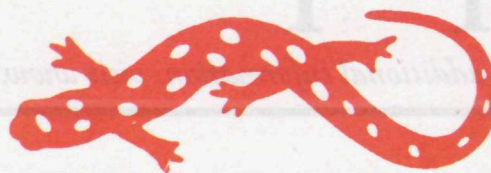




# SMOKIES GUIDE



RANGER-LED WALKS & TALKS—PLEASE SEE PAGE 6



THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK ≈ SPRING 2009



GEORGE HUMPHRIES PHOTO

White trillium and fringed phacelia bloom along Roaring Fork.

## Wildflower Auto Tours

Although the most intimate way to experience the Smokies' wondrous diversity of wildflowers is to walk a trail, several park roads do provide good wildflower viewing from your car. Listed below are some of the best. All are shown on the map on the back page.

### LATE MARCH TO EARLY MAY

**Little River Road**—This paved, winding, and scenic 17 mile route runs between Sugarlands Visitor Center and the Townsend "Y" (near the Townsend entrance to the park). Plants in bloom include fringed phacelia, columbine, bloodroot, fire pink, red bud, flowering dogwood, wild geranium, yellow trillium, and white trillium.

**Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail**—From Gatlinburg, TN, turn off the parkway (U.S. 441)

at traffic light #8 and follow Historic Nature Trail into the park. Roaring Fork is a paved, but narrow (no motorhomes or trailers), one-way loop road. Wildflowers include spring-beauty, yellow trillium, hepatica, large-flowered trillium, Solomon's seal, and violets.

### MID- TO LATE MAY

**Clingmans Dome Road** (opens April 1)—This seven-mile paved road runs through the Smoky Mountain high country from Newfound Gap to near the summit of Clingmans Dome. Plants in bloom include serviceberry, fire cherry, silverbell, witch-hobble, fringed phacelia, bluets, trout-lily, thyme-leaved bluets, and spring-beauty.



### RED-EYED VIREO

Vireos migrate north to the Smokies in spring from Central America, South America, and Florida. The Red-eyed arrives in mid-April and stays here on its breeding grounds until early October. It is a denizen of the woodlands, spending much of its time high in the dense foliage of the forest canopy.

NIS PHOTO



ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE \$5,000,000 GIFT TO THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK IN MEMORY OF LAURA SPELMAN ROCKEFELLER, MARCH 6, 1926

Happy days! Park boosters in Knoxville, TN gather to celebrate the announcement of a \$5 million donation from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation to purchase land for the new national park (1926).

## Park's 75th Anniversary Celebration Begins!

The establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park was no small accomplishment and the park's 75th anniversary is no small celebration.

The grassroots movement to create Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the 1920s and '30s was truly a labor of love. Much of the painstaking work was accomplished by citizens in Knoxville, TN and Asheville, NC who longed to see their mountains protected and local economies energized by a "crown jewel" national park in their back yard.

Unlike Yellowstone, which was mostly delineated from existing public lands, the Smokies had to be purchased tract by tract from big timber companies and small farmers. Most of the money to do so had to come from private

contributions or grants from the states of North Carolina and Tennessee.

On June 15, 1934, the citizens' wish was granted and the Smokies officially became America's 22nd national park.

Today this park protects over 800 square miles of mountains and rivers and preserves a safe haven for more than 15,000 different species of plants and animals. Over nine million visits are tallied each year, more than any other national park. These visitors contribute over \$700 million to local economies annually (please see page 12).

The major in-park special events will be held June 13-15 and on September 2, 2009. In addition, local communities will celebrate with more than 100 events of their own. For information, please see pages 7-10 and visit:

[www.GreatSmokies75th.org](http://www.GreatSmokies75th.org)





# trip planner

For additional information, visit [www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm)

## smokies guide

*Smokies Guide* is produced four times per year by Great Smoky Mountains Association. Publication dates are approximately:  
 SPRING: March 21  
 SUMMER: June 1  
 AUTUMN: September 1  
 WINTER: December 1

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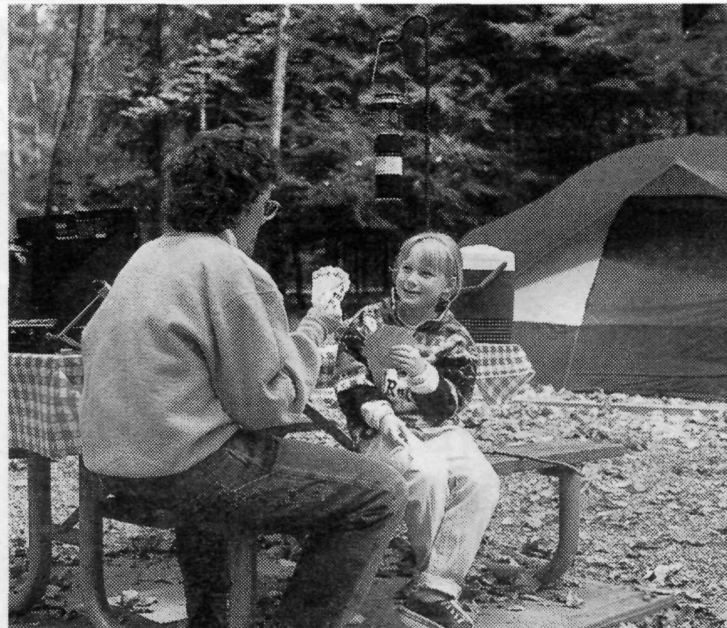
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Gatlinburg, TN 37738

[smokiesinformation.org](http://smokiesinformation.org)



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BILL LEA PHOTO

The Park Service operates 10 campgrounds in the Smokies.

## camping in the national park

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

During summer and fall, sites at Elkmont, Smoke-mont, Cosby, and Cades Cove may be reserved. For reservations call 1-877-444-6777 or contact [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Reservations are accepted only for May 15-Oct. 31. Sites may be reserved up to six months in advance. All other campgrounds are first-come, first-serve.

No more than six people may occupy a campsite. Two tents or one RV and one tent allowed per site. The maximum stay is 7 or 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 1-877-444-6777 or contact [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Sites may be reserved up to one year in advance.

The list below shows number of sites, elevations, fees per night, 2009 schedule, and maximum RV lengths.

**ABRAMS CREEK** 16 sites, elev. 1,125', \$14, open March 13-Oct. 31, 12' RVs

**BALSAM MOUNTAIN** 46 sites, elev. 5,310', \$14, open May 8-Oct. 12, 30' RVs

**BIG CREEK** 12 sites, elev. 1,700', \$14, open March 13-Oct. 31, tents only

**CADES COVE** 159 sites, elev. 1,807', \$17-\$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs

**CATALOOCHEE** 27 sites, elev. 2,610', \$17, open March 13-Oct. 31, 31' RVs

**COSBY** 165 sites, elev. 2,459', \$14, open March 13-Oct. 31, 25' RVs

**DEEP CREEK** 92 sites, elev. 1,800', \$17, open April 1-Oct. 31, 26' RVs

**ELKMONT** 220 sites, elev. 2,150', \$17-\$23, open March 13-Nov. 30, 32'-35' RVs

**LOOK ROCK** 68 sites, elev. 2,600', \$14, open May 8-Oct. 31, all size RVs allowed

**SMOKEMONT** 142 sites, elev. 2,198', \$17-\$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs

## accommodations

Le Conte Lodge (accessible by foot 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  
 Sevierville 1-888-766-5948  
 Townsend 1-800-525-6834

## other services

There are no gas stations in the park. Fuel is available in the neighboring communities of Cherokee, Gatlinburg, and Townsend.

There are no restaurants in the park. Limited food service is available at the Cades Cove Campground store. Le Conte Lodge is offering lunches and snacks to day hikers. Lunch reservations may be required. Visit [lecontelodge.com](http://lecontelodge.com) for information.

Limited groceries are also available at the Cades Cove Campground store.

## picnic areas

Locations of picnic areas are shown on page 16. Look Rock and Heintooga do not open until May 8. All sites include a picnic table and fire grate. Pavilions are available by reservation (1-877-444-6777).

## pets in the park

Pets are allowed in front-country campgrounds as long as they are restrained at all times. Pets are not allowed on park trails, except for 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 6-September 23.

Bicycles may be rented for \$4-\$6 per hour from the Cades Cove store (located near Cades Cove Campground). Spring hours are 9-5 (7-5 on Wednesday and Saturday bicycle days, see



Cades Cove bicycle morning.

(above). Last rentals 2:30 p.m.

Over a dozen bicyclists in the park were injured seriously enough last year to require medical attention. Helmets are required by law for persons age 16 and under and are strongly recommended for all riders.

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

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 River & Rec. Area (931) 879-4890; Nantahala & Pisgah Nat'l Forests (828) 257-4200.

MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO



# park information

Over 150 different trails wend through the Great Smoky Mountains

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.

## park 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 70s F is followed by a wet, bitterly cold one. By mid- to late April, the weather is milder.

### SUMMER

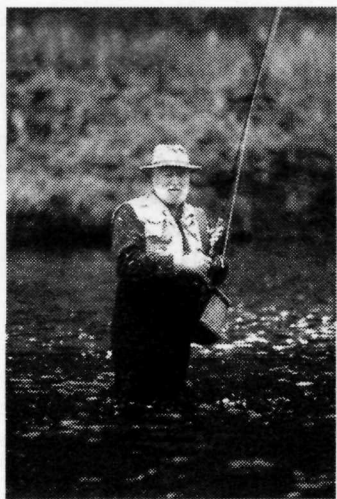
By mid-June, heat, haze, and humidity are the norm. Most precipitation occurs as afternoon thundershowers.

### 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 65°F or snowy with highs in the 20s. In the low elevations, snows of 1" or more occur 1-5 times per year. At Newfound Gap, 69" fall on average. Lows of -20°F are possible in the high country.



MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO

Park anglers pursue brown, brook, and rainbow trout.

## 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—6 miles  
Deep Creek—48 miles

### TOWNSEND, TN TO:

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

## nature's calendar of special events

### SPRING WILDFLOWERS

The peak of spring wildflower blooming usually occurs in mid-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

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.

