2026 FALL RALLY REGISTRATION

Register with this mail-in form, or online at friendsofroanmountain.org, or on-site at the rally.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ Check if address has changed..

FRIENDS OF ROAN MOUNTAIN MEMBERSHIP:
Includes all activities for spring, fall, and winter rallies for one year plus newsletter. Does not include meals.

___New Member ___Renewal

Individual	$20 ___	Corporate	$ 50 ___
Family	$30 ___	Lifetime - individual	$350 ___
Student	$10 ___	Lifetime - family	$450 ___

RALLY REGISTRATION WITHOUT MEMBERSHIP:
For this rally only. Does not include meals.

Weekend - all activities	$15 x #___ =	$ ____
Evening program Fri ___ Sat ___	$ 5 x #___ = $ 5 x #___ =	$ ____ $ ____
Field trips Sat ___ Sun ___	$10 x #___ = $10 x #___ =	$ ____ $ ____
Under age 18	All activities	FREE

MEAL RESERVATIONS Prepaid deadline Sept. 15

DINNER Fri. night Adult Child < 12	$13 x #___ = $ 6 x #___ =	$____ $____
LUNCH Sat. (bag lunch)	$8.00 x #___ =	$____
Choose: # ___ turkey/swiss # ___ ham/cheese # ___ chicken salad # ___ pimento cheese		
DINNER Sat. night Adult Child < 12	$13 x #___ = $ 6 x #___ =	$ ____ $ ____

MAIL this form along with your check payable to *Friends of Roan Mountain* to:

Nancy Barrigar, Treasurer
708 Allen Ave.
Elizabethton, TN 37643

$

Total Enclosed

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY September 18: All activities take place at Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center.

5:30 PM REGISTRATION

6:30 PM BUFFET DINNER - requires **PREPAID** reservation by deadline of Tuesday, September 15

7:30 PM PROGRAM
"Roan Mountain in Time and Space: Exploring the Origin and Evolution of Roan's Grassy Balds" James T. Costa, Ph.D

9:00 PM The Park after Dark (E, Kf) Daisy Graham

SATURDAY September 19: Field trips will carpool from the field adjacent to the cabin area entrance.

7:00-8:00 AM Moth Viewing (Meet at the conference center) (Kf) Larry McDaniel

8:30 AM FIELD TRIPS

1. **Birds** (E) Lee & Lois Herndon Chapter TOS
2. **Bird Banding** (E,Kf) Adrianna Nelson
3. **Wildflowers** (E) Guy Mauldin
4. **Useful Plants** (E, Kf) Marty Silver
5. **Mushrooms** (M) Cindy Fowler & Ken Crouse
6. **Spiders** (E, Kf) T. J. Jones
7. **Salamanders Anthony Brais (E, Kf)**
8. **Stream Ecology** (E, Kf, W) Gary Barrigar & Janet Brown

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM Conference Center activities:

1. **Fossil Casting for All Ages** (Kf) Mick Whitelaw, ETSU Dept. of Geology and Geoscience Club
2. **Flint Knapping** - (Kf) Bob Estep

Lunch Time Slide Show Marty Silver

12:00 PM Lunch - Bag lunches at Conference Center by pre-paid reservation only (deadline Tues, Sept 15) or you are welcome to bring your own lunch.

12:30 PM PROGRAM
"Sharks and Alligators of Southern Appalachia"
Jeremy Stout

2:00 PM FIELD TRIPS

1. **Gardening for Ecology**(E, Kf) Jim Costa
2. **Geology of Roan Mtn.** (M) Mick Whitelaw
3. **Wildlife Tracking** (E, Kf) Marty Silver
4. **Mosses & Liverworts** (E) Jim Goldsmith
5. **Nature Journaling** (E) Kelly Porter
6. **Appalachian Cove Forest Exploration** Cade Campbell (E, Kf)
7. **Butterflies** (E, Kf) Philip Hylen

5:45 PM Annual FORM membership meeting

6:30 PM BUFFET DINNER - at Roan Mtn. State Park Conference Center: requires **PREPAID** Reservation by deadline of Tuesday, September 15

7:30 PM PROGRAM
Can't See the Forest for the Trees? Look at the Birds Instead Adrinna Nelson

9:00 PM Night Walk (E, Kf) Cade Campbell

SUNDAY September 20: Field trips will leave from the field adjacent to the cabin area entrance.

