

**SATURDAY MORNING PROGRAM (9:30 a.m.)**



◆ **Tristan Clark:** *“Winter Herpetology”*

Tristan will speak on some of our winter active amphibians, and include a short section at the end about how the hurricane negatively affected southern Appalachian salamanders, particularly hellbenders and some of the endangered species in adjacent areas of North Carolina.

**Speaker bio:** Tristan Clark, also known as the “Rugged Herpetologist,” is a local herpetologist with experience working with the Nashville Zoo, Amphibian Foundation, Bays Mountain Park and various other organizations across the Southeast on a variety of conservation projects. His primary focus has been documenting the biodiversity of rare salamanders and other herpetofauna in the Southern Appalachian Mountains and assisting with captive breeding efforts to aid in the recovery of critically endangered reptile and amphibian species in the wild.



◆ **Gerry Middleton -** *“Wildlife Surveys in Hampton Creek Cove, Roan Mountain State Park and Rocky Fork State Park”*

Gerry completed wildlife surveys in Hampton Creek Cove, Roan Mountain State Park and Rocky Fork State Park during the summer of 2024. He used trail cameras for extended durations to document the species. The Friends of Roan Mountain were able to support Gerry’s study thanks to the generous support of our members.

**Speaker Bio:** Gerry Middleton's life began in the small railroad town of Etowah, Tennessee, where his curiosity for nature took root. After high school, he pursued a degree in Geology at Tennessee Tech, leading to an early career in Maryville and then with the TVA in Chattanooga as a coal geologist. As job dynamics shifted, Gerry transitioned to the TDEC Division of Remediation in Oak Ridge, dedicating 26 years to environmental monitoring. A pivotal moment came when he was inspired by Dr. Merlin Tuttle's presentation on bats, prompting him to earn a Master’s in Wildlife & Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. This new expertise allowed him to shift roles at TDEC, focusing on mercury contamination studies in small mammals and bats. His passion for conservation extended to volunteer bat surveys for Tennessee State Parks and fern surveys in the Smokies. Through these varied experiences, Gerry crafted a career that harmoniously blended geology, environmental science, and wildlife biology.

**18TH ANNUAL  
FRIENDS OF ROAN  
MOUNTAIN  
WINTER NATURALISTS’  
RALLY  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025**

**Speakers include:**

**Gerry Middleton**  
*“Wildlife Surveys in Hampton Creek Cove, Roan Mountain State Park and Rocky Fork State Park”*

**Tristan Clark**  
*“Winter Herpetology”*



**Join Friends of Roan Mountain on Saturday, February 15th at Roan Mountain State Park to celebrate winter in the Roan Highlands!** Since 2007 the Winter Naturalists' Rally has drawn hardy nature enthusiasts from far & wide to Roan Mountain on a Saturday close to Valentine’s Day. The 2025 Winter Rally continues this celebration of our natural world by providing expert speakers on topics concerning the environs of the Roan Highlands. Top naturalists volunteer their time and energy to make the event both enjoyable and educational for people of all ages.

**Online registration available!**  
friendsofroanmtn.org

**GARY BARRIGAR, PRESIDENT  
FRIENDS OF ROAN MOUNTAIN  
708 ALLEN AVENUE  
ELIZABETHTON, TN 37643**



**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

**NONPROFIT ORG  
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PERMIT NO. 20**

## 2025 Winter Rally Registration Form

(Online and on-site registration also available)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Members, please check if this is a change of address.

### Registration Fee:

(Members & children - FREE REGISTRATION)

Non-member Adults # \_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 ea.

