



# SMOKIES GUIDE

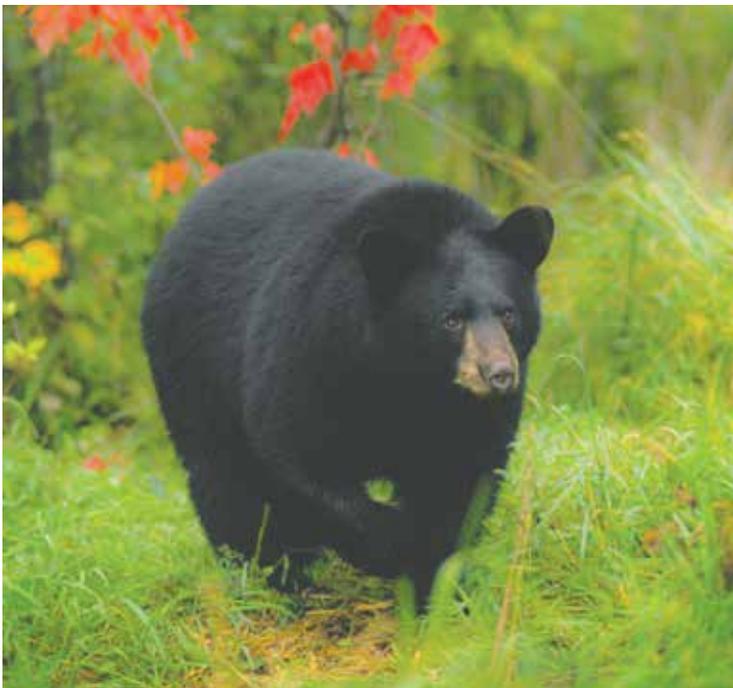


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FREE RANGER-LED WALKS & TALKS—PGS 10-12



THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK & AUTUMN 2014



BILL LEA PHOTO

Every year approximately 1,600 black bears and nine million humans share Great Smoky Mountains National Park's 800 square mile area.

## Bears On Move, Fall Shuffle Has Begun

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

In good mast years, bears may gain 3-5 pounds per day just by gobbling acorns and berries. They will retire to their winter dens fat and happy, and pregnant females are likely to emerge in spring with two or more cubs.

In bad years, many bears will perish and there will be few cubs come spring.

To gain enough weight to survive the winter, bears must range far and wide for food, an annual frenzy labeled "the fall shuffle." Some bears will

be killed as they leave park boundaries and encounter busy highways, hunters, and protective land owners.

It is especially important in fall to keep people-food away from bears. Hungry bears that get people-food and garbage lose their wildness and are threats to people, property, and themselves.

Habituated bears are easy targets for poachers and are often hit by cars or must be euthanized because they threaten visitors and property.

To help protect bears and people in the Smokies, please clean up your camp or picnic area as soon as you are finished eating. Put garbage in bear-proof dumpsters or cans. At your rental cabin, never leave food out for bears, including pet food and bird seed.



### FALL COLORS

The Great Smoky Mountains boast 100 species of native trees, making this national park a cornucopia of fall colors. Along the high ridges and mountain tops, trees begin changing in mid-September. The peak of fall color in the valleys and coves is usually in late October or early November. Sunny days and cool nights are thought to nurture the best colors.



BILL LEA PHOTO

The John Oliver Cabin in Cades Cove was built in 1821, three years after the first family of settlers arrived and nearly starved to death.

## Cherokee, Olivers Had Thanksgiving in Cove

When John and Lucretia Oliver crossed over Rich Mountain into Cades Cove in the fall of 1818, they had no shortage of worries. For one, they had their one-year-old daughter Mary in tow. For two, they were headed into a wilderness with very limited supplies, no shelter, and a narrow range of skills (John was a charcoal maker by trade and Lucretia an orphan who worked as a servant).

For three, Cades Cove was owned and occupied (at least seasonally) by Cherokee Indians and the Olivers were trespassing.

The Olivers spent their first night in Cades Cove in "an abandoned Indian hut" according to historian Durwood Dunn. They then proceeded to build a crude wooden shelter as winter descended.

Unwisely, the Olivers had arrived in the cove too late to

grow any crops. They had no milk cow or cattle or sheep. Lucretia was especially nervous about the Cherokee who hunted and gathered wild foods in the rich valley.

According to Lucretia, the family nearly starved that winter. In fact, they may well have perished if not for the Cherokee.

"The Cherokees generously brought them dried pumpkins which kept them alive until spring," writes Dunn in *Cades Cove: the Life and Death of a Southern Appalachian Community*. Like the Pilgrims at Plymouth two centuries before, the hapless newcomers were rescued by the people they would soon displace.

After surviving the first winter, John's brother brought cattle and the Olivers became legal landowners. Their second cabin, built in 1821, still stands in Cades Cove where it is preserved by the National Park Service.



# smokies trip planner

to order maps, apps, and guides: [www.SmokiesInformation.org](http://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:

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Abrams Creek and Balsam Mountain campgrounds are open this year.

## camping in 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](http://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-serve.

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](http://www.recreation.gov). Group sites may be reserved up to one year in

advance.

The list below shows number of sites, elevations, fees, approximate 2014 operation dates, and maximum RV lengths. Visit [www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm) for more information.

ABRAMS CREEK 16 sites, elev. 1,125', \$14, open May 23-Oct. 13, 12' trailers

BALSAM MOUNTAIN 46 sites, elev. 5,310', \$14, open May 23-Oct. 13, 30' RVs

BIG CREEK 12 sites, elev. 1,700', \$14, open April 11-Oct. 26, 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 14-Oct. 31, reservations required, 31' RVs

COSBY 157 sites, elev. 2,459', \$14, April 11-Oct. 31, 25' RVs

DEEP CREEK 92 sites, elev. 1,800', \$17, open April 11-Oct. 31, 26' RVs

ELKMONT 220 sites, elev. 2,150', \$17-\$23, open March 14-Nov. 29, 32'-35' RVs

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 1-800-438-1601  
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

## 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.

## facility rentals

The historic Appalachian Clubhouse and Spence Cabin at Elkmont are now accepting reservations for day-use rentals. Picnic pavillions are also available for \$10-\$20 per day at Collins Creek, Cosby, Deep Creek, Greenbrier, Metcalf Bottoms, and Twin Creeks. To make a reservation, call 1-877-444-6777 or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

## special events

September 20  
Mountain Life Festival at Oconaluftee Visitor Center

September 27  
Wilderness Act Celebration at Sugarlands Visitor Center

December 13  
Festival of Christmas Past at Sugarlands Visitor Center

## picnic areas

Please see pages 8-9 for locations of picnic areas. All picnic areas have charcoal grills for cooking.

