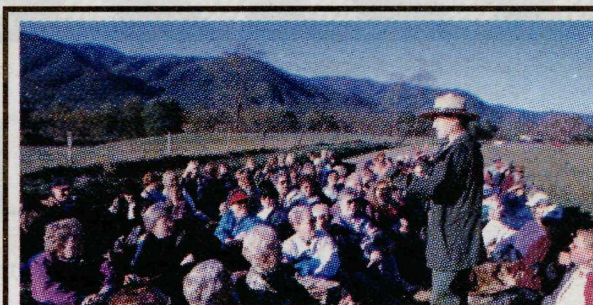


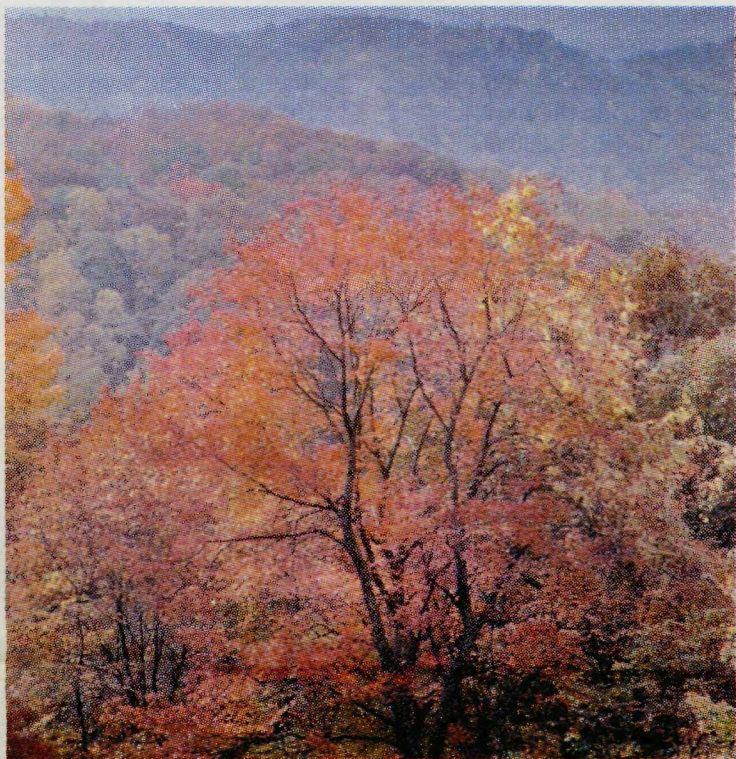


SMOKIES GUIDE



GUIDED WALKS, TALKS & HAYRIDES! — PGS. 10-12

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK ➔ AUTUMN 2005



BILL LEA PHOTO

Sunny days and cool nights bring on the brightest fall colors. Too much or too little rain work to the detriment of a good color season.

When Will Fall Colors Reach Peak This Year?

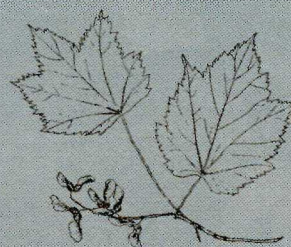
Elevation profoundly affects when fall colors change in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. At the higher elevations, where the climate is similar to New England's, color displays start as early as **mid-September** with the turning of yellow birch, American beech, mountain maple, hobblebush, and pin cherry.

From **October 1-15**, fall colors are at their peak above 4,000 feet. To enjoy them, drive 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**

and **November 5**. This is the park's most spectacular display as it includes such colorful trees as sugar maple, scarlet oak, sweetgum, red maple, and the hickories.

Why are fall colors so remarkable in the Smokies? One reason is the park's amazing diversity of trees. Some 100 species of native trees live in the Smokies, and the vast majority of these are deciduous. The park also has bigger trees than elsewhere in the East. Thanks to protection as a national park, at least 16 trees and shrubs reach record size in the Smokies. (Please see pages 8-9 for suggested fall walks and drives.)



HOW COLORS CHANGE

As summer ends, the green pigments in leaves deteriorate, giving other colors a chance to shine. Carotenoids, the pigment that makes carrots orange and leaves yellow, are exposed as the green fades.

Reds and purples come from anthocyanins, a pigment that is formed when sugars in leaves break down in bright autumn sunlight.



DON MCGOWAN PHOTO

Rangers practice a water rescue at The Sinks on Little River. Over the years several kayak accidents and drownings have occurred at this site.

Amazing Grace: Rangers Rescue Lost, Injured

During every month of the year, at all hours of the day and night, Great Smoky Mountains National Park rangers are called upon to rescue injured or lost recreationists.

Backcountry rescues may be accomplished with horses (if the patient is able to ride) or, more commonly, a carry-out team with a wheeled stretcher. Long carry outs may require 10-14 litter bearers and may take up to 12 hours to complete. Helicopters are rarely used for evacuations from the backcountry because of difficult terrain and forest cover.

Smokies rangers are called upon an average of 60 times per year to search for lost hikers or children in the park. While most "lost" persons are simply behind schedule and are located

within a few hours, some searches have gone on for over a week.

Children are usually the most difficult to find as their behavior is hard to predict and they may be reluctant to respond to calls from rescuers. In several instances, adults have also been hard to find because they have "holed up" beside streams where they could not hear rescuers.

During extended searches, rangers will use both human and canine trackers and rely heavily on interviews with people who know the lost person. In extreme cases, military helicopters with infra-red sensors are used.

Want to avoid the need to be rescued? Don't hike alone. Don't hike off trail. Keep kids in sight, always!

TRIP PLANNER

To order maps and guides, www.SmokiesStore.org

SMOKIES GUIDE

Smokies Guide is produced by Great Smoky Mountains Association and Great Smoky Mountains National Park four times per year. Publication dates are roughly as follows:

SPRING: March 15

SUMMER: June 1

AUTUMN: September 1

WINTER: November 15

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GSMA

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BILL LEA PHOTO

Autumn can be one of the most comfortable times to camp in the park.

Camping in the National Park

The National Park Service maintains developed campgrounds at 10 locations in the park. There are no showers or hookups.

During summer and fall, sites at Elkmont, Smoke-mont, and Cades Cove may be reserved. For reservations call 1-800-365-2267 (park code GRE#) or contact reservations.nps.gov. Reservations are accepted only for May 15-Oct. 31. Sites may be reserved up to five months in advance. All other campgrounds are first-come, first-served.

No more than six people may occupy a campsite. Two tents or one RV and one tent are allowed per site. The maximum stay is 7-14 days.

Special camping sites for large groups are available at Big Creek, Cades Cove, Cataloochee, Cosby, Deep Creek, Elkmont, and Smokemont. Group sites must be reserved in advance. Call 1-800-365-2267 (park code GRE) or contact <http://reservations.nps.gov>. Sites may be reserved up to five months in advance.

The listing below shows numbers of sites, elevations, fees per night, open dates, and maximum RV lengths.

ABRAMS CREEK 16 sites, elev. 1,125', \$12, open March 11-Oct. 31, 12' RVs

BALSAM MOUNTAIN 46 sites, elev. 5,310', \$14, open May 13-Oct. 10, 30' RVs

BIG CREEK 12 sites, elev. 1,700', \$12, open March 11-Oct. 31, tents only

CADES COVE 161 sites, elev. 1,807', \$14-\$17, open year-round, 35' RVs

CATALOOCHEE 27 sites, elev. 2,610', \$12, open March 11-Oct. 31, 31' RVs

COSBY 165 sites, elev. 2,459', \$14, open March 11-Oct. 31, 25' RVs

DEEP CREEK 92 sites, elev. 1,800', \$14, open April 1-Oct. 31, 26' RVs

ELKMONT 220 sites, elev. 2,150', \$14-\$20, open March 11-Nov. 30, 32' RVs

LOOK ROCK 68 sites, elev. 2,600', \$14, open May 13-Oct. 31, no size limit for RVs

SMOKEMONT 142 sites, elev. 2,198', \$14-\$17, open year-round, 35' RVs

Accommodations

Le Conte Lodge (accessible by trail only) provides the only lodging in the park. Call (865) 429-5704.

For information on lodging outside the park:

Bryson City 1-800-867-9246
Cherokee 1-800-438-1601
Fontana 1-800-849-2258
Gatlinburg 1-800-267-7088
Maggie Valley 1-800-624-4431
Pigeon Forge 1-800-251-9100
Townsend 1-800-525-6834

Backcountry Camping

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. Reservations are required for all shelters and some sites. To reserve, call (865) 436-1231. For information, call (865) 436-1297.

A \$1 official park trail map may be obtained at any visitor center or by calling (865) 436-7318 x26.

