



SMOKIES

GUIDE

*The Official Newspaper of
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Spring 2016*

2016

National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

SPECIAL EDITION
*Happy Birthday
NPS!*



STAN TEKIELA PHOTO

Opossums are marsupials that nurse their young in an abdominal pouch. It takes about three months for the joeys to be weaned.

Spring Brings Out Baby Animals in the Smokies

What is getting born this spring in the Great Smoky Mountains? Bear cubs were born in their dens during mid-winter; they usually emerge with mom sometime in April or early May. Fresh from the den, cubs are tiny, weighing only four to seven pounds. By fall they

will grow to 30-50 pounds. Other charismatic Smokies animals, white-tailed deer and elk, breed in fall but don't drop their fawns and calves until June. The following is an approximate birthing schedule for Smokies wildlife born in the spring.

ANIMAL	WHEN BORN	OFFSPRING
Virginia Opossum	March-May	4-15 Joeys
Gray Fox	March-April	3-4 Pups
Barred Owl	March-May	2-4 Chicks
Long-tailed Weasel	April-May	4-5 Pups
Mink	April-May	1-10 Kits
Coyote	April-May	5-10 Pups
River Otter	April-May	2-3 Pups
Striped Skunk	April-May	5-7 Kits
Groundhog	April-May	2-6 Kits
Louisiana Waterthrush	May	3-4 Chicks
Bobcat	May	2-3 Kittens
Southern Flying Squirrel	May	2-7 Pups
Beaver	May	1-6 Kits



BILL LEA PHOTO

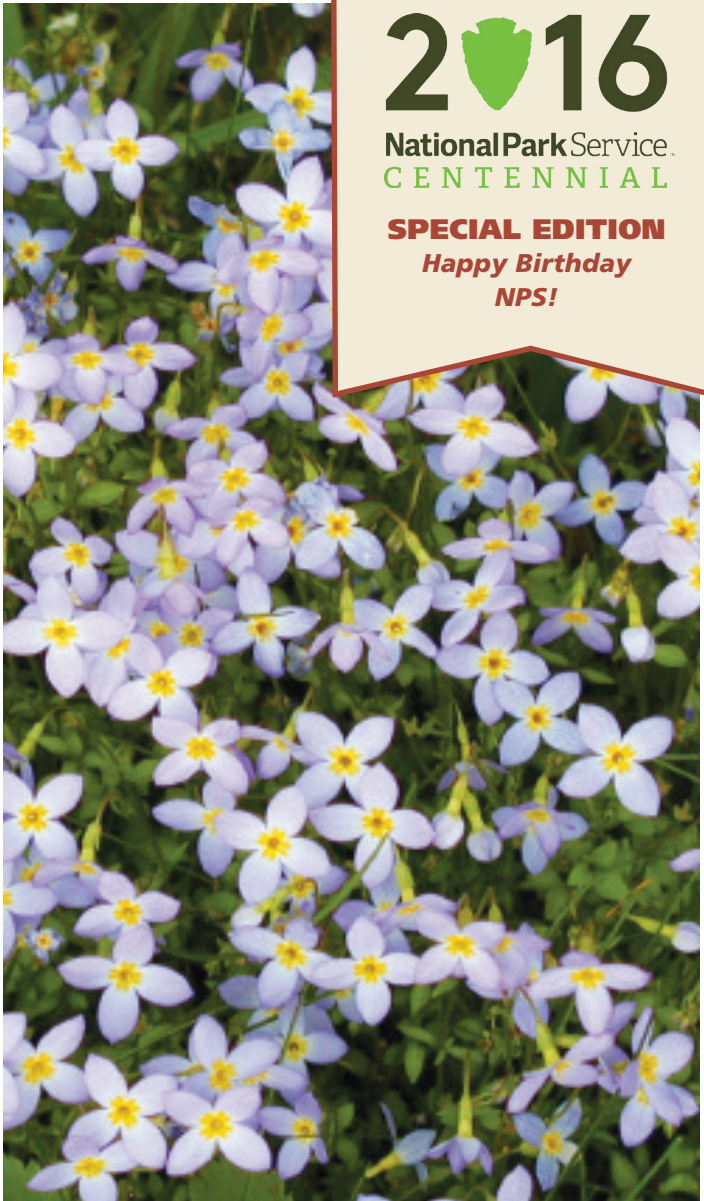
**BLUE-HEADED
VIREO**

Listen for the delightful song of this vireo at the higher elevations of the Great Smoky Mountains. It sounds like "Jimmy...come here...quickly!"

Blue-Headeds are the first vireo to arrive in the Smokies in spring (mid-March) and the last to leave in fall (late October). Their distinctive nests look like a small sack hung from a forking branch.



**FREE RANGER-GUIDED
PROGRAMS**
Please see pages 12-13



Bluets start their bloom in May in the Great Smokies (see page 10).

Wildflower Auto Tours

Several roads in the national park provide good spring wildflower viewing from your car. See the map on pages 8-9 for more information. Please be safe and courteous by using pullouts along roadways to view wildflowers and wildlife. **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 (opens March 25)—What's a "motor nature trail?" A hybrid between a trail and

a road, or as former Superintendent Overly described it, "a nature trail for motorists." This one starts outside Gatlinburg, at the end of Cherokee Orchard Road (see pages 8-9). The paved, steep, narrow, winding one-way road is 5 miles long. It offers motorists not only some of the best views of wildflowers in the park, but also access to historic grist mills, log homes, farmsteads, and waterfalls. **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, fringed phacelia, trout-lily, thyme-leaved bluets, and spring-beauty.

smokies trip planner

to order maps and guides: www.SmokiesInformation.org

smokies guide

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

SPRING: March 15

SUMMER: June 1

AUTUMN: September 1

WINTER: December 1

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BILL LEA PHOTO



Nine campgrounds will be open in the national park this year.

camping in the the national park

The National Park Service maintains developed campgrounds at nine locations in the park. There are no showers or hookups other than circuits for special medical uses at Cades Cove, Elkmont, and Smokemont.

Campsites at Elkmont, Smokemont, Cataloochee, Cosby, and Cades Cove may be reserved. For reservations call 1-877-444-6777 or contact www.recreation.gov. Sites may be reserved up to six months in advance. Reservations are required at Cataloochee Campground. Other park campgrounds are first-come, first-served.

Site occupancy is limited to six people and two vehicles (a trailer = 1 vehicle). The maximum stay is 14 days.

Special camping sites for large groups are available seasonally at Big Creek, Cades Cove, Cataloochee, Cosby, Deep Creek, Elkmont, and Smokemont. Group sites must be reserved. Call 1-877-444-6777 or contact www.recreation.gov. Group sites may be reserved up to one year in advance.

The list below shows number of sites, elevations, fees, approximate 2016 operation dates, and maximum RV lengths. **Dates are subject to change.** Visit www.nps.gov/grsm for current information.

ABRAMS CREEK 16 sites, elev. 1,125', \$14, open May 27-Oct. 10, 12' trailers
BALSAM MOUNTAIN 46 sites, elev. 5,310', \$14, open May 27-Oct. 10, 30' RVs
BIG CREEK 12 sites, elev. 1,700', \$14, open April 8-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', \$20, open March 25-Oct. 31, **reservations required**, 31' RVs
COSBY 157 sites, elev. 2,459', \$14, April 8-Oct. 31, 25' RVs
DEEP CREEK 92 sites, elev. 1,800', \$17, open April 8-Oct. 31, 26' RVs
ELKMONT 220 sites, elev. 2,150', \$17-\$23, open March 11-Nov. 27, 32'-35' RVs
LOOK ROCK *Closed*
SMOKEMONT 142 sites, elev. 2,198', \$17-\$20, open year-round, 35'-40' 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 1-828-788-0034
Fontana 1-800-849-2258
Gatlinburg 1-800-588-1817
Maggie Valley 1-800-624-4431
Pigeon Forge 1-855-716-6199
Sevierville 1-888-889-7415
Townsend 1-800-525-6834

pets in the park

Pets are allowed in frontcountry campgrounds and beside roads as long as they are restrained at all times. Pets are not allowed on park trails, except for the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails. Dogs on these trails must be leashed.

road openings

The following roads close for the winter. Listed below are the 2016 opening dates.

