

**WPA Days at Cedars of Lebanon State Park**  
**Saturday, October 10, 2009**

**Celebrate “Building a State Park” on October 10, 2009 during WPA Days at Cedars of Lebanon.** The **Works Progress Administration** or WPA was established in 1935 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Administration to help provide economic relief to the citizens of the United States who were suffering through the Great Depression. **Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Forest** was created to bring jobs and economic activity to middle Tennessee by reclaiming approximately 9,000 acres of deforested lands unsuitable for agriculture in Wilson County. The land was purchased from 60 local farmers, many of whom were resettled. Jobs were provided for 300 members of the WPA to replant and develop the park for recreation and conservation. *WPA Days* will feature historical and cultural programs and demonstrations about the beginnings of the park and portraying life during the time period when Cedars of Lebanon was established.

**WPA Days Presenters and Exhibits**

**Barbara and Tommy Upchurch** – *Weaving*. Weaving was revived as an arts program during the WPA. Tommy and Barbara will be demonstrating with a loom.

**Shelly and Clive Valentine** – *Millwright*. Shelly and Clive are traditional artist specializing in sorghum cooking, cabin building, mill grinding.

**Roy Harper** - *Music Artist and Painter*. Retired brakeman who received the Tennessee Heritage Artist Award and numerous other awards singing traditional folk country music.

**Lex Conaster and Chuck Linville** – *Fiddles*. Avid Fiddle collectors. Representing the rich history of fiddle playing in the park.

**David Harris** - *John Deere tractor expert*.

**Mac Davidson** - *Traditional Tools*. Devoted antique trader and collector of traditional devices and tools required for daily living and work.

**Wayne Thompson**– *Early Single cylinder engines*

**Tom Jackson** - *Stone Carver, Fiddler, and Wood Cook Stove Specialist*.

**Tony Bible** - *Stone Mason*. Recreating the traditional art of stone masonry, the way WPA workers built the Cedar Forest Lodge.

**Michael Defosche** - *Traditional Southern String Band*. Award winning fiddler focusing on traditional Tennessee string band music.

**John Justice, Pete Dewitt, Thomas Killion, Mike Ezell** - *General George Patton's 3rd Army Manuevers Reinactors* (3rd Army camped and practiced war games at the close of WPA at Cedars of Lebanon)

**WPA and L.U.Worker Reinactors** - Brent Higgins, foreman.

**Crosscut Saw Demonstration and Competition** (starting 10 a.m.) - Jeremiah Barnes, judge

*All programs will be held rain or shine!*

How to find us: Cedars of Lebanon State Park is located 31 miles east of Nashville in Wilson County. It is 6 miles south of I-40 on U.S. Hwy 231. For more information contact Wayne Ingram at (615) 443-2769 or email [Wayne.Ingram@tn.gov](mailto:Wayne.Ingram@tn.gov)

**Cedars of Lebanon State Park**  
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