We’ll Have Our First Healthy Hike of 2019 on Saturday, February 23 at 10 am ET to Oscar Blevins Farm Loop. Meet a Ranger at the Oscar Blevins Farm Trailhead off Bandy Creek Road (F Loop) for an easy to moderate in difficulty 3.7 mile hike. This trail makes for a beautiful winter hike but dress warmly and bring water and snacks.

February is Great Time for Hog Hunting in the Park. This month hunting for hogs, squirrel, raccoon, is legal in both Tennessee and Kentucky. Grouse hunting is possible all month long in Kentucky and rabbit and quail hunting is legal in Tennessee during all of February. For more information see https://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/hunting.htm.

The 19th Annual Spring Planting and Music Festival will be on Saturday, April 27, 2019 and We are Looking for Interested Crafts Persons, Musicians, and Volunteers to participate in this year’s festival. If you are interested in selling your craft and/or music items during this year’s event, contact tish_neal@nps.gov. Volunteers are always welcome to demonstrate their craft and/or skills and are also needed to assist with event activities. Please contact the park’s volunteer coordinator at effie_houston@nps.gov.

Next Coffee and Climb with a Ranger is Groundhog’s Day, Saturday, February 2 at Lilly Bridge. Bring any questions you may have and join Rangers for a cup of coffee at 10 am ET. After that, snow, rain or shine, we’ll lead another Climb with a Ranger Program. From 11 to noon is a kids only (12 and under) climbing session and after that all ages are welcome. All necessary gear is provided, just bring a can-do attitude.

Saturday, February 16 is Annual Cumberland Trail Work Day. We’re partnering with Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and the Cumberland Trail State Park for some trail rehab work. Meet at Rock Creek Campground at 10 am ET and dress for winter weather. For more info visit www.facebook.com/ObedNPS or call the Visitor Center.

We Just Purchased a 63 acre Tract of land a mile upstream from Obed Junction. It encompasses a half mile of river frontage and the “salt peter cave,” one of the deepest known rockhouses in Obed vicinity.

Enjoy a Winter Evergreens Hike on Saturday, February 23 at 11 am ET on the Cumberland Trail on the Emory River Gorge Section. Now is a great time to view rhododendron, hemlocks, and mountain-laurel. Meet at the Nemo Picnic Area off Catoosa Road.

There are Numerous Small Business Opportunities Within the Boundaries of Our Parks. Examples include guide services, shuttle services, photography workshops, food truck service, and more. Applications for commercial use authorizations will accepted through March 31. More information and forms may be found at: https://www.nps.gov/biso/getinvolved/commercial-visitor-services.htm and https://www.nps.gov/obed/getinvolved/do-business-with-us.htm.