



shelby bottoms nature center

Spring 2019 Events

March

NWS Severe Weather Awareness Day	Saturday, March 2 9 am—4 pm All ages No registration	Come by and see us at our booth at the National Weather Service's Severe Weather Awareness Day at Trevecca Nazarene University's Boone Business Building. It's a day of weather learning and fun! Activities include an Advanced Storm Spotter Class, info/activity booths, and kids' weather learning fun! Also look for a panel weather discussion with Nashville TV Meteorologists, as well as presentations of "Murfreesboro Tornado 10 Year Anniversary" and the "Top 10 Weather Events of 2018." For more info— https://www.weather.gov/ohx/swad2019
Celebrating Seuss	Saturday, March 2 1—3 pm All ages No registration	March 2nd is the birthday of the one and only Dr. Seuss! Swing by the nature center for an open house event where we turn the classroom into Seussville. We will have many activities, stories, crafts, and snacks. Leader: Christie Wisner and SBNC Staff & Volunteers
Storytime	Wednesday, March 6 2 pm; All ages No registration	Join us for an after-noon story time with snacks! Our stories might focus on animals, plants, astronomy, weather, or any number of other fun seasonal or nature topics! Leader: SBNC Staff & Volunteers
Dusk Walk: Beaver & Waterfowl Watch!	Friday, March 8 5:30—7 pm All ages Registration required	As the sun sets, the numerous beavers in the park go to work and waterfowl go to roost in the flooded bottomlands! We will check out a few active beaver sites and watch an abundance of ducks fly into the Bottoms to roost for the evening. Leader: John Michael Cassidy
Bird Friendly Coffee	Saturday, March 9 9 am—12 pm All ages No registration	Coffee drinkers who enjoy Shelby Bottoms are welcome to join us for some of the tastiest, shade-grown, certified "Bird-Friendly" coffee. Learn about the connection between bird habitat and coffee while you enjoy a cup to fuel your morning walk on the trails. Like the coffee? You can buy a whole bag or a one-pot sample bag on site! Leader: John Michael Cassidy and Jim Hicks
Mr. Bond's Science Guys	Saturday, March 9 10—11 am All ages Registration required	This team of "edutainers" —teachers and entertainers—make it their mission to show kids that science is fun, cool, and exciting. They perform hands-on science shows where everyone has the opportunity to do an experiment. These shows are The Science Guys' opportunity to "give back" to the East Nashville community (their home base) by raising money for Shelby Bottoms Nature Center. Attendees are encouraged (but not required) to make a donation to the Nature Center.
Trail Work Day	Saturday, March 9 10 am—12 pm Ages 14+ Registration required	Let's get some work done on the Nature Center campus on our trails: trimming, mulching, invasive plant removal, litter, etc. Leader: John Michael Cassidy
Spring Break Coloring and Craft Kickoff!	Saturday, March 9 12—4 pm All ages No registration	Drop by the Nature Center anytime between noon and closing time today to kickoff Metro Nashville Public Schools' Spring Break Week by coloring and crafting to your heart's content! We'll have the classroom set up with on-your-own activities, so come, stay, and play!

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Shelby Bottoms Nature Center Spring 2019 Events



