

Natural Areas Week 2009 Calendar of Events
April 13th through 19th

Cumberland Plateau and East Tennessee Activities and Events

Savage Falls Hike, South Cumberland State Park

Location: Savage Gulf
Date: Tuesday April 14, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m. central
Leader: Ranger George Shinn
Sponsor: South Cumberland Recreation Area
Reservations: Not required

Description: Join Ranger George and begin this year's Natural Areas Week with a moderate four mile hike roundtrip to view beautiful Savage Falls. Wear good shoes or boots. Bring a snack and water. Bring a raincoat or poncho if raining. Bug repellent for those ticks. Don't forget your camera.

For more information, contact the main visitor center (931)924-2980 or visit website www.friendsofscra.org for other interesting programs at South Cumberland State Park. Descriptions, directions, and maps, about Savage Gulf, as well as any other state natural areas, can be found at: www.tn.gov/environment/na.

Midweek Hike into Laurel-Snow State Natural Area

Location: Laurel-Snow State Natural Area
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009
Time: 10:00 a.m. eastern
Leader: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas
Sponsor: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program
Reservations: Required. RSVP to Lisa Huff by April 13 at (865) 594-5601 or E-mail at Lisa.Huff@tn.gov.

Description: Hike to Snow Falls in the Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness. The last portion of the hike approaching the falls is relatively steep and the round trip is about 6 miles. Much of the hiking trail parallels Richland Creek, part of which was dammed to serve as the Dayton Reservoir and was once the water supply for the town of Dayton. The low dam across the stream can still be seen, although water is no longer collected here for the town. The Laurel-Snow trail was the first National Recreation Trail designated in Tennessee. Hikers should wear good foot gear and dress in layered clothing. Bring plenty of water and food for lunch and snacks.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na

Grundy Forest State Natural Area Trash Pick Up

Location: Meet at Grundy Forest State Natural Area parking (follow signs off of US41 /56 in Tracy City)

Date: Friday, April 17, 2009
Time: 1:00 p.m. central
Leader: Jason Reyonlds, Ranger
Sponsor: South Cumberland Recreation Area
Reservations: Not Required

Description: Feeling guilty for throwing that plastic candy wrapper out of the car window? Now there is a chance to redeem yourself. Meet Ranger Jason at the Grundy Forest parking lot for a short hike/litter pickup along the banks of the Fiery Gizzard Creek. Your help in keeping our natural areas and state parks litter free is greatly appreciated.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at:
www.tn.gov/environment/na.

North Chickamauga Creek Gorge State Natural Area - Overlook Hike

Location: Meet at the parking area for the North Chickamauga Creek Gorge State Natural Area, 354 Montlake Rd, Soddy-Daisy
Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009
Time: 10 a.m. eastern
Leader: Andy Wright, Park Ranger
Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail
Reservations: Not required, however notice of attendance can be made by calling Ranger Wright at 423-332-7394 or emailing andrew.wright@tn.gov.

Description: Participants will hike a moderate to difficult 5 mile round trip to reach one of North Chickamauga Creek's scenic vistas, overlooking North Chick at its confluence with Boston Branch and Rogers Creek. Along the way, we will pass remnants of the Montlake Coal mining operation, follow the base of towering bluffs, and admire many spring wildflowers in all their glory. Anticipate 4-5 hours for round trip. Hiking boots recommended.

For more information, including descriptions and maps about state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at www.tn.gov/environment/na Information about North Chick can be found at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/northchick>

Carter State Natural Area – Lost Cove Hike

Location: Meet at Carter State Natural Area parking area on SR56 south of Sewanee.
Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009
Time: 10:00 a.m. central
Leader: Todd Crabtree & Silas Mathes, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas
Sponsor: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas
Reservations: Required. RSVP by April 15th to Todd Crabtree at (615) 532-1378 or E-mail at todd.crabtree@tn.gov

Description: A strenuous hike into Lost Cove to see numerous spring wildflowers and one of Tennessee's most dramatic cave entrances. This natural area has recently been expanded and we will hike in to Tom Pack Hollow to see a rugged stream with wildflowers along its banks. Expect to hike 2 miles into the natural area, 2 miles back out on the trail and approximately 1 mile in the woods.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na. Information specific to Bugtop Cave may be found at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/mrnmrscarter/>.

Bushwack Hike into Pogue Creek State Natural Area

Location: Pogue Creek State Natural Area

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. eastern

Leader: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Sponsor: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Reservations: Required. Space limited to 10 hikers. RSVP to Lisa Huff by April 15 at (865) 594-5601 or E-mail at Lisa.Huff@tn.gov.