### RHODODENDRONS

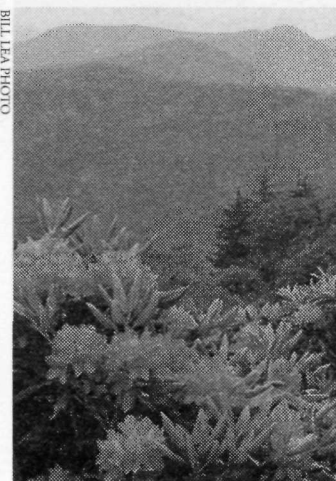
Catawba rhododendron reaches its peak of bloom in June. Rosebay rhododendron is in bloom during June and July.

## horse riding

Horseback riding is generally available from mid-March into November. Rates are \$25 per hour. Most stables have maximum rider weight limits of 200, 225, or 250 pounds and age restrictions for children. Please call the stables below or stop at a park visitor center for detailed information.

Cades Cove (865) 448-9009  
Smokemont (828) 497-2373  
Smoky Mtn. (865) 436-5634  
Sugarlands (865) 436-3535  
Hayrides and carriage rides (\$6-\$8 per person) are available from Cades Cove Riding Stable. Wagon rides (\$8 per person) are offered at Smokemont.

BILL LEA PHOTO



Rhododendron blooms in June.

### FALL COLORS

At the higher elevations, fall colors often peak during the first two weeks of October. At the lower elevations, colors peak October 15-30.

### 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. Horse camps are located at Cades Cove, Big Creek, Cataloochee, Round Bottom, and Towstring.

Horse camps are open April 1 through November 11. Reservations are required. Please call 1-877-444-6777 or contact [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.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 three and seven sites.

Sites at horse camps may be reserved up to six months in advance.



# enjoying the park

*The Smokies is America's most-visited national park*



MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO

America's most scenic and historic places are protected by the NPS for future generations.

## the national park service

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is managed by the United States National Park Service. The agency manages the park in accordance with its mission "to conserve the 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."

Park Superintendent Dale Ditmanson asks the help of all Smokies visitors in conserving park resources. Please don't litter, feed wildlife, or disturb plants. Take a little time to view exhibits at park visitor centers, go on a ranger-led program, or take part in other activities that will help you learn more about the Great Smoky Mountains. Most importantly, do your best to leave the park in better condition than it was in when you came.

To learn more about America's national parks, contact [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

## bears, bugs, & snakes

**BEARS:** 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.

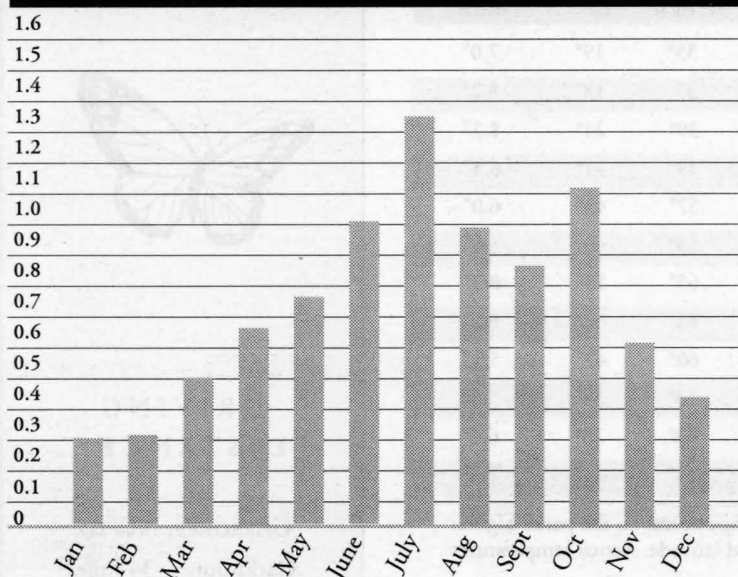
If a bear persistently follows or approaches you without vocalizing or paw swatting, try changing your direction. If the bear continues to follow you, stand your ground. If the bear gets closer, talk loudly or shout at it. Act aggressively and try to intimidate the bear. Throw non-food objects such as 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 to be prey!

**SNAKES:** Two species of poisonous snakes live in the Smokies, the Northern Copperhead and Timber Rattlesnake. Be mindful of where you place your hands and feet, especially around stone walls and buildings.

**INSECTS:** Yellowjacket wasps are the insect of greatest concern. 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.

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



## avoiding crowds in the great smokies

Here are some practical tips for avoiding crowds in the Smokies.

### AVOID PEAK SEASONS

There are two peak seasons: mid-summer (June 15-August 15) and October. Weekends in October are especially crowded, and traffic delays should be expected in Cades Cove and on Newfound Gap Road.

### 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, including Cataloochee valley, Balsam Mountain, Cosby, Greenbrier Cove, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Foothills Parkway, and Fontana Lake.



Unfortunately, crime happens in national parks, too. Don't let it spoil your vacation! "Car clouters" are thieves who break into vehicles at trailheads and other parking areas. They usually steal purses, cameras, or electronic equipment. They are often successful at breaking into locked vehicles.

To prevent theft, keep valuables on your person or at least lock them in your trunk before you get to the parking area. Be aware that thieves may be watching as you "hide" your purse or camera under the blanket in the backseat.

## swimming

Serious water-related injuries occur every year in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Drowning is the second leading cause of death, after automobile accidents. These injuries can easily be avoided. Please remember:

- There are no life-guarded swimming areas in the park. Swimming and tubing are not recommended in any park streams.

- Never dive into rivers or streams. Hidden rocks and ledges lurk even in seemingly deep pools.

- Never try to climb to the top of a waterfall. The rocks are coated with slippery algae, and several hikers have been killed or seriously injured.

- Hikers must use good judgment when deciding to cross large or rain-swollen streams. It is better to turn back or wait for flooding streams to recede rather than risk your life in swift, cold waters.



# places to go

*Favorite destinations in the park*

## caedes cove



MARY ANN KESSIG PHOTO

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

Because visitation is lower in spring, it is one of the best times to visit this beautiful, fertile valley. Deer are almost always seen in the fields and sightings of other wildlife, including black bear, Wild Turkey, coyote, and raccoon, are possible.

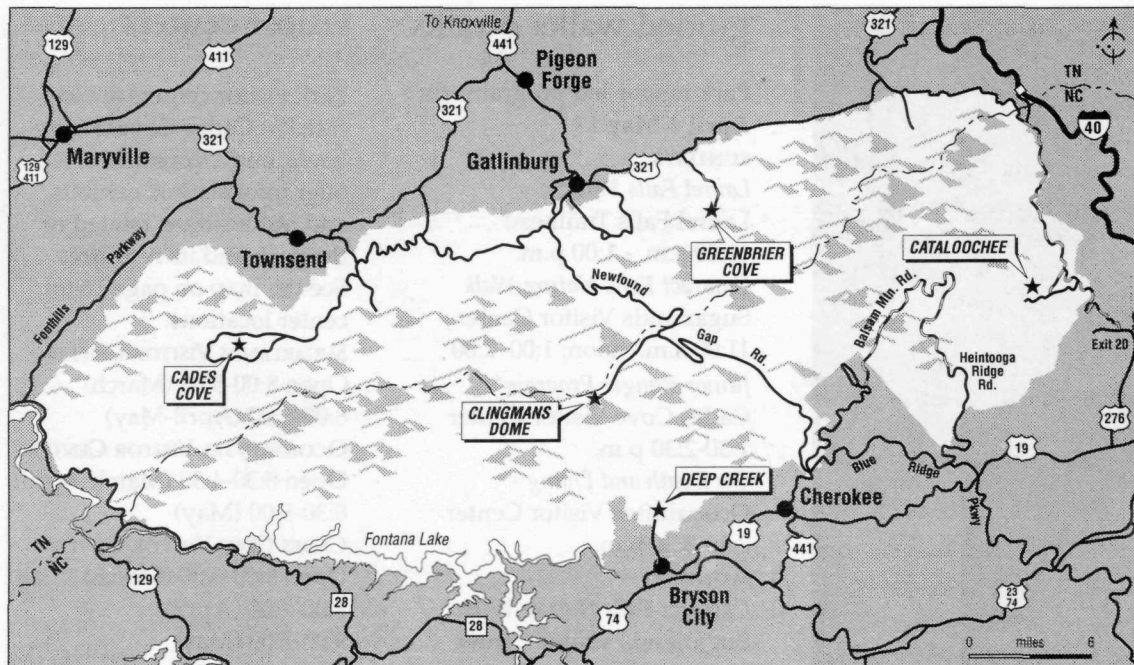
A wide array of historic buildings, dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, are scattered throughout the cove. These include a grist mill, a variety of barns, three churches, and an impressive collection of log homes and outbuildings.

An 11-mile one-way loop road takes you around the cove. Traffic on weekends is heavy. A \$1 guide book is available at the start.

Numerous trails originate in the cove, including the five-mile roundtrip trail to Abrams Falls and the short trail to the Elijah Oliver place.

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 6-September 23.

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



## deep creek

**HIGHLIGHTS:** 🌿 WALKING TRAILS 🚲 MOUNTAIN BIKING

The Deep Creek area is an off-the-beaten-path destination in the Great Smoky Mountains, celebrated for its rushing streams, spring wildflowers, and waterfalls. Hikers enjoy the area because of the waterfalls and because there are several loop hikes to choose from. Mountain bikers can take advantage of one of the few park trails where bicycles are permitted.

Deep Creek area loop hikes include Juney Whank Falls (0.6 mile), Three Waterfalls Loop (2.4 miles), and Deep Creek-Indian Creek Loop (4.4 miles). Longer loop hikes are also possible.

Bicycles are allowed on Deep Creek and Indian Creek trails to the points where the old roadbeds end and the trail treads begin.

Deep Creek Picnic Area is open year-round.  
*Mileage from Cherokee—14*  
*from Gatlinburg—48*  
*from Townsend—66*

## greenbrier cove

**HIGHLIGHTS:** 🌸 WILDFLOWER VIEWING 🌿 HIKING TRAILS

In spring, the Greenbrier area of the park is renowned for its wildflowers. The short drive to the Ramsey Cascades trailhead provides good wildflower viewing from your car, while the Porters Creek Trail makes a good wildflower walk.

To hike Porters Creek, follow the signs to the trailhead of the same name. Good displays of wildflowers can be seen along the first 1.5 miles of trail. Wildflower displays generally start in March and peak in early April.

