

# State Natural Areas Schedule of Field Trips and Events for 2008

## 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 26, 2008

**Time:** 7:00 am Central

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

**Reservations required:** RSVP by January 24 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. 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 Hike at Devil's Backbone State Natural Area**

**Location:** Meet at the Devil's Backbone parking lot on Natchez Trace Parkway, 3 miles north of Highway 412

**Date:** Saturday, February 16, 2008

**Time:** 10:00 am Central

**Leader:** Brian Bowen and Allan Trently

**Reservations required:** RSVP by February 14 to Brian Bowen, 615-532-0436 or

[Brian.Bowen@tn.state.us](mailto:Brian.Bowen@tn.state.us) . Please leave your name and a telephone number.

**Descripton:** This winter hike will follow the 3-mile easy to moderate loop trail through the natural area which is located on the Natchez Trace Parkway near mile marker 394. The trail follows the dry steep ridges and traverses a hollow. The forest features mixed hardwood and hardwood forest communities found on the Western Highland Rim. Consult the weather forecast; the hike will be cancel in case of bad weather. 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

### **Day Hike at Virgin Falls State Natural Area**

**Location:** Meet at the Nashville Kroger store parking lot at 5544 Old Hickory Blvd, Hermitage near Summit Medical Center east of town.

**Date:** Saturday, March 15, 2008

**Time:** 7:00 am Central

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

**Reservations required:** RSVP by March 13 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 scenic beauty of one of Tennessee's best-loved hiking trails at Virgin Falls State Natural Area. We will take the strenuous 8-mile trail to the falls. This trail descends off of the Plateau, and meanders along the creek passing caves, sinks, and waterfalls. We will have lunch at the falls, which is remarkable due to the water pouring out of a cave mouth at the top of a bluff then falling over a hundred feet before being swallowed up by a sinkhole at the bottom. The trail then backtracks up and out of the gulf to the parking area. We will not go if it is raining or it is predicted to rain. Consult a weather report before the trip. Dress 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).

## April

### **April 7 through 13: 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 19: 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

### **Canoe Float on the Harpeth River**

**Location:** Meet at Kingston Springs City Park, Old Pinnacle Road, just east of the Kingston Springs Town Center.

<http://mapper.acme.com/?ll=36.10147,-87.10553&z=15&t=M&marker0=36.09361%2C-87.09341%2Ckingston%20springs%5C%2C%20tennessee>

or <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/HarpethRiver/images/parkmap.pdf>

**Date:** Saturday, May 3, 2008

**Time:** 8:00 am Central

**Leaders:** Roger McCoy, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas and Jane Polansky, Tennessee State Parks

**Reservations required:** Space is limited; RSVP by Monday, April 28, 615-532-0431. Participants are welcome to bring their own canoe or kayak, but canoe rentals are available at a cost of \$25 per canoe.

**Description:** Begin the first weekend in May with a 3.5-hour float along one of Middle Tennessee's most popular rivers. Participants are sure to enjoy the native flora and fauna associated with this Eastern Highland Rim waterway. The float will begin at Kingston Springs and end at the state-owned Gossett

Tract, just north of U.S. Highway 70 along Cedar Hill Road. At the Gossett Tract, we can enjoy our lunches at the picnic facilities. Shuttles will be arranged back to Kingston Springs Park. Be sure to bring only items/clothing you won't mind getting wet, water to drink, snacks, and a lunch. For more information about the Harpeth River State Park visit: <http://state.tn.us/environment/parks/HarpethRiver/>

## **Dragonflies 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 17, 2008

**Time:** 9:00 am 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 David Withers by May 15 at (615) 532-0441 or [david.withers@state.tn.us](mailto:david.withers@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).

## **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))

## **Day Hike at Vesta Cedar Glade State Natural Area**

**Location:** Meet at the Cedars of Lebanon State Park Office on US 231 south of Lebanon.

**Date:** Saturday, June 14, 2008

**Time:** 10:00 am Central

**Leader:** Andrea Shea Bishop and David Lincicome, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations required:** RSVP by June 12 to Andrea Bishop 615-532-0431 (secretary's desk) or if by email, please verify that we have received it. The trip is limited to 25 people and we can carpool to Vesta Glade from the park. [Andrea.Bishop@state.tn.us](mailto:Andrea.Bishop@state.tn.us) or [David.Lincicome@state.tn.us](mailto:David.Lincicome@state.tn.us)

**Description:** Vesta Cedar Glade is in Cedars of Lebanon State Forest, Wilson County. Vesta is one of the premier sites for the endangered Tennessee coneflower. Many other rare plants grow in this unique cedar glade and grassy barrens ecosystem that occurs in the Central Basin of middle Tennessee. Other cedar glade plants to see at this time include Tennessee milk-vetch, southern prairie dock, purple prairie clover, Gattinger's prairie clover, prairie tea, glade privet, fragrant sumac, and several species of native grasses. Consult the weather reports before the trip, in case of thunderstorms. The site is open, flat and rocky but the walking will be easy. Boots are recommended but sturdy shoes will work. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen, a hat and insect spray for potential ticks and chiggers. 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).

