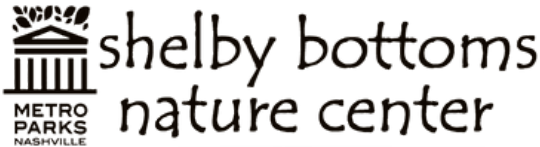


# Spring Programs 2025



1900 Davidson Street  
Nashville, TN 37206  
(615) 862-8539

shelbybottoms@nashville.gov  
sbnc.nashville.gov

## Seasonal Park Tips

**Celebrate Birds:** Be on the lookout for more information on special pop-up programs happening May 10th as we celebrate World Migratory Bird Day.

**Spring Amphibians:** Listen to the chorus! How many different kinds of frog calls can you hear?



### Shelby Bottoms Nature Center

Tues/Thurs/Sat: 9 am - 4 pm  
Wed/Fri: 12 - 4 pm

### Shelby Bottoms Greenway and Trails

Dawn to dusk, 365 days a year!

## On Repeat

Contact the Nature Center for ADA accommodations 

### Afternoon Tea



**1st Friday** of the month  
2 - 3 pm  
All Ages  
No Registration Required

Close out the week and enjoy the sounds of spring with a selection of teas from High Garden Tea, featuring the Shelby Bottoms Blend.  
Leader: SBNC Staff



### Early Bird Coffee Social

**1st Saturday** of the month  
9 am - 12 pm  
All Ages  
No Registration Required

Enjoy Shelby Bottoms with a hot cup of our "For the Birds" Bird Friendly® certified coffee. Stay and learn about the connection between bird habitat, coffee, and native wildflowers, or take a cup to go into the park.  
Leader: SBNC Staff



### Ask a Master Gardener



**1st Saturday** of the month  
10 am - 12 pm  
All Ages  
No Registration Required

Drop in with your questions and curiosity! Members from the University of Tennessee Extension, Master Gardeners of Davidson County will be available at a table to share their knowledge.  
Leader: Master Gardeners of Davidson County

### Nature Storytime



**1st Wednesday** of the month  
10 am  
No Registration Required

Join us as we read nature-themed books and celebrate the park. All ages welcome!  
Leader: SBNC Staff & Volunteers

### Early Morning Bird Hike

**2nd Saturday** of the month  
8 - 9:30 am  
Ages 15+  
Registration Required

Join us on a guided bird hike at one of the park's trailheads. Binoculars are available to borrow, and all levels of experience are welcome. Registered participants will be notified of the meeting location each month.  
Leader: Lena Friedman

### Young Birder's 4-H Club

**2nd Saturday** of the month  
9:30 - 11:30 am  
Grades 4-12  
No Registration Required

Youth interested in birds will love this monthly meeting. Each gathering may include guest speakers, community service, and of course, birding. Equipment is available to borrow, and we'll register you as a 4-H member for free!  
Leader: 4-H Volunteers (UT-TSU Extension)

To register, email us at [shelbybottoms@nashville.gov](mailto:shelbybottoms@nashville.gov) or call (615) 862-8539

# March

## Sparkleheart Sound Bath & Karst Studio Pop Up

Saturday, March 1  
10:30 - 11:30 am  
All Ages  
Registration Required

Celebrate the tail end of winter with mother/daughter band Sparkleheart for an all-ages, family-friendly sound bath. Kids can also enjoy art exploration with a Karst Art Studio pop-up. It's a win-win: Grown ups relax and enjoy the soothing sounds of crystal bowls, gongs and more. Kids get to paint and play. Everyone will be immersed in a sound bath experience! Bring a mat or blanket if you want.  
Leader: [Sparkleheart Sound Baths](#) & [Karst Studio](#)

## 11th Annual Weed Wrangle



Saturday, March 1  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Ages 13+  
Registration Required

Join the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center and the Garden Club of Nashville to combat the spread of invasive plants and support native forest and habitat restoration efforts as we pull and plant along the banks of the Cumberland River. Volunteers ages 13-17 must be accompanied by an adult.  
Leaders: Perry Haga & John Michael Cassidy