Ramsey Cascades is another popular trail in the area with good wildflower viewing opportunities. From the trailhead, it's 4.0 strenuous miles to the cascades, which are the tallest in the Smokies.

To get to the Greenbrier entrance, take U.S. 321 six miles east of Gatlinburg.  
*Mileage to Greenbrier:*  
*from Gatlinburg—6*  
*from Cherokee—41*

## cataloochee

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

This idyllic mountain valley is a lovely off-the-beaten-path destination featuring well-preserved historic buildings and good opportunities for viewing wildlife, including elk.

Access requires driving three miles on a narrow gravel road, but the road is maintained 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.

**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 the gas station), turn left and follow signs 11 more miles to Cataloochee.  
*Mileage to Cataloochee:*  
*from Cherokee—39*  
*from Gatlinburg—65*

## clingmans dome



KENT CANE PHOTO

**HIGHLIGHTS:** ▲ MOUNTAIN VIEWS 🌲 SPRUCE-FIR FOREST

At 6,643 feet, Clingmans Dome is the highest peak in the Smokies and the third highest mountain east of the Mississippi. On clear days the observation tower on the summit of the mountain offers spectacular 360° views of the Smokies and beyond.

To get to the "top of old Smoky," turn onto Clingmans Dome Road which starts 0.1 mile south of Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road. It's seven miles to the end of the road and there are scenic pullouts along the way. **Clingmans Dome Road opens April 1.**

The road ends in a large parking area from which a 0.5 mile trail leads to the summit. The trail is paved but steep and leads to an observation tower on top.

Besides the trail to the summit, several other trails are accessible from the Clingmans Dome area, including the Appalachian Trail and the Forney Ridge Trail to Andrews Bald.

*Mileage to Clingmans Dome:*  
*from Cherokee—25*  
*from Gatlinburg—23*  
*from Townsend—41*



# things to do

*On your own or with a ranger...*



BILL LEA PHOTO

Short self-guiding trails are a great way to enjoy the Smokies. Each features an inexpensive brochure keyed to numbered posts or landmarks along the way. Many are short loop trails.

## self-guiding nature trails

These trails are ideal places for short walks or hikes. Each has a leaflet keyed to numbered posts or landmarks along the trail which describes things of interest. Leaflets are available for 50¢ from dispensers at the beginning of all trails and at park visitor centers.

The location of each trail is indicated on the map on the back page of this newspaper and is listed below with roundtrip mileages.

**ALUM CAVE (4.4 miles)** Starts at Alum Cave trailhead on Newfound Gap Road between Chimney Tops Picnic Area and Newfound Gap.

**COVE HARDWOOD (0.75 mile)** Starts at the entrance to Chimney Tops Picnic Area on Newfound Gap Road.

**COSBY (1.0 mile)** Starts near the amphitheater in Cosby Campground.

**ELKMONT (0.75 mile)** Starts from the parking area above Elkmont Campground.

**FIGHTING CREEK (1.0 mile)** Starts near Sugarlands Visitor Center.

**LAUREL FALLS (2.5 miles)** Starts from the large trailhead on Little River Road between Sugarlands Visitor Center and Elkmont Campground.

**NOAH "BUD" OGLE (0.75 mile)** Starts on Cherokee Orchard Road, 3 miles south of Gatlinburg via Historic Nature Trail-Airport Road.

**SPRUCE-FIR (0.5 mile)** Starts from Clingmans Dome Road.

**SUGARLANDS VALLEY (0.5 mile)** Starts 0.5 mile south of Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Road. Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

## guided walks & talks

Park ranger-led programs for **April 4-May 17.**

### SUNDAYS

*Laurel Falls Walk\**

Laurel Falls Trailhead

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

*Cataract Falls Nature Walk*

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:00 a.m.-noon; 1:00-2:00

*Junior Ranger Program\**

Cades Cove Visitor Center

1:30-2:30 p.m.

*On Death and Dying*

Oconaluftee Visitor Center

2:30-3:30 p.m.

### MONDAYS

*Cataract Falls Nature Walk*

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:00 a.m.-noon; 1:00-2:00

### TUESDAYS

*Fightin' Creek Nature Walk*

Sugarlands Visitor Center

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAYS

*Mammals of the Smokies\**

Newfound Gap

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

### THURSDAYS

*Surrounded by Trees (walk)*

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*A Cabin in the Woods*

Noah "Bud" Ogle Place

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

*Fightin' Creek Nature Walk*

Sugarlands Visitor Center

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

### FRIDAYS

*Creation of the National Park*

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

### SATURDAYS

*Cataract Falls Nature Walk*

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:00 a.m.-noon; 1:00-2:00

*Fishy Facts (except April 25)*

Mountain Farm Museum

1:30-2:15 p.m.

*Junior Ranger Program\**

Cades Cove Visitor Center

1:00-2:45 p.m.

*Women Folks (except April 25)*

Mountain Farm Museum

2:30-3:20 p.m.

*\*great for Junior Rangers*

## visitor centers

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

**SUGARLANDS VISITOR CENTER**

Open 8:00-5:00 (March)

8:00-6:00 (April-May)

**OCONALUFTEE VISITOR CENTER**

Open 8:30-4:30 (March-April)

8:30-5:00 (May)

**CADES COVE VISITOR CENTER**

Open 9:00-6:00 (March)

9:00-7:00 (April)

9:00-7:00 (May)

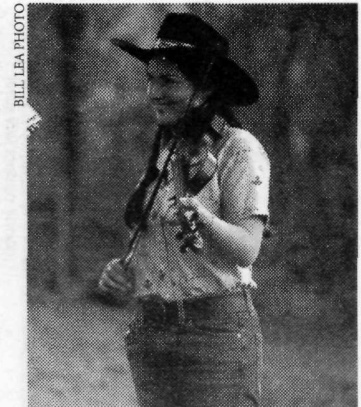
## become a junior ranger



Kids ages 5-12 can become official Junior Park Rangers.

This spring, kids ages 5-12 can become official National Park Junior Rangers. Just stop in at any park visitor center and purchase a Junior Ranger booklet for \$2.50. There are four age specific (5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12) booklets available.

If you successfully complete the activities in the booklet, a park ranger will award you an official badge.



## special events

March 28: Music of the Mountains at Sugarlands Visitor Center & Mills Auditorium, 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

April 9: Full moon walk at Cades Cove, 7:30 p.m.

April 17-19: Old Tymes Past Music at Cades Cove

April 21-26: Old Tymes Past Music at Cades Cove

April 22-26: Spring Wild-flower Pilgrimage, Parkwide

April 25: National Junior Ranger Day, ages 5-12. Please see details on page 8.

April 25-26: Blacksmithing at Cades Cove

April 29-30: Old Tymes Past Music at Cades Cove

May 9: Full moon walk at Cades Cove, 7:30 p.m.

May 16: International Migratory Bird Day activities at Sugarlands & Oconaluftee visitor centers

May 16: Cosby in the Park celebration at Cosby Campground/Picnic Area, 10-4.

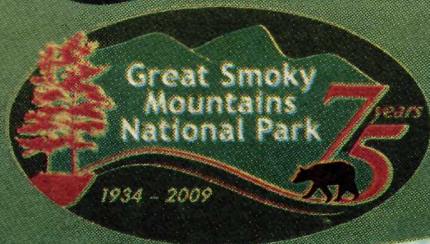
May 17-20: Quilting at Cades Cove

May 23-24: Blacksmithing at Cades Cove



# GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

## National Park turns 75 in 2009!



### 75th Anniversary Events

#### Fourth Saturday of Each Month

(March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 28 and December 26)

Walking Tour of Townsend and Tremont in Townsend TN

Join Little River Railroad representatives for a short walking tour of Townsend or Tremont (visitor's choice) highlighting lumbering and logging history in what is now the National Park.

**Website:** [www.littleriverrailroad.org](http://www.littleriverrailroad.org)

**E-mail:** [president@littleriverrailroad.org](mailto:president@littleriverrailroad.org)

**Phone:** (865) 448-2211

#### January 1-December 31

Great Smoky Mountains History Exhibits in Knoxville, TN

This East Tennessee History Center exhibition explores the history of Great Smoky Mountains National Park by investigating the changing relationship between the land and the people.

**Website:** [www.east-tennessee-history.org](http://www.east-tennessee-history.org)

**E-mail:** [eths@east-tennessee-history.org](mailto:eths@east-tennessee-history.org)

**Phone:** (865) 215-8830

#### January 1-December 31

Higher Ground: A Century of the Visual Arts in East Tennessee in Knoxville, TN

More than 60 works by a select group of the most accomplished artists with ties to the Smoky Mountains will be on display at the Knoxville Museum of Art.

**Website:** [www.knoxart.org](http://www.knoxart.org)

**E-mail:** [info@kmaonline.org](mailto:info@kmaonline.org)

**Phone:** (865) 525-6101

#### January 2-December 31

Birds of the Smokies: The Art of Audubon, Catesby, and Wilson

At the Frank H. McClung Museum in Knoxville, TN.

An exhibit of 18th and early 19th century engravings and lithographs of birds native to the Smokies.

**Website:** <http://mcclungmuseum.utk.edu>

**E-mail:** [museum@utk.edu](mailto:museum@utk.edu)

**Phone:** (865) 974-2144

#### January 2 - December 11

75 on the 75th Hikes

Fontana Hiking Club and Fontana Village, NC is sponsoring 75 hikes in 2009 to celebrate the anniversary. These 75 guided hikes will cover all the trails in the park.

**Website:** [www.fontanavillage.com/fhc](http://www.fontanavillage.com/fhc)

**E-mail:** [jerry.span@fontanavillage.com/fhc](mailto:jerry.span@fontanavillage.com/fhc)

**Phone:** (828) 498-2122

**An entire year of festivities are planned, featuring mountain music, historic demonstrations, crafts, food, fine art, special appearances, ceremonies, and so much more. Celebrations will be breaking out everywhere, both in the park, and in the many local communities that benefit from its existence. It's going to be one heck of a year!**

#### January 2-December 31

Archaeology and the Native Peoples of Tennessee Exhibit in Knoxville, TN

An exhibition tracing 15,000 years of Native American culture in Tennessee at the McClung Museum.