Fee Amount = \$ \_\_\_\_

**Bag Lunch** (Conference Center at 12:30 p.m.)

Note your sandwich choice(s) below:

# \_\_\_\_ Turkey/Swiss # \_\_\_\_ Ham/Cheese

# \_\_\_\_ Chicken Salad # \_\_\_\_ Pimento Cheese

Total # \_\_\_\_ @ \$9.50 ea. = Lunch Amount \$ \_\_\_\_

LUNCH BY PRE-PAID RESERVATION ONLY  
RESERVATION DEADLINE: TUES., FEB. 11th

### Friends of Roan Mountain Membership:

#### Membership status:

Current member (no payment needed)

Renewing member  New member

Individual \$20 \_\_\_\_ Family \$30 \_\_\_\_

Student \$10 \_\_\_\_ Corporate \$50 \_\_\_\_

Lifetime Ind. \$350 \_\_\_\_ Lifetime Family \$450 \_\_\_\_

Membership Amount = \$ \_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$

MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK  
PAYABLE TO FRIENDS OF ROAN MOUNTAIN to:

NANCY BARRIGAR, TREASURER  
708 ALLEN AVENUE, ELIZABETHTON, TN 37643

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 15, 2025

**Roan Mountain State Park, Conference Center**

- <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/roan-mountain>
- Address: 1011 TN-143, Roan Mountain, TN
- Phone: (423) 772-0190

**9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION**

**9:30 a.m. INDOOR PROGRAM BEGINS**

**9:35 a.m. — Tristan Clark:**  
“*Winter Herpetology*”

**10:50 a.m. — Gerry Middleton**  
“*Wildlife Surveys in Hampton Creek Cove, Roan Mountain State Park and Rocky Fork State Park*”

**12:30 p.m. LUNCH**  
Bag lunches available by pre-paid reservation.  
Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, Feb. 11th

**1:30 p.m. POST-LUNCH ACTIVITIES**  
The three hikes will leave from the Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center. There will be also be a concurrent indoor discussion. Pre-registration for these activities is not required.



**1:30 p.m. POST-LUNCH ACTIVITIES**

Hikes will leave from the Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center. Pre-registration for these activities is not required. Meet trip leaders at the Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center at 1:15.

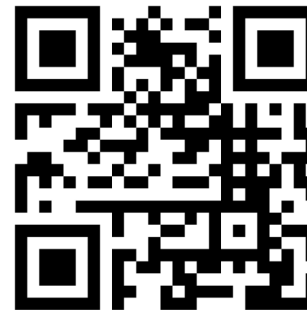
⇒ **Hike #1. Roan Mountain State Park Animal Tracking** Trip leader: Marty Silver (ranger with Warriors' Path State Park, TN). Marty will lead a wildlife tracking and animal signs hike down near the Doe River. (easy; kid-friendly)

⇒ **Hike #2. Winter Tree Identification** Trip leader Cade Campbell. Cade will lead tree identification hike in the state park to share field techniques for winter identification. (easy, kid-friendly)

⇒ **Hike #3. Birds on Roan Mountain** Trip Leader: Debi Campbell (President of Bristol Bird Club) Learn about the birds that can be found in and around Roan Mountain State Park. (easy; kid-friendly)

### To register Online and access other resources for Friends of Roan Mountain

\* Visit our website: [friendsofroanmtn.org](http://friendsofroanmtn.org)



\* Follow us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/friendsofroanmountain](https://facebook.com/friendsofroanmountain)

## LODGING

**North Carolina:**

Chinquapin Inn, Penland, NC (828) 765-0064

Holston Camp and Retreat Center, Banner Elk, NC (844) 465-7866

Richmond Inn Bed & Breakfast, Spruce Pine, NC (828) 765-6993

Pinnacle Inn Resort, Beech Mountain, NC (828) 387-2231

**Tennessee:**

Roan Mountain State Park (cabins) 423-772-0190

Roan Mountain Bed & Breakfast 423-772-3207

Americourt Hotel, Elizabethton, TN 423-542-4466

Lakeshore Resort, Hampton, TN 423-725-2201

Mountain Harbour, Roan Mtn., TN 423-772-9494

Riverbend Cottage, Roan Mtn., TN 423-512-1665

Traveler's Inn, Elizabethton, TN 423-543-3344

**SAVE THESE DATES!**



***The 67th Annual Roan Mountain Spring Naturalists' Rally will be held April 25- April 27, 2025***

***The 19th Annual Xtreme Roan Adventures Kid's Naturalists' Rally will be held July 25- July 26, 2025***

***The 63rd Annual Roan Mountain Fall Naturalists' Rally will be held September 19 - September 21, 2025***