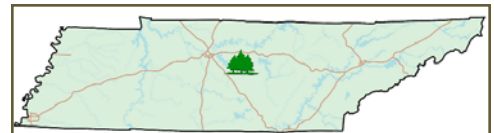


Cedar Glades

Meet at 9 a.m. CT at the parking lot of Target on Bell Road (Hickory Hollow Mall area). Reservations required: RSVP by June 1st to Brian Bowen, 615-532-0436 or Brian.Bowen@tn.gov. Transportation will be provided but space is limited.

June 2 Tennessee Coneflower Tour Part Deux (Botanical)

Our group will take a botanical tour of several cedar glades in Middle Tennessee to see rare plants which are found in glades and barrens. The Tennessee Coneflower is one of these rare plants and it has been removed from the Endangered Species list. It is now thriving at Vesta Cedar Glade SNA and Couchville Cedar Glade SNA. These two natural areas will be the focus of our tour but other sites will be an option. Our tour is timed for the peak of flowering so plenty of flowers will be seen. We will see numerous other rare species in the glades and discuss why they occur in this special habitat. Spring will be turning to summer and we will catch some plants from both seasons in flower. The hiking will not be strenuous but on a sunny day the heat can be an issue in cedar glades. Plan accordingly to avoid overheating or sunburn. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. We plan to complete the tour by 2:00 pm. Leaders: Todd Crabtree, State Botanist and Robin Wooten, Tennessee Natural Areas Program, Resource Management Division. Reservations are required. RSVP by June 1st to Todd Crabtree, 615-532-1378 or Todd.Crabtree@tn.gov.



Cedar Glades

Meet at 10 a.m. CT at Cedars of Lebanon State Park in the parking lot adjacent to the Nature Center. Reservations are required. RSVP by June 1st to Todd Crabtree, 615-532-1378 or Todd.Crabtree@tn.gov.

June 16 Laurel-Snow SNA Wildflower & Waterfall Hike

Join our Natural Areas Staff for a day of hiking at this beautiful and remote natural area on the Cumberland Plateau which includes a portion of the Cumberland State Scenic Trail. We will be looking for late spring/early summer wildflowers and observing all plants and wildlife along the way as we hike to Laurel Falls. Depending on rain-fall the falls may be already low for the season but the view will be worth the hike up! The very interesting cultural history of the region will be discussed and participants will see remnants of mining activity. The route is moderate to strenuous. Wear sturdy shoes and hiking clothes, and bring plenty of water, lunch and snacks. Roundtrip hike is approximately 5 miles and 5 hours.



Laurel Snow SNA

Meet at 9 a.m. ET at the Laurel Snow SNA. Laurel-Snow is located north of Dayton and is accessible via Highway 27/29. Reservations are required; contact Robin at 615-532-4799 or Robin.Wooten@tn.gov.



June 23 Reelfoot Lake SNA annual Butterfly Count

Please join Allan Trently, Stewardship Ecologist, Natural Areas Program and Bart Jones, Butterfly Expert Extraordinaire for the Reelfoot Lake Butterfly Count. Butterfly species and numbers will be counted and the data will be sent to the North American Butterfly Association. These counts allow amateurs and professionals alike to participate in the appreciation and conservation of butterflies. The count leader is Bart Jones of Memphis. The first part of the count will take place around the Park's visitor center where we typically see the rare Tennessee butterfly, the Broad-winged Skipper. From there we will count butterflies in and around the lake. In 2011 the very rare Bronze Copper butterfly was located. You are not expected to identify and count the butterflies but merely participate in learning about these insects and some of the plants that they use. The count typically ends around 5 p.m. but you may leave earlier if needed. Since we will be out in the sun for most of the day bring sun block and plenty of water. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a snack and binoculars if you have them, and dress appropriately for the weather. We will not go in the event of inclement weather.



Reelfoot Lake SNA

Meet at 9:30 a.m. CT at the Reelfoot Lake State Park visitor's center at 2595 State Route 21E, Tiptonville, TN 38079 (visitor center 731-253-9652). Reservations are required: Contact Allan Trently at 731-512-1369 or at allan.trently@tn.gov no later than June 21st. If you need to call me on June 23rd call my cell at 731-234-4887.

