

Naturalist Activities

SUMMER 2004 • LONDON DISTRICT • DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST

Welcome to Laurel River Lake

Welcome to Laurel River Lake and the Daniel Boone National Forest. Maybe you've been on the road for several hours, have just set up camp and are preparing to relax. Perhaps you've picked this activity schedule up in town at the library. Whatever the case may be, I wish to extend to you an invitation to participate in the programs described inside. They offer an opportunity to discover the forest that lies beyond the trailhead and the lake that many visitors never take time to see. It's your forest and your lake. You owe it to yourself to learn about them.

Sincerely,
John T. Strojan, District Ranger

Programs Open to the Public

Although most of the programs listed here begin at Holly Bay Campground, the activities are open to the public. If you are attending a program and are not registered in the campground, please stop at the entrance station and pick up a visitor pass.

Meet the Naturalists

Steve Kickert – Steve has been with the U.S. Forest Service since 1992. He grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, but left to attend school at Murray State University and the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. He has spent time as a naturalist in Oregon, Wisconsin and Kentucky. Immediately prior to joining the Forest Service, he was naturalist at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park. His interests include entomology (insects) birding, and of late, land snails. So if you come across any EMPTY snail shells, bring them to him and he'll try to identify them for you.

Elizabeth Johnson – Elizabeth is from Somerset Kentucky and will be starting her junior year at Cumberland College this fall, where she is majoring in biology. While a student at Southwestern Pulaski County High School, she was active in the school's acclaimed raptor rehabilitation program. In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys playing soccer and perfecting her musical skills on the tenor sax. She will be conducting many of the snake programs, lake tours and owl prowls.

Junior Forest Ranger Patches

Children between the ages of 7 and 12 can become Junior Forest Rangers and receive the Junior Forest Ranger Patch by completing a Junior Forest Ranger Packet and attending at least one of the interpretive programs offered in this schedule. The packets are available at the Holly Bay Campground Entrance Station.

USDA Forest Service
Daniel Boone National Forest
761 S. Laurel Road • London, KY 40744
606-864-4163



Rocky Mountain Recreation Company provides financial support for these programs.

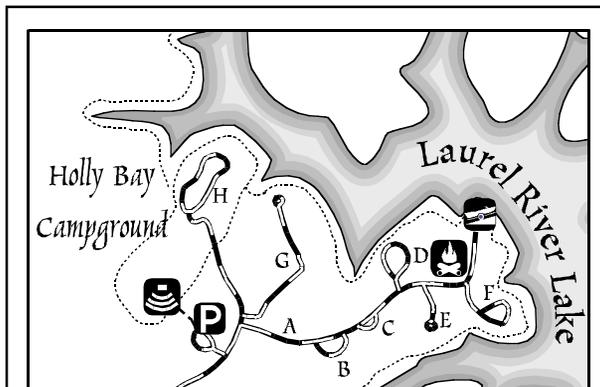


Program Descriptions

All Programs Are Subject to Cancellation
Due to Weather

Laurel Lake Boat Tour

Take a guided cruise on Laurel River Lake with a Forest Service naturalist. You'll visit an active eagle nest, see the eastern-most heron rookery in Kentucky, view the cliffs on Craigs Creek and learn how they were formed. You may even get to see freshwater jellyfish. Limit 11 people. Cost \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Reservations must be made in person at the London Ranger District office, or the Holly Bay Campground Entrance Station. **Boat leaves from the Holly Bay Campground Boat Ramp.** Length: 2.5 hours.



Where's the Fire Circle?

