White trillium and fringed phacelia bloom along Roaring Fork.

Wildflower Auto Tours

Although the most intimate way to experience the Smokies’ wondrous diversity of wildflowers is to walk a trail, several park roads do provide good wildflower viewing from your car. Listed below are some of the best. All are shown on the map on the back page.

**LATE MARCH TO EARLY MAY**

**Little River Road**—This paved, winding, and scenic 17 mile route runs between Sugarlands Visitor Center and the Townsend “Y” (near the Townsend entrance to the park). Plants in bloom include spring-beauty, yellow trillium, hepatica, large-flowered trillium, Solomon’s seal, and violets.

**MID-TO LATE MAY**

**Clingmans Dome Road** (opens April 1)—This seven-mile paved road runs through the Smoky Mountain high country from Newfound Gap to near the summit of Clingmans Dome. Plants in bloom include serviceberry, fire cherry, silverbell, witch-hobble, fringed phacelia, bluets, trout-lily, thyme-leaved bluets, and spring-beauty.

**RED-EYED VIREO**

Vireos migrate north to the Smokies in spring from Central America, South America, and Florida. The Red-eyed arrives in mid-April and stays here on its breeding grounds until early October. It is a denizen of the woodlands, spending much of its time high in the dense foliage of the forest canopy.

Happy days! Park boosters in Knoxville, TN gather to celebrate the announcement of a $5 million donation from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation to purchase land for the new national park (1926).

Park’s 75th Anniversary Celebration Begins!

The establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park was no small accomplishment and the park’s 75th anniversary is no small celebration.

The grassroots movement to create Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the 1920s and ’30s was truly a labor of love. Much of the painstaking work was accomplished by citizens in Knoxville, TN and Asheville, NC who longed to see their mountains protected and local economies energized by a “crown jewel” national park in their back yard.

Unlike Yellowstone, which was mostly delineated from existing public lands, the Smokies had to be purchased tract by tract from big timber companies and small farmers. Most of the money to do so had to come from private contributions or grants from the states of North Carolina and Tennessee.

On June 15, 1934, the citizens’ wish was granted and the Smokies officially became America’s 22nd national park.

Today this park protects over 800 square miles of mountains and rivers and preserves a safe haven for more than 15,000 different species of plants and animals. Over nine million visits are tallied each year, more than any other national park. These visitors contribute over $700 million to local economies annually (please see page 12).

The major in-park special events will be held June 13-15 and on September 2, 2009. In addition, local communities will celebrate with more than 100 events of their own. For information, please see pages 7-10 and visit: www.GreatSmokies75th.org
smokies guide

Smokies Guide is produced four times per year by Great Smoky Mountains Association. Publication dates are approximately:

SPRING: March 21
SUMMER: June 1
AUTUMN: September 1
WINTER: December 1

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Steve Kemp
NPS COORDINATOR
Cathleen Cook
EDITORIAL BOARD
Karen Ballentine
Lynda Doucette
Terry Maddox
Mike Maslona

CONTRIBUTORS
Lisa Horstman, Karen Key.

© 2009 GSMA
Format by Lee Riddell

GSMA
115 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
smokiesinformation.org

on recycled paper

The Park Service operates 10 campgrounds in the Smokies.

camping in the national park

The National Park Service maintains developed campgrounds at 10 locations in the park. There are no showers or hookups at any park campground.

During summer and fall, sites at Elkmont, Smokemont, Cosby, and Cades Cove may be reserved. For reservations call 1-877-444-6777 or contact www.recreation.gov. Reservations are accepted only for May 15-Oct. 31. Sites may be reserved up to six months in advance. All other campgrounds are first-come, first-serve.

No more than six people may occupy a campsite. Two tents or one RV and one tent allowed per site. The maximum stay is 7 or 14 days.

Special camping sites for large groups are available at Big Creek, Cades Cove, Cataloochee, Cosby, Deep Creek, Elkmont, and Smokemont. Group sites must be reserved in advance. Call 1-877-444-6777 or contact www.recreation.gov. Sites may be reserved up to one year in advance.

The list below shows number of sites, elevations, fees per night, 2009 schedule, and maximum RV lengths.

- ABRAMS CREEK 16 sites, elev. 1,125', $14, open March 13-Oct. 31, 12' RVs
- BALSAM MOUNTAIN 46 sites, elev. 5,310', $14, open May 8-Oct. 12, 30' RVs
- BIG CREEK 12 sites, elev. 1,700', $14, open March 13-Oct. 31, tents only
- CADES COVE 159 sites, elev. 1,807', $17-$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs
- CATALOOCHEE 27 sites, elev. 2,610', $17, open March 13-Oct. 31, 15' RVs
- DEEP CREEK 92 sites, elev. 1,800', $14, open April 1-Oct. 31, 25' RVs
- ELKMONT 220 sites, elev. 2,150', $17-$23, open March 13-Nov. 30, 30'-35' RVs
- LOOK ROCK 68 sites, elev. 2,600', $14, open May 8-Oct. 31, all size RVs allowed
- SMOKEMONT 142 sites, elev. 2,198', $17-$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs

accommodations

Le Conte Lodge (accessible by foot trail only) provides the only lodging in the park. Call (865) 429-5704.

For information on lodging outside the park:
- Bryson City 1-800-867-9246
- Cherokee 1-800-438-1601
- Fontana 1-800-849-2258
- Gatlinburg 1-800-267-7088
- Maggie Valley 1-800-624-4431
- Pigeon Forge 1-800-281-9100
- Sevierville 1-888-766-5948
- Townsend 1-800-525-6834

other services

There are no gas stations in the park. Fuel is available in the neighboring communities of Cherokee, Gatlinburg, and Townsend.

There are no restaurants in the park. Limited food service is available at the Cades Cove Campground store.

Limited groceries are also available at the Cades Cove Campground store.

picnic areas

Locations of picnic areas are shown on page 16. Look Rock and Heintooga do not open until May 8. All sites include a picnic table and fire grate. Pavilions are available by reservation (1-877-444-6777).

pets in the park

Pets are allowed in front-country campgrounds as long as they are restrained at all times. Pets are not allowed on park trails, except for the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails.

bicycling

Cades Cove Loop Road will be closed to motor vehicles for the benefit of foot and bicycle traffic at the following times: from sunrise until 10:00 a.m. every Saturday and Wednesday morning from May 6-September 23.

Bicycles may be rented for $4-$6 per hour from the Cades Cove store (located near Cades Cove Campground). Spring hours are 9-5 (7-5 on Wednesday and Saturday bicycle days, see above). Last rentals 2:30 p.m.

Over a dozen bicyclists in the park were injured seriously enough last year to require medical attention. Helmets are required by law for persons age 16 and under and are strongly recommended for all riders.

Bicycles are permitted on park roads but prohibited on all trails except Gatlinburg, Oconaluftee River, and lower Deep Creek.

Mountain biking is popular on national forest and national recreation area lands outside Great Smoky Mountains National Park. For information on mountain biking in these areas, contact: Big South Fork Nat'l River & Rec. Area (931) 879-4890
Nantahala & Pisgah Nat'l Forests (828) 257-4200.
peak are extrapolations based on elevation and latitude. Actual temperatures
Temperatures are in degrees Fahrenheit. 'Temperatures on the park’s highest
possible in the high country.

WINTER
Snows of 1” or more occur 1-
20s. In the low elevations,
or snowy with highs in the
noon thundershowers.

SUMMER
Rainfall is milder.

AUTUMN
All are available from mid-
March into November. Rates
are $25 per hour. Most sta-
bles have maximum rider
weight limits of 200, 225, or
250 pounds and age restric-
tions for children. Please call
the stables below or stop at a
park visitor center for de-
material.”

snowfall may fall at the higher
elevations in November.