Roaring Fork—March 25
Clingmans Dome—April 1
Parson Branch—April 8
Balsam Mtn—May 27

special events

April 19-April 23
Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage: parkwide

May 21
Cosby in the Park: Cosby

June 18
Womens Work at Oconaluftee Mountain Farm Museum

picnic areas

Please see pages 8-9 for locations of picnic areas. Chimneys opens March 12, Collins Creek opens April 1; Cosby and Big Creek open April 8. Heintooga opens May 27. Look Rock is closed. All other picnic areas are open year-round. All have charcoal grills for cooking.

visitor centers

Spring hours of operation are, Oconaluftee & Sugarlands: 8-5 in March; 8-6 in April & May. Cades Cove: 9-6:30 in March; 9-7 in April; 9-7:30 in May. Clingmans Dome: 10-6.

other services

There are no gas stations, showers, or restaurants in the national park. Mt. LeConte Lodge is the only lodging.

BILL LEA PHOTO



Bicycle morning in Cades Cove.

bicycling

Most park roads are too narrow and heavily traveled by automobiles for safe or enjoyable bicycling. However, Cades Cove Loop Road is an exception. This 11-mile, one-way, paved road provides bicyclists with excellent opportunities for viewing wildlife and historic sites.

Helmets are required for persons age 16 and under and are strongly recommended for all bicyclists.

From May 11-Sept. 21, on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from sunrise to 10:00 a.m., only bicycles and pedestrians are allowed on Cades Cove Loop Road. Bicycles may be rented at the Cades Cove Campground store.

park information

for additional information, visit www.nps.gov/grsm

Gatlinburg, TN elev. 1,462'			Mt. Le Conte elev. 6,593'		
AVG. HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.	AVG. HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.
Jan. 49°	27°	4.0"	36°	18°	6.7"
Feb. 53°	28°	4.1"	37°	19°	5.6"
March 62°	35°	5.5"	44°	25°	7.0"
April 71°	42°	4.5"	52°	31°	6.7"
May 77°	50°	5.7"	58°	39°	8.0"
June 82°	58°	5.8"	64°	47°	8.7"
July 85°	62°	6.3"	67°	50°	9.0"
Aug. 84°	61°	5.3"	67°	49°	7.6"
Sept. 79°	55°	4.7"	62°	44°	7.2"
Oct. 70°	43°	2.9"	55°	35°	4.7"
Nov. 60°	34°	3.4"	46°	27°	6.8"
Dec. 51°	28°	4.6"	38°	20°	6.4"

The above temperature and precipitation averages are based on data for the last 20 years. Temperatures are in degrees fahrenheit. An average of over 84" (7 feet) of precipitation falls on the higher elevations of the Smokies. On Mt. Le Conte, an average of 82.8" of snow falls per year.

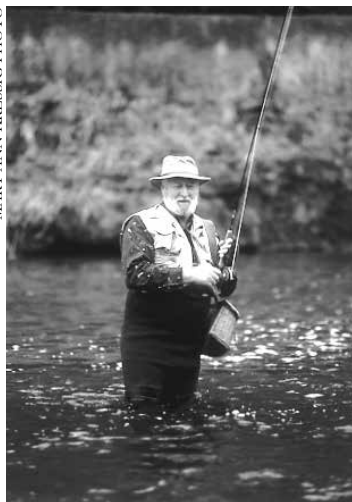
horse riding

Horseback riding is generally available from early March through November. Rates are \$30 per hour. Most stables have maximum rider weight limits of 225 or 250 pounds and age restrictions for children. Please call the stables below or stop at a visitor center for detailed information.

CADES COVE (865) 448-9009
cadescovestables.com
SMOKEMONT (828) 497-2373
smokemontridingstables.com
SMOKY MTN (865) 436-5634
smokymountainridingstables.com
SUGARLANDS (865) 436-3535
sugarlandsridingstables.com

Hayrides and carriage rides (\$12 per person) are available from Cades Cove Riding Stable. Wagon rides (\$10 per person) are offered at Smokemont. Souvenir photos, tee-shirts, hats, and ice may be available. Soft drink vending is available.

The Park Service operates horse camps at Cades Cove, Big Creek, Cataloochee, and Round Bottom. Call 877-444-6777 or visit www.Recreation.gov for reservations.



Fishing for brook trout is now allowed in 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. Fishing with bait is prohibited.

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

DRIVING DISTANCES & ESTIMATED TIMES

Cherokee, NC to:
Gatlinburg: 34 miles (1 hour)
Cades Cove: 57 miles (2 hours)
Newfound Gap: 18 miles
(½ hour)
Clingmans Dome:
25 miles (¾ hour)
Cataloochee: 39 miles
(1½ hours)
Deep Creek: 14 miles (½ hour)

Gatlinburg, TN to:
Cherokee: 34 miles (1 hour)
Cades Cove: 27 miles (1 hour)
Newfound Gap: 16 miles
(½ hour)
Clingmans Dome:
23 miles (¾ hour)
Cataloochee: 65 miles (2 hours)
Greenbrier Cove: 6 miles
(¼ hour)
Deep Creek:
48 miles (1½ hours)

Townsend, TN to:
Cades Cove: 9 miles (¼ hour)
Newfound Gap: 34 miles
(1¼ hours)
Gatlinburg: 22 miles (¾ hour)
Cherokee: 52 miles (1½ hours)
Look Rock: 18 miles (½ hour)
Cataloochee:
87 miles (2¼ hours)



Primitive backcountry shelters like this one at Double Springs Gap are located along the Appalachian Trail and near the summit of Mt. Le Conte. Reservations are required for all campers in the backcountry.

Backcountry Camping in the Smokies

Camping at a backcountry campsite or shelter can be an exciting adventure for persons properly equipped and informed. To facilitate this activity, the National Park Service maintains over 800 miles of trails and more than 100 backcountry campsites and shelters throughout the park. One of the greatest challenges for backcountry campers is deciding where to go. Here are some tools to help.

1. Go online to view the park's official trail map (www.nps.gov/grsm/plan-yourvisit/maps.htm), which shows all park trails, campsites, and shelters. Park rules and regulations are also listed here. If you wish, you can purchase the printed version of the trail map for \$1 by stopping at any park visitor center or calling (865) 436-7318 x226 or shopping online at www.SmokiesInformation.org.
2. Call or stop by the park's backcountry office, which is open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The office is located in Sugarlands Visitor

