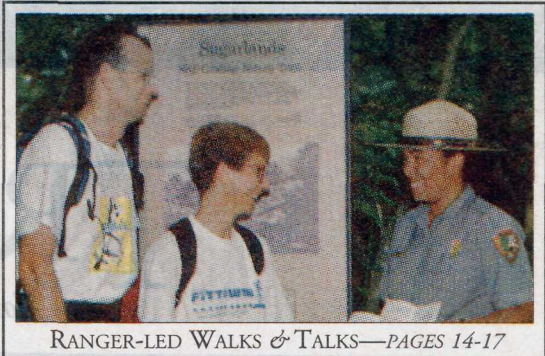


# SMOKIES GUIDE



RANGER-LED WALKS & TALKS—PAGES 14-17

25¢

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK • AUTUMN 1997



Autumn comes first to the mountain tops, then to the valleys.

## When Will Fall Colors Peak in the Smokies?

Elevation has a profound effect on when forests put on their fall color show in the Smokies. At the higher elevations, where the climate is similar to New England's, displays start as early as **mid-September** with the turning of yellow birch, American beech, mountain maple, hobblebush, and pin cherry.

From **October 1-15**, fall colors are at their peak above 4,000'. To enjoy them, try driving the Clingmans Dome Road, the Blue Ridge Parkway, or the Foothills Parkway (see back page).

Fall colors usually peak at the mid and lower elevations between **October 15-31**. This is perhaps the park's most spectacular display as it includes such colorful trees as sugar maple, scarlet oak, sweetgum, red maple, dogwood, and the hickories.

Why are fall colors in the Smokies so remarkable? One reason is the park's amazing diversity of trees. About 100 species of native trees live in the Smokies, and the vast majority of these are deciduous. (Please see pages 10-11 for suggested fall color auto tours in the park.)



### FOXFIRE

At least three species of mushrooms that live in the Smoky Mountains are

known to glow in the dark—Jack-o'-Lantern, honey, and Panus.

Mountain folk called the eerie glow "foxfire" and believed that seeing it at night predicted cold weather.



Some populations of flora and fauna have suffered from lack of fire.

## Park Uses Fire as Tool to Improve Habitats

It may seem amazing to anyone who grew up with Smoky the Bear posters and advertisements, but the National Park Service has added fire to the list of tools it uses to help preserve wild things and wild places.

In Cades Cove this spring Park Service fire crews intentionally burned nearly 100 acres of meadow to knock back non-native fescue grass and encourage the growth of such natives as sunflowers, asters, Indian grass, and big bluestem. The burn has been deemed a success, even for park sightseers, as the charred acreage quickly blossomed with vigorous new growth that attracted deer and other wildlife.

One reason fire is considered beneficial is that it rapidly recycles dead wood and other organic material

into nutrients plants can use. It also clears ground for new growth. Park biologists even believe that several species of plants and animals in the Smokies are declining from lack of fire.

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker is a case in point. It abandoned a nesting area in the park that had become overgrown with brush. Fire crews burned the area in early August of this year to clear the brush and hopefully entice the endangered birds to return.

Even though the Park Service is using carefully controlled fire as a management tool, fighting dangerous wild fire is still a top priority. All arson-caused fires will continue to be battled, as will lightning-ignited fires that threaten people or property.



# TRIP PLANNER

For additional information, call (423) 436-1200

## SMOKIES GUIDE

*Smokies Guide* is produced by Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association and Great Smoky Mountains National Park four times per year. Approximate publication dates are:  
**SPRING:** March 15  
**SUMMER:** June 1  
**AUTUMN:** September 1  
**WINTER:** November 1

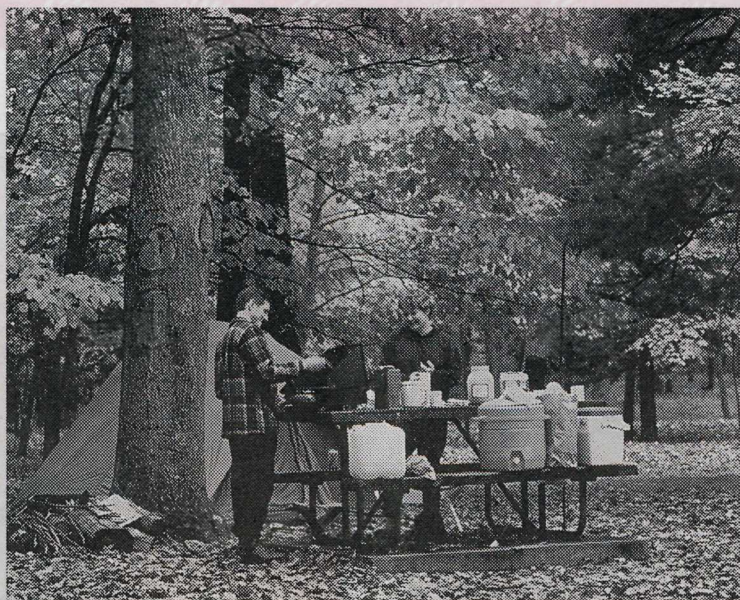
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GSMNHA  
 115 Park Headquarters Road  
 Gatlinburg, TN 37738



Printed on recycled newsprint



BILL LEA PHOTO

Better funding will allow campgrounds to stay open longer this year.

## National Park Campgrounds

The National Park Service maintains developed campgrounds at ten locations in the park. There are no showers or electrical hookups.

Sites at Elkmont, Smoke-mont, and Cades Cove may be reserved by calling 1-800-365-2267 (park code: GREA). Or contact the reservation office on the internet at: [www.destinet.com](http://www.destinet.com). Reservations are accepted only for May 15-Oct. 31. There is a \$3 fee for advance reservations. Sites may be reserved up to five months in advance. All other campgrounds are first-come, first-serve year-round. Cosby and Look Rock campgrounds rarely fill.

No more than six people may occupy a site (two tents or one RV and one tent). Maximum stay during summer and fall is seven days.

Group camping sites are available at Big Creek, Cades Cove, Cataloochee, Cosby, Deep Creek, Elkmont, and Smokemont. Reservations required. Call 1-800-365-2267 or (423) 436-1266.

The following listing shows numbers of campsites, elevations, fees per night, 1997 open dates, and maximum RV lengths.

ABRAMS CREEK 16 sites, elev. 1,125', \$10, open through Nov. 3, 12' RVs  
 BALSAM MOUNTAIN 46 sites, elev. 5,310', \$12, open through Sept. 29, 30' RVs  
 BIG CREEK 12 sites, elev. 1,700', \$10, open through Nov. 3, no RVs  
 CADES COVE 159 sites, elev. 1,807', \$12-\$15, open year-round, 35' RVs  
 CATALOOCHEE 27 sites, elev. 2,610', \$10, open through Nov. 3, 31' RVs  
 COSBY 175 sites, elev. 2,459', \$12, closes Nov. 3, 25' RVs  
 DEEP CREEK 108 sites, elev. 1,800', \$12, open through Nov. 3, 26' RVs  
 ELKMONT 220 sites, elev. 2,150', \$12-\$15, open through Dec. 1, 32' RVs  
 LOOK ROCK 92 sites, elev. 2,600', \$12, open through Nov. 3, 35' RVs  
 SMOKEMONT 140 sites, elev. 2,198', \$12-\$15, open year-round, 27' RVs

## Accommodations

Le Conte Lodge (accessible by trail only) provides the only lodging in the park. Call (423) 429-5704.

For information on lodging outside the park, contact:  
 Bryson City 800 867-9246  
 Cherokee 800 438-1601  
 Fontana 800 849-2258  
 Gatlinburg 800 568-4748  
 Maggie Valley (704) 926-1686  
 Pigeon Forge 800 251-9100  
 Townsend 800 525-6834

## Horse Camps

Five drive-in horse camps provide ready access to back-country trails for equestrians in the national park. They are located at Cades Cove in Tennessee and at Big Creek, Cataloochee, Round Bottom and Towstring in North Carolina. Auto access horse camps are open through Nov. 3. For reservations, call (423) 436-1231. There is a \$3 per horse stall fee. At Big Creek, a \$10 per site camping fee is also charged.

## 1997 Special Events

**SEPTEMBER 19**  
 Three Rivers Band at Cades Cove Campground Amphitheater. 8 p.m.  
**SEPTEMBER 20**  
 Mountain Life Festival at Oconaluftee Mountain Farm Museum. 10-4  
**OCTOBER 4**  
 Molasses Making at Cades Cove Cable Mill Area. 10-4  
**OCTOBER 30 & 31**  
 Halloween Hayrides at Cades Cove. 6 & 7 p.m.  
 Call for Reservations: (423) 448-6286 \$7 per person  
**DECEMBER 13**  
 Festival of Christmas Past at Sugarlands Visitor Center. All Day

## 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 7-September 24.

Bicycles may be rented for \$3.25 per hour from the Cades Cove store (located near Cades Cove Campground). Fall 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. Please wear helmets and heed warning signs.

Bicycles are permitted on most park roads but prohibited on nearly all trails.



Bicycling Cades Cove.

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 Recreation Area (615) 879-3625  
 Cherokee Nat'l Forest (423) 476-9700  
 Nantahala Nat'l Forest (704) 479-6431



# PARK INFORMATION

Gatlinburg, TN, elev. 1,462'			Clingmans Dome, elev. 6,643'		
AVG. HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.	AVG. HIGH*	LOW*	PRECIP.
Jan. 51°	28°	4.8"	35°	19°	7.0"
Feb. 54°	29°	4.8"	35°	18°	8.2"
March 61°	34°	5.3"	39°	24°	8.2"
April 71°	42°	4.5"	49°	34°	6.5"
May 79°	50°	4.5"	57°	43°	6.0"
June 86°	58°	5.2"	63°	49°	6.9"
July 88°	59°	5.7"	65°	53°	8.3"
August 87°	60°	5.3"	64°	52°	6.8"
Sept. 83°	55°	3.0"	60°	47°	5.1"
Oct. 73°	43°	3.1"	53°	38°	5.4"
Nov. 61°	33°	3.4"	42°	28°	6.4"
Dec. 52°	28°	4.5"	37°	21°	7.3"

Temperatures are in degrees Fahrenheit. \*temperatures on the Smokies' highest peak are estimates based on latitude and elevation extrapolations. Actual temperatures may be slightly warmer.

## Smokies' Weather

### SPRING

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

### SUMMER

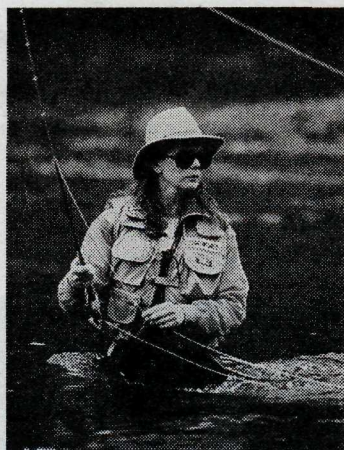
By mid-June, heat, haze, and humidity are the norm. Most precipitation occurs as afternoon thundershowers.

### AUTUMN

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

### WINTER

Days during this fickle season can be sunny and 70° F. or snowy with highs in the 20s. In the low elevations, snows of 1" or more occur 1-5 times a year. At Newfound Gap, 69" fall on average. Lows of -20° F. are possible in the highcountry.



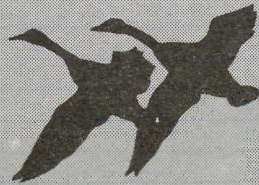
BILL LEA PHOTO

Rainbow, brown, and brook trout inhabit park streams.

## Fishing

Fishing is permitted year-round in the park, but a Tennessee or North Carolina fishing license is required. Either state license is valid throughout the park and no trout stamp is required. Licenses may be purchased in nearby towns. A special permit is required for fishing on the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

Park fishing regulations are available free of charge at any visitor center or ranger station. Brook trout possession is illegal.



## DRIVING DISTANCES

### CHEROKEE, NC TO:

Gatlinburg—34 miles

Cades Cove—57 miles

Newfound Gap—18 miles

Clingmans Dome—25 miles

Cataloochee—39 miles

Deep Creek—14 miles

Balsam Mt.—19 miles

### GATLINBURG, TN TO:

Cherokee—34 miles

Cades Cove—27 miles

Newfound Gap—16 miles

Clingmans Dome—23 miles

Cataloochee—65 miles

Deep Creek—48 miles

Greenbrier Cove—5 miles

### TOWNSEND, TN TO:

Cades Cove—9 miles

Newfound Gap—34 miles

Gatlinburg, TN—22 miles

Cherokee, NC—52 miles

Cataloochee—87 miles

## Nature's Special Events

### SPRING WOODLAND WILDFLOWERS

The peak of spring wildflower blooming usually occurs in mid- to late April, although late March and early April feature good showings of spring-beauty, hepatica, and other flowers.