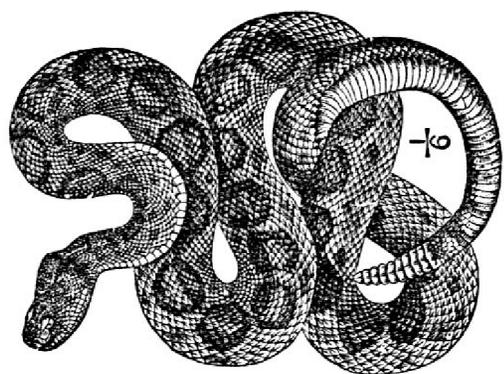
In order to make our programs more accessible to campers, we will be holding many of them at the Holly Bay Fire Circle (see map). The fire circle is located on the east side of the A-Loop bathhouse.

Walk of the Week Guided Walk to Scuttle Hole Overlook.

The cliffs of the Daniel Boone National Forest tell a story of disappearing rivers, human habitation, and survival in a vertical environment. It's a fairly level 3/4 mile walk to the overlook. Kid's will enjoy climbing up through the "scuttle hole", a 75-foot long, 3-foot wide crack in the cliffs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Wear sturdy shoes. **Meets at the Holly Bay Amphitheater Parking Lot for the short motorcade to the trail.** Length: 2 hours.

Snake Tails and Snake Tales

Have you heard that snakes don't die until sundown; mothballs ward off snakes; there are cottonmouths in Laurel Lake; snakes can't bite underwater? Let us help you sort out the facts from the fiction. We'll have several live snakes with us. **Meets at Holly Bay Campfire Circle.** Length: 45 minutes.



Walk of the Week: Guided Walk to Van Hook Falls

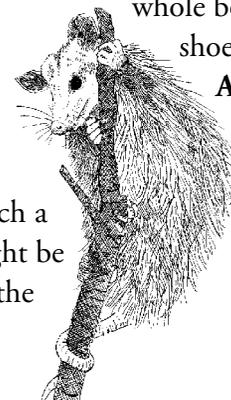
The Daniel Boone National Forest is blessed with an abundance of waterfalls that look great in the early summer, but are reduced to a trickle as the season progresses. A Forest Service naturalist will lead you on a short walk to this very scenic wet weather waterfall. **Meets at the Holly Bay Amphitheater Parking Lot for the short drive and walk to the falls.** Walk lasts about 1.5 hours.

Armchair Tour of the Daniel Boone National Forest

Laurel River Lake is just one of many attractions on the Daniel Boone National Forest. Tonight take an armchair tour of this magnificent forest. You'll explore hidden caves, quiet lakes, fire towers you can climb, ATV trails, swinging bridges and natural arches without ever leaving your seat. We'll also give you a preview of the new visitor center that will be opening soon in the Red River Gorge. **Meets at the Holly Bay Campfire Circle.** Length: 45 minutes.

They Saw It In The Campground

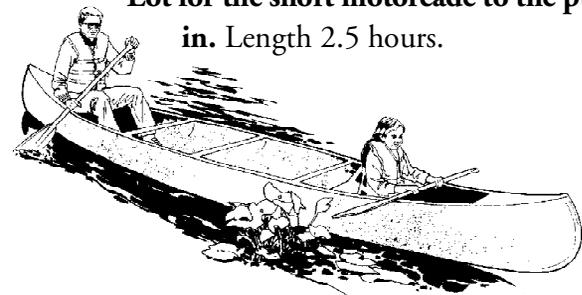
What wild animal would spend time in such a busy place? You'll be surprised at what might be living beneath your picnic table. Meets at the **Holly Bay Campfire Circle.** Length: 45 minutes.



Sunset Canoe Trip

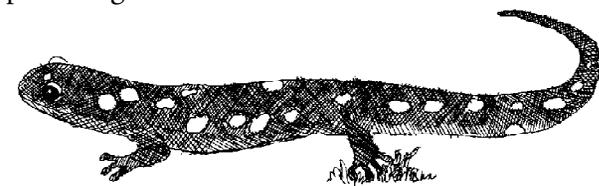
What better way to end the day than to dip your paddle in the evening reflection of sheer rock walls and house-sized boulders. As you guide your canoe along the backwaters of Lake Cumberland (Rockcastle River), Forest Service naturalists will discuss the human and natural history of the area. Limit 10 people. Reservations must be made in person at the London Ranger District office in London, or the Holly Bay Campground Entrance Station. The cost is \$5.00/person. You must be at least 10 years old and an adult must accompany anyone under 16. No experience is needed. Wear clothes that can get wet, drinking water and a snack if you think you'll get hungry. We provide canoes, life jackets and paddles. Refunds provided only if the trip is cancelled due to inclement weather.