## visitor centers

Park visitor centers offer information, exhibits, and a bookstore. Fall hours of operation are:

Oconaluftee: 8-6:30 (Sept. & Oct.), 8-5 (Nov.)

Sugarlands: 8-6:30 (Sept. & Oct.), 8-5 (Nov.)

Cades Cove: 9-6:30 (Sept. & Oct.), 9-5:30 (Nov.)

Clingmans Dome 10-6:00 (Sept. & Oct.), 9:30-5 (Nov.)

MARY ANN KRESSIG 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 7-Sept. 24, 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](http://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 annual 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.

## horse riding

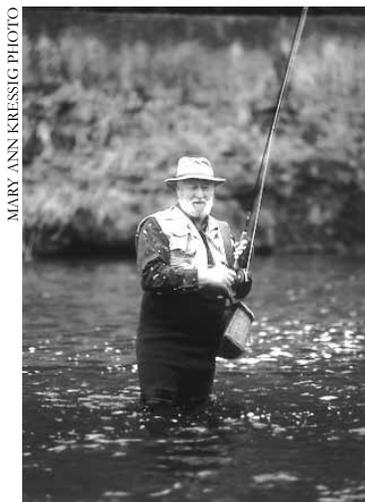
Horseback riding is generally available from early March through November. Rates are \$30 per hour. Most stables have maximum rider weight limits of 225 or 250 pounds and age restrictions for children. Please call the stables below or stop at a visitor center for detailed information.

Cades Cove (865) 448-9009  
[cadescovestables.com](http://cadescovestables.com)  
 Smokemont (828) 497-2373  
[smokemontridingstables.com](http://smokemontridingstables.com)  
 Smoky Mtn. (865) 436-5634  
[smokymountainridingstables.com](http://smokymountainridingstables.com)

Sugarlands (865) 436-3535  
[sugarlandsridingstables.com](http://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](http://www.Recreation.gov) for reservations.



Fishing for brook trout is now allowed in most 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:

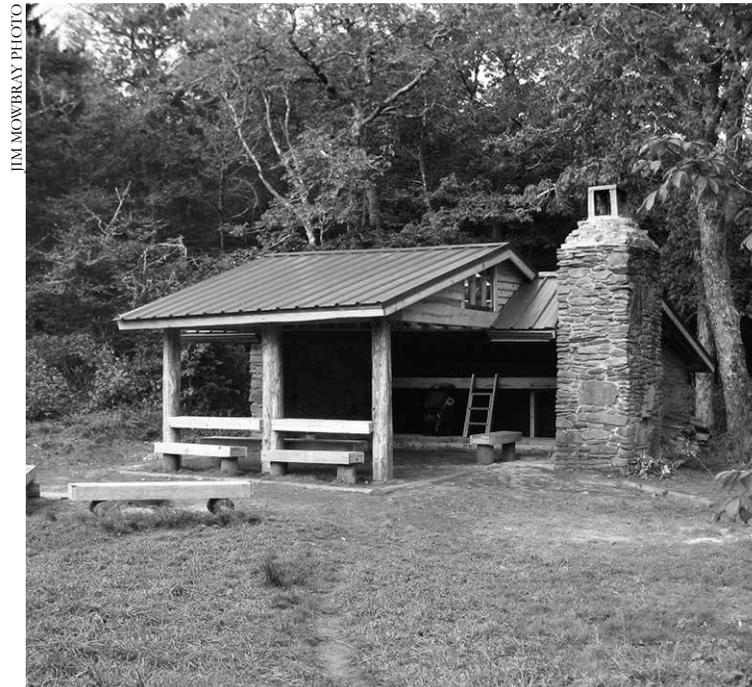
Gatlinburg: 34 miles (1 hour)  
 Cades Cove: 57 miles (2 hours)  
 Newfound Gap: 18 miles  
 (½ hour)  
 Clingmans Dome:  
 25 miles (¾ hour)  
 Cataloochee: 39 miles  
 (1½ hours)  
 Deep Creek: 14 miles (½ hour)

### 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 and permits are required for backcountry campers.

## 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](http://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](http://www.SmokiesInformation.org).
2. Call or stop by the park's backcountry office, which is open daily from 8-5, for trip planning help. The office is located in Sugarlands Visitor

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

3. Make your reservation and obtain your permit through the backcountry office at Sugarlands Visitor Center (by phone or in person) or online at [www.smokiespermits.nps.gov](http://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.

Fall 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.

# great sights to see

*A dozen must-see sights in the Great Smoky Mountains*



KENT CAVE PHOTO

The observation tower atop the Smokies highest peak, 6,643'.

## 1. clingmans dome

A paved, but very steep, 0.5 mile trail leads to an observation tower that offers 360° views of the Great Smoky Mountains and beyond. To get there: turn off Newfound Gap Road 0.1 mile south of Newfound Gap and follow the 7-mile-long Clingmans Dome Road to the large parking area at the end. A visitor center is located along the trail to the tower.

