

# Friends of Rocky Fork State Park

P.O. Box 1, Flag Pond, TN 37657

Website: [www.rockyforkfriends.org](http://www.rockyforkfriends.org)

Email: [rockyforkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rockyforkfriends@gmail.com)

**Wow, what can be s'more fun than members getting together at all the Spring events, activities and in the Park!**

## Park News

from RFSP Manager Tim Pharis

### Upper East TN Fiddler's Convention

A fantastic event with over 400 people! Sponsored by the Friends of Rocky Fork and matching TN Arts Commission grant, ETSU and RFSP.



Park Manager Tim Pharis and talented Marion Pharis created beautiful pottery trophies to go along with cash prizes!



### Fireflies

The fireflies were amazing this year! Blue Ghost and Synchronous Fireflies delighted those who attended. Over 8000 people signed up for the lottery nights! Friends members had an opportunity for prime viewing on their own special night!

Jared Jarvis captured some truly amazing photos of the Rocky Fork Fireflies this year. [jared@jaredjarvisphoto.com](mailto:jared@jaredjarvisphoto.com)



## Upcoming Events

### June 26

Guided Loop Hike to Flint Gap

### August 8

FRF Board Meeting

RFSP Ranger Station 6 pm

### August 19 & 20

### Meet The Mountains Festival

Founders Park, Johnson City

### August 27 – to be confirmed

Bear Track Trail Race

In addition, check out the Rocky Fork State Park website for Park sponsored hikes and activities: [Rocky Fork State Park — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](http://Rocky Fork State Park — Tennessee State Parks (tnstateparks.com)) or their Facebook page [@RockyForkStateParkTn](https://www.facebook.com/@RockyForkStateParkTn)

## Amazing Rocky Fork Fireflies

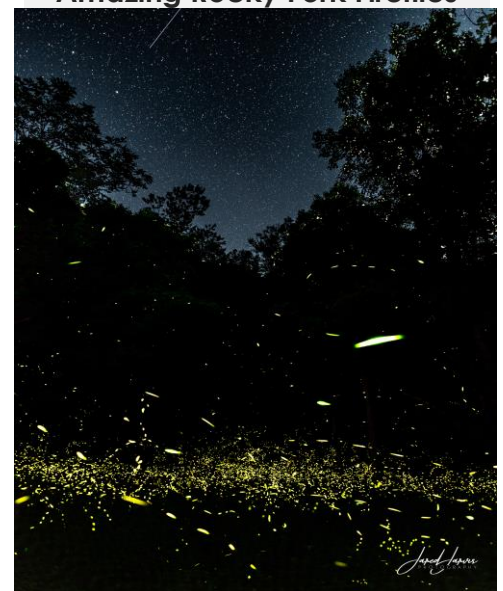


Photo credit: Jared Jarvis

### Featured Hikes

Every month there are new as well as regularly featured activities in the park. June has National Trail Days and Fathers Day hikes. Full Moon hikes and Sunset Hikes are regularly scheduled.

**Rocky Fork's Seasonal Interpreter is Alex Roberts.** He's trying out new and unique activities – Critters of the Creek, Mindfulness Hike.

Check out **Rocky Fork's Facebook page** regularly to see what they have coming up, and feel free to offer your suggestions to them as well!

### Trail Ways

Have you noticed clippings along the trails? That's our Trail Adopters and Park staff working regularly to keep the trails in great condition for all to enjoy. **June 18<sup>th</sup> is a RFSP Trail Work Day.**

Contact Trails Committee Chair John Beaudet, [bodaciousat@gmail.com](mailto:bodaciousat@gmail.com) if you want to help out or for more info.

### Member News and Events

**The Friends of Rocky Fork** took advantage of many RFSP related activities and events this Spring.

Enjoying **Nolifest** down by the Nolichucky river, sharing information about the park and signing up new members. Watching fun outdoor activities and enjoying music and other vendors.

A **guided Spring Wildflower hike** was timed perfectly to find and highlight many of the unique wildflowers in the park.

The return of the **Upper East TN Fiddlers Convention** celebrated the fun music, singing and dancing celebrating Appalachia.

Festival tshirts and stickers were for sale as well as newly discounted Friends merchandise.

Friends Members baked and roasted coffee for the event. Our talented Friends Board President, Nathan Wilson, created a board game and larger than life sized banjo!

### NoliFest 2022



### Our Mission

Support and assist Rocky Fork State Park management and staff to protect, preserve, promote, and enhance Rocky Fork State Park. (Non Profit 501-C3)

### 2022 Board of Directors

John Beaudet  
Dennis Bokemeier  
Peggy Cantrell  
Luke Carter  
Emily Goepel  
Carrie Hovey – Vice President  
Carley Lester  
Lotta Murray – Secretary  
Teresa Pickett - Treasurer  
Carl Ramsey  
Roger Rice  
Nathan Wilson – President



## Member News and Events (continued)

Our next big highlight of the Spring was around the fireflies!

Starting with a **Firefly educational presentation** by noted entomologist, **Dr. Will Kuhn**, we were able to schedule the Erwin Town Hall and open it up to the public as well as members.

Our first **Member Social and Member Only Firefly evening** was next. Lots of fun socializing at the RFSP Ranger Station then making our way into the park for our own private night of viewing. Timing worked perfectly to see both the Blue Ghost and Synchronous Fireflies. Then there was a bonus nighttime viewing of luminous larvae worms encasing an exposed tree root shared with Friends!

Jared Jarvis provided photos he was able to capture this year at Rocky Fork, below featuring the Blue Ghosts! [jared@jaredjarvisphoto.com](mailto:jared@jaredjarvisphoto.com)



## Upcoming Member Events

### June/July/August

Sunday, **June 26<sup>th</sup>** Rocky Fork to Flint Gap Guided Loop Hike

7.5 miles, moderately strenuous. Info and to sign up: contact Bob Fuller at [refuller99@hotmail.com](mailto:refuller99@hotmail.com)

Watch your email for more **Friends Guided Hikes in the Park...**

Come out to see, or better, volunteer at the **Meet the Mountains Festival** at Founders Park in Johnson City on **Friday, August 19** and **Saturday, August 20**. Lots of fun and outdoor activities!

## Board and Member Meetings

Board meetings are held every other month (February/April/June/August/October). The annual meeting is in December. Board meetings are always open to all members and the public.

**Friends of Rocky Fork Kiosk**  
Remember to check out our Kiosk when visiting the park!