Meet at the Holly Bay Amphitheater Parking Lot for the short motorcade to the put in. Length 2.5 hours.



Moonlight Canoe Trip

This trip "by the light of the silvery moon" is only offered twice during the summer. Many who have gone on it have said it was one of the most relaxing experiences they've ever had. For a description of the trip see, Sunset Canoe Trip. This is a popular trip and fills up early, so don't wait to reserve a spot. Length 2.5 hours.



Creek Walk

Cool your heels in Bark Camp Creek while you explore the amazing world of animals that live just beneath the surface. We'll search for insects that do push-ups and "water pennies" who use their whole body as a suction cup. Bring clothes and shoes that can get wet to the **Holly Bay Amphitheater Parking Lot** for the motorcade to the creek. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Length: 2.5 hours.

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|----------------|---|----|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---|----|
| MAY '04 | SUN. | | MON. | TUES. | WED. | THUR. | FRI. | SAT. | |
| | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour | 28 4:00 pm Tree Treasure Hunt 8:30 pm Back Porch Brass in Concert | 29 |
| | 4:00 pm Birding For Kids 7:00 pm Snake Tails and Snake Tales | 30 | | | | | | | |

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|------------------|-------------|--|--|-------------|---|--|--|
| JUNE 2004 | SUN. | MON. | TUES. | WED. | THUR. | FRI. | SAT. |
| | | | 1 11:00 am Snake Tales & Snake Tails | | 2 | 3 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour | 4 9:00 pm The Bears Are Back |
| | 6 | 7 | 8 11:00 am Snake Tales & Snake Tails | 9 | 10 7:00 pm Sunset Canoe Trip | 11 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour 9:00 pm Rockcastle Resorts Revisited | 12 10:00 am Walk of the Week: Ferns - Nature's Living Fossils 8:30 pm Mark Melloan Concert |
| | 13 | 14 | 15 11:00 am Snake Tales & Snake Tails | 16 | 17 | 18 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour 9:00 pm Armchair Tour of the Daniel Boone | 19 10:00 am Walk of the Week: Nature's Medicine Chest 9:30 pm Owl Prowl |
| | 20 | 21 | 22 11:00 am Snake Tales & Snake Tails 3:00 pm Birding for Kids | 23 | 24 4:00 pm Follow the Animals 7:00 pm Sunset Canoe Trip | 25 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour 9:00 pm They Saw It in the Campground | 26 10:00 am Walk of the Week: Scuttle Hole Overlook 9:00 pm The Bears Are Back |
| 27 | 28 | 29 11:00 am Snake Tales & Snake Tails 2:00 pm Creek Walk | 30 | | | | |