### MOUNTAIN LAUREL

This lovely shrub shows its white and pink flowers from early May through June.

### FLAME AZALEA

Spectacular flame azalea will be in bloom at the low and mid-elevations in April and May. On Gregory Bald they peak in late June and early July. On Andrews Bald the peak is usually in early July.

### RHODODENDRONS

Catawba rhododendron reaches its peak of bloom in June. Rosebay rhododendron is in bloom at the lower elevations in June and at the mid-elevations during July.

## Camping in the Backcountry

Backcountry campers are required to have a backcountry permit. These may be obtained free of charge at most park ranger stations and campgrounds, or at Oconaluftee and Sugarlands visitor centers.

Advance reservations are required for all shelters and some other backcountry sites. To reserve, call (423) 436-1231. For general backcountry information, call (423) 436-1297.

For a \$1 park trail map with all campsites and regulations, call (423) 436-0120 or ask at a visitor center.



JEFF SAMSEL PHOTO

Snow is common only at the park's high elevations.

### FALL COLORS

At the higher elevations, fall colors often peak during the first two weeks of October. At the lower elevations, colors peak October 15-31.

### SNOW

Snow is rather uncommon in the valleys. However, Newfound Gap and other high elevation areas receive over five feet per year.

## Horses for Hire

Horseback riding is generally available from mid-March through Thanksgiving. Please call the following concessions for details.

Cades Cove (423) 448-6286  
Deep Creek (704) 497-7503  
McCarters (423) 436-5354  
Smokemont (704) 497-2373  
Smoky Mtn. (423) 436-5634  
Rates average \$15 per hour.

## Hay Rides

Morning and evening ranger-guided hay rides around Cades Cove Loop Road are offered daily in the fall. The fee is \$7. Please see page 15 for details.



# ENJOYING THE PARK

## Greetings from the Park Superintendent



**Superintendent Karen Wade.**

Welcome to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. All of us who work here want each and every one of our nine million visitors to have a safe and memorable visit. We can't make that happen alone. We need your help to preserve beautiful memories for yourself and others by assuring that your actions are consistent with good stewardship. The following principles should guide your visit.

**PACK OUT WHATEVER YOU PACK IN.** Litter has no place in our park. Make sure that everything you bring into the park goes out with you when you leave or is properly disposed of. It helps us a great deal if you pick up litter left by others less caring than yourself.

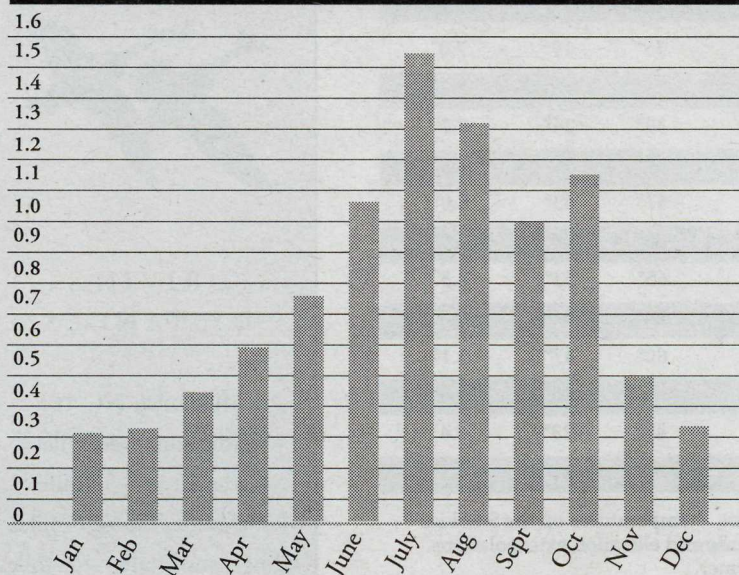
**LEAVE NATURE AS YOU FOUND IT.** Allow others to make discoveries that you could otherwise destroy by removing rocks, plants, artifacts, and other objects of interest. All these things are part of what makes a trip to the Smokies special for you and for future generations.

**DRIVE, WALK, AND RECREATE ON ESTABLISHED SURFACES.** When we overuse our facilities, we quickly abuse them. Wherever you travel, camp, or picnic, confine your activities to established, durable surfaces. Once plant cover is lost and soil impacted, the wounds quickly become permanent scars to the land.

This is your park. Take time to know it well. Attend interpretive and educational programs. Experience the beauty of the mountains by taking a walk through the woods. Get a feel for the mountain people who once lived here by immersing yourself in the cultural story depicted throughout the park. And most importantly, treat it as a precious legacy to pass along to those who will follow you here.

Karen Wade

**VISITS TO THE NATIONAL PARK PER MONTH (IN MILLIONS)**



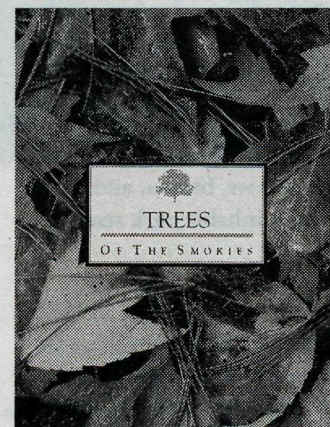
## Books, Maps, Videos, & Other Park Guides

**Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association** offers a full line of guides to the park. Items are available in park visitor centers or by calling (423) 436-0120. All purchases benefit the park.

**Hiking Trails of the Smokies** Covers all 149 official park trails with in-depth narratives. Includes trail profile charts. 576 pages. \$16.95

**Mountain Roads & Quiet Places: A Complete Guide to the Roads of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.** Keyed to numbered posts along roads. 96 pages. \$8.95

**Trees of the Smokies** Uses color photos to help you identify the park's famous variety of trees. Includes info. on virgin forests, record trees. \$8.95



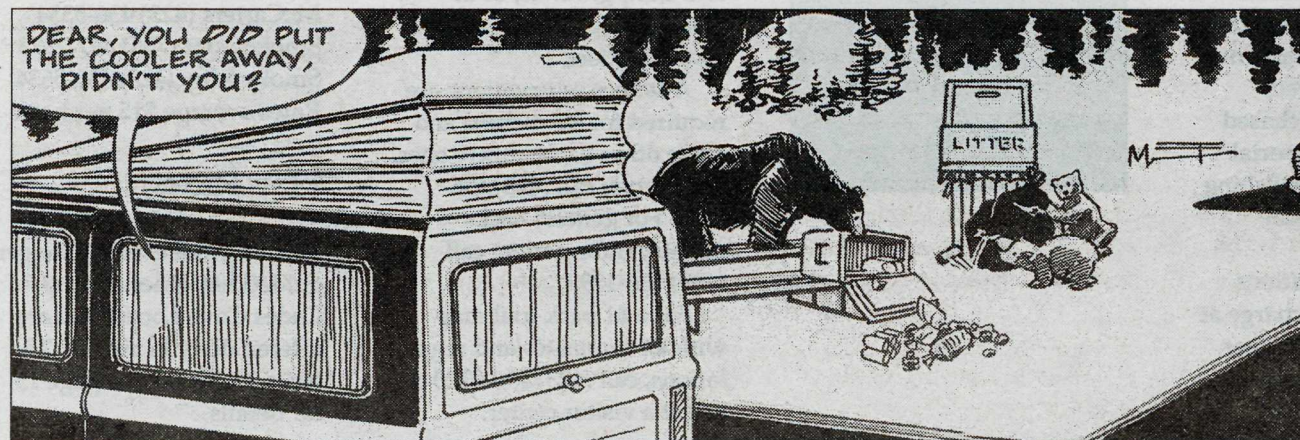
## Poisonous Snakes, Insects, & Plants

Two species of poisonous snakes live in the Smokies, the northern copperhead and timber rattlesnake. Although very few snake bites occur here, visitors should be cautious where they place their hands and feet, especially around old buildings and stone fences. No fatalities from snakebites have ever been recorded in the park.

Yellowjacket wasps are the insect of greatest concern to most visitors. 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 immediately.

Due to lack of standing water, mosquitoes are generally not a major nuisance in the Smokies. However, biting midges (no-see-ums) and gnats are common annoyances during summer.

Poison ivy is the most common poisonous plant here. Learn to identify its three leaf pattern and hairy vines.



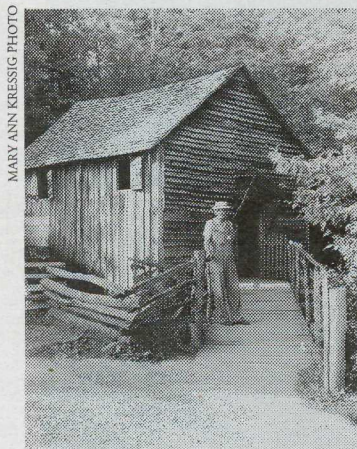
When campers and picnickers leave trash behind or food out, it can cause bears to become habituated to human-related food. Such bears eventually lose their fear of humans and are often killed, either by automobiles or poachers.

Please help the bears by storing all food in the trunk of your vehicle and placing all garbage entirely within bearproof trash cans or dumpsters. Cleaning up food scraps around camp and from grills and table tops is also necessary.



# HISTORIC AREAS

*Some suggested autumn destinations in the national park*



MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO

## Cades Cove

**HIGHLIGHTS:** ■ HISTORIC BUILDINGS 🐾 WILDLIFE VIEWING

Cades Cove is a beautiful, fertile valley surrounded by mountains. Deer are almost always seen in the fields and sightings of other wildlife, including bear and wild turkey, are possible.

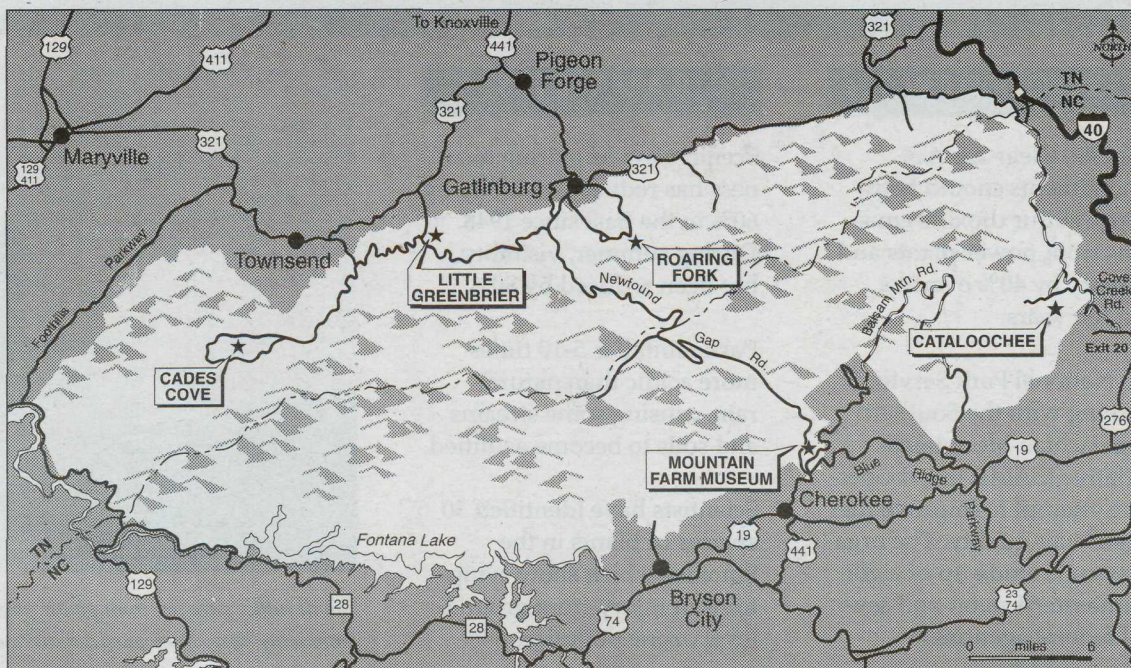
Many types of historic buildings dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries are scattered throughout the cove. These include a grist mill, a variety of barns, three churches, and a marvelous collection of log homes and outbuildings.

An 11-mile one-way loop road takes you around the cove. The road is open from sunrise to sunset.

During October, Cades Cove receives very heavy visitation, especially on weekends. Traveling the loop may take two hours or more.

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 7-September 24.

