Schedule of Events for 2019
Division of Natural Areas

[Logo of Division of Natural Areas]

[Logo of Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation]
**2019 Rugby State Natural Area First Day Hike**

**Date:** January 1, 2019  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time  
**Fee:** Free  
**Location:** Historic Rugby Visitor Centre Porch, 1331 Rugby Parkway, Rugby, Tennessee, 37733  
**Hike Leader(s):** Nancy Dorman  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register online](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Nancy Dorman, nancy.dorman@tn.gov, 615-532-0039  
**Event Description:** Join us for a FREE guided hike in the Rugby State Natural Area. The hike starts at the Historic Rugby Visitor Centre Porch at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time). The new year is a great time for a fresh start...fresh air, new friends and the great outdoors. Without all those pesky leaves on the trees, it is easier to observe the winter landscape, look for signs of wildlife and identify trees and plants in their winter form. Bring a daypack, water and snacks to eat on the trail. This is a 3-4 mile, moderate but family-friendly hike. Dogs on leash are welcome. Dress for the weather. Warm hat and gloves recommended.

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**Winter Tree and Shrub Identification Class**

**Date:** February 2, 2019  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time  
**Fee:** $10 per person  
**RSVP Deadline:** 1/31/2019  
**Location:** House Mountain State Natural Area (36.104696, -83.762654)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register online](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov, 865-594-5601  
**More Information:** [House Mountain State Natural Area](#)  
**Event Description:** Join regional ecologist, Lisa Huff, on Groundhog Day and learn how to recognize common forest trees of the Ridge and Valley province in winter. You will learn to recognize common oaks, hickories, beech, sweetgum, Southern yellow pines and other trees and shrubs along with some information on where these species can be expected in the landscape. This class will focus on learning to recognize key field characteristics to make identifications, such as bark patterns, leaves, fruits and twigs. You'll also receive instruction on how to use simple dichotomous keys to identify trees and shrubs in winter. All necessary handouts for the class will be provided, but you should bring a pencil or pen for making notes, a small ruler (English and metric units), a magnifying glass, and a pair of binoculars. We will meet at the House Mountain picnic pavilion, the class will start promptly at 10 a.m. and will last approximately 4 hours. The site is equipped with a restroom, but you will need to bring water and snacks/food. If it’s cold, warm drinks and hot food are recommended, as is warm, layered clothing. If the weather is too cold to allow concentration or particularly foul that day, we will reschedule for February 23rd at the same time. Those who sign-up for the class will be notified if the class has to be deferred to the later date.

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**Low Elevation Changes at Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area**

**Date:** February 9, 2019  
**Time:** Following the Friends of Roan Mountain Winter Naturalists’ Rally  
**Location:** Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area (36.152327, -82.055601)
**Hike Leader(s):** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas  
**Online Registration:** TBD  
**RSVP Contact:** Friends of Roan Mountain  
**More Information:** Friends of Roan Mountain  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Roan Mountain State Park  
**Event Description:**  
Join the Division of Natural Areas following the Winter Naturalists’ Rally at Roan Mountain State Park for a low elevation hike between Hampton Creek Cove and the relatively new conservation acquisition at Elm Hollow by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. We will discuss new management efforts and new trail planning.

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**Walls of Jericho Hike**  
**Date:** March 1, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** $10 per person  
**RSVP Deadline:** 2/28/2019  
**Location:** Walls of Jericho, Alabama trailhead, (34.9776, -86.0788)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Murray Gheesling, Stewardship Ecologist, TN Division of Natural Areas  
**Online Registration:** Click here to register  
**RSVP Contact:** Murray Gheesling, murray.gheesling@tn.gov, 423-241-9307  
**More Information:** Walls of Jericho  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Tims Ford State Park, 26 miles away  
**Event Description:**  
On the Southern Cumberland Plateau, a huge carved bowl of limestone rests along the bluffs in the Turkey Creek gorge. The creek passes from Tennessee to Alabama at this isolated spot marked with bowling-ball size voids in the rock that seep waters above. The rewards of crossing the limestone amphitheater threshold at the end of the trail make the creek crossings and mileage well worth it for the experienced hiker. We will explore some of the flora, geology, and history along the way on this 7(ish)-mile round trip hike. The trail is steep in places and always slick along rocks and roots that comprise much of this journey. This hike is demanding and strenuous. Please bring sturdy boots, plenty of water and food for a long day hike, and be prepared for a long climb back out to the trailhead. Meet at the Alabama trailhead, North of Hytop AL on AL 79 (TN 16).

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**Weed Wrangle**  
**Date:** March 2, 2019  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** Free  
**RSVP Deadline:** 1/28/2019  
**Location:** Mt. View Glade State Natural Area  
**Hike Leader(s):** Sam King, Stewardship Ecologist  
**Online Registration:** Click here to register  
**RSVP Contact:** Sam King, sam.king@tn.gov, 629-215-0195  
**More Information:** Mount View Glade State Natural Area  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Cedars of Lebanon State Park is located about 40 minutes away and has Cabins and a Campground available.  
**Event Description:**
Let’s get after some of our most notorious plants. We will spend the morning (8 a.m. - Noon) removing some vile invasive plants from one of Tennessee’s precious natural areas. Middle Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist Sam King will lead the team in cutting out these plants so that our native wildflowers can flourish.