WINTER
Days during this fickle sea-
son can be sunny and 65°F
or snowy with highs in the
20s. In the low elevations,
snows of 1” or more occur 1-
5 times per year. At New-
found Gap, 69” fall on
average. Lows of -20°F are
possible in the high country.

park weather

SPRING
March has the most change-
able weather; snow can fall
on any day, especially at the
higher elevations. Back-
packers are often caught off
guard when a sunny day in
the 70s F is followed by a
wet, bitterly cold one. By
mid- to late April, the
weather is milder.

SUMMER
By mid-June, heat, haze, and
humidity are the norm. Most
precipitation occurs as after-
noon thundershowers.

In mid-September, a pattern
of warm, sunny days and
crisp, clear nights often be-
gins. However, cool, rainy
days also occur. Dustings of
snow may fall at the higher
elevations in November.

Horseback riding
Horseback riding is gen-

firens are limited to 20 packs
per day. Packers are often caught off

guard when a sunny day in
the 70s F is followed by a
wet, bitterly cold one. By
mid- to late April, the
weather is milder.

SUMMER
By mid-June, heat, haze, and
humidity are the norm. Most
precipitation occurs as after-
noon thundershowers.

In mid-September, a pattern
of warm, sunny days and
crisp, clear nights often be-
gins. However, cool, rainy
days also occur. Dustings of
snow may fall at the higher
elevations in November.

Horseback riding is gen-

firens are limited to 20 packs
per day. Packers are often caught off

guard when a sunny day in
the 70s F is followed by a
wet, bitterly cold one. By
mid- to late April, the
weather is milder.

SUMMER
By mid-June, heat, haze, and
humidity are the norm. Most
precipitation occurs as after-
noon thundershowers.

In mid-September, a pattern
of warm, sunny days and
crisp, clear nights often be-
gins. However, cool, rainy
days also occur. Dustings of
snow may fall at the higher
elevations in November.

Horseback riding is gen-

firens are limited to 20 packs
per day. Packers are often caught off

guard when a sunny day in
the 70s F is followed by a
wet, bitterly cold one. By
mid- to late April, the
weather is milder.

SUMMER
By mid-June, heat, haze, and
humidity are the norm. Most
precipitation occurs as after-
noon thundershowers.

In mid-September, a pattern
of warm, sunny days and
crisp, clear nights often be-
gins. However, cool, rainy
days also occur. Dustings of
snow may fall at the higher
elevations in November.

Horseback riding is gen-

Firens are limited to 20 packs
per day. Packers are often caught off

guard when a sunny day in
the 70s F is followed by a
wet, bitterly cold one. By
mid- to late April, the
weather is milder.

SUMMER
By mid-June, heat, haze, and
humidity are the norm. Most
precipitation occurs as after-
noon thundershowers.

In mid-September, a pattern
of warm, sunny days and
crisp, clear nights often be-
gins. However, cool, rainy
days also occur. Dustings of
snow may fall at the higher
elevations in November.

Horseback riding is gen-

Firens are limited to 20 packs
per day. Packers are often caught off

guard when a sunny day in
the 70s F is followed by a
wet, bitterly cold one. By
mid- to late April, the
weather is milder.

SUMMER
By mid-June, heat, haze, and
humidity are the norm. Most
precipitation occurs as after-
noon thundershowers.

In mid-September, a pattern
of warm, sunny days and
crisp, clear nights often be-
gins. However, cool, rainy
days also occur. Dustings of
snow may fall at the higher
elevations in November.

Horseback riding is gen-

Firens are limited to 20 packs
per day. Packers are often caught off

guard when a sunny day in
the 70s F is followed by a
wet, bitterly cold one. By
mid- to late April, the
weather is milder.

SUMMER
By mid-June, heat, haze, and
humidity are the norm. Most
precipitation occurs as after-
noon thundershowers.

In mid-September, a pattern
of warm, sunny days and
crisp, clear nights often be-
gins. However, cool, rainy
days also occur. Dustings of
snow may fall at the higher
elevations in November.

Horseback riding is gen-

Firens are limited to 20 packs
per day. Packers are often caught off

guard when a sunny day in
the 70s F is followed by a
wet, bitterly cold one. By
mid- to late April, the
weather is milder.

SUMMER
By mid-June, heat, haze, and
humidity are the norm. Most
precipitation occurs as after-
noon thundershowers.

In mid-September, a pattern
of warm, sunny days and
crisp, clear nights often be-
gins. However, cool, rainy
days also occur. Dustings of
snow may fall at the higher
elevations in November.

Horseback riding is gen-

Firens are limited to 20 packs
per day. Packers are often caught off

guard when a sunny day in
the 70s F is followed by a
wet, bitterly cold one. By
mid- to late April, the
weather is milder.

SUMMER
By mid-June, heat, haze, and
humidity are the norm. Most
precipitation occurs as after-
noon thundershowers.

In mid-September, a pattern
of warm, sunny days and
crisp, clear nights often be-
gins. However, cool, rainy
days also occur. Dustings of
snow may fall at the higher
elevations in November.

Horseback riding is gen-

Firens are limited to 20 packs
per day. Packers are often caught off

guard when a sunny day in
the 70s F is followed by a
wet, bitterly cold one. By
mid- to late April, the
weather is milder.

SUMMER
By mid-June, heat, haze, and
humidity are the norm. Most
precipitation occurs as after-
noon thundershowers.

In mid-September, a pattern
of warm, sunny days and
crisp, clear nights often be-
gins. However, cool, rainy
days also occur. Dustings of
snow may fall at the higher
elevations in November.
enjoying the park

The Smokies is America’s most-visited national park

bears, bugs, & snakes

BEARS: If you see a bear, remain watchful. Do not approach it. Being too close may promote aggressive behavior from the bear such as running toward you, making loud noises, or swatting the ground. The bear is demanding more space. Don’t run; slowly back away, watching the bear.

If a bear persistently follows or approaches you without vocalizing or paw swatting, try changing your direction. If the bear continues to follow you, stand your ground. If the bear gets closer, talk loudly or shout at it. Act aggressively and try to intimidate the bear. Throw non-food objects such as rocks at the bear. Use a deterrent such as a stout stick. Don’t run and don’t turn away from the bear. Don’t leave food; this encourages further problems.

If the bear shows no interest in your food and you’re physically attacked, fight back aggressively with any available object—the bear may consider you to be prey!

SNAKES: Two species of poisonous snakes live in the Smokies, the Northern Copperhead and Timber Rattlesnake. Be mindful of where you place your hands and feet, especially around stone walls and buildings.

INSECTS: Yellowjacket wasps are the insect of greatest concern. They build nests in the ground and are aggressive when disturbed. Stings cause local swelling and can lead to severe allergic reactions in a few sensitive individuals. Allergic persons should carry epinephrine kits. If stung on the hand, remove rings.

avoiding crowds in the great smokies

Here are some practical tips for avoiding crowds in the Smokies.

AVOID PEAK SEASONS
There are two peak seasons: mid-summer (June 15-August 15) and October. Weekends in October are especially crowded, and traffic delays should be expected in Cades Cove and on Newfound Gap Road.

Avoid crowded places

The Cades Cove Loop Road and Newfound Gap Road are the most heavily used areas of the park. Many lesser-used places are waiting to be explored, including Cataloochee valley, Balsam Mountain, Cosby, Greenbrier Cove, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Foothills Parkway, and Fontana Lake.

Visits to the National Park Per Month (in Millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unfortunately, crime happens in national parks, too. Don’t let it spoil your vacation! “Car clouters” are thieves who break into vehicles at trailheads and other parking areas. They usually steal purses, cameras, or electronic equipment. They are often successful at breaking into locked vehicles.

To prevent theft, keep valuables on your person or at least lock them in your trunk before you get to the parking area. Be aware that thieves may be watching as you “hide” your purse or camera under the blanket in the backseat.
places to go
Favorite destinations in the park

cades cove

HIGHLIGHTS: ● HISTORIC BUILDINGS ● WILDLIFE VIEWING

Because visitation is lower in spring, it is one of the best times to visit this beautiful, fertile valley. Deer are almost always seen in the fields and sightings of other wildlife, including black bear, Wild Turkey, coyote, and raccoon, are possible.