## July

### **Picnic and Creek Play at Stinging Fork Falls State Natural Area**

**Location:** Stinging Fork Falls State Natural Area

**Date:** Saturday, July 12, 2008

**Time:** 11:00 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 10 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 deep pocket wilderness of Stinging Fork Creek, play in the pool and creek with us and eat lunch at the falls. Bring a float! This hike is a very short 2.0 miles round trip, but part of it 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. Anyone who would like additional hiking afterward can join Lisa at Piney Falls. 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).

### **Day Hike at Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens State Natural Area**

**Location:** Meet at the Target store parking lot off of Bell Road near Hickory Hollow at 8:00 AM. Transportation for the first 10 people to sign up will be provided. Alternatively, meet at the Flat Rock Parking Area at 9:00 am.

**Date:** Saturday, July 19, 2008

**Time:** Hike Begins at 9:00 am Central

**Leader:** Silas Mathes, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Heritage Program

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

**Reservations:** Required. RSVP to Silas Mathes by July 17 at (615) 532-0431 or E-mail at [Silas.Mathes@state.tn.us](mailto:Silas.Mathes@state.tn.us).

**Description:** Join us for a hike at Flat Rock State Natural Area to observe Middle Tennessee's unique cedar glade habitats in one of Tennessee's most ecologically significant preserves, just a few miles from Murfreesboro. We will traverse flat rocky limestone outcrops, oak and grassland barrens, and oak-cedar-hickory forest areas. Along the way, we'll try to identify some of Flat Rock's plants, including native grasses, goat's rue, southern prairie dock, wavy leaf purple coneflower, wild quinine, aromatic sumac, and others. The hike should be easy to moderate and will cover approximately four miles. Boots are recommended but sturdy shoes will work. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen, a hat, and insect spray. 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

### **Walking Tour of Morrison Meadow and May Prairie State Natural Areas**

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

**Date:** Saturday, August 23, 2008

**Time:** 8:00 am Central

**Leaders:** Todd Crabtree; Botanist Natural Heritage Program and Kevin Fitch; Science Director Natural Areas Program

**Reservations required:** RSVP by August 21 to Todd Crabtree or Kevin Fitch (615) 532-0431 or [Todd.Crabtree@state.tn.us](mailto:Todd.Crabtree@state.tn.us) and [Kevin.fitch@state.tn.us](mailto:Kevin.fitch@state.tn.us). The first ten reservations can take advantage of free van transportation provided by the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas.

**Sponsor:** Division of Natural Areas

**Description:** Join Tennessee's Natural Areas Staff for an outstanding wildflower hike to one of our newest Natural Areas, Morrison Meadow is renowned for its summer/fall flora, this is a moderate to easy hike. We will also be stopping by May Prairie. Recommended items: Water, Food/snacks, Sturdy high top boots or shoes with good traction, Rain gear, Personal items (first-aid kit, medications, etc), Other (camera, binoculars, botanist lenses, manuals/field guides, etc.). 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) .

### **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 30, 2008

**Time:** 9:00 am Central

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

**Reservations required:** RSVP by August 28 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 \$10 per person or \$20 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

### **John Muir Trail Hike at the Hiwassee State Scenic River**

**Location:** Hiwassee/Ocoee State Scenic River State Park, Gee Creek Campground Park Office

**Date:** Saturday, September 20, 2008

**Time:** 10:00 am Eastern

**Leader:** David Lincicome and Andrea Bishop, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

**Sponsors:** Tennessee Division of Natural Areas and Tennessee State Parks

**Reservations:** Required. RSVP by September 18 to David Lincicome at (615) 532-0439 or E-mail at [david.lincicome@state.tn.us](mailto:david.lincicome@state.tn.us) , or Andrea Bishop at (615) 741-9141 or e-mail at [andrea.bishop@state.tn.us](mailto:andrea.bishop@state.tn.us)

**Description:** Come enjoy an easy to moderate hike on the John Muir Trail along the Hiwassee State Scenic River. After a short caravan ride from the Park Office at Gee Creek Campground to the Appalachia Powerhouse we will hike upstream through the Hiwassee River gorge as far as the Coker Creek confluence, and back to the powerhouse. We will hike through The Narrows and hopefully be able to visit the phyllite boulders along the stream where populations of the endangered Ruth's golden-aster can be found. If it rains, the hike will be canceled, so you must contact David or Andrea to reserve a space and provide a way to contact you in case of cancellation. There is no rain date. Please wear sturdy boots, bring plenty of water and a sack lunch. The hike is approximately 5-6 miles round-trip. 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) , or visit Tennessee State parks web site at: <http://state.tn.us/environment/parks/Hiwassee/> .

### **September 27 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

### **October 14 through 18: Natural Areas Association Conference**

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

## November

### **Canoe Float at the Ghost River State Natural Area on the Wolf River**

**Location:** Ghost River State Natural Area

**Date:** Saturday, November 1, 2008

**Time:** Meet at the LaGrange boat ramp at 9:00 am Central

**Leader:** Allen Trently, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

**Reservations:** Required: RSVP by October 30 to Allan Trently at (731) 512-1369 or E-mail at [Allan.Trently@state.tn.us](mailto:Allan.Trently@state.tn.us)

**Description:** Join us for an early winters float on the "Ghost" section of the Wolf River and find out why it is named such. The trip is about a 5-hour float, so bring lunch, and plenty to drink. Participants will also need to provide their own canoes/kayaks. If weather conditions are unfavorable, the event will be cancelled. 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 6, 2008

**Time:** 9:00 am 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) .