

# State Natural Areas Schedule of Field Trips and Events for 2009

## January

### Winter Hike at Walls of Jericho State Natural Area

**Location:** Meet at the Nashville Target store parking lot off of Bell Road near Hickory Hollow

**Date:** Saturday, January 17, 2009

**Time:** 7:00 a.m. central

**Leader:** Forrest Evans, Stewardship Ecologist, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations required:** RSVP by January 22 to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431, or

[Forrest.Evans@state.tn.us](mailto:Forrest.Evans@state.tn.us).

The first 10 reservations can take advantage of van transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program.

**Description:** Journey through the wintertime beauty of one of Tennessee's newest natural areas, the Walls of Jericho State Natural Area in Franklin County. This will be a strenuous 8-mile hike. This trail descends 600 feet into the Walls and continues along the creek to an amazing canyon of sheer rock bluffs, caves, and waterfalls. We will not go if it is raining or it is predicted to rain or if the trails are likely to be iced over. Consult the weather reports before the trip. Dress warmly in layers, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch. As with any strenuous backcountry hiking trip, please do not attempt this hike unless you are in good condition and able to negotiate difficult trail situations. 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.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na).

## February

### Winter Interpretive Hike at William B. Clark and Ghost River State Natural Areas

**Location:** Meet at the William B. Clark parking lot (see map at <http://state.tn.us/environment/na/natareas/devils/devils.pdf>)

**Date:** Saturday, February 7, 2009

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

**Leader:** Allan J. Trently, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

**Reservations required:** RSVP by February 6<sup>th</sup> to Allan J. Trently, 731-512-1369 or [allan.trently@state.tn.us](mailto:allan.trently@state.tn.us).

**Descripton:** Both natural areas protect un-channelized sections of the Wolf River. The river floodplain periodically floods to create bottomland and bald cypress- water tupelo forests. William B. Clark Conservation Area is a 460-acre natural area along the Wolf River in Fayette County located approximately 1 mile north of Rossville, TN. A 1600-foot interpretive boardwalk exists on site and meanders through bald cypress-water tupelo forest. The Ghost River State Natural Area is a 2,220-acre natural area in Fayette County situated just outside of LaGrange, TN. A loop trail featuring a 600-foot boardwalk exists on site and meanders through flooded bald cypress-water tupelo forest. A variety of aquatic and terrestrial habitats offer opportunities for observing birds and other wildlife. From the boardwalk, wildlife such as snakes, turtles, amphibians, beavers, wading birds, and aquatic vegetation are a common site. Cypress knees are seen protruding from the moist forest floor and shallow water. These boardwalks provide access to rarely seen interior of a riparian bald cypress-water tupelo swamp, which have been quickly disappearing from West Tennessee. The trip leader will interpret the ecology

of the natural area so be prepared to learn about the ecology of the region. 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.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na).

## **March**

### **Waterfall Tour of Three State Scenic Rivers**

**Location:** Overton and Jackson Counties, north of Cookeville. Van will depart from east side Nashville; exact departure location will be determined after guests have registered for the trip. Others may be picked up near Cookeville if needed.

**Date:** Saturday, March 21

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

**Leaders:** Roger McCoy and Silas Mathes

**Reservations:** Reservations are required. Space is limited to twelve people. Contact Roger McCoy (615-532-0437, [roger.mccoy@state.tn.us](mailto:roger.mccoy@state.tn.us)) no later than March 16 to reserve a slot for the trip.

**Description:** Celebrate the first Saturday of spring with a visit to three waterfalls on the Eastern Highland Rim. Spring Creek, Roaring River, and Blackburn Fork are designated as state scenic rivers, and these waterways are located at the transition point between the Eastern Highland Rim and Outer Central Basin. In this area, two types of geological formations exist, and the change in geology allows for the development of waterfalls. We will be taking an automobile tour - with some short walks - to visit three such falls: Cummins Falls on Blackburn Fork, Waterloo Falls on Spring Creek, and Crawford Mill along Roaring River. The trip will take most of the day and, if time permits, we may also visit Washmorgan Hollow State Natural Area. From Nashville, we will travel I-40 to Cookeville. Participants can depart from Nashville or meet the van in the Cookeville area, but the exact location will be determined once reservations are received. We should be able to stop at a local store for lunch and snacks, but participants are welcome to bring food and beverages. For more information about State Natural Areas visit [www.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na).

