



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 feature; 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 forty-fifth anniversary of the Tennessee Natural Areas Preservation Act of 1971; and

WHEREAS, forty-five years later this Act now protects more than 122,000 acres of unique natural areas and habitats in 85 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 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 9 through April 17, 2016 as

*Tennessee State Natural Areas
Spring Celebration Week*

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 fourteenth day of March, 2016.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Mangat

Secretary of State