**Hiking the Blue Ridge**

**Date:** March 9, 2019

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time

**Fee:** $5 per person

**RSVP Deadline:** 3/4/2019

**Location:** Rocky Fork State Park main parking area; 501 Rocky Fork Rd, Flag Pond, TN 37657

**Hike Leader(s):** Jesse Germeraad, Park Manager and Sam King, Stewardship Ecologist

**Online Registration:** [Click here to register]

**RSVP Contact:** Sam King, sam.king@tn.gov, 629-215-0195

**More Information:** [Rocky Fork State Park](#)

**Overnight Accommodations:** Roan Mountain State Park is 40 miles away and offers both camping and cabins.

**Event Description:**

Let’s Hike! And let’s do it at Tennessee’s newest State Park, Rocky Fork. We will meet at the parking area at 9:00 am and spend the day on the trail for a 6-mile hike in the Blue Ridge physiographic province. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking shoes, as the terrain is fairly rugged. Also remember to bring plenty of water and pack a lunch for the trail. Join us as we highlight the conservation efforts of both Tennessee State Parks and Tennessee Division of Natural Areas. For travelling guests, overnight accommodations can be made at Roan Mountain State Park. Trip leaders; Sam King has spent the last 7 years working for Tennessee State Parks and the Division of Natural Areas as a Park Ranger and an Ecologist, and Jesse Germeraad is the Park Manager at Rocky Fork and has worked as a Tennessee Park Ranger since 2010.

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**Float on Sunk Lake, Sunk Lake State Natural Area**

**Date:** March 16, 2019

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central Time

**Fee:** $10 per person

**RSVP Deadline:** 2/28/2019

**Location:** Sunk Lake State Natural Area

**Hike Leader(s):** Jason Miller, Natural Areas Program Administrator

**Online Registration:** [Click here to register]

**RSVP Contact:** Jason E. Miller, jason.e.miller@tn.gov, 615-532-0436

**More Information:** [Sunk Lake State Natural Area](#)

**Overnight Accommodations:** Camping is available nearby at [Fort Pillow State Park](#)

**Event Description:**

View a unique natural area that few get to experience from the water. Sunk lake was formed during the 1811/12 earthquakes that also created Reelfoot lake. The area supports excellent examples of bald cypress swamp, bottomland hardwood forest, and emergent marsh aquatic habitat. The diversity of wetland and upland communities offer a wide range of habitat for waterfowl and other birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and should be a joy to float!

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**Plants of Limestone Glades in Early Spring**
**Event Description:**
The limestone glades of middle Tennessee are home to many interesting plants. Some of these emerge very early. We will see Nashville glade cress and other early flowers as well as seasonal streams associated with karst features. The trip will last a few hours and cover less than 2 miles, mostly on trails that are not steep or of great difficulty. Water and snacks are recommended.

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**Early Spring Wildflower Walk at Rugby**

**Date:** April 13, 2019  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** Free  
**RSVP Deadline:** 4/11/2019  
**Location:** Rugby State Natural Area (36.359003, -084.701486)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov, 865-594-5601  
**More Information:** [Rugby State Natural Area](#)  
**Overnight Accommodations:** [Historic Rugby](#)  

**Event Description:**
Meet at the Visitor Centre for an early spring wildflower hike. Perhaps take a lunch at the Harrow Road Café beforehand or enjoy a supper afterward. We'll leave the Visitor Centre and walk down Cumberland Avenue to the White Oak Trail, to Cox Branch, up Allerton Ridge and the Massengale Homeplace Loop and back to the village. In all the hike is anywhere from 3.75 to 4.5 miles long, depending on whether we take in the Kellogg’s Crack Loop.

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**Long Wildflower Walk at Rugby**

**Date:** April 20, 2019  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time  
**Fee:** Free  
**RSVP Deadline:** 4/18/2019  
**Location:** Rugby State Natural Area (36.359003, -084.701486)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov, 865-594-5601  
**More Information:** [Rugby State Natural Area](#)  
**Overnight Accommodations:** [Historic Rugby](#)  

**Event Description:**
Meet at the Visitor Centre for a long spring wildflower hike. Perhaps take a breakfast at the Harrow Road Café beforehand or lunch afterward. We'll leave the Visitor Centre and walk down Cumberland Avenue to the White Oak Trail, to Cox Branch, up Allerton Ridge and the Massengale Homeplace Loop and back to the village. In all the hike is anywhere from 3.75 to 4.5 miles long, depending on whether we take in the Kellogg’s Crack Loop.
Avenue to the White Oak Trail, to Cox Branch, up Allerton Ridge and the Massengale Homeplace Loop and back to the village. In all the hike is anywhere from 3.75 to 4.5 miles long, depending on whether we take in the Kellogg’s Crack Loop.

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**Wildflower Weekend Celebration at Beaman Park State Natural Area**

**Date:** April 20, 2019  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** Free  
**RSVP Deadline:** 4/19/2019  
**Location:** Meet at Creekside Trailhead off of Little Marrowbone Road  
**Hike Leader(s):** Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas  
**Registration:** To reserve a spot on the hike, contact Beaman Park at 615-862-8580 or beamanpark@nashville.gov  
**More Information:** [State Park Event Link](#) & [Beaman Park Trails](#)  
**Event Description:**  
Come join help us celebrate Metro Nashville’s Beaman Park Wildflower Weekend. Located on Tennessee’s Western Highland Rim just 12 miles from downtown Nashville, Beaman Park supports a variety of forested communities including streamside forests, mesic forests dominated by American beech, and upland oak forests. Because of these high-quality habitats with little recent disturbance, the state of Tennessee designated nearly 1,700 acres of Beaman Park as a state natural area in 2013. Trip leader Roger will guide visitors around the Henry Hollow Loop with side excursions along the Ridgetop Trail and Sedge Hill Trail for a moderate 3 – 4 mile walk. During the excursion, we’ll stop to discuss native wildflowers we encounter, shrub and tree identification, as well as the environmental variables which influence forest composition. Trip participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring water and snacks. Although leashed pets are welcomed at Beaman Park, we ask participants on this group outing to refrain from bringing their pets.

