

Kristen Garrison is originally from Washington State, she earned a BS in Zoology from Washington State University and, later, a Master's Degree in Environmental Science from The Evergreen State College. Her favorite jobs have included surveying amphibians in the Olympic Mountains, monitoring Spotted Frog breeding activity, veterinary work at Cascade West Veterinary clinic and serving as a Tennessee State Park Ranger. This will be her third year teaching the mammals course for the Tennessee Naturalist Program and her first year giving it at Cumberland Mountain.



Nancy Schelin is the Volunteer and Community Services Coordinator with Tennessee State Parks. She has been in this position for the last 16 years serving as a liaison between all 38 Friends' organizations and the state park system and assisting different facets of the community in providing service and support to their local state park. In her spare time she likes run around and play Ultimate Frisbee, tackle a New York Times crossword puzzle or tinker in her garden.

Acknowledgements

We can not express enough our thanks to all the content area experts who offered their time and talent to make this program a success. Your generosity will have a ripple effect on inspired environmental stewards all across the state. And to all the staff at Cumberland Mountain State Park who hosted us so warmly, thanks so much!



CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

APRIL 13 & 14; 20 & 21; 27 & 28, 2021

MISSION

The purpose of the Tennessee Naturalist Program is to teach Tennesseans about our natural world, inspire the desire to learn more, instill an appreciation of responsible environmental stewardship and channel volunteer efforts toward education of the general public and conservation of Tennessee's natural resources.



WEEK ONE

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

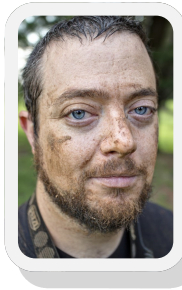
8 - 9:00 AM	Getting Things Started! Downstairs from the park restaurant
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Break
9:15 AM - 11 AM	Becoming a Naturalist Randy Hedgepath, Holly Taylor Classroom
11 AM - Noon	Volunteering Opportunities in our State Parks & Natural Areas Nancy Schelin Classroom
Noon - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM -3:00 PM	Becoming a Naturalist Hike with Randy Hedgepath & Holly Taylor



Mark Taylor grew up in Warren County, Tennessee, and has always had a passion for the outdoors. He graduated from MTSU in 2002 with a BS in Recreation and Leisure services. He worked as a Seasonal Interpretive Ranger and Ranger Aide at South Cumberland State Park for two years and worked a short stint at Tim's Ford State Park before being hired full time at Edgar Evins State Park as a Park Ranger in 2002. Over the years, Mark has worked on various projects such as native plant landscaping, land acquisition and the park's Junior Ranger Program. He conducts a wide range of interpretive programs including scorpion hunts, guided hikes & boat tours of Center Hill Lake. In addition, he created the Park's bird-watching guide and detailed trail maps. Mark and his wife Holly live on a farm in middle Tennessee with their son Ian, 7. His other interests include photography, hunting, fishing, birding and the martial arts.



Angel Fowler received her M.S. in Biology from Austin Peay State University with a concentration in aquatic macroinvertebrate ecology and taxonomy. Her professional experience involves wetland and stream delineations and assessments, biological monitoring, 401/404 permitting, threatened and endangered species habitat assessments and surveys, as well as mitigation site development and monitoring. For the past 3 years she has been primarily responsible for developing and managing ecosystem restoration projects throughout the Southeast. Angel is a Qualified Hydrologic Professional in Tennessee and holds a Section 10(a)1(A) recovery permit for the Nashville crayfish, including several fish in Alabama. She is also an acting board member and instructor for Wetland Environmental Learning Projects (WELP) and co-founder of Earthwhile Collective. In her spare time Angel enjoys crafting, backyard gardening, exploring, and treasure hunting.



Chuck Sutherland is a caver, photographer, geographer, and conservationist. Caving for him is a way to better understand the story of the rocks and water. While he is a geographer by training, he loves all science. He frequently partners in his caving projects with scientists like historians, biologists, paleontologists, anthropologists, and geologists. Most of all, he likes to get people excited about caves and caving. Professionally,

Chuck is the Director of Informatics at the Upper Cumberland Development District. Work projects include Greenways and Trails Representative for the Dale Hollow RPO, Cumberland Trails Conference, board member of Friends of Virgin Falls, and assisting with planning in the Upper Cumberland.

His landscape photography has been published in dozens of magazines, books, newspapers, and web pages. Most notably ABC, BBC, and the Discovery Channel have all used his photography.



Kris Light has been a science outreach educator / naturalist for the past 32 years. She has taught outreach programs for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the American Museum of Science and Energy. She was also a Science Specialist for the Oak Ridge Schools at Willow Brook Elementary for 13 years.