**Website:** <http://mcclungmuseum.utk.edu>

**E-mail:** [museum@utk.edu](mailto:museum@utk.edu)

**Phone:** (865) 974-2144

#### February 6-July 5

Mapping the Mountains: The Photographs of George Masa in Asheville, NC

An exhibition examining the photography of George Masa, including images of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**Website:** [www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org)

**E-mail:** [mailbox@ashevilleart.org](mailto:mailbox@ashevilleart.org)

**Phone:** (828) 253-3227

#### March 1-31

Discover Life in America (DLIA) Exhibits in Asheville, NC

A display of DLIA's "Documenting Life" exhibit. The exhibit showcases the effort to document every plant and animal species in this diverse park.

**Website:** [www.dlia.org](http://www.dlia.org)

**E-mail:** [todd@dlia.org](mailto:todd@dlia.org)

**Phone:** (865) 430-4757

#### March 23

Master Gardeners Partner with GSMNP in Native Grass Restoration in Las Vegas, NV

**Website:** [www.scamga.org](http://www.scamga.org)

**E-mail:** [LHLubke@aol.com](mailto:LHLubke@aol.com)

**Phone:** (865) 932-9862

#### March 28

Music of the Mountains in Gatlinburg, TN

Musical traditions of the southern Appalachian Mountains are performed at Sugarlands Visitor Center.

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

**Phone:** (865) 436-1291

#### April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; October 7, 14, 21, 28

Get on the Trails with Friends and Missy

Meet each Wednesday morning in April and October for a fitness hike with Missy Kane and Friends of the Smokies volunteers and staff.

**Website:** [www.friendsofthesmokies.org/events.html](http://www.friendsofthesmokies.org/events.html)

**E-mail:** [fotssw@bellsouth.net](mailto:fotssw@bellsouth.net)

**Phone:** (865) 541-4500

#### April 1-November 30

Heritage Paintings & Photographs Exhibit & Dinners on the Grounds in Gatlinburg, TN

The Cliff Dwellers Gallery will exhibit original artwork of Louis Jones, Ed Hunt's historic photographs and other 1930's memorabilia. They will also host "Dinners on the Grounds" as a fundraiser for the park, May 3, June 7, and July 5.

**Website:** [www.cliffdwellersgallery.com](http://www.cliffdwellersgallery.com)

**E-mail:** [cliffdwellers@att.net](mailto:cliffdwellers@att.net)

**Phone:** (865) 436-2518; (865) 436-6921

#### April 4

Herb and Wildflower Day in Townsend, TN

This event highlights the wonderful diversity of plant life in the Smokies and the ecology, natural history, and traditional uses of wildflowers and herbs.

**Website:** [www.smokymountains.org](http://www.smokymountains.org)

**E-mail:** [jhiltlen@smokymountains.org](mailto:jhiltlen@smokymountains.org)

**Phone:** (865) 448-6134

#### April 5, 18; June 21; July 25; October 24; November 27; December 5, 27

Seventy Five Miles of Hikes in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Join the historic Smoky Mountains Hiking Club in hiking 75 miles of trails in the park to celebrate the park's 75th anniversary.

**Website:** [www.smhclub.org/](http://www.smhclub.org/)

**E-mail:** [rittergeo@hotmail.com](mailto:rittergeo@hotmail.com)

**Phone:** (865) 483-9758

#### April 17

Art Break: Docent-Led Tour of Mapping the Mountains: The Photographs of George Masa in Asheville, NC

**Website:** [www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org)

**E-mail:** [kzdanowicz@ashevilleart.org](mailto:kzdanowicz@ashevilleart.org)

**Phone:** (828) 253-3227

#### April 17

Under the Apple Trees in Cosby, TN

A theatrical production of the evolution of an apple orchard and its family from its inception in GSMNP to today.

**Website:** [www.newporttheatreguild.com](http://www.newporttheatreguild.com)

**E-mail:** [doneil@xtn.net](mailto:doneil@xtn.net)

**Phone:** (423) 623-6171

#### April 17-19

HiYak Festival at Fontana Dam, NC



Hikers and kayakers come together for river and lake maintenance, lectures, music & food and much more.

**Website:** www.fontanavillage.com

**E-mail:** info@fontanavillage.com

**Phone:** (828) 498-2211

#### **April 18**

##### **Celebrate Earth Environmental Fair in Bryson City, NC**

**Website:** www.greatsmokies.com

**E-mail:** chamber@greatsmokies.com

**Phone:** (828) 488-3681

#### **April 19-23**

##### **Spring Hike Week at Fontana Dam, NC**

A celebration of the great outdoors in the Appalachian Mountains. Great hikes, lecture series, music & food.

**Website:** www.fontanavillage.com

**E-mail:** info@fontanavillage.com

**Phone:** (828) 498-2211

#### **April 20-July 5**

##### **Pennies for the Park Exhibit: The Campaign to Establish Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville, TN

**Website:** www.east-tennessee-history.org

**E-mail:** eths@east-tennessee-history.org

**Phone:** (865) 215-8830

#### **April 22-26**

##### **Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in Gatlinburg, TN**

Over 150 guided walks, talks, and motorcades.

**Website:** www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org

**E-mail:** judy@springwildflowerpilgrimage.org

**Phone:** (865) 436-7318, Ext. 222

#### **April 25**

##### **Greening Up the Mountains Spring Festival in Sylva, NC**

**Website:** www.downtownsylva.org

**E-mail:** greeningupthemountains@gmail.com

**Phone:** (828) 269-7937

#### **April 25**

##### **National Junior Ranger Day in the Park**

Great Smoky Mountains National Park will celebrate the third annual National Junior Ranger Day with special activities at the Park's three visitor centers. Children and their families can join in a variety of hands-on activities that range from searching for salamanders to making dinner bells at a blacksmith shop.

**Website:** www.nps.gov/grsm

**Phone:** (865) 436-1200

#### **April 26; May 17; June 14**

##### **Carolina Mountain Club Hikes**

Explore several North Carolina trails in the park with the historic Carolina Mountain Club. Hikes include Bradley Fork, Caldwell Fork and Mingus Creek.

**Website:** http://www.carolinamtnclub.com/

**E-mail:** danny@hikertohiker.com

**Phone:** (828) 236-0192

#### **April 27**

##### **Smoky Mountain Harmony Celebrates the Smoky Mountains with Song in Knoxville, TN**

**Website:** www.smokymtnharmony.org

**E-mail:** info@smokymtnharmony.org

**Phone:** (865) 579-5238

#### **May 1**

##### **Horace Kephart Day in Bryson City, NC**

Celebrate the contributions of Horace Kephart to the

formation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and his regional literature.

**Website:** www.greatsmokies.com

**E-mail:** chamber@greatsmokies.com

**Phone:** (828) 488-3681

#### **May 1-2**

##### **Townsend in the Smokies Spring Festival in Townsend, TN**

Dozens of bluegrass bands performing and jamming, over 30 craft booths, demonstrations of old-fashioned skills, storytelling, and nature rambles.

**Website:** www.smokymountains.org

**E-mail:** jhiltent@smokymountains.org

**Phone:** (865) 448-6134

#### **May 2**

##### **Spring Heritage Festival in Townsend, TN**

Dozens of bluegrass bands performing and jamming, over 30 craft booths, demonstrations of old-fashioned skills, storytelling, and nature rambles.

**Website:** www.gsmheritagecenter.org

**E-mail:** gsmhcevents@yahoo.com

**Phone:** (865) 448-0044

#### **May 8**

##### **Dolly's Homecoming Parade in Pigeon Forge, TN**

Dolly Parton's spring parade will be themed for the 75th anniversary of the park.

**Website:** www.mypigeonforge.com/parade

**E-mail:** events@cityofpigeonforge.com

**Phone:** (865) 429-7350

#### **May 9-10**

##### **Smoky Mountain Bluegrass Festival at Fontana Dam, NC**

A celebration of mountain music.

**Website:** www.fontanavillage.com

**E-mail:** info@fontanavillage.com

**Phone:** (828) 498-2211

#### **May 14-15**

##### **Pi Beta Phi Elementary School's Celebration of the 75th Anniversary in Gatlinburg, TN**

Students will showcase projects that celebrate the culture and history protected by the park. The public is invited to view student projects, hear southern Appalachian music and storytelling, sample traditional foods, and see demonstrations of mountain ways.

**Phone:** (865) 436-5076

#### **May 15-16**

##### **Bloomin' Barbeque & Bluegrass in Sevierville, TN**

A family-oriented event celebrating world-class bluegrass music, authentic mountain crafts, and championship BBQ.

**Website:** www.BloominBBQ.com

**E-mail:** info@seviervillechamber.com

**Phone:** 1-888-889-7415

#### **May 15-17**

##### **TROUTFEST in Townsend, TN**

An outdoor arts & crafts festival supporting brook trout restoration in the park.

**Website:** www.troutfest.org

**E-mail:** jthatton@knology.net

**Phone:** (865) 567-0410

#### **May 16**

##### **Bear Awareness Day in Knoxville, TN**

Celebrate Bear Awareness Day at the Knoxville Zoo.

**Website:** www.knoxville-zoo.org

**E-mail:** teresac@knoxville-zoo.org

**Phone:** (865) 637-5331 Ext. 300

#### **May 16**

##### **Cosby in the Park in Cosby, TN**

Old-time mountain music, storytelling, old-fashioned children's games, and traditional crafts. In the park's Cosby Campground.

**Website:** www.nps.gov/grsm

**Phone:** (865) 436-1291

#### **May 16-17**

##### **DLIA Citizen Science Event in Gatlinburg, TN**

A gathering of past, current, and new DLIA volunteer citizen scientists. At Twin Creeks Science Center.

**Website:** www.dlia.org

**E-mail:** todd@dlia.org

**Phone:** (865) 430-4757

#### **May 22**

##### **International Day for Biodiversity: A Celebration in Gatlinburg, TN**

Exhibits and speakers highlight why Great Smoky Mountains National Park is an International Biosphere Reserve. Learn more about invasive species, one of the biggest threats to biodiversity and the health of the planet.

**Website:** www.dlia.org

**E-mail:** todd@dlia.org

**Phone:** (865) 430-4757

#### **May 22-23**

##### **Heritage Fest in Bryson City, NC**

Come enjoy a weekend of true Appalachian fun. The festival offers music, local arts and crafts, food, and fun for the whole family.

