Paddle with a Ranger on Saturday, September 3rd. See the park from a completely different perspective! Meet at the Blue Heron boat ramp at 10 am (ET). Need a boat? Or maybe just a shuttle? Contact the Sheltowee Trace Outfitters at 800-541-RAFT or make a reservation online at: http://www.kyrafting.com/centennial-challenge.html.

Come to an Art in the Park reception on Saturday, September 3, at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center at 5 pm (ET). Select your favorite photograph and vote for a “People’s Choice” award winner. Local bluegrass musicians, South Sycamore, will be performing as light refreshments are served.

Evening of Family Entertainment on September 10th. Join us for the KY premiere of the new film, Generations at 4:30 pm (ET) at McCreary Central High School followed by the annual Ghost Train storytelling event at Blue Heron Interpretive Center at 7:30 pm.

Spend the Day at the “Haunting in the Hills” Storytelling Festival, Saturday, September 17th. Join thousands of folks who will come to the Bandy Creek area for a fun-filled day of stories, live music, crafts and more.

Join Us for Adopt-a-Crag on Saturday, September 10th. We’re teaming up with the East Tennessee Climbers Coalition to host the 17th annual event at the park. Volunteers are needed to help with several projects such as general trail maintenance and litter pickup.

Obed’s Wilderness Eligibility Assessment Analysis has Started. The study will determine which park lands, if any, possess the necessary characteristics to be considered a wilderness. The Wilderness Act of 1964 describes wilderness as “…an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

This Month’s Healthy Hike is on National Public Lands Day Saturday, September 24th. Join a Ranger at the Lilly Overlook parking area at 10 am (ET) for a 3.8 mile moderately strenuous hike on the Point Trail. The trail meanders through a hemlock forest and panoramic views over the Obed River and Clear Creek confluence.

Hog Hunting Permits are Now Available for the Big South Fork and the Obed. Permits cost $5 and can be purchased at our Visitor Centers as well as online (www.pay.gov/public/form/start/45822827/) until the end of February.

Free Camping is a Great Way to Celebrate National Public Lands Day! Camping is free on Saturday, September 24th at Obed’s Rock Creek Campground and Big South Fork’s Alum Ford Campground and everywhere in the backcountry.