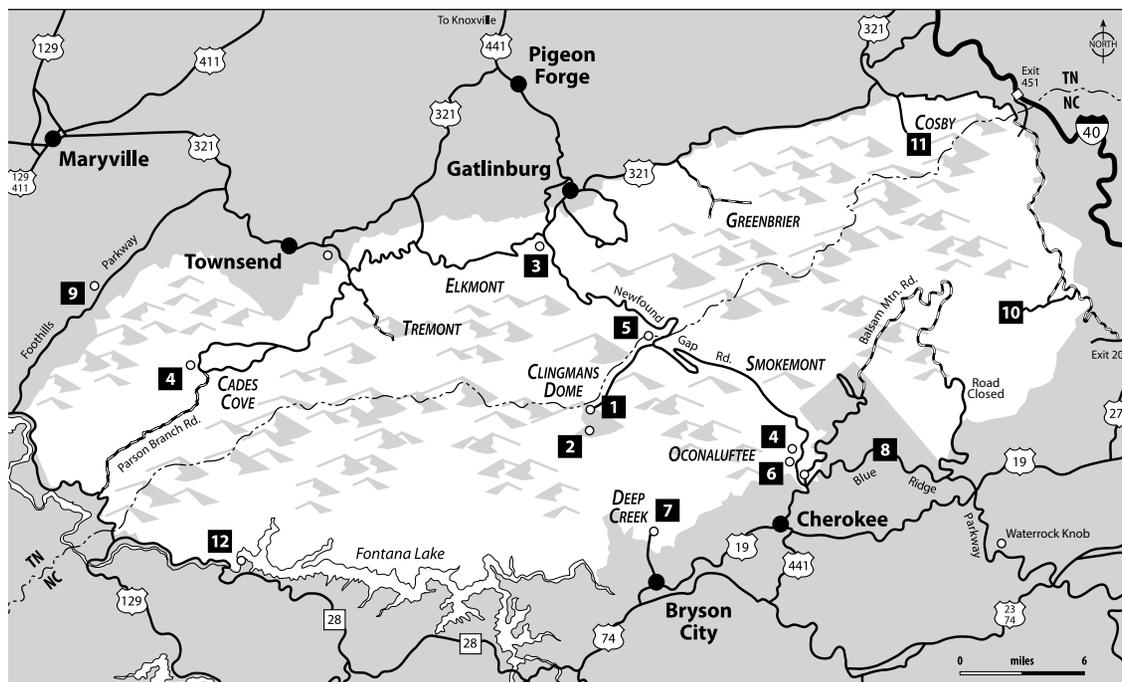
The road to Clingmans Dome is closed from December 1 through March 31 due to weather.

## 2. andrews bald

"Balds" are mountaintop meadows of mysterious origin. Andrews offers panoramic mountain views in favorable weather. The 3.4 mile roundtrip hike to Andrews Bald is along Forney Ridge Trail and starts from the end of Clingmans Dome parking area. The trail leads through high elevation spruce-fir forest with evergreen trees and unusual flora and fauna.

## 3. sugarlands visitor center

It's fun, it's free, and it's easy to find. Sugarlands Visitor Center is located 2 miles south



of Gatlinburg, TN on U.S. 441. Highlights include flora and fauna exhibits, a 20-minute film in the surround-sound theater, an information desk, and bookstore. Several short nature trails also begin at the center, as do ranger-led walks and talks. Open 8-6:30 (Sept.-Oct.), 8-5 (Nov.)

## 4. water-powered grist mills

Two historic, water-powered grist mills operate 7 days per week in the park from mid-March to mid-November. Cable Mill sits in Cades Cove (halfway around the one-way loop road). Mingus Mill is 2 miles north of Cherokee, NC on U.S. 441 (Newfound Gap Road). Open 9-5.

## 5. newfound gap

This gap is a low point in the mountain range and straddles the boundary of North Carolina and Tennessee. From here one can enjoy spectacular views into both states and take a short stroll along the famous Appalachian Trail. There are also restrooms and the historic Rockefeller Memorial.



BILL LEA PHOTO

The Davis-Queen house at the Mountain Farm Museum.

## 6. oconaluftee museums

This history buff's paradise now offers free indoor and outdoor museums. It also features old-time breeds of livestock (seasonally) and an heirloom garden and row crops. The new visitor center and mountain farm museum are located on U.S. 441, two miles north of Cherokee, NC. Open 8-6 (Sept.-Oct.), 8-5 (Nov.).

## 7. deep creek waterfalls

The Deep Creek area features a campground, picnic area, mountain stream, and miles of hiking trails. Around 2 miles of walking will acquaint you with beautiful Deep Creek and three pretty waterfalls (Juney Whank, Tom Branch, and Indian Creek). The trails to the waterfalls start from the large parking area at the end of Deep Creek Road (across the creek from Deep Creek Campground). The area is located about 3 miles from downtown Bryson City, NC.

## 8. blue ridge parkway

The Blue Ridge Parkway starts where Great Smoky Mountains National Park ends, on U.S. 441 near Cherokee, NC. The parkway is a 469-mile-long scenic drive that connects the Smokies to Shenandoah National Park. In the early fall it is especially enjoyable for those looking for fall colors, wildflowers, and mountain views. If 469 miles sounds a little long, the 20-mile drive from Oconaluftee Visitor Center to Waterrock Knob takes less than an hour.

## WHERE TO BEAT THE CROWDS

If you want to beat the autumn weekend crowds, try some of these off-the-beaten-path destinations.

9. Look Rock walking trail and tower. Great views, just off the Foothills Parkway West, 18 miles from Townsend, TN.

10. Cataloochee Valley. This remote area is accessible only by narrow, winding secondary roads. But when you arrive, there are elk to watch, historic buildings to explore, and plenty of trails to walk. 39 miles from Cherokee; 65 miles from Gatlinburg.

11. Cosby Campground, Picnic Area, and hiking trails. The campground rarely fills, and there are short and long trails to waterfalls, views, and Mt. Cammerer fire tower. The campground is 20 miles from Gatlinburg, TN.

12. Fontana Dam and Lake. A TVA visitor center and tours highlight the highest dam in the East. Fontana Marina offers boat rentals and shuttles for access to remote, historic areas of the park like Hazel Creek and Eagle Creek.