Description: The number of people who can be accommodated on this trip is limited, so reservations are absolutely required. Hikers must be in good physical condition. This is a bushwack hike, all of it off trail, with steep elevation losses and gains. The terrain is rugged, but rewarding. Vertical bluffs loom hundreds of feet above the valley floor and the canyon contains actual mesas, which are very unusual in the eastern U.S. Pogue Creek is a very new state natural area, so hikers will enjoy getting to know the area and helping managers gain familiarity with the area. Bring plenty of water, food and layered clothing.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na.

Spring Wildflower Hike, Frozen Head State Natural Area

Location: Frozen Head State Natural Area

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. eastern

Leader: David Lincicome, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations: Required. RSVP to David Lincicome by April 15 at (615) 532-0439 or E-mail at David.Lincicome@tn.gov.

Description: Come join us for a hike up the Panther Branch Trail and North Old Mac Trail at Frozen Head State Natural Area. These trails are renowned for an excellent display of spring wildflowers. The trip is about 4.3 miles and the trail is considered moderate to difficult. Wear good shoes or boots and layered clothing. Bring water and food. We'll have lunch at an overlook on the North Mac Trail. We will not go if it is forecast to rain.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na.

Carter State Natural Area – Cave Program and Hike

Location: Meet at Carter State Natural Area parking area on SR56 south of Sewanee.

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2009

Time: 11:00 a.m. central

Leader: Jason Reynolds, Ranger

Sponsor: South Cumberland Recreation Area

Reservations: Not Required

Description: Discover the strange but beautiful world below the surface of the natural area. Be prepared for a strenuous five-mile round trip hike. Bring two sources of light, long pants, boots, water and a light snack

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na.

Information specific to Bugtop Cave may be found at

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/mrnmrscarter/>

Spring Wildflower Hike, Frozen Head State Natural Area

Location: Frozen Head State Natural Area

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. eastern

Leader: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Sponsor: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations: Required. RSVP to Lisa Huff by April 15 at (865) 594-5601 or E-mail at Lisa.Huff@www.tn.gov.

Description: Come join us for a hike up the Panther Branch Trail at Frozen Head State Natural Area. This trail is renowned for its excellent display of spring wildflowers. The round trip is about 4.5 miles and the trail is considered moderate. Wear good shoes or boots and layered clothing. Bring water and food. We will not go if it is forecast to rain.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at:

www.tn.gov/environment/na.

Savage Gulf Slide Show, South Cumberland State Park

Location: Savage Gulf

Date: Sunday April 19, 2009

Time: 2:00 p.m. central

Leader: Ranger George Shinn

Sponsor: South Cumberland Recreation Area

Reservations: Not required

Description: Join Ranger George for a relaxing end to Natural Areas Week with an informative slideshow on the Stone Door/Savage Gulf area. This area is full of natural

and historical significance that you will learn about and this program will make you want put on your boots and get out there and experience it.

For more information, contact our main visitor center (931)924-2980 or visit website www.friendsofscra.org for other interesting programs at South Cumberland State Park. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this and other State Natural Areas, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na.

Virgin Falls Day Hike

Location: Virgin Falls State Natural Area

Date: Saturday April 18, 2009

Time: Meet Kroger 5544 Old Hickory Blvd. 7:00 a.m. central

Leader: Forrest Evans, Natural Areas Program

Sponsor: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations required: email forrest.evans@tn.gov or call (615)532-0431

Description: Join the Natural Areas Program for a hike on one of Tennessee's most loved trails. We will be hiking to the Virgin Falls via Martha's Pretty Point overlook. This is a strenuous 8 mile hike and should not be attempted if you are not in good physical condition. You will need to supply your own lunch and water. The first 10 people to reserve a spot can have free van transportation from Nashville courtesy of the Natural Areas Program.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na.

Middle Tennessee Activities

Short Springs and May Prairie State Natural Area Hike

Location: Meet at the Target store parking lot off I-24 on Bell Road. A van will provide transportation for a limited number of participants.

Date: Thursday, April 16

Time: 8:30 am central - return 5:00 pm central

Leader: Brian Bowen, Administrator, Natural Areas Program

Sponsor: Division of Natural Heritage

Reservations required: call (615) 532-0436 or email Brian.Bowen@tn.gov

Description: This will combine two very different experiences; a hike in one of Tennessee's most beautiful spring wildflower locations and a visit to one of Tennessee's most unique tall grass prairies. You will see two very different ecosystems that are only fifteen miles away. Hiking is easy to moderately difficult. Participants should bring water, lunch, sturdy footwear, and dress appropriately for the weather.