**Mileage to Cades Cove:**  
from Cherokee—57  
from Gatlinburg—27  
from Townsend—9



## Little Greenbrier

**HIGHLIGHTS:** ■ HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic sites in the Little Greenbrier area include Little Greenbrier School and the Walker Sisters' farmstead. The classic one-room school was built in 1881 and also served as a church.

From the school it's a 1.0 mile walk on the Little Brier Gap Trail to the Walker Sisters' farm. The trail starts at the gated road above the school's parking area. Buildings preserved on the farm include a log house, springhouse, and corn crib.

The farm was run by five sisters who were famous for their independence and self-sufficiency.

To get there, go to Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area and continue across the bridge. The road (closed in winter) to the school is unpaved but is O.K. for passenger cars.

**Mileage to Little Greenbrier**  
from Gatlinburg—13  
from Townsend—11

## Roaring Fork

**HIGHLIGHTS:** ➡ MOUNTAIN STREAMS ■ HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The Roaring Fork area is a favorite side trip for many people who frequently visit the Smokies. It offers gushing mountain streams, glimpses of old-growth forest, and a number of well-preserved log cabins, grist mills, and other historic buildings.

To access Roaring Fork, turn off the main parkway in Gatlinburg, TN at traffic light #8 and follow Airport Road to the Cherokee Orchard entrance to the national park.

Just beyond the Rainbow Falls trailhead you have the option of taking the one-way Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail. This narrow but paved road twists and turns for six miles beside rich forests, waterfalls, and mountain streams. Buses, trailers, and motor homes are not permitted on the motor nature trail.

**Mileage to Roaring Fork:**  
from Gatlinburg—1  
from Cherokee—35

## Mountain Farm Museum

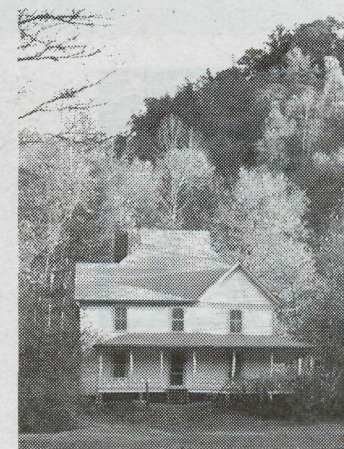
**HIGHLIGHTS:** ■ HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The Oconaluftee Mountain Farm Museum contains an impressive collection of original log buildings, including the Davis house, a large barn, spring house, smokehouse, corncrib, applehouse, and more. Most of the well-preserved structures have been moved to the open-air museum from locations throughout the Smoky Mountains.

The site also demonstrates historic gardening and agricultural practices. A self-guiding tour booklet is available.

Mingus Mill, a historic water-powered grist mill, is located 0.5 mile north of the museum. It operates week-ends in September and daily in October. Stone-ground grain is available for sale.

**Mileage to Oconaluftee:**  
from Gatlinburg—32  
from Cherokee—2



MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO

## Cataloochee

**HIGHLIGHTS:** ■ HISTORIC BUILDINGS 🐾 WILDLIFE VIEWING

This idyllic mountain valley is a lovely off-the-beaten-path destination. Some 1,200 people once lived here, making it the largest community in the Smokies. Historic structures include a school, church, and several well-preserved frame homes and outbuildings. A self-guiding auto tour booklet is available.

Access requires driving four miles on a narrow, gravel road, but it is well-maintained and fine 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. (See map on back page.)

**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 gas station), turn left and follow the signs 11 more miles to Cataloochee.

**Mileage to Cataloochee:**  
from Gatlinburg—65  
from Cherokee—39



# 1997 SPECIAL REPORT:

## AIR QUALITY



*Airborne pollutants from as far away as Ohio are obscuring views and damaging streams, soils, and plant life.*

### + GOOD NEWS +

The 1990 Clear Air Act Amendments should help reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants and industry by 40% over the next ten years.

The National Park Service is working with the Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative (SAMI) in a cooperative attempt to improve the region's air quality. The organization is made up of eight southeastern states and several federal agencies.

### - BAD NEWS -

Scenic-view-impairing haziness has reduced visibility by 60% in the East since 1948. During summer, visibility has been reduced by 80%.

Park rainfall is 5-10 times more acidic than natural rain, causing some streams and soils to become acidified.

Scientists have identified 30 species of plants in the Smokies which show symptoms of injury from ground-level ozone pollution.



MARY ANN KREISIG PHOTO

*Small sulfur particles from power plants cause two-thirds of scenic view-impairing haze. Such particles increased 25% from 1984 to 1996.*

## STREAM LIFE



*Non-native species and air pollution take a toll on native stream life.*

### + GOOD NEWS +

Chances are good that the river otter has been permanently re-established in the Smokies. The Park Service has released 137 otters here in the last nine years.

Biologists believe they have removed all non-native rainbow trout from a selected tributary of Little River and successfully restocked it with

### + GOOD NEWS +

native brook trout. Surveys this summer show the brookies have spawned and their population is growing.

The Park Service also successfully restored brook trout to a 2 1/2 mile section of Lost Bottom Creek in the Cataloochee area. Rainbow trout were removed from this stream as well.

### - BAD NEWS -

Acid rain, fog, snow, and dry acid deposition have become so bad that water in park streams is becoming increasingly acidic. Research shows that high elevation streams are especially vulnerable because they have little ability to buffer airborne acids. Since 1976, the acidity of some streams has increased dramatically.

### - BAD NEWS -

Native brook trout range in the Smokies has declined by 75% since 1900 due to unsound logging practices prior to park establishment and competition from non-native rainbows and brown trout. The non-native fish are larger and more aggressive than the brook trout and tend to exclude them from low elevation streams.

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE



*The Smokies receive more visits (9 million) than any other national park.*

### + GOOD NEWS +

Substantial progress has been made in repairing trails damaged by recent winter storms and hurricane remnants. The park is slated to receive special funding in the next few years to accomplish major trail rehabilitation work.

Trolley service is now available between Gatlinburg, TN and Elkmont Campground.

### + GOOD NEWS +

Florida businessman Richard Haiman left \$1 million to start a foundation to help maintain trails in the Great Smokies and other national parks.

Nearly 5,000 local children participated in the Smoky Mountain Classrooms environmental education program this spring.

### + GOOD NEWS +

A law has been passed prohibiting sightseeing helicopters from landing within nine miles of the park. Once the law takes effect, noise from overflights will be significantly reduced.

A new booklet and exhibits now interpret folk life at the Mountain Farm Museum near Cherokee, NC.

### - BAD NEWS -

During July, August, and October, traffic congestion continues to plague the Newfound Gap and Cades Cove Loop roads.

Litter continues to be a problem along park roads and near developed areas. The Park Service spends about \$90,000 per year just picking up litter.



# STATE OF THE PARK

## W I L D L I F E



*Some 500-700 black bears  
live in Great Smoky  
Mountains National  
Park.*

### + GOOD NEWS +

Good hard mast production (acorns, nuts, etc.) in recent years has resulted in larger bears and increased cub production. Wildlife biologists believe bear populations in the southern Appalachians are near an all time high.

Peregrine falcons successfully nested in the park for the first time in over 50 years. (Please see page 8).

Six red wolf pups were born in the park in 1997.



BILL LEA PHOTO

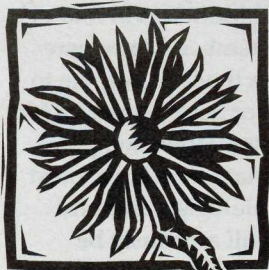
*Bears may gain five pounds per day in the fall if the acorn crop is good.*

### - BAD NEWS -

Communities around the park are growing at an astounding rate. Wildlife habitat and travel corridors are being disrupted by new roads, wider roads, homes, and other developments.

Food storage continues to be a problem at backcountry campsites in the park. Inadequate and ineffective food storage practices by backcountry campers have resulted in numerous bear incidents this year.

## P L A N T L I F E



*Over 1,600 kinds of  
flowering plants live in the  
national park.*

### + GOOD NEWS +

Native wildflowers and grasses are being reintroduced in Cades Cove, replacing European fescues. Native grasses are better for wildlife.

Park Service workers are removing other invasive, non-native plants from the park, including kudzu and Japanese barberry.

### - BAD NEWS -

The non-native gypsy moth, which defoliates oak, maple, birch, beech, and other deciduous trees, is slowly approaching the park from the north. Spot infestations, not part of the "main front," have been treated in counties bordering the park. Arrival of the main front in the Smokies is considered highly likely.

### - BAD NEWS -

The hemlock woolly adelgid, a tiny Asian insect, is approaching the Smokies from the north. The adelgid is capable of decimating Eastern hemlock trees, and is currently doing so in Shenandoah National Park.

A European scale insect is spreading through the park. It kills American beech trees.

### - BAD NEWS -

Dogwood anthracnose, a non-native fungus, is killing thousands of flowering dogwoods in the park. On some study plots mortality has reached 100%. Dogwood trees are widely celebrated for their attractive spring blooms and rich red colors in autumn. Migrating birds and other wildlife depend on their nutritious berries.

## H I S T O R I C P R E S E R V A T I O N



*Over 70 historic buildings  
are preserved in the park.*

### + GOOD NEWS +

A thorough inventory of park cemeteries will be 80% complete by the end of 1997. Finishing the project hinges on available funding.

Research is underway in Cataloochee. Ultimately, the Park Service hopes to make the appearance of the area more historically accurate.

### + GOOD NEWS +

The University of Tennessee and the National Park Service are working together to record oral histories of the park. They are interviewing people who lived in the Smokies prior to park establishment, as well as CCC workers and other pre-World War II park employees. Call (423) 436-1249 to learn more.

### + GOOD NEWS +

The National Park Service has committed money to conduct historical research along Newfound Gap Road and in the Roaring Fork and Twin Creeks areas. Historians hope to document how fields were laid out, how farms were landscaped, and the general appearance of these areas in pre-park days.

### - BAD NEWS -

A number of historical research projects have not received funding to date. Unfunded projects include an archeological study of Cataloochee and several proposals to gain a better understanding of what Cades Cove looked like in pre-park days.



# NATIONAL PARK NEWS

## PARK NEWS BRIEFS



### Parson Branch Road Closed During Repairs

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY to repair Parson Branch Road which was badly damaged by flooding. Because of the hazards posed by heavy construction vehicles on the narrow, one-lane byway, the road is closed to all use—including bicycles, horses, and hikers. The road is expected to reopen to vehicles and other users by early summer, 1998.

### Experimental Program Allows Parks to Keep More of the Fees They Collect for Services

THANKS TO NEW LEGISLATION passed by Congress, national parks will now be able to keep more of the fees they collect for camping and other services. Great Smoky Mountains National Park expects to garner about \$400,000 in 1997 because of the experimental program. The money will be used to protect natural and historic resources, rehabilitate facilities, and improve trails.

Although the Smokies charge no entrance fees, there are fees for camping, hayrides in Cades Cove, and viewing the film at Sugarlands Visitor Center. Entrance fees in other national parks are as high as \$20 per vehicle.

### New License Plates Benefit National Park

THE STATE OF TENNESSEE is now offering a license plate which benefits Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The colorful plate features artwork depicting the Smoky Mountains and reads "Friends of Great Smoky Mountains" and "Preserve and Protect the National Park." Motorists pay an additional \$25 annual fee for the plate, proceeds from which are placed in a trust fund that benefits the park.

According to Park Management Assistant Bob Miller, the plates have been an "instant success" with thousands being sold in the first few months. He predicts that revenue generated from the licenses will provide a significant, long-term boost to park funding.

The North Carolina state legislature has recently approved a similar license plate offer for that state's residents.

Tennessee motorists who would like a Smokies plate can go to their county clerk's office at any time and exchange their current plate. The park plates can also be obtained at license renewal time via the usual mail-in forms.

## Endangered Falcons Return to Park



PHOTO BY JOHN CANCALOSI COURTESY VIREO

Peregrine Falcons prey mostly on other birds, including ducks, Blue Jays, and Juncos. They take their prey in high speed aerial dives.

A pair of federally-endangered Peregrine Falcons nested in Great Smoky Mountains National Park this year, the first time such an event has been recorded since 1942. The pair raised three healthy chicks during the spring and summer atop a precipitous cliff in a remote

area of the park. All three offspring have been observed in flight and appear healthy.

Peregrine Falcons disappeared from the eastern United States during the 1940s and 1950s due to a number of factors, including widespread use of pesticides, especially DDT. The pesti-

cides caused falcons, Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and other birds to lay eggs that were so thin-shelled they collapsed under their parents' weight. DDT has been banned in the United States since 1972, but is still used elsewhere in the world.