# park news

Great Smoky Mountains National Park protects over 800 square miles of land

## National Park Service News Briefs

### Official Smokies 25-cent Piece Now Available

IN JANUARY the U.S. Mint released into circulation its Tennessee—Great Smoky Mountains National Park quarter as the latest coin in the “America the Beautiful” series. The 25-cent piece is one of 56 quarters celebrating federal public lands that is produced by the Denver and Philadelphia mints. Uncirculated versions of the Smokies quarter and other national park collectible coins are available for sale in park visitor centers.



### Gunther Fork Trail Reopens

LANDSLIDE-PRONE GUNTHER FORK Trail is open to hikers one again. The trail had been closed since May, 2014.

The park trail crew completed the necessary repairs by re-establishing the trail through the slide area. The trail passes along rocky, steep terrain complicating the repair work. The trail was also closed in 2011 due to a major slide in the same vicinity.

### Armadillo Reported Near Park Boundary

A PARK RANGER HAS REPORTED an armadillo close to the national park boundary near Deals Gap. The mammals have been steadily expanding their range north and east for several decades. Park officials are still considering whether to treat the animals as non-natives or as natural immigrants if they are documented inside the park.

### Chimneys Trail to Fully Open by 2015

THE VERY POPULAR CHIMNEY TOPS Trail is scheduled to reopen to 7-days per week at the end of this year. The combination of heavy use, abundant rainfall, and steep terrain turned the Chimney Tops Trail into a badly eroded obstacle course of slick, broken rock, exposed tree roots, and mud. Since April 2012, the park's Trails Forever Crew has been rebuilding the trail using durable stone and rot-resistant black locust timbers that will stabilize the trail for decades to come.

### Roaring Fork MNT to Close Early This Year

ROARING FORK MOTOR Nature Trail will close on October 31 this year so that repairs can be made on three bridges. The scenic road is slated to reopen on May 1, 2015.

## Park Proposes Firewood Regulation to Protect Forests from Alien Pests



Certified firewood that is heat treated does not harbor insect eggs or beetle larvae that can spread and devastate the park's forests.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials are proposing a new regulation to help protect forests by limiting the type of firewood brought into the park by campers and picnickers. Non-native, tree-killing insects and diseases such as the emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle often lay eggs and stowaway in dead wood and then disperse to wreak havoc in the forest.

Non-native pests have already wiped out most of the Fraser fir and eastern hemlock trees in the park and the latest exotics could cause even more widespread carnage.

The Park Service proposes to reduce this eminent threat by changing regulations to allow only heat-treated wood to be brought into the park for campfires. If the proposal is adopted, beginning in March 2015, it would ban the importation of firewood that is not bundled and certified by the USDA or a state agency.

Heat-treated wood will be available to purchase from

concessioners in many of the campgrounds as well as from private businesses outside the park. In addition, visitors may still collect dead and down wood in the park for their campfires.

“We are asking visitors to help us protect park forests by ensuring they are using heat-treated firewood,” said Acting Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod. “The Smokies have already lost magnificent stands of chestnut, Fraser fir, and hemlock. We need to do all we can to protect the park from further threats.”

The latest wave of non-native insects from Asia and Europe has the potential to devastate over 30 species of hardwood trees native to the park. Transportation of firewood has been implicated in the spread of gypsy moth, Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer, thousand canker disease, Asian longhorned beetle, Sirex woodwasp, golden spotted oak borer, and other disease complexes.

Numerous federal and

state agencies, conservation organizations, and universities are joining forces to develop a national strategy to mitigate the risks associated with transporting firewood, including a public education campaign. National parks throughout the Appalachian region have taken action to limit the spread of insect pests in firewood including, in many cases, the banning of imported firewood.

For the past three years the Smokies has prohibited the importation of firewood from areas quarantined by the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Current park regulations prohibit the importation of wood and wood products from states (or specific counties in states) quarantined for insects such as emerald ash borer or tree diseases such as thousand canker disease.

Although the proposed regulation prohibiting the importation of non-certified wood would not take effect until 2015, the park is asking visitors to make the switch to safe firewood now. Heat-treated wood is available from an increasing number of businesses outside the park and staff are working with concessioners within the park to use low-risk wood sources until they are able to make the transition.

A final decision on adopting the new regulation is expected by the end of the year. The public may submit comments by: mail at 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738; e-mail at [grsmcomments@nps.gov](mailto:grsmcomments@nps.gov); or comment cards available at visitor centers and campgrounds in the national park.

BILL LEA PHOTO

# 2014 SPECIAL REPORT

## State of the Park



### WILDLIFE



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

Funding has been secured this year to repair some damaged systems.

*The non-native wild hog population appears to be relatively low.* This trend is likely due to low reproduction and consistent control efforts by park staff. Since 1959, more than 12,000 invasive wild hogs have been removed from the park.

NPS PHOTO



**At least 11 species of bats are native to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Sadly, approximately 80% of cave dwellers may have fallen victim to white-nose syndrome over the last few years.**



*White-nose Syndrome* has been discovered in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The fungus disease has killed millions of bats in the eastern U.S. It affects

hibernating bats and recent surveys have revealed that nearly 80% of bats in some park caves are missing and most likely dead due to the disease. All caves in the park and most caves on other federal lands in the area have been closed to protect the bats.

*Wild hogs in the park continue to test positive for pseudorabies*, a significant disease for the domestic swine industry. The occurrence of pseudorabies in the Smokies is thought to be directly related to the illegal release of feral hogs near the park boundary.

*Some visitors continue to approach, harass, disturb and feed wildlife in the park.* Unfortunately, it only takes a few careless people to impact the behavior of wildlife. Animals that lose their natural fear of humans may need to be relocated or euthanized.

*Last year, researchers from the University of Georgia found tens of thousands of non-native green tree frogs* calling from several wetlands in Cades Cove. The species arrived as stow-aways on vehicles or equipment that visited the cove from its native habitat to the south. The park is working with researchers from Georgia and Tennessee to determine if this species is likely to cause any harm to native frogs and toads.

