Go Big Healthy Hikes:
- **Hike Honey Creek Loop on Saturday, May 11** at 10 am ET. Meet at Honey Creek Loop trail head parking lot for a strenuous 5.7 mile hike. Honey Creek Loop holds some of Big South Fork’s most rugged terrain.
- **Dick Gap Overlook on Saturday May 18** at noon ET. Miners used to descend into Blue Heron for work every morning from areas like Dick Gap. Join us for our annual Decoration Day hike as we walk the same steps those miners did 60 years ago. Meet at Blue Heron Depot for a moderately difficult 3.7 miles.

Help Us Preserve Memories and Stories made at Blue Heron on Decoration Day on Saturday May 18 by joining us for a day of food, music and fellowship. This year we’ll be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Blue Heron Outdoor Museum dedication. **Share Your Story.** We would love to hear memories of Blue Heron and see any family photos that you might have of the mining community.

Join Us for a Special Reading Ranger and Craft Activity on May 18 at 10:30 am ET at the Blue Heron Outdoor Museum. This year we will make traditional Decoration Day flowers.

Half the Park is After Dark! We’re Having a Night Sky and Solar Viewing Event on Saturday May 25 at 3:30 pm and 9 pm ET. Telescopes will be set up for sky observations at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center parking area.

Professional Development Opportunity for Teachers. We’re recruiting teachers to participate in the National Park Service Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program this summer. Applications for Big South Fork ([https://www.nps.gov/biso/learn/education/teacher-ranger-teacher-program.htm](https://www.nps.gov/biso/learn/education/teacher-ranger-teacher-program.htm)) and Obed ([https://www.nps.gov/obed/learn/education/teacher-to-ranger-to-teacher.htm](https://www.nps.gov/obed/learn/education/teacher-to-ranger-to-teacher.htm)) must be submitted by e-mail and are due Friday, May 10. For more information about the program contact daniel_banks@nps.gov.

DYI? Two sunflower species were recently added to Obed’s plant list: Eggert’s sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*) and hairy sunflower (*Helianthus hirsutus*).

**Obed Wild & Scenic River**

The Next Owl Prowl Program is on Friday Evening, May 10 at 8:30 pm ET at Lilly Bluff Overlook parking lot, located off Ridge Road in Morgan County, TN. Participants will get a chance to learn about the habits and mannerisms of the Eastern Screech Owl and the Barred Owl. Be sure to bring flashlights and wear sturdy shoes.

Want to Learn to Identify Local Birds? Join Us on Saturday, May 11 for a birding walk. Over 160 bird species have been documented at the Obed and spring is an excellent time to observe the park’s Neotropical migrants which winter in Central and South America along with the area year-round residents. Attendees will be provided with a checklist of the birds documented in the Obed. Experienced & novice bird watchers are encouraged to attend. Meet at Lilly Bridge at 8:30 am ET and wear sturdy footwear and bring binoculars and drinking water. Lilly Bridge is located on Ridge Road in Morgan County, TN.

Come See Us at This Year’s Mountain Laurel Festival in Downtown Wartburg’s Courthouse Square on Saturday, May 18. We will have a booth with information on upcoming events and Junior Ranger activities.

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