

# The Tallulah Spray

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## T.G.S.P. IS GEARING UP FOR A PRESCRIBED BURN

Tallulah Gorge State Park has been preparing for a prescribed burn on the Northern Wildlife Management Area. You might ask why would someone start a fire in the woods? That would be a very good question with a very good answer.

Prescribed burns help out the forest in many ways. One way is by burning up the leaf litter that accumulates on the ground. Leaves fall from the trees to the ground creating leaf litter. This leaf litter is great fuel for out of control forest fires because it can burn fast and hot. The controlled prescribed burn helps burn up this leaf litter helping to prevent out of control forest fires.

A second way prescribed burns help the forest is by encouraging new growth. After a fire goes through the forest it kills off unhealthy vegetation making room for new growth. The new

plants are able to grow in the rich fertile soil that was created by the ashes.

A third reason for this prescribed burn is to promote the growth of Table Mountain Pine. Table Mountain Pine can not grow unless a fire heats up its cones causing the cones to release the seeds which results in new Table Mountain Pine trees.

If you see smoke rising from Tallulah Gorge State Park within the next couple weeks think of the pine trees that will be sprouting in the next couple years. The burn is happening soon; it might have already happen when you read this article.



## Did You Know ?

Did you know that the possum is the only marsupial animal in North America? What is a marsupial you ask? A marsupial is an animal that has a pouch to carry her young in like a kangaroo. When the baby possum is born it is furless and

about the size of a nickel. After birth the baby makes its way to the pouch where it will keep warm and nurse for at least seven weeks, but no more than four months. The next time you see a possum think about how they are similar to a kangaroo.

## Spring 2009 Special Events

### Full Moon Hikes:

March 10<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm.

April 9<sup>th</sup> 8-10pm.

May 9<sup>th</sup> 8:45-10:45pm

May 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30pm.

June 7<sup>th</sup> 8:30-10:30pm.

June 8<sup>th</sup> 9:15-11:15pm.



Come enjoy the gorge and the magical shimmering light of the full moon! This strenuous hike consists of approximately 700 steps and crossing the suspension bridge over the gorge. **Space is limited. Pre-registration required.**

### Full Moon Canoe Outings:

April 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00pm.

May 8<sup>th</sup> 7:30-9:30pm.

June 8<sup>th</sup> 8:00-10:00pm.

Come enjoy a Ranger-led paddle around Tallulah Lake as you watch the full moon reflects its rays off the water. **Space is limited. Pre-registration required.**



### MOUNTAIN BIKE CLINIC:

February 28<sup>th</sup> 09:00-1:00pm.

Learn general bike maintenance and preparation tips about mountain biking. Then head out on the trail with Tallulah Gorge Staff for a peddle around High Bluff Loop for a 3 mile ride. **Space is limited. Pre-registration required.**

### Historical Rock Hike:

March 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00-1:30pm.

Enjoy some of the unique rock formations on the park and learn the names they received in the early 1800's. This ranger led hike is off the beaten trail with steep embankments to climb up and down. **Space is limited. Pre-registration required.**

### Kayak Hike:

April 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00-3:30pm.

April 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30-1:00pm.

April 11<sup>th</sup> 12:00-3:30pm.

April 12<sup>th</sup> 9:30-1:00pm.

Hike to Bridal Veil Falls on this ranger led excursion to watch brave souls navigate the swift moving waters of Tallulah River.

**Space is limited. Pre-registration required.**

### Wild Flower Hikes:

April 18<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30am

April 19<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30am

April 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30am

April 26<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30am

Come enjoy this ranger led hike around different parts of the park learning about different flowers.

### Memorial Canoe Outing:

May 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:30-12:00pm

Enjoy a morning on Tallulah Lake as we paddle around finding waterfalls and spotting

wildlife. **Space is limited. Pre-registration required.**



### Gorge Floor Hike:

May 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00-1:30pm

May 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00-1:30pm

Come enjoy a hike down into Tallulah Gorge with your family! This guided hike will take you from rim to river while learning about the unique environments that the gorge provides. Be sure to wear proper footwear (no flip-flops or crocs). This hike is strenuous and will involve rock hopping and getting wet. Ages 10 and up. No pets allowed in the gorge. **Space is limited. Pre-registration required.**

### Family Overnight Canoe Trip:

June 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00am.—June 21<sup>st</sup> 12:00 pm

Enjoy a nice weekend with the family on an overnight canoe trip. This ranger led event will give basic instructions on paddling a canoe, fire building, camp set up and wilderness survival. Bring a fishing pole, be prepared to play some games and watch some skits as you sit around the camp fire. **Space is limited. Pre-registration required.**



**To pre-register for programs call (706) 754-7981**

## The Tallulah Work Experience

During the summer of 2003, being a completely bored retiree, I came to Tallulah Gorge state park to volunteer. After volunteering for three weeks, I was hired as a "seasonal employee" to work in the gift shop. The following spring I returned to work and was assigned to the information desk in the Jane Hurt Yarn Interpretive Center, where I have completed my sixth summer. Working at the center has been a most rewarding experience.

