

EAGLE AWARENESS 2009
LAKE GUNTERSVILLE STATE PARK
Weekend Schedule

FRIDAYS

4:00 p.m. Check in time at Lodge
 7:00 p.m. Eagle awareness orientation /
 apple cider social / music by
 Tenn. Valley Dulcimers &
 Friends in Lodge

SATURDAYS

5:30 a.m. Early bird coffee in Lodge lobby
 6:00 a.m. Trip to Town Creek & Short
 Creek
 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at Lodge
 9:00 a.m. Field trips
 -High Falls Park (LGSP Ranger)
 -Guntersville Dam
 (Patti/Amanda)
 -Cathedral Caverns
 (Danny Lewis)
 -Waterfowl around Guntersville
 (Mark J.)
 11:00 a.m. Check out time at Lodge
 12:00 p.m. Lunch at Lodge
 1:00 p.m. Afternoon program in Ballroom
 3:00 p.m. Trip to Town Creek & Short
 Creek
 6:00 p.m. Dinner at Lodge
 7:00 p.m. Evening program in Ballroom

SUNDAYS

5:30 a.m. Early bird coffee in Lodge lobby
 6:00 a.m. Trip to Town Creek & Short
 Creek
 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at Lodge
 9:00 a.m. Field trip to Guntersville Dam
 11:00 a.m. Check out time at Lodge

LAKE GUNTERSVILLE
STATE PARK

EAGLE
AWARENESS
2009



*COME JOIN US IN OBSERVING AND
 STUDYING OUR WILD, FREE AND
 MAJESTIC NATIONAL SYMBOL,
 THE BALD EAGLE*

LAKE GUNTERSVILLE WEEKENDS

January 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23-25
January 30-February 1
February 6-8

Lake Guntersville State Park invites you to participate in Eagle Awareness weekends in January to observe and study this magnificent national symbol, the bald eagle.

The majestic bald eagle is a regular visitor and attraction to Lake Guntersville and the Tennessee Valley. They usually begin to arrive in November and spend the winter months in and around the park soaring the skies, fishing the reservoir and roosting in the tall pines along the mountain tops.

Description: The adult bald eagle is a beautiful bird. The gleaming white of the head and tail feathers contrasts vividly against the black or darkly colored body. It has a bright yellow beak and yellow legs. Immature bald eagles (those less than 4 years old) do not have the white feathers on the head or the tail and the beak and legs are black. Immature bald eagles show more light coloration beneath and on the leading edge of the wings than do the adults.

Soaring bald eagles have a wing span of more than 6 feet. In flight the tips of the bald eagle's long wings appear to be rounded. Soaring eagles are easily distinguished from the other large soaring birds, vultures, by observing whether the head is feathered.

Food: The eyesight of this bird is superbly developed. Like other raptors, it has no difficulty in spotting prey at great distances. Fish is a favored food and in many localities, the only item fed to eaglets.

In Alabama bald eagles will also feed on wild ducks, rabbits, herons, fawns, egrets, squirrels and opossum. In addition, they regularly feed on carrion left by other predators or which is found along roads or on livestock range. They will also steal prey from other predators.

Life Span: Bald eagles have a long life span. Upwards of 25 years is reported as a probable life expectancy. A long life is indicated by the small egg clutch and the long period required to reach sexual maturity.

Enemies: Man is the major enemy of the bald eagle. It is rare that predation by other animals occurs to the eggs or eaglets.



Alabama Bald Eagle Restoration:

From 1985 through 1991, 91 young Bald Eagles were released through the Alabama Non-game Wildlife Program in an effort to restore a nesting population of eagles within the state. Bald eagles have a strong tendency to return to the vicinity where they learned to fly when they are ready to mate and raise their own young. This occurs when they are 4 or 5 years old.

The 91 eagles released in Alabama between 1985 and 1991 are currently making good progress towards the goal of returning a true nesting population to the state.



JANUARY 2009 SCHEDULE OF PRESENTERS

Saturday
 January 3 1:00pm Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA
 7:00pm Ken Thomas, Asst. Superintendent,
 Joe Wheeler State
 Programs in Goldenrod Ballroom

Saturday
 January 10 1:00pm Joe Shelnut, Kelley Bartlett
 Conservancy
 7:00pm Mark Jackson, Asst. Superintendent,
 Lake Guntersville State Park
 Programs in Grandview Ballroom

Saturday
 January 17 No guest speakers this weekend, field
 trips only

Saturday
 January 24 1:00pm Montgomery Zoo
 7:00pm Dave Holloway, Senior Naturalist,
 Camp McDowell Env. Center
 Programs in Grandview Ballroom

Saturday
 January 31 1:00pm David Haggard, W. Tenn. Interpretive
 Specialist, TN State Parks
 7:00pm Stephen Faughn, Anniston Museum
 of Natural History
 Programs in Camellia Room

Saturday
 February 7 1:00pm John & Dale Stokes – SOAR (Save
 Our American Raptors), Trenton, GA
 7:00pm Keith Hudson, Non-game Wildlife
 Biologist, AL DCNR
 Programs in Grandview Ballroom

