



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is blessed with a proud cultural history and a thriving economy, and both of these factors are grounded in our vast and diverse natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is home to spectacular natural beauty, abundant streams and lakes, diverse and plentiful plant and animal life and unique geologic features; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Natural Areas Program protects significant natural resources, including geological features, rare species, natural communities and endangered ecosystems across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Tennessee Natural Areas Preservation Act of 1971, as signed on May 4, 1971, by Governor Winfield Dunn; and

**WHEREAS**, this seminal bipartisan legislation was supported by both parties recognizing its benefit to citizens of Tennessee, including Senator Bill Bruce and Representative Victor Ashe and then signed enthusiastically by Governor Dunn; and

**WHEREAS**, fifty years later this Act now protects more than 129,000 acres of unique natural areas and habitats in 84 State Natural Areas located throughout the Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Natural Areas Program enjoys the diligence, determination and unflagging support of Tennessee's corporate and private citizens, conservation groups, local, state and federal partners and elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for the state, businesses and citizens of Tennessee to recognize the importance of these natural areas to the outstanding quality of life we enjoy in Tennessee;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, in celebration of fifty years of Tennessee State Natural Areas, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2021 as

*Tennessee State Natural Areas Day*

and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this seventeenth day of February, 2021.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Lee Hargitt*

Secretary of State