### STREAM LIFE

NPS PHOTO



**Park fisheries biologists are continuing their long term effort to restore native brook trout to their historic range in the Smokies. Non-native rainbow trout and acid rain have excluded the brookies from much of their former domain.**



*Recent water quality monitoring data has provided the first evidence of slight improvements in stream acidity.* These improvements are attributed to reductions in acid rain (from power plants and factories) in the last decade.

*Fisheries research indicates that brook trout populations* in the park are healthy. These populations are showing signs of recovering from the droughts of 2007 and 2008 and have expanded their downstream range in some streams since that time. The park has some of the best brook trout waters in the Southeast.



*Surveys of reintroduced* endangered and threatened fish indicate there are now viable reproducing populations in the park.

*Twelve park streams (41 miles) remain officially listed as impaired* by acid deposition. Research is underway to determine how much acid deposition must be reduced for these streams to recover to acceptable levels.

*Significant winter and spring floods* in 2012 and '13 have reduced the number of 5"-8" trout in park streams. However, fry survival seems to be better this year.

## PLANT LIFE



Over 14,000 hemlock trees have been treated with insecticides for hemlock woolly adelgid this year. In addition, many adelgids in the park were killed by cold weather over the winter. Over half a million adelgid-eating predator beetles have been released in the park to date. At some sites, researchers have observed large swarms of the predators.

Around 21,000 native grass and wildflower plants were grown in the park greenhouse from seeds collected in the park. All were planted in Cades Cove this spring as part of an effort to replace non-natives there with natives.

Over 95,000 invasive princess trees have been removed from the Calderwood wildfire site, which burned in 2010. The 160-acre site along US 129 near Calderwood Dam is now recovering with normal growth of native pine, hardwood, and wildflower species.

Park staff worked with Federal Highways engineers to find native species for planting along the new sections of the Foothills Parkway due to open as soon as 2016.



Campers continue to bring firewood into the park from parts of the country under quarantine for Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle. These and other destructive non-native insects pose a significant threat to park forests. This risk can be eliminated by using only certified kiln-dried wood for campfires.

Rangers have made a number of arrests and seized thousands of ginseng roots from persons who had illegally harvested them in the park. Ginseng only grows in the midwest and eastern North America and the national park is one of the few places where there is prime habitat and legal protection. The native wildflower is a very slow-growing, long-lived species and areas ravaged by poachers take decades or longer to recover.

Thousand Cankers Disease was discovered near Big Creek and Cataloochee campgrounds. The disease kills black walnut trees.

## AIR QUALITY



Ozone pollution, acid rain, particulate matter, and regional haze levels at the park have all improved dramatically since 1999.

Cleaner power plants and cleaner motor vehicles are the reasons. Visibility on the worst days has improved from 9 miles in the 1990s to 39 miles in 2013.

Nearly 12,000 customers have signed up for the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) Green Power Program.

Since December of 2008, TVA has installed sulfur dioxide scrubbers on the nearby Bull Run and Kingston coal-fired power plants, reducing emissions and improving air quality. Additionally, TVA plans to install more scrubbers on other nearby smokestacks.

pollution can make air in the park unhealthy to breathe.



Thanks to reductions in coal-burning power plants and vehicle emissions, air quality in the Smokies is improving. Still, sulfates from power plants and factories are reducing mountain views from 80 miles (historically) to 39 miles today.



Because of sulfate and nitrate pollution, park rainfall is five times more acidic than natural rainfall, causing streams to become too acidic for Clean Water Act standards.

In summer, ground level ozone

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION



The park has an extensive collection of audio and visual recordings that are becoming increasingly difficult to use because of changes in technology. These are being migrated to a digital format for easier use and long-term preservation.

Great Smokies hopes to soon begin construction of a state-of-the-art joint Collections Preservation Center to house all of the park's historic and archeological collections and historic documents, photographs, and records under appropriate climate-controlled conditions. The facility will leverage scarce federal funds by providing curatorial staff and housing collections for several East Tennessee National Park Service units, including Cumberland Gap, Big South Fork, and Andrew Johnson. Park nonprofit partners Friends of the Smokies and Great Smoky Mountains Association have pledged at least \$1.6 million toward the facility.

Rangers are using public social media and visitor reports to catch vandals who write and carve on the Smokies' historic buildings. Several cases have been successfully prosecuted.

Historic Structure Reports are being prepared to guide the park's care of 13

buildings being preserved in Elkmont. Eight reports are complete, three are near completion and more are scheduled to begin soon.

The park has developed partnerships with regional universities to make many items from the park archives available online. Many photographs, documents, and maps are now available and searchable to researchers.



The park's cabins, churches, and other historic buildings are being permanently damaged by vandals carving or writing their names on walls. If you witness vandalism taking place, please call (865) 436-1230 to report it.

Someone stole a unique window from one of the cabins being preserved in Elkmont, taking with them the chance for others to appreciate the structure's architectural history.

Until the planned curatorial facility is completed, most historic artifacts are housed 60 miles away because the park lacks adequate in-park storage, making access for research and conservation difficult.

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE



Great Smoky Mountains Association, the Bryson City Chamber of Commerce, and the National Park Service are partnering to open a visitor center and heritage museum in downtown Bryson City this fall. Highlights of the new facility include a history museum, bookstore, and information desk. This is the third new park information center to open in North Carolina since 2011.

The rehabilitation of the very popular Chimney Tops Trail is expected to be complete by late December of this year. Much of the trail has been entirely rebuilt by the Trails Forever crew over the last three years with local stone and other native materials.

