

2026 SPRING 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 for NON-MEMBERS

For this rally only. Does not include meals.

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

MEAL RESERVATIONS Prepaid deadline Tues Apr 21

DINNER	Adult	\$13 x # ___ =	\$ ___
Fri. night	Child < 12	\$ 6 x # ___ =	\$ ___
LUNCH Sat. (bag lunch)		\$8.00 x # ___ =	\$ ___
Choose:	# ___ turkey/swiss	# ___ ham/cheese	
	# ___ chicken salad	# ___ pimento cheese	
DINNER	Adult	\$13 x # ___ =	\$ ___
Sat. night	Child < 12	\$ 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, April 24: Conference Center Activities

5:30 PM REGISTRATION

6:30 PM BUFFET DINNER requires **PREPAID** reservation by Tuesday, April 21

7:30 PM PROGRAM “ETSU Geoscientists Respond to Hurricane Helene” Ingrid Luffman

9:00 PM Night Salamander Walk (E, KF)
Dale Ledford

SATURDAY, April 25:

6:30 AM Early Birds (E) Herndon Chapter TOS, meet at Visitor Center (water wheel) Bring binoculars

7:00 AM Moth Viewing (Kf) Meet at Conference Center Larry McDaniel

8:30 AM Field Trips: Meet at field adjacent to the park cabins entrance. Onsite registration is available.

- Birding (E/M, Kf)** Elizabethton Bird Club
- Beginning Birding (E, Kf)** Elizabethton Bird Club
- Jones Falls Hike (M/S)** Marty Silver
- Aquatic Insects (E, Kf, W)** Gary Barrigar and Janet Brown
- Wildflowers (E)** Guy Mauldin
- Salamanders (E, Kf)** Lance Jessee
- Insects & Kin (E, Kf)** Cade Campbell
- Using Keys to ID Trees (E, Kf)** Lisa Benish

Conference Center Activities

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Fossil Casting (Kf) Mick Whitelaw

Flint Knapping (Kf) Bob Estep

11:30 AM Nature Slide Show Tracy Campbell

12:00 Lunch Bag lunches at Conference Center by preregistration only, or bring your own lunch and join us!

12:30 PM Program “The Revolutionary Power of Insect Conservation” Cade Campell

2:00 PM Field Trips: Meet at field adjacent to the park cabins entrance. Onsite registration is available.

- Mosses & Liverworts (M)** Jim Goldsmith
- Geology/Paleo-ecology Hike 3-5 mi (M/S, Kf)**
Jeremy Stout
- Wildflowers (E)** Park Greer
- Tech in Nature (E, Kf)** Philip Hylen
- Wildlife Tracking (E, Kf)** Marty Silver
- How Streams Respond to Floods (E, Kf)**
Ingrid Luffman
- Hughes Gap to Ash Gap (M/S)** Guy Mauldin

Conference Center Activities

4:00 PM Owl Workshop: (Kf) Ryan Stephens

6:30 PM Buffet Dinner—Requires reservation **Prepaid** by deadline of Tues, April 21.

7:30 PM Discovering the Blue Ridge: Place-Based Nature Education at Blue Ridge Discovery Center”
Lisa Benish

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

KEY: E Easy
M Moderate
S Strenuous
Kf Kid-friendly
W Wade in Water

MEAL MENU

We offer meals catered by City Market of Elizabethton. You must prepay for meals by deadline of April 21 (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, cookie, and drink.

SUNDAY, April 26

7:30 AM Moth Viewing (Kf) Meet at Conference Center Larry McDaniel

9:00 AM Field Trips: Meet at field adjacent to the park cabins entrance. Onsite registration is available.

- Birds of Hampton Creek Cove (M, Kf)** Herndon Chapter TOS
- Nature Photography (E, Kf)** Marco Rodriguez
- Tweetsie Trail Geology Ride (Bring your own bike) (M)** Mick Whitelaw

10:00 AM Wildlife Rehabilitation Vanessa Hawley (at the conference center)

2:00 PM Field Trips: Meet at field adjacent to the park cabins entrance. Onsite registration is available.

- Butterflies and other Insects (E, Kf)**
Don Holt
- Twin Springs' Ephemerals and Plant Ecology (E)**
Jamey Donaldson

Lodging:

Roan Mountain State Park (423) 547-3900
Cabins & Campground
reserve.tnstateparks.com/roan-mountain

Elizabethton/Carter County (423) 547-3850
Chamber of Commerce

Avery County Chamber of Commerce (828) 898-5605

SAVE THESE DATES!