**Website:** www.greatsmokies.com

**E-mail:** chamber@greatsmokies.com

**Phone:** (828) 488-3681

#### **May 23**

##### **Appalachian Dumplin' Festival in Winfield, TN**

Live bluegrass entertainment, fireworks, fireman's competition, horse-shoe pitching contest, lots of games, prizes, arts and craft vendors.

**Website:** www.appalachiadumplinfestival.com

**E-mail:** rmwinfield@highland.net

**Phone:** (423) 569-6139 or (423) 539-8711

#### **May 23**

##### **Fading Voices in Robbinsville, NC**

A celebration of traditional ways of the Snowbird Cherokee Indians. Corn grinding, bread making, basket weaving, pottery, wood carving, dancing, singing, storytelling, beadwork, stick ball, blowgun shooting, and fish games.

**Phone:** (828) 479-8201 or (828) 479-3917

#### **May 23**

##### **Fern Foray in Gatlinburg, TN**

Help Discover Life in America plot and identify ferns on park trails. Your data will be used to create maps of the park's fern species.

**Website:** www.dlia.org

**E-mail:** todd@dlia.org

**Phone:** (865) 430-4757

#### **May 23**

##### **Take a Walk on the River Walk in Townsend, TN**

An easy walk to explore and discover native plants and trees.

**Website:** www.gardencentral.org/tenngardenclubs/tuckaleechee



*E-mail:* erussell6346@charter.net  
*Phone:* (865) 980-6346

#### May 28

##### Spring for the Smokies in Waynesville, NC

Annual fundraiser for Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Call to request an invitation.

*Website:* www.friendsofthesmokies.org

*E-mail:* fotses@bellsouth.net

*Phone:* (828) 452-0720

#### June 1-August 20

##### Smokies Wilderness Elite Appalachian Trail (SWEAT) Crew

Crews will be hard at work on the "AT" in the Smokies

*Website:* www.appalachiantrail.org/sweatcrew

*E-mail:* adowns@appalachiantrail.org

*Phone:* (828) 254-3708

#### June 4-6

##### Smoky Mountains Storytelling Festival in Pigeon Forge, TN

A celebration of the ancient art of storytelling.

*Website:* www.mypigeonforge.com

*E-mail:* events@cityofpigeonforge.com

*Phone:* (865) 429-7350

#### June 5-July 31

##### Smoky Mountain Visions in Knoxville

A new exhibition at the Emporium Center featuring contemporary 2- and 3-dimensional artwork by national artists focusing on the beauty of the Smokies.

#### June 6, 9-13, 16-20, 23-27

##### Pastels for the Park in Bryson City, NC

A month-long showing of pastel paintings by members of the Appalachian Pastel Society. Paintings highlight the natural beauty of our Great Smoky Mountains National Park to celebrate its 75th anniversary

*Website:* www.theartistshousegallery.com

*E-mail:* artistshousetoo@verizon.net

*Phone:* (828) 488-1317

#### June 6

##### DLIA Day at Mast General Store in Knoxville, TN

*Website:* www.dlia.org

*E-mail:* todd@dlia.org

*Phone:* (865) 430-4757

#### June 6

##### National Trails Day 2009 in Gatlinburg, TN

A day of hard work and intense fun on the Appalachian Trail in the Smokies!

*Website:* www.friendsofthesmokies.com/cvents.html

*E-mail:* fotsb@bellsouth.net

*Phone:* (865) 932-4794

#### June 6

##### Patchwork Fabric Festival in Cullowhee, NC

Demonstrations and exhibits celebrating the traditions of spinning, weaving, quilting, sewing and other hand stitchery.

*Website:* www.spiritofappalachia.org

*E-mail:* v.ammons@mchsi.com

*Phone:* (828) 631-4587

#### June 5-6

##### Smoky Mountain Pottery Festival in Townsend, TN

The Smoky Mountain Pottery Festival is a juried, all pottery show with featured guest potters exhibiting and selling their wares. Demonstrations of wheel-throwing, special firings, and a educational children's tent.

*Website:* www.smokymountains.org/pottery-festival.html

*E-mail:* jhiltent@smokymountains.org  
*Phone:* (865) 448-6134

#### June 6

##### The Park Was My Home in Gatlinburg, TN

Former park and area residents gather to share stories, photographs and memories about the days before the establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

*Website:* www.eventsgatlinburg.com

*E-mail:* info@gatlinburg.com

*Phone:* (865) 436-0526

#### June 13

##### June Jubilee in Dandridge, TN

Street festival celebrating our history and heritage.

*Website:* www.junejubilee.com

*E-mail:* junejubilee@aim.com

*Phone:* (865) 397-2616 or (865) 919-6104

#### June 13

##### 75th Anniversary Weekend in Cades Cove, TN

Special exhibits will highlight the cultural history of Cades Cove. The finale will be an outdoor performance by the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. *In order to manage crowd size, visitors must have a reservation to attend.*

*Website:* www.GreatSmokies75th.org

*E-mail:* Ann@GSMAssoc.org

*Phone:* (865) 436-7318, Ext. 349

#### June 13-15

##### 75th Anniversary Benefit Show at Smith Family Theater

The Smith's perform a live show based on our Southern Heritage. A video clip of Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicating the park at Newfound Gap is shown at the beginning of every show.

*Website:* www.smithfamilytheater.com

*E-mail:* kimbridges@smithfamilytheater.com

*Phone:* (865) 429-8100

#### June 14

##### 75th Anniversary Weekend at Park Headquarters in Gatlinburg, TN

An open house at Park Headquarters near Gatlinburg, TN will highlight park development, park management activities, park architecture, and the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

*Website:* www.GreatSmokies75th.org

*E-mail:* Ann@GSMAssoc.org

*Phone:* (865) 436-7318, Ext. 349

#### June 15

##### 75th Anniversary Weekend in Oconaluftee, NC

Programs and exhibits will celebrate Smoky Mountain life from the Cherokee through park establishment. A ground breaking ceremony will symbolically initiate the construction of the new Oconaluftee Visitor Center and cultural museum.

*Website:* www.GreatSmokies75th.org

*E-mail:* Ann@GSMAssoc.org

*Phone:* (865) 436-7318, Ext. 349

#### June 17-20

##### Biodiversity Days in the Smokies in Gatlinburg, TN

*Website:* www.dlia.org

*E-mail:* todd@dlia.org

*Phone:* (865) 430-4757

#### June 17-21

##### ChristyFest in Townsend, TN

ChristyFest is the annual gathering of fans of Catherine Marshall's classic novel, *Christy* and the dramatic adaptations that have sprung from its popularity.

*Website:* www.christyfest.org  
*E-mail:* info@christyfest.org  
*Phone:* (336) 312-6150

#### June 19-21

##### Battle of Burg Hill—Civil War Re-enactment in Gatlinburg, TN

Civil War re-enactment and living history demonstration related to the historic Battle of Burg Hill, the only Civil War skirmish in Gatlinburg.

*Website:* www.eventsgatlinburg.com

*E-mail:* jone@ci.gatlinburg.tn.us

*Phone:* (865) 436-0500

#### June 20

##### Women's Work Festival at Oconaluftee, NC

A glimpse into the past roles that rural women held in the family and community. A variety of demonstrations will be ongoing throughout the day.

*Website:* www.nps.gov/grsm

*Phone:* (865) 436-1200

#### June 20

##### 20th Annual Great Smoky Mountains Trout Festival in Maggie Valley, NC

A full day of mountain fun celebrating the importance of mountain trout.

*Website:* www.gsmtroutfestival.org

*E-mail:* ashley@maggievalley.org

*Phone:* (828) 926-1686

#### June 23-July 31

##### Images of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Brevard, NC

Photography exhibit of images of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

*Website:* www.bluewoodgallery.com

*E-mail:* jvanorman@citcom.net and

sdhersh@citcom.net

*Phone:* (828) 883-4142

#### June 26-27

##### Nawger Nob Craft Fair in Townsend, TN

Family oriented craft fair with emphasis on mountain crafts, heritage, and music.

*Website:* www.woodcarvers.com

*E-mail:* Sales@woodcarvers.com

*Phone:* (865) 448-6350

#### Every Saturday of Each Month

##### (June 27-August 29)

##### An Appalachian Evening Summer Concert Series in Robbinsville, NC

This summer concert series offers an ever changing schedule of bluegrass, folk, and old-time mountain music by award winning artists.

*Website:* www.stecoahvalleycenter.com

*E-mail:* programs@stecoahvalleycenter.com

*Phone:* (828) 479-3364

#### June 27-28

##### The Cold Mountain Heritage Tour in Haywood County, NC

Tour historic farms, churches, cemeteries and stores and learn about the history, architecture and way of life of the "Inman" and other local families.

*Website:* www.bethelcomm.org

*E-mail:* rvrhouse@bellsouth.net

*Phone:* (828) 646-0303

#### July 3-4

##### Red, White and Bluegrass in Cosby, TN

A patriotic celebration of mountain heritage including



musical performance, craft demonstration and sales as well as artist workshops.

**Website:** www.TreasuresofAppalachia.com  
**E-mail:** GSM75@TreasuresofAppalachia.com  
**Phone:** (423) 487-3111

#### July 3-4

##### **Annual Heritage Festival & Street Fair in Robbinsville, NC**

A celebration of traditional mountain ways and entertainment.

**Website:** www.grahamcountytravel.com  
**E-mail:** info@grahamcountytravel.com  
**Phone:** 800-470-3790 or (828) 479-6176

#### July 4

##### **July 4th Celebration and Anvil Shoot in Clinton, TN**

An old-fashioned Fourth of July with patriotic ceremonies, musical programs, demonstrations of mountain arts and skills, an anvil shoot, and traditional foods.

**Website:** www.museumofappalachia.org  
**E-mail:** museum@museumofappalachia.org  
**Phone:** (865) 494-7680

#### July 3/4

##### **July 4th Midnight Parade in Gatlinburg, TN**

Each year Gatlinburg celebrates Independence Day with an award winning parade. This year it will celebrate the park's anniversary.

**Website:** www.gatlinburg.com  
**E-mail:** info@gatlinburg.com  
**Phone:** (865) 436-4178

#### **July 4, 11, 18; August 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5**

##### **Shindig on the Green in Asheville, NC**

Traditional southern Appalachian mountain music, dancing, and storytelling.