Between 1984 and 1986 the National Park Service, the Peregrine Fund, and other conservation organizations cooperatively released 13 young peregrines in the Smokies. Additional peregrines were released at other sites in east Tennessee and throughout the U.S.

The park's family of falcons will probably leave the Smoky Mountains in mid or late September. Many peregrines in the U.S. migrate to Central or South America for the winter. However, peregrines mate for life and next spring biologists and bird lovers will anxiously be searching the skies hoping to witness the falcons' return.

## Acorn Crop is Critical for Bears in Fall

During fall, the success of bears in the Smoky Mountains depends almost entirely on what biologists call the "mast crop." They divide mast into two groups, soft (blackberries, cherries, blueberries, etc.) and hard (acorns, hickory nuts, and beech nuts).

In good years, bears may gain 3-5 pounds per day just by gobbling mast. They will retire to their winter dens with plenty of fat reserves and pregnant females are likely to emerge in spring



BILL LEA PHOTO

Good mast years lead to high birth rates among park bears.

with a bumper crop of cubs.

When the mast crop fails, bears must range far and wide in search of food. Many

are killed as they leave park boundaries and encounter busy highways, hunters, and protective land owners. Ongoing construction of wider, high speed roadways poses a special threat to traveling bears.

Biologists speculate that the park's population of black bears has been growing since 1992 when the last major mast failure occurred. In that year, 40% or more of the black bears in the southern Appalachians may have perished.

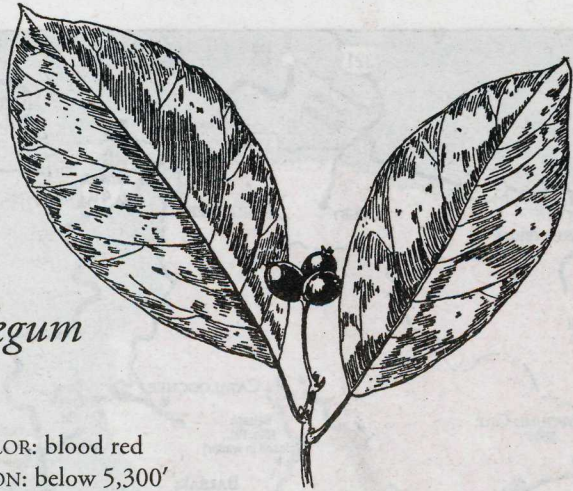


# AUTUMN CELEBRI-TREES

*Meet some of the most colorful stars of the Smokies fall season*

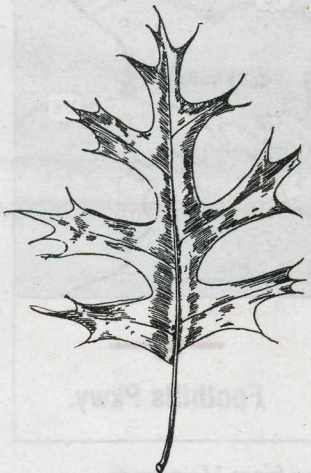
## Blackgum

FALL COLOR: blood red  
ELEVATION: below 5,300'  
HABITAT: dry site pine and oak forests  
SIGNIFICANCE: The oldest tree in the park is a blackgum. It's 563 years old.



## Scarlet oak

FALL COLOR: scarlet  
ELEVATION: below 3,500'  
HABITAT: dry site pine and oak forests



## Yellow Birch

FALL COLOR: yellow  
ELEVATION: 3,000'-5,000'  
HABITAT: moist northern hardwood forests  
SIGNIFICANCE: Mountain folk liked to use the wood for baking because it burns hot and slow.



## Sweetgum

FALL COLOR: purple, yellow, red  
ELEVATION: below 2,000'  
HABITAT: along streams and other moist areas  
SIGNIFICANCE: The Cherokee used the sap for chewing gum.



## A WONDROUS DIVERSITY OF LIFE

Ninety-nine species of native trees live in the Great Smoky Mountains, more than in northern Europe or any other North American national park. Included in this diversity are 11 species of oaks, eight maples, seven hickories, five pines, and four birches. Mountains are the main reason such a variety of trees can live here. By their range of elevation and aspect, the Smoky Mountains offer habitat for both northern and southern species.

## Red maple

FALL COLOR: red, yellow  
ELEVATION: up to 6,000'  
HABITAT: wide ranging  
SIGNIFICANCE: The world champion red maple lives in the Smokies. It's 23' in circumference and 135' tall.



## Sourwood

FALL COLOR: robust red  
ELEVATION: below 4,500'  
HABITAT: dry site pine and oak forests  
SIGNIFICANCE: Bees make delicious honey from flowers.



## Sugar maple

FALL COLOR: yellow, orange  
ELEVATION: below 5,000'  
HABITAT: rich woods  
SIGNIFICANCE: Mountain folk tapped trees for syrup, especially in the Sugarlands Valley.



## Flowering dogwood

FALL COLOR: deep red  
ELEVATION: below 3,000'  
HABITAT: rich woods  
SIGNIFICANCE: Berries provide food for 50 species of birds.





# OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Autumn is both a beautiful and busy time in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The annual show of fall colors attracts huge numbers of sightseers, especially during the last three weeks of October. Areas in the park with the longest traffic delays are Cades Cove Loop Road and Newfound Gap Road.

The following tours are designed to avoid the busiest areas while providing exceptional opportunities for viewing fall colors.

## FROM CHEROKEE

### Tour #1

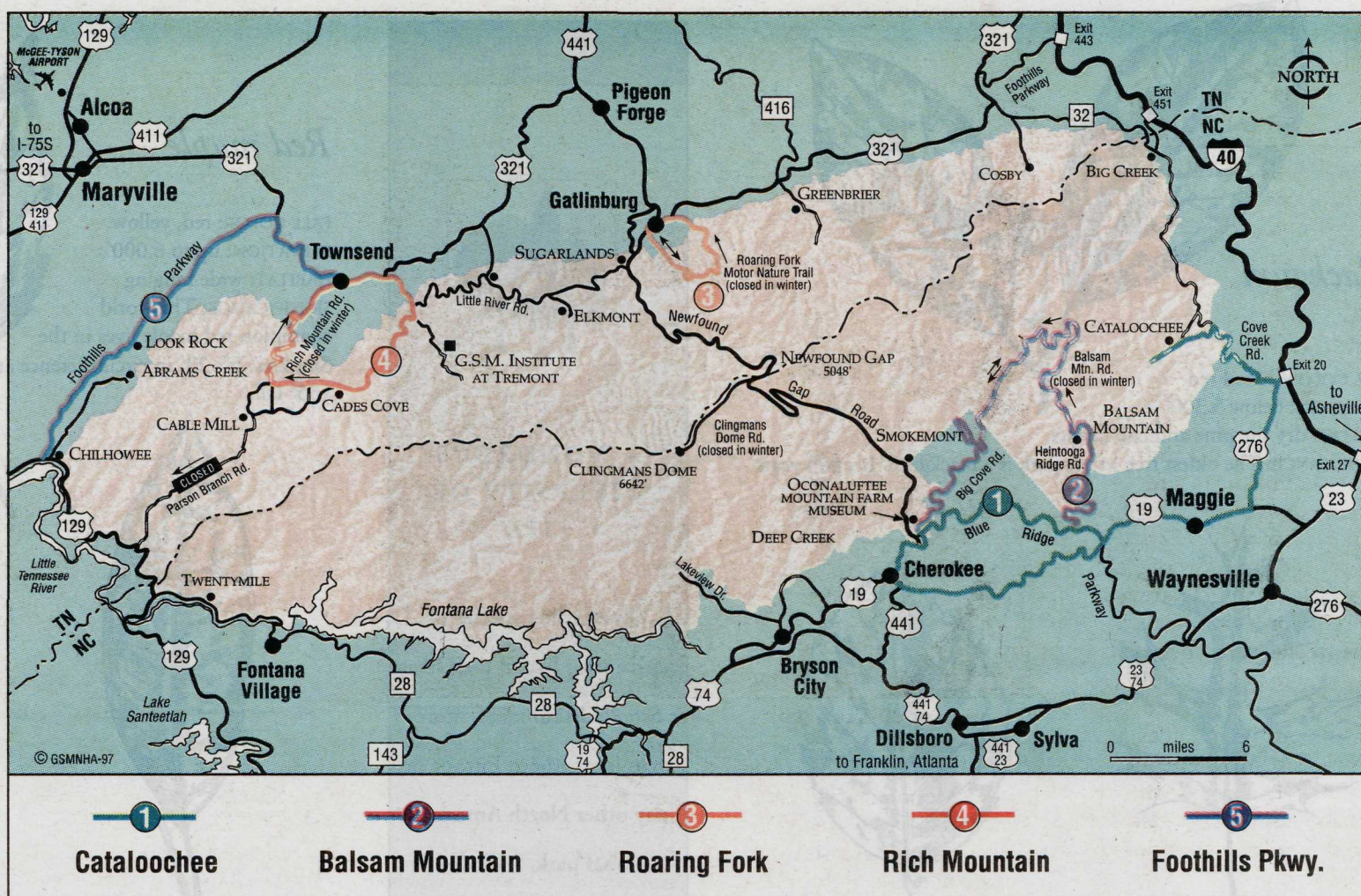
#### CATALOOCHEE

82 miles roundtrip; 4 hours

Turn onto the Blue Ridge Parkway which begins just north of Cherokee on U.S. 441, near the entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The scenic parkway follows the crest of the mountains for 470 miles, all the way to Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. The parkway also offers numerous pullouts to pause and soak in panoramic views of the Great Smoky and Balsam Mountains.

After 13 miles, exit the parkway to U.S. 19 and turn towards Asheville. Follow 19 through Maggie Valley, then turn left onto Highway 276 North. Just before the entrance ramp to I-40 (but past the gas station), turn left and follow the signs 11 more miles to Cataloochee.

As you approach the Cataloochee Valley, be sure to stop at the overlook two miles past Cove Creek Gap (the park boundary). A short trail leads to a view point where you can gaze upon the long Cataloochee Divide and distant Hazel Top.



Cataloochee Valley is ringed by mountains and features a number of historic buildings, including a school, church, and several well-preserved frame homes and outbuildings. Embellished by fall foliage, these structures shine like jewels set in gold. A self-guiding auto tour booklet which describes the history of the area is available as you enter the valley.

While in Cataloochee, you may wish to stretch your legs by walking a mile on an old roadbed to the Woody place. The trail (Rough Fork Trail) starts at the end of Cataloochee Road. The homesite dates back to the 1880s and includes a two story home and springhouse.

To return to Cherokee, you can either backtrack the

way you came or take a slightly different route by continuing on U.S. 19 all the way to Cherokee rather than using the Blue Ridge Parkway.

## FROM CHEROKEE

### Tour #2

#### BALSAM MTN

48 miles; 3 hours

Turn onto the Blue Ridge Parkway which begins just north of Cherokee on U.S. 441, near the entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The scenic parkway follows the crest of the mountains for 470 miles, all the way to Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Frequent auto pullouts along the first few miles of road

provide spectacular views of the Smoky Mountains in all their autumn finery.

After 11 miles you leave the parkway by turning left onto the road to Balsam Mountain Campground. Pullouts along this ridgetop road offer fine views as well.

Turn at the campground and park near the entrance for a 0.75 mile stroll on the Balsam Mountain Self-guiding Nature Trail. This is an excellent opportunity to stretch your legs and learn about some of the plants and animals that inhabit these mile-high environs.

A little further down Heintooga Ridge Road is Heintooga Picnic Area. Even if you're not hungry, it's worth walking to the far end of the picnic grounds for the

view from Heintooga Overlook.

From the picnic area, take the one-way, one lane, unpaved Balsam Mountain Road. The road is not recommended for large campers, buses, or vehicles towing trailers, but is fine for passenger cars. From this point it's 27 miles back to Cherokee (18 miles on unpaved roadway).

Balsam Mountain Road offers intimate views of lush northern hardwood forest at the top, transitioning to cove and southern hardwoods toward the bottom. The road eventually leaves the park and enters the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

After 18 miles, at the road junction, turn left to return to U.S. 441 and the town of Cherokee.



# AUTUMN AUTO TOURS

## FROM GATLINBURG Tour #3 ROARING FORK 10 miles; 3 hours

From the parkway in downtown Gatlinburg, turn at stoplight #8 onto Airport Road. Go straight at the intersection and continue into Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

A stop at the Noah "Bud" Ogle historic area provides the opportunity for a short walk on the self-guiding nature trail. A brochure introduces you to life on a mountain farm as well as some local flora and fauna.

