

Natural Areas Week 2008 Calendar of Events
April 7th through 13th

Wednesday Field Trip, April 9th

Piney Falls State Natural Area Spring Wildflower Walk

Location: Meet at the Soak Creek gate on Shut-In-Gap Road

Date: Wednesday, April 9

Time: 9:00 a.m. Central

Leader: Lisa Huff

Sponsors: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, 865-594-5601,
lisa.huff@state.tn.us

Reservations: Required. Space is limited. Contact Lisa Huff no later than April 7 to reserve a space on this hike.

Description: Piney Falls provides an opportunity to see an array of common spring wildflowers in profusion along the banks of Soak Creek. For this hike, we'll meet at the gated road next to Soak Creek on the Shut-In-Gap Road. This is located next to the Piney Falls picnic area, just before the road begins to climb steeply up the escarpment of the Plateau (call for directions). We'll look for wildflowers along the creek banks and afterward we'll go to the top of the Plateau and hike around the waterfall loop trail, where we'll also enjoy a picnic lunch. Bring water and food; wear layered clothing and sturdy footwear. We'll not go if it's predicted to be rainy. For that reason, you must reserve a space on the hike 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 .

Saturday Field Trips, April 12th

Hike at Carroll Cabin Barrens State Natural Area

Location: Carroll Cabin Barrens State Natural Area, Bath Springs

Date: Saturday April 12th

Time: Meet at the parking area at 9:00 am CDT

Leader: Allan Trently, Stewardship Ecologist, Natural Areas Program

Sponsor: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations Required: Contact Allan Trently at (731) 512-1369 or at Allan.Trently@state.tn.us no later than April 10th.

Description: Hike the moderately strenuous 2.5-mile loop trail covering a 200+ feet elevation change along wooded ridges, limestone barrens and cedar glades on the west bank of the Tennessee River. Learn about the animals and plants found in the area and the reason for the State's interest in preserving the property and what makes it a significant natural area worthy of protection. 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. 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 .

Hike at Stillhouse Hollow Falls and to Cheek Bend Natural Areas

Location: Meet at the Target parking area at Old Hickory Blvd. and I-65 in Brentwood. Free transportation for the first 10 people to sign up will be provided. Or you may meet at the Cheek Bend trailhead in Maury County off of Sowell Mill Pike.

Date: Saturday, April 12

Time: 10:00 a.m. Central

Leader: Forrest Evans

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, (615) 532-0431,
forrest.evans@state.tn.us

Reservations: Required, space is limited. Contact Forrest Evans no later than April 10 to reserve a place on this hike.

Description: The hike to the river overlook and cave on the Duck River brings the visitor through a very diverse group of ecosystems from the harsh, treeless glades to the Duck River bottomland. We will have lunch on top of a bluff overlooking the river and explore a short cave with one opening in a sinkhole and another on the bluff; lights are optional. After lunch we will drive to a very different ecosystem on the Highland Rim. Stillhouse Hollow Falls is quite spectacular and has a beautiful trail along the creek and then to the bottom of the falls. Both sites will have a variety of spring wildflowers so cameras are encouraged. The total for both hikes is less than 4 miles. Be prepared for an outing of at least 5 hours, bring lunch and water, wear layered clothing and stout hiking boots, and be prepared for rain. We will go on the hike unless heavy rain is forecast. This is considered a moderate hike and potentially includes some scaling of rocky areas. 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 .

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 to be determined after guests have registered for the trip. Others may be picked up near Cookeville if needed.

Date: Saturday, April 12

Time: 9:00 a.m. central time

Leader: Roger McCoy

Sponsors: Roger McCoy, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, 615-532-0437,
roger.mccoy@state.tn.us

Reservations: Reservations are required. Space is limited to twelve people. Contact Roger McCoy no later than April 10 to reserve a slot for the trip.

Description: 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 some scenic 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. We are sure to see spring wildflowers along the roadsides and at the waterfalls. The trip will take most of the day, and if time permits we may also visit Washmorgan Hollow State Natural Area, and an area at the confluence of Roaring River and Blackburn Fork known as The Boils. 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 locations 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, 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.

Morrison Meadow, Chimneys, Sequatchie Cave State Natural Areas Driving Tour

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, April 12th

Time: Departs from Nashville at 9 AM CST, or 10:15 AM CST from Manchester

Leader: Silas Mathes, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations: Required. RSVP by April 10th to Silas Mathes at (615) 532-0431 or E-mail at silas.mathes@state.tn.us

Description: Enjoy this tour of three unique state natural areas located in three different physiographic provinces. We will travel by vehicle to these sites and take a short walking tour each. We will start by visiting Morrison Meadow in Warren County. This new state natural area protects a small remnant native warm season grassland and is regarded as one of the most floristically diverse botanical sites in the state. After this site visit we will make a lunch stop at a local café, so please bring money for your lunch or bring a lunch with you, as well as snacks and water. From there we will travel to Chimneys State Natural Area in Marion County. At this site we will enjoy an overlook into Pocket Gorge and the Chimneys, which are two isolated 200-foot high towering pinnacles of Pennsylvanian Warren Point sandstone connected to a central base. From there we will visit Sequatchie Cave State Natural Area, also in Marion County. This biologically significant area is located where Owen Spring Branch flows from the mouth of Sequatchie Cave Park. The cave and its cold spring water support three federally and state listed species, three species of state concern, and many other aquatic and cave species. This is one of only two sites in the world where the federally endangered royal snail is known to occur. 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.

