

Join Friends of Roan Mountain on Saturday, February 17th at Roan Mountain State Park for a winter celebration of the Roan Highlands! For 11 years the Winter Naturalists' Rally has drawn hardy nature enthusiasts from far & wide to Roan Mountain on the Saturday closest to Valentine's Day. Top naturalists volunteer their time and energy to make the event both enjoyable and educational for people of all ages. Bring the kids!

The 2018 Winter Rally continues this celebration of our natural world by providing top speakers on topics concerning the environs of the Roan Highlands. If you are not already a member of Friends of Roan Mountain, please consider joining. Members get free admission to all naturalists' rally events and a copy of our quarterly newsletter. In addition to sponsoring the naturalists' rallies throughout the year, Friends of Roan Mountain also provides support for research and restoration projects on the Roan.

Richard Broadwell - Winter Rally Director

SATURDAY MORNING PROGRAM (9:30 A.M.)

- ◆ **Ben Jarrett** (Southern Regional Science Coordinator, The American Chestnut Foundation)
Restoration of American Chestnut: A Marriage of Breeding and Biotechnology

Ben will speak about the historical significance of American chestnut (its economic, ecological and social importance), the chestnut blight and subsequent downfall of the species, and the ongoing restoration efforts through backcross breeding and genetic engineering.

Speaker bio: Ben joined The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) in July 2017 as the Southeastern Regional Science Coordinator. Ben is a TACF alumnus, having worked in the past as an intern in the Mid-Atlantic Region in 2014 and 2015. Ben holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia, where he researched American chestnut sprouts and their response to fire.

- ◆ **Lisa C. Huff** (Stewardship Ecologist, Tennessee State Natural Areas Program)
The Mystery of the Missing Shortleaf Pine

Lisa will present a history of the shortleaf pine-bluestem vegetation community in Tennessee, explain what happened to this important ecosystem and describe some efforts underway to restore the community type.

Speaker bio: After obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee, Lisa undertook a series of internships and research positions before attending Duke University, where she received her Master's in Environmental Management. She started working for the Tennessee State Natural Areas Program in 2000. She is tasked with the daily operations and management of over 42,000 acres in twenty-one natural areas in East Tennessee.

- ◆ **Dwayne Estes** (Professor of Biology, Austin Peay State University)
The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative: Charting a New Course for Conservation in the 21st Century

The southeastern U.S. grasslands (savannas, prairies, glades, barrens, balds, bogs, fens and meadows) are imminently threatened. Dwayne will speak about the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI) in Clarksville, TN, which aims to focus grassland conservation efforts across a 21-state region. SGI will use a multi-faceted approach combining restoration, preservation, recreation, research, rescue, seedbanking, education and market-driven strategies. SGI is currently working with and seeking support from private philanthropic foundations, corporations, non-profit conservation organizations and government agencies.

Speaker bio: Dwayne is the executive director for the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative. For ten years Dwayne has served as Professor of Biology at Austin Peay State University (APSU) and was promoted to Full Professor in 2015. Since 2008 he has served as a Principal Investigator for APSU's Center of Excellence for Field Biology. He graduated from the University of Tennessee's Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology in 2008. Dwayne recently coauthored the *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Tennessee* published by UT Press. For many years his primary interest was documenting the flora of Tennessee, including the description of new species. In the past few years, his passion for grasslands led him to develop the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative.

LUNCHTIME PROGRAM (12:30 P.M.)

- ◆ **Sarah Sanford** (Master's of Environmental Management candidate, Duke University)
Grassy Balds Management in the Roan Highlands

In the summer of 2017, Sarah interned for the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, where she worked on a project cataloguing 30+ years of grassy balds habitat management in the Roan Highlands. To do this, Sarah built a geodatabase using GIS software. Her presentation will detail the history of grassy balds management in the Roan as well as the building of the geodatabase.

Speaker bio: Sarah is a graduate student at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. She is in her second year of the Master's in Environmental Management program, and is focusing her studies on conservation and ecology. After graduating in May, Sarah will be pursuing a career in land protection and stewardship in the Southeast.

POST-LUNCH GUIDED HIKES (1:30 P.M.)



11TH ANNUAL

**FRIENDS OF ROAN MOUNTAIN
WINTER NATURALISTS' RALLY**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018

Speakers include:



**Dr. Dwayne Estes, Professor of Biology,
Austin Peay State University**

Presentation: *The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative: Charting a New Course for Conservation in the 21st Century*



**Lisa C. Huff, Stewardship Ecologist,
Tennessee State Natural Areas Program**

Presentation: *The Mystery of the Missing Shortleaf Pine*

**Online registration available:
friendsfroanmtn.org**



**Online registration available!
friendsfroanmtn.org**

**RICHARD BROADWELL, DIRECTOR
WINTER ROAN MOUNTAIN NATURALISTS' RALLY
PO BOX 642
BAKERSVILLE, NC 28705**



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**PRSRT STD
U. S. Postage Paid
Elizabethton TN
Permit No. 194**

2018 Winter Rally Registration Form

(Online and on-site registration also available)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Members, please check if this is a change of address.