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**Spring Wildflower Identification for Beginners**

**Date:** April 27, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** $10 per person  
**RSVP Deadline:** 4/24/2019  
**Location:** Long Hunter State Park Visitor Center (36.09258, -86.55583)  
**Hike Leader(s):** David Lincicome, Tennessee Natural Heritage Program Manager  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** David Lincicome, david.lincicome@tn.gov  
**More Information:** [Long Hunter State Park](#)  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Cedars of Lebanon State Park is located 16 miles east of Long Hunter and has cabins and a campground available.  
**Event Description:**  
Come enjoy spring wildflowers at Long Hunter State Park and Couchville Glade State Natural Area. David Lincicome will offer an introduction to wildflower identification for beginners. During the walk, participants will learn the use of basic wildflower keys, plant family characteristics and basic botanical terms will be introduced. In order to study many of the plants, we plan to walk off the trail at designated points during the event. Participants should wear sturdy boots. Attendees may also wish to bring a notebook, pencil, lunch, water and bug spray. A hand lens and plant identification guides will be provided for use during the hike. We will spend the morning at Long Hunter State
Park and then after lunch willing participants can join David at the nearby Couchville Glade State Natural Area.

**Plant Identification Workshop**

**Date:** April 27, 2019  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** $10 per person  
**RSVP Deadline:** 4/25/2019  
**Location:** Rainbow Lake Pavilion on the west side of the park, [Overton Park Map](#)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Allan J. Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Allan Trently, allan.trently@tn.gov  
**More Information:** [Old Forest State Natural Area](#)  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Nearby [Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park](#) has camping and cabins.

**Event Description:**

Participants will learn to recognize many of the plants found in the oak-hickory forests of west Tennessee. All participants will receive handouts of plant lists and ecological terms. From this workshop, you will gain insight on how an ecologist and/or botanist look at a forest and will learn many of the plants found in west Tennessee forest. Allan Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist for the Division of Natural Areas has conducted plant, animal and ecological system inventories in west Tennessee since joining the Division in 2008. He has led numerous plant and nature walks in the swamps. We will identify plants along the Old Forest trail system. Hiking distance will probably be less than 1 mile. Participants should wear sturdy footwear. Although not required, attendees may also wish to bring a notebook and pencil, a hand lens or magnifying glass, and plant identification guides. The workshop will last approximately two hours.

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**Paddle to Machine Falls**

**Date:** May 3, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** $10 per person, bring your own vessel, no boats provided  
**RSVP Deadline:** 5/2/2019  
**Location:** Wards Chapel Boat Ramp, (35.4437, -86.18446)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Murray Gheesling, Stewardship Ecologist, TN Division of Natural Areas  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Murray Gheesling, murray.gheesling@tn.gov, 423-241-9307  
**More Information:** [Short Springs State Natural Area](#)  
**Overnight Accommodations:** [Tims Ford State Park](#), 26 miles away

**Event Description:**

Bring your kayak or canoe for an 8-mile, round-trip, paddle to Machine Falls within the Short Springs SNA. Meet at Wards Chapel Boat Ramp to launch into Normandy Lake. We will enjoy the scenery and discuss the history and significance of the area on our 4-mile paddle to Bobo Creek. We will stretch our legs on the short hike up the Creek to Machine Falls then enjoy the paddle back to Wards Chapel. Bring plenty of food and water. PFD’s are required.

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**Window Cliffs - Stream walk and hike to the cliff tops**

**Date:** May 4, 2019  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. Central Time
Fee: $10 per person  
RSVP Deadline: 5/1/2019

Location: Window Cliffs State Natural Area (36.053 / -85.6191)

Hike Leader(s): Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: Click here to register

RSVP Contact: Roger McCoy, roger.mccoy@tn.gov, 615-532-0437

More Information: Window Cliffs State Natural Area

Overnight Accommodations: Edgar Evins State Park is 30 minutes away and has camping and cabins.

Event Description:
Get your hiking boots laced and your wading shoes ready and join this guided excursion to the cliff tops of Window Cliffs State Natural Area. Located within the dissected portion of the Eastern Highland Rim, Window Cliffs consists of a very narrow, elongated ridge that lies in the neck of an incised meander of Cane Creek. Approximately 2.4 stream-miles of Cane Creek flow through the natural area along with Phelps Branch, a tributary to Cane Creek. A few small cascades, steep slopes and narrow ledges, including a 20-foot waterfall, occur along Cane Creek. The 5.4-mile round trip trail is strenuous with a total of 20 non-bridged stream crossings (with nearly knee-high water in spots), so a guided hike provides a great way to enjoy this natural gem. Trained in botany, Roger McCoy will inform participants about the plants and natural communities along the trail and atop the cliffs. Those who don’t mind wet feet won’t be disappointed once they ascend to the spectacular cliff tops. Participants should bring snacks, water, and may wish to bring a walking stick and wading shoes. Due to the numerous stream crossings with sometimes swift water and the potentially dangerous cliff tops, small children are not advised to join this hike. Pets are not permitted at Window Cliffs State Natural Area.

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Wildflower Photography workshop: Cedars of Lebanon State Park

Date: May 4, 2019  
Time: 9:00 a.m. Central Time

Fee: $30 per person  
RSVP Deadline: 5/4/2019

Location: Cedars of Lebanon State Park (36.085870, -86.324115)

Hike Leader(s): David Pineros, Biologist with Natural Heritage Program

Online Registration: Click here to register

RSVP Contact: David Pineros, david.pineros@tn.gov, 615-761-4250

More Information: Cedars of Lebanon State Park

Overnight Accommodations: Cedars of Lebanon offers both cabins and camping.

Event Description:
As part of this Elsie Quartermann Wildflower Festival, join photographer David Piñeros on a workshop to learn artistic and technical skills to get that perfect wildflower shot as we visit some beautiful sites along the Cedar Glades ecosystem. Also, find out how to participate in citizen science and our conservation efforts in Tennessee.

All levels of photographers are welcome. Participants are required to bring a camera, DSLR or mirrorless camera preferable. A tripod and off-camera flash are desirable gear to bring but optional. We will meet at the visitor center at 9:00 a.m. Central Time.