A wide array of historic buildings, dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, are scattered throughout the cove. These include a grist mill, a variety of barns, three churches, and an impressive collection of log homes and outbuildings.

An 11-mile one-way loop road takes you around the cove. Traffic on weekends is heavy. A $1 guide book is available at the start.

Numerous trails originate in the cove, including the five-mile roundtrip trail to Abrams Falls and the short trail to the Elijah Oliver place.

At the following times, only bicycle and foot traffic will be allowed on the loop road: sunrise until 10:00 a.m. every Saturday and Wednesday morning from May 6-September 23.

Mileage to Cades Cove:
from Cherokee—57
from Gatlinburg—27

deep creek

HIGHLIGHTS: ● WALKING TRAILS ● MOUNTAIN BIKING

The Deep Creek area is an off-the-beaten-path destination in the Great Smoky Mountains, celebrated for its rushing streams, spring wildflowers, and waterfalls. Hikers enjoy the area because of the waterfalls and because there are several loop hikes to choose from. Mountain bikers can take advantage of one of the few park trails where bicycles are permitted.

Deep Creek area loop hikes include Juneey Whank Falls (0.6 mile), Three Waterfalls Loop (2.4 miles), and Deep Creek-Indian Creek Loop (4.4 miles). Longer loop hikes are also possible.

Bicycles are allowed on Deep Creek and Indian Creek trails to the points where the old roadbeds end and the trail treads begin.

Deep Creek Picnic Area is open year-round.

Mileage from Cherokee—14
from Gatlinburg—48
from Townsend—66

greenbrier cove

HIGHLIGHTS: ● WILDFLOWER VIEWING ● HIKING TRAILS

In spring, the Greenbrier area of the park is renowned for its wildflowers. The short drive to the Ramsey Cascades trailhead provides good wildflower viewing from your car, while the Porter's Creek Trail makes a good wildflower walk.

To hike Porters Creek, follow the signs to the trailhead of the same name. Good displays of wildflowers can be seen along the first 1.5 miles of trail. Wildflower displays generally start in March and peak in early April.

Ramsey Cascades is another popular trail in the area with good wildflower viewing opportunities. From the trailhead, it's 4.0 strenuous miles to the cascades, which are the tallest in the Smokies.

To get to the Greenbrier entrance, take U.S. 321 six miles east of Gatlinburg.

Mileage to Greenbrier:
from Gatlinburg—6
from Cherokee—41

cataloochee

HIGHLIGHTS: ● HISTORIC BUILDINGS ● WILDLIFE VIEWING

This idyllic mountain valley is a lovely off-the-beaten-path destination featuring well-preserved historic buildings and good opportunities for viewing wildlife, including elk.

Access requires driving three miles on a narrow gravel road, but the road is maintained for passenger vehicles.

To get there from I-40, exit at North Carolina exit #20. After 0.2 mile, turn right and follow the signs 11 miles into Cataloochee Valley.

To get there from Oconaluftee or Cherokee, take the Blue Ridge Parkway to Highway 19. Follow 19 (toward Asheville) through Maggie Valley. Turn left onto Highway 276 N. Just before the entrance ramp to I-40 (but past the gas station), turn left and follow signs 11 more miles to Cataloochee.

Mileage to Cataloochee:
from Cherokee—25
from Gatlinburg—23
from Townsend—41

clingmans dome

HIGHLIGHTS: ● MOUNTAIN VIEWS ● SPRUCE-FIR FOREST

At 6,643 feet, Clingmans Dome is the highest peak in the Smokies and the third highest mountain east of the Mississippi. On clear days the observation tower on the summit of the mountain offers spectacular 360° views of the Smokies and beyond.

To get to the "top of old Smoky," turn onto Clingmans Dome Road which starts 0.1 mile south of Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road. It's seven miles to the end of the road and there are scenic pullouts along the way. Clingmans Dome Road opens April 1.

The road ends in a large parking area from which a 0.5 mile trail leads to the summit. The trail is paved but steep and leads to an observation tower on top.

Besides the trail to the summit, several other trails are accessible from the Clingmans Dome area, including the Appalachian Trail and the Forney Ridge Trail to Andrews Bald.

Mileage to Clingmans Dome:
from Cherokee—25
from Gatlinburg—23
from Townsend—41
things to do

On your own or with a ranger...

Short self-guiding trails are a great way to enjoy the Smokies. Each features an inexpensive brochure keyed to numbered posts or landmarks along the way: Many are short loop trails.

self-guiding nature trails

These trails are ideal places for short walks or hikes. Each has a leaflet keyed to numbered posts or landmarks along the trail which describes things of interest. Leaflets are available for 50¢ from dispensers at the beginning of all trails and at park visitor centers.

The location of each trail is indicated on the map on the back page of this newspaper and is listed below with roundtrip mileages.

ALUM CAVE (4.4 miles) Starts at Alum Cave trailhead on Newfound Gap Road between Chimney Tops Picnic Area and Newfound Gap.

COVE HARDWOOD (0.75 mile) Starts at the entrance to Chimney Tops Picnic Area on Newfound Gap Road.

COSBY (1.0 mile) Starts near the amphitheater in Cosby Campground.

ELKMONT (0.75 mile) Starts from the parking area above Elkmont Campground.

FIGHTING CREEK (1.0 mile) Starts near Sugarlands Visitor Center.

LAUREL FALLS (2.5 miles) Starts from the large trailhead on Little River Road between Sugarlands Visitor Center and Elkmont Campground.

NOAH "BUD" OGLE (0.75 mile) Starts on Cherokee Orchard Road, 3 miles south of Gatlinburg via Historic Nature Trail-Airport Road.

SPRUCE FIR (0.5 mile) Starts from Clingmans Dome Road.

SUGARLANDS VALLEY (0.5 mile) Starts 0.5 mile south of Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Road. Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

guided walks & talks

Park ranger-led programs for April 4-May 17.

SUNDAYS
Laurel Falls Walk* Laurel Falls Trailhead 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cataract Falls Nature Walk Sugarlands Visitor Center 11:00 a.m. - noon; 1:00 - 2:00
Junior Ranger Program* Cades Cove Visitor Center 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
On Death and Dying Oconaluftee Visitor Center 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
MONDAYS
Cataract Falls Nature Walk Sugarlands Visitor Center 11:00 a.m. - noon; 1:00 - 2:00
TUESDAYS
Fightin' Creek Nature Walk Sugarlands Visitor Center 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Mammals of the Smokies* Newfound Gap 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
THURSDAYS
Surrounded by Trees (walk) Sugarlands Visitor Center 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
A Cabin in the Woods Noah "Bud" Ogle Place 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Fightin' Creek Nature Walk Sugarlands Visitor Center 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
FRIDAYS
Creation of the National Park Sugarlands Visitor Center 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
SATURDAYS
Cataract Falls Nature Walk Sugarlands Visitor Center 11:00 a.m. - noon; 1:00 - 2:00
Fishy Facts (except April 25) Mountain Farm Museum 1:30 - 2:15 p.m.
Junior Ranger Program* Cades Cove Visitor Center 1:00 - 2:45 p.m.
Women Folks (except April 25) Mountain Farm Museum 2:30 - 3:20 p.m.

*great for Junior Rangers

visitor centers

Park visitor centers are located at Cades Cove, Sugarlands, and Oconaluftee. All offer information, exhibits, and publications related to the park and its resources. See the map on page 16 for center locations.

SUGARLANDS VISITOR CENTER
Open 8:00 - 5:00 (March)
8:00 - 6:00 (April - May)
OCONALUFTEE VISITOR CENTER
Open 8:30 - 4:30 (March - April)
8:30 - 5:00 (May)
CADES COVE VISITOR CENTER
Open 9:00 - 6:00 (March)
9:00 - 7:00 (April)
9:00 - 7:00 (May)

become a junior ranger

Kids ages 5 - 12 can become official Junior Park Rangers.