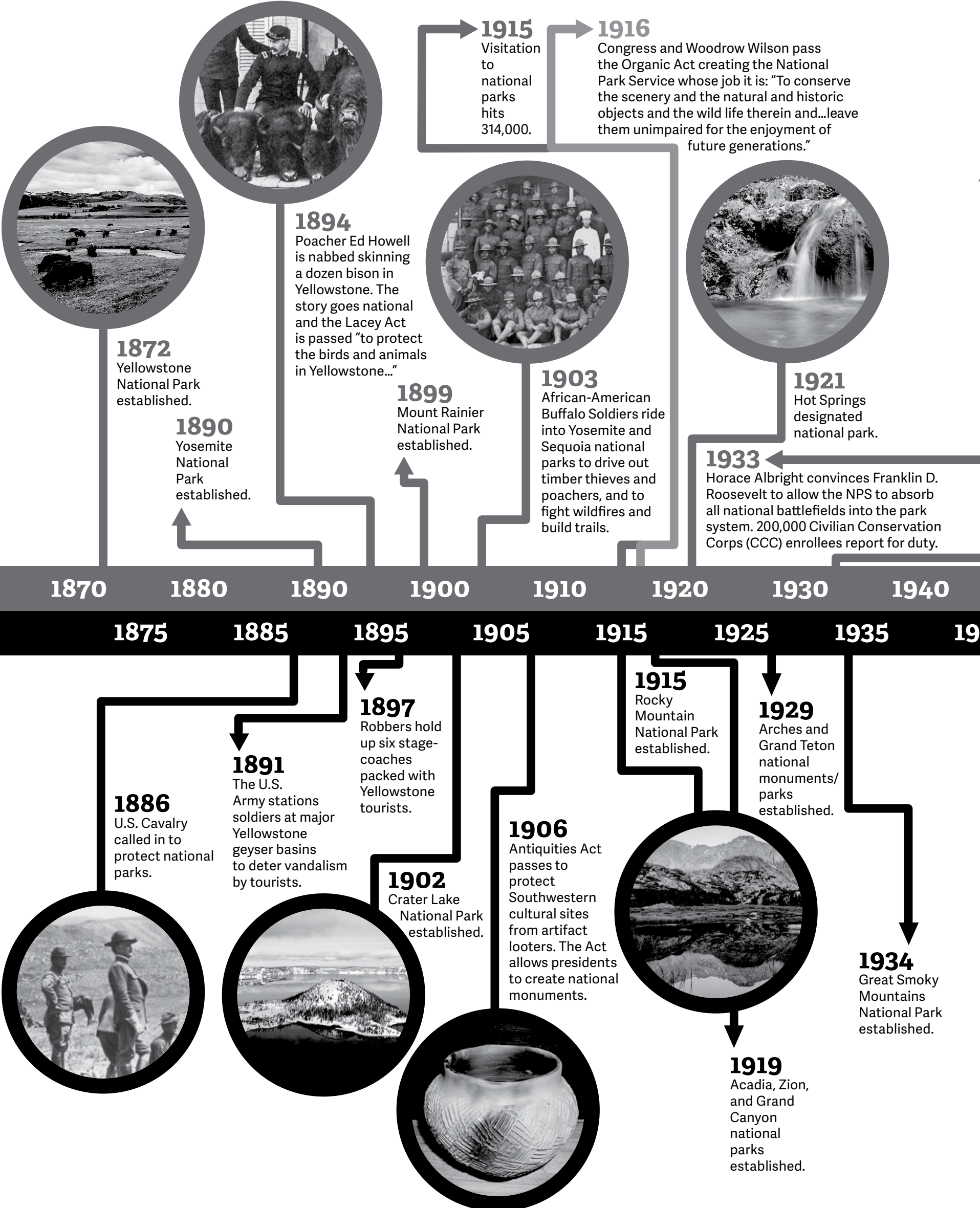
Center, two miles south of Gatlinburg on Newfound Gap Road (U.S. 441). (865) 436-1297.

3. Make your reservation through the backcountry office at Sugarlands Visitor Center (by phone or in person) or online at www.smokiespermits.nps.gov.

Reservations and permits are required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. The cost is \$4 per person per night. Reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance.

Spring hikers should be especially aware of the danger of hypothermia—the lowering of body temperature. The combination of rain, cold, and wind is especially dangerous. At the park's higher elevations, hypothermia can be a threat even during summer.

To prevent hypothermia, carry good rain gear at all times. Layer clothing that provides warmth when wet (not cotton). Be prepared for sudden weather changes, especially at the high elevations.



1872
Yellowstone National Park established.



1894
Poacher Ed Howell is nabbed skinning a dozen bison in Yellowstone. The story goes national and the Lacey Act is passed "to protect the birds and animals in Yellowstone..."



1899
Mount Rainier National Park established.



1921
Hot Springs designated national park.

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1875

1885

1895

1905

1915

1925

1935

1945



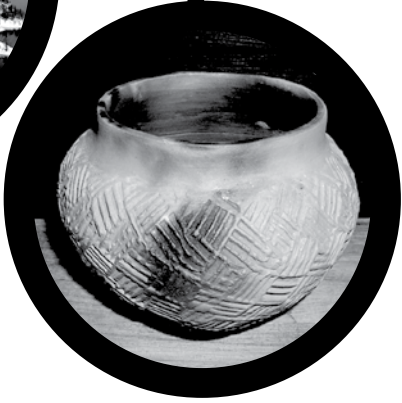
1886
U.S. Cavalry called in to protect national parks.



1891
The U.S. Army stations soldiers at major Yellowstone geyser basins to deter vandalism by tourists.

1897
Robbers hold up six stage-coaches packed with Yellowstone tourists.

1902
Crater Lake National Park established.



1906
Antiquities Act passes to protect Southwestern cultural sites from artifact looters. The Act allows presidents to create national monuments.



1915
Rocky Mountain National Park established.

1929
Arches and Grand Teton national monuments/parks established.

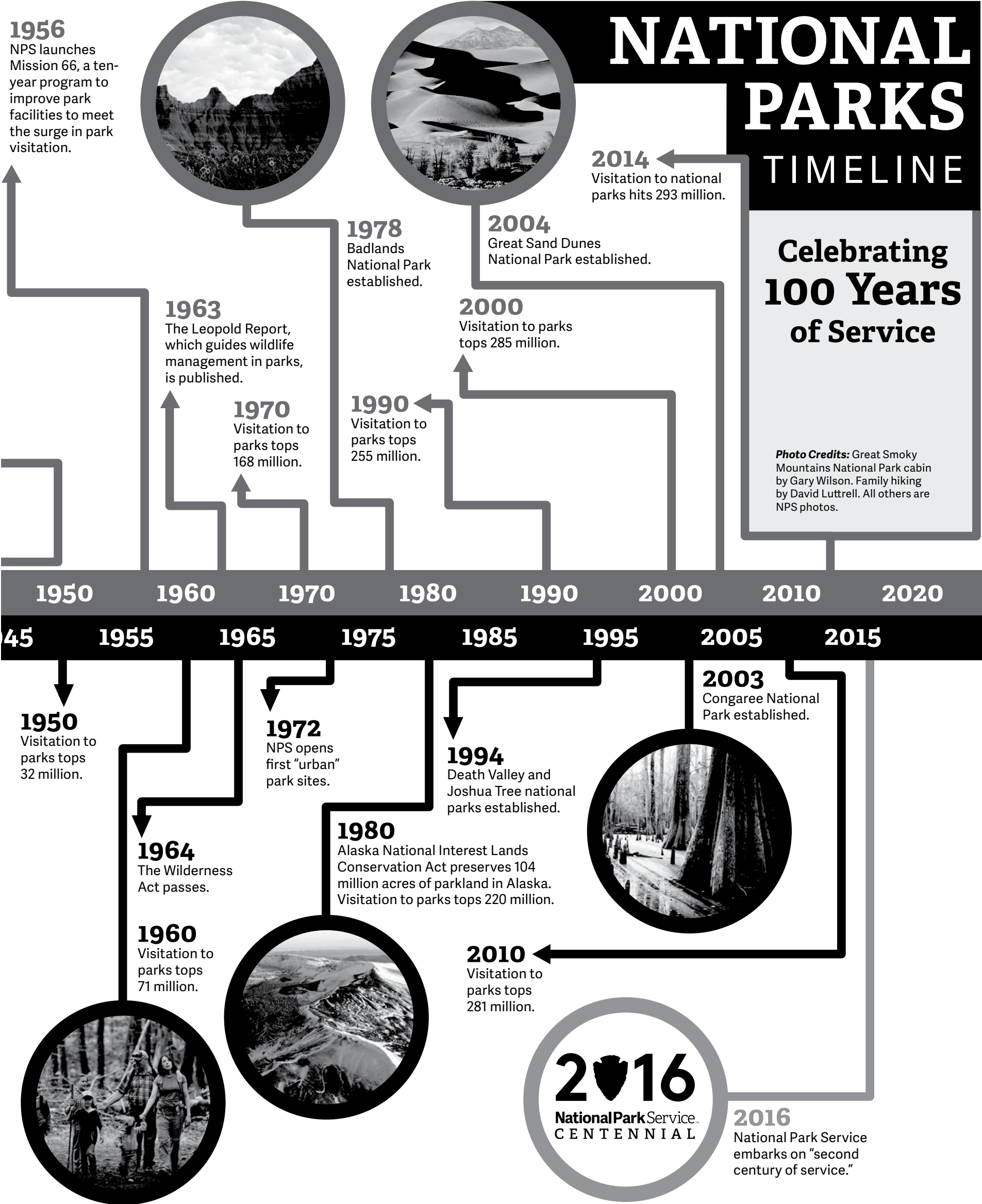
1919
Acadia, Zion, and Grand Canyon national parks established.