My duties are to greet the visitors, offer them trail information, provide information about the park and the surrounding area and to issue permits for access to the gorge floor hike. Occasionally I assist with interpretive programs and fill in wherever I am needed. Seldom does a day go by that I don't learn something new about the history of this remarkable place. One of the most rewarding aspects of the job is the inter-action with the visitors. I have met and visited with people from all over the country

as well as many foreign countries. The park itself has become a place that I love. I have hiked the trails many times, canoed on the lake and camped in the campground. It is a great place to get ones exercise and keep in shape. I cannot close without mentioning the great people that I work with. They have become friends as well as co-workers and I look forward to seeing them again each year when I return in April after my winter in Florida.

By: John D. Nichols



Above: John and Wanda Nichols stopping for a picture on the historical rock hike

## 1st Historical Rock Hike at Tallulah Gorge State Park

Tallulah Gorge State Park hosted its 1<sup>st</sup> ever Historical Rock Hike with huge success. On October 18, 2008 Danny hotels and other residents. It started off as a cool threatening to rain kind of a morning but ended up being a wonderful day. The group got to experience many different aspects of hiking, from climbing

down steep slopes to see the Witches Head, walking across the flat surface on top of the dam, too getting hooked up in a climbing harness to see the Needles Eye. Tatum, Michael Wood, Greg Yates, David Cannon and West Malenke led a group of 26 participants to different rock formations on the park. These rocks were named in the 1800s

by the owners of local The event was such a big hit that Tallulah Gorge staff is doing the rock hike two times this year. One on the 15th of March and one on the 2 of October. Make sure you sign up, early space is limited to 26 participants and fills up quick.



Above: Greg Yates is hooking up a guest as she gets ready to walk out to the Needles Eye.

## Christmas at the Gorge

On Sunday, December 7, 2008, we held a Christmas at the Gorge event. The event was very successful. It started off with crafts that everyone could make. The crafts consisted of making pine cone birdfeeders, candy cane reindeers, and paper plate angels. Other things visitors could enjoy were

playing Holiday Bingo, watching holiday movies (Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman) and getting their picture taken with Santa. To top off the event, Tallulah Falls School brought some of their students over to play Christmas music with hand bells. The performers did an excellent job and everyone left with Holiday cheer. A big

thanks goes out to the Friends of Tallulah Gorge State park for providing the snacks of cookies and apple cider. The Friends also provided the Santa Clause, the photographer and much needed help with the crafts. Thank you very much Friends.

## T.G.S.P. Now has canoes

Tallulah Gorge State Park was able to acquire six canoes and a trailer from Watson Bridge Mill State Park and five canoes from Tugaloo State Park recently. The canoes were not in the best shape and the trailer was a little rusty. With a little tender loving care and elbow grease the trailer looks new and the canoes all float.

In order to do programs with the canoes the need for lifejackets and paddles came up. The Friends of Tallulah Gorge State Park stepped up and purchased some very nice lifejackets and paddles enabling the state park to do programs involving canoes any time they want.

The first event using the canoes was our grandparent

canoe outing. The event was a great success only one person fell in (while they were getting out of the canoe at the shore line).

Since that event Tallulah Gorge State Park has had several more wonderful canoe outings; including our Labor Day canoe outing and our very popular moon light canoeing. Check the state park regularly to find out when our next canoeing event takes place and sign up early there are only a limited number of canoes and they fill up fast.

If you see any of the Tallulah Gorge State Park Friends members be sure to thank them for their help the canoe programs would not have happened without them Thank you Friends.



Above: Tallulah Gorge State Park canoes in front of Tallulah Lake

**Tallulah Gorge State Park**

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at:  
**www.gastateparks.  
org/info/tallulah**

**White Water and Aesthetic Releases for April and May**

The White Water releases will take place the first two weekends of April. The Aesthetic releases will take place the rest of the weekends in April plus the first four weekends in May. Saturdays white water release is 400 Cubic Feet per Second. Sundays white water release is 700 Cubic Feet per Second. The Aesthetic Release is 200 Cubic Feet per Second



Left: A Kayaker braving Oceana falls

**White Water Release**

**Dates:**

-April 4<sup>th</sup> 400 C.F.S.

-April 5<sup>th</sup> 700 C.F.S.

-April 11<sup>th</sup> 400 C.F.S.

-April 12<sup>th</sup> 700 C.F.S.

**Aesthetic Release Dates:**

-April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 200 C.F.S.

-April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 200 C.F.S.

-May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 200 C.F.S.

-May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> 200 C.F.S.

-May 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 200 C.F.S.

-May 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> 200 C.F.S.

**2009 Photography Contest**



Did you get that perfect picture moment on your camera? Beginning September 1st 2008 until August 2009, anyone 18 and older can enter their Tallulah Gorge State Park moment in the 3rd Annual Photo contest. Winners will have their photos published in **Friends of Tallulah Gorge State Park 2010 calendar**. Check website for details: [www.gastateparks.org](http://www.gastateparks.org) or call 706-754-7981