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A non-profit organization committed to supporting your state park



# FIERY GIZZARD PROJECT PROGRESSING NICELY

**BY HENRY BLIZZARD  
FRIENDS VICE PRESIDENT**

As many of you know by now, The Land Trust for Tennessee and The Conservation Fund, with the collaboration of the Friends of South Cumberland State Park, have undertaken to protect about 6,200 acres of high conservation value forest on the Cumberland Plateau in Marion and Grundy counties.

The project entails an effort to raise \$8.1 million to protect the property, which contains a significant piece of the Fiery Gizzard trail system and its associated views. The land is currently owned by a timber company.

The Fiery Gizzard area is in urgent need of protection. In addition to being an exquisite recreational area, it boasts exceptional biological diversity. Hopefully, about half of the property will be incorporated into the South Cumberland State Park and the other half will be protected by a working forest conservation easement and will remain privately owned.

Officials involved with the project have announced that only about \$675,000 still needs to be raised to complete the project. The Friends of South Cumberland had undertaken to raise \$50,000 toward the project and recent figures show that we have received about \$60,000 in donations and pledges.

That's a great accomplishment for our group, but our board plans to press

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*(Photo courtesy of Henry Blizzard)*

***FUN ON THE TRAIL. Hikers pause at Raven's Point on the Fiery Gizzard Trail. The trail's views will be saved by the purchase of 6,200 acres, funds for which are being raised now.***

## **EFFORT IS PAGE ONE NEWS**

The campaign to acquire 6,200 acres in the Fiery Gizzard that will protect trail views from residential development was the subject of a page one photo and an extensive news story by reporter Anne Paine in the September 16 issue of *The Tennessean* in Nashville.

Commenting on the importance of saving the acreage, Friends President Mary Priestley told Paine, "To have that [land] suddenly be developed and have vacation homes dangling off the cliff across the way from you would have been the end of what it is."

The story also reported that last year 250,000 people visited the Fiery Gizzard and that the trail was ranked among the top 25 in the country by *Backpacker* magazine. A "How to Help" sidebar told readers they could contribute to the fund-raising effort by contacting The Land Trust for Tennessee at 615-244-5263 or emailing [landowner@landtrusttn.org](mailto:landowner@landtrusttn.org).

The Fiery Gizzard Project also was the focus of a supportive editorial that ran September 20 in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*.

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on with the campaign and hopes to raise even more.

Included in the money raised by the Friends to date is \$10,000 received from a challenge made to raise funds to honor Harry Yeatman, beloved professor emeritus at The University of the South. This challenge to his many friends and former students is still open. If you want to honor him with a gift to this fund mail your



Friends of South Cumberland State Recreation Area, Inc. newsletter is published four times a year

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[www.friendsofscsra.org](http://www.friendsofscsra.org)

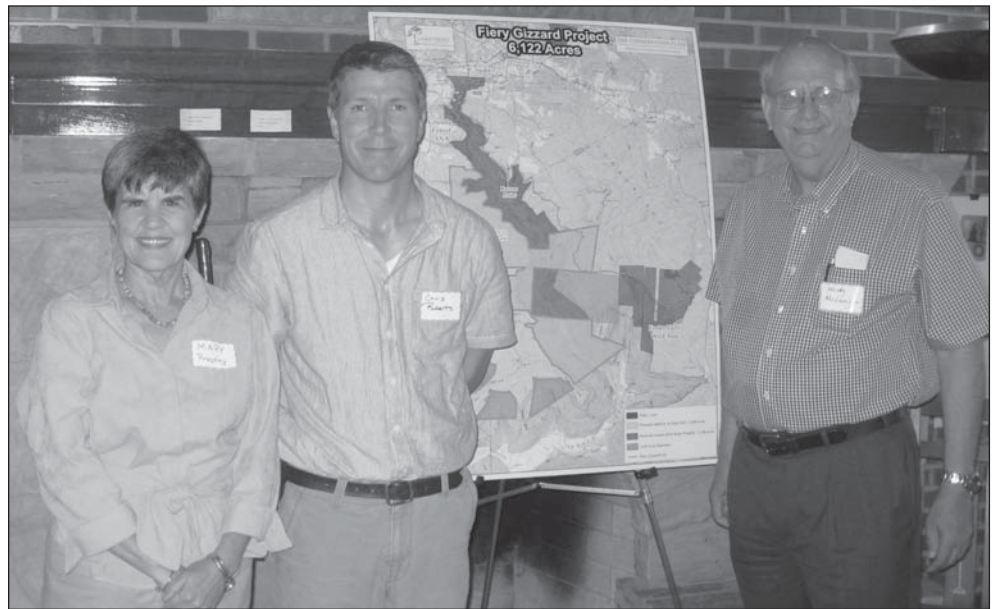
donation with a notation that it is for "The Harry Yeatman Fund." Contributions should be sent to the Friends of SCSRA, P.O. Box 816, Sewanee, TN 37375.