Special Events

September 17 Mountain Life Festival, Oconaluftee
September 30-October 2 Sorghum molasses making, Cades Cove Visitor Center
December 10 Festival of Christmas Past, Sugarlands

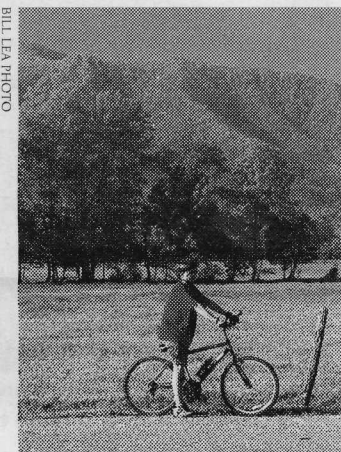
Pets in the Park

Pets are allowed in front-country campgrounds and along roads as long as they are physically restrained at all times. Leashed dogs are allowed on the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails.

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 11-September 21.

Bicycles may be rented for \$4 per hour from the Cades Cove store (located near Cades Cove Campground). Autumn bicycle rental hours are 9:00-5:00



Bicycling Cades Cove

(7:00-4:30 on Wednesday and Saturday bicycle days, see above).

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 park roads but prohibited on all trails except Gatlinburg, Oconaluftee River, and lower Deep Creek.

Visitor Centers

Park visitor center hours:

Cades Cove—9-6 (Sept.-Oct.)
9-5 (Nov.).
Oconaluftee—8-6 (Sept.-Oct.)
8-4:30 (Nov.).
Sugarlands—8-6 (Sept.-Oct.)
8-5 (Nov.).

PARK INFORMATION

For more information, contact (865) 436-1200 or www.nps.gov/grsm

	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 park's highest peak are extrapolations based on elevation and latitude. Actual temperatures may be slightly warmer.

It's the Law!

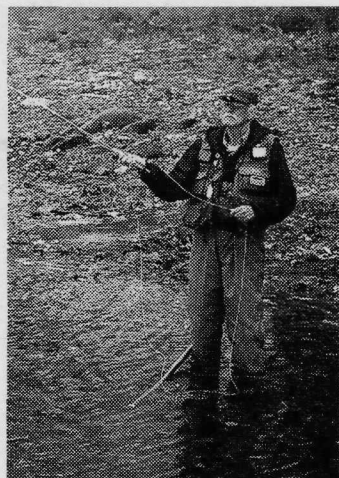
PLANTS, WILDLIFE (AND EVEN ROCKS) ARE PROTECTED.

It is illegal to disturb or remove plants, animals, and rocks from the park. Berries and mushrooms may be picked for personal use only. HELP PRESERVE HISTORY Writing on or otherwise defacing historic buildings is strictly prohibited. It is illegal to disturb or remove historic objects.

Trail Closure

The half-mile-long trail to Clingmans Dome tower is scheduled to be closed for paving beginning November 1, 2005. There will be no access to the tower during construction. Forney Ridge Trail (to Andrews Bald and beyond) Forney Creek Trail, Clingmans Dome Bypass, and the Appalachian Trail will continue to be accessible from Clingmans Dome parking lot.

Clingmans Dome Road is closed each year from December 1-March 31.



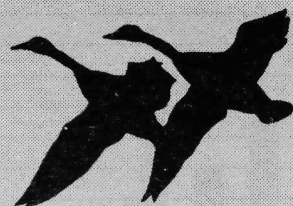
BILL LEA PHOTO

Fishing for brook trout is now allowed in eight 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. A special permit is required for the Cherokee Reservation and Gatlinburg. Licenses are available in nearby towns.

A free fishing map with a complete list of all park fishing regulations is available at visitor centers.



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

GATLINBURG, TN TO:

Cherokee—34 miles
Cades Cove—27 miles
Newfound Gap—16 miles
Clingmans Dome—23 miles
Cataloochee—65 miles
Greenbrier Cove—5 miles
Deep Creek—48 miles

TOWNSEND, TN TO:

Cades Cove—9 miles
Newfound Gap—34 miles
Gatlinburg, TN—22 miles
Cherokee, NC—52 miles
Look Rock—18 miles
Cataloochee—87 miles

Bloomings, Fall Colors, Mountain Snow

RHODODENDRONS

Catawba rhododendron, which lives primarily at elevations above 3,500', 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.

FLAME AZALEA

This wild shrub 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.

MOUNTAIN LAUREL

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

SPRING 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.

Horse Riding

Horseback riding is generally available from mid-March through November. Rates are \$20 per hour. All stables have maximum rider weight limits of 200, 225, or 250 pounds and age restrictions for children. Please call the stables listed below for details or ask at a park visitor center.

Cades Cove (865) 448-6286
Sugarlands (865) 436-3535
Smokemont (828) 497-2373
Smoky Mtn. (865) 436-5634
Hayrides and buggy rides (\$6-\$8 per person) are available at Cades Cove Riding Stable.



A snowy day in Cades Cove.

FALL COLORS

At the higher elevations, fall colors often peak during the first two weeks of October. At the lower elevations, colors peak Oct. 15-Nov. 5.

SNOW

Snow is rather uncommon in the valleys. Newfound Gap, however, receives over five feet per year.

Horse Camps

Five drive-in horse camps provide ready access to backcountry horse trails in the national park. Camps are located at Cades Cove, Big Creek, Cataloochee, Round Bottom, and Towstring.

Horse camps are open April 1 through Nov. 13. For reservations, call 1-800-365-2267 (park code GRE#) between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. Eastern Time or visit the web site <http://reservations.nps.gov> There is a \$20 (\$25 at Big Creek) fee per site. A maximum of four horses and six people are allowed per site. Horse camps have between two and seven sites.

Sites may be reserved up to five months in advance.

ENJOYING THE PARK

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is America's most-visited national park

Stay Alive!

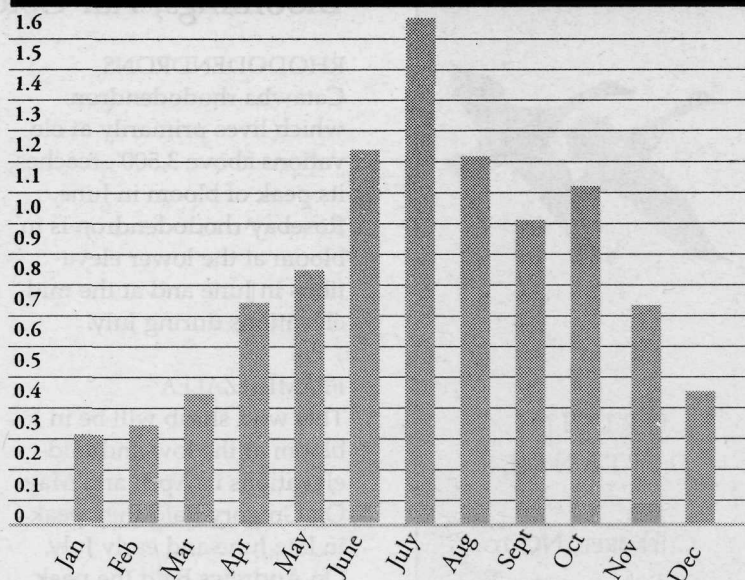
Fatal injuries occur every year in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Motor vehicle accidents and drownings are the leading causes of death. Be aware:

- Motorcyclists must be especially cautious here. Automobiles frequently cross center lines on blind curves and winding roads. Ride defensively!
- There are no life-guarded swimming areas in the park. Swimming is not recommended.
- Never try to climb to the top of a waterfall. The rocks are coated with slippery algae, and several hikers have been killed.
- Yellowjacket wasps are especially aggressive in autumn. Allergic persons should carry "epi" pens or other medications. If stung on the hand, remove rings immediately.

Average number of serious injuries in the park each year:

Motor Vehicle-related.....	50
Walking-related.....	38
Bicycle-related.....	16
Falls on waterfalls.....	9
Horse-related.....	7
Tubing-related.....	5
Bee Sting Reaction.....	4
Bites from Small Animals...	3
Snake Bite.....	1

VISITS TO THE NATIONAL PARK PER MONTH (IN MILLIONS)



Avoiding the Crowds in the Great Smokies

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is America's most visited national park. The park receives approximately nine million visits per year.

However, even in the Smokies it is possible to find solitude. Here are some practical tips for avoiding the crowds.

AVOID PEAK SEASONS

There are two peak seasons in the Smokies, mid-summer (June 15-August 15) and the entire month of October. Weekends in October are especially crowded, and traffic delays should be expected.

TOUR EARLY

Autumn visitors can avoid the crowds by traveling early in the day. Most people tour the park from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

AVOID CROWDED PLACES

The Cades Cove Loop Road and Newfound Gap Road are the most heavily used areas of the park. Many lesser-used places are waiting to be explored. These include Cataloochee Valley, Balsam Mountain, Heintooga Ridge Road, Cosby, Greenbrier Cove, Fontana Lake, Foothills Parkway east and west, and Abrams Creek.