Cedars of Lebanon Wildflower Pilgrimage: Contact Cedars of Lebanon State Park 615-443-2769, or at <http://state.tn.us/environment/parks/Cedars/>.

North Chickamauga Creek Gorge State Natural Area – Hogskin Branch Loop Trail Hike

Location: North Chickamauga Creek Gorge State Natural Area (Bowater Pocket Wilderness Area Parking Lot)

Date: Saturday, April 12th

Time: 10:00 a.m. Eastern

Leader: David Lincicome, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas and Tennessee State Parks

Reservations: Required. RSVP by April 10th to David Lincicome at (615) 532-0439 or E-mail at david.lincicome@state.tn.us

Description: Come enjoy an easy to moderate hike on the Hogskin Branch Loop Trail within the North Chickamauga Creek Gorge. This relatively short hike passes through mixed deciduous forests on the slope above the picturesque North Chickamauga Creek. The slopes are covered in boulders and spring wildflowers should be beginning to flower. The small Hogskin Branch tumbles down the slope and into the much larger North Chickamauga Creek. The main stream is a medium sized high-gradient, mountain stream littered with house-sized boulders and tumbling water. It is popular with kayakers during high water events. If it rains, the hike will be canceled, so you must contact David Lincicome to reserve a space and provide a way to contact you in case of cancellation. There is no rain date. Please wear sturdy boots and bring some water to drink and maybe a snack. The hike is approximately 1.5 miles round-trip. There are no restroom facilities, but there is a picnic area if you wish to picnic after the hike. 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.

Spring Bushwack Hike into Pogue Creek State Natural Area

Location: Meet at Pickett State Park office

Date: Saturday, April 12

Time: 9:00 a.m. Central

Leader: Brandon Taylor/Lisa Huff

Sponsors: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, 865-594-5601, lisa.huff@state.tn.us

Reservations: Required. Space is limited. Contact Lisa Huff no later than April 10 to reserve a space on this hike.

Description: Pogue Creek is one of the newest and most spectacular State natural areas, but it does not yet have a developed trail system. We will enjoy a spring bushwack hike into a yet-to-be-determined location of the creek gorge to explore the new natural area and look for spring wildflowers. Be prepared for an outing of at least 5 hours, bring food and water, wear layered clothing and stout hiking boots, and be prepared for rain. We will go on the hike unless heavy rain is forecast. For that reason, you must contact Ms. Huff in advance to secure a space on the hike and you must provide her with a means to contact you in case of cancellation. There is no rain date. This is considered a moderate to strenuous hike and potentially includes some scaling of rocky areas, but the scenic grandeur of Pogue Creek is well worth the effort. 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.

Sunday Field Trips, April 13th

Ghost River and William B. Clark Preserve State Natural Area Boardwalk Tour

Location: Parking area for the William B. Clark Conservation Area located 1 mile north of Rossville on Hwy 194.

Date: Sunday, April 13th

Time: Meet at the parking area for Clark Preserve at 9:00 am CDT

Leader: Allan Trently, Stewardship Ecologist, Natural Areas Program

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations: Contact Allan Trently at (731) 512-1369 or at Allan.Trently@state.tn.us no later than April 10th.

Description: We will start at the Clark Preserve, which will include a leisurely walk along a 1600 feet boardwalk through bald cypress-water tupelo forest. From the Clark Preserve we'll head west to the Ghost River Natural Area near LaGrange. We will stop for lunch along the way. At Ghost River we'll walk a loop trail, which includes a 600 feet boardwalk through cypress swamp. From both the Clark Preserve and the Ghost River boardwalks we should see wildlife such as snakes, turtles, amphibians, beavers, and numerous birds. Cypress knees are seen protruding from the moist forest floor and shallow water. The boardwalk provides access to rarely seen interior of a riparian bald cypress-water tupelo swamp, which have been quickly disappearing from West Tennessee. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water and a snack, bring binoculars if you have them (I will have a spotting scope for everyone to use), and dress appropriately for the weather. We will not go in the event of inclement 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.

Hike at Bon Aqua Woods State Natural Area

Location: Meet at the Lowe's parking area 7034 Charlotte Pike. off of I-40. Free transportation for the first 10 people to sign up will be provided. Or you may meet at the Bon Aqua Woods trailhead in Hickman County.