1934
Great Smoky Mountains National Park established.

NATIONAL PARKS TIMELINE

Celebrating 100 Years of Service

Photo Credits: Great Smoky Mountains National Park cabin by Gary Wilson. Family hiking by David Luttrell. All others are NPS photos.



Q & A with the Superintendent

Cassius Cash, Superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park



DAVID LUTTRELL PHOTO

The following goals have been officially adopted by the National Park Service to guide the agency and its partners and volunteers into 2016 and beyond.

1. Connect people to parks and help communities protect what is special to them.
2. Advance our educational mission based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.
3. Preserve America's special places and be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries.
4. Enhance professional and organizational excellence by adapting to the changing needs of visitors, communities, and partners.

Q: The National Park Service turns 100 years old in 2016. What does that mean to you?

A: If we don't create the next generation of national park users, advocates, and supporters, I think the work we've done in the first 100 years of the National Park Service will be in vain. You protect what you value. If you haven't visited parks and public lands in your formative years, you run the risk of not knowing or caring about them.

As I get older, I realize I want to be doing something that lasts beyond me. At this point in history, with the Park Service turning 100, I want to tell my daughters that I left the Smokies a better place than when I found it. There's a lot riding on this. I don't want to be the one to let this go.

Q: What does the Second Century of the National Park Service look like?

A: When the National Park Service was created, the country was 50 percent urban. Now it's 80 percent urban. The Park Service is a very traditional organization—and we honor those traditions. But we need to hand the NPS arrowhead over to the next generation and let each person define his or her own park experience.

We don't want to try too hard to define what we think a park experience should be. Our millennials are very different, their values are very different. They approach the outdoors a lot differently.

That's why "Find Your Park" is the theme of our Centennial. It's an individual thing.

We're looking at this as the right time to reach out to audiences that haven't traditionally been park visitors, or park employees, for that matter.

Q: How are you going to celebrate the Centennial in the Smokies?

A: There are going to be some fun events like *Smokies Centennial Challenge: Hike 100* where participants log their miles and earn a special reward. We especially want to involve families from nearby

FIND YOUR PARK

urban areas. And I plan on hiking 100 miles myself, split between the North Carolina and Tennessee sides of the park.

We're also working with our partners on some beautiful publications commemorating the first 100 years. Plus we're developing a lot of commemorative merchandise that will be featured in the visitor center stores and will benefit the Smokies and the whole park system.

BILL LEA PHOTO



Many Americans today grow up in cities and have only a limited exposure to wild places like the Great Smoky Mountains. Superintendent Cash and the National Park Service are especially enthusiastic about offering urban youth the opportunity to explore the great outdoors.



NPS PHOTO

Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

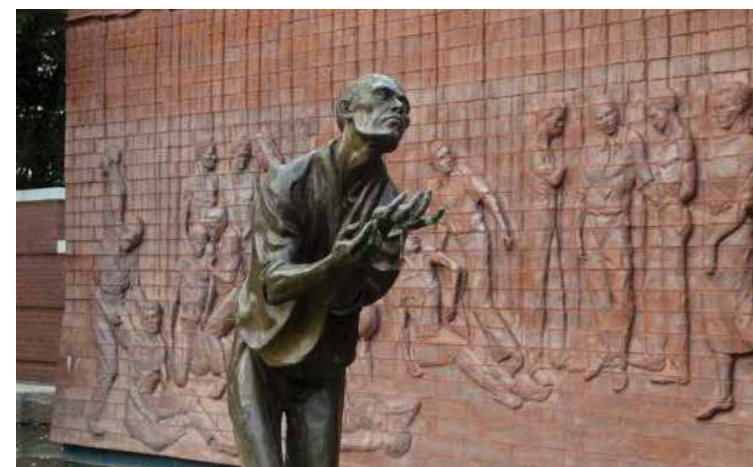
Across our nation, from northern Alaska to the Virgin Islands, from Acadia to Zion, the National Park Service is responsible for protecting 410* of America's most beautiful natural areas and most significant historic places. Here is a sampler of the diversity of public lands that have been set aside and protected by the National Park Service "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARKS (49)

Example: Cumberland Gap, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia. Starting around 1775, this mountain pass became the primary route for American settlers moving west into Kentucky.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES (78)

Example: Andersonville, Georgia. The Camp



NPS PHOTO

The commemorative courtyard, entitled "The Price of Freedom Fully Paid" serves as a memorial to all prisoners of war at Andersonville National Historic Site.

NATIONAL PARKS (59)

Example: Grand Teton, Wyoming. Preserves the magnificent Grand Teton mountain range and the wildlife-rich valley of Jackson Hole.

Sumter military prison at Andersonville was one of the largest Confederate military prisons during the Civil War.

NATIONAL HISTORIC AND SCENIC TRAILS (3)



NPS PHOTO

Sunset at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore.

constructed by the Sinagua, a pre-Columbian cultural group that lived in Walnut Canyon from about 1100 to 1250 CE.

NATIONAL PARKWAYS (4)

Example: Natchez Trace, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee. Commemorates the historic Old Natchez Trace, an ancient buffalo trail used by Native Americans and 18th century European-Americans for commerce.

NATIONAL PRESERVES (19)

Example: Little River Canyon, Alabama. This verdant, biologically-diverse area includes one of the deepest canyons in the eastern U.S.

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (18)

Example: Chattahoochee River, Georgia. This 48-mile stretch of river offers public recreation and access to historic sites.

NATIONAL RIVER (15)

Example: Big South Fork, Kentucky, Tennessee. The Big South Fork of the Cumberland River region contains one of the highest concentrations of natural bridges in the eastern U.S.

NATIONAL SEASHORE (10)

Example: Gulf Islands, Florida, Mississippi. Offers recreation opportunities and preserves natural and historic resources along the Gulf of Mexico barrier islands.

NATIONAL MALL AND MEMORIAL PARKS (20)

Example: Korean War Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C. Commemorates those who served in the Korean War.

**As of spring, 2016. Not all categories of parks are listed here.*



NPS PHOTO

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Example: Appalachian Trail, Georgia to Maine. 2,180 miles of foot trail along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains (see page 13).

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELDS (11)

Example: Moores Creek Park, North Carolina. Commemorates the 1776 victory by a thousand Patriots over about eight hundred Loyalists at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

NATIONAL LAKESHORES (4)

Example: Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan. Sunny beaches and sky-high dunes. Cool forests and inland lakes. Picturesque farmsteads and a historic maritime village.

NATIONAL MEMORIALS (30)

Example: Flight 93, Pennsylvania. Commemorates the site of the crash of United Airlines Flight 93, which was hijacked in the September 11 attacks.

