

# Tennessee State Natural Areas Program

## Schedule of Field Trips and Events for 2010

### 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 23, 2010

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. central

**Leader:** Forrest Evans, Natural Areas Program Stewardship Ecologist

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

[Forrest.Evans@tn.gov](mailto:Forrest.Evans@tn.gov)

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

**Description:** Journey through the wintertime beauty at the Walls of Jericho State Natural Area in Franklin County. This strenuous 8-mile hike descends 600 feet into the “Walls” and continues along the creek to an amazing canyon of sheer rock bluffs, caves, and waterfalls. Dress warmly in layers, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch. This hike is strenuous and participants should be in good physical condition. The trip will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

### February

#### Winter Interpretive Hike at Lucius E. Burch, Jr. State Natural Areas

**Location:** Meet at the Germantown parking lot Shelby Farms Park (see map at

<http://tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/lucius/lucius.pdf>)

**Date:** Saturday, February 20, 2010

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. central

**Leader:** Allan J. Trently, Natural Areas Program Stewardship Ecologist

**Reservations required:** RSVP by February 18<sup>th</sup> to Allan J. Trently, (731) 512-1369 or [allan.trently@tn.gov](mailto:allan.trently@tn.gov). If you need to call me on February 20th call my cell at (731) 234-4887.

**Location:** Meet at the Germantown parking lot Shelby Farms Park (From the intersection of Walnut Grove Road and Germantown Road go about 0.7-miles south on Germantown Road and turn right at light into the eastern end of Shelby Farms Park {Walnut Bend Road, and a Shell/Kangaroo gas station is on the left here}. Take this park road for about 0.4-miles to its end at the parking lot for the trail.)

**Date:** Saturday, February 20, 2010

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

**Leader:** Allan J. Trently, Natural Areas Program Stewardship Ecologist

**Reservations required:** RSVP by February 18<sup>th</sup> to Allan J. Trently, (731) 512-1369 or [allan.trently@tn.gov](mailto:allan.trently@tn.gov). If you need to call me on February 20th call my cell at (731) 234-4887.

**Descripton:** The 728-acre Lucius E. Burch, Jr. State Natural Area is part of the larger Shelby Farms Park in Memphis. The natural area is within the floodplain of the Wolf River, which borders the south end of the natural area. The hike is approximately 4.2-miles and should take about 2 and ½ hours and so we should be back at the parking lot by lunch. The hike is through bottomland forest and is easy hiking. Expect portions of the trail to be wet and muddy, so wear boots, preferably waterproof boots. The trip leader will interpret the ecology of the natural area.

## **February 22 through 29, Tennessee Weeds Awareness Week**

More information about this event coming soon!

## **March**

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

**Location:** Overton and Jackson Counties, north of Cookeville. A van will depart from east side Nashville at the K-mart parking lot off of Donelson Pike; others may be picked up near Cookeville if needed.

**Date:** Saturday, March 20, 2010

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

**Leaders:** Roger McCoy, Natural Heritage Program Coordinator, Andrea Bishop, Rare Species Recovery Biologist

**Reservations:** Reservations are required. Space is limited to twelve people. Contact Roger McCoy (615-532-0437, [roger.mccoy@tn.gov](mailto:roger.mccoy@tn.gov)) no later than March 15 to reserve a spot for the trip.

**Description:** Enjoy the first day of spring with an outing to three waterfalls on the Eastern Highland Rim. Located at the transition point between the Eastern Highland Rim and Outer Central Basin, Spring Creek, Roaring River, and Blackburn Fork are designated state scenic rivers. In this area, two types of geological formations exist, and such 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 east toward Cookeville. Participants can meet the trip leaders in the K-mart parking lot off of Donelson Pike or meet the van in the Cookeville area. We should be able to stop at a local store for lunch and snacks, but participants are welcome to bring food and beverages.