Bears & You

Most visitors to the Smokies never even see a bear, let alone have a serious encounter with one. Still, it is important that all park visitors know what to do if they happen upon a bear in the Smokies.

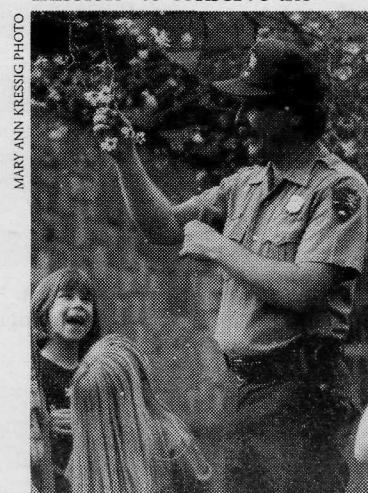
If you see a bear, remain watchful. Do not approach it. Being too close may promote aggressive behavior from the bear such as running toward you, making loud noises, or swatting the ground. The bear is demanding more space. **DON'T RUN**; slowly back away, watching the bear.

If a bear persistently follows or approaches you without vocalizing or paw swatting, try changing your direction. If the bear continues to follow you, stand your ground. If the bear gets closer, talk loudly or shout at it. Act aggressively and try to intimidate the bear. Throw non-food objects such as rocks at the bear. Use a deterrent such as a stout stick. Don't run and don't turn away from the bear. Don't leave food; this encourages further problems.

If the bear shows no interest in your food and you're physically attacked, fight back aggressively with any available object—the bear may consider you prey!

The National Park Service

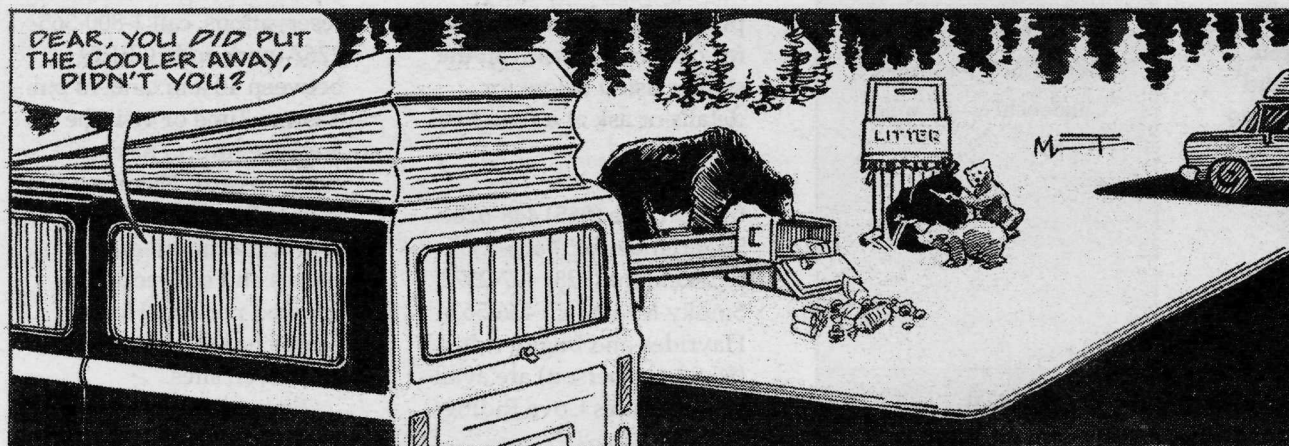
Great Smoky Mountains National Park is managed by the U.S. National Park Service. The agency runs the park in accordance with its mission "to conserve the



National Park rangers work to protect the Great Smoky Mountains for the benefit of future generations.

scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The National Park Service manages over 380 natural and cultural sites across America. For more information about your parks, visit www.nps.gov



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

Please help 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.

THE MIGHTY MAPLE

Maple trees have a starring role in the forests of the Smokies

Record Trees

Every two years the American Forests organization publishes a list of the largest trees in the United States. The list is organized by species and ranks trees by circumference, height, and average crown spread.

The 2004-2005 list includes 16 national champion or co-champion trees in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. That's more record trees than in any other national park or national forest in the U.S.

Below are the park's national champion trees and their circumferences. An asterisk indicates that the park is home to more than one co-champion of the same species (co-champions rank within five points of other co-champions).

- Allegheny serviceberry 78"
- black cherry 210"
- Carolina silverbell 152"
- cinnamon clethra* 10"
- devil's walkingstick 23"
- eastern hemlock 202"
- Fraser magnolia 118"
- mountain laurel 48"
- pin cherry 58"
- red hickory 154"
- red maple 276"
- red spruce* 169"
- silverbell* 155"
- sourwood 106"
- striped maple 44"
- yellow buckeye 229"

There are a number of reasons why the park is home to so many whoppers. Chief among them are the area's relatively wet, warm climate, protection as a national park, and biological diversity.

Red Maple

Red maples are one of the most common trees in the Smokies and in all of the Eastern United States. They are a highly adaptable species with a range that spreads from Canada to Florida. In late winter their flowers paint the slopes of the Smokies with a red wash; in autumn their leaves turn bright crimson. The national champion red maple tree lives in the park (see above).



MICHAEL TAYLOR ILLUSTRATION

Mountain Maple

This small tree is common above elevations of 3,000 feet in the Smokies. It is primarily a northern species that is near the southern limit of its range here. Elsewhere it is generally considered a shrub, but mountain maple reaches tree-size proportions in the park. Specimens as large as 25' tall and 3' in circumference have been noted here. During September, mountain maple leaves turn orange and red.

Maple Logging

Some species of maple were highly prized for their wood by Smoky Mountain farm families and commercial loggers. Sugar maple is an extremely hard wood that makes enduring flooring as well as beautiful cabinets and furniture. It was also used to make gunstocks and even violins.

Red maple was also popular, though the wood is not as hard as sugar maple. It was widely used for paneling, flooring, and general construction.

From 1890-1930, a commercial logging boom shook the Smokies. Highly mechanized logging companies clearcut about 70% of the forest. Historians estimate that some two billion board feet of lumber was produced from Smoky Mountain trees, enough to build approximately 200,000 modern, three-bedroom homes.

Making Maple Syrup

Sugarland Mountain, Sugar Orchard Branch, Maple Sugar Gap, The Sugarlands, and other park places were all named for sugar maple trees and the sweet sap they relinquish for the making of maple syrup and sugar.

Tapping sugar maples was once a fairly common enterprise in the Smokies and elsewhere in the Southern Highlands. Native Americans used maple sap and sugar to season meats and grains and to make candy and beverages. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, mountain farm families maintained areas in the forest they called "sugar camps" or "sugar bushes" for the production of syrup and sugar.

These operations might include several dozen sugar maples that had been grooved and tapped to produce sap. Wooden troughs were run from the trees to central buckets or barrels for efficient collection. Family members then carried the sap in buckets to a shed which housed a stone furnace and large metal

evaporator pan.

Maple sap had to be cooked down for several hours to produce syrup. As a rule of thumb it took 30-40 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup. Each healthy sugar maple tree could be counted on to produce 5-40 gallons of sap. Making maple sugar

required even more boiling and processing.

Many Smoky Mountain residents described the best time to tap maples as "after the first snow of spring" and when the strong, warm spring winds roar down from the mountains. The tapping season could last from two to eight weeks.

Maple syrup and sugar were commodities that farm fami-

lies could consume themselves or trade at a country store for cash or merchandise. In east Tennessee's Sevier County, records show farmers produced 38,455 gallons of maple syrup in 1859. "Sugaring" in the region declined sharply in the 20th century, presumably due to commercial logging and easier access to other forms of sugar.

Red maples, box elders, and other trees can be tapped for sap, but theirs is not as sweet or plentiful.

Sugar Maple

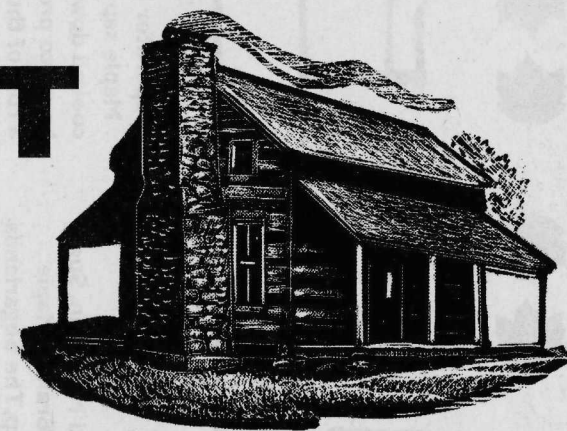
Sugar maple trees are one of the stars of the Smokies' fall color season. They are a common tree below elevations of 5,000' in the park, even though the species is near the southern limit of its range here. In October and early November sugar maple leaves turn a bright yellow or red. The species is one of the larger arbors in the park's cove hardwood forest, reaching a height of over 100 feet and circumference of up to 15 feet.