Nature Detectives	<p>Tuesday, March 12 10—11 am All ages Registration required</p>	<p>Have you ever wondered about tracks, nests, burrows, or other animal "clues" in Shelby Bottoms? Nature Detectives of all ages are invited on this kid-friendly hike exploring how animals live in the park. We'll look for "clues" to learn how animals make their homes, and how we can live together in Nashville. Leader: Amanda Healan</p>
NATURE PLAY!	<p>Wednesday, March 13 12:30—1:30 pm All ages; Registration required</p>	<p>Meet us for a fun hour of exploring and playing in nature near the Nature Center. A few stuffed animals will join us to create an adventurous story! Leader: John Michael Cassidy</p>
Rescue 411! Helping Wildlife Babies	<p>Thursday, March 14 2—3:30 pm All ages Registration required</p>	<p>Permitted rehabber Devon Blackburn discusses tips for managing crisis situations with injured or orphaned wildlife babies. Resources for providing and finding care, information on re-nesting and reuniting families, and knowing when and how to contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator will be some of the points covered. Program Leader: Volunteer Naturalist and Tennessee State Permitted Wildlife Rehabber Devon Blackburn of Lillie Birds Wildlife Rehabilitation</p>
Twilight Bike Ride	<p>Thursday, March 14 6—7:30 pm Ages 12+ Registration required</p>	<p>Join us for a tour of Shelby Park and Bottoms on two wheels to explore the park before the sun sets. We will stop by highlighted areas in Shelby Bottoms: wetlands, ponds, fields, woods, etc. Helmet required. Leader: John Michael Cassidy</p>
Be a Frog!	<p>Friday, March 15 10—11 am Ages 4-10 Registration required</p>	<p>Environmental Education offers many fun and exciting ways to learn about endless topics to be discovered when spending time in nature. A great way to relate is by putting yourself into the role of the species. Join us while we learn and appreciate our fantastic frogs by pretending to be one! Leader: Christie Wiser</p>
Spring Break Family Hike	<p>Friday, March 15 12—2 pm All ages; Registration required</p>	<p>We will be using all of our senses to learn about and look for signs of different animals that inhabit the riverine, wetland, and forest habitats near the nature center. Leader: John Michael Cassidy</p>
Young Birder's 4-H Club	<p>Saturday, March 16 9:30—11:30 am Ages 10—18 No registration</p>	<p>Youth interested in taking their appreciation for birds to the next level will love this monthly meeting. Each gathering may include guest speakers, community service and other projects, and of course, birding! All birding equipment is available to borrow, and we'll register you as a 4-H member for free when you show up at the nature center! Leader: Andy Lantz, UT-TSU Extension Agent</p>
Backcountry Cooking & Prep	<p>Saturday, March 16 Ages 12+ 11:30 am—1 pm Registration required</p>	<p>The group will take a short walk into the park to learn about planning and cooking food for backcountry travel considering weight, nutrition, cost, taste, etc. Bring an appetite because we are going to cook a hearty group meal such as "Smash Potato Explosion!" Leader: John Michael Cassidy</p>
Saint Patty's Day Open House	<p>Saturday, March 16 1—3 pm All ages Registration required</p>	<p>Bring your little lucky leprechauns to this fun program that will highlight the theme of St. Patrick's Day, but mostly will focus on the many "green" things to be found in nature, especially during the spring season! Stories, crafts, and a scavenger hunt will be included in this event. Leader: Christie Wiser</p>
Star Party	<p>Saturday, March 16 8—10 pm All ages Registration required</p>	<p>Come join us at the Nature Center with our astronomer friends from Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society! They'll bring telescopes and we'll enjoy looks at the specialties of the late winter and spring skies. Weather permitting, we'll have views of the Moon, Mars, and some deep sky objects like nebulae and star clusters. They'll have the scope and the knowledge, you bring your interest, wonder, and best questions! Canceled for inclement weather. Check social media.</p>



