

TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
REELFOOT LAKE FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION
Saturday, November 18, 2017

This field trip is designed as an introduction to Reelfoot Lake's natural characteristics, history, ecology, and especially potential for natural disasters in the form of earthquakes and flooding. The geological origin of most lakes is rarely a primary attracting factor to tourists, but the 1811-12 earthquake origin of Reelfoot is related to much larger scale and longer term tectonic processes that also puts the region in one of the potentially most hazardous natural disaster situations, namely devastation from large earthquakes in the future. A brief look at the lake on any map will reveal that it is not the typical rounded shape of many lakes or the dendritic shape of lakes dammed along streams and storing water upstream in tributaries. Reelfoot Lake is a floodplain lake with an outline that clearly exhibits its Mississippi River meander origins. The shape of the lake even influences the distribution of organisms and results in ecological subsystems within the lake. Consequently, Reelfoot Lake has long attracted biologists as an ideal field laboratory, both for the practical reasons of helping to manage the lake itself and as a natural ecosystem with implications to other lakes in other regions. Even the surrounding landscape, with its river floodplain features and glacial bluff sediments and topography, fossil record, and variability of geologic materials, all of which influence the lake, has attracted study. Visitors to the lake are struck by the diversity of animal and plant life, especially the eagles, turtles, fish, and abundant Cypress trees. The lake is a well-known stop-over for many migrating birds and has historically been a gathering spot for hunters and fisherman. It is clear that the ecology of Reelfoot Lake is intimately interwoven with its geologic history in a way that is active today, rather than a historical artifact.

Lodging: Participants can arrange their own lodging in Martin or choose to stay in bunks at the Reelfoot Biological Field Station for \$10 on a first-pay basis. Station attendees must bring your own linens (sheets, sleeping bag, towels, etc.). ***Maximum number of participants is 30.***

Field Trip Departure: 8:00 a.m. Saturday, November 18th in University Vans from the Reelfoot Field Station. Return approximately 3:00 p.m. Participants lodging in Martin and wishing to ride vans to and from the field trip will depart Martin at 7:00 a.m. from the University Center. Field Trip question should be directed to Dr. Michael A. Gibson at UT Martin (mgibson@utm.edu; 731.881.7435)

Please Print Legibly and mail to: Dr. Steve Murphree, TAS Treasurer, Department of Biology, Belmont University, 1900 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37212-3757.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

Fieldtrip Registration Fee: \$10.00 -----

The digital guidebook can be downloaded from the TAS website or a printed guidebook can be reserved for the meeting by advanced payment:

Printed Guidebook: _____ @ \$5.00 each -----

Overnight Lodging at the Field Station: \$10.00 (must bring your own linens) -- _____

Total (make check payable to "Tennessee Academy of Science") -----

Signature: _____