Registration Fee:

(Members & children - FREE REGISTRATION)

Non-member Adults # ____ @ \$10.00 ea.

Fee Amount = \$ ____

LUNCH BY PRE-PAID RESERVATION ONLY

RESERVATION DEADLINE: TUES., FEB. 13th

Bag Lunch (Conference Center at 12:30 P.M.)

Note your sandwich choice(s) below:

____ Turkey/Swiss # ____ Ham/Cheese

____ Chicken Salad # ____ Pimento Cheese

Total # ____ @ \$8.00 ea. = Lunch Amount \$ ____

Friends of Roan Mountain Membership:

*(Members do not pay for programs / hikes)

Check Category: New Member Renewing

Individual \$20 ____ Family \$30 ____

Student \$10 ____ Corporate \$50 ____

Lifetime Ind. \$350 ____ Lifetime Family \$450 ____

Membership Amount = \$ ____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$

MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK
PAYABLE TO FRIENDS OF ROAN MOUNTAIN to:

NANCY BARRIGAR, TREASURER

708 ALLEN AVENUE, ELIZABETHTON, TN 37643

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 17, 2018

Roan Mountain State Park, Conference Center

- <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/roan-mountain>
- Address: TN-143, Roan Mountain, TN 37687
- Phone: (423) 772-0190

9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION

9:30 A.M. PROGRAM BEGINS

9:30 A.M. — Ben Jarrett (Southern Regional Science Coordinator, The American Chestnut Foundation): *Restoration of American Chestnut: A Marriage of Breeding and Biotechnology*

10:30 A.M. — Lisa Huff (Stewardship Ecologist, Tennessee State Natural Areas Program): *The Mystery of the Missing Shortleaf Pine*

11:30 A.M. BREAK

11:40 A.M. — Dwayne Estes (Professor of Biology, Austin Peay State University): *The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative: Charting a New Course for Conservation in the 21st Century*

12:30 P.M. LUNCH

Bag lunches available by pre-paid reservation. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, February 13th.

LUNCHTIME PRESENTATION — Sarah Sanford (Master's of Environmental Management candidate, Duke University): *Grassy Balds Management in the Roan Highlands*



American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*)

1:30 P.M. HIKES

The hikes will leave from the Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center.

⇒ **Hike option #1.** Lisa Huff, TN Department of Environment and Conservation, will lead a hike in Hampton Creek Cove Natural Area. Participants will hike up the Birchfield Trail to the stream crossing and back down. Maybe you'll see a Golden Eagle. It's happened before! Binoculars recommended. The hike should not take more than three hours. (moderately strenuous, kid-friendly)

⇒ **Hike option #2.** Jamey Donaldson, ETSU John C. Warden Herbarium Adjunct Curator, will lead a hike to the alder balds on the ridgeline of Roan Mountain. Dress warmly for this one! (strenuous)

⇒ **Hike option #3.** Marty Silver, Ranger with Warriors' Path State Park, will lead a wildlife tracking and animal signs hike down near the Doe River in Roan Mountain State Park. (moderately strenuous; kid-friendly)

⇒ **Hike option #4.** Dr. Frosty Levy, Professor Emeritus of Biology at East Tennessee State University, will lead a winter tree identification hike in Roan Mountain State Park. (easy)



Prescribed fire, often associated with longleaf pine forests, can also be an effective management tool to control hardwoods in shortleaf pine stands.

For More Information Contact:

Richard Broadwell, Winter Rally Director
(828) 989-8010; rbroadwell@gmail.com

Websites — Friends of Roan Mountain

- Friendsofroanmtn.org
- Facebook.com/friendsofroanmountain
- Roanmountainradio.com

Lodging

Roan Mountain State Park (cabins)	423-772-0190
Roan Mountain Bed & Breakfast	423-772-3207
Americourt Hotel, Elizabethton, TN	423-542-4466
Doe River Inn, Elizabethton, TN	423-292-2848
Lakeshore Resort, Hampton, TN	423-725-2201
Mountain Harbour, Roan Mtn., TN	423-772-9494
Pinnacle Inn Resort, Beech Mtn., NC	828-387-2231
Riverbend Cottage, Roan Mtn., TN	423-512-1665
Traveler's Inn, Elizabethton, TN	423-543-3344

SAVE THESE DATES!



The 58th Annual Roan Mountain Spring Naturalists' Rally will be held April 27 - April 29, 2018

Xtreme Roan Adventures Kid's Naturalists' Rally will be held July 27 & 28, 2018

The 56th Annual Roan Mountain Fall Naturalists' Rally will be held September 7 - September 9, 2018