Vernal Equinox (aka Spring!) Arrives at 4:58 pm on Wednesday, March 20

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1st Day of Spring Full Moon Hike	Wednesday, March 20 8—9 pm All ages Registration required	Two incredible occurrences of nature...all in ONE night! Join us for a full moon hike to welcome the first day of spring. No flashlights. May be canceled if raining. Leader: Christie Wiser
Dusk Walk: Migratory Birds	Friday, March 22 6:30—8 pm Ages 7+ Registration required	The warmer spring days could provide us the beginning of some great birdwatching! We will explore a number of different habitats in search of the early birds migrating north from Latin America. Leader: John Michael Cassidy
Family Bike Ride w/ Metro Park Police (& a Treat!)	Saturday, March 23 10—11 am All ages Registration required	Our friends at the Metro Park Police will accompany us for a short bike ride around Shelby Bottoms and Shelby Park...and we'll have a sweet treat to end the ride! Leader: John Michael Cassidy & Metro Park Police Officers
Campfire Commemoration-Spring has Sprung!!!	Saturday, March 23 1—2:30 pm All ages Registration suggested	At last... spring has arrived! Join us for an open-house style event that will offer a campfire with s'mores, stories, crafts, and FUN! May be canceled if raining. Leader: Christie Wiser
Bird Friendly Coffee	Saturday, March 30 9 am—12 pm All ages No registration	Coffee drinkers who enjoy Shelby Bottoms are welcome to join us for some of the tastiest, shade-grown, certified "Bird-Friendly" coffee. Learn about the connection between bird habitat and coffee while you enjoy a cup to fuel your morning walk on the trails. Like the coffee? You can buy a whole bag or a one-pot sample bag on site! Leader: John Michael Cassidy and Jim Hicks
Storm Season with NWS	Saturday, March 30 10—11:30 am All ages Registration suggested	The National Weather Service is coming to the Nature Center! Join us with our meteorologist friends as we learn how to prepare ourselves for the 2019 Storm Season. We'll discuss historic Nashville weather events and much more!
"Marsh Madness" Hike & Picnic	Saturday, March 30 1—2 pm All ages Registration required	Is it a marsh, wetland, swamp, bottomland, or what?!? Learn more about the various bodies of water as well as how important they are to us, animals, and the world as a whole. We will take a hike around Shelby Bottoms to explore our aquatic areas and then stop off at the observation deck for a picnic lunch. Wear shoes that can get wet and pack a lunch if you plan to picnic with us! Leader: Christie Wiser



April

Meet the Mounted Patrol	Saturday, April 6 10 —11 am All ages Registration required	Come meet the Park Police Officers who keep Metro Parks safe on four feet...or hooves to be precise. The officers who ride and the horses who carry them both protect our parks. Come meet the officers, and their partners too! Petting is allowed!
Cultured Culture: An Introduction to Fermenting Vegetables and Vinegars	Saturday, April 6 11 am—12:30 pm Ages 16+ Registration required	Fermentation is the oldest method of food preservation and is great for your digestive health. <i>Lactobacillus</i> bacteria is everywhere and is the key to creating sauerkraut, kimchi, and all types of pickles. All you need to add is salt! In this introductory workshop we will discuss lacto-fermentation for making sauerkraut as well as fermentation methods to make your own kombucha and apple cider vinegar. And yes, you will get to try samples! Leaders: Special guests Peter Vielehr and Sara Quinn

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New Art Exhibit Opening Reception: "You've Got JUNK Mail"	Saturday, April 6 6—8 pm All ages No registration	This will be a one of a kind art exhibit constructed with articles of junk mail. Join us for the opening reception this evening. Exhibit will then be displayed until the end of May 2019. Artist and Curator: Eli Johnson and Christie Wisner
Storytime	Wednesday, April 10 2 pm; All ages No registration	Join us for an after-nap story time with snacks! Our stories might focus on animals, plants, astronomy, weather, or any number of other fun seasonal or nature topics! Leader: SBNC Staff & Volunteers
It's the Balm	Thursday, April 11 6—7 pm Ages 21+ Registration required	Make your very own tube of lip balm with simple ingredients. We will even have some essential oils on hand to give your homemade lip balm a "mood-lifting" scent! If you have a previously-used makeup receptacle that you want to reuse to hold your lip balm, clean it and bring it. Space is limited. Leader: Christie Wisner
Bird Friendly Coffee	Saturday, April 13 AND April 20 9 am—12 pm All ages No registration	Coffee drinkers who enjoy Shelby Bottoms are welcome to join us for some of the tastiest, shade-grown, certified "Bird-Friendly" coffee. Learn about the connection between bird habitat and coffee while you enjoy a cup to fuel your morning walk on the trails. Like the coffee? You can buy a whole bag or a one-pot sample bag on site! Leader: John Michael Cassidy and Jim Hicks
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Talking Planets: The Night Problem- A Book Reading with the Author	Saturday, April 13 11—11:30 am All ages No registration	Come meet Jada Scott, a 10-year-old student at Homer Pittard Campus School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who has dreamed of writing a book ever since she visited the U.S. Space and Rocket Center and the Adventure Science Center. Jada takes readers on an adventurous journey through the solar system aboard a red, white and purple rocket bringing our sun, the nearby planets, moon, and even a black hole to life with insightful facts and original artwork.
Seed Giveaway Saturday & A Pickin' Party	Saturday, April 13 1—3 pm All ages No registration	We will be giving out seeds from our organic teaching garden that were harvested and dried in house. Bring seeds you have to share if you'd like. We will also host one of our popular Pickin' Parties during this time so bring an instrument to join in or just stay and enjoy the music! Leader: Christie Wisner
Fabulous Frogs of Shelby Bottoms	Friday, April 19 10—11 am All ages Registration required	School's out today and with the arrival of spring, the frogs are out too, singing their spring mating songs. Do you know all the species of frogs that live in the area? Have you heard of the term "bio-indicator?" Come join us for a frog walk in the park and discover what these amazing amphibians do for the ecosystem. Leader: Julie Henry
"Earth Day Weekend" Full Moon Hike & Campfire	Friday, April 19 8—9:30 pm All ages; Registration required	Kick off this Earth Day weekend with a full moon hike that will end with a campfire and s'mores! Leaders: Christie Wisner & John Michael Cassidy
Nashville Earth Day Festival at Centennial Park	Saturday, April 20 11 am—6 pm All ages; No registration	Join us at Centennial Park for Nashville's annual Earth Day Festival from 11 am—6 pm rain or shine! Food, fun, music, and info and activity booths from local organizations, including Shelby Bottoms Nature Center!