The park received a \$52,500 grant from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation to support a project that will integrate Cherokee culture

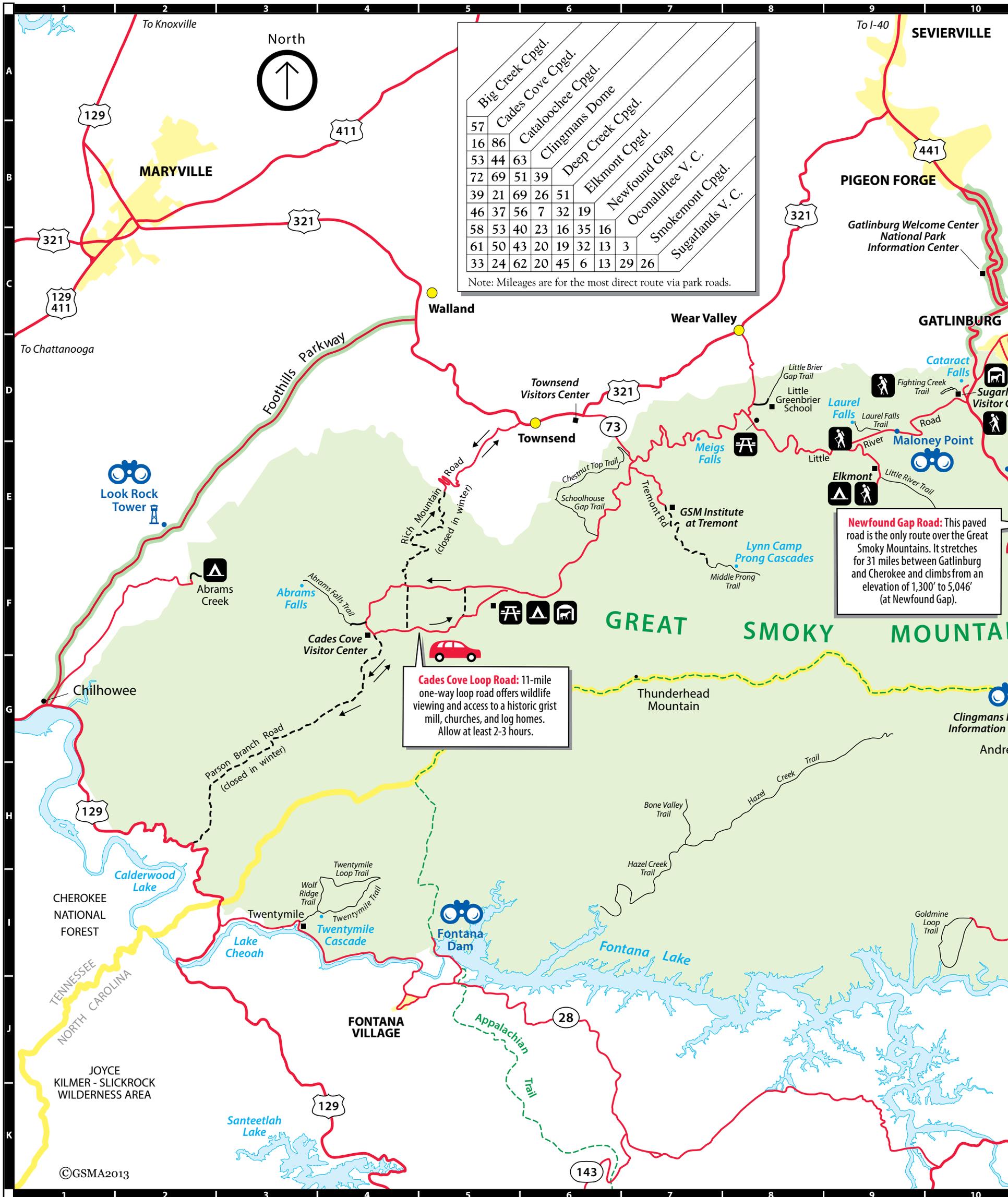
into both new and existing park education programs with expanded offerings focused on Cherokee Middle School.

The National Park Service has placed a temporary moratorium on the use of drones (unmanned aircraft) in all national parks. Small, inexpensive drones have suddenly become popular with photographers and hobbyists, though many park visitors find them distracting and intrusive.



At least three park visitors had very close encounters with aggressive black bears on park trails this year. Fortunately, the hikers all responded to the bears in an appropriate way (stand your ground; don't run!; throw rocks and sticks) and there were no injuries.