## Spring Lichens

Saturday, March 8  
10 - 11 am  
All Ages  
Registration Required

Spring rains highlight all sorts of lichens! Wait... what even are lichens? Where do we find them? What kinds do we have in the park? Come find out!  
Leader: Hazel Miller

## "Call to the Frogs" Exhibit Opening

Saturday, March 8  
1 - 3 pm  
All Ages  
No Registration Required

Come celebrate and enjoy this new exhibit by artist Duncan McDaniel. Celebrating the sounds of the park, this interactive installation encourages visitors to join the spring chorus. The artist will be available to meet visitors and answer questions.  
Leader: Exhibiting Artist Duncan McDaniel

### MNPS Spring Break Week at the Nature Center: March 11-15

## My Side of Shelby Bottoms

Tuesday, March 11  
10 - 11:30 am  
Ages 8+  
Registration Required

Inspired by books such as *Hatchet* and *My Side of the Mountain*, we will explore the question: "What would I do if I were alone in the forest?" Get ready to construct shelters, collaborate with teammates, and find creative solutions to survival scenarios!  
Leader: Perry Haga

## Makerspace: Biomimicry

Wednesday, March 12  
1 - 3 pm  
Ages 6+  
No Registration Required

Many amazing innovations have been modeled after animals and nature in a process called biomimicry. Stop in to take on some engineering challenges, create nature-inspired inventions of your own, and test them out in our pop-up makerspace.  
Leader: Lena Friedman

## Bird Banding Station Public Observation

Thursday, March 13  
9 am - 12 pm  
All Ages  
No Registration Required

Come observe the work of the Shelby Bottoms Banding Station team as our federally licensed bird banders work to gather information about avian populations in the park. See wild birds in the hand as they get a small metal leg band and learn about this ongoing research. Banding sessions are subject to cancellation due to weather.

## Ecology Board Game Café



Thursday, March 13  
1:30 - 3:30 pm  
Ages 6+  
No Registration Required

Come enjoy warm drinks and ecology-themed board games. Play a game we own or bring one with you; come with friends or make some new ones over a game! Most of our games are rated for 13 and up, but we do have options for younger participants.  
Leader: SBNC Staff

## Family Nature Hike



Friday, March 14  
10:30 am - 12 pm  
All Ages  
Registration Required

Let's explore the park, learn about plants and animals, and discover something new. This walk will be slow with many stops, and we will be inspecting, observing, and interacting with nature.  
Leader: John Michael Cassidy

## 4-H Creative Arts Club

Saturday, March 15  
9:30 - 11 am  
Grades 4 - 12

Youth interested in art will love this monthly meeting. Each gathering may include sustainable art practices, walking around the Nature Center grounds to gather items to draw, sculpt, paint with, or print with, learning about local, US, and international artists and their medium(s), and working with the medium(s) in class.  
Leader: [Miranda Fuller](#) (4-H, [UT-TSU Extension](#))

Register at [tiny.utk.edu/CreativeArts](https://tiny.utk.edu/CreativeArts)

To register, email us at [shelbybottoms@nashville.gov](mailto:shelbybottoms@nashville.gov) or call (615) 862-8539