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|------------------|-------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| JULY 2004 | SUN. | MON. | TUES. | WED. | THUR. | FRI. | SAT. |
| | | | | | 1 4:00 pm Tree Treasure Hunt 8:30 pm Moonlight Canoe Trip | 2 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour 9:00 pm Rockcastle Hotels Revisited | 3 10:00 am Walk of the Week: Ferns: Nature's Living Fossils |
| | 4 | 5 | 6 11:00 am Snake Tales and Snake Tails 3:00 pm Birding for Kids | 7 | 8 4:00 pm Follow the Animals 7:00 pm Sunset Canoe Trip | 9 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour 9:00 pm Armchair Tour of the Daniel Boone | 10 10:00 am Walk of the Week: Nature's Medicine Chest 8:30 pm Mark Melloan Concert |
| | 11 | 12 | 13 11:00 am Snake Tales and Snake Tails 2:00 pm Creek Walk | 14 | 15 4:00 pm Tree Treasure Hunt 7:00 pm Sunset Canoe Trip | 16 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour 9:00 pm They Saw It in The Campground | 17 10:00 am Walk of the Week: Scuttle Hole Overlook 9:30 pm Owl Prowl |
| | 18 | 19 | 20 11:00 am Snake Tales and Snake Tails | 21 | 22 4:00 pm Follow the Animals 7:00 pm Sunset Canoe Trip | 23 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour 9:00 pm Rockcastle Hotels Revisited | 24 10:00 am Walk of the Week: Ferns 8:30 pm Ghost Stories and Other Things.... |
| 25 | 26 | 27 11:00 am Snake Tales and Snake Tails 2:00 pm Creek Walk | 28 | 29 4:00 pm Tree Treasure Hunt 8:30 pm Moonlight Canoe Trip | 30 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour 9:00 pm Armchair Tour of the Daniel Boone | 31 10:00 am Walk of the Week: Nature's Medicine Chest 9:00 pm The Bears Are Back | |

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|------------------|-------------|-------------|--|-------------|---|--|--|
| AUG. 2004 | SUN. | MON. | TUES. | WED. | THUR. | FRI. | SAT. |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 11:00 am Snake Tales and Snake Tails | 4 | 5 7:00 pm Sunset Canoe Trip | 6 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour | 7 9:30 pm Owl Prowl |
| | 8 | 9 | 10 11:00 am Snake Tales and Snake Tails 2:00 pm Creek Walk | 11 | 12 4:00 pm Follow the Animals 7:00 pm Sunset Canoe Trip | 13 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour 9:00 pm Armchair Tour of the Daniel Boone | 14 10:00 am Walk of the Week: Nature's Medicine Chest 9:00 pm The Bears Are Back |
| | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour | 21 3:00 pm Snake Tales and Snake Tails 6:30 pm Walk of the Week: Scuttle Hole Overlook |
| | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour | 28 4:00 pm Snake Tails and Snake Tales 8:30 pm Moonlight Canoe Trip |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | |

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|-------------------|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|
| SEPT. 2004 | SUN. | MON. | TUES. | WED. | THUR. | FRI. | SAT. |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 6:30 pm Laurel Lake Boat Tour | 3 4:00 pm Snake Tails and Snake Tales |
| | 4:00 pm Birding for Kids 8:30 pm The Bears Are Back | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | | | | | | | 11 |

Program Descriptions

The Bears Are Back!

And you may need to change your camping habits. Bears have made their appearance at Holly Bay Campground, and can be seen in the forest, but you don't want them in your campsite. Learn what you can do to help keep our bears wild and free. We'll have "Roller Bear", our full sized mounted bear, with us. **Meets at the Holly Bay Campfire Circle.**



Ferns: Nature's Living Fossils

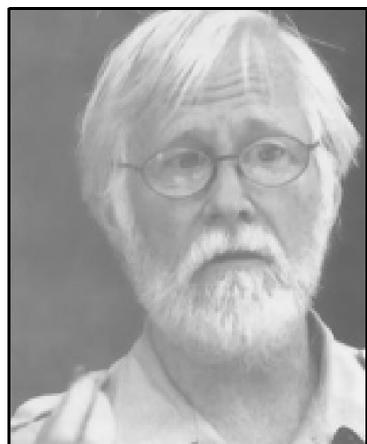
Discover plants whose origins go back 400 million years as you walk the Dutch Branch Trail with a Forest Service naturalist. Hear how ancient people used the spores of ferns to make themselves invisible. Learn how to identify these charming delicate plants. **Meets at the Holly Bay Amphitheater Parking Area** for the short motorcade to the trailhead. Length: 2 hours.