The importance of this project cannot be over emphasized. Although the Fiery Gizzard Trail is often listed as one of America's most outstanding backpacking trails, it is surprisingly vulnerable. The vistas and views from the trail have been threatened by development. This project would protect those views for the thousands

of people who hike the trail each year.

In 2008, developers had moved to purchase the property in question for second-home development. But when the nation's economic problems developed that year the transaction never closed and an opportunity to protect this critical property appeared.

Now, the project is well on its way to a successful conclusion. It serves as an example of what can be accomplished when conservation groups work together.



(Photo courtesy of Mary Priestley)

**THE BIG PICTURE.** Friends President Mary Priestley, The Land Trust for Tennessee's South Cumberland project manager Chris Roberts, and former Friends President Woody McLaughlin discuss the Fiery Gizzard Project at the Works of the South Cumberland art exhibit at Locals Gallery in Sewanee in July.

## Be a Wizzard for the Gizzard

The Friends are sponsoring Half Moon Mountain Magic, an event to benefit the Fiery Gizzard Project, on Friday, October 15, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the DuBose Conference Center.

(voted Best in Chattanooga), and an appearance by the Wizzard of the Gizzard himself, Dr. Harry Yeatman, will make for a great evening. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Music by several bands including our own Bazzania Girls Band, Peckerwood, and Sarah Mallory, food by Lupi's Pizza

For more details, check out the Friends website at [www.friendsofscsra.org](http://www.friendsofscsra.org).



# EXCITING DAYS AT SOUTH CUMBERLAND!

By Mary Priestley  
Friends President

I cannot think of a more exciting time in the life of our Friends organization than right now. We are in the midst of our biggest fund-raising effort since the Saving Great Spaces campaign. This time, though, we're on the same team with some strong players—The Land Trust for Tennessee, The Conservation Fund, and the State of Tennessee.

As I write, we have just over \$600,000 left to raise to help purchase 6,200 acres that will help protect our beloved Fiery Gizzard Trail views from residential development. The purchase is scheduled for the end of October. Read Henry Blizzard's article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

If you haven't yet received a letter asking for your support in this critically important project, expect it soon. And please give generously.

In other news, our new board kicked off the year in early September with a retreat/planning day led by Gail Castle; you may know this lady of many talents as the gracious owner of Lorena's Gifts in Monteagle.



**HERE'S YOUR BOARD.** Friends board members take a break during their daylong planning session and quarterly board meeting to enjoy some sunny weather. The meeting was held September 11 at Clifftops near the park.

Board members, new and old alike, shared their joy in serving this organization and their dreams for what we can accomplish for South Cumberland. Eric Dempsey, our webmaster, has posted the e-mail addresses of all board members on our webpage at [www.friendsofscsra.org](http://www.friendsofscsra.org). Please contact any of us at any time.

The board identified five topics on which to concentrate: communications, business and community relations, education and visitor

relations, membership, and lands. If you are especially interested in any of them, please let us know. We would love to have your input and help with these vitally important matters.

It's a privilege to serve this beautiful park and to work with its accomplished and dedicated park staff, as well as the Friends' capable and energetic board of directors. I am looking forward to a productive and enjoyable term as your new president.

## INTERESTED IN BEETLES? IF SO, YOU'LL WANT TO READ THIS!

**Artwork & Column by Jill Carpenter**

*Editor's Note – Jill Carpenter, a retired science teacher who lives in Sewanee, is a regular contributor to our newsletter.*

The naturalist and anatomist Thomas Henry Huxley (1825-1895) was known as "Darwin's bulldog"

because of the speeches he delivered expounding Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection. The story goes that when Huxley first heard the theory he clapped the heel of his hand to his forehead and exclaimed of its elegant simplicity, "How stupid of me not to have thought of it!"

Huxley was once asked what he had learned of the creator from his studies of natural history. His answer: "An inordinate fondness for beetles."