**Website:** http://folkheritage.org  
**E-mail:** info@folkheritage.org  
**Phone:** (828) 258-6101, Ext. 345

#### July 10

##### **An Appalachian Celebration in Townsend, TN**

Traditional ballads, stories, and music of southern Appalachia.

**Website:** www.gsmrit.org and  
www.gsmheritagecenter.org  
**E-mail:** meredith@gsmrit.org and  
gsmhcevents@yahoo.com  
**Phone:** (865) 448-6709 and (865) 448-0044

#### July 17-18

##### **Franklin Folk Festival in Franklin, NC**

A down home celebration of mountain heritage.

**Website:** www.mcncfha.org  
**E-mail:** tframsey@mchsi.com  
**Phone:** (828) 524-3161

#### July 20-October 4

##### **"Art and Artists of the Great Smoky Mountains, before and after the Creation of the Park" Exhibit at East Tennessee History Center, Knoxville, TN**

Explore artwork depicting Great Smoky Mountains National Park landscapes and life.

**Website:** www.east-tennessee-history.org  
**E-mail:** eths@east-tennessee-history.org  
**Phone:** (865) 215-8830

#### July 30, 31, and August 1

##### **Mountain Dance and Folk Festival in Asheville, NC**

Enjoy traditional southern Appalachian music & dance.

**Website:** http://folkheritage.org

**E-mail:** info@folkheritage.org

**Phone:** (828) 258-6101, Ext. 345

#### August 1-2

##### **Annual Asheville Quilt Show in Asheville, NC**

Explore the rich cultural heritage of quilting with over 250 handcrafted quilts.

**Website:** www.ncarboretum.org  
**Phone:** (828) 665-2492

#### August 1

##### **Talking Trees Trout Derby in Cherokee, NC**

Children can learn to catch trout with adult guides.

**Website:** www.cherokee-nc.com  
**E-mail:** janiwild@nc-cherokee.com  
**Phone:** (828) 497-8122

#### August 6

##### **Sourwood Festival in Black Mountain, NC**

Celebrate the native sourwood tree, famous for honey, with traditional music and demonstrations.

**Website:** www.exploreblackmountain.com  
**E-mail:** bmchamber@juno.com  
**Phone:** (828) 669-2300

#### August 13

##### **Friends Across the Mountain Telethon in TN and NC**

Hour-long broadcast celebrating Friends of the Smokies support for Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**Website:** www.friendsofthesmokies.com/events.html  
**Phone:** 1-877-4-MTNS

#### August 14 and 15

##### **Stringtime in the Smokies in Pigeon Forge, TN**

A celebration of traditional, bluegrass, and Americana music.

**Website:** www.mypigeonforge.com  
**E-mail:** events@cityofpigeonforge.com  
**Phone:** (865) 429-7350

#### August 21

##### **In View of the Smokies: Celebrating 75 Years Exhibition Opening**

Opening reception for "In View of the Smokies: Celebrating 75 years" exhibit.

**Website:** www.arrowmont.org  
**E-mail:** kgreen@arrowmont.org  
**Phone:** (865) 436-5860

#### August 21-October 10

##### **In View of the Smokies: Celebrating 75 Years Exhibition in Gatlinburg, TN**

Juried photography exhibition featuring imagery of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**Website:** www.arrowmont.org  
**E-mail:** info@arrowmont.org  
**Phone:** (865) 436-5860

#### August 28-29

##### **Fines Creek Bluegrass Jam in Clyde, NC**

Enjoy two nights of bluegrass music in a beautiful outdoor setting.

**E-mail:** info@finescreek.org  
**Phone:** (828) 627-1113

#### August 28-September 7

##### **Play in the Park Week in Waynesville, NC**

Celebrate all the Smokies have to offer with fly fishing, hikes, rafting, and wildlife viewing.

**Website:** www.thewaynesvilleinn.com  
**E-mail:** contactus@thewaynesvilleinn.com

**Phone:** 1-800-627-6250

#### September 1-November 1

##### **Rocky Top Trail Crew on the Appalachian Trail, NC and TN**

Volunteer with the Rocky Top Trail Crew for a week on the Appalachian Trail.

**Website:** www.appalachiantrail.org/rockytop  
**E-mail:** adowns@appalachiantrail.org  
**Phone:** (828) 254-3708

#### September 2

##### **75th Anniversary at Newfound Gap**

A "rededication" of the park, reminiscent of Franklin D. Roosevelt's historic 1940 park dedication speech, will be enacted at the Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap. *Special invitations to attend the ceremony will be issued, accompanied by live broadcasts at the park's entrances and in gateway communities.*

**Website:** www.GreatSmokies75th.org  
**E-mail:** Ann@GSMAssoc.org  
**Phone:** (865) 436-7318, Ext. 349

#### September 5

##### **9th Annual Mountain Music Championship in Robbinsville, NC**

Fun-filled day of mountain music, food, and friendly competition. Individual and band competitions in both old-time and bluegrass music categories for the fiddle, banjo, mandolin and guitar.

**Website:** www.stecoahvalleycenter.com  
**E-mail:** programs@stecoahvalleycenter.com  
**Phone:** (828) 479-3364

#### September 5

##### **Take a Walk on the River Walk in Townsend, TN**

An easy walk to explore and discover native plants and trees.

**Website:** www.gardencentral.org/tenngardenclubs/tuckaleechee  
**E-mail:** erussell6346@charter.net  
**Phone:** (865) 980-6346

#### September 13

##### **Bluegrass Day at the Fair**

Enjoy some of East Tennessee's finest harmonies at Bluegrass Day at the Fair.

**Website:** www.tnvalleyfair.org  
**E-mail:** fair@tnvalleyfair.org  
**Phone:** (865) 215-1474

#### September 13 and 14

##### **Country Market in Knoxville, TN**

Experience a true 'country market' with traditional crafts, music and demonstrations.

**Website:** www.ramseyhouse.org  
**E-mail:** info@ramseyhouse.org  
**Phone:** (865) 546-0745

#### September 15, October 13 and November 17

##### **Appalachian Lecture Series at Maryville College, TN**

Lecture series explores topics in Appalachian history.

**Website:** www.maryvillecollege.edu  
**E-mail:** karen.eldridge@maryvillecollege.edu  
**Phone:** (865) 981-8209

**Visit [www.GreatSmokies75th.org](http://www.GreatSmokies75th.org) for more programs in September, October, November, and December, 2009.**



# into the wild

Backpacking and day hiking by the numbers

## 1 first things first

A free backcountry permit is required for all persons spending the night in the park's backcountry. Dayhikers are not required to register or obtain permits.

Backcountry permits are available at most park campgrounds, ranger stations, and at Sugarlands and Oconaluftee visitor centers. Registration areas at the ranger stations and campgrounds are accessible 24 hours a day. Visitor center registration stations are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A few backcountry campsites and all shelters require advance reservations. Pick up a \$1 *Great Smoky Mountains Trail Map* for backcountry campsite locations and information. To make a reservation, call (865) 436-1231. The reservations office is open seven days a week between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please have your itinerary planned before calling.

Hiking guides and trail maps are available through Great Smoky Mountains Association at park visitor centers or by contacting (865) 436-7318 or [www.SmokiesInformation.org](http://www.SmokiesInformation.org)

**GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING PERMIT**  
(Only one permit per group)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Vehicle Model \_\_\_\_\_ License # \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING REGULATIONS**  
**NO PETS IN THE BACKCOUNTRY**  
• Toilet use must be at least 100 feet from a site/shelter/water. Human feces must be buried 6" deep.  
• Reservations are required to stay at some shelters and all shelters (see trail map).  
• Possession of this permit is required while camping in the backcountry.  
• The maximum group size is 8 people.  
• Camp only at designated sites.  
• Build fires only at existing fire rings.  
• Use only dead and down wood.  
• Hang food on cable storage systems or at least 10' off the ground and 4' away from the tree.  
• The maximum stay per site is 3 nights.  
• The maximum stay per shelter is 3 nights.  
• You are responsible for compliance.  
• Violators are subject to fines.  
(See trail map for more information)

## 2 how to NOT feed the bears

The greatest favor you can do wild bears is keep human-related food out of their reach. For this reason the Park Service requires that backpackers hang their food (10' above the

ground, 4' from the nearest tree trunk or large branch). Nearly all backcountry campsites are now equipped with cable and pulley systems that make hanging food quick and easy.

Please don't throw food scraps, cans, aluminum foil, or glass in fire pits. Pack out all trash. Hang all food and scented items, including dirty cookware, soap, shampoo, and toothpaste.



## 3 how to NOT die

1. STAY on officially-maintained trails.
2. Don't climb on rocks around waterfalls.
3. Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
4. Spring is hypothermia season in the Smokies. Avoid it by keeping dry and warm. Don't wear cotton clothing. Eat before you're hungry and rest before you're tired.
5. Don't attempt to cross flood-swollen streams; they will recede rapidly after precipitation stops and the wait may save your life! When crossing any stream more than ankle-deep: unbuckle the waist strap of your pack, wear shoes, and use a staff.
6. Giardia and other harmful organisms are present in park water sources. Treat all water before drinking.

## 4 if it's solitude you seek...

Some lesser used trails worth exploring:

1. Sugarland Mountain (7-6 D-C)\*
  2. Huskey Gap (6 C-D)
  3. Grapeyard Ridge (8-7 C)
  4. Old Settlers (8-9 C-B)
  5. Rabbit Creek (2-3 D-E)
  6. Baxter Creek (11 B-C)
  7. Boogerman (11 D)
  8. Mt. Sterling (11 C)
  9. Dry Sluice Gap (8-9 D)
  10. Sweat Heifer Creek (8 D)
  11. Roundtop (5-4 C-D)
  12. Road Prong (7 D)
  13. Fork Ridge Trail (7 E)
  14. Little Greenbrier (5 C)
  15. Brushy Mountain (8 C-D)
  16. Kanati Fork (8-E)
- \*coordinates refer to grids on park trail maps.

