

arkansas field trips



Hobbs State Park © aforero/Creative Commons



Floating sweetgum leaf © Mike Fuhr/TNC

Enjoy cooler temperatures and vibrant colors this fall with great company and learn about some of the places you've helped conserve. Because The Nature Conservancy is co-hosting its upcoming fall field trips with Arkansas State Parks and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, you'll also learn just how important partnerships are when it comes to keeping Arkansas the "Natural State."

October 23 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Hike at Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area (Benton County)

In 1979, The Nature Conservancy worked with several Northwest Arkansas citizens to purchase the 11,744 acres that became Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area. Come enjoy the scenic beauty and fall colors of Arkansas' largest state park while learning about the important role that fire plays in keeping the forests at this conservation area healthy for humans and wildlife. We will hike a moderately strenuous 3-mile section of the Little Clifty Loop and learn about the park's flora and fauna from Arkansas State Parks staff. The Conservancy's fire restoration project manager, McRee Anderson, will co-lead the hike and explain how

the Conservancy has teamed with Arkansas State Parks to conduct controlled burns at the park, including several sections along Little Clifty Loop. Pack a lunch and drinks for a picnic beside Beaver Pond. After the hike, you'll have the option of visiting the park's visitor center, which opened in May and features state-of-the-art exhibits. This event is free, but space is limited.

To register, please contact Brenda Luper at (479) 973-9110 or e-mail bluper@tnc.org and provide the following information: your name, the number in your party (including yourself) and your phone number. Be sure to inquire about carpooling options from Fayetteville.

Learn more about Hobbs State Park-Conservation area at arkansasstateparks.com.



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October 30 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Stream and Glade Restoration (Saline County)

We will begin at the Middle Fork of the Saline River about 20 minutes west of Benton to show you where The Nature Conservancy has partnered with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to stabilize a 2,600-foot section of stream bank that was previously responsible for some 2,770 tons of sediment entering the river each year. Then we'll take a 10-minute drive to the Middle Fork Barrens Natural Area, where expert botanist Theo Witsell of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission will lead a nature walk. The natural area includes an excellent example of Ouachita Mountain shale barrens, a rare plant community that supports the largest number of globally rare plant species of any habitat type in the state. Among the rare plants at the site is Pelton's rose-gentian, found nowhere but Saline County. Witsell will also discuss prescribed fire and invasive species removal at the site. Pack drinks and a lunch for a picnic at Middle Fork Barrens. This event is free, but space is limited.



Middle Fork of the Saline River © The Nature Conservancy

To register, please contact Cynthia Sizemore at (501) 614-5093 or e-mail csizemore@tnc.org and provide the following information: your name, the number in your party (including yourself) and your phone number. Be sure to inquire about carpooling options from Little Rock.

Learn more about the Middle Fork Barrens Natural Area at naturalheritage.com.

Visit us online at nature.org/arkansas to find out more about other natural treasures The Nature Conservancy protects and how you can support our work in Arkansas and around the world.