If beetles were larger and we were less egocentric, we might be said to live in the Age of Beetles. Insects

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# HELLO! FROM YOUR NEW COORDINATOR

By Judy Anderson

Friends of SCSRA has a new coordinator. My name is Judy Anderson and I am so happy to be a part of your organization.

I have lived in Sewanee for about 10 years with my husband, Kent, and our two sons, Jake and Stewart. Jake is a recent graduate of Elon University and Stewart just began his undergraduate studies at Rollins College. They both are graduates of St. Andrew's-Sewanee School. Some of you know me as a parent volunteer there with more than a few years on the Parents Council.

I'm a graduate of the University of Tennessee where I studied education and psychology. I never fail to use the skills learned there in any of my projects. After graduation, my



*Judy Anderson*

husband and I lived in Florida, Texas and Oklahoma, but we returned to Tennessee in 1994. We have lived on Signal Mountain, in Clifftops for a time, and in Laurel Brae for the last five years.

Many local folks don't yet know me

because I've worked in Chattanooga for the past 10 years. I managed a Limited Partnership for a group there and am now happy to have this opportunity to work in my own community.

"Thank you" to Pat Johnson, my predecessor as Friends coordinator, and Phil, her husband and former Friends treasurer. I'm certain everyone knows the terrific job Pat did for your organization over the last seven years. She and Phil have gotten me off to a great start this year. I have very big shoes to fill.

The South Cumberland area is so rich in history and beauty. I am privileged to be one of its residents and all the more privileged to work with the Friends of SCSRA. I look forward to working with all of you!

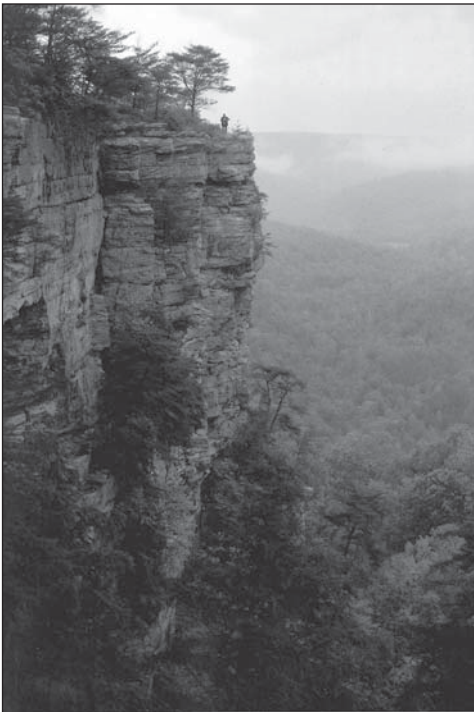
*(Photo by Pookie McLaughlin)*

**JIM PRINCE AWARD WINNER.**  
*Rex Boner (right), vice president and Southeast representative for The Conservation Fund, receives the Jim Prince Award from former Friends President Woody McLaughlin at a meeting about the Fiery Gizzard Project in early August. Rex was unable to attend the Friends annual meeting where the Prince Award is given each year to someone who has contributed outstanding service to the Friends and South Cumberland State Recreation Area.*





# SOUTH CUMBERLAND'S GOT



*Stone Door*

**By John Christof  
Park Manager**

**T**he visitor center on U.S. 41 near Monteagle is an excellent starting place to become oriented to the entire South Cumberland State Recreation Area. It's an invaluable source for information, maps, program schedules, and a thorough overview of the entire park.

In addition to this wealth of information visitors will find indoor exhibits of the park's natural, cultural and historic features, as well as a free video shown on request that provides a great 14-minute armchair tour of the park's special places.

Recreation equipment is available at the information desk for check-out free of charge. The visitor center complex includes the following outdoor offerings: tennis, basketball and volleyball/badminton courts, a

baseball field, playgrounds, a picnic pavilion, and numerous uncovered picnic tables. The Meadow Trail that starts behind the visitor center offers one- and two-mile loop hikes through open fields often ablaze with wildflowers.

Grundy Lakes State Park receives the most visitation of any park in South Cumberland. Its attractions include a sandy swim beach with dock, playgrounds, restrooms, pedestrian lane hiking route and a picnic area. The historic Lone Rock Coke Ovens here are a fascinating monument to the lakes' history and led to this area being placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Now, let me describe some of South Cumberland's other attractions for you.

Buggy Top Trail is a two-mile roundtrip trail that leads to Buggy Top Cave. Hikers can rest when they arrive at the bluff above the cave and enjoy a great view of Lost Cove and Crow Creek below. The air at the cave entrance is always about 54 degrees F and provides a nice place to feel cooled in the summer or warmed in the winter.