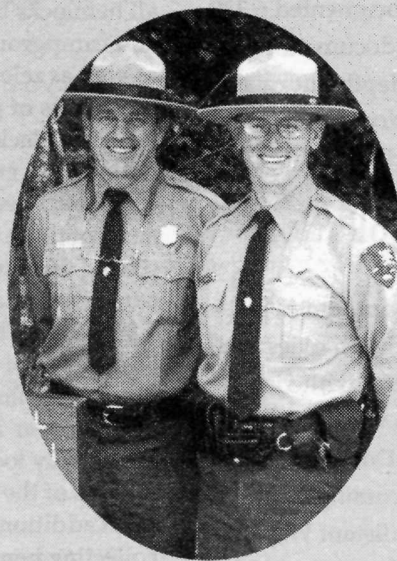


## 5 without a trace

1. PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE—repackage food to reduce litter.
2. TRAVEL & CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES—stay on established trails, don't cut switchbacks, don't clear new ground for camping.
3. DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY—pack out trash. Bury feces and toilet paper.
4. LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND—don't move or remove plants, rocks, historic objects, antlers, etc.
5. MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS—use a stove for cooking.
6. RESPECT WILDLIFE—don't approach too closely.
7. BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS.

## 6 if it's jail time you seek...

1. YOU must possess a backcountry permit while camping in the park's backcountry.
2. Camping is permitted only at designated sites and shelters.
3. You must have a confirmed reservation for rationed sites and shelters.
4. Maximum camping party size is 8.
5. Open fires are prohibited except at designated sites. Use only wood that is dead and on the ground.
6. Use of tents at shelters is prohibited.
7. All plants, wildlife,



National Park Service backcountry rangers.

- and historic features are protected. Picking or digging wildflowers or other plants is prohibited.
8. Do not wash dishes or bathe with soap in a stream.
9. Pets, motorized vehicles, and bicycles are not permitted in the backcountry, except where designated.
10. Feeding or harassing any wildlife is prohibited.
11. Human feces should be buried in a 6" deep hole at least 100' from the nearest water.

illustrations by Amy Campbell



# behind the scenery

*99 species of native trees live in the Smokies*

## NATIONAL PARK NEWS BRIEFS



### Visitors to Park Spend \$718 Million

A NEW REPORT shows that visitors to Great Smoky Mountains National Park provide local businesses with an estimated \$718 million annual boost. The study also indicated that 13,000 local jobs in North Carolina and Tennessee are supported by visitor spending as a direct result of the park's presence.

The Smokies far outpace other national parks both in visits and visitor spending. Grand Canyon visitors add \$410 million to the local economy each year; Blue Ridge Parkway visitors add \$350 million, and Yellowstone visitors contribute \$339 million. The Smokies recorded a little over nine million visits in 2008.

The study and economic model were developed by Michigan State University for the National Park Service.

### Scientists Discover Nearly 900 New Species

RESEARCHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD now report they have discovered 890 species of plants, animals, and other organisms in Great Smoky Mountains National Park that are new to the science books. The scientists, assisted by over 800 volunteers, are participating in the Smokies' All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), an ambitious quest to document every species in the park. The newly discovered species include moths, butterflies, earthworms, crayfish, bees, mushrooms, lichen, and algae.

Scientists participating in the effort have also documented 6,339 species that are new records for the park. As well as documenting species, the project has produced a website with in-depth information on park flora and fauna, including a digital library with more than 10,000 photographs. To learn more, visit [www.dlia.org](http://www.dlia.org).

### Researchers Monitor Park's "Light Pollution"

AS PART OF THE PARK SERVICE'S NIGHT skies monitoring program, researchers have begun monitoring light pollution in the Smokies and other national parks. Light pollution in parks interferes with visitors' abilities to enjoy the night sky and also impacts wildlife migrations and nocturnal behaviors. From the Clingmans Dome tower in the Smokies, researchers have recorded bright light coming from nearby Knoxville and Pigeon Forge, and from more distant Waynesville, Asheville, and Atlanta. Light pollution can be easily curbed by installing motion sensors, dimmer outdoor lights, and caps that direct light downward. For more information, visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/lightscapes/overview.cfm>

NPS PHOTO



Park Service forestry technicians spray infested hemlock trees with an insecticidal soap. This treatment is effective, but must be repeated twice each year to keep the trees alive.

## Park Uses Triage on Hemlocks

During 2009, park crews plan to continue their large-scale effort to save remnant populations of hemlock trees from the non-native insect called the hemlock woolly adelgid (a-Dell-jid). The work will include pesticide treatments of all hemlocks beside roads and campgrounds in the park as well as releases of tens of thousands of predator beetles, tiny black insects that eat nothing but exotic adelgids.

Forestry technicians will also continue the job of protecting the park's 46 hemlock conservation areas totaling 1,866 acres. These areas contain stands of towering old-growth hemlock trees, some of them over 170 feet tall, and are usually located in remote regions of the park.

In addition, biologists are collecting hemlock seeds in the park for long-term storage and propagation beyond the adelgid's reach. These re-

sources will serve as a genetic bank for Smokies' hemlock trees in case the species is lost entirely or severely compromised.

Hemlock adelgids arrived in the southern Appalachian Mountains in the late 1990s. Since then they have infested and killed tens of thousands of native hemlock trees. Hemlocks are one of the largest, oldest, and most common trees in the Great Smoky

Mountains.

Most biologists concur that the non-native hemlock adelgid will never be completely eliminated from the area now that it has become established. However, the Park Service hopes that the predator beetles will eventually control the adelgid population to the extent that they will no longer cause widespread damage to the region's trees.

### Smokies Elk Herd Nears 100 Animals

Park rangers have announced that approximately 95 elk now reside in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This is up from the 52 animals that were originally reintroduced to the Smokies during 2001-2002.

The 2008 calving season was one of the most successful ever with 16 of the 19 elk calves that were born surviving. Five adult elk died in 2008, three from natural causes, one from a collision with a vehicle, and one from unknown causes.

Elk are most commonly seen in Cataloochee valley and in the Oconaluftee area.



# along the “a.t.”

72 miles of the Appalachian Trail run through the Smokies

## A Ridgerunner's Tale

**A**ppalachian Trail “Ridgerunners” are seasonal employees hired and trained by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to hike the A.T. and educate hikers about safety and low-impact camping. They also perform trail maintenance and inform rangers about injured hikers and rules violations. As you might guess, their work is rigorous and interesting. Here are some excerpts from last year's Ridgerunners' journals.

**July 5**—Met a couple guys enroute who'd just seen a large timber rattler on Thunderhead; then met two more staying at Russell who'd just seen one about 15' behind the shelter.

On to Spence Field. Met a 6-person group about halfway there, the leader of which reported an injured hiker at Derrick Knob. Said that the guy couldn't walk due to an injured ankle. Radioed dispatch with the info. Since it was only about 1600 at that point, volunteered to head up there. Stopped at Spence Field, replenished water bottles and downed some power bars, then headed on to Derrick at about 1700.

Arrived there around 2000, made contact with the individual and passed relevant info on to dispatch. (23-year old novice backpacker, carrying too much weight [lots of canned goods!], and wearing low-cut running shoes, had rolled his ankle badly, heard something crack—could no longer bear weight on that ankle.)

Decision made to send rangers with horses in the following day to get him out. 22-MILE DAY.

**July 10** - Headed south from

Cosby Knob by 0700. Rain threatened all morning, but didn't begin until noon. Fireplace there trashed by a couple pounds of food/trash. Two guys I'd met earlier reported three southbound novice backpackers had done it. (Hope to catch up to them!) Cleaned up the trash and placed it in my pack. Waited for the rain to subside and when it didn't, continued on to Pecks Corner. 20-MILE DAY.

**Sept. 28**—Quick trip onwards to Pecks. Four of the five reservations scheduled there were at the shelter when I arrived. Was soon joined by four others with reservations at Tricorner, but no time/energy to get there. Seems they'd planned to go from NFG to Hot Springs, but figured out within hours of starting that they were walking only half as fast as they'd thought they could.

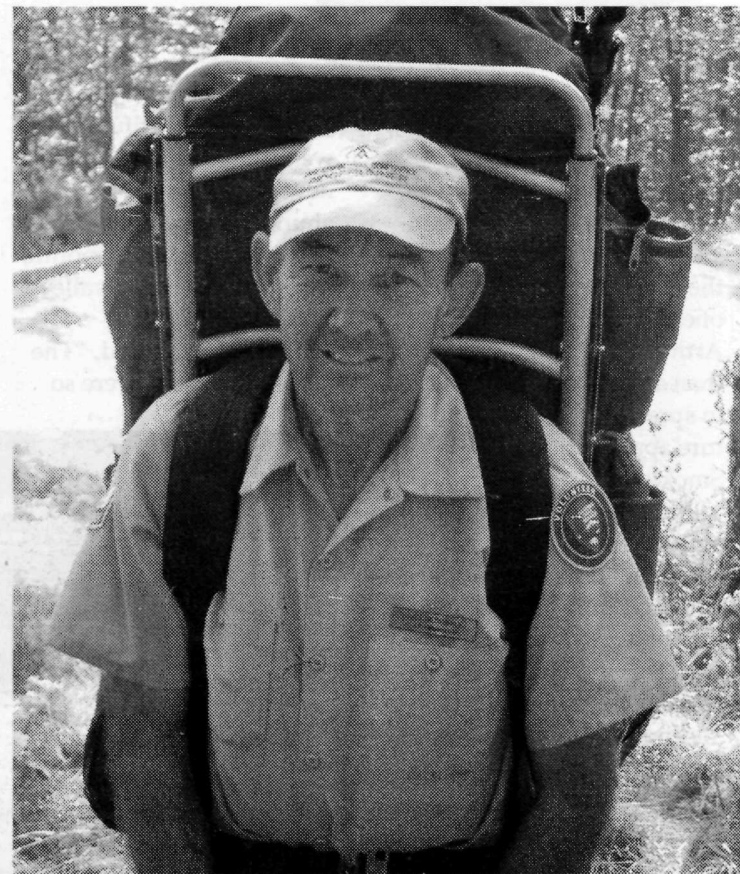
Also received report from them of a peahen [non-native female peacock] at the Icewater Spring Shelter.

Ended up getting reservations for the four very slow folks to go on to Tricorner the next day, then reverse course and head back to NFG over the following three days. 14-MILE DAY.

**Dec. 31**—Very cold/windy on the ridgelines. Wind chill probably in single digits. About halfway to Mollies met two guys from Georgia heading north without backcountry permit or reservations anywhere. Had tented illegally on Doe Knob the previous night and were planning hike back out to Fontana that day via Spence Field and Eagle Creek Trail.

