

Tennessee Trails 2024 Annual Meeting Hike Descriptions

Friday October 25

Hike #1 Trail Name: Nature Center to Fall Creek Falls Loop Hike, Fall Creek Falls SP

Departs: Friday 1:30 **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate **Trail Distance:** 2.7-mile loop **Drive Time:** 6 min

Hike Leader: Ranger Stuart Carroll

Trail/Hike Description: From the Nature Center, hike across the suspension bridge and head over to Fall Creek via the scenic Gorge Overlook Trail. Return to the Nature Center via the Bike Trail, then across the Dam to the Turkey Pen Trail. 2 hours. Nice scenery and history will unfold on this hike. **20 Maximum.**

*****Carpool required.** Bring water & snacks.

Hike #2 Trail Name: Fall Creek Falls via Base of Falls Trail & Fall Creek Falls Overlook

Departs: Friday 1:00 pm **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate **Trail Distance:** 0.8 miles **Drive Time:** 6 min

Hike Leader: Mark Hubbard

Trail/Hike Description: Moderate, very steep. 260 ft elevation change. The trail is rocky and steep but there are plenty of handrails and the pace will be slow. This short trail winds down into Fall Creek Gorge to the base of the 256 ft high Fall Creek Falls, the tallest waterfall in the eastern United States. Along the way you will see beautiful hemlocks, a cascading creek and interesting geologic features.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water & snacks. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Hike #3 Trail Name: Paw Paw Trail, Fall Creek Falls SP

Departs: Friday 1:00 pm **Hike Difficulty:** Mostly easy **Trail Distance:** 3.2-mile loop **Drive Time:** 10 min

Hike Leader: Margie Schumacher

Trail/Hike Description: This trail provides stunning views from three overlooks. The trail starts near the Nature Center and crosses Rockhouse Creek. As you go up the hill, there is a spur to an overlook of Cane Creek Falls. The loop begins a little further up the hill. There is a spur to a view into Fall Creek's short gorge near the back of the loop. The best overlook is the Cane Creek Gorge Overlook.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water & snacks.

Hike #4 Trail Name: Gilbert Gaul Loop Trail, Fall Creek Falls SP

Departs: Friday Noon **Hike Difficulty:** Easy to moderate **Trail Distance:** 4-mile loop **Drive Time:** 3 min

Hike Leader: Cindy Watson

Trail/Hike Description: This trail provides a pleasant and easy hike with views of Fall Creek Lake and forest. The trail is relatively flat and follows the shoreline for much of the hike.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water & snacks. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Saturday October 26

Hike #5 Trail Name: Fall Creek Falls, Overlook Trail & Cane Creek Cascades

Departs: Saturday 8:00 am **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate **Trail Distance:** 6 miles **Drive Time:** 6 min

Hike Leader: Georganne Ross

Trail/Hike Description: Combines several trails and a drive to several locations: Base of the Falls Trail, Gorge Overlook Trail, Cane Creek Cascades, Cane Creek Falls, Milliken's Overlook and Buzzards Roost Trail, Piney Falls Overlook and Suspension Bridge. This outing also includes a drive along the Scenic Loop Road, with stops to hike to all the overlooks. Plan on an all-day outing. **12 Maximum.**

*****Carpool required.** Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Hike #6 Trail Name: Cumberland Trail -- Roaring Creek to Cranmore Cove Overlook.

Departs: Saturday 8:00 am **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate **Trail Distance:** 6 miles **Drive Time:** 1 hour

Hike Leader: Randy Medley

Trail/Hike Description: Moderate due to 900 ft. elevation gain and rocky terrain. The hike begins from the parking lot along Roaring Creek at Brayton Mountain Road near Graysville, TN. This first mile follows the creek along an old roadbed with remnants of a coal mining operation and railroad structures. Later trail highlights include bluffs with rock overhangs, breathtaking view of Graysville and the valley. The last mile enters a pine forest, with a view of Wildcat Hollow Falls, ending at Cranmore Cove Overlook for a panoramic view looking east over Cranmore Cove.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles. **12 Maximum**

Hike #7 Trail Name: Cumberland Trail – Black Mountain.

Departs: Saturday 7:45 am **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate **Trail Distance:** 8 miles **Drive Time:** 1 hour 20 min

Hike Leader: Sara Pollard

Trail/Hike Description: Begin at the Brady Mountain Trailhead on Highway 68 near Crab Orchard, TN and hike to the top of Black Mountain (elevation gain 1620 feet) taking a spur trail to Windless Cave along the way. Notable features include “boulder cubes” and remnants of an old stone home. At the top we’ll hike the short Black Mountain loop trail and then back to our vehicles. There are spectacular views into Grassy Cove.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Hike #8 Trail Name: Cumberland Trail – Laurel Falls.