Continue on to Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail, a narrow, steep, but paved one-way road that winds through rich forests and offers glimpses of rollicking Roaring Fork Creek. The road is not suitable for motor homes, buses, or vehicles pulling trailers and is closed in winter.

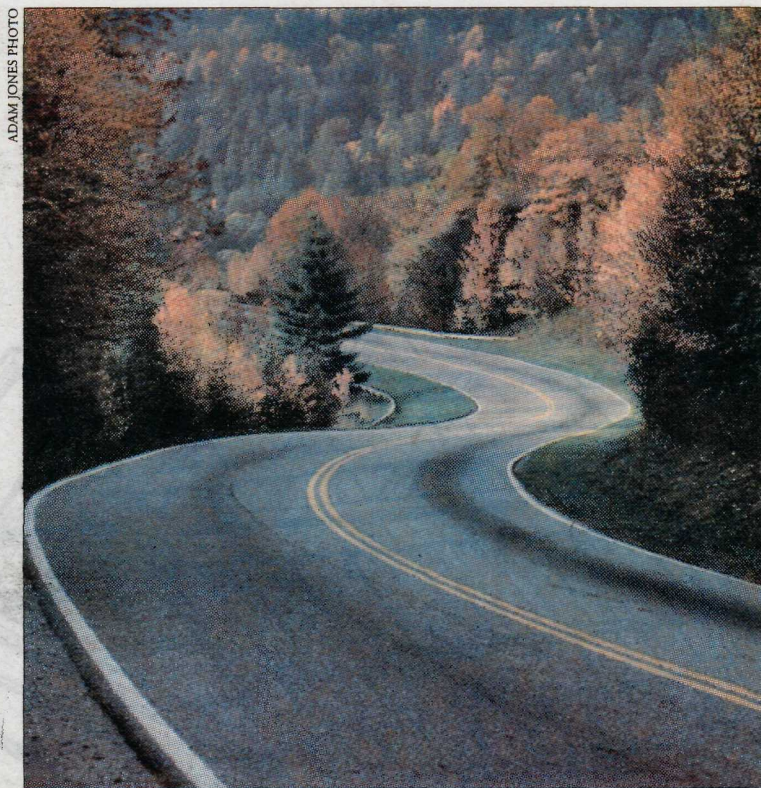
Park at stop #3 and enjoy the view if the weather offers one. A short stroll on the path to the right takes you to another viewpoint with benches that beckon you to sit a spell and soak in the scenery.

At stop #5 you'll have the opportunity to park and hike 1.2 miles through pockets of old-growth forest to Grotto Falls. This popular trail is of moderate difficulty.

The Motor Nature Trail ends in Gatlinburg. Turn left to return to downtown.

## FROM TOWNSEND Tour #4 RICH MOUNTAIN 24 miles; 3 hours

From Townsend, follow the signs toward Great



October motorists can beat the crowds by travelling early in the day or sampling some of the park's lesser-used backroads and parkways.

Smoky Mountains National Park and Cades Cove. At the road junction just inside the park, you'll veer right and follow lovely Laurel Creek Road seven miles to the Cades Cove Loop Road.

If it's October, especially a weekend in October, chances are traffic will be heavy on the one-way loop road. Fear not, you'll only be on it for 3.3 miles, just enough to whet your appetite for the cove and lure you back when it's not so busy.

But, if traffic's not too bad, and you'd like to see more of Cades Cove, including the Cable Mill area, you can continue three-quarters of the way around the loop road (to stop #14), then cut back to Rich Mountain Road via Hyatt Lane.

Either way, you will exit the loop road at stop #8 for the lightly-traveled, one-way Rich Mountain Road. This

unpaved road is not recommended for buses, motor homes, or vehicles pulling trailers, but is fine for passenger cars. It's 12 miles from the loop road back to Townsend.

The route over Rich Mountain was once an Indian trail and later provided access to the cove for white settlers in the early 1800s. Pullouts along the way provide dramatic views of the cove and the Great Smoky Mountains.

If you long to stretch your legs, try the Ace Gap Trail which begins on the left side of the road near the top of Rich Mountain. Walking the trail a mile out and back will give you a nice feel for the forests and landforms of the west end of the Smokies.

Back in the car, you will soon leave the park and descend to Townsend through Dry Valley.

## FROM TOWNSEND Tour #5 FOOTHILLS 39 miles (roundtrip); 3 hours

From Townsend, drive highway 321 west toward Maryville. After the road expands to four lanes, look for signs for the Foothills Parkway. Turn left and follow the parkway, which offers numerous auto pullouts and impressive views to both sides. The fall colors here are some of the best in the Smokies, especially in early to mid October.

At the crest of the parkway, a half mile trail leads to Look Rock observation tower with striking views of mountains and valleys. This is also a good place to watch sunsets and, in mid or late September, migrating hawks.

During the 19th century, guests from the Seven Gables Hotel at Montvale Springs frequently climbed a three mile trail to savor the view from Look Rock. As early as 1832 the sight was declared to "comprise one of the best views in the United States." The pilgrimage became an Easter tradition that lasted into the middle of the 20th century.

Look Rock Campground is located across the road from the observation tower. It's a delightful place for a getaway "far from the madding crowd" where cool breezes almost always blow. A picnic area and restrooms are also nearby.

The Foothills Parkway ends at U.S. 129. Maryville and Knoxville are north along 129. To return to Townsend or Gatlinburg, however, you may simply retrace your route on the scenic parkway.

## LEAF COLORS

The green of summer leaves comes from chlorophyll, a substance which helps plants turn sunlight into energy. In autumn, chlorophyll in deciduous leaves begins to break down and the green disappears.



As the greens dwindle, the yellows, browns, and oranges which have been present in leaves all along, are revealed. These colors are from carotenoids, the same pigments that give carrots their color.



Reds and purples, on the other hand, come from anthocyanins, the pigment that makes apples red and grapes purple. These colors appear when sugars in the leaves are broken down by bright light.

Lots of sunny days and cool nights generally bring on the most vivid fall colors.



# BUILDING A LOG HOME

art by Douglas Kimball

*Part Two in a series on log construction in the Smokies*

## Putting up the Roof

Roofs for log homes in the Smokies were generally built with either a purlin or rafter system of construction. The roof shown below uses rafters which have the advantage of being much lighter in weight than purlins. However, building a rafter roof is more labor intensive and uses many more nails.

By 1800 nails were being mass-produced in factories, though the wire nail we use today wasn't developed until around 1850. During the mid-19th century, in remote areas of the Smokies, all nails would have been relatively expensive and difficult to obtain.



## Making Shingles

Oak was the most widely used wood for shingles in the southern mountains. It was a durable wood that was readily available and easy to split. The splitting was done with a froe, an ancient tool with a wedge-shaped blade and

wooden handle set at a right angle to the blade. A home-made wooden mallet was used to drive the blade into the end grain of the block of wood. A skilled worker might rive 700 or more shingles in a day.

## Chinking

A variety of materials were used to fill the gaps between timbers. Wedge-shaped lengths of wood or even rocks were used to fill the big gaps and mud or mud mixed with horse hair worked fine for filling the smaller ones.

## Building the Chimney

Most chimneys were built from local stone and without mortar. However, after the chimney was completed, it was usually plastered with mud on the outside to fill cracks that might affect the chimney's draft. In some

cases, however, chimneys were built from handmade bricks made from locally-available clay. Examples of brick chimneys can still be seen in the park today.



# SORGHUM SEASON

## Autumn was Molasses Making Time in the Smoky Mountains

by Ranger Tom Robbins

One of the sweetest things about harvest time in the Smoky Mountains was the making of sorghum syrup, or molasses, from sorghum cane.

Sorghum cane, which was introduced into this country from Africa in the 1700s, looks very similar to corn and is grown and cultivated much like corn as well. The crop was generally planted in late spring or early summer and was harvested in the fall. It was a fairly common crop in the Smokies, as well as in much of southern Appalachia.

The 1880 agricultural census shows that out of a sample of 45 families in the Oconaluftee Valley of the Smokies, approximately 20 of them grew sorghum cane. These families planted from one-eighth acre to one acre in cane, with molasses production ranging from as few as 6 gallons to 200 gallons.

The molasses production for the combined 20 families was more than 900 gallons from a total of about 10 acres of sorghum cane.

The molasses was made from the juice inside the cane. To extract the juice, the stalks were fed between the turning rollers of a cane mill. Power for the mill was provided by a horse or mule harnessed to the end of a long pole that was attached to the top of one of the rollers. The juice was cooked in a large pan or kettle until it thickened, becoming sorghum molasses. Reducing the juice to molasses took a lot of time,

patience, and attention. As the sorghum juice was heated to a boil, it was constantly skimmed to remove the foam that rises to the top.

The cooking took several hours and 100 gallons of juice would produce about 10 gallons of syrup. Not every family could afford the equipment needed to pro-

duce molasses. In 1908, the least expensive cane mill listed in the Sears & Roebuck catalog was \$16.50, while prices for evaporator pans ranged from \$5.82 to \$34.50.

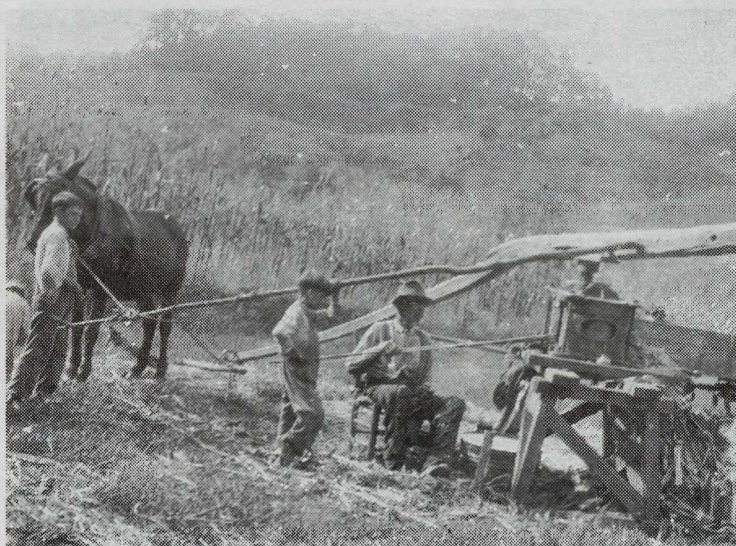
It was customary for families to take their cane to a neighboring farmer who had a mill and cooker. In return, the owner of the cane mill

received a portion of the molasses, usually one out of every eight or 12 gallons.

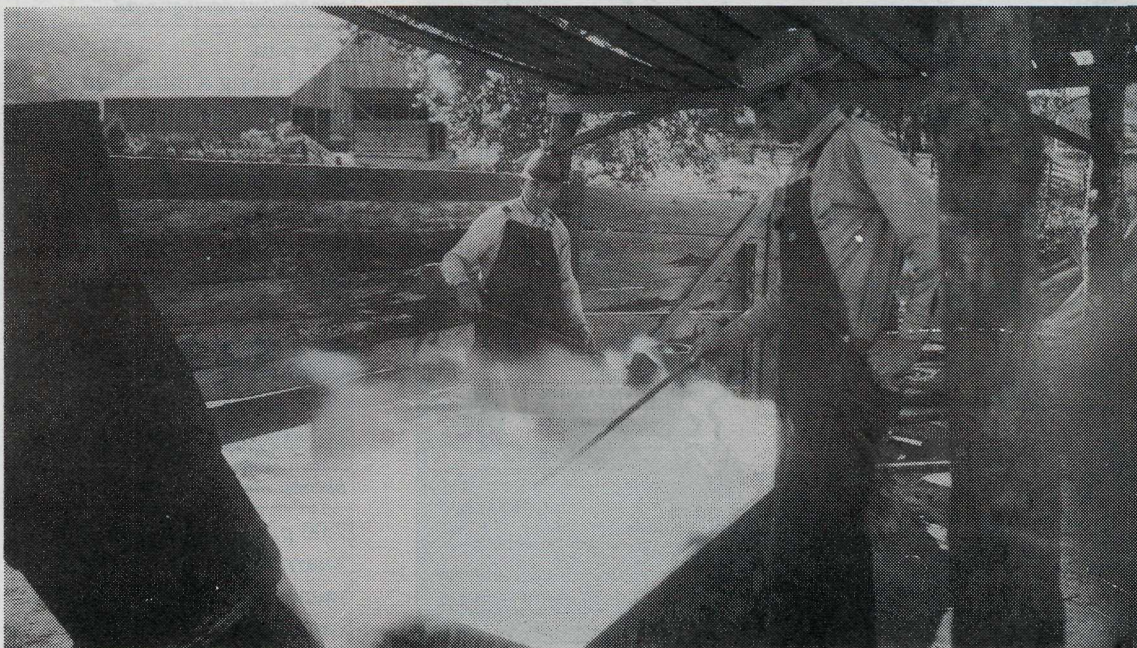
If you would like to see sorghum molasses being made, stop by the the park's Mountain Farm Museum, just north of Cherokee, NC, on Saturday, September 20, or the Cable Mill area in Cades Cove on October 4.