Sewanee Natural Bridge is an easy place to visit. A short set of steps leads down to a 25-foot sandstone arch. Standing

atop the bridge you can look out across Lost Cove and peer in the direction of Buggy Top Cave far in the distance. Many folks have had their photograph taken standing on the bridge by a friend stationed on the adjoining hillside.

Hawkins Cove Natural Area protects the rare Cumberland Rosinweed. The plant grows along the roadside and in the TVA power line clearing. A good way to visit Hawkins Cove is to walk or mountain bike from Sewanee down the old Mountain Goat Railroad line. The historic rail bed exposes very interesting rock formations and offers an outstanding variety of plants. There are many good viewing points along the route of the cove below.

Grundy Forest, locally known as "the Gizzard," is the trailhead for the Fiery Gizzard Trail. It offers great hiking and passes several prime swimming holes. The Fiery Gizzard Trail was named by *Outdoor Magazine* as one of the top 20 trails in the nation in the "Peoples' Choice Award" category.

A few strong hikers have hiked all the way from Grundy Forest to Foster Falls. Most people, however, prefer easy hikes on the Grundy Forest Day Loop or the wheelchair-accessible hike at Foster Falls leading 200 yards to the falls view-



*Historic coke ovens at Grundy Lakes*

# SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY!



*Greeter Falls*

ing deck. Foster Falls also has a large picnic shelter and a 25-site primitive campground with bathhouse.

Savage Gulf State Natural Area is very large and has four entrances:

\* The Savage Gulf Ranger Station near Palmer is the trailhead for hikes to Savage Falls, Hobbs Cabin, or the long backpacking trip to Stone Door.

\* The Stone Door entrance near Beersheba Springs offers a handicap-accessible trail going one-third of a mile to the Laurel Gulf Over-

look observation deck. The hike to Stone Door is only one mile from this entrance and was named by *Backpacker* magazine as one of the best day hikes in Tennessee. Many people hike from Stone Door to Greeter Falls and often backpack camp at Alum Gap Campground along the way.

\* Greeter Falls is a famous swimming hole and historic site; it's an easy hike from its parking lot entrance near Altamont.

\* The Collins West entrance is off

55<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Gruetli-Laager. Many hikers and backpackers enjoy the long hikes into the solitude of the gulf. For a shorter trek, visitors go to Suter Falls or the Boulder Crossing.

We are very fortunate to have such tremendous recreational opportunities at South Cumberland. The Friends and park staff invite you to come and enjoy the park. And while you're here if you are not already a member of the Friends join the organization and help protect and promote this outstanding treasure!

are the most numerous creatures, in kinds and numbers, and beetles are first and foremost, comprising about 40 percent of all insect species.

Members of the insect order Coleoptera (from the Greek “sheath wings”), beetles are the armored tanks among insects. A pair of hard wings, the elytra, cover a pair of gossamer flight wings. They are not strong fliers, but they have very strong legs. The immature beetle “grub” looks nothing like the adult. The beetle blueprint has been elaborated, again and again, into more than 300,000 species in 150 families.

You might think about those statistics the next time you spot a beetle on your property or when hiking in South Cumberland State Recreation Area!

The common names of beetles often refer to their appearance, food preference, behavior or habitat.

Thus we have Hercules (and Atlas and Goliath) beetles, stag beetles (horned), tiger beetles (they pounce), giraffe beetles (elongated), tortoise beetles (round), violin beetles (fiddle-shaped), click beetles (they flip and click to deter predators), death watch beetles (rafter-infesters that tick to call mates and have been heard by insomniacs or folks sitting up with the dying).

Also, bombardier beetles (they produce a nifty chemical explosion), ship-timber beetles, cigarette beetles, drug-store beetles, bog beetles, moss beetles, leaf beetles, diving beetles,

soldier beetles, clown beetles, flour beetles and flower beetles.

Beetles may mimic ants, spiders, even other beetles, thus the word “false” is appended. Spanish flies and June bugs are beetles, too.

Sheer abundance means that a trip outdoors likely features beetles. The many-layered Eastern deciduous forest provides myriad habitats for them. Wood-boring beetles and bark beetles, depending on kind, may attack live trees or decomposing dead trees. Look behind a shard of bark and waken a beetle grub hiding from woodpeckers, or expose a long-horned beetle.

Turn over a rock and ground beetles, nocturnal scavengers, will scurry for cover.