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Spring Hiking Tour of the Short Mountain Ecotone
Date: May 4, 2019  Time: 9:00 am central
Fee: $15 per person  RSVP Deadline: 4/26/2019
Location: Short Mountain State Natural Area
Hike Leader(s): David Ian Withers, Staff Zoologist, Mark Vance (TWRA), and Neal Appelbaum
Online Registration: Click here to register
RSVP Contact: David Withers, david.withers@tn.gov, 615-532-0441
More Information: Short Mountain State Natural Area
Overnight Accommodations: Lodging is available at Edgar Evins State Park and in nearby Woodbury.
Event Description:
Short Mountain, a remnant piece of the Cumberland Plateau nestled in the escarpment between the Central Basin and Eastern Highland Rim, is a geologic anomaly long considered a very charismatic and sacred part of Cannon County culture and lore. With sandstone, not limestone, at its crest, it contains decidedly different plant and animal communities than the lands surrounding it. It also drains to three different watersheds – the Collins River, Caney Fork River, and East Fork Stones River – the last being the primary source of water for Woodbury and surrounding communities.
For this spring tour we will wander the woods atop the mountain, where we will study a plethora of spring ephemerals, trees, rocks, salamanders and crayfish.

Ghost River State Natural Area Canoe Excursion
Date: May 18, 2019  Time: 9:00 a.m. Central Time
Fee: $25 per person for canoes or kayak provided by state park or $10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge.
RSVP Deadline: 5/16/2019
Location: Meet at Bateman Bridge, Moscow, Fayette County (35.0269, -89.3508)
Hike Leader(s): David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist
Online Registration: Click here to register
RSVP Contact: David Haggard, david.haggard@tn.gov, 901-258-3147
More Information: To register select the date of your choice and if you want a canoe or kayak.
Overnight Accommodations: Located about 1 hour’s drive from the Ghost River, Chickasaw State Park has cabins and camping.
Event Description:
Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist is offering two guided canoe floats on the Ghost section of the Wolf River (May 18 and 19). This excursion takes paddlers through the 2,200-acre Ghost River State Natural Area. Paddlers will float through majestic bottomland forest and explore this mysterious section where the Wolf River disappears into a cypress swamp.
Participants will meet at the Bateman Bridge takeout in Moscow at 9:00 am where most vehicles will be left for the day. Shuttle will transport paddlers to launch point at Yager Road in LaGrange. Paddling trip will begin at 9:30 am and will focus on history, diversity, and beauty of the Ghost River State Natural Area. The canoe float is about nine miles, contains some fast sections (some paddling experience is recommended), and will last approximately six hours. Canoes, life jackets, and paddles are provided. Participants should bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, insect repellent and we suggest carpooling. Reservations are required and deadline is May 16, 2019 or until trip roster is full. Make reservations for the trips at www.tnstateparks.com find a park-Reelfoot Lake State Park.
Park-upcoming events. For information e-mail David.Haggard@tn.gov or call 901-258-3147. Cost is $25 per person for park canoes/kayak or $10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge.

**Duck River Canoe Float**

**Date:** May 18, 2019  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** $15 per canoe (2 adults 1 child max) or kayak (1 person) & $20 per tandem kayak (2 people)  
**RSVP Deadline:** 5/16/2019  
**Location:** Henry Horton SP Hotel 4201 Nashville Hwy, Chapel Hill, TN 37034 (35.5909, -86.7023)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Julia Cruce, Ranger Henry Horton State Park & Stephanie Williams, Data Manager Natural Heritage Program  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Stephanie Williams, stephanie.ann.williams@tn.gov, 615-532-4799  
**More Information & Overnight Accommodations:** [Henry Horton State Park](#)  

**Event Description:**  
Come join us as we enjoy the beautiful waters of the Duck River. This is an excellent opportunity for beginners or advanced paddlers to canoe or kayak. Participants will learn about some of the freshwater mussel and fish species that call the Duck River home. The float will be roughly 3 miles and is usually 2 hours or less, depending on how much the group wants to swim or fish. Please dress of the weather, bring snacks, water, and perhaps a change of clothes. We will meet in the Hotel Lobby, there we will have everyone sign a liability waiver and go over a few things before we head out.

**Ghost River State Natural Area Canoe Excursion**

**Date:** May 19, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** $25 per person for canoes or kayak provided by state park or $10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge.  
**RSVP Deadline:** 5/16/2019  
**Location:** Meet at Bateman Bridge, Moscow, Fayette County (35.0269, -89.3508)  
**Hike Leader(s):** David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** David Haggard, david.haggard@tn.gov, 901-258-3147  
**More Information:** To register select the date of your choice and if you want a canoe or kayak.  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Located about 1 hour’s drive from the Ghost River, [Chickasaw State Park](#) has cabins and camping.  

**Event Description:**  
Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist is offering two guided canoe floats on the Ghost section of the Wolf River (May 18 and 19). This excursion takes paddlers through the 2,200-acre Ghost River State Natural Area. Paddlers will float through majestic bottomland forest and explore this mysterious section where the Wolf River disappears into a cypress swamp. Participants will meet at the Bateman Bridge takeout in Moscow at 9:00 am where most vehicles will be left for the day. Shuttle will transport paddlers to launch point at Yager Road in LaGrange. Paddling trip will begin at 9:30 am and will focus on history, diversity, and beauty of the Ghost
River State Natural Area. The canoe float is about nine miles, contains some fast sections (some paddling experience is recommended), and will last approximately six hours. Canoes, life jackets, and paddles are provided. Participants should bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, insect repellent and we suggest carpooling. Reservations are required and deadline is May 16, 2019 or until trip roster is full. Make reservations for the trips at www.tnstateparks.com find a park-Reelfoot Lake State Park-upcoming events. For information e-mail David.Haggard@tn.gov or call 901-258-3147. Cost is $25 per person for park canoes/kayak or $10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge.