# GREAT FALL DRIVING TOURS AND SCENIC VIEWS IN THE SMOKIES

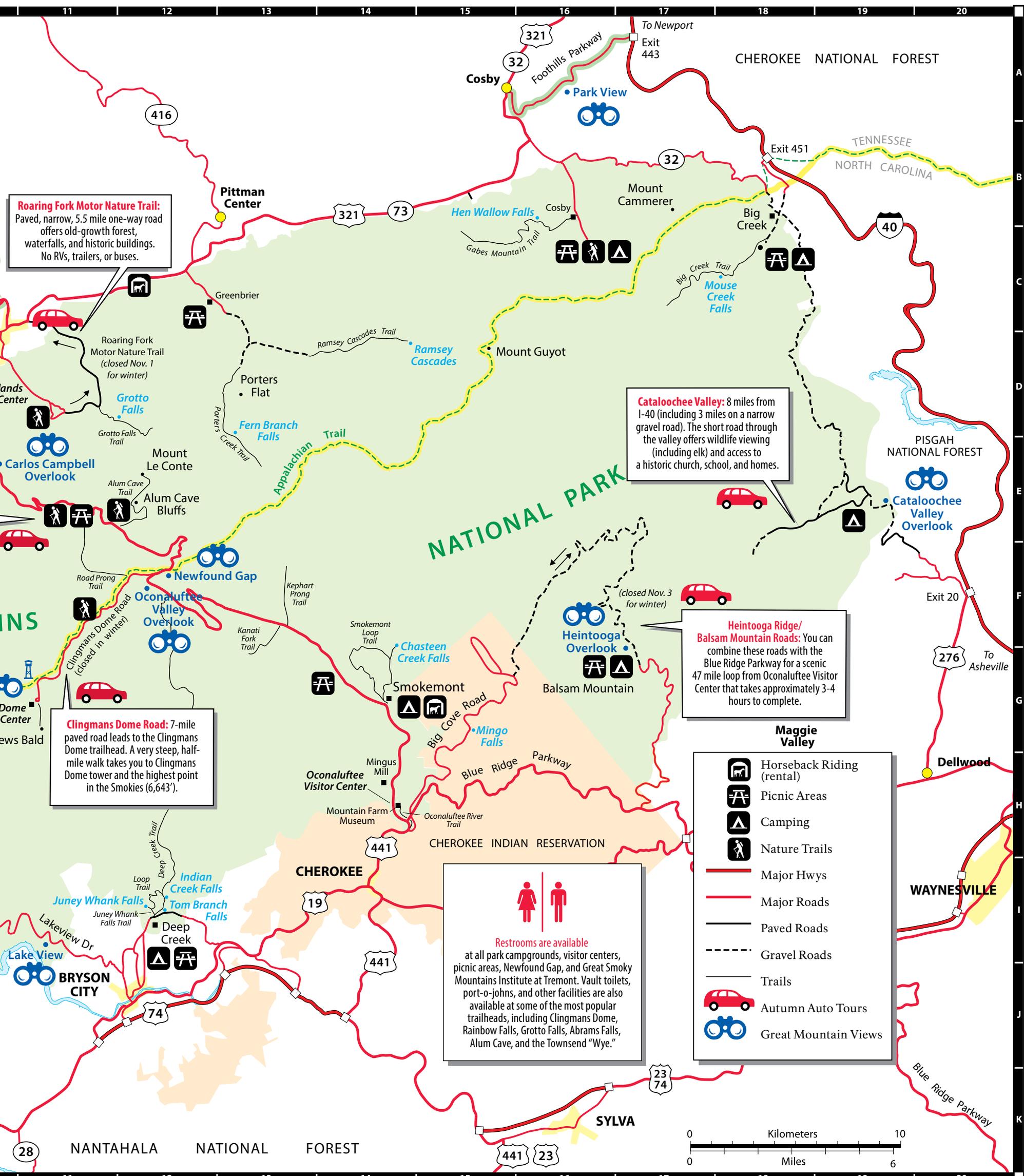


	Big Creek Cpgd.		Cades Cove Cpgd.		Cataloochee Cpgd.		Clingmans Dome		Deep Creek Cpgd.		Elkmont Cpgd.		Newfound Gap		Oconaluftee V. C.		Smokemont Cpgd.		Sugarlands V. C.	
57																				
16	86																			
53	44	63																		
72	69	51	39																	
39	21	69	26	51																
46	37	56	7	32	19															
58	53	40	23	16	35	16														
61	50	43	20	19	32	13	3													
33	24	62	20	45	6	13	29	26												

Note: Mileages are for the most direct route via park roads.

**Cades Cove Loop Road:** 11-mile one-way loop road offers wildlife viewing and access to a historic grist mill, churches, and log homes. Allow at least 2-3 hours.

**Newfound Gap Road:** This paved road is the only route over the Great Smoky Mountains. It stretches for 31 miles between Gatlinburg and Cherokee and climbs from an elevation of 1,300' to 5,046' (at Newfound Gap).



**Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail:**  
 Paved, narrow, 5.5 mile one-way road offers old-growth forest, waterfalls, and historic buildings. No RVs, trailers, or buses.

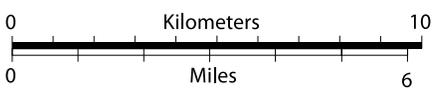
**Cataloochee Valley:** 8 miles from I-40 (including 3 miles on a narrow gravel road). The short road through the valley offers wildlife viewing (including elk) and access to a historic church, school, and homes.

**Heintooga Ridge/ Balsam Mountain Roads:** You can combine these roads with the Blue Ridge Parkway for a scenic 47 mile loop from Oconaluftee Visitor Center that takes approximately 3-4 hours to complete.

**Clingmans Dome Road:** 7-mile paved road leads to the Clingmans Dome trailhead. A very steep, half-mile walk takes you to Clingmans Dome tower and the highest point in the Smokies (6,643').

**Restrooms are available** at all park campgrounds, visitor centers, picnic areas, Newfound Gap, and Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. Vault toilets, port-o-johns, and other facilities are also available at some of the most popular trailheads, including Clingmans Dome, Rainbow Falls, Grotto Falls, Abrams Falls, Alum Cave, and the Townsend "Wye."

- Horseback Riding (rental)
- Picnic Areas
- Camping
- Nature Trails
- Major Hwys
- Major Roads
- Paved Roads
- Gravel Roads
- Trails
- Autumn Auto Tours
- Great Mountain Views



# guided walks & talks

free (except hayrides) programs led by rangers and park volunteers



**Sept 21 - Nov 1, 2014**

**Park visitor centers are located at Cades Cove, Oconaluftee, Clingmans Dome, and Sugarlands. All offer information, exhibits, and publications related to the park and its resources.**

♿ Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

Smoky Mountain Hiking Club members on a hike from Thunderhead to Gregory Bald, July 1930.

CITY OF GATLINBURG PHOTO

## CADES COVE AREA

Please be aware that travel time to programs at Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area could be an hour or more once you get into the Cove due to heavy traffic volume. Plan accordingly.

### Sunday

#### Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road 1:00 p.m.

Join a Park Ranger for a hands-on exploration of the Smokies. Participation counts towards credit for earning a Junior Ranger badge and certificate.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

♿

#### WILD Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road. 2:30 p.m.

A short talk and demonstration about the wild things in the Smokies.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

♿

### Tuesday

#### Evening Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stables 4:30 p.m.

Enjoy a ranger-led open air hayride viewing wildlife and discovering the diversity of Cades Cove.

**Duration:** 1½ - 2 hours

**Fee:** \$14.00/person

♿

### Saturday

#### Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road 1:00 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of the Smokies. Participation counts towards earning a Junior Ranger badge and certificate.

**Duration:** 30 - 45 minutes

♿

#### WILD by Design

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road. 2:30 p.m.

A talk and hands-on demonstration about some of the wild things in the park

**Duration:** 30 minutes

**Difficulty:** Easy

♿

## CATALOOCHEE AREA

### Sunday

#### Junior Ranger: Smoky Mountain Elk

Palmer House, Cataloochee Valley

5:30 p.m.