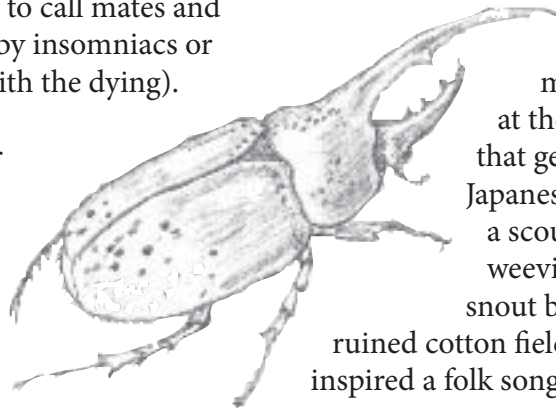
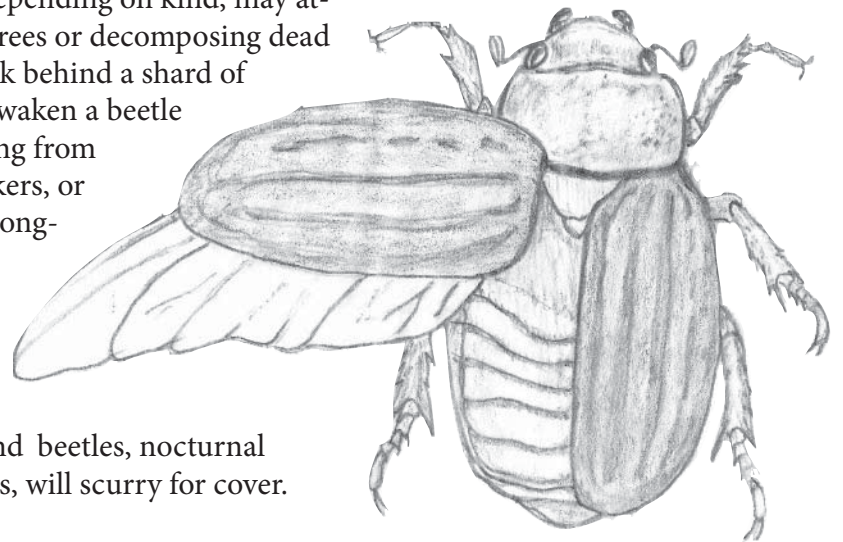
The activities of beetles may be beneficial, detrimental or neutral, depending on point of view. Larval and adult ladybird beetles eat garden pests; during the Middle Ages so welcome were they in vineyards that they were named for “Our Lady,” the Virgin Mary.

Fireflies light magical evenings at the same time that generalist-feeder Japanese beetles are a scourge. The boll weevil (a cute little snout beetle) has ruined cotton fields but has also inspired a folk song.

Dung-rolling scarab beetles were revered by ancient Egyptians and

were depicted rolling the sun across the sky. (And surely the Egyptians noticed that the beetle’s pupa is very like a mummy.)

We could go on, but we’ll close by noting that dermestid (skin) beetles are used in natural history museums to clean skeletons. Conversely, some of the most problematical pests of museum and insect collections are dermestids.



# NATURE'S WORTH WRITING ABOUT

## Artwork & Column

By Mary Priestley

*Editor's Note – Botanist and Friends president Mary Priestley contributes a botanical column to each issue of this newsletter.*

“Most of what I have learned about nature and its processes has come from the experiences I have had using my journals.” – Clare Walker Leslie, author of *Keeping a Nature Journal*

I keep a nature journal. It's a wonderful way to connect to the natural world simply by recording, as accurately as I can, what I see and often jotting down some personal reflection. First introduced to the idea in a workshop led by writer and naturalist Jill Carpenter (who writes columns for this newsletter), I have enjoyed the pursuit off and on for close to 10 years.

That first journal, which Jill gave me, is now among several in a little row on my bookshelf. One of my journals is from geologist Bran Potter's *Walking the Land* course, which at the time was open only to first-year undergraduates at Sewanee and the odd auditor. We read, wrote and sketched. Once a week we met to tramp somewhere on this mountain, on and off trail, and share our journal entries.

Once, Bran took us to the Fiery Gizzard. As we sat in a circle in that beautiful forest he read us Wendell Berry's moving poem *The Peace of Wild Things*. Later we stopped at Sycamore Falls where

several of my classmates took a dip.