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Birding at Shelby Park!	Saturday, April 20 7—9 am Ages 10+ Registration required	Shelby Park offers a few different habitats that are not present in the Bottoms: upland forest and a large spring-fed lake. We'll be in search of the many migratory birds that frequent the mature hardwoods of the Shelby Hills and Lake Sevier. Leader: John Michael Cassidy
Young Birder's 4-H Club	Saturday, April 20 9:30—11:30 am Ages 10—18 No registration	Youth interested in taking their appreciation for birds to the next level will love this monthly meeting. Each gathering may include guest speakers, community service and other projects, and of course, birding! All birding equipment is available to borrow, and we'll register you as a 4-H member for free when you show up at the nature center! Leader: Andy Lantz, UT-TSU Extension Agent
You're Making Me "Jelly"	Saturday, April 20 2—3 pm Ages 10+ Registration required	You read it correctly.... and pun intended! We will be talking an hour out of this spring afternoon to practice the art of making a lovely jelly with wild violets that were harvested around the park. Space is limited. Leader: Christie Wisser
Earth Day Paddle: Kayak & Canoe	Monday, April 22 1—4 pm Ages 12+ Registration required	Join us for an afternoon float on a local waterway to enjoy Mother Earth and excellent waterways of Middle TN. Trip is suitable for beginners. Call to register and for costs. What we provide: boat (canoe/kayak), PFD (life jacket), paddle, transportation, and experienced outdoor instructors. Leader: John Michael Cassidy & Park Staff



Shelby Bottoms Nature Center will be closed Saturday, April 27 for a marathon. Roads in Shelby Park will be closed to vehicular traffic until 3 pm.



Bike Ride after Farmer's Market	Wednesday, May 1 6—7:30 pm Ages 7+ Registration required	Meet us at the East Nashville Farmer's Market and we will grab some peaches then ride in Shelby Park and Bottoms on two wheels to explore the park before the sun sets. We will stop by highlighted areas in Shelby Bottoms: wetlands, ponds, fields, woods, etc. Helmet required. Leader: John Michael Cassidy
@NashSevereWx	Saturday, May 4 10 am—12 pm All ages Registration required	The creators of Nashville's favorite weather twitter handle @NashSevereWx (Nashville Severe Weather) will be at the Nature Center! Come learn how they got started, what they do, why people love this Twitter feed, and how weather affects us in Nashville—particularly severe weather! Host: Julie Henry
Wild About Flowers	Saturday, May 4 1—2 pm All ages Registration required	Grab your spot for this spring wildflower hike around the 1 mile loop and some of our primitive trails. May be cancelled if the weather brings heavy rain/storms or too much mud. Leader: Christie Wisser
Storytime	Wednesday, May 8 2 pm All ages No registration	Join us for an after- nap story time with snacks! Our stories might focus on animals, plants, astronomy, weather, or any number of other fun seasonal or nature topics! Leader: SBNC Staff & Volunteers
It's the Balm	Thursday, May 9 6—7 pm Ages 21+ Registration required	Make your very own tube of lip balm with simple ingredients. We will even have some essential oils on hand to give your homemade lip balm a "mood-lifting" scent! If you have a previously-used makeup receptacle that you want to reuse to hold your lip balm, clean it and bring it. Space is limited. Leader: Christie Wisser