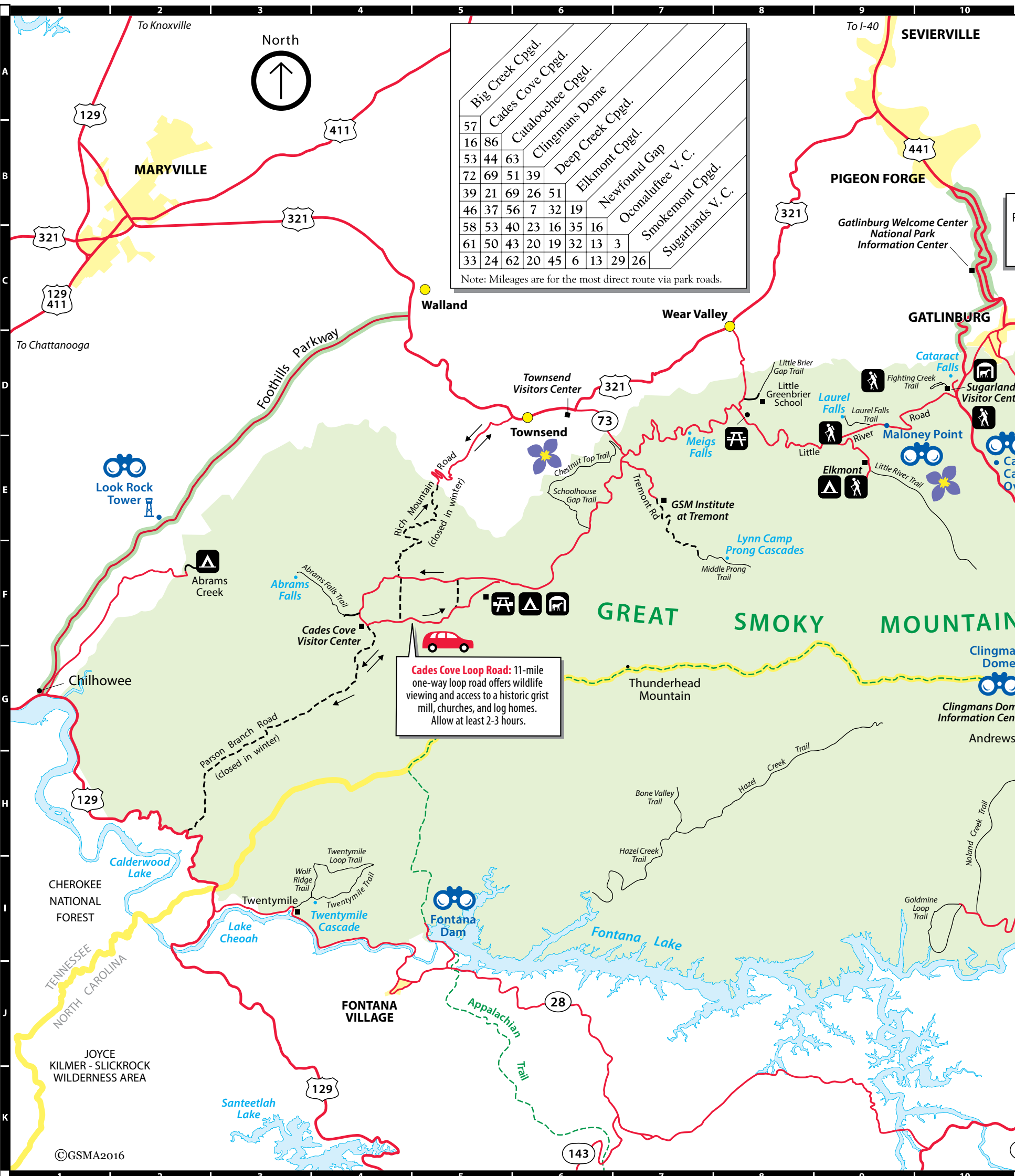
NATIONAL MILITARY PARK (9)

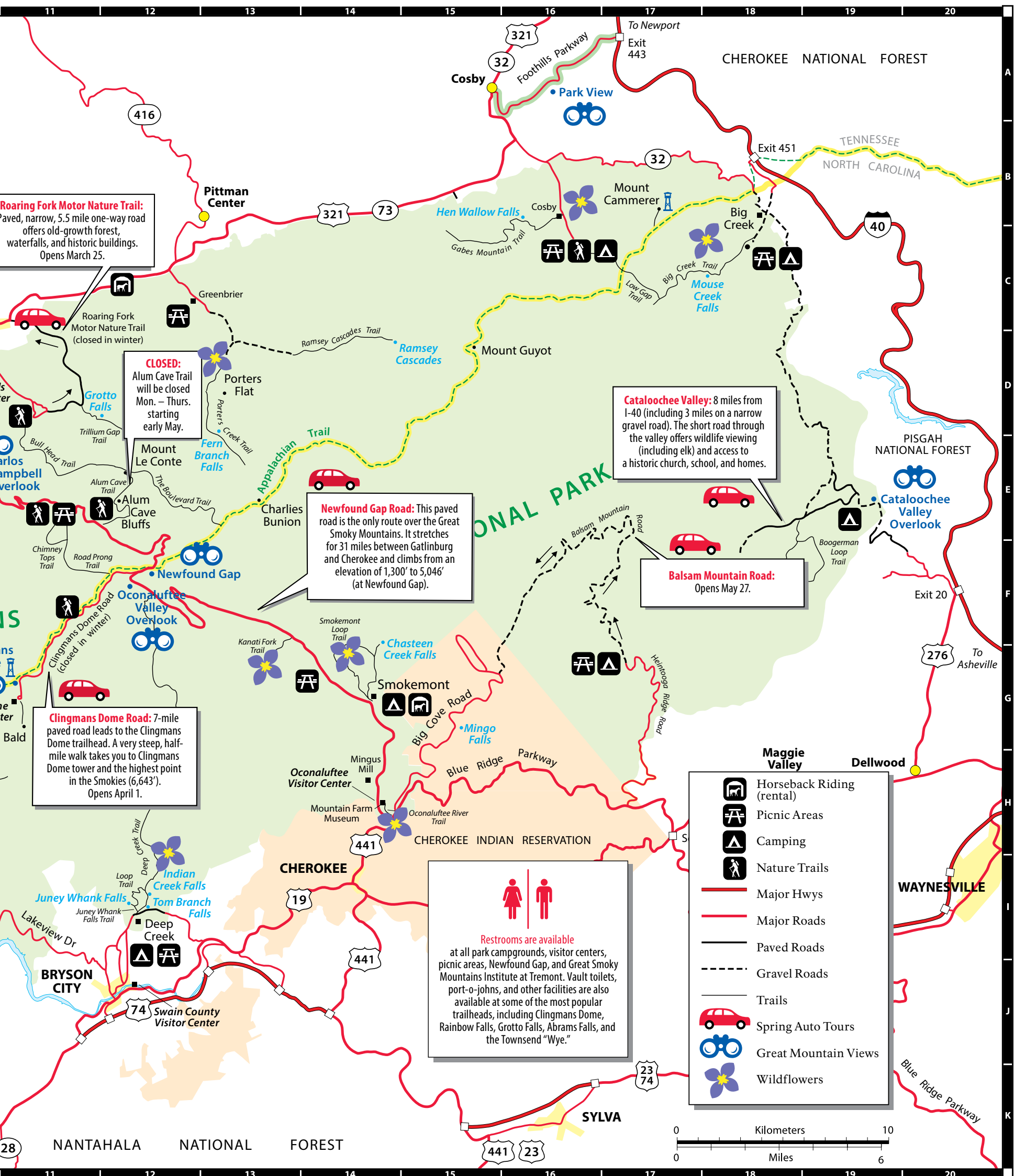
Example: Kings Mountain, North Carolina, South Carolina. Commemorates the Battle of Kings Mountain, a pivotal victory by American Patriots over American Loyalists during the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS (80)

Example: Walnut Canyon, Arizona. Includes 25 cliff dwelling rooms

GREAT SPRING DRIVING TOURS, VIEWS, AND WILDFLOWER TRAILS IN THE SMOKIES





spring wildflowers

over 1,500 species of flowering plants bloom in the smokies

SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE

April 19-23

Every spring, nature enthusiasts from around the country converge on the Smokies to participate in the spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. This year's event will offer 144 programs, including hikes, talks, strolls, and motor tours. Topics range from plants to salamanders to history. Visit www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org for more information.