July

July 21 Streams and Waterfalls of the Highland Rim and Cumberland Plateau

Get your feet wet in diverse streams and spectacular waterfalls from two different physiographic provinces of Tennessee. During this all-day trip we will compare and contrast the ecology and geology of streams that cascade over Tennessee's Highland Rim with those that meander on top of and drop over the side of the Cumberland Plateau. We will travel from Nashville along the I-40 corridor to a waterfall in the Caney Fork watershed on the Highland Rim. From there we will continue working our way up the Cumberland Plateau with stops at Ozone Falls in the Fall Creek system and Piney Falls in the Little Piney and Soak Creek systems. Bring lunch, a camera, sturdy shoes, and common sense as the trails surrounding these streams can be steep and slippery. In safe locations, wading will be encouraged if weather and time permit.



Highland Rim & Cumberland Plateau

Meet at 8 a.m. CT at the Donelson Pike K-Mart parking area (just north of the Donelson Pike-I-40 Exit 216) in Nashville. Reservations are required. RSVP by July 18 to Silas Mathes, 615-532-0431 or silas.mathes@tn.gov. The first 10 reservations can take advantage of transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program..

July 21 Water Garden Tour at Reelfoot Lake

Join Robin Wooten, Tennessee Natural Areas Program & David Haggard, West Tennessee Regional Interpreter, Tennessee State Parks for a day of floating nature study at Reelfoot Lake State Park & Natural Area in northwest Tennessee. We are offering a pontoon tour where we will glide slowly through the multitude of blooming water plants for close study and photographic opportunities. Meet at the State Park Visitor Center. Tour is from 8 a.m. until noon CT. Cost for the pontoon ride is \$9 for adults, \$6 for children, and 5 and under are free. Wear sunscreen and a hat and bring water and snacks. The tour will last approximately 4 hours. Reservations are required: call Reelfoot Lake Visitor Center at 731-235-9652.



Reelfoot Lake SNA

Meet at 8 a.m. CT at the Reelfoot Lake State Park visitor center. Tour is from 8 a.m. until noon. Cost for the pontoon ride is \$9 for adults, \$6 for children, and 5 and under are free. Reservations are required: call Reelfoot Lake Visitor Center at 731-235-9652. For more information email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov or David.Haggard@tn.gov.

July 28

Canoe Float on the Duck River State Scenic River

Come join us as we enjoy the cool waters of the Duck River on a warm summer day. We will be on a very flat and easy stretch of river from Leftwich Bridge to the TWRA take out at Howard Bridge. This stretch of the river has a gentle current, no rapids, and will take about 4 hours to float. This is an excellent opportunity for beginners to canoe. Participants are welcome to bring their own canoe or kayak, but will have to provide their own transportation if they do. Transportation from put-in to take-out can be arranged. Canoes can be rented at a special discount of \$12.50 per person or \$25 per canoe through a local canoe vendor. Our put-in point is about a 45-minute drive south of Nashville on I-65. Bring lunch and water and perhaps a change of clothes.



Duck River

Meet at 9 a.m. CT at the Target parking area at Old Hickory Blvd. and I-65 in Brentwood. Reservations are required. RSVP by July 26 to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431 or forrest.evans@tn.gov
The first 10 reservations can take advantage of transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program..

August

Aug. 11 Oak Ridge Barrens Nature Study

Join Robin Wooten, Tennessee Natural Areas Program & April Welch, East Tennessee Regional Interpreter, for a morning of close nature study of the plants of barrens and glades. What is the difference between these two habitat types and what unique plants grow there? Oak Ridge Barrens natural area is 15 acres and is owned and cared for by the city of Oak Ridge. Oak Ridge Cedar Barren State Natural Area is next to Jefferson Middle School Fairbanks Road in Oak Ridge. Parking is limited so park in adjacent parking lot and walk over to the trailhead. Program will last approximately 2 hours. Reservations are required; contact Robin at 615-532-4799 or Robin.Wooten@tn.gov.