They were totally unfamiliar with Eagle Creek Trail and totally ignorant of the 15 water crossings they'd have to make in this very cold weather and with fairly high water levels. Issued a backcountry permit and strongly urged them to turn around there and retrace their route back to Fontana. Also gave them a trail map and pointed out how to make their reservations next time. They were very appreciative of the advice and did turn around.

Arrived at Mollies a bit later; found about 2 lbs of abandoned items/trash there (including a 1.5 lb unopened can of ham). Loaded the trash into my pack, then headed for Spence Field. Shelter pretty clean. Cleaned & serviced privy. Cut out a couple small blowdowns headed down. 20-MILE DAY.



**Jim Mowbray has worked as a Ridgerunner in Great Smoky Mountains National Park since 2004.**

## Thru-hikers Coming Thru

**This spring an estimated 1,250 backpackers will set out from Springer Mountain, Georgia with ambitions of following the Appalachian Trail 2,175 miles to Mt. Katahdin, Maine. If past is any indication of future, about 500 hikers will complete the journey this year.**

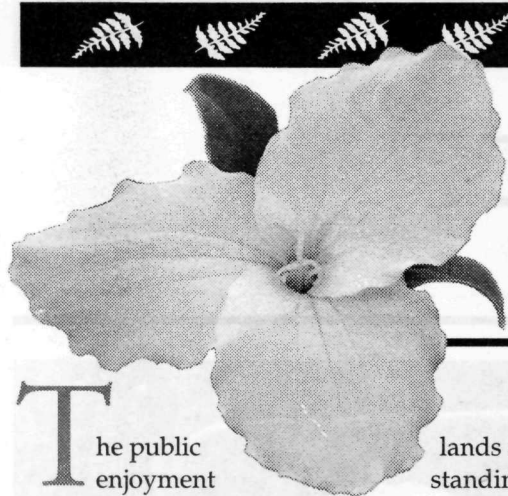
**Most northbound thru-hikers start in March or April. When they cross Fontana Dam into Great Smoky Mountains National Park, they have completed 160 miles (7%) of the “A.T.” So arduous is the terrain that at this point about 20% have already called it quits.**

**Still, notable waves of thru-hikers trod through the park between late March and early May. Many use the road junction at Newfound Gap to travel down to Gatlinburg or Cherokee to resupply, eat some very large meals, and get in a little R & R.**

**Seventy-one miles of the A.T. pass through the Smokies, and the trail reaches its zenith here, 6,625', just below the summit of Clingmans Dome.**

**Not everybody who sets foot on the A.T. is a thru-hiker; in fact, most aren't. Over three million people hike a piece of the trail every year. If you would like to be one of them, a good place to start in the park is Newfound Gap at the Tennessee/ North Carolina state line.**





# flower fanatics

*Spring is the season of miracles in the Smokies*

The public enjoyment of that Smoky Mountain phenomenon known as spring has a long and distinguished history. But during the early years of the park, one man, Park Naturalist Arthur Stupka, did more than anyone before or since to spread the gospel of nature appreciation in the Smokies.

Stupka was born in Ohio and studied zoology and botany at Ohio State. From a summer camp counselor he graduated to the National Park Service where he worked as a ranger at Yosemite and Acadia. He started in the Smokies in the fall of 1935, just one year after the park was officially established, and was more than a little excited when the spring of 1936 rolled around. In his monthly report to the park superintendent, Stupka wrote:

"In mid-April the flowering dogwood layered its conspicuous blossoms in woods tinted with fresh new greens...glorifying our mountain slopes with lovely masses of bloom. In the Sugar-

lands area, one of the outstandingly beautiful sights was that presented by the new green leaves of the abundant silverbells which, in the middle of the month, carpeted this broad valley with verdure."

Stupka continued, "The late April woods were so

ready giving "illustrated talks" on the wonders of the Smokies to whomever would listen. That summer, since the park had barely opened its gates, the primary audiences were the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers tasked with building the park's trails, campgrounds,



Park Naturalist Arthur Stupka began leading walks in the Smokies in 1936. He continued doing so even after his retirement in 1964.

densely carpeted by the attractive white flowers of the fringed...phacelia that it appeared as though drifts of snow had, in some mysterious way, settled there over the green earth." In a subsequent report he added "...the wealth of blooms which greeted the eye during May—especially the flowering trees and shrubs—proved to be all that we might hope for."

As early as the summer of '36 Stupka was al-

and other infrastructure. Over 150 young men attended his June 2 lecture on natural history at the Round Bottom CCC camp.

The following year Stupka successfully lured a cadre of scientists to the park to explore the area's flora and fauna. Researchers from three universities and the New York Botanical Garden followed him on a "botanical foray into the Greenbrier and Brushy Mountain" area. Soon thereafter he was sharing his knowledge of wildflowers and birds with groups as diverse as the convention of East Tennessee Catholic Women and 150 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

By the summer of '39 Stupka was joined by two seasonal ranger-naturalists

and the park's first formal slate of naturalist-guided programs had begun. In the very first month, their 39 walks, talks, and auto caravans attracted nearly 2,000 people. A favorite venue soon became the lobbies of Gatlinburg hotels, including the Mountain View and Riverside, where an average of 140 people would gather in the evenings to hear the acclaimed naturalist talk about the park's wondrous diversity of life.

Year after year, attendance at ranger-guided programs doubled, then doubled again. If he had no seasonal staff, Stupka led the walks and talks himself. During a single month in 1941, Stupka led 36 hikes and conducted 14 motel lobby lectures. Over 2,200 people were the lucky beneficiaries. On more than one outing, Stupka and his groups discovered species of butterflies and plants that had never been documented in the young park before.

The next giant step in nature appreciation happened in 1951. Stupka recorded this genesis in his April report: "890 contacts were made during the course of the first Wildflower Pilgrimage, April 27-29. This new event proved so successful that, in all

probability, it will become an annual affair. Sponsored

jointly by the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce and the Botany Department, University of Tennessee, it had our full cooperation."

Indeed, Stupka's report has proven prophetic. Fifty-nine years later, the Wildflower Pilgrimage is still a highlight of springtime in the Smokies. While the first April pilgrimage featured 11 walks and talks, this year's will include over 150 programs led by experts in their field. People from around the nation and around the world will make the journey to Gatlinburg and the Great Smokies to attend.

Even after his retirement from the Park Service in 1964, Stupka continued to lead spring wildflower walks from the Hemlock Inn in Bryson City, NC. Hundreds of more people every year benefited from his knowledge and passion. All had the rare privilege to "stroll" through the woods with the man who knew them better than any other.

**The 59th annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage will be held in Gatlinburg, TN and the Great Smoky Mountains from April 22-26 this year. The event will host over 150 programs, including easy and difficult hikes, illustrated talks, auto caravans, and special appearances. Trip leaders are professionals from universities and other organizations. To learn more, call 865 436-7318 x222, e-mail [Judy@GSMAssoc.org](mailto:Judy@GSMAssoc.org), or visit [www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org](http://www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org). Advance registration is available.**





# be a part of the park!

Great ways to learn about the Great Smokies

become a

## MEMBER

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



cal efforts of the National Park Service through cash donations and in-kind services. In 2009 alone, the association plans to provide over \$1.8 million worth of assistance. Projects we support include the elk reintroduction, saving hemlock trees, trail maintenance, and historical artifact preservation.

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:

- A subscription to our semi-annual magazine, *Smokies Life*
- A subscription to the award-winning quarterly park newspaper, *Smokies Guide*
- A subscription to 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 parks across the country.

Join today using the coupon to the right or visit [www.SmokiesInformation.org](http://www.SmokiesInformation.org). Memberships start at just \$30 per year.

*Great Smoky Mountains is now the only major national park without an entrance fee. Most big parks charge \$25 per vehicle. Would you like to use some of the money you saved to help protect the Great Smoky Mountains?*



BILL LEA PHOTO

attend a

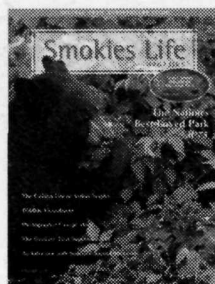
## SEMINAR

AN EXCITING variety of adventures awaits adults who long to get out and explore the park accompanied by expert guides.

Programs are offered by Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and the Smoky Mountain Field School and include Mt. Le Conte overnights, wildlife workshops, birding and wildflower seminars, teacher weekends, and more. Free catalogs are available. Contact: (865) 448-6709 & (865) 974-0150. [gsmiit.org](http://gsmiit.org) & [outreach.utk.edu/smoky](mailto:outreach.utk.edu/smoky)

read a

## BOOK



GREAT Smoky Mountains Association is a nonprofit organization that operates bookstores in all park visitor centers (see map on page 16). Purchases benefit the park!

Call 1-888-898-9102 or visit our on-line store at [www.SmokiesInformation.org](http://www.SmokiesInformation.org)

go to summer

## CAMP

GREAT SMOKY Mountains Institute at Tremont offers a variety of summer youth camps in the national park. Camps last from 6-10 days and cost from \$455 and up. Fees include meals, lodging, and most equipment.

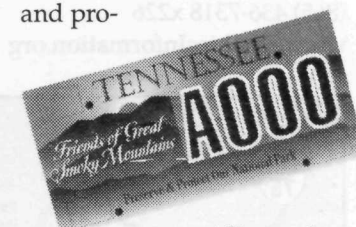
The 2009 summer offerings are: *Discovery Camp* (ages 9-12), *Naturalist Expeditions* (ages 12-14), *Wilderness Adventure Camp* (ages 13-17), *Teen High Adventure* (ages 13-17), *Girls in Science Camp* (ages 13-17).

Contact: (865) 448-6709 [www.gsmiit.org](http://www.gsmiit.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 \$20 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 1660, Kodak, TN 37764 (865) 932-4794  
1-800 845-5665  
[www.friendsofthesmokies.org](http://www.friendsofthesmokies.org)

### GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION

- ☐ Individual Membership \$30
- ☐ Annual Supporting Membership \$50
- ☐ Lifetime Family Membership \$500  
payable in 4 annual installments
- ☐ Business 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.SmokiesInformation.org](http://www.SmokiesInformation.org) **OR**  
➔ **Friends of GSMNP,** P.O. Box 1660, Kodak, TN 37764  
(865) 932-4794. [www.friendsofthesmokies.org](http://www.friendsofthesmokies.org)



## 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 more information.

