

Environmental Education

For Tomorrow's Stewards

August 2018

Educational Highlight

Conservation and Consequences



"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

~ John Muir

T.O. Fuller State Park's Manager Jimmy Warren is committed to improving the lives of individuals surrounding his park. This summer marked the first year of *Conservation and Consequences*, a 6-week paid summer internship opportunity for local 15-18 year olds. Sponsored by Shelby County Schools, Warren says this program is "geared towards preparing qualified youth of the Memphis area for real-world business application, via instructional training, coaching, motivational team building, and education about the ecosystem."

Students must apply and meet minimum academic and behavior qualifications before being selected for the program and maintain standards of appearance and communication throughout the length of the program. Linking preservation and conservation education with professional skills training creates an opportunity for the park to partner with numerous members of the local community including business owners, State Representatives Barbra Cooper and Mark White, Mayor Mark Luttrell, and Andrea Williams from the Corp of Engineers.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

~ Nelson Mandela

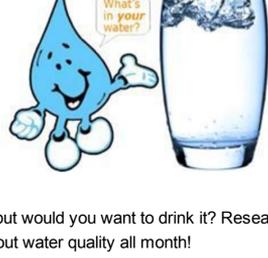
Program participants were able to canoe and hike at the park, some for the first time. They also focused on ways to build a resume and interview like a professional. The internship's only 18 year old finished the summer by accepting a full-time, well-paying job with benefits, changing life for himself, his girlfriend, and his new baby.

With the success of *Conservation and Consequences*, plans are already being made for next summer's program. Building a full and fruitful future for the members of his community is Warren's goal, and with a foundation in what's local, this is just the start of the park's success.

This Month Is...

National Water Quality Month

What's in your glass of water? Is it just hydrogen and oxygen atoms? Is it safe to drink? All water is of a certain "quality" (and you can't tell by just looking), but what does "water quality" really mean? Water full of dirt and grime might work fine for a tomato plant, but would you want to drink it? Research your local water and learn more about water quality all month!



[Check Out the Water Quality in Your Neighborhood](#)

[Educational Resources: Tennessee Water Quality](#)

Don't Miss...

National Honey Bee Day

Saturday, August 18th

The primary goals of National Honey Bee Day are to promote and advance beekeeping, educate the public about honey bees and beekeeping, and make the public aware of the environmental concerns that impact honey bees.



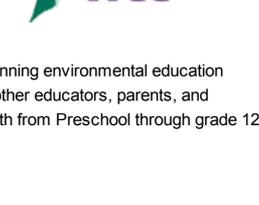
The honey bees needs your help and support, and not just on National Honey Bee Day. The care of the environment in which the bees reside takes a year-round commitment.

[Pollinator Lesson Plans: PreK-3rd Grade](#)

[Pollinator Lesson Plans: 4th-8th Grade](#)

Professional Development

August 25th and September 15th



Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from Preschool through grade 12.

August 25th (Saturday)
Where: Cove Lake State Park *Campbell County, Tennessee*
When: 9am-12pm
Cost: **FREE!**

September 15th (Saturday)
Where: McNairy County High School *McNairy County, Tennessee*
When: 9am-12pm
Cost: **FREE!**

For more information or to register, contact Alle Crampton (alle.crampton@tn.gov) in the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

In the News

To Straw or Not To Straw? That is the question.

Imagine 500 million plastic straws. Now visualize them being tossed in your local landfill. This happens **every day** in the United States, according to a recent report from *National Geographic*. These single-use, plastic straws were once considered recyclable plastic but we now know that they slip through recycling machinery and are loaded into landfills around the country or, even worse, find their way through our waterways and into our oceans, harming ocean life.



2018 is turning into the year of the plastic straw or perhaps the year of banning the plastic straw. US cities like Malibu, Davis, and San Luis Obispo in California or Miami Beach and Fort Myers in Florida were recently joined by Seattle, Washington as American cities banning the single-use, plastic straw. In July, Starbucks announced plans to phase out plastic straws by 2020, replacing them with compostable straws for frozen drink or making them unnecessary in their redesigned straw-less cup lids. The United Kingdom will implement its ban on all plastic straws, including stirrers and cotton swabs, as early as 2019.

Tennesseans can do it, too! The Tennessee Environmental Council is calling Tennesseans to action by simply saying "No, thank you" to single-use, plastic straws. This can be done in homes, restaurants, workplaces, and schools. Say :no" to that straw or switch to a reusable bamboo, stainless steel, or glass straw today.

[Educational Resources: Ocean Plastic](#)

[Read How School Students Studied Their Plastic Straw Usage](#)

Get Involved!

Wildflower Walk

September 8th

9:00am

Fee: \$10

RSVP Deadline: 9/6/2018

Come enjoy fall wildflowers at Long Hunter State Park and Couchville Glade State Natural Area. David Linclove, Natural Heritage Program Manager, 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.



[Register for Wildflower Walk](#)

Get Involved!

Wildflower Walk

August 11th

10 AM to 12 PM

Warner Park Nature Center

Age level: 8 years and up

Goldenrod, ironweed and milkweed await insects, hummingbirds and you. Stroll Long Hollow field to capture the end of the summer pollinators and pollinated.



[Register for Warner Wildflower Walk](#)

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