**Mobile Mapping on the Trails of Window Cliffs State Natural Area**

- **Date:** June 1, 2019
- **Time:** 9:30 a.m. Central Time
- **Fee:** $10 per person
- **RSVP Deadline:** 6/1/2019
- **Location:** Window Cliffs State Natural Area (36.053 / -85.6191)
- **Hike Leader(s):** Stephanie Williams, Data Manager Natural Heritage Program
- **Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)
- **RSVP Contact:** Stephanie Williams, stephanie.ann.williams@tn.gov, 615-532-4800
- **More Information:** [Window Cliffs State Natural Area](#)
- **Overnight Accommodations:** Edgar Evins State Park is 30 minutes away and has camping and cabins.

**Hike Description:**

Have you ever wanted to use your phone or GPS unit to navigate in the outdoors and collect information from the trails you’ve hiked? Join the Division of Natural Areas- Data Manager, Stephanie Williams to discover the tools and tips needed to help guide you to landmarks and create simple maps of where you have traveled. You will learn how to use the mobile application we use on iPhone and Android devices to track our position in the field and how to use a handheld Garmin GPS unit to collect information. After a Q&A session, we will hike the Window Cliffs Trail (~5.4 miles round-trip) with GPS units in hand and enjoy the unique scenery while practicing our new skills. The trail passes Cane Creek, interesting geology and a 20ft waterfall in route to the prominent natural bridges or “windows” where the trail ends. The trail is strenuous with a total of 20 non-bridged stream crossings with some nearly knee-high water in spots. Please be prepared for this adventure with your hiking boots and/or wading/water shoes (your feet will get wet), lunch, drinking water, charged phone with waterproof case, and clothing for the season. We will provide participants that register with the application and map to download before the hike if they wish to use their phones to navigate. Due to the numerous stream crossings with sometimes swift water and the potentially dangerous cliff tops, small children are not advised to join this hike. Pets are not permitted at Window Cliffs State Natural Area.

**Evening stroll through the glades and prairie of Couchville State Natural Area**

- **Date:** June 1, 2019
- **Time:** 6:00 p.m. Central Time
- **Fee:** Free
- **RSVP Deadline:** 5/31/2019
- **Location:** Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area (36.1013 / -86.5294)
- **Hike Leader(s):** Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas
- **Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)
RSVP Contact: Roger McCoy, roger.mccoy@tn.gov, 615-532-0437
More Information: Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area
Overnight Accommodations: Couchville State Natural Area is adjacent to Long Hunter State Park

Event Description:
Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area provides easy access to one of Tennessee's significant limestone cedar glades and grasslands. Participants on this late afternoon / early evening hike will enjoy an easy one-mile loop trail through the cedar glades and woodlands as well as some easy off-trail hiking to a sink hole and through a little bluestem prairie. With its large population of the rare Tennessee coneflower and other glade species, Couchville provides wonderful wildflower viewing. Along with discussing the native plants including many rarities, trip leader Roger McCoy will provide details regarding the significance of cedar glade habitat and current conservation efforts the Division of Natural Areas implements to ensure proper management and enhancement. Participants should wear comfortable shoes for walking, bring water and bug spray, and may wish to bring binoculars for wildlife viewing in the open habitats. Pets are not permitted on this guided outing.

Night Walk into the Swamp

Date: July 5, 2019  Time: 7:30 p.m. Central Time
Fee: $10 per person  RSVP Deadline: 7/2/2019
Location: Big Cypress Tree State Park and State Natural Area
Hike Leader(s): Allan J. Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas
Online Registration: Click here to register
RSVP Contact: Allan J. Trently, allan.trently@tn.gov
More Information: Big Cypress Tree State Park and State Natural Area.
Overnight Accommodations: Reelfoot Lake State Park has camping and cabins

Event Description:
The bottomland forests and swamps are alive at night. Be prepared to see the flashing of Snappy Single Sync fireflies (and other species) and hear the strange callings of day-active bird dusk songs and the strange squeals and hoots of night birds. And of course, we will hear the mating calls of a number of frog and toad species. If we are lucky we may see nocturnal mammals such as mink beginning their “day”. We will hike down to the boardwalk from the picnic pavilion. From here, we will walk to and from the end of the boardwalk. Though we don’t want to use flashlights, bring one if you would like. Mosquitos are typically not “bad” but be prepared for them (bring bug spray and it is recommended to have a long-sleeve shirt).

Paddle to the base of Burgess Falls

Date: July 27, 2019  Time: 9:00 a.m. Central Time
Fee: $10 per person  RSVP Deadline: 7/26/2019
Location: Public access at the end of Cane Hollow Road
Hike Leader(s): Jason Miller, Natural Areas Program Administrator
Online Registration: Click here to register
RSVP Contact: Jason E. Miller, Jason.e.miller@tn.gov, 931-432-5312
More Information: Burgess Falls State Natural Area

Overnight Accommodations: Nearby Edgar Evins State Park offers both cabins and camping for overnight visitors.

Event Description:
Are you a paddler? Are you an explorer that has access to a canoe or kayak? If so, join Jason E. Miller of the state natural areas program on a paddle from Cane Hollow up Falling Water River to the base of Burgess Falls this July. We won’t be entering the State Park, but instead meeting downstream and paddling up-river against mild current to the base of the falls. Paddlers should meet at the public access at the end of Cane Hollow Road before 9 a.m. and be ready to paddle approximately 2.5 miles upstream to the base of the falls. Along the way we’ll pass the mouth of Cane Creek which flows through Window Cliffs State Natural Area just upstream. Periodically the group will stop to examine various life forms that call the river home, from freshwater mussels to fish to dragonflies. Once the group reaches the pool below the falls, we’ll ride the gentle currents back to where we launched. In total the trip should take about 4 to 5 hours, so please pack water, food and rain gear or sunscreen. Paddlers will need to supply their own boats, paddles and PFDs which must be worn at all times.