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Bird Friendly Coffee



Saturday, May 11
AND
Saturday, May 25
9 am—12 pm
All ages
No registration



Coffee drinkers who enjoy Shelby Bottoms are welcome to join us for some of the tastiest, shade-grown, certified “Bird-Friendly” coffee. Learn about the connection between bird habitat and coffee while you enjoy a cup to fuel your morning walk on the trails. Like the coffee? You can buy a whole bag or a one-pot sample bag on site! Leader: John Michael Cassidy and Jim Hicks

You Light Up(cycle) My Life: Sustainable Candle-making!

Saturday, May 11
11 am—12 pm
Ages 10+
Registration required

You do not want to miss this awesome opportunity to make your own natural candle in a recycled receptacle. This is also a perfect idea for a Mother’s day outing or gift idea. Space is limited; register today!
Leader: Christie Wiser

House Plant Swap & A Pickin’ Party

Saturday, May 11
1—3 pm
All ages
No registration

Have you been doing some spring cleaning and need to rehome some house plants? Come swap them or simply match them to a new home. Enjoy one of our popular Pickin’ Parties at the same time! Bring an instrument or just enjoy the tunes!

Nighthawk Prowl

Friday, May 17
8—9:30 pm
Ages 6+
Registration required

Flying insects and dark skies bring out some interesting flying wildlife: nighthawks, nightjars, bats, etc. Let’s go check them out this spring evening.
Leader: John Michael Cassidy

Young Birder’s 4-H Club



Saturday, May 18
9:30—11:30 am
Ages 10—18
No registration

Youth interested in taking their appreciation for birds to the next level will love this monthly meeting. Each gathering may include guest speakers, community service and other projects, and of course, birding! All birding equipment is available to borrow, and we’ll register you as a [4-H](#) member for free when you show up at the nature center! Leader: Andy Lantz, UT-TSU Extension Agent

Family Bike Ride w/ Metro Park Police (& Treat!)

Saturday, May 18
10—11 am
All ages
Registration required

Our friends at the Metro Park Police will accompany us for a short bike ride around Shelby Bottoms and Shelby Park...and we’ll have a sweet treat to end the ride!
Leader: John Michael Cassidy & Metro Park Police

Shelby Bottoms Paddle: Canoe & Kayak

Saturday, May 18
2—5 pm
Ages 12+
Registration required - \$25
Call to register

Join us for an afternoon float on the Cumberland River in East Nashville to enjoy the excellent waterways of Middle TN, right here at home. Suitable for beginners. What we provide: boat (canoe/kayak), PFD (life jacket), paddle, transportation, and experienced outdoor instructors.
Leader: John Michael Cassidy & Park Staff

Howl at the MOON Hike & Pickin’ Party!

Saturday, May 18
8—9 :30 pm
All ages
Registration required

Join us for a night hike along the 1 mile loop paved path under a full moon. And if you’re a music lover, we will top off the night with a small Pickin’ Party on our back porch!
Leader: Christie Wiser

Won’t you “BEE” my Neighbor

Friday, May 24
11 am—12 pm
All ages
Registration required

Spring is in full effect and our honeybees are hard at work! Buzz into the nature center for an opportunity to learn a little more about these incredible insects. We might even take a closer look at our hives to see how they are doing.
Leader: Christie Wiser

The Superb Snakes of Shelby Bottoms

Saturday, May 25
11 am—12 pm
All ages
Registration required

Did you know that without snakes, there would be no food to eat? Snakes are essential to controlling the pest population! We think that’s a pretty important job. Come join us as we learn about the super slithering snakes of Shelby Bottoms and let’s go see if we can meet any in the wild!
Leader: Julie and Maize, our Nature Center’s snake supervisor

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