NATURE WALKS SCHEDULE – SPRING 2019

On the Oak Ridge Reservation, located in east Tennessee, over 1100 vascular plants, 72 fish, 34 mammals and over 200 bird species have been observed. This year the public is invited to eight nature walks designed to highlight not only the rich flora and fauna diversity of the reservation, but also to demonstrate the work being done to sustainably manage and conserve this resource. Walks will take place on several locations across the Oak Ridge Reservation beginning in late winter through mid-summer.

Reservations for the following events must be made in advance by noon the Thursday prior to each walk by contacting Tracy Clem, 865-574-5151 (bodinetm@ornl.gov). If inclement weather forces postponement of an event, it will be announced on ORNL’s Information Line at 865-574-9836 (i.e. 574-XTEN) at least two hours before the scheduled start of the walk.

More information about these walks is available by contacting Trent Jett at 865-574-9188 (jettrt@ornl.gov).

1. American Woodcock and Birds of Prey nature walk– Freels Bend
   Date: Saturday, March 2
   Location: Meet at the parking lot behind (i.e. south) the ORISE building at the corner of Bethel Valley and Pumphouse roads in Oak Ridge, TN.
   Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
   Leader: Vincent Pontello (TWRA), Trent Jett (ORNL)
   Limit: 30 (children are allowed)
   Recommendations: Walking will be on trails, not in overly steep terrain (distance < .5 mile). Participants need to have sturdy shoes and should dress in layers. A reliable flashlight or headlamp is suggested as some of the walk will be at dusk or after sunset. Recommended items include water, binoculars, field guide to birds, bug spray if needed. We will see American woodcock flight displays as the sun sets and maybe hear some other night animals calling. Local falconers will also be on hand to show us some of their birds of prey and how they hunt. No pets please.

2. Wildflower and Old Growth Forest walk
   Date: Sunday, April 14
   Location: Meet at West Guardhouse, Oak Ridge Turnpike (Hwy 95)
   Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
   Leader: Larry Pounds and Paul Durr (botanists)
   Limit: 25 (children are allowed)
   Recommendations: Walking will be off trail, in moderately rough terrain (distance about 1.5 miles). Since this is an off trail hike in rocky country, participants need to have good balance and stamina. We will see many native spring wildflowers as well as a stand of old growth trees which has been thriving for >240 years. Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring bug spray and water.
   No pets please
   Date: Saturday, April 20
   Location: Meet at North Boundary Greenway trailhead west, Oak Ridge Turnpike (Hwy 95). Near Hwy 58 and 95 junction.
   Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
   Leader: Kitty McCracken (ORNL)
   Limit: 20 (children are allowed)
   Recommendations: Walking will be mostly along gravel/dirt roads. Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring sunscreen, bug spray and water. Discussions will include conservation efforts on the Oak Ridge Reservation, management of our greenways, and potential citizen science opportunities.
   No pets please.

4. **Frog Calls– Heritage Center Greenway Powerhouse trail**
   Date: Friday, May 3
   Location: Meet at ETTP visitors overlook, Oak Ridge Turnpike (Hwy 58)
   Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
   Leader: Nikki Jones and Sarah Darling (ORNL)
   Limit: 25 (children are allowed)
   Recommendations: We will be visiting some beaver impounded wetlands and ponds to learn how the personnel at ORNL are monitoring frog populations and how to identify local frogs based on calls. We hope to hear pickerel frogs, spring peepers, and southern chorus frogs as well as others. Walking will be on level dirt/gravel roads (distance <1 mile). Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes and bring bug spray and water. A reliable flashlight or headlamp is recommended since the walk will continue after sunset.
   No pets please.

5. **Bird nature walk – Freels Bend**
   Date: Saturday, May 4
   Location: Meet at the parking lot behind (i.e. south of) the ORISE building at the corner of Bethel Valley and Pumphouse Roads
   Time: 8:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
   Leader: Trent Jett, Sarah Darling and Neil Giffen (ORNL)
   Limit: 25 (children are allowed)
   Recommendations: Walking will be over dirt/gravel roads (distance 1-2 miles). Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring bug spray, field guide to birds, binoculars, and water. We should see birds of prey and many sparrows in the extensive native grass fields, migrating warblers in the early successional and mature forested areas, and wading birds in the waters along the Clinch River.
   No pets please.
6. **Wildlife Habitat nature walk**  
Date: Saturday, May 18  
Location: Meet at the parking lot behind (i.e. south) the ORISE building at the corner of Bethel Valley and Pumphouse roads in Oak Ridge, TN.  
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Leader: Shannon Young (TWRA)  
Limit: 20 (children allowed)  
Recommendations: Have you ever seen a deer foraging in a field or heard a songbird like a field sparrow calling in the distance, and wondered what could be done to help that species of wildlife? Then please join the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory on a "Wildlife Management Nature Walk" around Freels Bend at the Oak Ridge Wildlife Management Area. We will discuss game species, species of concern, and how to manage for them in our fields and forests. We will discuss what management practices can change the vegetation communities that these animals rely on for quality food and cover resources. We will also dispel myths about wildlife that are commonly misunderstood. Walking will be over gravel/dirt roads. Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water.  
No pets please.

7. **Reptiles and Amphibians Inventory – Solway Bend**  
Date: Sunday, June 2  
Location: Meet at the parking lot behind (i.e. south of) the ORISE building at the corner of Bethel Valley and Pumphouse Roads.  
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Leader: John Byrd and Kathy Strunk (CRESO)  
Limit: 20 (children are allowed)  
Recommendations: Walking will be through fields and over level dirt/gravel roads (limited distances). Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring sunscreen, bug spray and water. We will collect several turtle species, talk about local snake identification and discuss management of local herpetological populations. There will be plenty of opportunities for children to get involved and learn about the animals.  
No pets please.

8. **History of ORR – Freels Bend**  
Date: Saturday, August 24  
Location: Meet at the parking lot behind (i.e. south of) the ORISE building at the corner of Bethel Valley and Pumphouse Roads.  
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Leader: Mick Wiest (host)  
Limit: 20 (children are allowed)  
Recommendations: Walking will be through fields and over level dirt/gravel roads (limited distances). Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring sunscreen, bug spray and water. We will discuss the history of the Oak Ridge Reservation and the families which lived in the area. The walk will be held at the historic Freels cabin which will be open for touring.  
No pets please.