<b>Sip &amp; Learn: Urban Grasslands</b>	Saturday, March 15 9 - 11 am Ages 18+ Registration Required	Come join us at the Cornelia Fort Airpark Trailhead in Shelby Bottoms to talk all things grasslands! We will discuss grassland ecology and management, unique birds, and the exciting future of this portion of the park while sipping on our favorite tea and coffee. Those interested can join us afterwards for a guided hike. Leader: Perry Haga & John Michael Cassidy
<b>Nature Poetry: Irish Authors</b>	Tuesday, March 18 4 - 5 pm Ages 16+ Registration Required	This spring we will explore how various Irish authors use nature and natural themes in poetry. Come ready to learn, share, and see poetry in a new light. Leader: Hazel Miller
<b>Nature Center Puppet Show</b>	Wednesday, March 19 10 - 10:30 am All Ages No Registration Required	Enjoy a feature presentation from our cast of puppets at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center! Titles and topics may be posted the week of the show. Leader: SBNC Staff & Volunteers
<b>Wetlands and Wampus Cats</b>	Thursday, March 20 6:30 - 7:30 pm Ages 9+ Registration Required	Come learn the folklore behind some of Tennessee's cryptids and their natural or historical explanations on this fun walk through the forest. Leader: Lena Friedman & Hazel Miller
<b>Recreation Open House</b>	Saturday, March 22 10 am - 2 pm All Ages	The Shelby Recreation Open House celebrates all things that get us active, indoors and out. Shelby Park and Bottoms hosts many different pastimes from running to rowing, baseball to bird watching, tennis to trail hiking, and soccer to skating.
	This event is held at the <b>Shelby Park Community Center</b> and is hosted by Friends of Shelby	
		
<b>Jr. Naturalist: Wetlands and Waterways</b>	Saturday, March 29 9:30 - 11 am Ages 8+ Registration Required	As a wetlands, Shelby Bottoms has many water features that are home to a wide diversity of life. We will hike out to investigate these aquatic habitats with a variety of naturalist tools, including chemical tests and macroinvertebrate surveys. Leader: Lena Friedman
<b>Who Speaks for Earth?</b>	Saturday, March 29 1 - 3 pm Ages 8 - 12 Registration Required	Who Speaks for Earth is a multi-media arts experience combining music video, live performance, and hands-on workshops. Their goal is to inspire children and young people to express their love and concern for wildlife and the environment by creating music and artwork. This program will include a short nature hike to explore local flora and fauna followed by a workshop on song structure and lyric writing in which participants will learn and compose a song about an animal of their choice. Follow the link to register and for a more in-depth description of the program activities. Leader: <u>Julie Grower</u> (Who Speaks for Earth, Environmental Art Program)
	Find additional details and register at <a href="https://rebrand.ly/SBNCspeak">rebrand.ly/SBNCspeak</a>	
<b>Relaxing Sound Bath</b>	Saturday, March 29 4 - 5 pm Ages 13+	Join certified sound healing facilitator and professional upright bass player John Paul for a vibey sound bath in the Nature Center featuring crystal singing bowls, upright bass, chimes, ukulele and more. Donations appreciated. Leader: Volunteer John Paul ( <a href="#">Sunblink Sounds</a> )
To register, visit <a href="https://rebrand.ly/SBNCsound">rebrand.ly/SBNCsound</a>		
<h2>April</h2>		
<b>2nd Annual New Moon Crawdad Pluckin' Party!</b>	Saturday, April 5 10 am - 12 pm Ages 6+ Registration Required	For this investigation we will stake a claim amid the merry mounds of a crawfish colony in the shadow of Cornelia Fort. Instructors will discuss the diversity of crayfish in Tennessee and the different habitats they choose before digging in for some old school mudbug excavations! Will we find the same species or something different? Maybe something new to science! Reach out and touch our own inland lobsters! Leader: State Zoologist David Withers & Hazel Miller

To register, email us at [shelbybottoms@nashville.gov](mailto:shelbybottoms@nashville.gov) or call (615) 862-8539

## Wild Basketry



Saturday, April 5  
10 am - 12 pm  
Ages 18+  
Registration Required

Join us for a hands-on basket weaving workshop, creating a small round basket from nature's storehouse. Learn about weaving techniques such as over-under weave, spokes, twining, and rims. We will explore weaving materials from nature such as daffodil leaves and stems, cattail, iris, sweetgrass, morning glory, day lilies, and others. All materials will be provided. No weaving experience is required.  
Leader: Volunteer Bonnie Stefko-Brown, member of the Association of Michigan Basketmakers