Striped Maple

The common name for this species comes from the distinct green stripes on the bark of young trees. Farther north it is nicknamed "moosewood" because moose dine upon its bark. Elsewhere this species is considered a shrub, but it reaches tree-sized proportions in the Smoky Mountains (see "record trees" this page). Striped maple leaves turn pale gold in fall.

2005 SPECIAL REPORT

State of the Park



WILDLIFE



Although park wildlife personnel deal with numerous nuisance bear complaints, only two black bears have been relocated from the park in 2005.

Great Smoky Mountains Association, the City of Gatlinburg, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency co-funded a "bear warden" position to address nuisance bears and garbage storage issues in and around Gatlinburg, TN. The effort has resulted in fewer nuisance bear complaints and less property damage.

The food storage cables at backcountry campsites have proven to be successful at keeping bears and people food apart.

A bear cub with a severe leg injury was captured at Cataract Falls last summer and received surgery at the University of



Tennessee vet school. The bear was rehabilitated at the Appalachian Bear Center and successfully released in the park this spring.



An abundant acorn crop during fall 2004 has resulted in a big jump in the number of non-native wild hogs in the park. Over half the hogs removed from the Smokies this year have been young animals.

Park officials are seeing indications that *private citizens are releasing feral pigs in the park*. This could lead to widespread damage to park plant and animal life and result in the spread of diseases like psuedorabies.

Number 287, the bear who was the inspiration for the children's book The Troublesome Cub, is in trouble again. Because people left food out at Cades Cove Picnic Area, the bear had to be trapped and relocated outside of the national park.

Raccoon rabies has been reported outside the park. The Park Service is cooperating with other agencies to try to halt the spread of this Western strain.

STREAM LIFE



Stream monitoring shows that *native brook trout populations in restored streams are very stable* and represent some of the best trout waters in the entire southeastern United States.

The 16 miles of streams restored to date represent about 10% of the park's total brook trout habitat.

Trout Unlimited and the Trout and Salmon Foundation have donated over \$17,000 in 2005 to continue the brook trout restoration and monitoring program.



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

Park fisheries biologists use backpack electroshocking equipment to survey aquatic life in a Smoky Mountain stream.



DON MCGOWAN PHOTO

AIR QUALITY



Over 8,000 customers have signed up for the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) Green Power Program. More than 8.5 megawatts of electricity are now generated by clean sources for TVA.

TVA announced it will reduce ozone-causing emissions from its largest power plants by 75%. They also plan to reduce haze-causing emissions by 90% at nearby plants.



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

Park rainfall is 5-10 times more acidic than average.

During the summer months, levels of ozone pollution at the park's higher elevations regularly exceed standards for human health. Ozone also injures 30 types of park plants.



Sulfates from coal-fired power plants and factories are reducing mountain views by as much as 80%.

PLANT LIFE



Release of predator beetles in the park was increased by 300% compared to last year. Predator beetles eat hemlock woolly adelgids (*a-dell-jids*), the non-native insect that is killing the park's hemlock trees. Park Service crews, in cooperation with the University of Tennessee, released 77,083 beetles and 40,514 beetle eggs in 2005.

Nearly all of the hemlock trees in Albright Grove have been treated to repel hemlock woolly adelgids. The grove is famous for its old-growth and record-sized trees.

Great Smoky Mountains Association has raised over \$60,000 ear-marked for hemlock preservation through sales of its Save the

Hemlocks T-shirt. Arborjet, Inc. has donated special trunk injection equipment for the effort.

An AmeriCorps crew removed approximately 6 acres of exotic privet near Hazel Creek and over 20,000 non-native garlic mustard plants from several sites.



Hundreds of hemlock trees are now dying in the park from the non-native hemlock woolly adelgid.

Exotic knapweed, spread by mowers, has invaded the meadow at Purchase Knob. The non-native is very difficult to eradicate.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION



The historic preservation crew has re-roofed the Cades Cove Missionary Baptist Church and completely rebuilt the deteriorated mill race at Cable Mill. A contract has been awarded to paint the Smokemont and Little Cataloochee Baptist churches this fall. The crew will also be busy re-roofing the Davis-Queen house at the Mountain Farm Museum at Oconaluftee.

The park will loan some 100 museum objects, ranging from quilts to musical instruments, to the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center for display in their new museum, scheduled to open November 1 in Townsend.

Great Smoky Mountains Association has published a new book on the Walker Sisters of Little Greenbrier. The book features photos of dozens of the artifacts preserved in the park's Walker sisters collection.

An anti-graffiti campaign to discourage vandalism of historic structures has begun with the placement of signs at certain cabins throughout the park.

Volunteer anthropologist Claudia Conker is compiling an extensive oral history of the Cosby area of the park. The stories she has collected add a great deal to our understanding of the history and culture of the mountain people, and will be incorporated into future publications, exhibits, and ranger programs.



The park's cabins, churches, schools, and other historic buildings are being damaged by vandals carving or writing their names on walls. Some of the damage is to old-growth

American chestnut timbers and other irreplaceable components. If you witness vandalism taking place, please call (865) 436-1230 to report it.

Because the park service lacks adequate in-park storage, many artifacts are housed outside the park where they are difficult to access.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE



Through the support of Great Smoky Mountains Association and Friends of the Smokies, seasonal rangers and Student Conservation Association assistants were hired during 2005. These rangers and resource assistants work at visitor centers, lead walks and talks, host special events, and conduct Parks as Classrooms programs for area schools.

A new \$1 booklet is available that explains the natural and cultural history of Clingmans Dome.

Park crews are clearing encroaching trees from Gregory Bald, preserving vistas and flame azaleas.



Parson Branch Road will remain closed through 2005. The road was severely damaged during spring floods in 2003. Design work for the road's restoration is underway, however.

Some park roads are riddled with potholes. Officials hope repaving can start this fall.

Traffic congestion continues to be a problem in Cades Cove and on Newfound Gap Road during the busy summer and fall seasons.

The park has to spend \$100,000 per year to remove some 1,300 tons of litter from roadsides and trails in the Smokies.



AUTUMN DRIVES & HIKES IN THE SMOKIES

Try one of these excursions for beautiful views of fall colors

SAVE YOUR BRAKES



When driving downhill on steep mountain roads, it is important that you shift to a lower gear to use the braking power of your engine and prevent your brakes from overheating. For cars with automatic transmissions, try shifting to "3," "2," or "low" depending on the speed limit and steepness of the road. Overheated brakes smoke and give off an acrid smell.

Autumn is both a beautiful and a busy time in the Great Smoky Mountains. The annual show of fall colors attracts huge numbers of sightseers, especially during the last three weeks of October. Areas in the park which experience the longest traffic delays are Cades Cove and Newfound Gap Road (U.S. 441). Traffic is heaviest on weekends.

To beat the fall crowds, try traveling early in the morning or during the week (Wednesday and Thursday are the least busy).