Sorghum cane was a common crop in the Smokies.



After the cane was cut, it was fed through a horse or mule-powered mill. Making molasses was often a community event.



Juice from squeezing sorghum cane has to be boiled down in an evaporator pan to make molasses.

### MOLASSES COOKIES

- 1 c. shortening
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ c. sorghum molasses
- ¼ tsp vinegar
- ¼ c. milk or cream
- 3 c. sifted flour
- 1 tsp each cinnamon, ginger, salt
- ½ tsp mace
- 2 tsp baking soda

Cream shortening and sugar, add well-beaten egg. Add molasses and beat well.

Combine vinegar and milk. Sift dry ingredients and add alternately with milk mixture. Drop by tablespoons about two inches apart on greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350° 8-10 minutes. Makes six dozen cookies.

*\*from Food & Recipes of the Smokies by Rose Houk, available at park visitor centers or by calling (423) 436-0120.*



# OCONALUFTEE AREA

*Schedule of ranger-led walks and talks, August 30-October 25*

## DAILY

### Visitor Center\*

*oconaluftee visitor center*

Park trip planning services; books, maps and other publications for sale. Located two miles north of Cherokee, NC. on U.S. 441.

### Mtn. Farm Museum\*

*oconaluftee visitor center*

Open sunrise to sunset. Collection of historic farm buildings located near the Oconaluftee Visitor Center. Park staff and volunteers provide information, demonstrations, and talks about regional lifeways regularly throughout the season. Check at the visitor center for times and topics.

## ALMOST DAILY

### Mingus Mill

*newfound gap road*

Sept.: Open weekends (9-5)  
Oct.: Open daily (9-5)  
Watch corn being ground at a water-powered grist mill. 2.5 miles north of Cherokee.

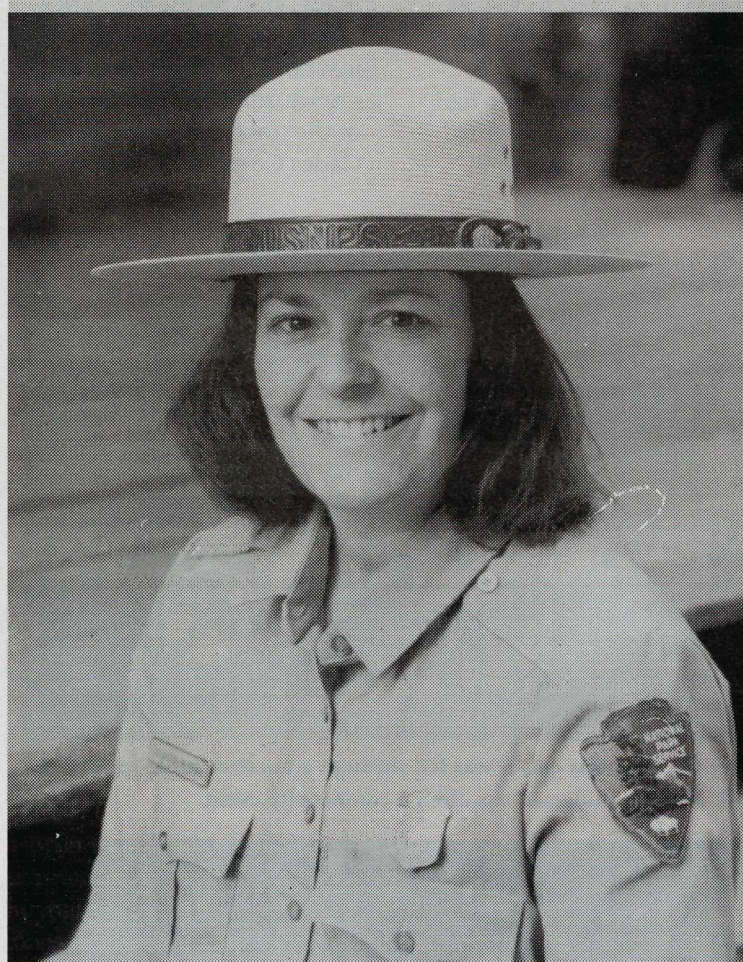
### On Top of Old Smoky

*clingmans dome trail*

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays.  
10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.  
Walk with a ranger to the highest point in the park and discover the unique qualities of the spruce-fir forest. Meet at the bulletin board at the Clingmans Dome parking area. Heavy rain cancels. ½ mile; 1 hour. A moderate walk on paved path. No programs September 10, 20.

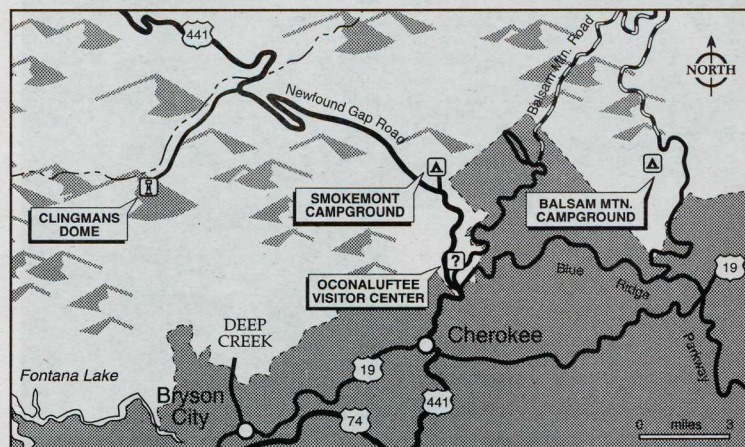
## Join A Ranger!

WALKS, TALKS, & DEMONSTRATIONS



MARY ANN KESSIG PHOTO

Rangers offer a variety of informative programs for people of all ages.



Most programs on the North Carolina side of Great Smoky Mountains National Park start at the locations above.

## MONDAYS

### This Tree-mendous Place

*smokemont campground*

5:00 p.m.

What becomes of landscape architects when they retire? They become rangers in the Smokies, of course! Learn to identify common trees and some of their uses by people and wildlife on this easy stroll with an architect-turned-ranger. Meet at gate at upper end of D-Loop. 1 hour.

## TUESDAYS

### Trees, Trains, & Cornfields

*smokemont campground office*

5:00 p.m. (no program September 16 or 30)

Take an easy walk with a ranger and discover Smokemont's pre-campground history. 1 hour

## FRIDAYS

### Ribbons of Life

*smokemont campground*

5:00 p.m.

Stroll along a mountain stream with a ranger and learn about the Smokies' watershed and the life it supports. Meet at the gate at the end of D-Loop. 1 hour. Easy walking.

## SATURDAYS

### Leaf Peepers & Feeding Frenzies

*balsam mountain campground*

7:00 p.m. (no talk Sept. 20)

Learn about what autumn means for bears. Meet at the campfire circle. ¾ hour. No programs after campground closes for season.

## Reflections of the Past



### Wednesdays & Sundays

### Oconaluftee Mountain Farm Museum

Century-old buildings set the stage as park staff and volunteers demonstrate and discuss aspects of past rural life in the Smoky Mountain region. All demonstrations (except hearth cooking) are from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

BLACKSMITHING

Wednesdays: Sept. 10, 24. Oct. 1

Sunday, Sept. 14

BROOM MAKING

Sunday, Oct. 5

Wednesday, Oct. 22

CORN SHUCK BRAIDING

Sunday, Oct. 26

HEARTH COOKING

(Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to Noon)

Sept. 14, 28.

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

PUMPKIN BUTTER MAKING

Sunday, Oct. 19

QUILTING

Wednesdays: Oct. 1, 15

SPLITTING FENCE PALINGS

Sunday, Sept. 28

WOODWORKING

Wednesdays: Oct. 8, 15

Sunday, Oct. 12



# CADES COVE AREA

*Schedule of ranger-led walks and talks, August 30-October 25*

## DAILY

### Visitor Center\*

stop #11, cades cove loop road

Information, exhibits, books, film, videos, maps, music.

### Cable Mill\*

stop #11, cades cove loop road

9:00-5:00

See corn ground by a historic, water-powered grist mill. Millers are on duty to answer questions.

### Ranger Hayride

cales cove riding stable

Sept.: 8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. (11 & 6 on Sat., Wed. in Sept.)

Oct.: 8:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy an open air ride around Cades Cove with a ranger. View wildlife and learn about the history of the cove. Wear appropriate clothes and meet at entrance to Cades Cove. \$7 per person fee. 2 hours. No morning hayride Sept. 27

### The First Settlers

stop #3, cades cove loop road

1:00 p.m. (Sept.)

12:00 noon (Oct.)

Learn about the Olivers and the establishment of a prosperous community in Cades Cove. Meet at John Oliver cabin parking area, stop #3 on the loop road. 1 hour.

### Historic Area Tours\*

stop #11, cades cove loop road

11:00 & 1:00 daily except

2:00 & 3:00 Wednesdays and Saturdays in September

Easy, informative 30-minute strolls around the Cable Mill Historic Area. Meet outside the visitor center.

## DAILY

### Shaped-note Music, Foot Washing, & Religion in the Cove

primitive baptist church, stop #4

3:00 p.m. (Sept.)

2:00 p.m. (Oct.)

Learn the religious traditions of the Cades Cove community. Meet at stop #4 on the loop road. ¾ hour.

## ALMOST DAILY

### Junior Ranger

campground amphitheater

5:00 p.m. (Sept.)

4:00 p.m. (Oct.)

Programs Friday-Tuesday Only

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of Cades Cove plants, animals, and history. ½ hour.

### Sunset Walk

cales cove campsite C-15

6:30 p.m. (Sept.)

5:30 p.m. (Oct.)

Programs Friday-Tuesday Only

A moderate hike to a scenic overlook of Cades Cove. Meet along the road near campsite C-15. Outside guests park at ranger station. 1 mile; 1 hour.

## MONDAYS

### Strike it Rich! The Natural Diversity of the Smokies\*

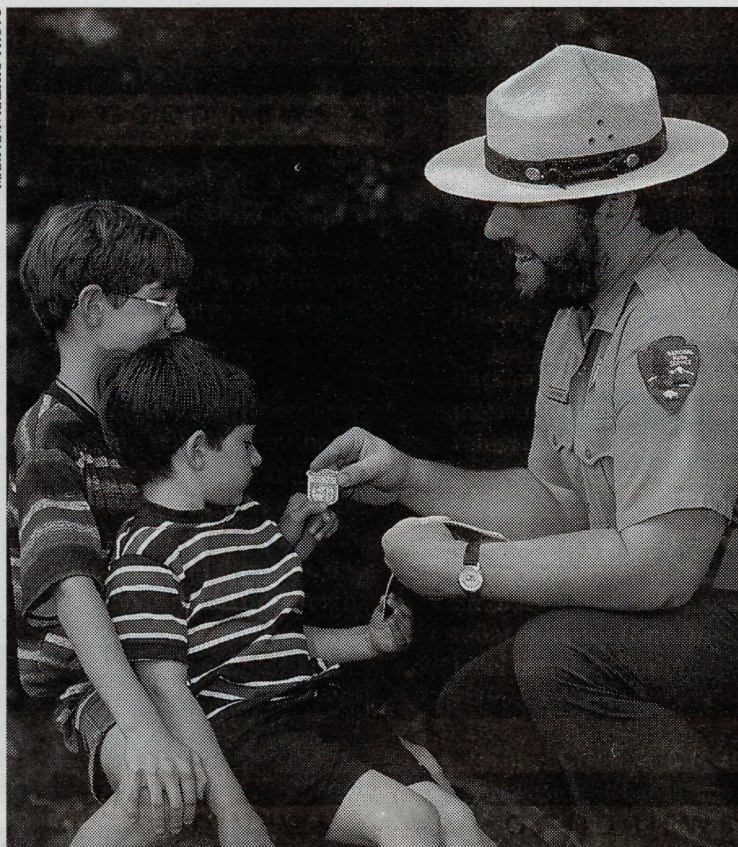
campground amphitheater

8:30 p.m. (Sept.)