## Designing a Habitat: Using Native Plants in Your Landscape

Saturday, April 5  
1:30 - 3 pm  
Ages 18+  
Registration Required

Join Ivan Chester to learn about the benefits of native plants and why we need them in our home landscaping. We will cover challenges and solutions for DIY landscaping design, and what plants are the most important to have in your yard.  
Leader: Ivan Chester ([Habitat Landscapes](#))

## Shelby Bottoms Bike Tour



Friday, April 11  
4:30 - 6 pm  
Ages 12+  
Registration Required

Meet us at Fridays By The River with Friends of Shelby with your bike and helmet and take a cycling tour of the park. Afterwards we will relax with our neighbors under the trees by the Cumberland River. We will stop by highlighted areas and some of our favorite spring spots for wildlife viewing.  
Leader: John Michael Cassidy

## Plein Air Painting: At Odds with the Obvious

Saturday, April 12  
10 am - 4 pm  
Registration Required

Join us for a *plein air* painting workshop that challenges convention and celebrates the unexpected. Inspired by William Eggleston's idea of being at odds with the obvious, this course invites participants to explore their surroundings through a lens of contradiction, discovering new perspectives and hidden beauty in the familiar. Some supplies will be provided. A suggested list for other needed materials will be provided prior to the workshop.  
Leader: [Watkins Community Education](#)

Find additional details and register at [rebrand.ly/SBNCpleinair](http://rebrand.ly/SBNCpleinair)

## "Watershed" Outdoor Performance



Saturday, April 12  
2 - 2:30 pm  
All Ages  
No Registration Required

Experience the premiere performance of "Watershed", a quintet for clarinet and strings. This piece of music was composed especially for Shelby Bottoms by Vanderbilt composer Michael Alec Rose and is played by members of the Blair School faculty. Nashville naturalist Joanna Brichetto (author of *This Is How A Robin Drinks*) will introduce the music in conversation with the composer, reflecting on the unique ecology of Shelby Bottoms.

## Nature Center Puppet Show

Tuesday, April 15  
10 - 10:30 am  
All Ages  
No Registration Required

Enjoy a feature presentation from our cast of puppets at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center! Titles and topics may be posted the week of the show.  
Leader: SBNC Staff & Volunteers

## Adult Nature Journaling

Friday, April 18  
5:30 - 7 pm  
Ages 18+  
Registration Required

Nature journaling is for everyone! We will look at different forms of naturalist writing and nature journaling, and then get outside and practice some for ourselves.  
Leader: Hazel Miller & Perry Haga

## 4-H Creative Arts Club

Saturday, April 19  
9:30 - 11 am  
Grades 4 - 12

Youth interested in art will love this monthly meeting. Each gathering may include sustainable art practices, walking around the Nature Center grounds to gather items to draw, sculpt, paint with, or print with, learning about local, US, and international artists and their medium(s), and working with the medium(s) in class.  
Leader: [Miranda Fuller \(4-H, UT-TSU Extension\)](#)

Register at [tiny.utk.edu/CreativeArts](http://tiny.utk.edu/CreativeArts)

## Porch Jam



Saturday, April 19  
1 - 3 pm  
All Ages  
No Registration Required

Everyone is welcome at our Nature Center jams! We'll be pickin' and making music out on the back porch (or in the classroom if needed due to weather). Bring your voice, acoustic instrument, and/or a song to share. All levels welcome.

Leader: Volunteer Amanda Healan & Friends

To register, email us at [shelbybottoms@nashville.gov](mailto:shelbybottoms@nashville.gov) or call (615) 862-8539

**Jr. Naturalist:  
Fun with Fungi**



Saturday, April 19  
2 - 3:30 pm  
Ages 6 - 13  
Registration Required

Come learn all about the fungus kingdom! We'll go for a mushroom hike, break out the microscopes, and delve into the mycological world. What makes a mushroom a mushroom? Let's find out! All Jr. Naturalists should be accompanied by an adult.