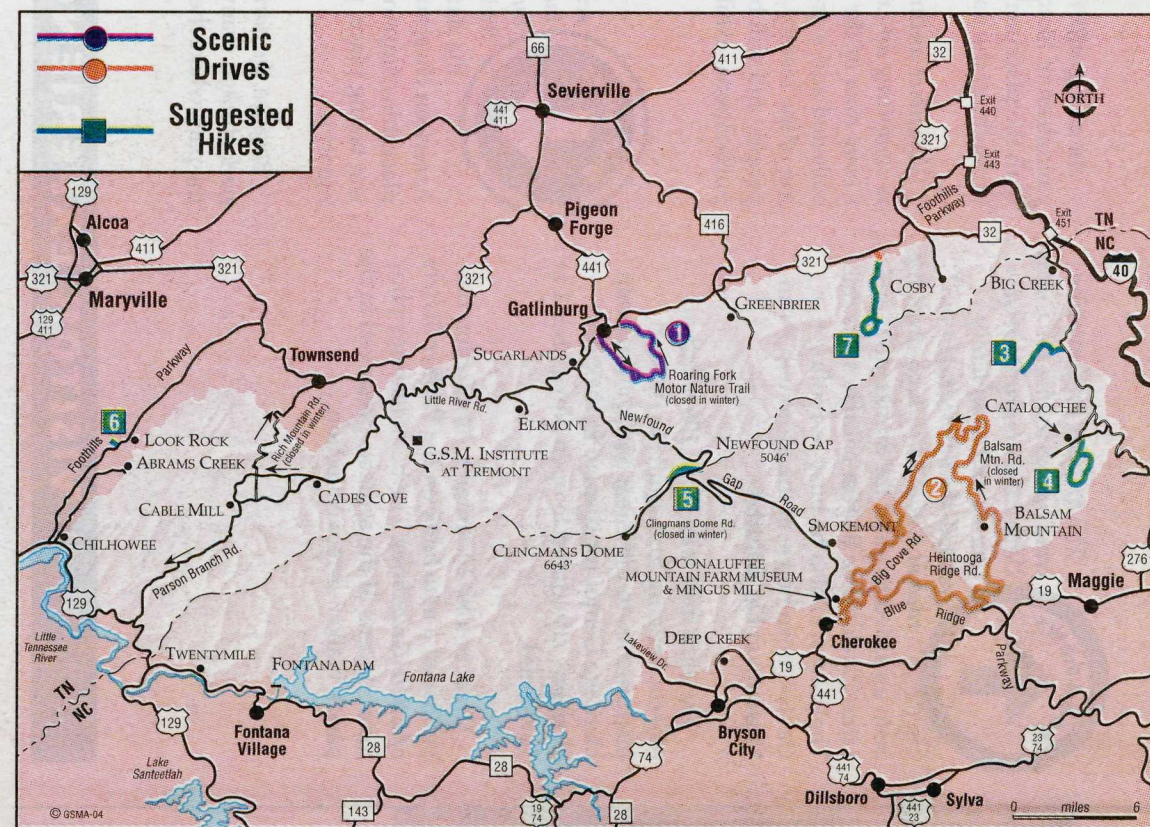
Scenic Drives

#1 ROARING FORK MOTOR NATURE TRAIL
From the Parkway in downtown Gatlinburg, turn at stop-light #8 onto Historic Nature Trail—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. As the name implies, this road is designed for leisurely travel and enjoyment of nature. It is impassable to motor homes, buses, or trailers and is closed in winter.

Park at stop #3 and enjoy the view of fall colors and rolling mountains. A short stroll on the path to the right takes you to another viewpoint with benches that beckon you to sit a spell and enjoy



Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail is narrow and winding to encourage visitors to slow down and enjoy the splendor around them.

the scenery.

At stop #5 you'll have the opportunity to park and take a 2.6 mile round-trip hike through old-growth forest to Grotto Falls. This popular trail is of moderate difficulty.

A number of historic log and frame buildings can also be viewed along Roaring Fork. Of special interest is the Reagan tub mill, a tiny grist

mill used for grinding corn into corn meal. The restored mill is located so close to the road you practically drive through it.

Near the end of the road, a waterfall called "Place of a Thousand Drips" can be seen on the left. During wet weather this waterfall is a remarkable sight.

The Motor Nature Trail

ends in Gatlinburg. Turn left to return to downtown via U.S. 321.

#2 THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY & BALSAM MOUNTAIN

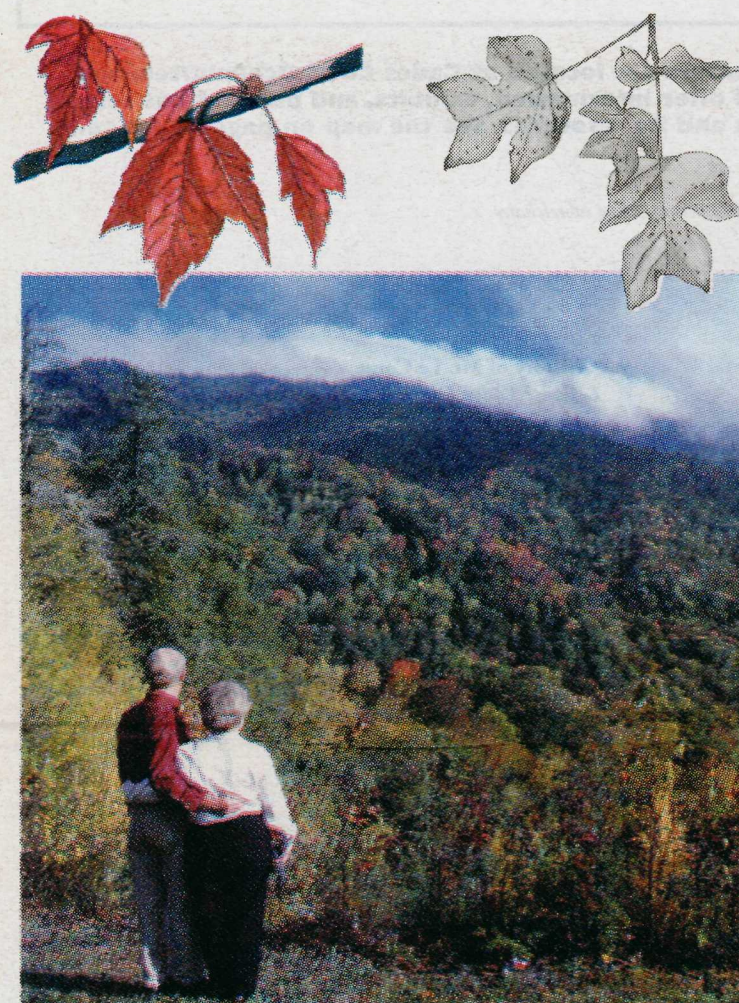
Turn onto the Blue Ridge Parkway, which begins just north of Cherokee, NC, on U.S. 441, near the entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The scenic parkway follows the crest of the mountains for 469 miles, all the way to Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Frequent auto pullouts along the first few miles 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

Red Maple

Tuliptree



A couple enjoys the view on a crisp autumn day from an overlook along the Blue Ridge Parkway. The 469-mile-long scenic highway begins between Oconaluftee Visitor Center and the town of Cherokee. The parkway continues to Shenandoah National Park.

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 (closed after October 11). Even if you're not hungry, it's worth walking to the far end of the picnic area for the view from Heintooga Overlook.

From the picnic area, take the one-way, unpaved Balsam Mountain Road (closed Nov. 1). The road is

not recommended for large campers, buses, or trailers, but is fine for passenger cars. From this point it's 27 miles back to Cherokee (18 miles unpaved).

Balsam Mountain Road offers intimate views of 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.



There are 150 official trails in the Smokies, plus several short "Quiet Walkways" like the one pictured here. Quiet Walkways are identified by road signs and are situated around the park. Most are less than a mile and offer benches to sit and enjoy the forest setting.

Suggested Hikes

#3. Mt. STERLING FIRE-TOWER: Exit I-40 and proceed to Old NC 284 between Big Creek and Cataloochee. The Mt. Sterling Ridge trailhead is approximately 7 miles from Big Creek. It's 2.7 very steep miles from the trailhead to the fire tower and its views.

#4. BOOGERMAN LOOP: The Caldwell Fork trailhead is just past the Cataloochee Picnic Area in Cataloochee Valley. Follow Caldwell Fork Trail to Boogerman Trail and then return to the trailhead on Caldwell Fork. The hike is 7.4 miles roundtrip and features old-growth forest.

#5. APPALACHIAN TRAIL: Park at the large parking area at Newfound Gap. Cross the Newfound Gap Road at the cross-walk and look for the

trail sign. Follow the Appalachian Trail to Indian Gap (where the trail meets the Clingmans Dome Road). It's 3.4 miles roundtrip if you hike to Indian Gap and back.

#6. LOOK ROCK TOWER: From Townsend, take U.S. 321 to the Foothills Parkway and follow this scenic road to the Look Rock tower parking area. The moderate hike to the top is 1 mile roundtrip. Spectacular views are gained from the tower.

#7. ALBRIGHT GROVE: Drive U.S. 321 15.5 miles east of Gatlinburg (0.1 mile east of Yogi's campground) and turn right on Baxter Road. Follow Baxter to the Maddron Bald trailhead. Hike Maddron Bald Trail 2.9 miles to the 0.7 mile Albright Grove Loop. 6.8 miles roundtrip. Highlights are old-growth forest, big trees.

FOIL PARKING LOT PROWLERS



Thieves sometimes prey on cars parked at trailheads to steal purses, cameras, and electronic equipment. Spoil their day by locking your car and keeping valuables on your person. Remember, thieves may be sitting in a car watching while you place your wallet in the glove compartment or "hide" your laptop under a blanket in the back seat.

EXPLORE THE SMOKIES

Programs and activities in Great Smoky Mountains National Park



BILL LEA PHOTO

Kids ages 5-12 can become Junior Rangers this fall. Stop by a park visitor center or ranger station to find out how.