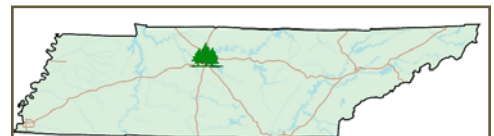


Oak Ridge Barrens

Meet at 9 a.m. ET at the Oak Ridge Barrens Registered State Natural Area. Reservations are required; contact Robin at 615-532-4799 or Robin.Wooten@tn.gov.

Aug. 25 Couchville Glade Sunset Stroll

Join Robin Wooten, Tennessee Natural Areas Program & Jason Allen, Naturalist, Friends of Long Hunter State Park for a very special sunset walk through this beautiful cedar glade natural area. Participants will be able to view a variety of flowering plants including Tennessee Coneflower before the sun sets. We should be able to see and possibly hear nightjars, swallows and bats. Meet at the parking lot for Couchville Glade. The stroll will be easy and last approximately two hours. Be sure to bring your camera!



Couchville Cedar Glade

Meet at 6 p.m. CT at the parking lot for Couchville Glade. Reservations are required; contact Robin at 615-532-4799 or Robin.Wooten@tn.gov.



Sept. 1 Cedar Barren Ecology Hike at Carroll Cabin

Join Allan Trently, Stewardship Ecologist, Natural Areas Program on a 2.5 mile hike exploring some of the treeless barrens of the area. Some of the hike will be off-trail. The hike is to be considered moderate though some may find it strenuous. Alan will discuss the ecology and management of the barrens and will identify animals and plants during the hike. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water and a snack, bring binoculars if you have them, and dress appropriately for the weather. We will not go in the event of inclement weather. Reservations are required. Contact Allan Trently at 731-512-1369 or at allan.trently@tn.gov no later than August 30. If you need to call me on September 1st call my cell at 731-234-4887 (coverage at Carroll Cabins is not reliable).

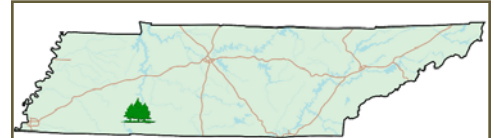
Sept. 22 Tree Identification Hike at Short Springs SNA

Possessing the ability to identify dominant tree species adds to our understanding and appreciation of forested ecosystems. Enjoy the first day of autumn by walking the natural area's trails and learning about Tennessee's diverse forest communities. During the three - four hours afield, participants will not only encounter a number of tree species, but will discover some leaf, twig and bark characteristics essential for woody plant identification. We'll also discuss how topographic and other environmental variables influence forest species composition. Attendees should bring water and snacks. Although not essential, a field guide to trees, small hand lens, and a notepad would be useful for this outing. Reservations are required. RSVP to Roger McCoy at roger.mccoy@tn.gov or 615-532-0437.

Sept. 22 Guided Ghost River Canoe Trip

Participants are to meet at the Bateman Bridge takeout in Moscow at 9.30 a.m. CT where most vehicles will be left. There will be a shuttle to take people to the launch point at Yager Rd in La Grange where the paddling trip should commence at 10 a.m. The trip will focus on the history, diversity and beauty of the natural area. The float is about 9 miles and has some fast sections so some paddling experience is recommended. Participants should bring lunch and water to drink. Sunscreen, bug spray and carpooling are recommended. The canoe trip will last approximately 6-7 hours. More detailed information will be provided upon reservations.

Sept. 29 National Public Lands Day (Events TBA)



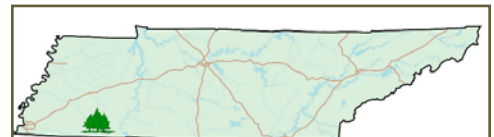
Carroll Cabin Barrens

Meet at the natural area parking lot at 9:30 a.m. CT. A map to the site can be found at: www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/carrollcabin/carrollcabin.pdf. Reservations are required. Contact Allan Trently at 731-512-1369 or at allan.trently@tn.gov no later than August 30. If you need to call me on September 1st call my cell at 731-234-4887 (coverage at Carroll Cabins is not reliable).



Short Springs SNA

Meet at the natural area parking lot at 10 a.m. CT. Reservations are required. RSVP to Roger McCoy at roger.mccoy@tn.gov or 615-532-0437. Map and directions are posted at www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/shortspr/.