Leader: Hazel Miller

**Relaxing  
Sound Bath**

Saturday, April 19  
4 - 5 pm  
Ages 13+

Join certified sound healing facilitator and professional upright bass player John Paul for a vibey sound bath in the Nature Center featuring crystal singing bowls, upright bass, chimes, ukulele and more. Donations appreciated.

Leader: Volunteer John Paul ([Sunblink Sounds](#))

To register, visit [rebrand.ly/SBNCsound](https://rebrand.ly/SBNCsound)

**Homeschool Day:  
Wetlands**

Tuesday, April 22  
10 am - 2 pm  
Grades K - 8

Join us for a day of activities all about our wetland habitats! Enjoy self-guided activities set up by the Nature Center available throughout the day (no registration required), or sign up for a staff-guided activity session (or both!). Additional details, guided activity timing, and more will be available on our social media pages by the end of March, in-person at the Nature Center, or by email and phone inquiry.

Registration Required for Some Activities

**The Nature Center will be CLOSED 4/26**

**Nashville Neighbors  
for Native Plants  
Co-Op Pick-Up**

Sunday, April 27  
Cornelia Fort Airpark at  
Shelby Bottoms

Create pollinator pathways across town one yard at a time! Support native pollinators and wildlife with Nashville Neighbors for Native Plants by participating in this spring plant pick-up at the Cornelia Fort Airpark Trailhead.



Learn more at <https://www.neighbors4nativeplants.org/>

**May**

**Sparkleheart  
Sound Bath &  
Karst Studio  
Pop Up**

Saturday, May 3  
10:30 - 11:30 am  
All Ages  
Registration Required

Celebrate the spring with mother/ daughter band Sparkleheart for an all-ages, family-friendly sound bath. Kids can also enjoy art exploration with a Karst Art Studio pop-up. It's a win-win: Grown ups relax and enjoy the soothing sounds of crystal bowls, gongs and more. Kids get to paint and play. Everyone will be immersed in a sound bath experience! Bring a mat or blanket if you want.

Leader: [Sparkleheart Sound Baths](#) & [Karst Studio](#)

**Book Club with the  
Master Gardeners of  
Davidson County**

Saturday, May 3  
2:30 - 3:30 pm  
Ages 16+  
Registration Required

All are welcome to join our book club co-hosted by the Master Gardeners! We meet once a season and read ecological or environmental books. This is a great way to meet with other readers and learn all about the Master Gardener program, too! This spring's choice is *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Leader: [Master Gardeners of Davidson County](#) & Hazel Miller

**World Migratory  
Bird Day:**

May 10th

May 10th is [World Migratory Bird Day](#), and we're excited to celebrate with lots of bird-themed happenings! In addition to the programs that appear in this schedule such as our monthly **bird hike** and **Nature Poetry: Birds**, there will be lots of pop-up opportunities throughout the park. Make sure to follow us on social media to get updates on all the fun things we have planned!

The theme for World Migratory Bird Day 2025 is **Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities**. Join us to learn how we strive to make Shelby Bottoms and Nashville a shared space and what you can do at home.



**Nature Poetry:  
Birds**





Saturday, May 10  
12 - 1 pm  
Ages 16+  
Registration Required

To celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, come learn all about how birds are featured and used in poetry: the themes they represent, why they appear so often, and the meaning they carry in a poetic and literary sense.

Leader: Hazel Miller

To register, email us at [shelbybottoms@nashville.gov](mailto:shelbybottoms@nashville.gov) or call (615) 862-8539