EVERY DAY

Mingus Mill Demonstration

Located less than a mile north of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center on US 441 (Newfound Gap Road)

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Chat with a miller and feel the rumble of this historic turbine gristmill in action.

Accessibility: Two steps into mill

Autumn Highlights Patio Talks

Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio

10:00 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:00 p.m.

Join park staff as they discuss the wondrous world of the Smokies. Meet on the patio in front of Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Duration: 30 minutes

Level: Easy

Fall Foliage Walk

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.

Join park staff at Sugarlands Visitor Center for an easy stroll to nearby Cataract Falls.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

SUNDAYS

Down on the Farm

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (except September 18) ♿

Walk down to the farm and see what pastime settlers may have been engaged in, such as quilting, woodworking, or cooking. Activities vary.

Duration: Ongoing for two hours

Sunday Morning in Sugarlands Valley

Sugarlands Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.

Join park staff for a walk back to the first Evans Chapel and reflect on how religion in the Smokies satisfied both spiritual and social needs. 1 mile.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Mill Area Walk

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

1:30 p.m.

A park ranger will walk you through several of the historic structures that were important in the community of Cades Cove.

Duration: 30 minutes

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of Cades Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes

Smoke Over Elkmont Evening Walk

Meet at the Elkmont Campground Bridge.

6:00 p.m. in September; 5:00 p.m. in October

Meet park volunteer Raymond Palmer for a short walk through what was once a logging boomtown.

Duration: 1+ hours

Level: Easy

Le Conte Lodge Programs

(Recommended for Le Conte Lodge and Le Conte shelter guests only)

• Mt. Le Conte Junior Ranger & Salamandering Program

Le Conte Dining Hall

9:30 a.m.

Meet a park ranger for a half hour Junior Ranger and salamandering program. Meet outside the lodge dining hall.

September 3-Oct. 15, 2005

Park visitor centers are located at Cades Cove, Oconaluftee, and Sugarlands. All offer information, exhibits, and publications related to the park and its resources. See the map on page 16 for center locations.

♿ programs accessible to persons using wheelchairs

• History of Mt. Le Conte

Le Conte Lodge Dining Hall

4:15 p.m.

The whole family is invited to this fun and informative program held atop Mt. Le Conte.

• Sunset at Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte

Clifftops overlook on Mt. Le Conte

Times vary. Check at Le Conte Lodge.

The view from Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte is always spectacular, and especially so at sunset in the fall. For those camping on Mt. Le Conte or residing at Le Conte Lodge, this program provides an opportunity to join a park ranger in experiencing the timeless passage of the sun beyond the western horizon. Flashlights recommended.

MONDAYS

Fighting Creek Nature Trail Hike

Sugarlands Visitor Center front patio

11:30 a.m.

Join park staff for a walk along Fighting Creek to a once-vibrant mountain community.

Duration: 1+ hours

Level: Easy

Unveiling the Secrets of the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center Theater ♿

10:00 a.m.

Park staff will discuss some of the many things to see and do while visiting the Smokies.

TUESDAYS

Old School Days

Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area

Every hour from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Meet at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area, between Sugarlands Visitor Center and Cades Cove, for a step back in time to a 100-year-old school. Old-time school teaching by volunteer Robin Goddard will be presented on the hour throughout the day. Park volunteer Shirley Jones will be available to answer additional questions. Limited parking.

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Primitive Baptist Church

Meet at stop #4 on the Cades Cove Loop Road

11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Precious memories still linger and are alive at the Primitive Baptist Church.

Duration: 30 minutes

“Winter’s a’ Comin’!”

Sugarlands Visitor Center

1:00 p.m.

What did the people of the Great Smoky Mountains do to prepare for the approaching winter? Join in on this hike to the John Ownby cabin on Fighting Creek Nature Trail and explore the ways mountain folk of the 19th century stocked up for winter.

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Mill Area Walk

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

1:30 p.m.

A park ranger will walk you through several of the historic structures that were important in the community of Cades Cove.

Duration: 30 minutes

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of Cades Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes.

Cades Cove Evening Program

Meet in the campground amphitheater.

8:00 p.m.

A photographic journey through the park.

Duration: 1 hour

WEDNESDAYS

Little Cabin in the Woods

The Noah “Bud” Ogle Place located on Cherokee Orchard Road. From U.S. 441 in Gatlinburg, turn at traffic light #8.

10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Meet park staff on the front porch of the Ogle cabin for a glimpse into early farm life in the Smokies. Talk followed by a short hike to the “rub” mill site. 1/2 mile.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

Unveiling the Secrets of the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center Theater ⚓

10:00 a.m.

Park Rangers will discuss some of the things to see and do while visiting the Smokies.

Anikituwahgi: The Cherokee of the Appalachians

Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch ⚓

2:00 p.m. (except September 14)

Learn about the inhabitants of the Qualla Boundary, home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, as we discuss aspects of their past and present.

Duration: 45 minutes

THURSDAYS

Cardio Hike with a Ranger

Sugarlands Visitor Center Front Patio

10:00 a.m.

Join the Ranger in front of Sugarlands Visitor Center for an exercise hike on the nearby Gatlinburg Trail. Running shoes recommended. All fitness levels welcome. 4 miles roundtrip

Duration: 2+ hours

Level: Easy to moderate

Grotto Falls Walk

Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail, Stop #5

10:00 a.m.

This volunteer-led walk will take you through an old-growth hemlock forest to the only waterfall in the park you can walk behind. Total hiking length is 3 miles.

Duration: 2 1/2 hours

Level: Moderate

Cades Cove Primitive Baptist Church

Meet at stop #4 on the Cades Cove Loop Road

11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Precious memories still linger and are alive at the Primitive Baptist Church.

Duration: 30 minutes

Cades Cove Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stables

6:00 p.m.

Enjoy an open-air hayride, view wildlife, and discover the diversity of life and the changing landscape within Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$8 per person

⚓ with assistance

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Cades Cove Blacksmith Demonstrations

Located at the blacksmith building near the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop.

September 17-18, October 1-2, November 5-6

Learn the art of blacksmithing and why it was important in the Cades Cove community.

Mountain Life Festival

Mountain Farm Museum

September 17 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join park staff and volunteers as we celebrate our Appalachian Mountain Heritage. The Mountain Farm Museum will be alive with history as demonstrators provide visitors with a glimpse into the past as they make soap, apple cider, and sorghum molasses. Other demonstrations will include blacksmithing, hearth cooking, music and clogging, and much more.

Cades Cove Full Moon Hike

Meet at the orientation shelter at beginning of the Cades Cove Loop Road.

September 19 8:00 p.m.

Duration: 2.5 hours

Level: Easy, 2 miles

Saturday Cultural Demonstrations at Sugarlands Visitor Center

Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio ⚓

To live in the Smoky Mountains in the past, a person had to have a variety of practical skills such as blacksmithing, quilting, apple butter making, canning, and others. These essential mountain skills will be showcased starting Saturday, September 24, and will run through each Saturday in October. Come join in and learn about the practical ways of making a living in the mountains.

• **September 24** Blacksmithing
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

• **October 1** Quilting
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

• **October 8** Mountain Tools
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

• **October 22** “South Carolina Independent Company of Foot” muster, roll call, drill, and general camp life on the Appalachian frontier in the mid-1700s.
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sorghum Making Demonstration

Cades Cove Cable Mill area

September 30-October 2

Stop by during the day to see how sorghum cane is deliciously transformed into molasses.

FRIDAYS

Sugarlands Valley Nature Trail

Sugarlands Valley Trail, 1/2 mile south of Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Road ⚓

10:00 a.m.

Meet the Ranger at Sugarlands Visitor Center and caravan to the trailhead for this all-accessible activity. Experience the old Sugarlands Valley and reflect on those who previously walked among these time-worn mountains. 3/4 mile.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

Unveiling the Secrets of the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center Theater ⚓

10:00 a.m.

Park Rangers will discuss some of the things to see and do while visiting the Smokies.

Deep Creek History Hike

Meet at the Deep Creek parking area

October 1 10:00 a.m.

Join a ranger to discover the history and families of the Deep Creek area. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. Bring a bag lunch and water.

Duration: 4 hours

Difficulty: Moderate, 4.4 miles

Cataloochee Hike

Meet at parking area on left just after entering Cataloochee Valley

October 8 10:00 a.m.

Join a Ranger for a hike into Little Cataloochee Valley to discover the rich history of the area. Stops on the hike will include the Hannah Cabin, Little Cataloochee Baptist Church and cemetery, and the restored Dan and Rachel Cook Cabin on Coggins Branch.

Duration: 4-5 hours

Difficulty: Easy to moderate, 5 miles round-trip

Stargazing in Cades Cove

Meet at the Orientation Shelter at the beginning of the Cades Cove Loop Road.

October 8 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger and the Smoky Mountain Astronomical Society as we observe the night skies and tour the constellations with the use of telescopes.