## **April**

### **April 13 through 18: State Natural Areas Week**

(Watch for information on the Tennessee State Natural Areas Web Site at: [www.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na))

### **April 18: Earth Day Events**

(Watch for information on the Tennessee State Natural Areas Web Site at: [www.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na))

## **May**

### **Dragonflies, Butterflies and Wildflowers at Walker Branch State Natural Area**

**Location:** Walker Branch State Natural Area near Savannah, Hardin County. Meet at the old Wal-Mart parking lot in Savannah (195 Water Street- Tractor Supply is there now). We will caravan to the site from there.

**Date:** Saturday, May 16, 2009

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

**Leaders:** Allan Trently, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program  
David Withers, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Heritage Program  
Richard Connors, Tennessee State Parks, All Taxa Biotic Inventory

**Reservations: Required:** RSVP to Allan J. Trently by May 15 at 731-512-1369 or [allan.trently@state.tn.us](mailto:allan.trently@state.tn.us).

**Description:** Join naturalists from State Parks & State Natural Areas for a moderately strenuous (but slow) hike through the hills, seeps, and springs of Walker Branch SNA in Hardin County, where we will search out crayfish, birds, spring flora, and most especially the myriad of dragonflies that live here. Come ready to get wet (seeps go squish!) and wear appropriate footwear and long pants. Come rain or shine, and bring water and a bag lunch. Cameras & guidebooks are welcomed. We anticipate a 3-4 hour tour. 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.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na).

### **Sequatchie Cave State Natural Area & Town Creek Tour, Marion County**

**Location:** Meet at Bell Road/I-24 Target Shopping Center in Nashville at 9AM CST  
OR at the Manchester Cracker Barrel (I-24 Exit 110) at 10:15 AM CST

**Date:** Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Time:** Departs from Nashville at 9 a.m. central, or 10:15 a.m. central from Manchester, or Meet at Sequatchie Cave at 11 a.m. central

**Leaders:** David Ian Withers & Silas Mathes, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

**Sponsors:** Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations:** Required. RSVP by May 11<sup>th</sup> to Silas Mathes at (615) 532-0431 or E-mail at [silas.mathes@state.tn.us](mailto:silas.mathes@state.tn.us); registration is limited to ten persons.

**Description:** Enjoy this in-depth examination of two spring-fed stream systems, home to the only known populations of the federally endangered royal snail (*Marstonia ogmorhapse*). Examine the history of Sequatchie Cave (Owen Spring) and Town Creek (including the Blue Hole) and the life history of the royal snail and other species. Learn simple techniques for diagnosing aquatic snail species in the field. We will start by visiting Sequatchie Cave State Natural Area in Sequatchie, Tennessee. This biologically significant area is located where Owen Spring Branch flows from the mouth of Sequatchie Cave Park. It also is home to the federal candidate Sequatchie caddisfly (*Glyphopsyche sequatchie*) and several rare cave species. We will break for lunch at this scenic spot, so please bring a bag lunch with you, as well as snacks and water. From Sequatchie we will travel south to the privately owned Town Creek in Jasper, where we will witness ongoing stream restoration to benefit the snail. From here we will travel back to Nashville along I-24. 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.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na).

### **June**

#### **June 7 Annual National Trails Day**

(Watch for information on the Tennessee State Natural Areas Web Site at: [www.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na) )

### **July**

#### **Hike to Laurel Falls and Creek Play - Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness State Natural Area**

**Location:** Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness Natural Area

**Date:** Saturday, July 11, 2009

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

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

**Sponsors:** Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

**Reservations:** Required. RSVP to Lisa Huff by July 8 at (865) 594-5601 or E-mail at [Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us](mailto:Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us).

**Description:** Let's cool off in the spectacular pocket wilderness of Laurel-Snow. We'll start from the parking area and hike to Laurel Falls. Eat lunch at the falls. After the hike, come prepared to play in the creek with us. Bring a float! This hike is about 10.5 miles round trip and part of it near the falls is very steep. We'll take our time though to accommodate novice hikers. This will be a leisure trip to enjoy the cool water in the heat of the summer. Wear sturdy boots and bring lunch and water and be prepared to get wet in the creek (assuming the drought has broken!). If it rains (thunderstorms), we won't go, so you must contact Lisa to reserve a space and provide a way to contact you in case of cancellation. There is no rain date. 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.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na) .

