

**DWAYNE ESTES**, Tennessee Conservationist of the Year, at UT Arboretum Auditorium, June 13th, 7pm



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 <p><b>2019 Lecture Series</b> University of Tennessee Forest Resources, Ag Research and Education Center And The University of Tennessee Arboretum Society</p>	
<p><b>CONTACT US:</b> UT Forest Resources Ag Research and Education Center <b>ADDRESS:</b> 901 S. Illinois Ave. Oak Ridge, TN 37830 <b>PHONE:</b> 865-489-7277 <b>FAX:</b> 865-489-3072 <b>E-MAIL:</b> forag@utk.edu <b>WEB:</b> forag@utk.edu www.utk.edu/forag</p>	<p><b>Southeastern Grasslands Initiative: Charting A New Course For Conservation In The 21st Century</b></p> <p><b>PRESENTED BY</b> <b>Dwayne Estes</b> Executive Director Southeastern Grasslands Initiative Professor of Biology Author: <i>Prairie Preacher</i> 2018 Tennessee Conservationist of the Year</p> <p><b>DATE</b> Thursday, June 13, 2019 7:00 pm Free Program. No Registration Required.</p> <p><b>LOCATION</b> UT Arboretum Auditorium 901 S. Illinois Avenue Oak Ridge, TN</p>

## NOTES:

**What:** "The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative: Charting a New Course for Conservation in the 21st Century"

**When:** Thursday, June 13th, 7pm

**Where:** UT Arboretum Auditorium

**Why:** Fun, friends, family and education!

**Dwayne Estes, "the Prairie Preacher" and Tennessee Conservationist of the Year will speak at UT Arboretum on Thursday, June 13th at 7pm**

Southeastern grasslands seems like a misnomer to many of us in the Southeast who think of this area as historically forest. Research has shown that the southeast historically had large areas of prairie and grasslands which was home to a diverse community of plants and wildlife. Dwayne Estes, Tennessee Conservationist of the Year and known in the ecology community as "the prairie preacher", will present

"The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative: Charting a New Course for Conservation in the 21st Century" at 7:00 p.m. on June 13 at the UT Arboretum Auditorium.

The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative aims to preserve, restore, and promote grasslands of all types throughout the Southeast. Fully one-half of all rare habitat types in the Southeast are grasslands, which in turn harbor 60% of rare plant species and provide habitat for 35% of rare animals from bobwhites to box turtles. It is no wonder that a large portion of the Southeast was recently designated the world's 36th biodiversity "hotspot."

mutually beneficial relationship with working lands. Well-managed grazing, haying, and prescribed fire can contribute enormously to grassland habitats and species while improving the bottom line of private agriculture, forestry, or recreation operations. Fragments are all that is left of some grassland types, and securing them is imperative if we are to protect grasslands for future generations and prevent the extinction of grassland-dependent species.

Estes serves as executive director for the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI). At Austin Peay State University, Dwayne also serves as Professor of Biology and Director of the APSU Herbarium, a plant museum with over 130,000 specimens. In the past three years, he and his collaborators have secured nearly \$2 million dollars in grants and donations, including grants from the National Science Foundation.

For his leadership in developing SGI, Estes was named Tennessee Conservationist of the Year in 2018 by the Tennessee Wildlife Federation.

This is a free program offered by the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society and co-sponsored by TCWP (Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Protection) and Strata-G. No registration is required.

To learn more about this program or the UT Arboretum Society, go to [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org). For more information on the program, contact Michelle Campanis at 865-483-7277 or [mcampani@utk.edu](mailto:mcampani@utk.edu).

activities that will be offered this year by the UT Arboretum Society. The program is cosponsored by the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center.

The Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center which celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014, is one of 10 outdoor laboratories located throughout the state as part of the UT AgResearch system. AgResearch is a division of the UT Institute of Agriculture. The Institute of Agriculture also provides instruction, research and public service through the UT Herbert College of Agriculture, the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, UT AgResearch and UT Extension offices, with locations in every county in the state.



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