



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, 2013, marks the forty-second anniversary of the Tennessee Natural Areas Preservation Act of 1971; and

WHEREAS, forty-two years later this Act now protects more than 120,482 acres of unique natural areas and habitats in 82 State Natural Areas located throughout Tennessee; and

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

WHEREAS, it is critical 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 Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of April 7-13, 2013, as

State Natural Areas Week

in Tennessee 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 twenty-fifth day of March, 2013.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Lee Hargett in blue ink.

Secretary of State