Trout Lily: Blooms March-May from low to high elevations.



Fire Pink: Blooms April-June from low to high elevations.



Columbine: Blooms April-June at low to mid-elevations.



Yellow Trillium: Blooms April-May at lower elevations.



Thyme-leaved Bluets: Bloom May-August from low to high elevations. *photos by Kent Cave & Bill Lea*



Fringed Phacelia: Bloom March-May from mid- to high elevations.



Rue-anemone: Blooms April-May from low to mid-elevations.



White Trillium: Blooms April-May from low to mid-elevations.



Foamflower: Blooms April-June from low to high elevations.



Dutchman's Britches
Blooms April-May from low to high elevations.

a garden for bees

a new public garden is designed for pollinators

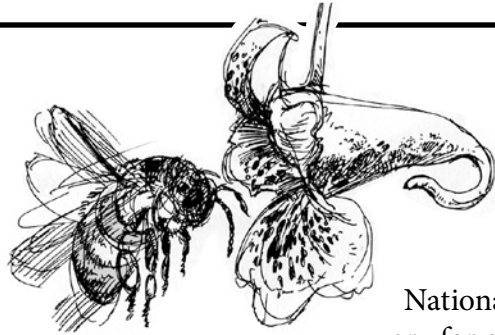
Park rangers and volunteer Master Gardeners have joined forces to save vital pollinators in the Great Smoky Mountains. Their work includes a brand new “pollinator garden” in front of Sugarlands Visitor Center that features a plethora of native wildflowers that bees, moths, and butterflies can tap for food. Some of the new plantings are in bloom this spring, offering nutritious pollen and nectar to winged visitors.

Across North America, scientists and farmers are concerned with the drastic decline in populations of honeybees and other pollinators that are necessary for many flowering plants to reproduce. The main cause of the decline is loss of habitat for the flowers pollinators need for food. Meadows, pastures, and even roadside

brambles are being mowed and paved over as cities and roadways expand. Over-use of pesticides and non-native mites on honeybees are also culprits.

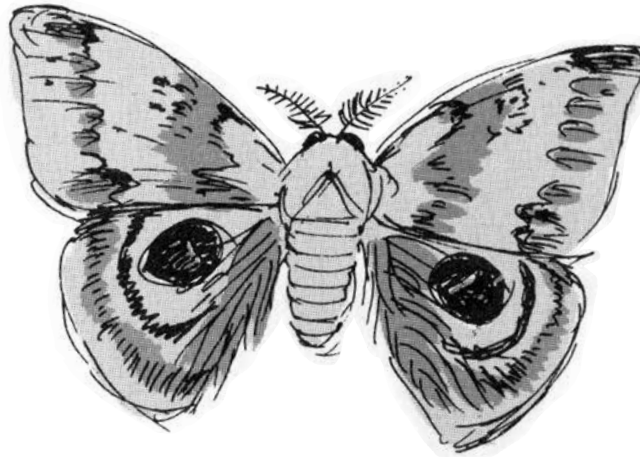
Funding for the new project comes via a grant from the Biological Resources Division of the National Park Service. If money and logistics allow, the

pollinator gardens will be expanded to Oconaluftee Visitor Center and the Great



Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. Great Smoky Mountains

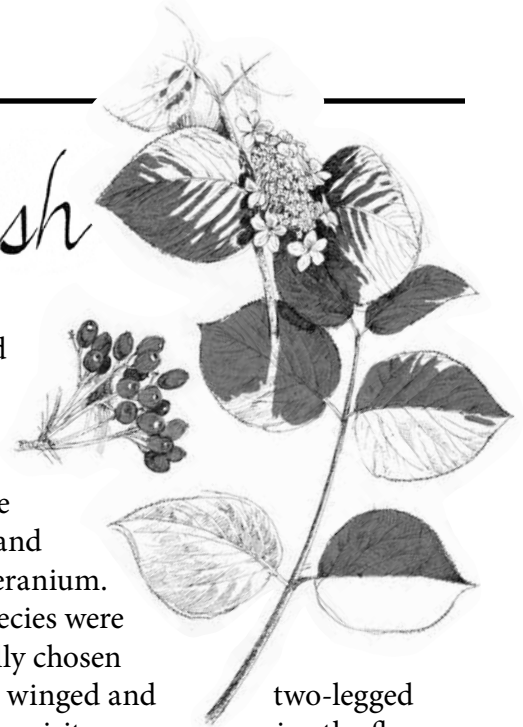
National Park is a major sanctuary for over 18,000 different kinds of plants and animals. This diversity includes 266 species of bees, nearly 100 butterflies and skippers, and some 1,000 moths. If some of these critical species were to become extirpated elsewhere in their range, the Smokies might serve as a



biological reservoir for restocking.

Project coordinator Dr. Becky Nichols remarked that human park visitors as well as insects “should find the gardens very attractive.” Plantings will include butterfly weed, Virginia bluebells, pink turtlehead, milkweed (for Monarchs), bee-balm,

Hobblebush
Viburnum lantanoides



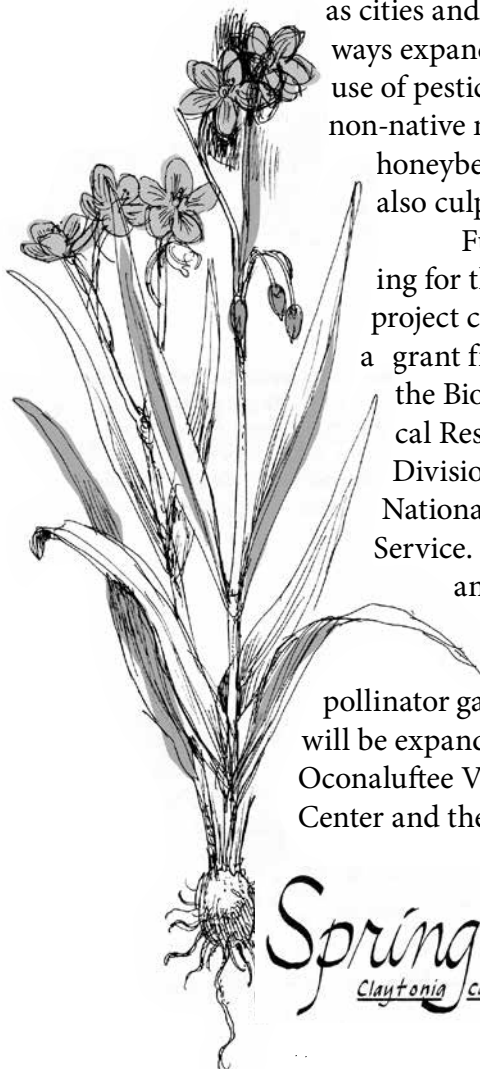
fringed phacelia, sweet Joe-Pye weed, and wild geranium. The species were carefully chosen

so that winged and Smokies visitors can

two-legged enjoy the flowers from April through October.

Sugarlands Visitor Center is located two miles south of Gatlinburg on Newfound Gap Road (U.S. 441). In addition to wildflower gardens, the center offers restrooms, exhibits, a free 20-minute movie, information desk, and bookstore.

