

National Public Lands Day September 26, 2015

The On-going Rowdy, Rugged, Rugbeians Spiraea Pull

Date: Saturday, September 26, National Public Lands Day

Time: 10 a.m. Eastern

Location: Rugby State Natural Area

Leader: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Natural Areas Program, lisa.huff@tn.gov

Description: Come help the Rowdy, Rugged Rugbeians continue their battle to save the Rugby State Natural Area from a dreadful Japanese Spiraea invasion. If you want to have breakfast with us before the event, we'll meet at the Harrow Road Café in Historic Rugby for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Eastern time. We'll go into the natural area approximately 10:00 a.m. Eastern time, starting from the Visitors' Centre parking lot.

The weather could be crisp, so wear layers. Bring your work gloves, too. We always have fun. Just ask any of the Rowdy, Rugged Rugbeians! For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: <http://tn.gov/environment/topic/na-natural-areas-program>. For nearby camping and accommodations, please go to <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/pickett>.

Flat Rock Glade Hiking trail maintenance

Location: Meet at the Flat Rock parking area

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2015

Time: 10 a.m. Central Time

Sponsors: Tennessee Natural Areas Program

Leader: Forrest Evans

Reservations: RSVP required; Contact forrest.evans@tn.gov by September 25th and include a way to contact you in case of cancelation of the event.

Description: Come out to one of Middle Tennessee's premier glade ecosystems. We will take a 3 mile hike on the trail and perform light maintenance by trimming out brush on the side of the trail and explore these unique sites as they change due to changes in the local geology and soil. As the soil type changes from near solid rock to deep clay and loam soils you will see the changes in the vegetation from scattered bacterial colonies and annual grasses to prairie type grasslands to cedar thickets to mature hardwoods.

Bring your lunch and something to drink. We'll hike about 3 hours. Wear long pants and sturdy footwear and be prepared for lots of sunshine. You might want some bug spray, too. We won't go if it's forecast to rain heavily or storm. For more information, visit the following website. <http://tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-flat-rock-cedar-glades-and-barrens>. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: <http://tn.gov/environment/topic/na-natural-areas-program>. For nearby camping and accommodations, please go to <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

Big Cypress Tree State Natural Area/State Park National Public Land's Day Hike

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2015

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Meet at the Big Cypress Tree State Park picnic shelter at 1:00 PM

Leader: Bill McCall, Park Manager, Big Cypress Tree State Park and Allan J. Trently, Division of Natural Areas

Fee: There is no charge for this event

Reservations Required: RSVP required. Email Park Manager, Bill McCall at Bill.McCall@tn.gov to make a reservation.

Description: Join Park Manager, Bill McCall and West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist with the Division of Natural Areas, Allan J. Trently for a one-mile walk around the park and on the boardwalk; a perfect way to enjoy a fall day- get outside and get some low-impact exercise. We will learn about this unique park and state natural area and answer questions along the way while we get some walking exercise.

The approximately one-mile hike is rated as easy. Bring bug spray just in case. Any footwear will be fine. The trail and boardwalk are handicap accessible. We will meet in the picnic shelter at 1:00 PM and the hike will start shortly after. For more information and to pre-register, email Park Manager, Bill McCall at Bill.McCall@tn.gov.

For additional information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about Big Cypress Tree visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at:

<http://tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-big-cypress-tree>

Woody Plant Identification Field Course

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2015

Time: 9:30 a.m. CT

Location: Short Springs State Natural Area

<http://tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-short-springs>

Leader: Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas

Fee: \$10 per person, children 12 and under free

Reservations required: Registration required by September 23. To register, contact Loretha Legette at 615-532-0431.

Description: Accurate identification of trees and shrubs while hiking through Tennessee's forests adds to our enjoyment of the natural world. The scenic trails and waterfalls of Short Springs provide a wonderful setting for this approximately three-to-four-hour woody plant identification field course. Participants will not only learn the names of numerous native trees and shrubs but with hand-outs and living specimens, the trip leader will instruct the group on the different characteristics of leaves, twigs, bark, and buds and the terms used in tree identification. Attendees will also learn about the current and historic uses of certain species and the ecological conditions that influence forest stand composition. Roger McCoy, Director of the Division of Natural Areas, has conducted vegetation sampling on state parks and forests, Department of Defense lands,

national forests, and national parks and has used his formal botanical training to facilitate public hikes throughout the state.

The 1.5 – 2 mile hiking route will be moderate with some steep sections. Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring water and snacks to enjoy at the base of the scenic Machine Falls. Although not required, attendees may also wish to bring a notebook and pencil, a hand lens or magnifying glass, and a tree identification guide. You can address specific questions about the outing to roger.mccoy@tn.gov. Sorry, but pets not permitted during this outing.

Those needing overnight accommodations can find camping at Old Stone Fort State Park <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/old-stone-fort> and Tims Ford State Park has camping and cabins <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/tims-ford>. If you wish to see an interactive map of all state parks and natural areas visit <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/publicparkfinder/>