This spring, kids ages 5 - 12 can become official National Park Junior Rangers. Just stop in at any park visitor center and purchase a Junior Ranger booklet for $2.50. There are four age specific (5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12) booklets available.

If you successfully complete the activities in the booklet, a park ranger will award you an official badge.

special events

March 28: Music of the Mountains at Sugarlands Visitor Center & Mills Auditorium, 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
April 9: Full moon walk at Cades Cove, 7:30 p.m.
April 17-19: Old Tymes Past Music at Cades Cove
April 21-26: Old Tymes Past Music at Cades Cove
April 22-26: Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Parkwide
April 25-26: Blacksmithing at Cades Cove
April 29-30: Old Tymes Past Music at Cades Cove
May 9: Full moon walk at Cades Cove, 7:30 p.m.
May 16: International Migratory Bird Day activities at Sugarlands & Oconaluftee visitor centers
May 16: Cosby in the Park celebration at Cosby Campground/Picnic Area, 10 - 4.
May 17 - 20: Quilting at Cades Cove
May 23-24: Blacksmithing at Cades Cove
75th Anniversary Events

Fourth Saturday of Each Month
(March 28, April 17, May 23, June 20, July 25, August 22, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 19)
Join Little River Railroad representatives for a short walking tour of Townsend or Tremont (visitor's choice) highlighting lumbering and logging history in what is now the National Park.
Website: www.littleriverroad.org
E-mail: president@littleriverroad.org
Phone: (865) 448-2211

January 1-December 31
Great Smoky Mountains History Exhibits in Knoxville, TN
This East Tennessee History Center exhibition explores the history of Great Smoky Mountains National Park by investigating the changing relationship between the land and the people.
Website: www.east-tennessee-history.org
E-mail: eths@etn.org
Phone: (865) 215-8380

January 1-December 31
Higher Ground: A Century of the Visual Arts in East Tennessee in Knoxville, TN
More than 60 works by a select group of the most accomplished artists with ties to the Smoky Mountains will be on display at the Knoxville Museum of Art.
Website: www.knoxart.org
E-mail: info@kmaonline.org
Phone: (865) 525-6101

January 2-December 31
Birds of the Smokies: The Art of Audubon, Catesby, and Wilson
At the Frank H. McClung Museum in Knoxville, TN.
An exhibit of 18th and early 19th century engravings and lithographs of birds native to the Smokies.
Website: http://mcclungmuseum.utk.edu
E-mail: museum@utk.edu
Phone: (865) 974-2144

January 2-December 31
An exhibit of 18th and early 19th century engravings and lithographs of birds native to the Smokies.
Website: http://mcclungmuseum.utk.edu
E-mail: museum@utk.edu
Phone: (865) 974-2144

January 2-December 31
Mapping the Mountains: The Photographs of George Masa in Asheville, NC
An exhibition examining the photography of George Masa, including images of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
Website: www.ashevilleart.org
E-mail: mailbox@ashevilleart.org
Phone: (828) 253-3227

March 1-31
Discover Life in America (DLIA) Exhibits in Asheville, NC
A display of DLIA's "Documenting Life" exhibit. The exhibit showcases the effort to document every plant and animal species in this diverse park.
Website: www.dlia.org
E-mail: todd@dlia.org
Phone: (865) 430-4757

March 23
Master Gardeners Partner with GSMNP in Native Grass Restoration in Las Vegas, NV
Website: www.scamga.org
E-mail: LHLubke@aol.com
Phone: (865) 932-9862

March 28
Music of the Mountains in Gatlinburg, TN
Musical traditions of the southern Appalachian Mountains are performed at Sugarlands Visitor Center.
Website: www.nps.gov/grsm
Phone: (865) 436-1291

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; October 7, 14, 21, 28
Get on the Trails with Friends and Missy
Meet each Wednesday morning in April and October for a fitness hike with Missy Kane and Friends of the Smokies volunteers and staff.
Website: www.friendsofthesmokies.org/events.html
E-mail: foto@bellouth.net
Phone: (865) 541-4500

April 1-November 30
Heritage Paintings & Photographs Exhibit & Dinners on the Grounds in Gatlinburg, TN
The Cliff Dwellers Gallery will exhibit original artwork of Louis Jones, Ed Hunt's historic photographs and other 1930's memorabilia. They will also host "Dinners on the Grounds" as a fundraiser for the park, May 3, June 7, and July 5.
Website: www.cliffdwellersgallery.com
E-mail: cliffdwellers@att.net
Phone: (865) 436-2518; (865) 436-6921

April 4
Herb and Wildflower Day in Townsend, TN
This event highlights the wonderful diversity of plant life in the Smokies and the ecology, natural history, and traditional uses of wildflowers and herbs.
Website: www.smokymountains.org
E-mail: juilten@smokymountains.org
Phone: (865) 448-6134

April 5, 18; June 21; July 25; October 24; November 27; December 5, 27
Seventy Five Miles of Hikes in Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Join the historic Smoky Mountains Hiking Club in hiking 75 miles of trails in the park to celebrate the park's 75th anniversary.
Website: www.smnhclub.org/
E-mail: rittergeo@hotmail.com
Phone: (865) 483-9758

April 17
Art Break: Docent-Led Tour of Mapping the Mountains: The Photographs of George Masa in Asheville, NC
Website: www.ashevilleart.org
E-mail: kennedonw@ashevilleart.org
Phone: (828) 253-3227

April 17
Under the Apple Trees in Cosby, TN
A theatrical production of the evolution of an apple orchard and its family from its inception in GSMNP to today.
Website: www.newporttheatreguild.com
E-mail: donell@xtn.net
Phone: (432) 623-6171

April 17-19
HiYak Festival at Fontana Dam, NC
Hikers and kayakers come together for river and lake maintenance, lectures, music & food and much more. Website: www.fontanavillage.com
E-mail: info@fontanavillage.com
Phone: (828) 498-2211

April 18
Celebrate Earth Environmental Fair in Bryson City, NC
Website: www.carolinamtnclub.com
E-mail: chamber@carolinamtnclub.com
Phone: (828) 488-3681

April 19-23
Spring Hike Week at Fontana Dam, NC
A celebration of the great outdoors in the Appalachian Mountains. Great hikes, lecture series, music & food.
Website: www.fontanavillage.com
E-mail: info@fontanavillage.com
Phone: (828) 498-2211

April 20-July 5
Pennies for the Park Exhibit: The Campaign to Establish Great Smoky Mountains National Park East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville, TN
Website: www.east-tennesseehistory.org
E-mail: eths@east-tennesseehistory.org
Phone: (865) 215-8830

April 22-26
Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in Gatlinburg, TN
Over 150 guided walks, talks, and motorcades.
Website: www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org
E-mail: judy@springwildflowerpilgrimage.org
Phone: (865) 436-7318, Ext. 222

April 25
Greening Up the Mountains Spring Festival in Sylva, NC
Website: www.downtownsylva.org
E-mail: greeningupthemountains@gmail.com
Phone: (828) 269-7935

April 25
National Junior Ranger Day in the Park
Great Smoky Mountains National Park will celebrate the third annual National Junior Ranger Day with special activities at the Park's three visitor centers. Children and their families can join in a variety of hands-on activities that range from searching for salamanders to making dinner bells at a blacksmith shop.
Website: www.nps.gov/grsm
Phone: (865) 436-1200

April 26/May 17: June 14
Carolina Mountain Club Hikes
Explore several North Carolina trails in the park with the historic Carolina Mountain Club. Hikes include Bradley Fork, Caldwell Fork and Mingus Creek.
Website: http://www.carolinamtnclub.com/
E-mail: danny@hikerthiker.com
Phone: (828) 236-0192

April 27
Smoky Mountain Harmony Celebrates the Smoky Mountains with Song in Knoxville, TN
Website: www.smokymtnharmony.org
E-mail: info@smokymtnharmony.org
Phone: (865) 579-5238

May 1
Horace Kephart Day in Bryson City, NC
Celebrate the contributions of Horace Kephart to the formation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and his regional literature.
Website: www.greatsmokies.com
E-mail: chamber@greatsmokies.com
Phone: (828) 488-3681