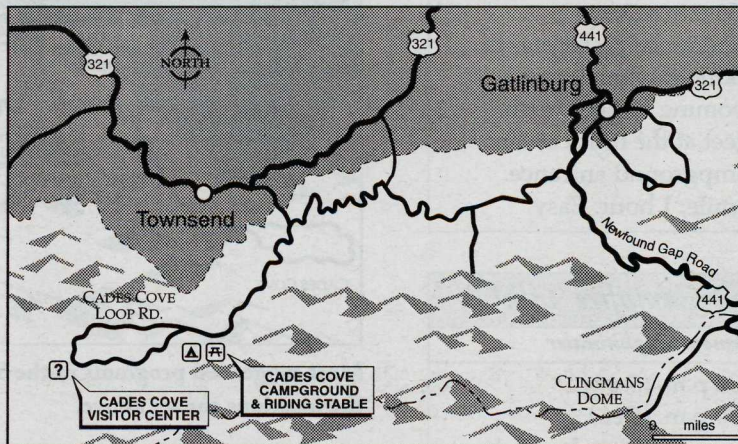
7:30 p.m. (Oct.)

A slide program about the amazing diversity of plants and animals in the Smokies ¾ hour.

MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO



Kids ages 5-12 can earn a badge and become official Junior Rangers. Ask at a visitor center or ranger station for more information.



Most programs in the Cades Cove area start at the locations above.

## SPECIAL PROGRAM

### FREE MOUNTAIN MUSIC CONCERTS

#### Featuring the Three Rivers Band!

September 19 at 8:00 p.m.

October 17 at 8:00 p.m.

Cades Cove Campground Amphitheater

## TUESDAYS

### Silent Death & the Web of Life\*

campground amphitheater

8:30 p.m. (Sept.)

7:30 p.m. (Oct.)

An illustrated look at predators and nature's balancing act. Learn about vipers, night stalkers, wolves, panthers, and the mysterious hellbender. ¾ hour.

## FRIDAYS

### Movin' In! Movin' Out! Movin' On!\*

campground amphitheater

8:30 p.m. (Sept.)

7:30 p.m. (Oct.)

Life and development in the Cades Cove community in the 20th century. A slide program that looks beyond the era of "make do or do without." ¾ hour.

## SATURDAYS

### Peckerwoods, Hellbenders, & Woolly Bears\*

campground amphitheater

8:30 p.m. (Sept.)

7:30 p.m. (Oct.)

A slide show about forgotten Smokies' wildlife that's well worth remembering. ¾ hour.

## SUNDAYS

### A Cades Cove Scrapbook\*

campground amphitheater

8:30 p.m. (Sept.)

7:30 p.m. (Oct.)

A slide show which follows the growth and development of Cades Cove from settlement to the Civil War. ¾ hour.



# SUGARLANDS AREA

*Schedule of ranger-led walks and talks, August 30-October 25*

## DAILY

### Visitor Center\*

sugarlands visitor center

Trip planning information; books, maps, guides, videos, film for sale.

### Park Movie\*

sugarlands visitor center

8:20 a.m. - 5:20 p.m.  
every 20 minutes

A short audio-visual program about Great Smoky Mountains National Park. 11 minutes.

\$1 adults; 50¢ children

### Welcome to the Park\*

sugarlands visitor center

10:00 a.m.

A park ranger talks about the park, why it's so special, and how to enjoy your stay. ½ hour.

### Cataract Falls Walk

sugarlands visitor center

11:00 a.m.

Join a park ranger for a short, easy walk to a waterfall. ¾ mile; 1 hour.

### Bears of the Smokies\*

sugarlands visitor center

1:00 p.m.

Learn about the park's famous black bears and how they've adapted to living in the Great Smokies. ½ hour.

### Fruit, Flower, & Foliage Walk

sugarlands visitor center

2:00 p.m.

Meet a park ranger for a short walk to discover the Smokies' autumn treasures. 1 mile; 1 hour. Easy.

## MONDAYS

### Alum Cave Bluff

alum cave bluff trailhead

1:30 p.m.

View fall foliage on one of the park's most scenic trails. Meet at the trailhead on the Newfound Gap Road. 4.4 miles; 3 ½ hours. Moderate.

## TUESDAYS

### Ranger's Choice

sugarlands visitor center

October only

1:15 p.m.

Help the ranger search for some of his favorite things—mushrooms, salamanders, or birds. 1 mile; 1 ½ hours. Easy.

### Old Elkmont Town

elkmont check-in station

6:30 p.m. (Sept.)

5:30 p.m. (Oct.)

Experience yesteryear in Elkmont when it was a booming lumber town. Meet at the office at the campground entrance. ¼ mile; 1 hour. Easy.

### Campfire Talk\*

elkmont amphitheater

8:30 p.m. (Sept.)

7:30 p.m. (Oct.)

Join a ranger to learn about the people who once lived and labored in the Great Smoky Mountains. ¾ hour.

## WEDNESDAYS

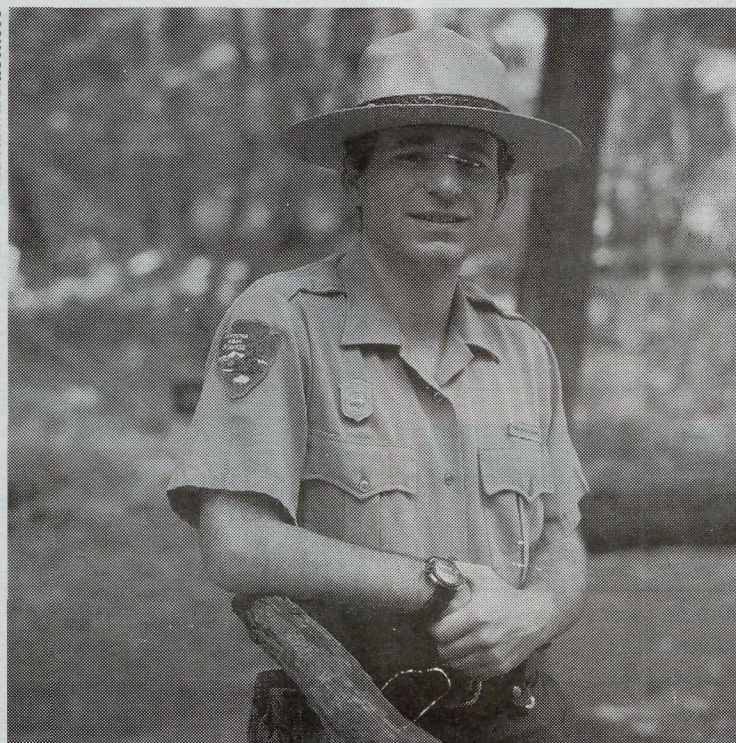
### Cove Hardwood Walk

chimneys picnic area

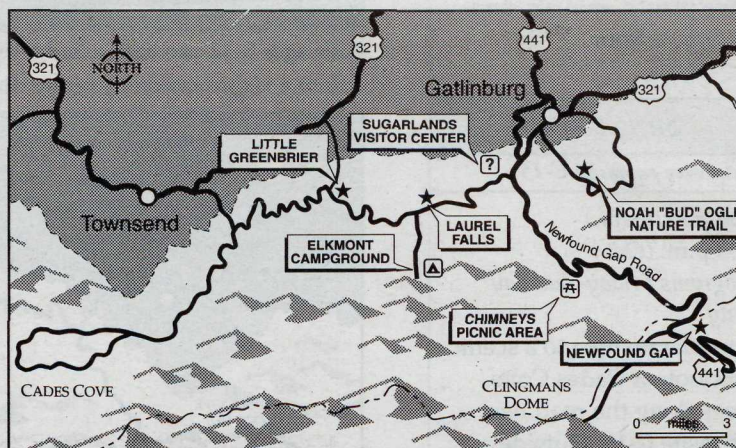
2:00 p.m.

Walk to an old-growth cove hardwood forest. Meet at the first parking area after entering the picnic area. ¾ mile; 1 ½ hours. Moderate.

MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO



Rangers are eager to introduce you to the park's plants and animals.



Most ranger-led programs in the Sugarlands area are conducted at the locations shown above.



## Evening Campfire Programs

ELKMONT CAMPGROUND AMPHITHEATER

Every Evening Except for Mondays & Wednesdays

## Special September Adventures

## WEDNESDAYS

8:30 a.m.

Join a ranger for one of these exhilarating all-day hikes. Hikers should be in good physical condition and have appropriate footwear and equipment.

SEPTEMBER 10

The Jumpoff

Experience great views while exploring the spruce-fir forest, state line ridge, and early fall color along the Appalachian Trail. Meet at Newfound Gap parking area. 6 miles; 5-6 hours. Moderate to strenuous.

SEPTEMBER 17

Mt. Le Conte

Hike to the Smokies' best known summit or tag along just to Alum Cave Bluff (4.4 miles total). Meet at Alum Cave Trailhead on the Newfound Gap Road. 10.5 miles; 8 hours. Strenuous.

SEPTEMBER 24

Mt. Cammerer

Enjoy the beautiful fall colors while you hike to this recently restored historic fire tower. Meet at the amphitheater at Cosby Campground. 10.5 miles; 8 hours. Strenuous.



# SUGARLANDS AREA

*Schedule of ranger-led walks and talks, August 30-October 25*

## THURSDAYS

### Ranger's Choice

sugarlands visitor center

September only  
9:00 a.m.

Help the ranger search for some of his favorite things—mushrooms, salamanders, or birds. 1 mile; 1 ½ hours. Easy.

### Appalachian Trail

newfound gap parking area

2:00 p.m.  
Hike a section of this famous, 2,144-mile-long trail with a ranger. 2 ½ miles; 2 ½ hours. Moderate.  
no program Sept. 11

### Slick Limb Branch

elkmont check-in station

6:30 p.m. (Sept.)  
5:30 p.m. (Oct.)  
Learn about the logging era and how the forest has recovered since. Meet at the office at the campground entrance. ¾ mile; 1 hour.

### Forests of the Smokies\*

elkmont amphitheater

8:30 p.m. (Sept.)  
7:30 p.m. (Oct.)  
Come learn about the park's amazing diversity of trees majestic virgin forests. ¾ hour.

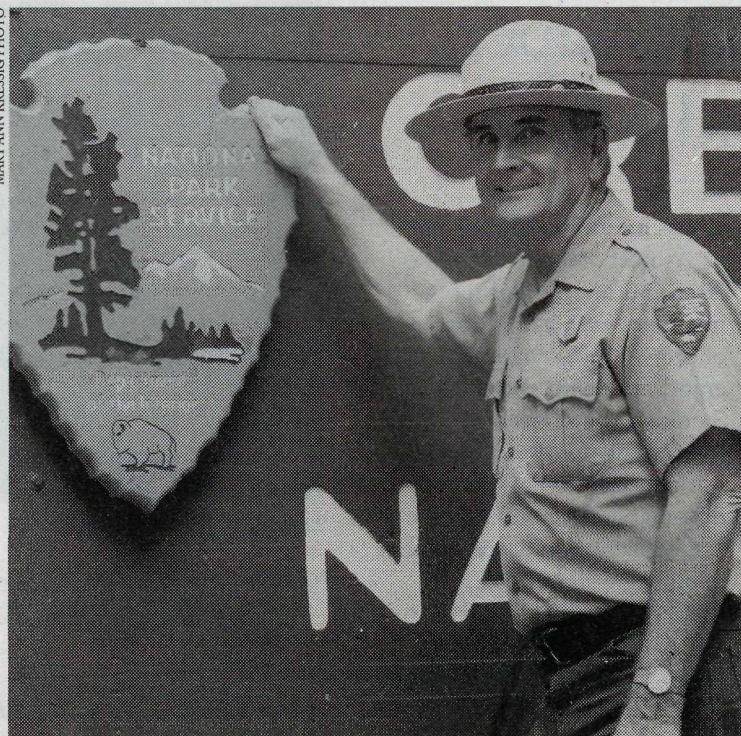
## FRIDAYS

### Grotto Falls Hike

roaring fork motor nature trail

1:45 p.m.  
Walk through an old-growth forest to a waterfall. Meet at stop #5 on Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail. 2.4 miles; 2 ½ hours. Moderate.

MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO



Half hour "Welcome to the Park" talks are held daily at 10:00 a.m.

## FRIDAYS

### Bear Wallow Branch

elkmont check-in station

6:30 p.m. (Sept.)  
5:30 p.m. (Oct.)  
Explore a mountain stream and learn about the park's plants, wildlife, and colorful cultural history. ¾ mile; 1 hour. Easy.