## **April**

### **April 5 through 11: State Natural Areas Week**

A full schedule of events will be posted

### **April 17 Earth Day Events**

More information on Earth Day to be announced

### **Birding at Walker Branch State Natural Area and Surrounding Areas**

**Location:** Walker Branch State Natural Area, Savannah, Hardin County. Meet and carpool from the old Wal-Mart parking lot in Savannah (195 Water Street- Tractor Supply is there now). For those who want to meet at Walker Branch, please let me know your intentions when you call/write. A map to Walker Branch can be found at: <http://tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/walker/walker.pdf>

**Date:** Saturday, May 15, 2010

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. central

**Leader:** Allan Trently, Natural Areas Program Stewardship Ecologist

**Reservations Required:** Contact Allan Trently at (731) 512-1369 or at [allan.trently@tn.gov](mailto:allan.trently@tn.gov) no later than May 13<sup>th</sup>. If you need to call me on May 15<sup>th</sup> call my cell at (731) 234-4887

**Description:** Walker Branch is a 255-acre natural area containing wetlands, cypress-gum swamps, bottomland forests and upland, dry oak-hickory forest. We will begin by birding the bottomland forests, swamps and wetlands of Walker Branch. We hope to see and/or hear great blue heron, red-shouldered hawk, barred owl, red-headed woodpecker, prothonotary warbler and many other species in this habitat.

We will drive the gravel roads south of the natural area where there are large agricultural and early successional fields in anticipation of finding grasshopper sparrow, lark sparrow (a rare nesting bird in Tennessee), blue grosbeak, dickcissel, bobolink, horned lark and other birds that prefer open areas. Those interested can then follow the group across the Tennessee River to a site where the rare nesting scissor-tailed flycatcher is known to occur (three were found in 2009).

We will be hiking in wetlands so please wear boots. You will need binoculars. Scopes are not necessary but could come in handy for seeing birds in open areas. I will bring one scope for sharing. We will not go in the event of rainy weather.

## June

### **June 5 - National Trails Day – statewide events tba**

#### **Couchville Cedar Glade Botanical Tour**

**Location:** Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area, Davidson and Wilson County. From I-40 exit on Highway 171 and go south on South Mount Juliet Rd. for about six miles then bear left onto South Mt Juliet Rd. The parking area is one half mile on the right. From I-24, exit at Old Hickory (southeast Nashville near Hickory Hollow Mall) and proceed east for approximately 12 miles. Turn right at South Mt Juliet Rd about one and one half miles past the Long Hunter State Park entrance. The parking area is one half mile on the right. A map to Couchville Cedar Glade is located at <http://tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/couchville/couchville.pdf>

**Date:** Saturday June 26th, 2010

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

**Leader:** Todd Crabtree, Natural Heritage Program Botanist

**Reservations Required:** Contact Todd Crabtree at (615) 532-1379 or at [todd.crabtree@tn.gov](mailto:todd.crabtree@tn.gov) by May22.

**Description:** This natural area protects one of the best examples of a glade-barrens complex. We will take a botanical tour and see a healthy population of the federally endangered Tennessee coneflower (*Echinacea tennesseensis*) and other rare plants of cedar glades as well as those of grassy barrens. The Tennessee coneflower was proposed as a federally endangered species in 1976 and determined to be endangered in 1979. Since that time government agencies, research institutions, and individuals have worked to help this species recover to the point that it is in the process of being delisted from endangered status. The coneflower grows near the edge of open cedar glades. Other rare and uncommon species inhabit the open glades. Grassy barrens are nearby and we will see an odd, possibly undescribed, variety of little bluestem there. Limestone outcrops in the cedar-blue ash woodlands contain an interesting assemblage of mosses. The best way to learn about plants is to see them in their natural environment and we will see numerous species that are members of a unique community of plants found in cedar glades and barrens of Middle Tennessee.

## July

### **Hike the Twin Arches Trail at Big South Fork (BSFRRA)**

**Location:** Meet at the trail head for Twin Arches Designated State Natural Area, BSFRRA. From Jamestown, TN take TN highway 154 north for approximately 9 miles to TN highway 297. Continue on highway 154 for 1.8 miles beyond TN highway 297. Turn right onto Divide Road. In 1.3 miles the road will fork, take the left fork on Divide Road for another 2.7 miles. Turn right onto the Twin Arches Road. You will reach the Twin Arches Trailhead in 2.4 miles.

**Date:** Saturday, July 31, 2010

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

**Leader:** David Lincicome, Natural & Cultural Resources Section Manager, and Andrea Bishop, Rare Species Recovery Biologist

**Reservations:** Reservations required and space is limited to 20 people. Contact Andrea Bishop (615)741-9141, [andrea.bishop@tn.gov](mailto:andrea.bishop@tn.gov) by Wednesday July 28th to reserve a slot for the trip.