May 1-2
Townsend in the Smokies Spring Festival in Townsend, TN
Dozens of bluegrass bands performing and jamming, over 30 craft booths, demonstrations of old-fashioned skills, storytelling, and nature rambles.
Website: www.smokymountains.org
E-mail: jjhliten@smokymountains.org
Phone: (865) 448-6134

May 2
Spring Heritage Festival in Townsend, TN
Dozens of bluegrass bands performing and jamming, over 30 craft booths, demonstrations of old-fashioned skills, storytelling, and nature rambles.
Website: www.gsmheritagecenter.org
E-mail: gsmheritagecenter@yahoo.com
Phone: (865) 448-0044

May 8
Dolly’s Homecoming Parade in Pigeon Forge, TN
Dolly Parton’s spring parade will be themed for the 75th anniversary of the park.
Website: www.mypigeonforge.com/parade
E-mail: events@cityofpigeonforge.com
Phone: (865) 429-7350

May 9-10
Smoky Mountain Bluegrass Festival at Fontana Dam, NC
A celebration of mountain music.
Website: www.fontanavillage.com
E-mail: info@fontanavillage.com
Phone: (828) 498-2211

May 14-15
Pi Beta Phi Elementary School’s Celebration of the 75th Anniversary in Gatlinburg, TN
Students will showcase projects that celebrate the culture and history protected by the park. The public is invited to view student projects, hear southern Appalachian music and storytelling, sample traditional foods, and see demonstrations of mountain ways.
Phone: (865) 436-5076

May 15-16
Bloomin’ Barbeque & Bluegrass in Sevierville, TN
A family-oriented event celebrating world-class bluegrass music, authentic mountain crafts, and championship BBQ.
Website: www.BloominBBQ.com
E-mail: info@seviervillechs.com
Phone: 1-888-889-7415

May 15-17
TROUTFEST in Townsend, TN
An outdoor arts & crafts festival supporting brook trout restoration in the park.
Website: www.troutfest.org
E-mail: hhilton@smokymountains.org
Phone: (865) 367-0410

May 16
Bear Awareness Day in Knoxville, TN
Celebrate Bear Awareness Day at the Knoxville Zoo.
Website: www.knoxville-zoo.org

E-mail: teresac@knoxville-zoo.org
Phone: (865) 637-5331 Ext. 300

May 16
Cosby in the Park in Cosby, TN
Old-time mountain music, storytelling, old-fashioned children’s games, and traditional crafts. In the park’s Cosby Campground.
Website: www.nps.gov/grsm
Phone: (865) 436-1291

May 16-17
DLIA Citizen Science Event in Gatlinburg, TN
A gathering of past, current, and new DLIA volunteer citizen scientists. At Twin Creeks Science Center.
Website: www.dlia.org
E-mail: todd@dlia.org
Phone: (865) 430-4757

May 22
International Day for Biodiversity: A Celebration in Gatlinburg, TN
Exhibits and speakers highlight why Great Smoky Mountains National Park is an International Biosphere Reserve. Learn more about invasive species, one of the biggest threats to biodiversity and the health of the planet.
Website: www.dlia.org
E-mail: todd@dlia.org
Phone: (865) 430-4757

May 23
Appalachian Dumplin’ Festival in Winfield, TN
Live bluegrass entertainment, fireworks, fireman’s competition, horse-shoe pitching contest, lots of games, prizes, arts and craft vendors.
Website: www.appalachiandumplinfestival.com
E-mail: rmmwifield@highland.net
Phone: (423) 569-6139 or (423) 539-8711

May 23
Fiddling Voices in Robbinsville, NC
A celebration of traditional ways of the Snowbird Cherokee Indians. Corn grinding, bread making, basket weaving, pottery, wood carving, dancing, singing, storytelling, handwork, stick ball, blowgun shooting, and fish games.
Phone: (828) 479-8201 or (828) 479-3917

May 23
Ferns Foray in Gatlinburg, TN
Help Discover Life in America plot and identify ferns on park trails. Your data will be used to create maps of the park’s fern species.
Website: www.dlia.org
E-mail: todd@dlia.org
Phone: (865) 430-4757

May 23
Take a Walk on the River Walk in Townsend, TN
An easy walk to explore and discover native plants and trees.
Website: www.gardencentral.org/tenngardenclubs/tuckaleechee
**June 5-6**

**Smoky Mountain Pottery Festival in Townsend, TN**

The Smoky Mountain Pottery Festival is a juried, all pottery show with featured potter centers exhibiting and selling their wares. Demonstrations of wheel-throwing, special firings, and an educational children's tent.

*Website: www.smokymountains.org/pottery-festival.html*

---

**June 6**

**The Park Was My Home in Gatlinburg, TN**

Former park and area residents gather to share stories, photographs and memories about the days before the establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

*Website: www.parkwasmyhome.com*

**July 6**

**Biodiversity Days in the Smokies in Gatlinburg, TN**

A full day of mountain fun celebrating the importance of mountain trout.

*Website: www.gsmtroutfestival.org*

---

**June 7-15**

**75th Anniversary Benefit Show at Smith Family Theater**

The Smith's perform a live show based on our Southern Heritage. A video clip of Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicating the park at Newfound Gap is shown at the beginning of every show.

*Website: www.smithfamilytheater.com*

---

**June 10**

**Red, White and Bluegrass in Cosby, TN**

This summer concert series offers an ever changing schedule of bluegrass, folk, and old-time mountain music.

*Website: www.woodcarvers.com*

---

**June 11-13**

**Pastels for the Park in Bryson City, NC**

A month-long showing of pastel paintings by members of the Appalachian Pastel Society. Paintings highlight the natural beauty of our Great Smoky Mountains National Park to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

*Website: www.theartistshousegallery.com*

---

**June 12**

**June Jubilee in Dandridge, TN**

Street festival celebrating our history and heritage.

*Website: www.junejubilee.com*

---

**June 13**

**75th Anniversary Weekend in Cades Cove, TN**

An open house at Park Headquarters near Gatlinburg, TN will highlight park development, park management activities, park architecture, and the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

*Website: www.GreatSmokies75th.org*

---

**June 14**

**75th Anniversary Weekend at Park Headquarters in Gatlinburg, TN**

An open house at Park Headquarters near Gatlinburg, TN will highlight park development, park management activities, park architecture, and the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

*Website: www.GreatSmokies75th.org*

---

**June 15**

**75th Anniversary Weekend in Oconaluftee, NC**

Programs and exhibits will celebrate Smoky Mountain life from the Cherokee through park establishment. A ground breaking ceremony will symbolically initiate the construction of the new Oconaluftee Visitor Center and cultural museum.

*Website: www.GreatSmokies75th.org*

---

**June 16**

**75th Anniversary Weekend in Oconaluftee, NC**

Programs and exhibits will celebrate Smoky Mountain life from the Cherokee through park establishment. A ground breaking ceremony will symbolically initiate the construction of the new Oconaluftee Visitor Center and cultural museum.

*Website: www.GreatSmokies75th.org*

---

**June 17-20**

**Biodiversity Days in the Smokies in Gatlinburg, TN**

*Website: www.dlia.org*

---

**June 17-21**

**ChristyFest in Townsend, TN**

ChristyFest is the annual gathering of fans of Catherine Marshall's classic novel, *Christy* and the dramatic adaptations that have sprung from its popularity.