Orange Touch-Me-Not
Impatiens capensis



Spring-Beauty
Claytonia caroliniana



mostly free*, fun things to do

SUGARLANDS/ELKMONT AREA	MEETING LOCATION	DURATION	DIFFICULTY
A Walk in the Woods: Do you have a few minutes? Get away from the hustle and bustle by taking an easy stroll and discover stories of history and nature along this scenic, wooded trail.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	1.5 hours	Easy
Creature Feature: Did you know that the Smokies is one of the most diverse places in the world? Join a ranger to learn about some of the creatures that live here and how they prepare for winter during this “Ranger’s Choice” style program.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	30 minutes	Easy
Old Town of Elkmont: Take an afternoon stroll with a ranger and learn about Elkmont when it was a turn-of-the-century logging boomtown.	Elkmont Ranger Station	2 hours	Easy
Stories that Flowers Tell: If flowers could talk what stories would they tell? Take a walk to hear some interesting folklore about the flowers the Smokies are famous for, and get to know your favorites a little bit better.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	1.5 hours	Easy
METCALF BOTTOMS AREA			
School Days at Little Greenbrier: Go back in time to discover what it was like to live in a mountain community and go to school in a one-room schoolhouse. Fun for all ages, and great for Junior Rangers. Please arrive 15 minutes before program start; space is limited.	Little Greenbrier School	1.5 hours	Easy
CADES COVE AREA			
April Hayrides: Enjoy a ranger-led open air hayride viewing wildlife and discovering the diversity of Cades Cove. \$14.00/person* (for the hayride).	Cades Cove Riding Stables	1.5 hours	Easy
Precious Memories: Discover the importance of the Primitive Baptist Church in Cades Cove’s everyday life.	Primitive Baptist Church	30 minutes	Easy
WILD Program A short talk and demonstration about the wild things in the Smokies.	Cades Cove Visitor Center	30 minutes	Easy
Junior Ranger Program: Bring the kids for a hands-on exploration of the Smokies. Earn a badge and certificate.	Cades Cove Visitor Center	45 minutes	Easy
OCONALUFTEE AREA			
Charismatic Mega-fauna!: What is it? Where can I see it? Find out from a ranger if there is something we’re not telling you!	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	30 minutes	Easy
Coffee With a Ranger: Join a Ranger for a cup of coffee and find out what’s happening in the park! Coffee provided. Bring a cup if you have one. Topics may vary based on visitor interests and things going on the park.	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	1 hour	Easy
Down on the Farm: Walk down to the Mountain Farm Museum and see what pastime activities settlers may have been engaged in such as fence building, woodworking, or gardening. Activities vary.	Mountain Farm Museum	2 hours	Easy
SPECIAL PROGRAMS			
Science Friday: Join a scientist on the 3rd Friday of the month to learn about and engage in on-going scientific research happening inside Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Topics vary each month.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	2 hours	Easy
Return of the Elk: Come enjoy a guided hike to the elk acclimation pen and explore how, when, and why the elk were returned to the Smokies. Hike is less than one mile.	Cataloochee Valley, Rough Fork Trailhead	1.5 hours	Moderate
Back Porch Old-Time Music Jam: Bring an acoustic instrument and join in on this old-time jam. Or just sit back and enjoy the sights and sounds as others play traditional Appalachian music.	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	2 hours	Easy
Blacksmith Demonstration: Learn the art of Blacksmithing and why it was important in the Cades Cove community.	Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill	Continuous from 10 - 4 P.M.	Easy
			

**PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL PARK—MARCH 25 – MAY 8, 2016 ONLY**

ACCESSIBLE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
No					10:30 A.M.	10:30 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
Yes	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.
No							1:30 P.M.
No						1:00 P.M.	
No		11:00 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.					
No			April Only 3:00 P.M.	April Only 3:00 P.M.			
No		11:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.		11:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.			
No						2:30 P.M.	
Yes						1:00 P.M.	
Yes					11:00 A.M.		
Yes						10:00 A.M.	
Yes							2:00 P.M.
Yes					1:00 P.M. April 15 & May 20		
Yes		3:00 P.M. April 12, April 19, & May 3					
Yes						2:00 P.M. April 16, May 7, & May 21	
Yes						10:00 – 4:00 P.M. March 26 & April 23	10:00 – 4:00 P.M. March 27 & April 24

if you love the smokies...

help protect this place for ourselves and future generations

become a member



Since 1953, Great Smoky Mountains

Association has supported the educational, scientific, and historical efforts of the National Park Service through cash donations and in-kind services. In 2016 alone, the association plans to provide more than \$1.4 million in assistance that includes saving hemlock trees, living history demonstrations, environmental education programs, salaries for wildlife personnel, and historic preservation.

Association members receive a number of benefits to keep them informed about special events in the park and issues affecting the Smokies:

- Subscription to the semi-annual, full-color magazine *Smokies Life*
- Digital access to the award-winning quarterly park newspaper, *Smokies Guide*, and the association's newsletter, *The Bearpaw*
- A 15-20% discount on books, music, gifts, and other products sold at park visitor centers and at our web store
- Discounts of 10% at more than 400 national park bookstores across the country
- Special discounts at area rental cabins, inns, restaurants, shops, and attractions
- And most importantly, the satisfaction of helping to preserve nature and history in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Join today using the coupon to the right or visit www.SmokiesInformation.org, or call us at 1-888-898-9102 x222. Memberships start at just \$35. per year.

MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO



Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the few large national parks without an entrance fee. Most parks now charge \$20 or \$30 per vehicle. Without this supplemental income, it is difficult for the Smokies to adequately protect wildlife, preserve historic areas, and provide educational opportunities. You can help by using some of the money you saved at the entrance to support the park partners that support our park!

field school

An exciting variety of adventures await adults who long to get out and explore the park accompanied by expert guides. Programs are offered by the Smoky Mountain Field School and include Mt. Le Conte overnights, wildlife workshops, edible plants, wildflower photography, animal tracking, bird watching, salamanders, mountain cooking, and more. One-day programs start at as little as \$35. Contact: (865) 974-0150 or smfs.utk.edu

gsmi at 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 school programs at the Institute. Tremont's adult workshops include birding, backpacking, environmental education, naturalist weekends, and photography. Contact (865) 448-6709 or www.gsmit.org

summer camps

Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont offers a variety of summer youth camps in the national park. Camps last from 6-11 days and cost from \$572. Fees include meals, lodging, and most equipment.

This year's offerings include: Discovery Camp (ages 9-12), Wilderness Adventure Trek, Girls in Science (ages 12-15), and Teen High Adventure (ages 13-17).

Contact: (865) 448-6709, or www.gsmit.org

GSMA MEMBERS

"Get Rooted in the Smokies"

- ☐ Acorn (youth) Membership \$15
- ☐ Buckeye Annual Membership \$35
- ☐ Chestnut Annual Membership \$100
- ☐ Dogwood Membership \$200
- ☐ Hemlock Lifetime Membership \$1,000
payable in 5 installments
- ☐ Annual Business Membership \$250

SIGN ME UP!

Name(s)* _____

Address _____

Email (for Cub Report) _____

Telephone # _____

Please include your check with this form. Mail to:
GSMA, P.O. Box 130, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

support the friends

Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a nonprofit organization that assists the National Park Service by raising funds and public awareness and providing volunteers for park projects.