<b>Nature Play: Down in a Hole</b>	Tuesday, May 13 10 am - 12 pm All Ages Registration Required	Children will be exploring our campus and Nature Play area for clues about what might live below the surface and how they can design their own burrow.  Leader: John Michael Cassidy
<b>It's a Mud, Mud World</b>	Thursday, May 15 10 - 11:30 am All Ages No Registration Required	Let's get our hands in the dirt! We will explore the textures of mud and soil, examine the plants living in the garden, and search for any creatures that call the soil their home. Come ready to get muddy!  Leader: Perry Haga
<b>Tai Chi Workshop</b>	Saturday, May 17 10 - 11 am All Ages	CAAN is hosting a series of free workshops throughout the city in May as part of AAPI Heritage Month. Come enjoy the morning with some peaceful guided Tai Chi/Qi Gong practice at the Nature Center. No experience necessary.  Leader: <a href="#">Chinese Arts Alliance Nashville</a> (CAAN) Instructor Cindy Hui-Lio, Ed.D
Register at <a href="https://rebrand.ly/SBNCTaiChi">https://rebrand.ly/SBNCTaiChi</a>		
<b>4-H Creative Arts Club</b>	Saturday, May 17 9:30 - 11 am Grades 4 - 12	Youth interested in art will love this monthly meeting. Each gathering may include sustainable art practices, walking around the Nature Center grounds to gather items to draw, sculpt, paint with, or print with, learning about local, US, and international artists and their medium(s), and working with the medium(s) in class.  Leader: <a href="#">Miranda Fuller</a> (4-H, <a href="#">UT-TSU Extension</a> )
Register at <a href="http://tiny.utk.edu/CreativeArts">tiny.utk.edu/CreativeArts</a>		
<b>Jr. Naturalist: Bird Nests</b>	Saturday, May 17 10 - 11:30 am Ages 6+ Registration Required	Birds are some of the coolest architects around! Join us to investigate nest construction and participate in a challenge to build a nest of your own. No beaks or wings needed.  Leader: Perry Haga
<b>Metal Wildlife!</b>	Saturday, May 17 1 - 2 pm Ages 15+ Registration Required	Join Cayty Stubblefield of Habitat Landscapes for a presentation about the most extreme and metal facts about our local wildlife! The insects, mammals, and reptiles of our region live interesting and exciting lives and we will take a peek into what makes them so awesome!  Leader: Cayty Stubblefield ( <a href="#">Habitat Landscapes</a> )
		
<b>Relaxing Sound Bath</b>	Saturday, May 17 4 - 5 pm Ages 13+	Join certified sound healing facilitator and professional upright bass player John Paul for a vibey sound bath in the Nature Center featuring crystal singing bowls, upright bass, chimes, ukulele and more. Donations appreciated.  Leader: Volunteer John Paul ( <a href="#">Sunblink Sounds</a> )
To register, visit <a href="http://rebrand.ly/SBNCsound">rebrand.ly/SBNCsound</a>		
<b>Nature Center Puppet Show</b>	Wednesday, May 21 10 - 10:30 am All Ages No Registration Required	Enjoy a feature presentation from our cast of puppets at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center! Titles and topics may be posted the week of the show.  Leader: SBNC Staff & Volunteers
		
<b>Nature Play: Help!</b>	Thursday, May 22 9 - 11 am All Ages No Registration Required	Join us at the newly-renovated Nature Play as we have fun and help out! There will be lots of ways to help and problem-solve, such as watering plants, digging, gathering sticks, assisting stuffed animal characters, navigating in our sand area, and more.  Leader: John Michael Cassidy
<b>Chinese Calligraphy Workshop</b>	Saturday, May 24 1 - 2 pm All Ages Registration Required	CAAN is hosting a series of free workshops throughout the city in May as part of AAPI Heritage Month. Join us for an introduction to Chinese Calligraphy. All materials are provided, and all levels of experience are welcome.  Instructor: <a href="#">Chinese Arts Alliance Nashville</a> (CAAN) Instructor Dr. CZ Chen, retired professor from Austin Peay State University.
Register at <a href="http://rebrand.ly/SBNCCalligraphy">rebrand.ly/SBNCCalligraphy</a>		

**The Nature Center will be CLOSED 5/27 for Memorial Day (observed)**

**To register, email us at [shelbybottoms@nashville.gov](mailto:shelbybottoms@nashville.gov) or call (615) 862-8539**