*Website: www.christyfest.org*
musical performance, craft demonstration and sales as well as artist workshops.
Website: www.TreasuresofAppalachia.com
E-mail: GSM75@TreasuresofAppalachia.com
Phone: (828) 258-6101, Ext. 345

July 3-4
Annual Heritage Festival & Street Fair in Robbinsville, NC
A celebration of traditional mountain ways and entertainment.
Website: www.museumofappalachia.org
E-mail: museum@museumofappalachia.org
Phone: (865) 494-7600

July 4
July 4th Celebration and Anvil Shoot in Clinton, TN
An old-fashioned Fourth of July with patriotic ceremonies, musical programs, demonstrations of mountain arts and skills, an anvil shoot, and traditional foods.
Website: www.museumofappalachia.org
E-mail: museum@museumofappalachia.org
Phone: (865) 494-7600

July 3-4
July 4th Midnight Parade in Gatlinburg, TN
Each year Gatlinburg celebrates Independence Day with an award winning parade. This year it will celebrate the park's anniversary.
Website: www.gatlinburg.com
E-mail: info@gatlinburg.com
Phone: (865) 436-4178

July 4, 11, 18; August 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5
Windig on the Green in Asheville, NC
Traditional southern Appalachian mountain music, dancing, and storytelling.
Website: http://folkheritage.org
E-mail:info@folkheritage.org
Phone: (828) 258-6101, Ext. 345

July 10
An Appalachian Celebration in Townsend, TN
A down home celebration of mountain heritage.
Website: www.museumofappalachia.org
E-mail: museum@museumofappalachia.org
Phone: (865) 494-7600

July 17-18
Franklin Folk Festival in Franklin, NC
A down home celebration of mountain heritage.
Website: www.mncshf.org
E-mail:tfraley@mchsi.com
Phone: (828) 524-3161

July 20-October 4
"Art and Artists of the Great Smoky Mountains, before and after the Creation of the Park" Exhibit at East Tennessee History Center, Knoxville, TN
Explore artwork depicting Great Smoky Mountains National Park landscapes and life.
Website: www.east-tennessee-history.org
E-mail: ehistory@east-tennessee-history.org
Phone: (865) 215-8830

July 30, 31, and August 1
Mountain Dance and Folk Festival in Asheville, NC
Enjoy traditional southern Appalachian music & dance.
Website: http://folkheritage.org
E-mail:info@folkheritage.org
Phone: (828) 258-6101, Ext. 345

August 1-2
Annual Asheville Quilt Show in Asheville, NC
Explore the rich cultural heritage of quilting with over 250 handcrafted quilts.
Website: www.nacborerum.org
Phone: (828) 665-2492

August 7
Talking Trees Trout Derby in Cherokee, NC
Children can learn to catch trout with adult guides.
Website: www.cherokee-nc.com
E-mail:janwild@nc-cherokee.com
Phone: (828) 497-8122

August 6
Sourwood Festival in Black Mountain, NC
Celebrate the native sourwood tree, famous for honey, with traditional music and demonstrations.
Website: www.exploreblackmountain.org
E-mail: bhmchamber@juno.com
Phone: (828) 669-2300

August 13
Friends Across the Mountain Telethon in TN and NC
Hour-long broadcast celebrating Friends of the Smokies support for Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
Website:www.friendsofthesmokies.com/events.html
Phone: 1-877-4-MTNS

August 14 and 15
Stringtime in the Smokies in Pigeon Forge, TN
A celebration of traditional, bluegrass, and Americana music.
Website:www.exploreblackmountain.org
E-mail: events@cityofpigeonforge.com
Phone: (865) 429-7350

August 21
In View of the Smokies: Celebrating 75 Years Exhibition Opening
Opening reception for "In View of the Smokies: Celebrating 75 Years" exhibit.
Website: www.museumofappalachia.org
E-mail:info@arrowmont.org
Phone: (865) 436-5860

August 21-October 10
In View of the Smokies: Celebrating 75 Years Exhibition in Gatlinburg, TN
Juried photography exhibition featuring imagery of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
Website:www.arrowmont.org
E-mail:info@arrowmont.org
Phone: (865) 436-5860

August 28-29
Fines Creek Bluegrass Jam in Clyde, NC
Enjoy two nights of bluegrass music in a beautiful outdoor setting.
E-mail:info@finescreek.org
Phone: (828) 627-1113

August 28-September 7
Play in the Park Week in Waynesville, NC
Celebrate all the Smokies have to offer with fly fishing, hikes, rafting, and wildlife viewing.
Website: www.thewaynesvilleinn.com
E-mail:info@waynesvilleinn.com

Phone: 1-800-627-6250

September 1-November 1
Rocky Top Trail Crew on the Appalachian Trail, NC and TN
Volunteer with the Rocky Top Trail Crew for a week on the Appalachian Trail.
Website: www.appalachiantrail.org/rockytop
E-mail:adwmsa@appalachiantrail.org
Phone: (828) 254-3708

September 2
75th Anniversary at Newfound Gap
A "rededication" of the park, reminiscent of Franklin D. Roosevelt's historic 1940 park dedication speech, will be enacted at the Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap. Special invocations to attend the ceremony will be issued, accompanied by live broadcasts at the park's entrances and in gateway communities.
Website: www.GreatSmokies75th.org
E-mail:info@GSMAssoc.org
Phone: (865) 436-7318, Ext. 349

September 5
9th Annual Mountain Music Championship in Robbinsville, NC
Fun-filled day of mountain music, food, and friendly competition. Individual and band competitions in both old-time and bluegrass music categories for the fiddle, banjo, mandolin and guitar.
Website:www.stecoahvalleycenter.com
E-mail:programs@stecoahvalleycenter.com
Phone: (828) 479-3364

September 5
Take a Walk on the River Walk in Townsend, TN
An easy walk to explore and discover native plants and trees.
Website: www.gardencentral.org/tenngardenclubs/tuckaleechee
E-mail:erussell6346@charter.net
Phone: (865) 980-6346

September 13
Bluegrass Day at the Fair
Enjoy some of East Tennessee's finest harmonies at Bluegrass Day at the Fair.
Website: www.tnvalleyfair.org
E-mail:fair@tnvalleyfair.org
Phone: (865) 215-1474

September 13 and 14
Country Market in Knoxville, TN
Experience a true 'country market' with traditional crafts, music and demonstrations.
Website: www.ramseyhouse.org
E-mail:info@ramseyhouse.org
Phone: (865) 448-6709 and (865) 448-0044

Visit www.GreatSmokies75th.org for more programs in September, October, November, and December, 2009.
First Things First

A free backcountry permit is required for all persons spending the night in the park’s backcountry. Dayhikers are not required to register or obtain permits.

Backcountry permits are available at most park campgrounds, ranger stations, and at Sugarlands and Oconaluftee visitor centers. Registration areas at the ranger stations and campgrounds are accessible 24 hours a day. Visitor center registration stations are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A few backcountry campsites and all shelters require advance reservations. Pick up a $1 Great Smoky Mountains Trail Map for backcountry campsite locations and information. To make a reservation, call (865) 436-1231. The reservations office is open seven days a week between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please have your itinerary planned before calling.

Hiking guides and trail maps are available through Great Smoky Mountains Association at park visitor centers or by contacting (865) 436-7318 or www.SmokiesInformation.org

How to Not Feed the Bears

The greatest favor you can do wild bears is keep human-related food out of their reach. For this reason the Park Service requires that backpackers hang their food (10' above the ground, 4' from the nearest tree trunk or large branch). Nearly all backcountry campsites are now equipped with cable and pulley systems that make hanging food quick and easy.

Please don’t throw food scraps, cans, aluminum foil, or glass in fire pits. Pack out all trash. Hang all food and scented items, including dirty cookware, soap, shampoo, and toothpaste.

How to Not Die

1. Stay on officially-maintained trails.
2. Don’t climb on rocks around waterfalls.
3. Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
4. Spring is hypothermia season in the Smokies. Avoid it by keeping dry and warm. Don’t wear cotton clothing. Eat before you’re hungry and rest before you’re tired.
5. Don’t attempt to cross flood-swollen streams; they will recede rapidly after precipitation stops and the wait may save your life. When crossing any stream more than ankle-deep: unbuckle the waist strap of your pack, wear shoes, and use a staff.
6. Giardia and other harmful organisms are present in park water sources. Treat all water before drinking.

If It’s Solitude You Seek...