Besides Berry's work, readings for the course included those of John Muir, Henry David Thoreau and Annie Dillard, as well as authors I had never heard of, Stephen Graham, Sheila Burnford and Katherine Moore among them. Not surprisingly, there were a few geological works in the reading list, including Luther's *Our Restless Earth* and *The Map that Changed the World* by Simon Winchester.

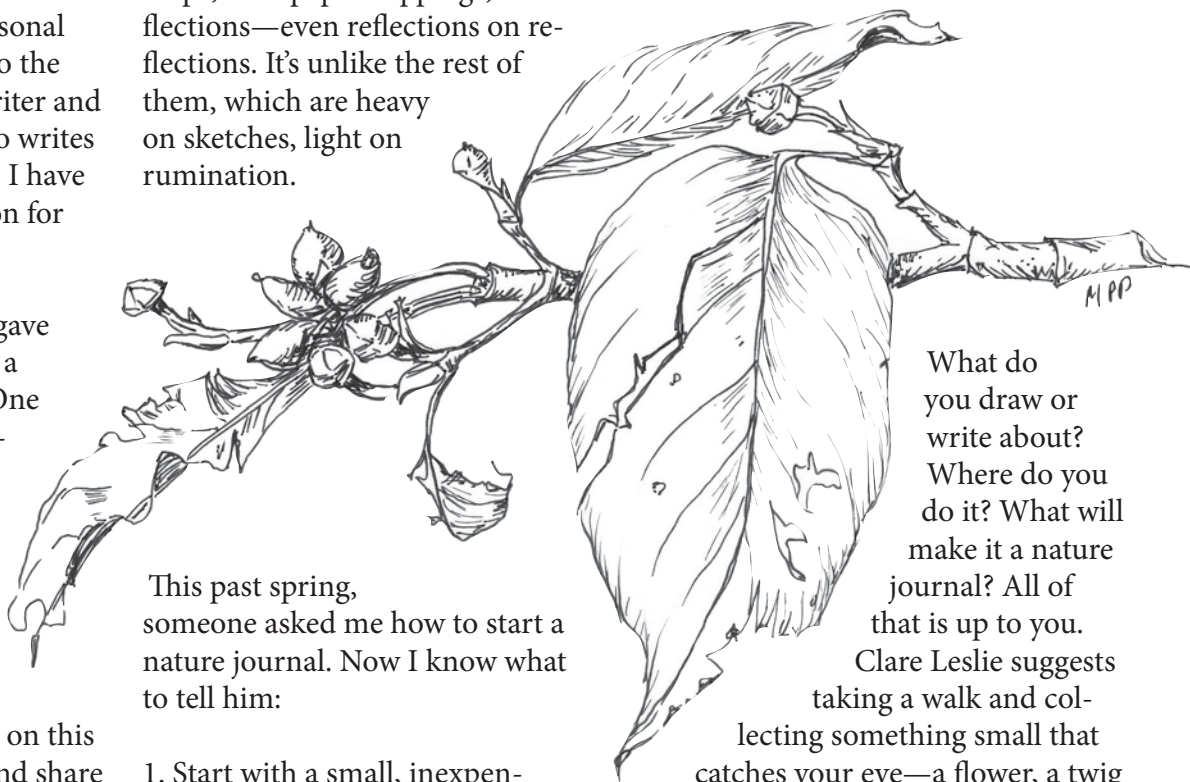
My *Walking the Land* journal is a combination of natural history observations and background, sketches, maps, newspaper clippings, and reflections—even reflections on reflections. It's unlike the rest of them, which are heavy on sketches, light on rumination.

This past spring, someone asked me how to start a nature journal. Now I know what to tell him:

1. Start with a small, inexpensive unlined notebook and a pen or pencil. Small notebooks fill up quickly and give a feeling of accomplishment in less time than larger ones do. I do my drawings in pencil, go over them in pen, and erase the pencil lines. But you might want to launch right in with that pen.

2. Give yourself 10 minutes to draw something in nature—maybe a weed from your yard or a spider in the doorway. If you're quick, you can go for a bird on the feeder. If you want to work it into a finished drawing, great. But a simple sketch is fine, too. Jot down your thoughts if you feel like it.

3. Recognize this fact: your first entry in a new journal will fall short of your expectations so you may as well get that done and out of the way. After that first not-so-good drawing or overly written description, the pressure is off and you can settle into enjoying your journal.



What do you draw or write about? Where do you do it? What will make it a nature journal? All of that is up to you.

Clare Leslie suggests taking a walk and collecting something small that catches your eye—a flower, a twig or a snail shell. Then spend some time drawing it when you get home.