Evening at the Mountain Farm Museum

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center ⚓

October 13 5:30 p.m.

Join park staff and volunteers for an evening of demonstrations, music, and talks on the Mountain Farm.

Duration: 2.5 hours

Andrews Bald Hike

Meet at Clingmans Dome parking area.

October 16 11:00 a.m.

Join a Ranger on a hike to the most accessible of the Smokies’ grassy balds to learn more about this unique high elevation feature.

Duration: 2.5 hours

Level: Moderate, 3 miles

Cades Cove Harvest Hayrides

October 26, 27, 28, 29

7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m.

Join the fun for an old fashioned hayride through Cades Cove on a crisp fall evening. This event features costumed interpretation of the history of Cades Cove. Hay wagons pulled by trucks leave each evening from the Cades Cove Riding Stables.

Reservations are required for this special event. Call (865) 448-6286

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: \$8



BILL LEA PHOTO

History comes alive in the Great Smoky Mountains each fall. Oconaluftee, Cades Cove, and Sugarlands all host special events and programs that feature a wide variety of historic demonstrations.

FRIDAYS CONTINUED. . .

Logs, Rails, and Culture

Meet at Jakes Creek trailhead above Elkmont Campground.
11:00 a.m.

A one mile hike featuring the Avent Cabin. Hear about Col. W. B. Townsend, "Daddy" Bryson, and Mayna Avent and their significance in historic Elkmont. Parking limited.

Duration: 1+ hours

Level: Easy to moderate

Cades Cove Mill Area Walk

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

1:30 p.m.

A park ranger will walk you through several of the historic structures that were important in the community of Cades Cove.

Duration: 30 minutes

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of Cades Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes

Family Night

Meet in the Smokemont Campground field between C and D loops.

6:30 p.m. in September (starts September 23) ♂

6:00 p.m. in October

Grab the kids and meet a ranger for family night in the campground. Come spin the trivia wheel and test your knowledge of the Smokies with other visitors. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Duration: 45 minutes

Cades Cove Night Hike

Meet at the Orientation shelter at the entrance to the Cades Cove Loop Road.

8:00 p.m. in September, 7:30 p.m. in October

Join a park ranger for an evening stroll and listen to the critters and spirits of Cades Cove. Wear good walking shoes, bring water and a flashlight. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Duration: 1-2 hours; Level: Easy

Le Conte Lodge Sunset Program

(Recommended for Le Conte Lodge and Le Conte shelter guests only)

Sunset at Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte

Clifftops overlook on Mt. Le Conte

Times vary. Check at Le Conte Lodge.

The view from Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte is always spectacular, and especially so at sunset in the fall. For those camping on Mt. Le Conte or residing at Le Conte Lodge, this program provides an opportunity to join a park ranger in experiencing the timeless passage of the sun beyond the western horizon. Flashlights recommended.

SATURDAYS

Le Conte Lodge Programs

(Recommended for Le Conte Lodge and Le Conte shelter guests only)

• Mt. Le Conte Junior Ranger & Salamandering Program

Le Conte Dining Hall

9:30 a.m.

Meet a park ranger for a half hour Junior Ranger and salamandering program. Meet outside the lodge dining hall.

• History of Mt. Le Conte Junior Ranger Program

Le Conte Lodge Dining Hall

4:15 p.m.

The whole family is invited to this fun and informative program held in the dining hall atop Mt. Le Conte.

• Sunset at Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte

Clifftops overlook on Mt. Le Conte

Times vary. Check at Le Conte Lodge.

The view from Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte is always spectacular, and especially so at sunset in the fall. For those camping on Mt. Le Conte or residing at Le Conte Lodge, this program provides an opportunity to join a park ranger in experiencing the timeless passage of the sun beyond the western horizon. Flashlights recommended.

Autumn Highlights Patio Talks

Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio

10:00 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:00 p.m.

Join park staff as they discuss the wondrous world of the Smokies. Meet on the patio in front of Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Duration: 30 minutes

Level: Easy

Appalachian Trail Walk

Newfound Gap Overlook

11:00 a.m.

Join in on this short walk on the Appalachian Trail at Newfound Gap. The "A.T." runs from Georgia to Maine, and 71 miles of it pass through Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Come experience a part of this fascinating trail with a park ranger or volunteer as your guide.

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Mill Area Walk

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

1:30 p.m.

A park ranger will walk you through several of the historic structures that were important in the community of Cades Cove.

Duration: 30 minutes

Ranger Tells All!

Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch ♂

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (except September 17)

Want to know where the fall colors are? How about what to take on a hike? Are you tired of traffic and want to find a quiet place to enjoy the park? Stop by and get all the answers from the ranger!

Duration: Ongoing, two hours

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of Cades Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes

Cades Cove Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stables. ♂ with assistance

6:00 p.m. (no hayride September 10)

Enjoy an open-air hayride, view wildlife, and discover the diversity of life and the changing landscape within Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$8 per person

Cades Cove Evening Program

Meet in the campground amphitheater. ♂

8:00 p.m.

A photographic journey through the park.

Duration: 1 hour

Under the Stars of Elkmont

Elkmont Campground Amphitheater ♂

9:00 p.m. in August; 8:00 p.m. in September; 7:30 p.m. in October

Come by and enjoy an evening campfire slide show that will highlight the special places and people of the park. Topics vary.

Duration: 1 hour

LOST TOWN: PROCTOR

Remains of logging town still visible in park

Logging Changed the World along Hazel Creek Forever

There was no shortage in the wealth of timber resources in the Smokies; the only problem was getting the timber to market.

In 1894, the Southern Railway had made its way to the foothills of the southern slopes of the Smokies in Bryson City, NC. From there numerous spur lines were driven into the heart of the mountains. One spur line, begun by the Ritter Lumber Company, made its way

three-room school, a church, and even an ice cream shop. Proctor was home to over a thousand people in its heyday.

In the preface of his book *Our Southern Highlanders*, Horace Kephart summarized the effect of industry on the people of his beloved Smokies:

"Even in farthest Appalachia people realize that the world has been upset, and that the old ways,

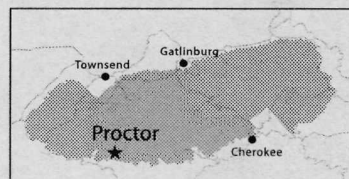
that once could only be had by making them yourself and with locally available materials. The local commissary, owned by the lumber company, also came with inflated lumber company prices. Credit was extended to employees. Without prior

commissary also included a small post office. In addition to mail, newspapers and mail order catalogs were most welcome.

The center of activity in Hazel Creek revolved around the lumber mill at Proctor. The mill utilized a band saw and was powered by steam. The Proctor mill produced flooring, primarily. The Hazel Creek hardwoods created beautiful strip and parquet flooring

evening). The company also supplied teachers and doctors to its employees. Well over 200 million board feet of lumber were removed in the 18 years of Ritter's extensive logging operations on Hazel Creek.

Families began leaving Hazel Creek when the mill closed in 1926. The population decline continued with the construction of Fontana Dam and filling of Fontana Lake (1944), and the subse-



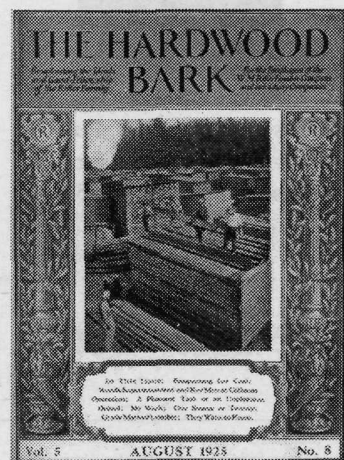
The sprawling Ritter Lumber Mill near Proctor employed over 100 men and featured huge kilns for drying lumber. Remnants of the mill are still visible along Hazel Creek Trail on the north side of Fontana Lake.



Historic photo of Bowers general store and post office in Proctor.

from the Little Tennessee River (now under Fontana Lake), approximately 20 miles up the Hazel Creek watershed. The railroad signaled the end of an era and the advent of the town of Proctor.

The lumber companies did more than build railroads, they developed centers of commerce built around the "company town." Proctor, located on Hazel Creek, was one such place, replete with company-supplied housing, a company-owned commissary/post office, a barber shop, a movie theater/pool hall/community center, a



LEFT: Ritter had an impressive monthly magazine for its employees. RIGHT: Grace Pullman and family of North Proctor.



old notions, old convictions perhaps, must give place to new ones." People now had access to goods and services

knowledge of industrial labor practices, many a worker became indebted for years to the company. The

and can be seen today gracing the floors of some of the finest buildings in Europe and the Americas.

Excess wood materials and wood products not suitable for flooring were used to produce dimension lumber for use in furniture products. Furniture made of Ritter lumber could be found on the luxury ocean-liners of the day.