Some lesser used trails worth exploring:
1. Sugarland Mountain (7-6 D-C) *
2. Huskey Gap (6 C-D)
3. Grapeyard Ridge (8-7 C)
4. Old Settlers (8-9 C-B)
5. Rabbit Creek (2-3 D-E)
6. Baxter Creek (11 B-C)
7. Boogerman (11 D)
8. Mt. Sterling (11 C)
9. Dry Sluice Gap (8-9 D)
10. Sweat Heifer Creek (8 D)
11. Roundtop (5-4 C-D)
12. Road Prong (7 D)
13. Fork Ridge Trail (7 E)
14. Little Greenbrier (5 C)
15. Brushy Mountain (8 C-D)

Without a Trace

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare—repackage food to reduce litter.
2. Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces—stay on established trails, don’t cut switchbacks, don’t clear new ground for camping.
3. Dispose of Waste Properly—pack out trash, bury feces and toilet paper.
4. Leave What You Find—don’t move or remove plants, rocks, historic objects, antlers, etc.
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts—use a stove for cooking.
6. Respect Wildlife—don’t approach too closely.
7. Be Considerate of Others.

If It’s Jail Time You Seek...

1. You must possess a backcountry permit while camping in the park’s backcountry.
2. Camping is permitted only at designated sites and shelters.
3. You must have a confirmed reservation for rationed sites and shelters.
4. Maximum camping party size is 8.
5. Open fires are prohibited except at designated sites. Use only wood that is dead and on the ground.
6. Use of tents at shelters is prohibited.
7. All plants, wildlife, and historic features are protected. Picking or digging wildflowers or other plants is prohibited.
8. Do not wash dishes or bathe with soap in a stream.
9. Pets, motorized vehicles, and bicycles are not permitted in the backcountry, except where designated.
10. Feeding or harassing any wildlife is prohibited.
11. Human feces should be buried in a 6" deep hole at least 100' from the nearest water.

National Park Service backcountry rangers.
behind the scenery
99 species of native trees live in the Smokies

NATIONAL PARK NEWS BRIEFS

Visitors to Park Spend $718 Million

A NEW REPORT shows that visitors to Great Smoky Mountains National Park provide local businesses with an estimated $718 million annual boost. The study also indicated that 13,000 local jobs in North Carolina and Tennessee are supported by visitor spending as a direct result of the park’s presence.

The Smokies far outpace other national parks both in visits and visitor spending. Grand Canyon visitors add $410 million to the local economy each year; Blue Ridge Parkway visitors add $350 million, and Yellowstone visitors contribute $339 million. The Smokies recorded a little over nine million visits in 2008.

The study and economic model were developed by Michigan State University for the National Park Service.

Scientists Discover Nearly 900 New Species

RESEARCHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD now report they have discovered 890 species of plants, animals, and other organisms in Great Smoky Mountains National Park that are new to the science books. The scientists, assisted by over 800 volunteers, are participating in the Smokies' All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), an ambitious quest to document every species in the park. The newly discovered species include moths, butterflies, earthworms, crayfish, bees, mushrooms, lichen, and algae.

Scientists participating in the effort have also documented 6,339 species that are new records for the park. To learn more, visit www.dlia.org.

Researchers Monitor Park’s “Light Pollution”

As part of the Park Service’s Night Skies monitoring program, researchers have begun monitoring light pollution in the Smokies and other national parks. Light pollution in parks interferes with visitors’ abilities to enjoy the night sky and also impacts wildlife migrations and nocturnal behaviors. From the Clingmans Dome tower in the Smokies, researchers have recorded bright light coming from nearby Knoxville and Pigeon Forge, and from more distant Waynesville, Asheville, and Atlanta. Light pollution can be easily curbed by installing motion sensors, dimmer outdoor lights, and caps that direct light downward. For more information, visit http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/lightscapes/overview.cfm

Park Uses Triage on Hemlocks

During 2009, park crews plan to continue their large-scale effort to save remnant populations of hemlock trees from the non-native insect called the hemlock woolly adelgid (a-Dell-jid). The work will include pesticide treatments of all hemlocks beside roads and campgrounds in the park as well as releases of tens of thousands of predator beetles, tiny black insects that eat nothing but exotic adelgids. Forestry technicians will also continue the job of protecting the park’s 46 hemlock conservation areas totaling 1,866 acres. These areas contain stands of towering old-growth hemlock trees, some of them over 170 feet tall, and are usually located in remote regions of the park.

In addition, biologists are collecting hemlock seeds in the park for long-term storage and propagation beyond the adelgid’s reach. These resources will serve as a genetic bank for Smokies’ hemlock trees in case the species is lost entirely or severely compromised.

Hemlock adelgids arrived in the southern Appalachian Mountains in the late 1990s. Since then they have infested and killed tens of thousands of native hemlock trees. Hemlocks are one of the largest, oldest, and most common trees in the Great Smoky Mountains. Most biologists concur that the non-native hemlock adelgid will never be completely eliminated from the area now that it has become established. However, the Park Service hopes that the predator beetles will eventually control the adelgid population to the extent that they will no longer cause widespread damage to the region’s trees.

Smokies Elk Herd Nears 100 Animals

Park rangers have announced that approximately 95 elk now reside in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This is up from the 52 animals that were originally reintroduced to the Smokies during 2001-2002.

The 2008 calving season was one of the most successful ever with 16 of the 19 elk calves that were born surviving. Five adult elk died in 2008, three from natural causes, one from a collision with a vehicle, and one from unknown causes.

Elk are most commonly seen in Cataloochee valley and in the Oconaluftee area.
along the "a.t."
72 miles of the Appalachian Trail run through the Smokies

A Ridgerunner’s Tale

Appalachian Trail “Ridgerunners” are seasonal employees hired and trained by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to hike the A.T. and educate hikers about safety and low-impact camping. They also perform trail maintenance and inform rangers about injured hikers and rules violations. As you might guess, their work is rigorous and interesting. Here are some excerpts from last year’s Ridgerunners’ journals.

July 5—Met a couple guys enroute who’d just seen a large timber rattle on Thunderhead; then met two more staying at Russell who’d just seen one about 15' behind the shelter.

On to Spence Field. Met a 6-person group about halfway there, the leader of which reported an injured hiker at Derrick Knob. Said that the guy couldn’t walk due to an injured ankle. Radioed dispatch with the info. Since it was only about 1600 at that point, volunteered to head up there. Stopped at Spence Field, replenished water bottles and downed some power bars, then continued on to Pecks Corner. 20-MILE DAY.

Sept. 28—Quick trip onwards to Pecks. Four of the five reservations scheduled there were at the shelter when I arrived. Was soon joined by four others with reservations at Tricorner, but no time/energy to get there. Seems they’d planned to go from NFG to Hot Springs, but figured out within hours of starting that they were walking only half as fast as they’d thought they could. Also received report from them of a peahen [non-native female peacock] at the Icewater Spring Shelter.

Ended up getting reservations for the four very slow folks to go on to Tricorner the next day, then reverse course and head back to NFG over the following three days. 14-MILE DAY.

Dec. 31—Very cold/windy on the ridgelines. Wind chill probably in single digits. About halfway to Mollies met two guys from Georgia heading north without backcountry permit or reservations anywhere. Had tented illegally on Doe Knob the previous night and were planning hike back out to Fontana that day via Spence Field and Eagle Creek Trail. They were totally unfamiliar with Eagle Creek Trail and totally ignorant of the 15 water crossings they’d have to make in this very cold weather and with fairly high water levels. Issued a backcountry permit and strongly urged them to turn around there and retrace their route back to Fontana. Also gave them a trail map and pointed out how to make their reservations next time. They were very appreciative of the advice and did turn around.

Arrived at Mollies a bit later; found about 2 lbs of abandoned items/trash there (including a 1.5 lb unopened can of ham). Loaded the trash into my pack, then headed for Spence Field. Shelter pretty clean. Cleaned & serviced privy. Cut out a couple small blowdowns headed down. 20-MILE DAY.

