

**TDEC Division of Natural Areas
National Public Lands Day Events
September 27th, 2008**

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three federal agencies and 700 volunteers. Last year over 110,000 volunteers worked in 1,300 locations and in every state to build trails and bridges, plant trees, and remove trash and invasive plants at public lands throughout the United States. Today, 8 federal agencies, many states including Tennessee, as well as local government and non-governmental partners participate in this annual day of caring for shared lands.

National Public Lands Day keeps the promise of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the "tree army" that worked from 1933-42 to preserve and protect America's natural heritage. Join us as we celebrate the 15th annual National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 27th, 2008. NPLD events being held in Tennessee may be seen at <http://www.publiclandsday.org/>.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Natural Areas continues its tradition of organizing public volunteer events to help observe and celebrate NPLD. Following are some of the activities being held in State Natural Areas this year. Natural Areas NPLD opportunities, as well as other public field trips held throughout the year and information about any of Tennessee 79 state natural areas, may be seen at www.tdec.net/na.

September 27th Annual National Public Lands Day

East Tennessee

Hampton Creek Cove Trails and Farmstead Maintenance

Location: Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area

Date: Saturday, September 27

Time: 10:00 a.m. Eastern time; meet at the parking area

Leaders: Judy Murray, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and Lisa Huff, Natural Areas Program, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Sponsors: Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations: Required. RSVP to Lisa Huff by September 25 at (865) 594-5601 or E-mail at Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us.

Description: Learn more about this spectacular state natural area located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of the Roan Highlands and provide support through helping maintain the trail system. We will do maintenance on the Shell Hollow Trail and Birchfield Trail and possibly provide some help with the farmstead on gates and/or fences. Activity will include raking, digging, and cutting with handsaws, chainsaws, and loppers. All tools will be provided. Bring lunch and water, and wear layered clothes and sturdy footwear. Be prepared for rain. We'll plan to work for about 5 hours total. You must reserve a space for this activity in order to participate and provide a method of contact in case of cancellation. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps,

about this or any other State Natural Area, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tdec.net/na

Middle Tennessee

Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens Trail maintenance

Location: Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens State Natural Area

Date: Saturday, September 27

Time: 10:00 a.m. Central time; meet at the parking area

Leaders: Forrest Evans, Natural Areas Program, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Reservations: Required. RSVP to Forrest Evans by September 25 at (615) 532-0431 or E-mail at forrest.evans@state.tn.us

Description: Learn more about this spectacular state natural area located in the heart of the Nashville Basin and provide support through helping maintain the trail system. We will do maintenance on the trails and possibly remove some trash. Activity will include raking, digging, and cutting with handsaws, chainsaws, and loppers. All tools will be provided. Bring water, and wear layered clothes and sturdy footwear. Be prepared for rain. We'll plan to work for about 4 hours total. You must reserve a space for this activity in order to participate and provide a method of contact in case of cancellation. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this or any other State Natural Area, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tdec.net/na

West Tennessee

Riverwoods State Natural Area – Invasive Exotic Plant Control

Location: Germantown, Shelby County, TN

Date: Saturday, September 27

Time: 9:00 a.m. CDT, meet at the parking area

Leader: Allan J. Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist – Natural Areas Program

Sponsors: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation-Natural Areas Division, and Germantown Parks and Recreation

Reservations Required: RSVP to Allan Trently by September 25 at (731) 512-1369 or allan.trently@state.tn.us

Description: Riverwoods is a 21-acre natural area located along the Wolf River in Germantown just outside of Memphis in Shelby County. The City of Germantown and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Natural Areas cooperatively manage the natural area. The vegetation within the natural area is a small remnant mixed mesophytic, oak-hickory and bottomland hardwood forest. The topography of the site reveals that floodplain terraces were once periodically flooded prior to river channelization. Channelization of the Wolf River has greatly reduced flooding in the area, which in turn has caused significant drying of forest soils. This drying has allowed invasive exotic plants to colonize the area to the extent that a great percentage of plants in the understory are now exotics. To date 12 species of invasive exotic plants have been identified in the natural area though many more are expected.

Privet and Japanese honeysuckle are by far the most common in fact some areas contain almost nothing but privet in the understory and Japanese honeysuckle as a ground cover plant. On April ? we plan to remove by cutting and herbicide application as many of these exotics that we can. We do not expect to eradicate exotics from the area, but we do expect to gain some control over these plants. Areas where we work will be monitored after removal of exotics.

All equipment will be furnished. Bring your food and come prepared for variable weather, from cool to hot, and dry to rainy. For more information about Riverwoods State Natural Area, see: www.tdec.net/na