Since 1993, Friends has



raised over \$50 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 park movie
- preserve log cabins and other historic structures

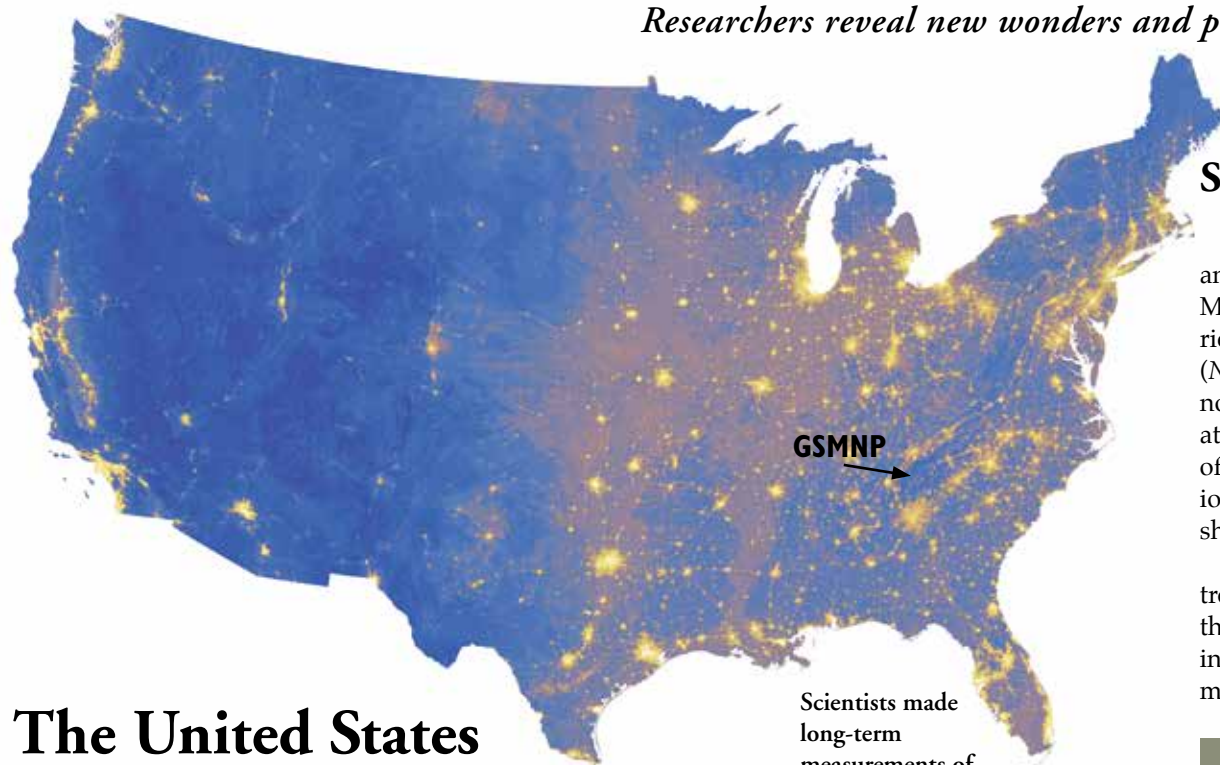
Your donation can help make these projects a reality. Put a few coins or a few dollars in one of the donation boxes located at visitor centers, roadsides, and other locations around the park. Buy the Smokies license plate for your car (available in Tennessee and North Carolina).

However you choose to give, your donation will really help protect the Great Smoky Mountains for many years to come!

Friends of the Smokies
P.O. Box 1660
Kodak, TN 37764
(865) 932-4794
1-800-845-5665
www.friendsofthesmokies.org

Weird Science

Researchers reveal new wonders and puzzles



The United States of Noise

We all know that visitors come to the Great Smoky Mountains to see bears and waterfalls, but surveys show the public also puts a very high value on the peace and quiet they find in national parks. And rightly so. According to researchers, long-term exposure to loud noise degrades both your physical and mental health.

Unfortunately, indoors and outdoors, the world is becoming a noisy place. In the Southeast especially, national parks are some of the few places where humans have any chance whatsoever of finding a little quiet. Even in the Smokies, noise from aircraft, motor vehicles, generators, and maintenance equipment can shatter the silence and overwhelm the natural sounds of songbirds, insects, and rustling leaves.

To address the issue of noise pollution, Scott McFarland, a Park Service scientist assigned to the Southeast Region, is conducting a sound monitoring study at ten sites in the Smokies. His work will build on baseline sound data collected here a decade ago

and will document precisely how, when, and where the park gets loud. McFarland will then use the data to help park officials make policies that conserve natural silence here.

In the past, park officials have negotiated with local communities and operators of helicopter and airplane sightseeing tours to help reduce this source of noise pollution in national parks. Modifications to equipment such as leaf blowers, mowers, generators, and power saws used by Park Service and other work crews can also make a tremendous difference. As does educating motorcyclists and car enthusiasts about the impacts of their machines on the resource of silence. In 2015, McFarland spent several days talking to participants of the famous Sturgis, South Dakota motorcycle rally and found an interested and receptive audience.

"Half the battle is just educating people about the value of quiet in our national parks," McFarland said. "Once they think of it as a resource worth preserving, their attitudes and behaviors can change."

Scientists made long-term measurements of sound in national parks as well as urban and rural areas across the country. The brighter the yellow area, the noisier the place. Dark purple indicates relative quiet.

Super (Anti-) Hero Ants of the Smokies

An incredible 116 species of ants live in the Great Smoky Mountains, including two varieties of notorious army ants (*Neivamyrmex*). Army ants are nomadic warriors that march at night and decimate colonies of other ants in a violent fashion that might require censorship in some comic books.

Similar to the infamous tropical varieties of army ants, the Smokies species march in long columns and devour most everything in their path,

including worms, beetles, and centipedes. As they converge on a colony of other ants, they first slaughter the guards, then carry off the pupae, larvae, and corpses of adult ants, all as future food for the victors. Army ants build no permanent colonies, only temporary bivouacs on their relentless march of conquest and destruction. In the Smokies, they are most likely to be encountered in habitats with dry, open oak forest or fields.



The Smokies' army ants are almost always on the move, devouring most everything in their path.

Armadillos Spread to the Great Smoky Mountains

Biologists at Great Smoky Mountains National Park may soon be adding another species to the list of 18,545 varieties of plants and animals already documented in the park: the nine-banded armadillo. Sometimes referred to as "armored 'possums," armadillos have been expanding their range northward and eastward into the U.S. since they crossed the Rio Grande River from Mexico in the late 1800s.

Armadillos are closely related to anteaters

and sloths and likewise spend their time rooting for grubs, worms, ants, beetles, and termites. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission recently reported at least one confirmed observation of an armadillo in Haywood County, which is partially situated within the national park. A southern species not particularly well suited for cold weather, armadillos may be moving northward in part due to global climate change.

2008-2015 North Carolina confirmed, credible, and unconfirmed armadillo observations



Legend
Confirmed Observations
Credible Observations
Unconfirmed reports

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

visitor information

for more information, www.nps.gov/grsm or follow us on Twitter @GreatSmokyNPS

information	emergencies	hospitals	regulations	accessibility
<p>General park information: (865) 436-1200 www.nps.gov/grsm</p> <p>Backcountry information (865) 436-1297 www.smokiespermits.nps.gov</p> <p>To order maps & guides (865) 436-7318 x226 www.smokiesinformation.org</p>	<p>Listed below are some numbers to call <u>for emergencies</u> that occur in the park.</p> <p>Park Headquarters (865) 436-9171</p> <p>Cherokee Police (828) 497-4131</p> <p>Gatlinburg Police (865) 436-5181</p>	<p>Le Conte/Sevier County (865) 446-7000, Middle Creek Rd., Sevierville, TN.</p> <p>Blount Memorial (865) 983-7211, U.S. 321, Maryville, TN.</p> <p>Haywood County (828) 456-7311, Waynesville, NC.</p> <p>Swain County (828) 488-2155, Bryson City, NC.</p>	<p>Picking or digging plants is prohibited in the park.</p> <p>Persons feeding wildlife are subject to a \$5,000 fine.</p> <p>Pets are not permitted on most park trails. Only the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails allow dogs on a leash.</p>	<p>Restrooms at all park visitor centers (Cades Cove, Clingmans Dome, Oconaluftee, and Sugarlands) are fully accessible. The Sugarlands Valley all-access nature trail is located on Newfound Gap Road just south of Sugarlands Visitor Center.</p>