Throughout the year she enjoys educating adults by leading nature hikes in some of the state parks, the University of Tennessee Arboretum, and the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. Her love of nature has been enhanced by her photography, which gives her the opportunity to share her enthusiasm with others through her pictures. She has had a website about nature and hiking areas in east Tennessee since 2003: EastTennesseeWildflowers.com

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

Noon - 2 PM	Geology & Ecology Chuck Sutherland Classroom
2:00 -2:15 PM	Break
2:15 PM - 4:15 PM	Geology & Ecology Field trip to Black Mountain
4:15 - 4:30 PM	Break
4:30 - 6:30 PM	Nocturnal Naturalist Stuart Caroll Classroom
6:30 - 7:30 PM	Dinner
7:30 - 9:30 PM	Nocturnal Naturalist Stuart Caroll Field

WEEK TWO

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021

8 - 10 AM	Tennessee Mammals Kristen Garrison Classroom
10 - 10:15 AM	Break
10:15 AM -12:15 PM	Tennessee Mammals Kristen Garrison Field
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 - 3:30 PM	TN Reptiles & Amphibians Holly Taylor Classroom
3:30 - 3:45 PM	Break
3:45 - 5:45 PM	TN Reptiles & Amphibians Holly Taylor Field



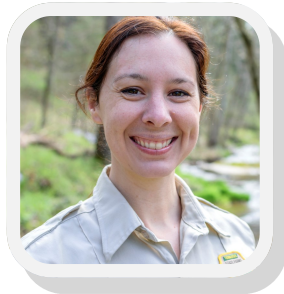
Cooper Breeden is the Plant Conservation Manager at Southeastern Grasslands Initiative and the coordinator for the Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance. Most of his work revolves around rare species and habitat conservation in grassland ecosystems. This involves coordinating restoration and protection efforts where the plants occur, as well as curating a rare plant seed bank to preserve the integrity of each rare plant population. These seeds can then be used in future conservation efforts, either for use in introduction projects or to plant in safeguarding plots in botanical gardens. Part of Cooper's role is to work with a variety of partners and volunteers to accomplish this work--with hundreds of highly imperiled species, we need all the help we can get!



Stuart Carroll works for Tennessee State Parks at Fall Creek Falls State Park. He currently manages two beautiful natural areas, Lost Creek and Virgin Falls. For most of his 30 plus year career with Tennessee State Parks, he has organized and led hikes and other interpretive programs, sharing the area's rich cultural and natural history with visitors. He was also instrumental in organizing a residential environmental education center at Fall Creek Falls, which has brought thousands of school kids to Fall Creek, to learn and explore.



Randy Hedgepath received his B.S. in Parks and Recreation from UT Martin. He has an extensive history of environmental service, including work at Fall Creek Falls, Cedars of Lebanon, and David Crockett State Parks; Glacier National Park, Natural Bridges National Monument, and Ozark National Scenic Riverways. In 2007 Randy Hedgepath became the State Naturalist for Tennessee State Parks, and he now travels the state doing nature programs and supporting conservation groups. He continues to seek out new trails and scenic spots, and strives to help everyone know and appreciate the wonderful outdoor world.



Holly Taylor graduated with a B.S in Conservation Biology in 2009. She then spent 6 years working as a Seasonal Naturalist for Edgar Evins State Park, and two years working as a wildlife presenter for the Natural History Education Company of the Mid-South. She currently works as Assistant State Naturalist for Tennessee State Parks and serves as the Chapter Coordinator for the Cumberland Mountain State Park Chapter of the Tennessee Naturalist Program. She loves exploring Tennessee and learning about the wonders of nature and sharing that sense of wonder with others. She and her husband Mark, a Park Ranger, live on a farm in middle Tennessee with a plethora of animals and their 7-year-old son, Ian, who is also a budding naturalist.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

8 - 10 AM	Forbs, Ferns, Mosses & More Cooper Breeden Classroom
10 - 10:15 AM	Break & drive to Head of Sequatchie
10:15 AM - 12:15 PM	Forbs, Ferns, Mosses & More Cooper Breeden Field
12:15 - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 - 3:30 PM	Tennessee's Living Waters Angel Fowler Classroom
3:30 - 3:45 PM	Break
3:45 - 5:45 PM	Tennessee's Living Waters Angel Fowler Field

WEEK THREE

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021

Noon - 2 PM	Birds of Tennessee Mark Taylor Classroom
2 - 2:15 PM	Break
2:15 - 4:15 PM	Birds of Tennessee Mark Taylor Field
4:15 - 4:30 PM	Break
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	The World of Invertebrates Kris Light Classroom
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Dinner
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	The World of Invertebrates Kris Light Field

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021

10 AM - Noon	Tennessee Forests: Seeing the Forest & The Trees Randy Hedgepath Classroom
Noon - 1 PM	Lunch
1 PM - 3 PM	Tennessee Forests Randy Hedgepath Field
3 PM - 3:15 PM	Break
3:15 - 4 PM	Post Evaluation and Wrap-up

Schedule is subject to change.