Departs: Saturday 8:00 am **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate to Difficult **Trail Distance:** 5 miles **Drive Time:** 1 hour

Hike Leader: Craig and Lora McBride

Trail/Hike Description: Hike begins off US 27 in Dayton, northeast of Chattanooga. This hike features cascading Richland Creek, old coal mining relics and gorgeous 80 ft Laurel Falls. Overall Moderate with a few difficult sections including a small, short cave-like crevice we will need to crawl through towards the end of the trail and boulders to navigate around.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Hike #9 Trail Name: Dry Creek Falls Trail, Dog Cove. Lost Creek State Natural Area

Departs: Saturday 8:00 am **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate **Trail Distance:** 7 miles **Drive Time:** 1 hour

Hike Leader: Jay Brain

Trail/Hike Description: This hike uses the Dog Cove trailhead in Lost Creek State Natural Area near Sparta, TN to connect to a new trail that crosses the Bridgestone Nature Reserve at Chestnut Mountain. This trail takes hikers past stunning sandstone formations, beside a stream surrounded by hemlock forest, to an overlook with spectacular views of the Lost Creek Area, and notably to the two-tiered Dry Creek Falls waterfall. *****Carpool**

required. Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Hike #10 Trail Name: Virgin Falls, Virgin Falls State Natural Area

Departs: Saturday 7:45 am **Hike Difficulty:** Difficult **Trail Distance:** 9 miles **Drive Time:** 1 hour 15 min

Hike Leader: Joe Campbell

Trail/Hike Description: This hike is strenuous for its 900 ft elevation change with rocky, uneven footing and a cable crossing at Big Laurel Creek. This beautiful hike features deep gorges with unique geologic karst features, and four awesome waterfalls – Big Laurel Falls, Sheep Cave Falls, Big Branch Falls and Virgin Falls. The Martha’s Pretty Point provides a dramatic view of Scott’s Gulf and the Caney Fork River 900 ft below.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Hike #11 Trail Name: Paw Paw Trail, Fall Creek Falls SP

Departs: Saturday 8:30 am **Hike Difficulty:** Mostly easy **Trail Distance:** 3.2-mile loop **Drive Time:** 10 min

Hike Leader: Randy Hedgepath, Retired State Naturalist

Trail/Hike Description: The trail starts near the Fall Creek Falls Nature Center and crosses Rockhouse Creek. This trail provides stunning views from three overlooks. Spur trails take you to an overlook of Cane Creek Falls and a view into Fall Creek's gorge near the back of the loop.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

****Note that it is possible to combine this hike with the afternoon Pontoon Boat Tour.**

Hike #12 Trail Name: Gilbert Gaul Loop Trail, Fall Creek Falls SP

Departs: Saturday 8:15 am **Hike Difficulty:** Easy to moderate **Trail Distance:** 4.5-mile loop **Drive Time:** 3 min

Hike Leader: Joan Hartvigsen

Trail/Hike Description: This trail provides a pleasant and easy hike with views of Fall Creek Lake and forest. The trail is relatively flat and follows the shoreline for much of the hike.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

****Note that it is possible to combine this hike with the afternoon Pontoon Boat Tour.**

Hike #13 Trail Name: Prater Place & Hemlock Falls, Fall Creek Falls SP

Departs: Saturday 8:00 am **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate **Trail Distance:** 6 miles **Drive Time:** 30 min

Hike Leader: Jim Barrett

Trail/Hike Description: This trail has everything: river views, waterfalls, rock formations, caves, creeks. Moderate due to some rocky areas and creek crossings. Total elevation change of 649 ft. This is one of the newer Fall Creek Falls State Park trails. Water shoes may be needed.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Hike #14 Trail Name: North Rim Trail, Mountain Oak Trail, North Plateau Trail Loop. Savage Gulf SP

Departs: Saturday 7:45 am **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate **Trail Distance:** 10-mile loop **Drive Time:** 40 min

Hike Leader: Marietta Poteet

Trail/Hike Description: This hike loops by numerous overlooks of Savage Gulf SP. From these viewpoints you will see the old growth forest in the bottom of the gorge, and the junction of the three gulfs which make up the state natural area.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Hike #15 Trail Name: South Rim Trail to base of Savage Falls; Savage Day Loop, Savage Falls Overlook and Rattlesnake Point Overlook. Savage Gulf SP

Departs: Saturday 8:00 am **Hike Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate **Trail Distance:** 7 miles **Drive Time:** 40 min

Hike Leader: Cindy Watson

Trail/Hike Description: Visit Savage Falls from two different vantages. Hike along cascading Savage Creek and enjoy a view down Savage Gulf at Rattlesnake Point Overlook.

