



Spring Wildflower Hikes

Saturday, April 1, 2017 Wildflower hike at Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve

Michelle Reynolds will lead, from 10AM to 2PM. Questions: 205-833-8264.

Saturday, April 15, 2017 Wildflower walk on the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge,

West Blocton, The hike will be led by Linda Sherk of Bibb Co. Citizens for Wildflowers. From Highway 24, turn off onto River Rd. Go down River Rd about 1 + mile, and meet at the "Turn A Round "Area. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cahaba River NWR. Bring good walking shoes, hats, water, and bug spray. For Questions Contact Suzanne McKinley 205-365-2723 Suzie7mac@aol.com

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Join us for a **Wine & Cheese Nature Walk at Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, Pinson, AL.** We will meet at 2 p.m. in the parking area near the exit. Plan to explore the forest led by the preserve's education specialist, Zac Napier. *Rain date is Sunday, April 30, 2017.* Cost is \$10 but limited to 30 Blanche Dean and Friends of Turkey Creek members, so don't wait to reserve your spot. Interested parties can reserve by emailing friendsoftcnp@gmail.com or calling Karen Hutchinson@205-218-6800 before April 15th, payment to be made at the event.

April 21-23 – AWS Spring Meeting at Camp McDowell, Bankhead National Forest.

See Native Azaleas and lots of trilliums. We will lodge and eat on campus. Stough Lodge has been reserved just for us with a common area complete with fireplace, kitchen, and back porch overlooking the forest.

April 29 **May 5-7 - DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon to see spring ephemerals, including Pink Lady Slippers!**

A block of 20 rooms with two double beds each have been reserved for us. Meals are provided in dining area and payable at each meal. Room Rate is \$79 per night or \$158 for two nights. Breakfast is included. **Call 1-800-568-8840 toll free or 256-845-5380** directly to reserve your own room. **Use Group ID#1406.** Deadline for placing your reservation is Monday, April 24, 2017.

Wildflower hikes with the Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks

Saturday, April 8, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, MS.

Join Heather Sullivan, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks Botanist, for a spring walk through the Arboretum's exhibits. She will discuss ferns and flowers encountered along the journey. The program is free to Crosby members; non-members \$5. Register by April 7. Boots recommended.

Saturday, April 8, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. at the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, MS. Join Arboretum staff members Jennifer Buchanan and Pat Drackett on this field walk to explore the carnivorous species of plants found in the Savanna Exhibit and their habitats, including sundews, bladderworts, and pitcher plants. Crosby Members free; non-members \$5. Register by April 7. Boots recommended.

Saturday, May 20, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Crosby Auditorium in Picayune, MS. Learn to recognize and enjoy many of the thirty species of orchids native to the Gulf Coast! Glen Ladnier, long-time orchid enthusiast and member of the Gulf Coast Orchid Society, will discuss habitats, plant and flower characteristics, and touch on common conservation techniques, before leading a short field walk to visit native orchids blooming in the Arboretum exhibits. Crosby Members free; non-members \$5. Register by May 19.

Wednesday –Sunday 9 -5 p.m. Native Orchids of South Mississippi I

Reservations: Call the Arboretum office at (601) 799-2311 for questions, and to make program reservations. Physical Address: 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 3946 6Hours of Operation: Wednesday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 25 (yes a Thursday) Tishomingo State Park, northeast Mississippi

Explore the trails of this great park with Heather Sullivan. Meet at the lodge in the park at 10 a.m. We will see lots of plants that are unique to this area. Hiking boots and sticks are recommended. \$4 park fee per vehicle. Please let me know by May 19th if you want to join me: heather.sullivan@mmns.state.ms.us

Saturday, June 17 Harrell Hill Prairie

This is a joint field trip with Alabama NPS. Meet at the Wendy's in Forest, Mississippi at 8 a.m. This is just north of the interstate exit to Forest (exit 88) on Hwy 35. The restaurant will be closed, but there is a service station nearby. We will then drive to the prairie: from Wendy's, turn right (east) on Erle Johnston Drive and continue to its end at Hwy 501. Turn left (north) on Hwy 501, and then right (east) on Forest Service Road 518. Bring shade (hat, umbrella, etc.), water, bug spray. We will stay as long as it is comfortable, then move down the road to the red cockaded woodpecker colony. Please let me know by June 12th if you want to join me: heather.sullivan@mmns.state.ms.us