Cultural Heritage Celebration on Saturday, October 19 and 26 at the Blue Heron Mining Community. Join us for this family friendly event which embraces the ways of life and labor of miners and their families who once lived at this coal camp and other camps in the Big South Fork region. Learn more about coal mining and equipment, traditional crafts, traditional Appalachian music, and more. All events are free and begin each Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. EST.

Walk to Katie Blevins Cemetery on Saturday, October 19. This guided walk will focus on burial traditions in the region and participants will have the opportunity to share their family traditions. Meet at the Bandy Creek Trailhead at 6pm. In case of inclement weather the program will be held in the Interpretation & Education Building.

Business Opportunity in the Park. The National Park Service is soliciting for proposals in response to a business opportunity to operate overnight rustic lodging, food and beverage, retail and horse stabling services at Charit Creek Lodge within the park. For more information contact Cherrie Brice, Commercial Services Specialist, via email at Cherrie_Brice@nps.gov. Proposals are due no later than 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) January 8, 2014.

Volunteer Clean Up of the O&W Road on Saturday, November 9. This road provides wonderful hiking, biking, and riding access. Start the day at 8:30 a.m., by signing up at the park entrance on the O&W Road or in advance by calling (423) 569-2404, extension 228. The O&W park entrance is less than a mile west of the intersection of Toomey Road and O&W Road. Bring water, insect repellent, and sun block and wear sturdy boots. Trash bags and gloves will be provided.

For more information, contact the Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275 or visit us at:

www.nps.gov/biso
Twitter@BigSouthForkNRR
www.facebook.com/BigSouthForkNRRA

Visitor Center is Open and Regularly Scheduled Programs Resumed including Preschool Storytime (every Friday morning), the Coffee and Climb with a Ranger program (first Saturday of the Month), and Memories of the Obed. Call the Visitor Center for more information on these and other programs.

Photography Exhibit on Display. The results are in, and the photos are on display. Don’t miss this opportunity to see the stunning photography from our 2nd Annual Photo Contest. Congratulations to all our winners. Michael Foster received top honors in the artistic category, Ken Jordan for fauna, Mark Large for landscape, and Hans Christen for flora. Runner-up awards were presented to Larry Coffey, Michael Foster, Marialice Wilson, and Tom Wood. The People's Choice Award was presented to Ken Hamby Jr.

Hog Hunting Permits on Sale Now. Wild hogs may be hunted in the Big South Fork as well as the Obed Wild and Scenic River from September 28 through February 28, 2014. A permit is required to hunt and may be purchased at either visitor center or online at http://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/hog-hunting.htm. The permit costs $5.00. A valid hunting license is required to purchase the permit. Dogs may not be used to hunt.

For more information, contact the Visitor Center at (423) 346-6294 or visit us at:

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