*****Carpool required.** Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Hike #16 Trail Name: Cumberland Caverns Tour & Apple Brandy Hike

Fee: \$22 per person for the Cavern tour. Maximum 20 people. Pay at Registration.

Departs: Saturday 9:00 am **Hike Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate **Trail Distance:** 4 miles **Drive Time:** 50 min

Hike Leader: Kathy Stutts

Trail/Hike Description: The guided 90-minute, 1.5-mile Discovery Walk focuses on the Natural Science of Cumberland Caverns including cave animals, the "Never-ending Waterfall" and impressive geologic formations. *Some uneven rock steps and an uneven and sometimes slippery walking surface (but lots of handrails!).* After the cave tour,

take a short walk to the trailhead of the Apple Brandy Trail. This moderate 2.5-mile loop will take us through a forested landscape with dry streams & karst features. There are also views of the surrounding valley and mountains. [Detailed description](#). Contact Joan Hartvigsen to register. jhartvigs@comcast.net or 931-636-2914
*****Carpool required.** Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Hike #17 Boat Tour: Fall Creek Falls Lake Ranger-led Pontoon Boat Tour

Saturday 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm. \$10 Fee. Maximum of 10 people. Pay at Registration.

Tour Description: Join an Interpretive Ranger at the Boat Dock for a scenic tour of Fall Creek Falls Lake! The tour will last approximately 1 hour and will include discussions about park history, wildlife viewing, future programs, and more! Highly recommended: wear sunscreen, weather appropriate clothing, shoes, and a hat. Contact Joan Hartvigsen to register. jhartvigs@comcast.net or 931-636-2914

Sunday October 27

Hike #18 Trail Name: Prater Place & Hemlock Falls, Fall Creek Falls SP

Departs: 8:00 am **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate **Trail Distance:** 6 miles **Drive Time:** 30 min

Hike Leader: Joe Campbell

Trail/Hike Description: This trail has everything: river views, waterfalls, rock formations, caves, creeks. Moderate due to some rocky areas and creek crossings. Total elevation change of 649 ft. This is one of the newer Fall Creek Falls State Park trails. Bring water, snacks & lunch. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles. Water shoes may be needed.

Hike #19 Trail Name: Chinquapin Ridge Trail, Fall Creek Falls SP

Departs: 8:00 **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate **Trail Distance:** 5.4 mile loop **Drive Time:** 18 min

Hike Leader: Joan Hartvigsen

Trail/Hike Description: Located at the south end of the park between Newton Ford Picnic Area and Newton Ford Bunk, this forested trail allows hikers to visit some of the more remote areas of the park. The trail has several moderate inclines/declines with some creek crossings. *****Carpool required.** Bring water & snacks.

Hike #20 Trail Name: Gorge Overlook and Woodland Trails Loop, Fall Creek Falls SP

Departs: 8:00 am **Hike Difficulty:** Moderate **Trail Distance:** 2-mile loop **Drive Time:** 10 min

Hike Leader: Randy Hedgepath, Retired State Naturalist

Trail/Hike Description: This picturesque hike showcases stunning viewpoints and waterfalls. Starting from the Nature Center the route takes us over Cane Creek Cascade over a new suspension bridge, around a bluff top above Cane Creek Gorge with grand views and then to the top of Fall Creek Falls.

*****Carpool suggested.** Bring water & snacks. Wear sturdy boots; bring hiking poles.

Hike #21 Trail Name: Virgin Falls Through Hike to Lost Creek, Scott's Gulf Wilderness SP

Meets at 9:00am from Lost Creek Falls Parking Lot

Hike Difficulty: Difficult **Trail Distance:** 7.5 miles **Drive Time to parking area:** 40 min

Hike Leader: Ranger Stuart Carroll

Trail/Hike Description: Meet at Lost Creek Falls Parking Lot; free shuttle to the Virgin Falls Parking lot and then through hike back to Lost Creek. Several waterfalls are on the trail, including Big Laurel, Sheep Cave Falls, Virgin Falls, Rylander Cascades, and Lost Creek Falls. Short cut down the new Hemlock Springs Trail cuts off at least 1 mile. Considered strenuous due to the distance, elevation changes, and uneven footing along the trail. **Maximum 11.**

Hike #22 Boat Tour: Fall Creek Falls Lake Ranger-led Pontoon Boat Tour

Sunday 10:00 pm – 11:00 pm. \$10 Fee. Maximum of 10 people. Pay at Registration.

Tour Description: Join an Interpretive Ranger at the Boat Dock for a scenic tour of Fall Creek Falls Lake! The tour will last approximately 1-hour and will include discussions about park history, wildlife viewing, future programs, and more! *Highly recommended:* wear sunscreen, weather appropriate clothing, shoes, and a hat. Contact Joan Hartvigsen to register. jhartvigs@comcast.net or 931-636-2914