Ghost River SNA

Meet at the Bateman Bridge takeout in Moscow at 9:30 a.m. CT where most vehicles will be left. There will be a shuttle to take people to the launch point at Yager Rd in LaGrange where the paddling trip should commence at 10 a.m. Reservations are required. RSVP to 731-253-9652. For more information please email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov or David.Haggard@tn.gov.



Oct. 19 Hill Forest Natural Area Hike

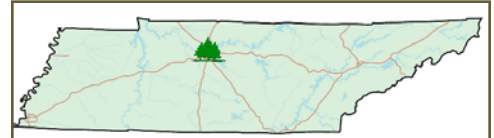
Join Brian Bowen, Tennessee Natural Areas Program and Julia Landstreet, Friends of Warner Park for an October afternoon hike through the Hill Forest Designated State Natural Area. This 2.5 mile hike is your opportunity to experience the natural area's biggest and oldest forest trees while enjoying the fall color. The hike will take approximately 3 hours. Bring water, wear sturdy walking gear, and dress for the weather.

Oct. 20 Hike to the Walls of Jericho SNA

This is a joint field trip with the Tennessee Native Plant Society. We will stop to appreciate plants along the way. Catch the fall colors at the Walls of Jericho State Natural Area in Franklin County. This strenuous 8-mile hike descends 900 feet into the "Walls" and continues along the creek to an amazing canyon of sheer rock bluffs, caves, and waterfalls. Dress appropriately for the weather, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch. This hike is strenuous and participants should be in good physical condition. The trip will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Reservations required: RSVP by October 19 to Todd Crabtree, 615-532-1378, or Todd.Crabtree@tn.gov. The first 10 reservations can take advantage of transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program.

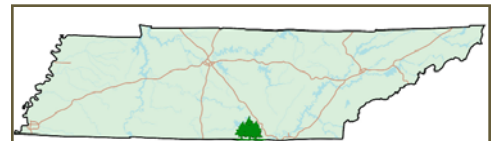
Oct. 27 & 28 White Pelican Canoe Floats at Reelfoot Lake

Canoe floats are offered at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27 and at 9 a.m. on Sunday Oct. 28. This Reelfoot trip will focus on the Fall color and the White Pelican Migration. Participants will paddle out to see hundreds of white pelicans who rest on Reelfoot Lake as they make their annual journey south for the winter. This canoe trip is on flat water, but some upper body strength is required as the trip will last approximately 3 hours. Participants are encouraged to bring a snack and water to drink. Sunscreen and bug spray are recommended. Canoes, life jackets and paddles will be provided. Visitors are also welcome to bring their own canoes/kayaks. Meet at the Reelfoot Lake State Park visitor center at 1 p.m. CT. Reservations are required. Reservations may be made by calling 731-253-9652. For more information please email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov or David.Haggard@tn.gov.



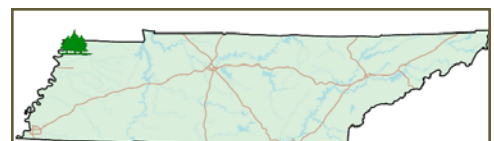
Hill Forest

Meet at the Hill Forest SNA at 2 p.m. CT. Reservations are required. RSVP to Warner Park Nature Center at 615-352-6299 or email wpnc@nashville.gov.



Walls of Jericho SNA

Meet at the Nashville Target store parking lot off of Bell Road near Hickory Hollow at 7 a.m. CT. Reservations required: RSVP by October 19 to Todd Crabtree, 615-532-1378, or Todd.Crabtree@tn.gov. The first 10 reservations can take advantage of transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program.



Reelfoot Lake SNA

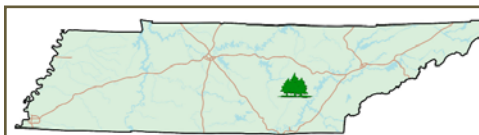
Canoe floats are offered at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27 and at 9 a.m. on Sunday Oct. 28. Meet at the Reelfoot Lake State Park visitor center. 1 p.m. CT. Reservations required: Reservations may be made by calling 731-253-9652. For more information please email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov or David.Haggard@tn.gov.