***Xtreme Roan Adventures
Kid's Rally July 24-25, 2026***

***The 63rd Annual Roan Mountain
Fall Naturalists Rally
September 18-20, 2026***

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

This will be the 67th year that naturalists and those that love nature have been gathering at Roan Mountain for the Roan Mountain Spring Naturalists Rally. This spring's rally is set to be one of the best with evening speakers, Ingrid Luffman and Lisa Benish, lunchtime activities, a lunchtime program by Cade Campbell, a lunchtime slide show and a great variety of field trips over the entire weekend. All activities at the rally are family-friendly, and there are a variety of difficulty levels. This rally, and all rallies, are sponsored by the Friends of Roan Mountain and would not be possible without many volunteers and the support of Roan Mountain State Park. Many thanks to all!

Gary Barrigar and Larry McDaniel
Co-Directors, Spring Rally

Friends of Roan Mountain

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to share and preserve the natural beauty and cultural history of Roan Mountain. We support the environmental mission of Roan Mountain State Park and the U.S. Forest Service, including environmental studies and conservation projects. Our membership supports these worthwhile projects and entitles you to free participation in all activities of the spring, fall, and winter rallies for a year, plus our newsletter.

Join today!

friendsofroanmountain.org

Friday Evening Program:

ETSU Geoscientists Respond to Hurricane Helene
by Ingrid Luffman

Ingrid Luffman is a hydrologist with ETSU's Department of Geosciences. She has degrees in Mathematics, Earth Sciences, and a PhD in Geography from University of Tennessee. A transplant from Canada, she has taught at ETSU for 28 years, and is a founding member of the Boone Watershed Partnership, a local non-profit that identifies and addresses water resources concerns in the Boone Watershed. Recently, the partnership completed forest restoration work at Jacob's Nature Park in Johnson City to eliminate hundreds of invasive plants and replace them with over 400 native plants; volunteers contributed over 800 hours to the project.

Program Description:

In September 2024, Hurricane produced high winds and torrential rains in the NC headwaters of several TN streams, leading to flooding that scoured channels and floodplains, removed riparian forests, and destroyed homes and sanitary infrastructure. When extreme weather events occur, as a hydrologist and geoscientist, I try to understand the nature and magnitude of the event by evaluating damage to critical infrastructure and by using data to estimate how often events of this magnitude might recur in our communities. This program describes work done by ETSU Geoscientists in the days and months following Hurricane Helene.

Saturday Evening Program:

Discovering the Blue Ridge: Place-Based Nature Education at Blue Ridge Discovery Center
by Lisa Benish

Lisa Benish is an environmental educator and the Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Discovery Center (BRDC) in southwest Virginia. With a passion for place-based learning and conservation, she leads BRDC's efforts to connect people of all ages to the natural world through hands-on science, outdoor exploration, and stewardship programming. Lisa works closely with educators, naturalists, and community partners to develop immersive programs that highlight the ecological richness of the Blue Ridge region, including forests, wetlands, streams, meadows, and pollinator habitats. Her work focuses on fostering curiosity, conservation ethics, and access to meaningful nature experiences for rural and underserved communities.

Program Description:

The Blue Ridge Discovery Center (BRDC) is a regional hub for environmental education and wildlife discovery in southwest Virginia. This presentation will introduce BRDC's mission, campus, and core programs, highlighting how its diverse landscapes—forests, wetlands, streams, meadows, and pollinator gardens—serve as living classrooms. Attendees will learn how BRDC engages youth, families, educators, and naturalists through camps, field studies, citizen science, and conservation-focused programming, with an emphasis on fostering long-term connections to the Blue Ridge ecosystem. The session will also explore how BRDC partners with agencies and naturalists to expand access to nature education and support conservation awareness across the region.

67th Annual Roan Mountain Spring Naturalists Rally

April 24–26, 2026

Featured Speakers:



Ingrid Luffman



Lisa Benish

Sponsored by
The Friends of Roan Mountain
Gary Barrigar, President
friendsofroanmtn.org

 **Friends of Roan Mountain**

Deadline for meal reservations: April 21, 2026



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**NONPROFIT ORG
PRSRF STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ELIZABETHTON TN
PERMIT NO. 20**