Here are some ideas:

- Sketch a potted plant or a flower in a vase
- Record the bird species on your

continued on page 10

Don't deviate from the shortest, fastest, and therefore most efficient way to harvest this field. That should (and must) be your only consideration. However, to capitulate in this way, to extinguish his awareness of the natural world as habitat and home, the poet implies, would be the end of freedom, imagination, and his source of meaning in the totality and harmony of all life.

In consequence, he leaves a "clump," a "green nipple," a "sinuous lozenge," and finally whole "islets" of plant and animal life untouched by his deadly machine. His mindfulness of bobwhites, goldfinches and pheasants as

benefitting from the various seed he leaves them (and his enjoyment of the bread that does not contain this seed which he has so conspicuously left for the birds) presents a quiet but sufficient challenge of Osage reciprocity to the exploitive, industrial farming that had already begun to take over "In Kansas" in 1949.

Revard's poem is a prescient harbinger of the environmental crisis we find ourselves in today with nearly seven billion people on our planet. Although we cannot currently distribute food well enough to prevent massive starvation in the world, we are purported to have the capacity to

feed everyone who is hungry.

The larger issue is that our aggressive and unnatural means of industrial farming, now wholly dependent on petroleum, is undermining and helping destroy the biodiversity of the world's ecosystem at an alarming rate; in the face of diminishing biodiversity around the planet, the future for the human race looks increasingly bleak.

This American poem with its local vernacular and irreverent, jocular speaker gives profound and early voice to the dilemma of lost habitat for plants, animals, and all other life forms in an increasingly man-made world

feeder or the frog species in your pond

- Keep up with what's blooming week to week in the woods near your home
- Check out the life

under a log or stone

- Make note of the weather patterns

Write about your garden—garden journals count here

- If a bobcat passes through your yard, get that down.

People have different interests.

My friend Jill once spent an hour watching a cicada emerging from its old exoskeleton, making quick sketches of the various stages. I like to draw something botanical related to the season—a spring trillium,

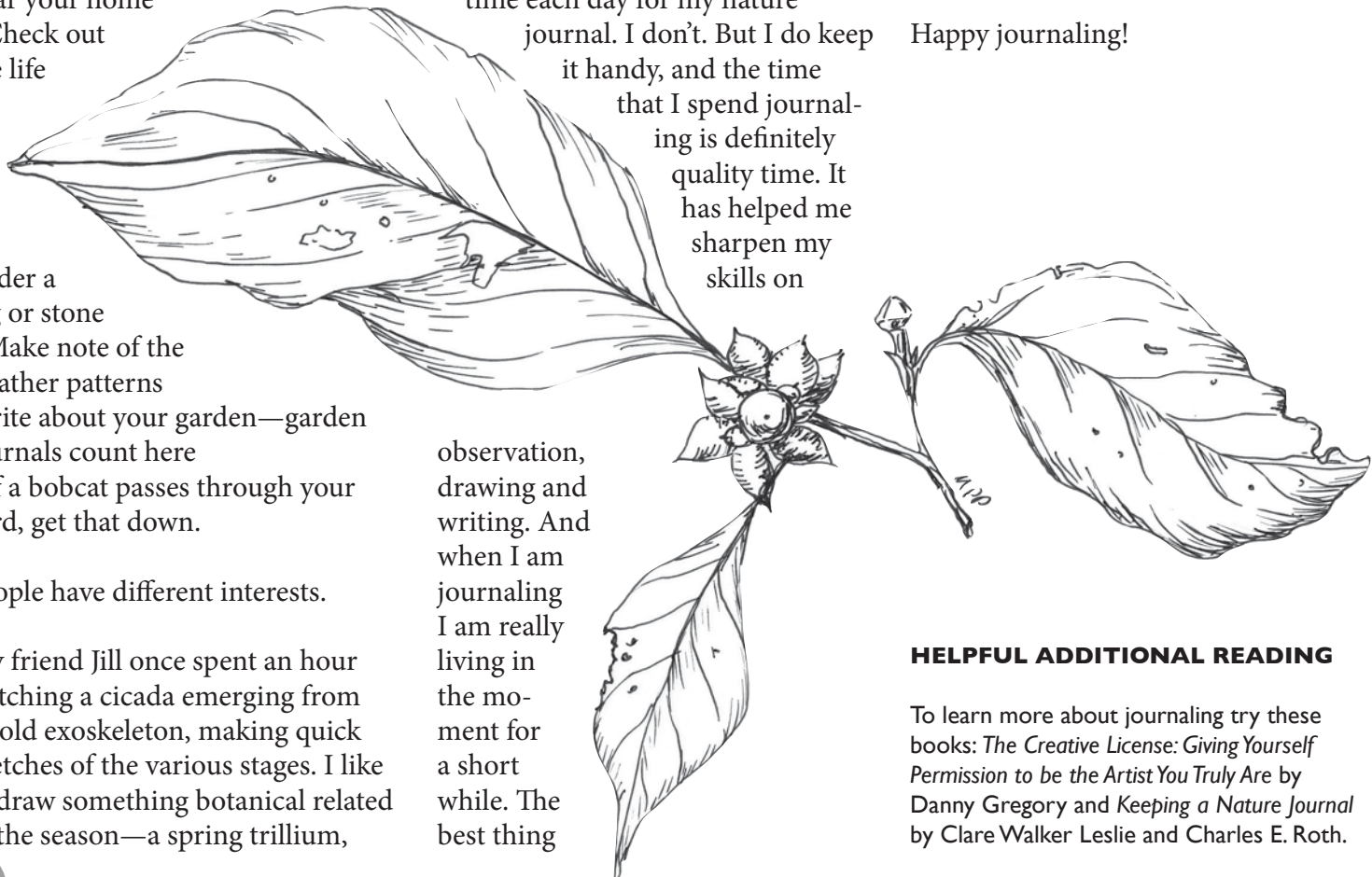
summer aster, autumn goldenrod, or a winter twig.

