

Smithgall Woods State Park & Conservation Area 2019 Calendar of Events



Tsalaki Trail

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Welcome to Smithgall Woods State Park! Covering over 5,664 acres, our state park is charged with wise management of the land and educating the public about the environment and conservation issues. Join us for these events and make yourself at home at Smithgall Woods.

Bears, Bears, Everywhere

Saturday, Jan. 12 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Have you ever questioned what to do if you encountered a bear? Let us teach you! Hear a presentation given by Tom Hennigan, Associate Professor of Biology at Truett-McConnell, about bear behavior, habitat and more. All ages are welcome. Register by January 5th. \$5/person plus parking.

Wild Dyer Class

Saturday, Feb. 16 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Come learn how plants and minerals found in nature can be used to create fabrics of beautiful colors. Take part in an age-old tradition of dying clothes and go home with your own dyed reusable tote. Register by Feb 9th. \$25/person plus parking.

Volunteer Training

Saturday, March 2 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Optional site tour: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Make your mark on Smithgall Woods! Learn more about this special conservation area and what volunteer opportunities are available. Register by February 27th.

Backpacking 101

Saturday, March 23 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Do you like hiking? Do you wonder what to bring? Join the Naturalist to learn the basics of backpacking. Learn how to be prepared for unforeseen circumstances on the trail, the proper way to encounter wild animals, and

what to do if you get lost. This will be a presentation followed by a short hike on Laurel Ridge Trail. Register by March 16th. \$5/person plus parking.

Flies and Fly Water

Saturday, April 6 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In preparation for the upcoming spring fishing season, we will have a “how to” on fly tying, stream reading, casting, and more. Come at 9:30 to hear a presentation on Stream Entomology (aka stream critters) by our Naturalist. Fishing reservation information available. \$10/person pre-paid by March 30th, \$15 after plus parking. Registration required.

GPS Basics

Saturday, April 6 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Learn to use a hand-held GPS unit with our Naturalist. Classroom and field work will both be used to cover the basic functions of the GPS unit including marking a waypoint and creating a route. GPS units will be available for use. Register by March 30th. \$25/person plus parking.

Bee-ginners Course

Saturday, April 27 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Learn about the art of bee keeping at one of our three apiaries. Join Jennifer Leavey of Georgia Tech and our Naturalist in a 4-hour crash course on bees, their history, and cultivating hives. Have hands on experience with the hive. Materials for the course will be available for use. \$30/adult if pre-paid by April 23rd, \$35 after plus parking. Registration required.

Jr Ranger Program

Eco-Kids: Pollinators

Saturday, May 18 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bring your kids for a fun day of learning and play at Smithgall. Learn all there is to learn about the wonders of our world’s pollinators. From birds to bees to bats, learn how to help these important creatures. There will be outdoor games, arts & crafts, and much more. As a bonus, every child will earn their Smithgall Woods Jr Ranger badge! Bring your sack lunch! \$30 per child. Register by May 11th.



Georgia Master Naturalist

Mondays, June 3 – July 22

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

In cooperation with the University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry, an eight-week training in conservation and wildlife issues relevant to our southern Blue Ridge ecoregion will be offered. Call our Naturalist at 706-878-4707 for more info. Register by May 23rd. \$250 for the series and certification. An annual pass or daily park passes for each class are required. Limit 12.

Three Day Jr. Ranger Camp

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, June 13-15

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Join a ranger for a three-day adventure full of learning, crafting, and exploring. Open to children ages 6-12 years old. Children will be working on Level I or II Junior Ranger badges. Snacks will be provided each day, but participants will need to bring a lunch each day

along with bug spray, sunscreen, and other items they may need. Make sure that your children wear comfortable shoes that they can hike in and get wet, no flip flops. Drop off and pick up will be at the Visitor Center. \$30/child. Register by June 8th.

iNaturalist BioBlitz

Friday and Saturday, July 12-13

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

A Bioblitz is a community citizen-science effort to record as many species within a designated location and time period as possible. Participants will learn the basics of identification, how to use the iNaturalist app, and will receive a summary of the Bioblitz's data. On the second day we will explore the park and log all the species we can before the day is up. \$5 per person plus parking. Register by July 6th. Visit the link for more info:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/smithgall-woods-state-park>



Download the iNaturalist app before you arrive on the day.

Sunflowers & Selfies

Friday and Saturday's, July 5-20th (weather permitting)

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Spend the day enjoying the sun and the flowers at Smithgall Woods State Park. Take pictures and enter our photo contest to win a free t-shirt. Enjoy lemonade and other refreshments after riding to the sunflower field on the hay ride. \$5 per person plus parking (Cash Only). Register by June 29th.

Painting in the Park

Saturday, July 27 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Come try your hand at painting nature for the day. At Smithgall Woods we have thousands of happy little trees to paint. The course will be led by a local artist and basic supplies will be provided. Spots limited to 12. \$40 per person plus parking. Register by July 20th.

Ultraviolet Night Hike

Saturday, Aug. 17 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Ever wonder what it's like to see in ultraviolet light? Come experience our wooded trails via blacklight and learn all about night florescence with our Naturalist! Bring good hiking shoes, drinking water, and a small flashlight. Meet at the Visitor Center to start hiking the Laurel Ridge Trail at 7 pm. Register by August 10th. \$10 per person plus parking.

White Pine Needle Basket Weaving

Saturday, Sep. 7 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Learn the basics of creating a coiled pine needle basket in this 3-hour workshop. All materials are provided. The basket is yours to keep. Ages 13 and older. Register by August 31st. \$20 per person plus parking.

Cabin Fever

Saturday, October 5th 10:00 am – 4 p.m.



We invite you to join Smithgall Woods Friends Group for a fun afternoon of bluegrass and BBQ on Dukes Creek! There will be live music from multiple bluegrass acts, food vendors, arts and crafts, and much more! This is a family friendly event! \$10 per vehicle fee.

Woman's Wilderness Day

Saturday, Oct. 19 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

What does it mean to be a woman? It means to be strong for ourselves and our loved ones. It means to act in grace and look for beauty. Come celebrate women in a women's only hike and tea party. Register by October 12th. \$10 per person plus parking.

National Take a Hike Day

Sunday, Nov. 17 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate our country's wilderness and get out for some exercise by hiking our most challenging trail at the park, Ash Creek Trail, with our Naturalist. Register by Nov 9th. \$5/person plus parking.

"John Muir Inspired" Identification Hike

Saturday, Nov. 30 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

No cameras or search engines, only pencil and paper. This hike will be an educational program geared toward identifying native and non-native animal and plant species. Pencil and sketch pad recommended. 8 yrs. and older. Reservations required. \$5 plus \$5 parking. 770-732-5871.

Native American Cultures & Medicinal Plants

Saturday, Dec. 7 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Learn how the first true settlers of this continent lived and flourished off the land before it was ever named America. Go deeper into their culture and the plants they used for medicine in this program. \$5/person plus parking. Register by December 1st.

There is a daily parking fee of \$5 for all classes, unless otherwise specified.

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(706) 878-3087



gastateparks.org/smithgallwoods