7:30-8:30 AM Moth Viewing (Meet at the conference center) (Kf) Larry McDaniel

9:00 AM FIELD TRIPS

1. **Birds** (E) Lee & Lois Herndon Chapter TOS
2. **Rare Plants of the Roan Highlands** Gary Kaufman (E)
3. **Salamanders** (E, Kf, W) Dale Ledford

2:00 PM FIELD TRIPS

1. **Butterflies and Other Insects** (E, Kf) Lance Jessee
2. **Mushrooms** (E) Coleman McCleneghan
3. **Birds of Prey (E, Kf)** Philip Hylen

KEY:	E	Easy
	M	Moderate
	S	Strenuous
	Kf	Kid-friendly
	W	May get wet

For More Information

Gary Barrigar and Larry McDaniel, Rally Directors
friendsofroan@gmail.com

Lodging:

Roan Mountain State Park Cabins and Campground	(423) 547-3900
Elizabethton/Carter County Chamber of Commerce	(423) 547-3850
Avery County Chamber of Commerce	(828) 898-5605

Websites

www.friendsofroanmtn.org
www.facebook.com /FriendsofRoanMountain

MEAL MENU

We offer meals catered by City Market of Elizabethton. You must prepay for meals by deadline of Sept 15 (see registration form). No meals will be available for those who have not prepaid. The evening meals are served buffet-style with salad, hot entrée, side items, drink, and dessert. The lunch is a bag lunch with sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie, and drink.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Xtreme Roan Adventures
Kid's Rally July 24-26, 2026

The 19th Annual Roan Mountain
Winter Naturalists Rally
February 13, 2027

The 67th Annual Roan Mountain
Spring Naturalists Rally
April 23 - April 25, 2027

This will be the sixty-fourth year the Fall Roan Mountain Naturalists Rally has drawn nature enthusiasts from all over the country to Roan Mountain, the jewel of the southern Appalachians. This event, and all of the Friends of Roan Mountain events, would not be possible without our volunteer field trip leaders, the support of Roan Mountain State Park and the Friends of Roan membership.

Consider joining the Friends of Roan Mountain, if you are not a member. Members get free admission to all Naturalists Rally events and our newsletter which is published twice a year.

Evening and lunch programs will take place in Roan Mountain State Park's Conference Center. Field trips will leave from the field on the left beside the entrance to the park cabins.

Gary Barrigar and Larry McDaniel
Co-Directors

FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAM:

"Roan Mountain in Time and Space: Exploring the Origin and Evolution of Roan's Grassy Balds" James Costa

Dr. James (Jim) Costa is professor of biology and executive director of the Highlands Biological Station of Western Carolina University (highlandsbiological.org). An evolutionary biologist and Darwin and Wallace scholar, Jim teaches courses in biogeography, Darwin's Origin of Species, and a Humboldt-inspired comparative temperate-tropical ecology field course between the southern Appalachians and the Andes of Ecuador. Jim's most recent books include Radical by Nature: The Revolutionary Life of Alfred Russel Wallace, Darwin and the Art of Botany: Observations on the Curious World of Plants (with Bobbi Angell), and The Descent of Man: An Annotated Edition of Darwin's Classic Work (with Elizabeth Yale). A Trustee of the Charles Darwin Trust, his honors include the Alfred Russel Wallace Medal and the Stephen Jay Gould Prize of the Society for the Study of Evolution.

Presentation Description:

Roan Mountain is home to the most extensive grassy balds in the southern Appalachians, a beautiful and evocative landscape that has intrigued naturalists for centuries. Its puzzles abound: the balds lie below climatic treeline, yet are treeless. They are dominated by native grasses and other southern Appalachian flora, yet are also home to rare plants whose main range is in the far north. Do the balds of Roan Mountain constitute a natural biological community, or do they somehow owe their existence to humans...or both? Are these balds unique, or are there other ecological versions of the balds out there, and if so what do they teach us? In this talk I will discuss the geological and ecological history of Roan Mountain and its magnificent grassy balds, and explore some of the main hypotheses for the origin and maintenance of the balds from the speculations of early naturalist-explorers to the investigations of modern ecologists.

SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAM:

"Can't See the Forest for the Trees? Look at the Birds Instead" Adrianna Nelson

Adrianna began birding at the age of 9 when a Dark-eyed Junco appeared in her yard on a cold winter day. She was immediately hooked and became involved in local groups like the Bristol Bird Club, Steele Creek Park Nature Center, and the Tennessee Bluebird Society. Her undergraduate studies on songbird behavior at Appalachian State University solidified her interest in avian research. After graduating, she traveled the US and abroad to work on various conservation and research projects. Now, Adrianna is thrilled to be back home in Southern Appalachia where she is a master's student in Wildlife and Fish Biology at Clemson University. She is studying the effects of Hurricane Helene disturbance on nesting birds in western North Carolina. Her goal is to inform the US Forest Service on best management practices for birds in this new and dynamic landscape.

Presentation Description:

Adrianna's presentation will provide a peak into the world of banding birds, birds as a tool for science, and how her work could help turn a natural disaster into a win for conservation. She will share fun stories, beautiful photos of birds, and silver linings for wildlife impacted by Hurricane Helene.

SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL

Roan Mountain
Fall Naturalists Rally
SEPT. 18 – SEPT. 20, 2026

Friday Night Speaker
James Costa

Saturday Night Speaker
Adrianna Nelson

Sponsored by
The Friends of Roan Mountain

Gary Barrigar, President

www.friendsofroanmtn.org
www.facebook.com/
FriendsofRoanMountain

Deadline for meal reservations: September 15, 2026

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

FRIENDS OF ROAN MOUNTAIN
708 ALLEN AVENUE
ELIZABETHTON, TN 37643

FRIENDS OF ROAN MOUNTAIN

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