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**Pogue Creek Canyon Sandstone Sculptures Hike**

**Date:** July 28, 2019  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** $5 per person  
**Location:** Pogue Creek Canyon Trailhead on Hwy 154, 2.6 mi S of Pickett State Park office (36.521934, -84.817631)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas  
**Online Registration:** Click here to register  
**RSVP Contact:** Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov, 865-594-5601  
**More Information:** Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Pickett State Park

**Event Description:**
Do you love art? Sculptures? If so, then you'll love Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area. Join us for an afternoon hike as "part one" of a three-part program on this day. This part of the program will focus on a short hike to the spectacular overlook and rock houses of the canyon. The wind and rain have sculpted amazing designs in the sandstone cliffs. This is a great occasion to practice your macro photography or just gaze at the walls in wonder! The shapes and colors are simply amazing and will make you think you’re in Arizona or some other western state. The hike is about 1.5 miles in and back for a total of 3.0 miles and is easy to moderately difficult. There is one short, vertical ladder to scale and, as such, the hike is not appropriate for small children or pets. If you want, you can make an entire day of the experience and join us in the evening for a musical concert at the Turkey Roost Rockhouse and then an evening skywatch for the Delta Aquarids meteor shower. These additional events have separate sign-ups. Make a weekend of the trip and stay at the lovely Pickett State Park!

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**Old-time Music in the Turkey Roost Rock House**

**Date:** July 28, 2019  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. Central Time
Fee: $15 per person  
**RSVP Deadline:** 7/25/2019  
**Location:** Pogue Creek Canyon Trailhead on Hwy 154, 2.6 mi S of Pickett State Park office  
(36.521934, -84.817631)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov, 865-594-5601  
**More Information:** [Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area](#)  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Pickett State Park  
**Event Description:**

"Part Two" of a day of fun at Pogue Creek Canyon. Join old-time musicians Ruth Barber and Keith Watson of "Boogertown Gap" for a concert in the acoustic miracle that is the Turkey Roost Rock House. This amazing feature of Pogue Creek Canyon is about as acoustically perfect as a space can get. We speculate that this rock house was used historically by native Americans for meetings, because you can hear so well inside of its walls. The band, "Boogertown Gap," is a banjo/guitar duo that has been entertaining audiences in East Tennessee for many years with their selections of "old-time" music, the banjo and fiddle tunes that were popular from the time of the American Civil War up to the early 20th century. You are sure to enjoy these tunes and the interpretive tales that go with them. The concert will start in the early evening after a hike earlier in the afternoon and will be followed by a meteor shower watch. The hike and meteor watch are listed as separate events and require separate sign-ups. You can find a seat in the rock house on the many boulders that have fallen from the rock house walls, or you can bring a small folding stool or pad to sit on. (We do not recommend bringing a full-sized folding lawn chair. Contact Lisa Huff for more information.) The Turkey Roost Rock House is just a few hundred feet from the trailhead and parking area, so it is very easy access although a bit of a slope going down and back up. Consider making a day-long visit and attending our hike earlier in the day and staying for the meteor watch that evening or make a weekend trip of it and stay at the awesome Pickett State Park!

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**Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower Watch at Pogue Creek Canyon Trailhead**  
**Date:** July 28, 2019  
**Fee:** Free  
**RSVP Deadline:** 7/25/2019  
**Location:** Pogue Creek Canyon Trailhead on Hwy 154, 2.6 mi S of Pickett State Park office  
(36.521934, -84.817631)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Michael Hodge, Park Ranger and Naturalist, Pickett CCC Memorial State Park  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov, 865-594-5601  
**More Information:** [Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area](#)  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Pickett State Park  
**Event Description:**

"Part Three" of a day of amazing experiences at Pogue Creek Canyon. The Delta Aquarids is an average meteor shower that can produce up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by debris left behind by comets Marsden and Kracht. The shower peaks this year on the night of July 28 and morning of July 29. The waning crescent moon should not be much of a problem this year; the skies should be dark enough for what could be a good show, especially at Pogue Creek Canyon, where the sky is very dark. Did you know that Pickett CCC Memorial State Park and Pogue Creek...
Canyon earned silver-tier International Dark Sky designation in 2015? Oh, yes, they did and they were the first park and natural area in the Southeastern U.S. to gain this prestigious designation! Make a whole day of it and join us earlier in the afternoon for our sculptures hike in the canyon followed by our one-of-a-kind musical program in the Turkey Roost Rock House! Sign up for those events separately.

### The state of invasive plant species in Tennessee

**Date:** August 17, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** Free  
**Location:** Morrison Meadow SNA, Sunny Acres Rd, Morrison, just past West Warren-Viola Utility District  
**Hike Leader(s):** Murray Gheesling, Stewardship Ecologist, TN Division of Natural Areas  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Murray Gheesling, murray.gheesling@tn.gov, 423-241-9307  
**More Information:** [Morrison Meadow State Natural Area](#)  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Camping available at Savage Gulf SNA, Stone Door, 30 miles away

**Event Description:**
Currently the nursery industry is loaded with exotic and often invasive species. TN Conservation stewards expend tremendous resources battling exotic invasive species across the State. Enjoy a stroll through a small but significant Natural Area that represents the conflict between nursery produced invasives and conservation. Morrison Meadow is a 20-acre site within Warren Co., “the nursery capital of the world”. A portion of the land contained former nursery stock when the State acquired it in 2008. The SNA is also home to 10 rare plant species. Why are the nursery industry and invasive plants such a big deal? What are the management implications of invasive species? Can the nursery industry and conservation ever be on the same page? We will be discussing these topics and more. We will be walking off-trail, through woods and soggy (potentially) ground. Bring boots and insect repellent as needed.