Bone Cave Natural Area - Bone Cave Tour

Location: Meet at Rock Island State Park Office

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. central

Leader: Jodie Stinson, Interpretive Specialist

Sponsors: Rock Island State Park

Reservations: Required. Space is limited. RSVP by April 14th to Jodie Stinson at (931) 686-2471 or E-mail at Jodie.Stinson@tn.gov

Description: A strenuous .5 mile hike to and from Bone Cave. The cave was operated as a saltpeter mine during the War of 1812 and the American Civil War. Within the cave you can see human artifacts that have been well preserved in the dry atmosphere of the cave. Tour should be expected to take no more than 4 hours. Cave tour is moderate with climbing, crawling and stooping.

For more information, including descriptions, directions and maps about state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na. Information specific to Bone Cave may be found at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/bonecave/>.

Nashville's Earthday Celebration

Location: Nashville's Centennial Park

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sponsor: Nashville Davidson Metro Parks

Reservations: No reservations required

Descripton: This is a one-day outdoor event celebrating Earthday. The Natural Areas Program will have an information table there and will answer questions concerning Tennessee's state natural areas. This is an annual event to raise awareness about protecting our natural heritage and our natural resources. Metro hosts environmental groups with displays and information booths and offers food and music throughout the day. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at www.tn.gov/environment/na.

Short Springs Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage

Location: Short Springs parking area (under the water tower) on Short Springs Rd. just outside of Tullahoma

Date: Sunday April 19, 2009

Time: 7:30 and 10:00 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m. central

Leader: Dennis Horn and Don Davidson, Friends of Short Springs, Brian Bowen

Sponsor: Friends of Short Springs, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations requested: Please call (931) 461-0262

Description: Short Springs is perhaps one of the richest wildflower areas in Middle Tennessee. Come enjoy the wildflowers, waterfalls, and cascading streams on a short three to four-mile hike and gain a greater appreciation of this wonderful Middle Tennessee jewel.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na.

Hike at Taylor Hollow State Natural Area

Location: Meet at the home of Dr. Ward, 671 Phillips Hollow Road, Westmoreland, in northeast Sumner County

(<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=671+Phillips+Hollow+Rd,+Westmoreland,+TN+37186,+USA&sa=X&oi=map&ct=title>).

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. central

Leaders: Andrea Bishop and Roger McCoy (roger.mccoy@tn.gov)

Sponsor: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations: No reservations are required. If there is inclement weather, you may telephone **615-804-2802 on Saturday morning** to determine if the trip is still planned.

Description: Join Andrea Bishop and Roger McCoy, botanists with Tennessee's Natural Areas Division, for an outstanding wildflower hike at Taylor Hollow, a state natural area owned by the Tennessee chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Located on the Eastern Highland Rim, Taylor Hollow is renowned for its spring flora, especially the display of blue-eyed Mary, a state-endangered plant. This is an easy to moderately difficult hike lasting until late morning or early afternoon. Participants should bring water, lunch, sturdy footwear, and dress appropriately for the weather. As the wildflower display is sure to be showy, don't forget your camera.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na

Flat Rock Cedar Glade Hike

Location: Flat Rock Cedar Glade parking area on Factory Road east of Murfreesboro

Date: Wednesday April 15, 2009

Time: 2:00 pm central

Leader: Forrest Evans

Sponsor: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations requested: Please call (615) 532-0431 or email Forrest.Evans@tn.gov

Description: Flat Rock Cedar Glade is one of the best examples of the cedar glade ecosystem anywhere. Come enjoy the wildflowers and the unique open glades on a short three-mile hike. You will gain a greater appreciation of this wonderful Middle Tennessee jewel and learn about these globally unique and rare ecosystems located in Middle Tennessee.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na

Barnett's Woods Cave Trip

Location: Barnett's Woods Natural Area

Date: Sunday April 19, 2009

Time: Meet at Joelton McDonalds parking area at 9:00 a.m. central

Leader: Forrest Evans and David Withers of the Natural Areas Program

Sponsor: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations required: email forrest.evans@tn.gov or call (615)532-0431

Description: Enjoy the spring wildflowers as we walk a short distance to the Cooper Creek Cave in Montgomery County. We will go in this wild cave and discuss bat biology and explore the cave. You will need to supply your own caving equipment including helmet, gloves and lights, and lunch, and water. The first 10 people to reserve a spot on the trip can have free van transportation.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na .