Thru-hikers Coming Thru

This spring an estimated 1,250 backpackers will set out from Springer Mountain, Georgia with ambitions of following the Appalachian Trail 2,175 miles to Mt. Katahdin, Maine. If past is any indication of future, about 500 hikers will complete the journey this year.

Most northbound thru-hikers start in March or April. When they cross Fontana Dam into Great Smoky Mountains National Park, they have completed 160 miles (7%) of the “A.T.” So arduous is the terrain that at this point about 20% have already called it quits.

Still, notable waves of thru-hikers trod through the park between late March and early May. Many use the road junction at Newfound Gap to travel down to Gatlinburg or Cherokee to resupply, eat some very large meals, and get in a little R & R.

Seventy-one miles of the A.T. pass through the Smokies, and the trail reaches its zenith here, 6,625’, just below the summit of Clingmans Dome.

Not everybody who sets foot on the A.T. is a thru-hiker; in fact, most aren’t. Over three million people hike a piece of the trail every year. If you would like to be one of them, a good place to start in the park is Newfound Gap at the Tennessee/ North Carolina state line.
The public enjoyment of that Smoky Mountain phenomenon known as spring has a long and distinguished history. But during the early years of the park, one man, Park Naturalist Arthur Stupka, did more than anyone before or since to spread the gospel of nature appreciation in the Smokies.

Stupka was born in Ohio and studied zoology and botany at Ohio State. From a summer camp counselor he graduated to the National Park Service where he started in the Smokies in the fall of 1935, just one year after the park was officially established, and was more than a little excited when the spring of 1936 rolled around.

In his monthly report to the park superintendent, Stupka wrote:

"In mid-April the flowering dogwood layered its conspicuous blossoms in woods tinted with fresh new greens...glorifying our mountain slopes with lovely masses of bloom. In the Sugarlands area, one of the outstandingly beautiful sights was that presented by the new green leaves of the abundant silverbells which, in the middle of the month, carpeted this broad valley with verdure."

Stupka continued, "The late April woods were so ready giving "illustrated talks" on the wonders of the Smokies to whomever would listen. That summer, since the park had barely opened its gates, the primary audiences were the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers tasked with building the park's trails, campgrounds, and the park's first formal slate of naturalist-guided programs had begun. In the very first month, their 39 walks, talks, and auto caravans attracted nearly 2,000 people. A favorite venue soon became the lobbies of Gatlinburg hotels, including the Mountain View and Riverside, where an average of 140 people would gather in the evenings to hear the acclaimed naturalist talk about the park's wondrous diversity of life.

Year after year, attendance at ranger-guided programs doubled, then doubled again. If he had no seasonal staff, Stupka led the walks and talks himself. During a single month in 1941, Stupka led 36 hikes and conducted 14 motel lobby lectures. Over 2,200 people were the lucky beneficiaries. On more than one outing, Stupka and his groups discovered species of butterflies and plants that had never been documented in the young park before.

The next giant step in nature appreciation happened in 1951. Stupka recorded this genesis in his April report: "890 contacts were made during the course of the first Wildflower Pilgrimage, April 27-29. This new event proved so successful that, in all probability, it will become an annual affair.

Sponsored jointly by the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce and the Botany Department, University of Tennessee, it had our full cooperation."

Indeed, Stupka's report has proven prophetic. Fifty-nine years later, the Wildflower Pilgrimage is still a highlight of springtime in the Smokies. While the first April pilgrimage featured 11 walks and talks, this year's will include over 150 programs led by experts in their field. People from around the nation and around the world will make the journey to Gatlinburg and the Great Smokies to attend.

Even after his retirement from the Park Service in 1964, Stupka continued to lead spring wildflower walks from the Hemlock Inn and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, with stops at Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Hundreds of people each year benefited from his knowledge and passion. All had the rare privilege to "stroll" through the woods with the man who knew them better than anyone else.

The 59th annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage will be held in Gatlinburg, TN and the Great Smoky Mountains from April 22-26 this year. The event will host over 150 programs, including easy and difficult hikes, illustrated talks, auto caravans, and special appearances. Trip leaders are professionals from universities and other organizations. To learn more, call 865 436-7318 x222, e-mail Judy@GSMAssoc.org, or visit www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org. Advance registration is available.
Great Smoky Mountains is now the only major national park without an entrance fee. Most big parks charge $25 per vehicle. Would you like to use some of the money you saved to help protect the Great Smoky Mountains?

Attend a SEMINAR

AN EXCITING variety of adventures awaits adults who long to get out and explore the park accompanied by expert guides. Programs are offered by Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and the Smoky Mountain Field School and include Mt. Le Conte overnights, wildlife workshops, birding and wildflower seminars, teacher weekends, and more. Free catalogs are available. Contact: (865) 448-6709 & (865) 974-0150. gsmi.org & outreach.utk.edu/smoky

Read a BOOK

GREAT Smoky Mountains Association is a nonprofit organization that operates bookstores in all park visitor centers (see map on page 16). Purchases benefit the park! Call 1-888-898-9102 or visit our on-line store at www.SmokiesInformation.org

Go to summer CAMP

GREAT SMOKY Mountains Institute at Tremont offers a variety of summer youth camps in the national park. Camps last from 6-10 days and cost from $455 and up. Fees include meals, lodging, and most equipment. The 2009 summer offerings are: Discovery Camp (ages 9-12), Naturalist Expeditions (ages 12-14), Wilderness Adventure Camp (ages 13-17), Teen High Adventure (ages 13-17), Girls in Science Camp (ages 13-17). Contact: (865) 448-6709 www.gsmi.org

Count me in!

Name(s) __________________________

Address __________________________

Please include your check with this form. Mail to:

Great Smoky Mountains Association
115 Park Headquarters Rd., Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(865) 436-7318 www.SmokiesInformation.org
Friends of GSMNP, P.O. Box 1660, Kodak, TN 37764
(865) 932-4794. www.friendsofthesmokies.org

Friends of the Smokies
P.O. Box 1660, Kodak, TN 37764

FRIENDS of the Smokies is a nonprofit organization that assists the National Park Service by raising funds and public awareness and providing volunteers for needed projects.

Since 1993, Friends has given over $20 million for park projects and programs. These donations help:

• protect elk, bear, brook trout, and other wildlife
• improve trails, campsites, and backcountry shelters
• support educational programs for school children
• improve visitor facilities
• fund special educational services like the official park movie
• preserve log cabins and other historic structures.

Your donation can help make these projects a reality. Put a few coins or a few dollars in one of the donation boxes located at visitor centers, road sides, and other locations around the park. Use the form to the left to start or renew your membership.

Buy or renew your Friends of the Smokies license plate. Volunteer your time. How ever you choose to give, your donation will really help protect the Great Smoky Mountains!
Visitor Information

Resources

General Park Information
(865) 436-1200
www.nps.gov/grsm
Campground & Horse Camp reservations 1-877-444-6777
www.recreation.gov
Backcountry Information
(865) 436-1297
To order maps & guides
(865) 436-7318 x226
www.SmokiesInformation.org

Emergencies

Listed below are some numbers to call for emergencies.

Park Rangers
(865) 436-9171
Cherokee Police
(828) 497-4131
Gatlinburg Police
(865) 436-5181
Haywood Co. Sheriff
(828) 452-6666

Hospitals

Blount Memorial (865) 983-7211, U.S. 321, Maryville, TN.
Sevier County (865) 453-7111, Middle Creek Rd., Sevierville, TN.
Swain County (828) 488-2155, Bryson City, NC.
Haywood County (828) 456-7311, Hwy 23/74, Waynesville, NC

Regulations

Picking or digging plants is prohibited in the park.
Persons feeding wildlife are subject to a $5,000 fine and six months in prison.
Pets are NOT permitted on most park trails. Only the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails allow dogs on a leash.

Accessibility

Restrooms at all park visitor centers (Cades Cove, Oconaluftee, and Sugarlands) are fully accessible.
The Sugarlands Valley all-access nature trail is located on Newfound Gap Road (U.S. 441) near Sugarlands. Please ask at a visitor center for more information.