### Virgin Falls to Lost Creek

**Date:** August 24, 2019  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** $10 per person  
**Location:** Virgin Falls/Lost Creek SNA.  
**Hike Leader(s):** Jason Miller, Natural Areas Program Administrator  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Jason E. Miller, jason.e.miller@tn.gov, 931-432-5312  
**More Information:** [Virgin Falls State Natural Area](#)  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Although no lodging is available at the natural area, nearby Cookeville TN offers a wide array of lodging opportunities.

**Event Description:**
Meet at Lost Creek State Natural Area parking lot and take a shuttle to Virgin Falls SNA parking lot. From there the group will begin the strenuous, all-day 9 mile hike back to Lost Creek SNA. Along the way we’ll pass numerous caves, sinkholes and waterfalls, including Virgin Falls itself at about the halfway point of the hike. These feature typify the area’s karst geology. Hikers will end the day
where they left their vehicles at Lost Creek. Participants should bring food, water, rain gear, wear sturdy shoes and prepare for a full day of hiking over rough terrain.

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**Composites, Grasses and Fire Ecology of Limestone Glades and Barrens**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date: September 7, 2019</th>
<th>Time: 10:00 a.m. Central Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fee: $10 per person</td>
<td>RSVP Deadline: 9/5/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location: Vesta State Natural Area (36.07663,-86.39578)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hike Leader(s): Todd Crabtree, State Botanist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Registration: <a href="#">Click here to register</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>RSVP Contact: Todd Crabtree, <a href="mailto:todd.crabtree@tn.gov">todd.crabtree@tn.gov</a>, 615-532-1378</td>
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<tr>
<td>More Information: <a href="#">Vest Cedar Glade State Natural Area</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Overnight Accommodations: <a href="#">Cedars of Lebanon State Park</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Event Description:**

State Botanist, Todd Crabtree will teach participants how to differentiate some of those confusing composites that appear in late summer. A few grasses that are prominent in glades and barrens will be profiled as well as their role in maintaining fires in these ecosystems. A botanist who works on prescribed fires can learn a lot and some of these lessons will be shared. It could be a hot day and we will be in the open for several hours so bring water and food. The terrain is fairly level and we will spend much of the day on trails. A hand lens and your favorite wildflower guide will be helpful if you have them.

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**Fall Wildflower Identification for Beginners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date: September 14, 2019</th>
<th>Time: 9:00 a.m. Central Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fee: $10 per person</td>
<td>RSVP Deadline: 9/11/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location: Long Hunter State Park Visitor Center (36.09258,-86.55583)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hike Leader(s): David Lincicome, Tennessee Natural Heritage Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Registration: <a href="#">Click here to register</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RSVP Contact: David Lincicome, <a href="mailto:david.lincicome@tn.gov">david.lincicome@tn.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>More Information: <a href="#">Long Hunter State Park</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Overnight Accommodations: <a href="#">Cedars of Lebanon State Park</a> is located 16 miles east of Long Hunter and has cabins and a campground available.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Event Description:**

Come enjoy fall wildflowers at Long Hunter State Park and Couchville Glade State Natural Area. David Lincicome will offer an introduction to wildflower identification for beginners. During the walk, participants will learn the use of basic wildflower keys, plant family characteristics and basic botanical terms will be introduced. In order to study many of the plants, we plan to walk off the trail at designated points during the event. Participants should wear sturdy boots. Attendees may also wish to bring a notebook, pencil, lunch, water and bug spray. A hand lens and plant identification guides will be provided for use during the hike. We will spend the morning at Long Hunter State Park and then after lunch willing participants can join David at the nearby Couchville Glade State Natural Area.

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**Autumn Mushrooms Tour: Colditz Cove State Natural Area**
**Date:** September 21, 2019  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** Free  
**Location:** Colditz Cove (36.356705, -84.868957)  
**Hike Leader(s):** David Pineros, Biologist with Natural Heritage Program  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** David Pineros, david.pineros@tn.gov, 615-761-4250  
**More Information:** [Colditz Cove State Natural Area](#)  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Pickett State Park is within 19.4 miles and offers both camping and cabins (30 min. away).

**Event Description:**
Join biologist David Piñeros on a tour to observe unique mushrooms and stunning nature along the trails of Colditz Cove Natural Area. We will discover the hidden natural history of mushrooms and their overlooked diversity. Be prepared to be hiking among 200 year old hemlocks and white pines, and to end up at Northrup Falls, one of the most scenic waterfalls in Tennessee. This is a 1.5 mile easy to moderate trail. We will meet at the trailhead at 9:00 a.m. Central Time.

**National Public Lands Day Fire Tower Hike**

**Date:** September 28, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m Eastern Time  
**Fee:** Free  
**RSVP Deadline:** 9/23/2019  
**Location:** Frozen Head State Natural Area, Old Mac Trailhead (36.128594, -84.505138) in Morgan County Tennessee. Park Office is near the Trailhead: 964 Flat Fork Rd, Wartburg, TN 37887  
**Hike Leader(s):** Sam King, Stewardship Ecologist & Joe Nowotarski, Frozen Head Park Ranger  
**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)  
**RSVP Contact:** Sam King, sam.king@tn.gov, 629-215-0194  
**More Information:** [Frozen Head State Natural Area](#)  
**Overnight Accommodations:** Norris Dam State Park is 40 miles away and offers both camping and cabins.

**Event Description:**
Happy National Public Lands Day! Let’s hike to the top of Frozen Head and take in the view! Park Ranger Joe Nowotarski and Division of Natural Areas Ecologist Sam King will lead a day hike through this scenic State Natural Area. While we won’t even get close to covering the 70 miles of trail at Frozen Head, we will spend the majority of the day hiking 8 miles on some of the most beautiful trails in the state. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking shoes, as the terrain is fairly rugged. Also remember to bring plenty of water for this strenuous hike and pack a lunch for the trail. Join us as we highlight the conservation efforts of both Tennessee State Parks and Tennessee Division of Natural Areas. We will meet at the Old Mac Trailhead at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time. For travelling guests primitive camping is available at Frozen Head State Park and cabins are available at Norris Dam or Pickett State Parks (1 hr away). Trip leaders; Sam King has spent the last 7 years working for Tennessee State Parks and the Division of Natural Areas as a Park Ranger and an Ecologist, and Joe Nowotarski has been a Park Ranger at Frozen Head since 2014.