### Wildlife Talk\*

elkmont amphitheater

8:30 p.m. (Sept.)  
7:30 p.m. (Oct.)  
Come learn about the "fall shuffle" and fall wildlife phenomena. ¾ hour.

### Shadows of the Past

cosby campground amphitheater

6:30 p.m. (Sept.)  
5:30 p.m. (Oct.)  
Hike to an old homesite and explore the lives of mountain folk. ¾ mile; 1 hour.

## FRIDAYS

### Mountain Life\*

cosby campground amphitheater

8:30 p.m. (Sept.)  
7:30 p.m. (Oct.)  
Learn about the lives of mountain folk during an illustrated talk about their day-to-day activities. ¾ hour.

## SATURDAYS

### Living on the Lap of Mt. Le Conte\*

noah "bud" ogle nature trail

1:45 p.m. (starts 9-20)  
Please see Sunday's description. 3 hours.

### Walker Sisters' Cabin

little greenbrier schoolhouse

3:00 p.m.  
Follow an old road back to the historic farmstead of these famous sisters. 2.2 miles; 2 ½ hours. Easy.

## SATURDAYS

### Mids Branch Walk

elkmont check-in station

6:30 p.m. (Sept.)  
5:30 p.m. (Oct.)  
Explore a young forest and discover how plant life differs in various habitats. ¾ mile; 1 hour. Easy.

### Cosby Creek Walk

cosby campground amphitheater

6:30 p.m. (Sept.)  
5:30 p.m. (Oct.)  
Explore this beautiful mountain stream and learn about the park's flora, fauna, and history. ¾ mile; 1 hour.

### Campfire Talk\*

elkmont amphitheater

8:30 p.m. (Sept.)  
7:30 p.m. (Oct.)  
Learn about the amazing ways animals have adapted to fill their niche in the Smokies. ¾ hour.

### Creatures of the Night\*

cosby campground amphitheater

8:30 p.m. (Sept.)  
7:30 p.m. (Oct.)  
Join a park ranger and her live owl to learn about creatures that fly at night. ¾ hour.

## SUNDAYS

### Living on the Lap of Mt. Le Conte\*

noah "bud" ogle nature trail

1:30 p.m. (starts 9-28)  
Learn more about how mountain folk lived and their close association with the natural world. Program involves driving and stopping along Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail. No RVs or trailers. Meet at parking area for nature trail on Cherokee Orchard Road. 3 hours.

### Laurel Falls & Old Growth

laurel falls trailhead

2:00 p.m.  
Hike to Laurel Falls and the lush old-growth forest beyond. 3 ½ miles; 3 ½ hours. Moderate.

### Orienteering

sugarlands visitor center

3:00 p.m.  
program begins Sept. 14  
Learn to use a map and compass, then navigate an orienteering course. ½ mile; 2 hours. Moderate.

### Return of the Wolf\*

elkmont amphitheater

8:30 p.m.  
Learn about the endangered red wolf and the reintroduction program in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. ¾ hour.



\*Programs and sites marked with an asterisk are generally accessible to persons in wheelchairs. Assistance may be required.



# HOW TO HELP THE PARK

*Two ways you can help preserve the park for future generations*

## NHA Members Receive Newspaper, Newsletter, Special Gift, and More

Membership in Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association is for people who care about the park and want to learn more about it. For these individuals, the Association offers a broad range of publications, guided walks, lectures, and other special opportunities.

Established in 1953, Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association is a private, nonprofit organization with a mission to enhance the understanding and enjoyment of the Smokies. Each year the Association donates many thousands of dollars to park projects at the request of the National Park Service. All profits generated by the Association go to the park.

Below is a list of the types of programs and projects which the Association contributes to:

- Operation of the environmental education program at Tremont
- Production of educational wayside exhibits along roads



NHA members receive issues of the *Bearpaw* newsletter and award-winning *Smokies Guide* park newspaper.

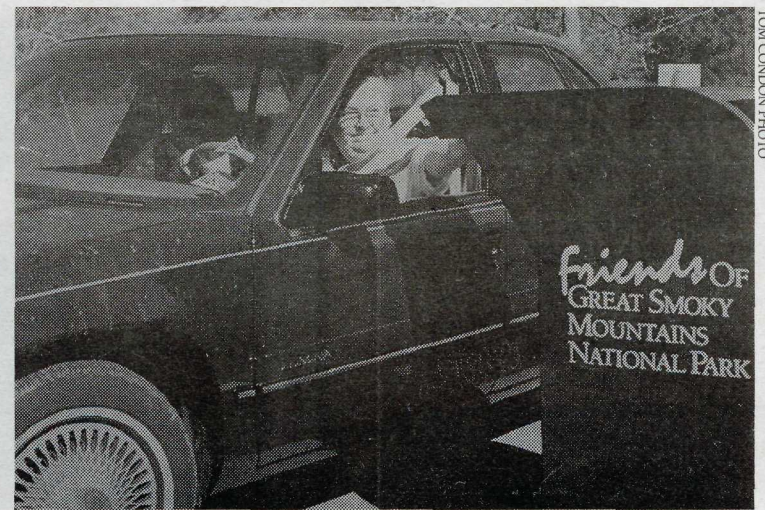
in the park

- Publication and distribution of books, maps, guides, newspapers, and other materials on the park
- Sponsorship of youth educational opportunities like the Junior Ranger program
- Purchase of river otters for release in the park
- Sponsorship of Smoky Mountain Classrooms program for area schools
- Construction of an all-

access nature trail in the park.

As part of its mission, the Association provides its members with a broad range of opportunities to assist, enjoy, and learn about the Smokies. Members are offered the following benefits:

- A subscription to the park newspaper, *Smokies Guide*
- A subscription to the association's newsletter, *The Bearpaw*
- A 15% discount on books, tapes, videos, and other items sold at visitor centers in the national park
- Discounts from most other park associations, including Yellowstone, Everglades, Grand Canyon, and Yosemite
- A special gift (either a Great Smoky Mountains National Park canvas tote bag or 1998 Smokies color calendar)
- Participation in our spring and fall guided dayhikes and seminars
- Participation in the association's annual meeting (including guided walks, guest speakers, and entertainment).



Donation boxes are located at Cades Cove and Roaring Fork roads.

## "Friends" Group Raises Money to Assist Park

Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park supports the National Park Service's work of preserving and protecting the Great Smoky Mountains. To accomplish this task, the Friends group raises funds and recruits volunteers.

According to Friends Executive Director Charles Maynard, "Many, many businesses, clubs, and individuals are showing their support for the park through the Friends group."

Since 1995, Friends have given over \$1.3 million for park projects. Funds have come from individuals, companies, communities, and foundations. Major projects recently completed include the renovation of the historic Mt. Cammerer fire tower, trail rehabilitation, and a study of the backcountry.

In cooperation with Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association, an all-access nature trail was constructed near Sugarlands Visitor Center. This special

trail makes a part of the Smokies accessible to many people with various abilities.

Still, the Park Service has a long list of needs that it can't fund through the federal government, including:

- repairing trails
- studying and protecting wildlife
- increasing environmental educational services through Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and the Smoky Mountain Classrooms program
- saving historic structures
- constructing a research and collections facility at Twin Creeks.

Friends needs your help to accomplish its mission of preserving, restoring, and enhancing the park's resources. You can show you care about the Smokies by joining Friends using the form to the left.

Contributions can also be made by putting cash or a check in the donation boxes located at park visitor centers and along roads.

### GREAT SMOKY MTNS. NATURAL HISTORY ASSN.

- ☐ Annual Membership \$25 (free calendar!)
- ☐ Annual Supporting Membership \$50 (tote!)
- ☐ Lifetime Family Membership \$500  
payable in 4 annual installments
- ☐ Corporate Membership \$250

### FRIENDS OF GREAT SMOKY MTNS. NAT'L PARK

- ☐ Friend \$25
- ☐ Wildflower Friend \$50
- ☐ Creekside Friend \$100
- ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Sign me up!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please include your check with this form. Mail to:

► Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association,  
115 Park Headquarters Rd. Gatlinburg, TN 37738  
(423) 436-7318 or

► Friends of GSMNP, 134 Court Ave., Sevierville, TN 37862  
(423) 453-2428.



# EXPLORE THE SMOKIES

*Fun, affordable opportunities abound for learning about nature and history in the Smokies*



Adult outings include hiking to Mt. Le Conte, learning nature photography, studying wildflowers, watching birds, and more.

## Hiking, Nature Study Adventures for Adults

An exciting array of opportunities exists for adults who long to get out and explore the park accompanied by experienced and knowledgeable guides.

Imagine hiking to the top of Mt. Le Conte with hiking book authors Charles Maynard and David Morris or observing black bears with renowned mammal expert Dr. Michael Pelton. How about striking out on an overnight backpack trip to Gregory Bald or dayhiking to Little Cataloochee ghost town?

Dozens of such adventures are offered each year in the park by Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and the Smoky Mountain Field School. Both nonprofit groups are educational organizations sanctioned by the National Park Service for operation in

Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Below are listed just a small sample of the adult programs offered at Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1997-98. Fees range from \$18 for certain day trips to \$240 for week-long programs where room and board are provided. For free brochures that list complete program offerings, please call (423) 436-1292 or mail in the coupon below.

BACKPACKING TRIPS  
ELDERHOSTELS  
SPRING WILDFLOWERS  
LE CONTE OVERNIGHTS  
NATURALIST HIKING WEEK  
TEACHER WEEKENDS  
FAMILY WEEKENDS  
LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY  
BIRDS OF THE SMOKIES  
PARK HISTORY  
SMOKIES WILDLIFE

## Park Offers Exciting School Programs

Each year over 10,000 school kids come to Great Smoky Mountains National Park to take part in outdoor education programs sanctioned by the National Park Service. Participants climb the Smokies' highest peak, bicycle Cades Cove, study life in mountain streams, learn to identify trees, and enjoy many other educational and fun activities.

Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont is nestled in the heart of the national park. It offers three and five day programs for 5th-7th graders and special weekend consortiums for high school students. Family-style meals and lodging in the park are part of the Tremont experience.

Tremont's lessons are from their award-winning guide, *Connecting People & Nature*, and include sections on tree identification, aquatic life, orienteering, wildlife, Cades Cove history, forest ecology, geology, wilderness ethics, and more.

High School Consortiums offer solid environmental knowledge, exciting outdoor experiences, and challenging discussions on current environmental issues. Two or more high schools generally



Youths learn about wildlife, forest ecology, park history, and more.

come together at consortiums to stimulate an exchange of ideas.

Fees for three and five day programs are \$77 and \$104 respectively per student. High School Consortiums are approximately \$90 per student. Prices include food and lodging.

For more information, call (423) 448-6709, check out our web site (see below) or mail in the coupon below.

**Smoky Mountain Classrooms** is an innovative program designed for grades K-8. Field trips are led by park rangers using lessons that tie subjects like math and geography to exploration of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Enrollment is limited to schools in counties adjacent to the park. Check coupon below for information or call (423) 436-1292.

**YES!**

I would like more information on these opportunities.

Please send me your free brochure(s) on:

- ☐ Adult programs in Great Smoky Mtns National Park  
☐ Programs for school groups ☐ Summer youth camps

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Education Program, Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

**FOR MORE INFO...**



**(423) 436-1292**

**[www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm)**



# VISITOR INFORMATION

## Emergencies

Listed below are some numbers to call for emergencies that arise after hours.

## Park Headquarters

(423) 436-1294

## Cherokee Police

(704) 497-4131

## Gatlinburg Police

(423) 436-5181

## Hospitals

**Sevier County** (423) 453-7111, Middle Creek Rd., Sevierville, TN. 15 miles from Gatlinburg.

**Blount Memorial** (423) 983-7211, U.S. 321, Maryville, TN  
25 miles from Cades Cove.

**Swain County (704) 488-2155, Bryson City, NC, 16 mi. from Smokemont.**

## Regulations

Picking, digging or otherwise damaging plants is prohibited in the national park.

Persons feeding wildlife are subject to a \$5,000 fine and six months imprisonment.

Pets are not permitted on park trails.

## Accessibility

Restrooms at all park visitor centers (Cades Cove, Oconaluftee, and Sugarlands) are handicapped accessible. A new all-access nature trail, just south of Sugarlands on US 441, has also been opened. Please ask at a visitor center for more information.

## More Information

Park Information  
(423) 436-1200

or [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

Backcountry Information  
(423) 436-1297

Backcountry Reservations  
(423) 436-1231

## Park Literature

(423) 436-0120