Radnor Lake State Natural Area Natural Areas Week Events

Location: Radnor Lake, Nashville. Please visit: www.radnorlake.org for Natural Areas Week activity information at Radnor Lake

West Tennessee Activities and Events

Privet Pull at Lucius E. Burch, Jr. State Natural Area

Location: Lucius E. Burch, Jr. State Natural Area, Memphis at Shelby Farms Park. Meet at the Shelby Farms Park visitor's center. For information about the park visit <http://www.shelbyfarmspark.org/sfpc/front> or call 901-767-PARK for directions to the visitor's center.

Date: Tuesday, April 14th

Time: Meet at the Shelby Farms Park visitor's center at 9:30 AM central.

Leader: Allan Trently, Stewardship Ecologist, Natural Areas Program

Sponsor: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations Required: Contact Allan Trently at (731) 512-1369 or at Allan.Trently@tn.gov no later than April 13th.

Description: Lucius E. Burch, Jr. State Natural Area occurs along the Wolf River. The Wolf River was channelized (straightened) in the 1950s. Before channelization the Wolf River would flood the land periodically throughout each year. After channelization, flooding has been greatly reduced. Because of the decrease in flooding, the land adjacent to the Wolf River in the natural area is much drier. Dry conditions have allowed the invasive, exotic plant, privet to spread throughout the area. This plant has completely taken over some areas of the natural area. Since privet replaces desirable native plants, the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas is involved with controlling its spread throughout the natural area. Privet is so thick in some areas of the natural area that control is impractical. Luckily, there are still many areas in the natural area that control

is still feasible. We will cut and safely herbicide privet in one of these areas. The area we will work in contains numerous pools that provide excellent habitat for amphibians. By removing the privet, we hope to foster the growth of native plants that will in turn increase the value of the site for amphibians.

Wear sturdy shoes, bring loppers (cutting shears) or a small hand saw, bring water and a snack, and dress appropriately for the weather. We will not go in the event of inclement weather. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this as well as any other State Natural Area, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na.

Butterfly and Plant Hike at Carroll Cabin Barrens State Natural Area

Location: Carroll Cabin Barrens State Natural Area, Bath Springs south of Parsons, Decatur County. Meet at the natural area parking lot. A map to the site can be found at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/carrollcabin/carrollcabin.pdf>.

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009

Time: 9:30 a.m. central

Leader: Allan Trently, Stewardship Ecologist, Natural Areas Program

Sponsor: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations Required: Contact Allan Trently at (731) 512-1369 or at Allan.Trently@tn.gov no later than April 17th.

Description: Hike the moderately strenuous 2.5-mile loop trail covering a 200+ feet elevation change along wooded ridges, limestone barrens and cedar glades on the west bank of the Tennessee River. Learn about the animals and plants found in the area and the reason for the State's interest in preserving the property and what makes it a significant natural area worthy of protection. The trip leader will focus on the butterflies (39 species have been seen here including the rare cobweb skipper) and plants. 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.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na.

Shelby Farms Park Conservancy's Down to Earth Celebration

Location: Shelby Farms Park visitor's center at 500 North Pine Lake Drive, Memphis. The number for Shelby Farms Park is (901) 767-PARK.

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2009

Time: from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Leader: Shelby Farms Park Conservancy

Reservations required: No reservations required

Descripton: The Down to Earth Celebration is a one-day outdoor festival featuring environmental education and activities, entertainment and fun for the family. The festival will offer environmental arts and crafts, face painting, pony rides, live music and entertainment, a wide variety of food and beverages, park tours and hiking. Please remember to stop by the Division of Natural Areas booth for information regarding natural areas, a slide show of the west Tennessee natural areas and for a free poster. The

event is free and open to the public. For more information see <http://www.shelbyfarmspark.org/sfpc/earth-day-celebration-2009>.

Meeman-Shelby Forest Spring Wildflower Hikes

Location: Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park and State Natural Area, 910 Riddick Rd., Millington, TN 38053.

Date: March 7th, March 28th, and April 11th

Time: Meet at the visitor's center at 10:00 a.m. central

Leader: Samantha Cox, Interpretive Specialist, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park; Samantha Cox at (901) 876-5215 or at Samantha.Cox@www.tn.gov

Sponsor: Tennessee State Parks

Reservations: Not required.

Description: Come to the Visitor Center to embark on a refreshing 1.5 mile hike on the Woodland Trail and discover spring's secrets.

For more information about the park including directions visit the web site at: <http://www.tnstateparks.com/MeemanShelby/> and for natural area information visit the web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/meeman/> or visit www.tn.gov/environment/na for information about other state natural areas.

