

NATURE WALKS SCHEDULE – SPRING 2011

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2011 as the [International Year of Forests](#) to raise awareness of sustainable management, conservation, and development of all types of forests. This spring the public, in addition to exploring the biological richness of the flora and fauna of the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Reservation, can discover what is being done to sustainably manage and conserve its resources, such as the forests, and protect them from threats such as invasive plants. Six opportunities to explore several different areas of the Oak Ridge Reservation are being sponsored by the Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park.

Reservations for the following events must be made in advance by noon the Thursday prior to each walk by contacting Lana McDonald, 865-574-7323 (mcdonaldlk@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 walk.

More information about these walks is available by contacting Trent Jett at 865-574-9188 (jetttr@ornl.gov) or Neil Giffen at 865-241-9421 (giffennrl@ornl.gov).

1. **NEW! Wildflower Walk - Rainy Knob on Freels Bend**

Date: Sunday, April 10

Location: Meet at the parking lot behind (i.e., south of) the ORISE building at corner of Bethel Valley and Pumphouse roads

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Leader: Larry Pounds (individual)

Limit: 20 (children allowed)

Recommendations and description: Walking will be **off trail**, but not in overly steep terrain (overall distance about 2 miles). Since this is an **off-trail** hike, participants need to have good balance and stamina. This is rocky country. We will see rocky sink holes and a deep pit. We will also see the unusual green violet and other spring flowers. If we are very lucky, we will see the green salamander.

Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring bug spray and water.

No pets please.

2. **Wildflower Walk – East Fork Ridge Old Growth Forest**

Date: Saturday, April 23

Location: Meet at west guardhouse, Oak Ridge Turnpike

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12 (noon)

Leader: Paul Durr with Larry Pounds (individuals)

Limit: 20 (children allowed)

Recommendations: Walking will be up and down hill with about half the trip off trail (overall distance 1-2 miles). **This walk may involve some steep slopes.**

Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring bug spray and water.

No pets please.

3. Bird Walk – Freels Bend and Vicinity

Date: Saturday, April 30

Location: Meet at the parking lot behind (i.e., south of) the ORISE building at corner of Bethel Valley and Pumphouse roads

Time: 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Leader: Jim Evans (TWRA)

Limit: 25 (children allowed)

Recommendations: Walking will be over level dirt roads (distance 1-2 miles).

Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring bug spray, field guide to birds, binoculars, and water.

No pets please.

4. Bird Walk – Poplar Creek/ETTP Beaver Pond and Vicinity

Date: Saturday, May 7

Location: Meet at west guardhouse, Oak Ridge Turnpike

Time: 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Leader: Jim Evans (TWRA)

Limit: 25 (children allowed)

Recommendations: Walking will be over level dirt roads (distance 1-2 miles).

Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring bug spray, field guide to birds, binoculars, and water.

No pets please.

5. Animal Inventories – Solway Bend

Date: Sunday, June 5

Location: Meet at the parking lot behind (i.e., south of) the ORISE building at corner of Bethel Valley and Pumphouse Roads

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Leader: John Byrd (CRESO)

Limit: 15 (children allowed)

Recommendations: Walking will be through fields and over level dirt/gravel roads (limited distances).

Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring bug spray and water.

No pets please.

6. Invasive plants – various sites on Oak Ridge Reservation

Date: Saturday, June 11

Location: Meet at west guardhouse, Oak Ridge Turnpike

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12 (noon)

Leader: Harry Quarles (ORNL)

Limit: 20 (children under the age of 10 not allowed)

Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring bug spray and water.

No pets please.