**Description:** Hike the Twin Arches Trail at Big South Fork (BSFRRA) to view the endangered Cumberland sandwort and other rockshelter species. We will hike the 1.4 mile loop trail that goes around the arches and also hike a short out and back portion of the Twin Arches Loop Trail that goes in and out of several rockshelters for another 1.4 miles (2.8 miles total hike, rated moderate). These arches form the largest natural bridge complex known in Tennessee and represent one of the world's largest such complexes. The two sandstone arches are situated end-to-end, and are commonly referred to as the North and South Arches. The tops of the arches support vegetation adapted to dry conditions and include a mixed pine-oak-heath community, a fragile moss-lichen community and sandstone barrens scattered along the top of the gorge bluffs that support populations of needlegrass, little bluestem, and blazing star. The vegetation appears stunted because of the harsh conditions related to rock outcropping and shallow soil. The vegetative cover on top of the plateau along the trail from the parking area to the arches is dominated by scarlet oak along with other oaks, hickories and pines. The river gorges provide ample site conditions to support rich mixed-mesophytic forest communities below the bluffs containing such species as yellow poplar, eastern hemlock, sugar maple, red oak, magnolias, basswood, yellow buckeye and rhododendron. In the protected environment of some rock shelters, growing in the sand, are a number of rare species, such as Cumberland sandwort and Lucy Braun's white snakeroot. Only a few other plant species regularly grow in these habitats. If it rains (thunderstorms), we won't go, so you must reserve a space and provide a way to contact you in case of cancellation. If you RSVP for a space on the hike, you must commit to come or cancel by the RSVP date. Please don't take a space away from someone who wants to be there! Bring a lunch, water and sturdy boots.

### **Annual Hike to Laurel Falls and Play in the Creek**

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

**Date:** Saturday, July 17, 2009

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

**Leader:** Lisa Huff, Natural Areas Program Stewardship Ecologist

**Reservations:** Required. Space limited to first 10 respondents. To RSVP, contact Lisa Huff at (865) 594-5601 or [Lisa.Huff@tn.gov](mailto:Lisa.Huff@tn.gov) by July 14.

**Description:** Cool off from the summer heat on one of our most popular hikes in the spectacular pocket wilderness of Laurel-Snow. We'll start from the parking area and hike to Laurel Falls and then up to the Raven Point Overlook, where we'll have our lunch. On the way back down the trail, we'll go to the "super pool" on Henderson Creek, and have a swim. Bring a swim float! This hike is about 6 miles round trip and part of it, near the falls, is very steep. We'll take our time 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. 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. Please be considerate and let us know if you cannot come, so we can make space for others.

## **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.

**Date:** Saturday, August 14, 2010

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

**Leader:** Forrest Evans, Natural Areas Program Stewardship Ecologist

**Reservations required:** RSVP by August 13 to Forrest Evans, (615) 532-0431 or [forrest.evans@tn.gov](mailto:forrest.evans@tn.gov)  
The first 10 reservations can take advantage of 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 TWRA take out at Howard Bridge. This stretch of the river has a gentle current, no 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 perhaps a change of clothes.

## September

### **September 25, Annual National Public Lands Day – statewide events tba**

#### **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://tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/carrollcabin/carrollcabin.pdf>.

**Date:** Saturday, September 18, 2010

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. central

**Leader:** Allan Trently, Natural Areas Program Stewardship Ecologist

**Reservations Required:** Contact Allan Trently at (731) 512-1369 or at [allan.trently@tn.gov](mailto:allan.trently@tn.gov) by September 16th. If you need to call me on September 18th call my cell at (731) 234-4887 (coverage at Carroll Cabins is not reliable).

**Description:** Hike the moderately strenuous (most will find it easy) 2.5-mile loop trail through wooded ridges, limestone barrens and cedar glades on the west bank of the Tennessee River. Learn about the animals and plants found in the natural 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 (50 species have been seen here) 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.