**Ghost River State Natural Area Canoe Excursion**

**Date:** October 26, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time
Fee: $25 per person for canoes or kayak provided by state park or $10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge

RSVP Deadline: 10/24/2019

Location: Meet at Bateman Bridge, Moscow, Fayette County (35.0269, -89.3508)

Hike Leader(s): David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist

Online Registration: TBD

RSVP Contact: David Haggard, david.haggard@tn.gov, 901-258-3147

More Information: To register select the date of your choice and if you want a canoe or kayak.

Overnight Accommodations: Located about 1 hour’s drive from the Ghost River, Chickasaw State Park has cabins and camping.

Event Description:
Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist is offering two guided canoe floats on the Ghost section of the Wolf River (October 26 and 27). This excursion takes paddlers through the 2,200-acre Ghost River State Natural Area. Paddlers will float through majestic bottomland forest and explore this mysterious section where the Wolf River disappears into a cypress swamp. Participants will meet at the Bateman Bridge takeout in Moscow at 9:00 am where most vehicles will be left for the day. Shuttle will transport paddlers to launch point at Yager Road in LaGrange. Paddling trip will begin at 9:30 am and will focus on history, diversity, and beauty of the Ghost River State Natural Area. The canoe float is about nine miles, contains some fast sections (some paddling experience is recommended), and will last approximately six hours. Canoes, life jackets, and paddles are provided. Participants should bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, insect repellent and we suggest carpooling. Reservations are required and deadline is October 24, 2019 or until trip roster is full. Make reservations for the trips at www.tnstateparks.com find a park-Reelfoot Lake State Park-upcoming events. For information e-mail David.Haggard@tn.gov or call 901-258-3147. Cost is $25 per person for park canoes/kayak or $10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge.

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Ghost River State Natural Area Canoe Excursion

Date: October 27, 2019  Time: 9:00 a.m. Central Time

Fee: $20 per person for canoes or kayak provided by state park or $10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge

RSVP Deadline: 10/24/2019

Location: Meet at Bateman Bridge, Moscow, Fayette County (35.0269, -89.3508)

Hike Leader(s): David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist

Online Registration: TBD

RSVP Contact: David Haggard, david.haggard@tn.gov, 901-258-3147

More Information: To register select the date of your choice and if you want a canoe or kayak.

Overnight Accommodations: Located about 1 hour’s drive from the Ghost River, Chickasaw State Park has cabins and camping.

Event Description:
Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist is offering two guided canoe floats on the Ghost section of the Wolf River (October 26 and 27). This excursion takes paddlers through the 2,200-acre Ghost River State Natural Area. Paddlers will float through majestic bottomland forest and explore this mysterious section where the Wolf River disappears into a cypress swamp.
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1st Annual Sherwood Forest Snail Trail Hike!

**Date:** November 2, 2019  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** Free  
**RSVP Deadline:** 11/01/2019  
**Location:** South Cumberland State Park Sherwood Forest (35.097517, -85.901175)  
**Hike Leader(s):** David Withers, Division of Natural Areas & Ranger Jason Reynolds  
**Online Registration:** Click here to register  
**RSVP Contact:** David Withers, david.withers@tn.gov, 615-532-0441  
**More Information:** Friends of South Cumberland State Park  
**Event Description:**
On Saturday, 2 November 2019 please plan to join Ranger Jason Reynolds (South Cumberland State Park) and Natural Heritage Zoologist David Withers for an entertaining look at the snips and snails of the Sherwood Forest unit of the park and the inner recesses of Youngs Creek Cove. This approximately 3-mile strenuous hike will start high and end high, and include an elevation change of ~500 feet down and up again! We’ll study the limestone outcrops, cracks and crevices upslope of Youngs Creek in search of the elusive Anguispira picta, the painted tigersnail, and see a bevy of its coiled cousins along the way. The recently acquired Sherwood Forest boasts nearly 35% of the known range of this federally threatened land snail, which is endemic to the upper Crow Creek Valley of the Sherwood community. The forest not only is home to this enigmatic calciphile, but also provides key habitat to several rare plants of state or federal concern, including the inspiring American smoketree (Cotinus obovatus), which we will aspire to spy on our sojourn!

Autumn of Twin Arches State Natural Area

**Date:** November 9, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time  
**Fee:** Free  
**RSVP Deadline:** 10/23/2019  
**Location:** Twin Arches State Natural Area (36.5444 / -84.7417)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas  
**Online Registration:** Click here to register  
**RSVP Contact:** Roger McCoy, roger.mccoy@tn.gov, 615-532-0437  
**More Information:** Twin Arches State Natural Area  
**Overnight Accommodations:** The trailhead for Twin Arches State Natural Area is just over an 8-mile / 20 minute drive from Pickett State Park where campsites and cabins are available  
**Event Description:**
Forty-five years ago Governor Winfield Dunn signed legislation establishing the Twin Arches State Natural Area which today resides within the National Park Service’s Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Twin Arches State Natural Area provides visitors with scenic bluff-top overlooks, towering sandstone arches and cliffs, a walk through an old homestead, and a chance to learn about the flora that thrives within the natural area including a number of plant species not known to exist outside the upper Cumberland region. Using knowledge gained from conducting rare species searches and ecological sampling at the Big South Fork and surrounding area, Roger McCoy, Director of the Division of Natural Areas, will lead participants on a 7-mile hike down into the gorge and back to the bluff top. The hike is moderate to difficult with some steep stairs and other steep ascents. Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and pack water and lunch to enjoy beneath the scenic sandstone overhangs. Pets are not permitted on this guided excursion.