Meeman-Shelby Forest Pontoon Boat Trips

Location: Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park and State Natural Area, 910 Riddick Rd., Millington, TN 38053.

Date: March 7th, March 28th, and April 11th

Time: Meet at the Nature Center at 1:00 p.m. central

Leader: Samantha Cox, Interpretive Specialist, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park; Samantha Cox at (901) 876-5215 or at Samantha.Cox@tn.gov

Sponsor: Tennessee State Parks

Reservations and Fee Required: Call the Visitor's Center at 901-876-5215. A \$1.00 fee per person is required.

Description: Meet at the Nature Center for a pleasant 45-minute trip around Poplar Tree Lake.

For more information about the park including directions visit their web site at: <http://www.tnstateparks.com/MeemanShelby/> and for natural area information visit the web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/meeman/> or visit www.tn.gov/environment/na for information about other state natural areas.

Meeman-Shelby Forest Live Reptile Programs

Location: Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park and State Natural Area, 910 Riddick Rd., Millington, TN 38053.

Date: March 7th, March 28th, and April 11th

Time: Meet at the Nature Center at 2:00 p.m. central

Leader: Samantha Cox, Interpretive Specialist, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park; Samantha Cox at (901) 876-5215 or at Samantha.Cox@tn.gov
Sponsor: Tennessee State Parks
Reservations: Not required.

Description: Meet some interesting forest friends at the Nature Center. Learn why they look so different and why they're not so scary.

For more information about the park including directions visit their web site at: <http://www.tnstateparks.com/MeemanShelby/> and for natural area information visit the web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/meeman/> or visit www.tn.gov/environment/na for information about other state natural areas.

Meeman-Shelby Forest Live Raptor Programs

Location: Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park and State Natural Area, 910 Riddick Rd., Millington, TN 38053.
Date: March 7th, March 28th, and April 11th
Time: Meet at the Nature Center at 2:30 p.m. central
Leader: Samantha Cox, Interpretive Specialist, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park; Samantha Cox at (901) 876-5215 or at Samantha.Cox@tn.gov
Sponsor: Tennessee State Parks
Reservations: Not required.

Description: After our scaly critters, meet some fluffy ones. These are no cute and fuzzy pets, but serious carnivores. Learn why these birds are top of the food chain.

For more information about the park including directions visit their web site at: <http://www.tnstateparks.com/MeemanShelby/> and for natural area information visit the web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/meeman/> or visit www.tn.gov/environment/na for information about other state natural areas.

Meeman-Shelby Forest Deep Swamp Canoe Floats

Location: Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park and State Natural Area, 910 Riddick Rd., Millington, TN 38053.
Date: March 8th, March 29th, April 12th, and April 14th.
Time: There will be two floats on each day: 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Leader: Samantha Cox, Interpretive Specialist, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park; Samantha Cox at (901) 876-5215 or at Samantha.Cox@tn.gov
Sponsor: Tennessee State Parks
Reservations Required: Call the Visitor's Center at 901-876-5215. The floats are free.

Description: Enjoy spring in the swamps, with new growth and migrating birds at Eagle Lake. Meet at the Visitor Center and be prepared to caravan to the launch site. Wear shoes and clothing that can get wet and muddy.

For more information about the park including directions visit their web site at: <http://www.tnstateparks.com/MeemanShelby/> and for natural area information visit the

web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/meeman/> or visit www.tn.gov/environment/na for information about other state natural areas.

Mini Paddle –Bird Watching Canoe Trip with Wolf River Conservancy and Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithology Society to Celebrate State Natural Areas Week

Location: Ghost River State Natural Area

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2009

Time: 6:30 AM

Leader: Gary Edge, Wolf River Conservancy

Reservations: Required: RSVP before Friday, April 17th to Gary Edge at

garyedge@mac.com. **This will be a small trip limited to 10 boats. WRC**

membership and reservations are required to participate on WRC

canoe trips.

Description: This is going to be a special trip for actual and aspiring serious bird watchers with the Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. We will start early and meander at a speed designed to see, hear, and identify migrating birds near the river. Enjoy the newly greening river and the best parts of the Ghost Section, cutting the trip length from 8 miles to 4, encompassing the best parts of the Ghost River along its lower section. We'll enter the river from an access point not open to the public and paddle one mile before entering the narrow, winding and mysterious Ghost River Trail, then snake across Spirit Lake, and finally, negotiate the last mile that threads through forests which open to wetland meadows. This diverse terrain should yield numerous sightings. For more information on Ghost River State Natural Area, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this as well as any other State Natural Area, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na. A map of Ghost River can be found at that web site at the link:

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/ghostriver/ghostriver.pdf>