I wish I could say that I set aside time each day for my nature journal. I don't. But I do keep it handy, and the time that I spend journaling is definitely quality time. It has helped me sharpen my skills on

observation, drawing and writing. And when I am journaling I am really living in the moment for a short while. The best thing

about it, though, is that it has helped me to develop a feeling of intimacy with South Cumberland Plateau where I live and work and play.

Happy journaling!



**HELPFUL ADDITIONAL READING**

To learn more about journaling try these books: *The Creative License: Giving Yourself Permission to be the Artist You Truly Are* by Danny Gregory and *Keeping a Nature Journal* by Clare Walker Leslie and Charles E. Roth.

# FIGHT GEARING UP AGAINST THREAT OF HEMLOCK WOOLY ADELGIDS IN OUR PARK

By **Bill Knapp**  
Park Manager I

South Cumberland has been working with Jon Evans at The University of the South's landscape analysis lab in hopes of minimizing the damage caused if hemlock wooly adelgids arrive at our park. They've been slowly advancing east to west across the state, wreaking havoc in their wake.

With the use of satellite imagery and GIS technology we know that 10 percent of the park is covered in hemlock trees. We know that we would not be able to treat all the trees on the park as there are too many. We asked Nick Hollingshead of the Sewanee lab to give us a reasonable figure that we could treat in the park.

The plan is to treat trees that are 20 feet away from any stream or water source but not farther than 150 feet away from the water source.

We will use Imidacloprid pesticide to treat the hemlocks. The pesticide will break down before it can get to the water at that range but also must be mixed with water to do a soil drench to treat the trees so we'll carry water from the stream/water source to mix the pesticide.

In addition, we are treating hemlock trees that are 12 inches in diameter or larger at chest height. We feel we have an estimated 12,000 trees to treat that we believe we are capable of treating.

The Tennessee Department of Environ-

ment and Conservation (TDEC) will supply the pesticide. They have told us that we can use two seasonal positions to lead crews into Savage Gulf and the Fiery Gizzard to treat hemlocks.

The plan is to start this project sometime around February when the adelgid is showy. If we do not locate the pest, the plan is to go ahead and treat and hopefully protect the trees for up to five years.

Park Ranger George Shinn will head up the Savage Gulf project and Park Ranger Jason Reynolds will lead the Fiery Gizzard project. We are currently writing specs for the crews that we plan to hire and trying to come up with a dollar amount that will be needed to complete the work.



*(Photos courtesy of Henry Blizzard)*

**FUN AT THE FAIR.** The Friends and South Cumberland Park rangers enjoyed meeting the public when they manned a booth August 28-29 at the Beersheba Springs Craft Fair. In photo at left Friends Vice President Henry Blizzard chats with a fair visitor. In right photo seasonal interpretive ranger Ashlie Cook has a good time with one of the many youngsters who attended the fair.

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If you would like to contribute information, photos or articles, please contact:  
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