The lumber mill operated six days a week. The mill provided more than jobs, it provided modern-day luxuries, including homes, some complete with running water and electricity (although the mill shut the electricity off at 10:00 in the

quent inclusion of the area into the national park. Today what remains is held in the hearts of the descendants and in the ruins themselves. One need only visit the decorated cemeteries in the summer months to recognize the close relationship that continues between this beautiful land and the descendants of Proctor.

Story by Erik Kreusch.
Access to the Proctor town site is via the Lakeshore Trail (10 miles one way) or by boat shuttle from Fontana Marina (30 minutes one way). For more information, see History Hikes of the Smokies; at park book stores or 1-888-898-9102 or SmokiesStore.org.

BE A PART OF THE PARK

Join us to learn more about this magnificent place

become a MEMBER

SINCE 1953, Great Smoky Mountains Association has been supporting the educational, scientific, and histori-



cal efforts of the National Park Service through cash donations and in-kind services. In 2005 alone, the association plans to provide over \$1.5 million worth of assistance. Projects supported include the elk reintroduction, Gatlinburg bear warden, backcountry staff, and seasonal park rangers. Members of the association receive a number of benefits which help them keep informed about special events in the park and issues affecting the Smoky Mountains. These benefits include:

- Subscriptions to the award-winning quarterly park newspaper, *Smokies Guide* and the Association's newsletter, *The Bearpaw*
- A 15% discount on books, music, gifts, and other products sold at visitor centers in the national park
- Discounts up to 20% at other national park bookstores across the country
- Special discounts at Dollywood, Smoky Mountains Railroad, Ripley's Aquarium, hotels and motels, and much more.

Join today using the coupon to the right or visit www.SmokiesStore.org. Memberships start at just \$25 per year.

BILL LEA PHOTO



You can help preserve nature and history in the Smokies by supporting the partner organizations described on this page. Joining is also a great way to learn more about the Great Smoky Mountains.

NEW BOOKS ON THE SMOKIES



Smokies Road Guide. Keyed to numbered posts; includes all park roads. 154 pages. \$11.95.



The Walker Sisters. A colorful history of the famous siblings. 64 pages. \$6.95.



Ferns of the Smokies. Full color field guide to ferns & allies. 100 pages. \$8.95.

Available at park visitor centers or by contacting 1-888-898-9102 or www.SmokiesStore.org

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION

- ☐ Annual Membership \$25
- ☐ Annual Supporting Membership \$50
- ☐ 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 \$ _____

Count me in!

Name(s) _____

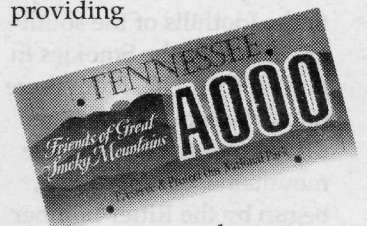
Address _____

Please include your check with this form. Mail to:

- **Great Smoky Mountains Association**,
115 Park Headquarters Rd., Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(865) 436-7318 www.SmokiesStore.org or
- **Friends of GSMNP**, P.O. Box 5650, Sevierville, TN 37864
(865) 453-2428. www.friendsofthesmokies.org

be a park FRIEND

FRIENDS of the Smokies is a nonprofit organization that assists the National Park Service by raising funds and public awareness and providing



volunteers for needed projects.

Since 1993, Friends has given over \$8 million for park projects and programs. These donations help:

- protect elk, bear, brook trout, and other wildlife
- improve trails, campsites, and backcountry shelters
- support educational programs for school children
- improve visitor facilities
- fund special educational services like the official park movie
- preserve log cabins and other historic structures.

Your donation can help make these projects a reality. Put a few coins or a few dollars in one of the donation boxes located at visitor centers, road sides, and other locations around the park. Use the form to the left to start or renew your membership. Buy or renew your Friends of the Smokies license plate. Volunteer your time. However you choose to give, your donation will really help protect the Great Smoky Mountains!

Friends of the Smokies
P.O. Box 5650, Sevierville,
TN 37864 (865) 453-2428
1-800 845-5665
www.friendsofthesmokies.org

OPPORTUNITIES

Fun ways to learn about the Smokies for youth & adults

TREMONT



Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont provides residential environmental education programs in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Up to 5,000 students and adults annually attend workshops and other programs at the Institute. All of the dozens of programs offered are designed to nurture an appreciation of the park's biological diversity, cultural history, and the need for environmental stewardship.

School groups typically spend three or five days at Tremont. Teachers and

Tremont staff "co-teach" lessons that include hiking, exploring historic areas, and learning principles of ecology, biology, and park management. The Institute's award winning lesson manual is tied to national science and other curriculum standards.

Tremont also offers adult workshops, including birding, geology, backpacking, environmental education, naturalist weekends, and photography.

To learn more:
(865) 448-6709 or
www.gsmit.org

PURCHASE KNOB



The Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center at Purchase Knob is one of 17 National Park Service learning centers in the United States. It was established on 530 acres of land donated to the national park by Kathryn McNeil and Voit Gilmore.

The mountaintop site sits at an elevation of nearly 5,000 feet on the Cataloochee Divide between Maggie and Cataloochee valleys.

The purpose of the center is to increase the amount of scientific research in the national park and make it accessible to the public. Middle school, high school, and college students, along

with their teachers, work with scientists and park staff on projects ranging from salamander population monitoring to air quality research. Students are also recruited to work as research assistants on extended scientific projects, especially during the summer field season.

The center encourages scientific research and education not only at the Smokies, but at other park service areas, including the Blue Ridge Parkway, Appalachian Trail, Big South Fork, and Obed River.

To learn more about opportunities at Purchase Knob: (828) 926-6251 or
www.nps.gov/grsm/pksite/

SUMMER CAMPS



A variety of youth summer camps are held at Tremont during June and July. Camps are designed for ages 9-12,

12-14, and 13-17. For a free program booklet, call: (865) 448-6709 or visit
www.gsmit.org

DON MCCOWAN PHOTO



Children and adults have myriad opportunities to explore the wonders of the Great Smoky Mountains.

PARKS AS CLASSROOMS



Parks as Classrooms is a day-use education program which provides outdoor learning experiences in Great Smoky Mountains National Park for students in grades K-8. The program offers curriculum-based, interdisciplinary lessons that weave together Great Smokies themes with Tennessee and North Carolina curricula.

Parks as Classrooms fea-

tures park rangers as the subject experts and primary instructors with assistance from the classroom teachers. In addition to the on-site learning experience, the units include a pre-visit materials package and post-site lesson plans for use in the classroom.

To learn more:
(865) 436-1292 or www.nps.gov/grsm/gsm/site/parksasclass.html

WWW.NPS.GOV/GRSM



The national park's official website offers a treasure trove of information and images on Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Log on and check out the park's two "Live Cams" for a bird's eye view of the Smokies from Look Rock tower on the park's west

end or Purchase Knob on the east side.

The web site also features park news, trip planning recommendations, science information, a park bookstore, and much more. To visit other national parks, www.nps.gov is the place to start.

FIELD SCHOOL



The Smoky Mountain Field School is an educational outreach program of the University of Tennessee designed for adults and families. The Field School offers hiking and other outdoor programs which run from four hours to two days.

Field School programs are frequently held on the weekends and cover various aspects of natural and cultural history including wildflowers, fireflies, forest ecology, black bears, Cherokee history, and orienteering.

The Field School strives to provide knowledgeable instructors who are recognized experts in their fields.

To learn more:
(865) 974-0150 or www.outreach.utk.edu/smoky

VISITOR INFORMATION

For more information: www.nps.gov/grsm

Road Closure

Parson Branch Road (Cades Cove area) remains closed because of damage caused by a major flood in May 2003. Repairs to the road may begin in 2006.

Emergencies

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

Park Headquarters
(865) 436-9171
Cherokee Police
(828) 497-4131
Gatlinburg Police
(865) 436-5181

Hospitals

Sevier County (865) 453-7111, Middle Creek Rd., Sevierville, TN. 15 miles from Gatlinburg.
Blount Memorial (865) 983-7211, U.S. 321, Maryville, TN. 25 miles from Cades Cove.
Swain County (828) 488-2155, Bryson City, NC. 16 mi. from Smokemont.

Regulations

Picking or digging plants is prohibited in the park.

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

Pets are NOT permitted on most park trails. Only the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails allow dogs on a leash.

Accessibility

Restrooms at all park visitor centers (Cades Cove, Oconaluftee, and Sugarlands) are fully accessible. The Sugarlands Valley all-access nature trail is located on Newfound Gap Road (U.S. 441) near Sugarlands. Please ask at a visitor center for a free guide.

