



TWRA NEWS

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16th ANNUAL CHEROKEE – CRANE FESTIVAL

TWRA TO AUCTION CONTRABAND FIREARMS IN FAYETTE CO.

16th ANNUAL CHEROKEE-CRANE FESTIVAL TO FEATURE CONSERVATION EDUCATION

The 16TH Annual Cherokee-Crane Festival is set for January 19-20, 2008 at the three venue event that includes the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency’s Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, Hamilton County’s Birchwood School, and the adjoining Cherokee Indian Removal Memorial where the featured theme will be outdoor, conservation, and wildlife education.

The star of the event each year has been the flock of thousands of migrating sandhill cranes that visit the Hiwassee Refuge from late fall to early spring. Wildlife managers believe this year’s flock may set a new record for the total number of birds that both pass through the Refuge on their way south for the winter and also the number of cranes that winter there.

“Wildlife enthusiasts should get a real eye full this year based on the diversity of avian species. Last weekend visitors and wildlife experts documented at least nine Whooping Cranes, a flock of more than 20 Snow Geese, five Great Egrets, a Black Crowned Night Heron, Bald and Golden Eagles, and numerous waterfowl and songbirds in addition to the Sandhill Cranes and other indigenous wildlife,” said Tom Scott, Past President of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation and event co-sponsor. “This area is truly a treasure of Tennessee wildlife,” Scott added.

The Birchwood School plans a child-focused conservation and wildlife education agenda while serving as the base for shuttle transportation operations, event related exhibits and vendors, and a place to get some good food. Birchwood will also present Native American Dancers, Native American Story Teller, Save Our American Raptors bird show, and Operation Migration, the whooping crane ultralight people.

Speakers at the Hiwassee Refuge will include, Mike Butler, Executive Director, Tennessee Wildlife Federation, a History on Wildlife Management in Tennessee; Mike Hills, Southern Adventist University, Outdoor Education Masters Program; Len Bales, Ijams Nature Center, Regional Natural History; Bill Haley, Tennessee Aquarium, Appreciation for the Natural World; Kirk Miles, Bio-diversity Biologist, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Cumberland Plateau Wildlife Diversity; Ellen Hitchcock, Author, Nature’s Magical Moments; and Dave Vogt, President, Chattanooga Chapter, Tennessee Ornithological Society, Bird Banding a Wigg Meadow .

The Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians at the Cherokee Removal Memorial will present Native American culture, food, and crafts.

Rotating shuttle buses will transport visitors from Birchwood School to the Refuge and to a designated transfer point for van transportation to the Cherokee Removal Memorial.

The Cherokee-Crane Days is co-sponsored by the Tennessee Wildlife Federation and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in cooperation with Birchwood School, Cherokee Removal Memorial, Ijams Nature Center, and the Tennessee Aquarium.

For additional information and speakers agenda go to www.tnwildlife.org or www.tnwf.org.

TWRA TO AUCTION CONTRABAND FIREARMS IN FAYETTE COUNTY

In accordance with Tennessee State Law, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) will offer for sale at public auction several firearms which have been declared contraband by the Fayette County General Sessions Court. These firearms were confiscated from persons convicted of violating Tennessee's Wildlife Laws.

The sale will be held on Saturday January 19, 2008, at 2:00 pm. CST at the Fayette County Courthouse located in Somerville, TN. Firearms for sale to the highest bidder on this date are:

- 12ga Remington 870 Express pump shotgun.
- .50 caliber CVA Bobcat muzzleloading rifle with case.
- .45 caliber Remington Model 700 ML muzzleloading rifle with Simmons 3 X 9 scope.
- .270 caliber Savage Model 111 rifle.

Sale of these firearms is open to persons 18 years of age or older and legally capable of possessing a firearm under state and federal laws. Payment terms for this sale are cash, certified check or money order.