November

Nov. 7 Early Fall Hike to Snow Falls and the Buzzard Point

Join us for a mid-week hike to Snow Falls and the Buzzard Point where we can see great views of the Ridge and Valley to the east toward Chattanooga. If the leaves are late, the colors can be great! Morgan, Henderson, Laurel and Richland Creeks never fail to please visitors with their beautiful chutes, pools and huge rocks. Bring layered clothing and footwear appropriate for November weather along with snacks and water. The hike is considered moderate with some significant up-hill climbing. Total distance roundtrip is about 5 or 6 miles. Meet at 8:30 a.m. ET at the Laurel Snow State Natural Area. For more information contact Lisa.Huff@tn.gov.

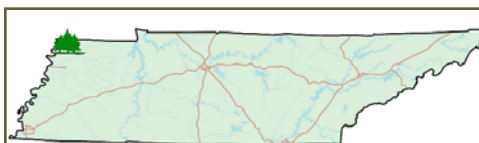


Laurel Snow SNA

Meet at 8:30 a.m. ET at the Laurel Snow State Natural Area. For more information contact Lisa.Huff@tn.gov.

Nov. 17 Reelfoot "Love the Lake" Lakeshore Clean-Up

Please help us Love the Lake! Meet at the state park visitor center for a morning of lakeshore clean up by canoe. Bring a pair of work gloves if you have them. Boats, life jackets, canoes and paddles will be provided for this special opportunity to get close to the unique lake shore. Participants will paddle in the shallow water between cypress knees to remove unwanted debris. Snacks will be provided. Dress for the weather! Reservations required. Reservations may be made by calling 731-253-9652. For more information please email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov or David.Haggard@tn.gov. Thank you for your support of Reelfoot Lake and Tennessee State Natural Areas.

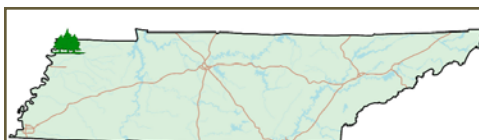


Reelfoot Lake SNA

Meet at 9 a.m. CT at the Reelfoot Lake State Park visitor's center. Reservations required: Reservations may be made by calling 731-253-9652. For more information please email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov or David.Haggard@tn.gov.

Nov. 17 & 18 Deep Swamp Tromp at Reelfoot Lake

This 3 hour hike will take participants into old growth cypress forest off trail and into some of the most remote areas of Reelfoot Lake. The bald cypress trees are some of the largest in this area of the country. Participants are encouraged to wear sturdy hiking shoes and long pants, and bring a snack and water to drink. Meet at the state park visitor center. Reservations required. Reservations may be made by calling 731-253-9652. For more information please email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov or David.Haggard@tn.gov.



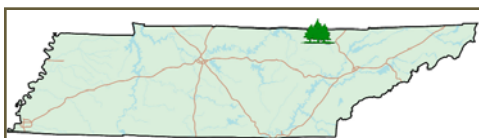
Reelfoot Lake SNA

Meet at 1 p.m. CT on Saturday, Nov. 10 or 9 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 11 at the Reelfoot Lake State Park visitor's center. Reservations required: Reservations may be made by calling 731-253-9652. For more information please email Robin.Wooten@tn.gov or David.Haggard@tn.gov.

December

Dec. 8 Pogue Creek Wilderness Holiday Hike

Enjoy late fall, the coming winter, and the holiday season by exploring this pristine wilderness area with knowledgeable guides. This 4 hour hike will take participants off trail into some of the wild areas of the Cumberland Plateau where they will see beautiful mountain gorges, rock formations and much more. This hike will be strenuous and require some negotiation around obstacles. Participants are encouraged to wear sturdy hiking shoes and long pants, and bring snacks, lunch and water to drink. Meet at 9 a.m. CT at the Pickett State Park office and we will carpool to the trailhead. Reservations are required; contact Robin at 615-532-4799 or Robin.Wooten@tn.gov.



Pogue Creek SNA

Meet at 9 a.m. CT at the Pickett State Park office and we will carpool to the trailhead. Reservations are required; contact Robin at 615-532-4799 or Robin.Wooten@tn.gov.