## October

### **Fall Hike and Crawdad Hootenanny at Dry Branch State Natural Area**

**Location:** Meet at (TBD)

**Date:** October 9, 2010

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

**Leaders:** David I. Withers, Natural Heritage Program Zoologist and Glenn M. Rohrbach, Biologist

**Sponsors:** Tennessee Natural Heritage Program and the Discovery Center (Murfreesboro)

**Reservations:** Required. RSVP to David Withers by October 8 at (615) 532-0441 or [david.withers@tn.gov](mailto:david.withers@tn.gov)

**Description:** Don your boots and join intrepid astacologists Rohrbach & Withers for an excursion to a natural area best known for its rare plants. Dry Branch, a key ecological preserve for the protection of Tennessee yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris tennesseensis*) a federally endangered species, also is home to one

of our most colorful crayfish, the bright blue linear cobalt crayfish (*Cambarus gentryi*). This species, although considered secure ecologically, is a Tennessee endemic and is limited to the Central Basin and Highland Rim provinces. We will carefully seek this species and others using care not to disturb the rare plants for which this natural area was acquired. Bring boots you don't mind getting wet and gloves you don't mind getting dirty. If the proper habitats present themselves we will learn how to coax crayfish out of active burrows ("noodling").

Don't forget to contact David to make your reservation and leave a phone number or E-mail to contact you in case we have to cancel the hootenanny on account of inclement weather. THIS TRIP WILL BE LIMITED TO SIX GUESTS.

### **Hill Forest Natural Area Hike**

**Location:** Meet at the old farm house on site off of Hwy 70. Go one mile east on Hwy 70 from the intersection of Hwy 70 and Old Hickory Blvd. (Kroger shopping center in Bellevue). Look for an open gate with the red stop sign and then turn right into the drive.

**Date:** Saturday, October 15, 2010

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. central

**Leaders:** Brian Bowen, Natural Areas Program Manager, Julia Landstreet, Friends of Warner Parks

**Sponsors:** Natural Resource Division, Friends of Warner Parks, & Warner Parks

**Reservations:** Reservations are required. Contact Brian Bowen (615) 532-0436, [Brian.Bowen@tn.gov](mailto:Brian.Bowen@tn.gov)) to sign up for the hike. Reservations must be made by October 22.

**Description:** Come enjoy a late October morning hike through the Hill Forest proposed designated state natural area. This 3.5 mile hike is your opportunity to experience the natural area's biggest and oldest forest trees. Enjoy late fall color while exploring our newest proposed state natural area. The hike will take approximately 3 hours...bring water, wear sturdy walking gear, and dress for the weather.

## **November**

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

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

**Date:** Saturday, November 06, 2010

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. eastern

**Leader:** Lisa Huff, Natural Areas Program Stewardship Ecologist

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

**Reservations:** Required. To RSVP contact Lisa Huff at (865) 594-5601 or [Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us](mailto:Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us) by Nov 4.

**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 dreaded Japanese spiraea from the woodlands of the Rugby State Natural Area. This will be our third scheduled spiraea pull. Our previous pulls were quite successful and we will just continue where we left off last time, including looking over our previous work to pull any plants we missed. We'll only work about two or 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.

## **December**

### **Winter Hike at Devil's Backbone State Natural Area**

**Location:** Meet at the Devil's Backbone parking lot off the Natchez Trace Parkway near mile marker 394, approximately three miles north of Highway 412 (see map at <http://tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/devils/devils.pdf>)

**Date:** Saturday, December 11, 2010

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

**Leader:** Allan J. Trently, Natural Areas Program Stewardship Ecologist

**Reservations required:** RSVP by December 9<sup>th</sup> to Allan J. Trently, (731) 512-1369 or [allan.trently@tn.gov](mailto:allan.trently@tn.gov). If you need to call me on December 11<sup>th</sup> call my cell at (731) 234-4887 (coverage at Devil's Backbone is not be reliable).

**Description:** This winter hike will follow the 3 mile moderately strenuous (most will find it easy) loop trail through the natural area. 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. The trip leader will interpret the ecology of the natural area so be prepared to learn about the ecology of the region. Consult the weather forecast; the hike will be cancelled in case of bad weather.

**For more information including descriptions, directions, and maps about state natural areas, visit the Resource Management Division's Natural Areas Program homepage at:**  
<http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/>.