Date: Sunday, April 13

Time: 2:00 p.m. Central

Leader: Forrest Evans

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, (615) 532-0431, forrest.evans@state.tn.us

Reservations: Required, space is limited. Contact Forrest Evans no later than April 10th to reserve a place on this hike.

Description: Bon Aqua Woods is one of the state's newest natural areas. We will have a very leisurely hike through a stand of enormous trees, taking time to enjoy the quiet beauty of this small piece of preserved nature. There will be a variety of spring wildflowers so cameras are encouraged. The distance is only about a mile. Be prepared for an outing of at least 4 hours, bring water, wear layered clothing, and sturdy shoes, and be prepared for rain. We will go on the hike unless heavy rain is forecast. This is

considered an easy hike. 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 .

Hike at Taylor Hollow State Natural Area

Location: Meet at the home of Dr. Ward, 671 Phillips Hollow Road, Westmoreland, in northeast Sumner County

(<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=671+Phillips+Hollow+Rd,+Westmoreland,+TN+37186,+USA&sa=X&oi=map&ct=title>).

Date: Sunday, April 13

Time: 10:00 am CDT.

Leaders: Kevin Fitch; Science Director Natural Areas Program

Reservations required: RSVP by April 10th to Kevin Fitch (615) 532-0431 or email Kevin.fitch@state.tn.us.

Sponsor: Division of Natural Areas

Description: Join Tennessee's Natural Areas Science Director Kevin Fitch an for an outstanding wildflower and bird hike to Taylor Hollow, a Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy owned state Natural Area. Taylor Hollow is renowned for its spring flora, especially the display that the blue-eyed Mary, a state-endangered plant. This is a moderately difficult hike. Participants should bring water, lunch, sturdy footwear, and dress appropriately for the 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 .

Short Springs Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage

Location: Short Springs parking area (under the water tower) on Short Springs Rd. just outside of Tullahoma

Date: Sunday April 13

Time: 7:30 and 10:00 am and again at 2:00 pm CDT

Leader: Dennis Horn and Don Davidson, Friends of Short Springs

Sponsor: Friends of Short Springs

Reservations requested: Please call (931) 461-0262

Description: Short Springs is perhaps one of the richest wildflower areas in Middle Tennessee. Come enjoy the wildflowers, waterfalls, and cascading streams on a short three to four-mile hike, and gain a greater appreciation of this wonderful Middle Tennessee jewel.

Buggytop Cave Tour, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee Carter State Natural Area

Location: Meet at Carter State Natural Area parking area on SR56 south of Sewanee.

Date: Sunday, April 13th

Time: 10:00 AM CST

Leader: Todd Crabtree & David Withers, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations: Required. RSVP by April 10th to David Withers at (615) 532-0441 or E-mail at david.withers@state.tn.us .

Description: Enjoy a strenuous hike to, through, and back again from Buggytop Cave. Prepare to hike approximately 2 miles from the lot to the cave, and several thousand feet through the cave itself. Be prepared to see all manner of interesting plants and animals en route, and who-knows-what in the cave itself. Spring ephemerals will be near the peak blooming time. With any luck we will find the blind crayfish *Cambarus hamulatus* and maybe even the Tennessee cave salamander *Gyrinophilus palleucus*.

Bring water, lunch, sturdy shoes, and of course caving gear (at a minimum, helmet, 2 lamps, extra batteries, and gloves).

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 . Information specific to Buggtop Cave may be found at <http://state.tn.us/environment/na/natareas/mrnmrscarter/>.

Twin Hike into Colditz Cove and Twin Arches State Natural Areas

Location: Meet at the Colditz Cove parking area

Date: Sunday, April 13

Time: 9:00 a.m. Central

Leader: Lisa Huff

Sponsors: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, 865-594-5601, lisa.huff@state.tn.us

Reservations: Required. Space is limited. Contact Lisa Huff no later than April 10th to reserve a space on this hike.

Description: These hikes are rated easy to moderate and are good youngster and senior citizen hikes! You can do one or both. Start at beautiful Colditz Cove State Natural Area and join us for a spring hike into one of Tennessee's most lovely waterfalls – Northrup Falls. The new entry trail will take us past carpets of spring wildflowers to a spectacular overlook above the falls. Then, we will drop down into the gorge on the loop trail and pass underneath the waterfall on our way back. There is one area where you'll have to climb through some large boulders, but the group is always there to help! You'll get to see some huge old growth white pine and hemlock trees on this hike. Afterward, we'll travel over to the Twin Arches for a short hike over the arches and back to the parking area. We'll enjoy the great view on top of the arches and probably take a snack lunch there. Wear good shoes and bring water and food, wear layered clothing. It is cool underneath the waterfall and in the hemlock forest at Colditz. For more information, call Lisa Huff at (865) 594-5601 or visit www.state.tn.us/environment/nh/natareas/ . 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 .