

Rolley Hole Championship



The **Annual National Rolley Hole Championship** is a great day of fun at the Standing Stone State Park every September. This traditional marbles playoff brings some of the country's best players to a tournament where men and women match wits and skills with special handmade flint balls on a smooth dirt surface. This day long event offers different marble tournaments, flint making, crafts for the kids, marble lessons, live bluegrass music and of course, some delicious food from the local community including Dale Hollow #1 Stop BBQ out of Celina, TN.

Dale Hollow #1 Stop BBQ set up their large BBQ grill and cook shoulder, breast of chicken, baby back ribs, rib eye steak and more all day long to feed the hungry visitors. Folks from Tompkinsville (where they have the official Rolley Hole Marble Club) and the hills and valleys surrounding Dale Hollow Lake have been playing marbles for generations. Grandpas teaching their sons and grandsons while other gentlemen mentor willing folks from around the communities how to play this challenging game. There is no doubt, that the heart of shooting marbles at Dale Hollow Lake is in Tompkinsville, KY, where you can find the die hard enthusiasts playing marbles seven days a week, 365 days a year. There is an old pot-belly stove burning in the fall and winter to warm the rustic building that was erected several years ago by their Rolley Holey Marble Club. The stove is also there to warm coffee for those playing for hours at a time. Folks from all over the world have visited this simple building to learn some tips handed down through generations that have learned from their kinfolk. It is a simple game that anybody can learn. It doesn't require electricity (only to see and light the pit), but lots of skill. There are different games played, including British, Tennessee Square, Georgia and others. There is a TN and KY Marble Club, where they are actively recruiting members to keep this worldwide sport alive. This is a fun day trip on a brisk fall day. Driving to the Rolley Holey Marble Club in Tompkinsville is a beautiful drive down scenic Hwy. 163. The road meanders through the picturesque countryside of luscious pastures. It can be reached easily from several of the marinas on the western side of Dale Hollow Lake. Most of the marbles used in this championship are had made of flint from the hills of TN.

Standing Stone State Park is an awesome State Park that covers nearly 11,000 acres on the Cumberland Plateau. It is easily accessible off of Hwy. 52, minutes from **Mitchell Creek Marina** and **Horse Creek Marina**. The park takes its name from a "Standing Stone", an eight-foot tall stone standing upright on a sandstone ledge. This stone

was supposedly used as a boundary line between two separate Indian nations. When the stone fell, the Indians placed a portion of it upon an improvised monument to preserve it. The stone is still preserved in Monterey, Tennessee.

This rustic park is noted for its outstanding scenery, spring wildflowers, fossils and other natural diversity. It has eight miles of great hiking trails that meander through the park with easy to moderate groomed trails. Standing Stone also has a nice swimming pool with diving board, and has a place to play badminton. For family reunions, there are group shelters for picnics, wonderful rustic cabins and camping facilities which include RV and tent camping. The park is open year round with limited amenities. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The maximum stay is two weeks. The Park honors Golden Access Cards for disabled and/or senior citizens discounts. The campground provides accessibility to persons with disabilities.

The park was an area plagued with soil erosion and sub-marginal lands in the 1930's. With the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Work Projects Administration, the Resettlement Administration and U.S. Forest Service, the area was made productive again. The project was threefold: to relocate area farmers on better land, to stop soil erosion, reforest the area and to develop opportunities for open space or outdoor recreation.

Come visit a slice of history. Bring a picnic, your camping gear, or rent a cabin and enjoy the great outdoors anytime of year. In the winter, you can cozy up in a cabin and do some fishing on Dale Hollow Lake.

You can also explore the antique shops and gift stores around Dale Hollow Lake and getaway from your everyday routines. Make plans to visit the **29th ANNUAL STANDING STONE MARBLES FESTIVAL & NATIONAL ROLLEY HOLE CHAMPIONSHIP** on September 17, 2011. For more information, please contact the Standing Stone State Park office Toll-free, 1-800-713-5157 or local, 931-823-6347. Happy Trails!