Tree Treasure Hunt

Young campers can win Smokey Bear collector posters and learn how to identify trees at the same time by going on the Tree Treasure Hunt. **Meets at the Holly Bay Fire Circle.** Length: 45 minutes.

Ghost Stories and Other Things My Grandmother Taught Me

The "old timers" of Appalachia had a wealth of knowledge that you won't find on the internet. Tonight John Tierney, former chief naturalist at Carter Caves State Park, will give you a taste of that knowledge through story and song. If you're kind, he may even play a song on his "snute flute". **Meets at the Holly Bay Campfire Circle.** Length: 1 hour.

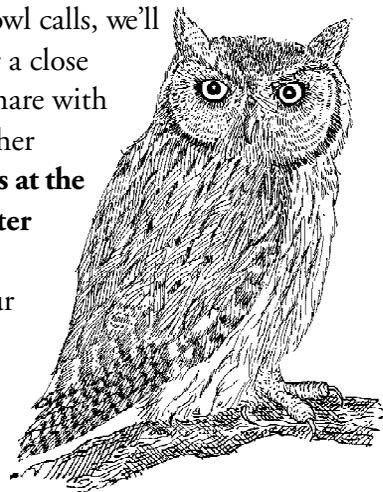


Back Porch Grass In Concert

Tap your feet and clap your hands to some real bluegrass music. Here in Kentucky, the sound of a fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin and upright bass are as natural as the wind in a sycamore tree. This band from Middlesboro, KY will make you feel like you're enjoying the evening on their front porch. **Meets at the Holly Bay Campfire Circle.** Length 1 hour.

Owl Prowl

Who says you can't talk to the animals? You can if it's an owl. Using tapes of owl calls, we'll try to bring some in for a close encounter. We'll also share with you some of nature's other nocturnal surprises. **Meets at the Holly Bay Amphitheater Parking Lot.** Bring a flashlight, but leave your fear of the dark behind. Length 1.5 hours



Rockcastle Resorts Revisited

In the 1800's, health resorts along the Rockcastle River promised cures for everything from malaria to a broken heart. Shane Morgan's portrayal of F.W. Campbell, manager of the Rockcastle Springs Hotel, provides an entertaining look at what it was like to vacation here in the 1850's. **Meets at the Holly Bay Campfire Circle.** Length: 1 hour.

Walk of the Week - Nature's Medicine Chest

The mayapple may hold a cure for some types of cancer and old timers say an ash leaf will ward away snakes. **Meet at the Holly Bay Amphitheater Parking Lot for the short motorcade to Dutch Branch Trail.** Length about 2 hours.

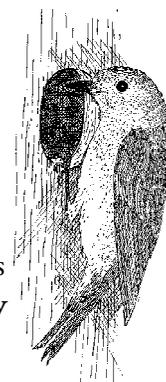


Follow the Animals

While you were sleeping, the animals were out. They ran beneath the leaves, slithered across the ground and dove from the trees. AND THEY LEFT EVIDENCE. Let our naturalists introduce you to the basics of tracking. You'll learn how to identify common track patterns, animal signs and skulls. Then you'll use what you've learned to help unravel a mystery. **Meets at the Holly Bay Campfire Circle.** Length: 45 minutes.

Birding For Kids

This is a birding program for kids 8-12. You'll learn how to use binoculars and then go on a short bird walk where we guarantee you'll see birds and that they won't fly away. You'll also learn how to identify birds by their calls. **Meets at the Holly Bay Campfire Circle.** Length: 1 hour.



Mark Melloan In Concert

Mark Melloan is back this year by popular demand. This young singer/songwriter wowed the audience last year with heartfelt tunes about his native state of Kentucky. As testament to his abilities, Bela Fleck, considered by many to be one of the greatest banjo players alive, agreed to appear on Mark's first CD. **Meets at the Holly Bay Campfire Circle.** Length 1 hour.