## August

### **Canoe Float on the Duck River State Scenic River**

**Location:** Meet at the Target parking area at Old Hickory Blvd. and I-65 in Brentwood. Transportation for the first 10 people to sign up will be provided.

**Date:** Saturday, August 22, 2008

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

**Leader:** Forrest Evans, Stewardship Ecologist, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas.

**Reservations required:** RSVP by August 20 to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431 or [forrest.evans@state.tn.us](mailto:forrest.evans@state.tn.us).

The first 10 reservations can take advantage of free van transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program.

**Description:** Come join us as we enjoy the cool waters of the Duck River on a warm summer day. We will be on a very flat and easy stretch of river from Leftwich Bridge to the new TWRA take out at Howard Bridge. This stretch of the river has a gentle current and no real rapids, and will take about 4 hours to float. This is an excellent opportunity for beginners to canoe. Participants are welcome to bring their own canoe or kayak, but will have to provide their own transportation if they do. Canoes can be rented at a special discount of \$12.50 per person or \$25 per canoe through a local canoe vendor. Our put in point is about a 45-minute drive south of Nashville on I-65. Bring lunch and water and maybe a change of clothes. For more information about this as well as any other State Scenic River, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: [www.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na) .

## September

### **September 26 Annual National Public Lands Day**

(Watch for information on the Tennessee State Natural Areas Web Site at: [www.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na) )

## October

### **Botanical Tour of Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens State Natural Area**

**Location:** Meet at the Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens parking lot on Factory Road (see map at <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/na/natareas/flatrock/flatrock.pdf>)

**Date:** Saturday, October 3, 2009

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

**Leader:** Todd Crabtree, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Heritage Program  
Reservations required: RSVP by September 30th to Todd Crabtree, 615-532-1378 or [todd.crabtree@state.tn.us](mailto:todd.crabtree@state.tn.us).

**Descripton:** Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens is one of Tennessee's most ecologically significant natural areas and is an important research natural area. We will observe numerous species of rare plants as we hike along the 3.5 mile trail. A variety of habitats exist in this natural area. We will see cedar glades, barrens, woods and sinkholes. Grasses and composites will be the focus but many other plants will be evident. The mix of fall foliage and flowers will make the tour a colorful one. Consult the weather forecast; the hike will be cancelled in case of bad weather. The trail is long and not steep but footwear with good ankle support is recommended. Bring a lunch and water. 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.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na).

## November

### **Fall Interpretive Hike at Devil's Backbone State Natural Area**

**Location:** Meet at the Devil's Backbone parking lot on Natchez Trace Parkway, three miles north of Highway 412 (see map at <http://state.tn.us/environment/na/natareas/devils/devils.pdf>)

**Date:** Saturday, November 7, 2009

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

**Leader:** Allan J. Trently, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program  
**Reservations required:** RSVP by November 5<sup>th</sup> to Allan J. Trently, 731-512-1369 or [allan.trently@state.tn.us](mailto:allan.trently@state.tn.us).

**Descripton:** This fall hike will follow the three mile easy to moderate loop trail through the natural area which is located on the Natchez Trace Parkway near mile marker 394. The trail runs along a high ridge featuring dry, oak-hickory forest and traverses down slope to a moist soil hardwood forest indicative of the Western Highland Rim region of Tennessee. Consult the weather forecast; the hike will be cancelled in case of bad weather. The trip leader will interpret the ecology of the natural area so be prepared to learn about the ecology of the region. 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.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na).

## December

### **Woodland Weeding at Rugby State Natural Area**

**Location:** Meet at the Harrow Road Cafe

**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2009

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

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

**Sponsors:** Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

**Reservations:** Required. RSVP to Lisa Huff by December 4 at (865) 594-5601 or E-mail at [Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us](mailto:Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us).

**Description:** Come out with a pair of leather work gloves, layered clothes, good shoes, water, and food and spend a few hours helping pull up the dread Japanese spiraea from the woodlands of the Rugby State Natural Area. This will be our second spiraea pull. Our first pull was quite successful and we will just continue downstream from where we left off last time, including looking over our previous work to pull any plants we missed. We'll only work about three hours, so we promise not to wear you out! Go Rugby! Don't forget to contact Lisa to make your reservation and leave her a phone number or E-mail to contact you in case we have to cancel the event on account of rain or extreme cold. 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.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na).