It's all about connection and balance in nature to insure survival for elk and other species living together in an

ecosystem. Learn about the history of the elk through "show and tell" activities. Then stay and watch the elk come into in the fields!

**Duration:** 45 minutes

## CLINGMANS DOME AREA

### Thursday

#### Hike to Andrews Bald

Meet at Forney Ridge Trailhead near the Clingmans Dome Parking Area

9:30 a.m.

Toss your daypack in the car and join a ranger on a 3.6 mile round trip stroll through one of the Smoky Mountains most interesting ecosystems. This moderate hike will take you out to Andrews Bald, a beautiful meadow on a mountaintop. You can hike leisurely back to the parking lot on your own after reaching the bald or return with the ranger. Sturdy footwear, a snack, and water recommended.

**Duration:** 3 hours

**Difficulty:** Moderate

## OCONALUFTEE VISITOR CENTER AREA

### Daily

#### Mountain Farm Museum

Adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center



## Dawn to Dusk

Walk down to the farm for a glimpse into the past. Self-guiding brochures are available and some days you may find demonstrations such as blacksmithing, hearth cooking, gardening, or weaving taking place.

♿

## Mingus Mill Demonstration

*Located a half-mile north of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center on US 441 (Newfound Gap Road)*

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

*(Open Friday-Sunday only in November)*

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

♿

## Sunday

### Longing for the “Good Ol’ Days”

*Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center*

**2:00 p.m.**

You’ve heard it before but was it really the “good ol’ days?” Join a ranger for a walk on the Mountain Farm Museum and learn what life may have been like on an Appalachian mountain farm.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

♿

## Monday

### Welcome Back to the Smokies!

*Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch*

**1:00 p.m.**

Why would we want to bring species back after they have disappeared from the park? What happened to them in the first place? Join a ranger to hear the stories of reintroduced species within the park, including peregrine falcons, river otters, and elk.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

♿

## Tuesday

### Do You Have Power?

*Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch*

**1:00 p.m.**

Of course you do! What is a carbon footprint? Join a Ranger to learn how to leave a light footprint and help protect the park and the planet for future generations.

**Duration:** 40 minutes

♿

## Wednesday

### Forecasting the Future with Mother Nature

*Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch*

**11:00 a.m.**

Nuts were fair, berries were late. Several morning fogs and rings around the moon in August. Does this mean a hard winter or a mild one? What about snow this year? How did people in the past use nature to forecast the upcoming winter? Join park staff and explore the possibilities this year.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

♿

## Thursday

### Black Bears: Big, Smelly and Smart

*Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch*

**1:00 p.m.**

Discover the wondrous ways black bears adapt to their environment. Find out how bears prepare for the upcoming winter season.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

♿

## Friday

### Myths and Legends of the Cherokee

*Tree Cookie Area adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center*

**1:00 p.m.**

The lands of the Cherokee once extended through several states within the Southeast and included all of the Great Smoky Mountains. Join a ranger to explore the culture, history and mythology of the Cherokee through storytelling.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

♿

## Saturday

### Smoky Mountain Elk

*Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch*

**11:30 a.m.**

Fall is a great time for viewing elk in rut and listen as they bugle. Discover how elk stay warm in the winter. Feel the weight of the antlers they carry on their head. A Ranger will be available to answer your questions about elk and let you know the best places in the park to see and hear the elk.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

♿

## SUGARLANDS/ELKMONT

### Daily

#### Cataract Falls Walk

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

**11:00 a.m.**

Do you have a few minutes? Get away from the hustle and bustle by taking an easy stroll to a beautiful waterfall and learn more about the Great Smokies.

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Level:** Easy

## Sunday

### Jr. Ranger: “Bearing” the Winter

*Meet on the Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio*

**1:00 p.m.**

How do bears prepare for the winter months? Join a ranger to learn how preparing for winter takes an entire year. Fun for the entire family!

**Duration:** 45 min.

♿

### Falling for Autumn

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

**2:30 p.m.**

Join a ranger to discover the special places to take in the

Smokies most colorful season. Maybe by the end of your trip you will have “fallen” for the Smokies as well.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

♿

## Monday

### Running with the Pack: The Reintroduction of Lost Species

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

**1:00 p.m.**

The history of the Smokies is full of the stories of species lost forever. Come to learn the tales of those species brought back from the brink to thrive in the Smokies once more.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

♿

### Selu: Legacy of the Corn Mother

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

**2:30 p.m.**

Hoe cakes, hominy, cornmeal mush, hush puppies or white lightning—no matter what form it took, corn played an important role in Smokies’ history. Come learn more about this versatile plant.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

♿

## Tuesday

### Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse

*Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse near Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area*

**11:00 a.m. to noon, and 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

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. This program is fun for all ages. Please arrive 15 minutes before program start; space is limited.

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Level:** Easy

### Autumn Creature Feature

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

**2:00 p.m.**

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 during this “Ranger’s Choice” style program.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

♿

## Wednesday

### Wilderness Wednesday Talk

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

**2:00 p.m.**

The Wilderness Act is 50 years old! Learn why and how wilderness areas are created, along with some of the history surrounding the passage of this important legislation, signed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

♿

### Old Elkmont Town by Lantern Light

*Elkmont Campground; meet at Little River Trailhead*

**7:00 p.m. in September; 6:00 pm starting October 1.**

**Limit 25—sign up at Sugarlands Visitor Center.**

Join a park volunteer to hear the stories of Elkmont’s

heyday, whilst walking amongst the remnants of the old resort community at twilight.

**Duration:** 1½ hours

**Difficulty:** Easy

## Thursday

### Autumn Creature Feature

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

2:00 p.m.

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 during this “Ranger’s Choice” style program.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

♿

### Twilight in the Forest

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

7:00 p.m. in September, 6:00 pm starting October 2

Enjoy a twilight walk in the woods and learn about Smokies’ critters that are more comfortable in darkness than in the light of day.

**Duration:** 1½ hours

## Friday

### Falling for Autumn

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

2:00 p.m.

Join a ranger to discover the special places to take in the Smokies most colorful season. Maybe by the end of your trip you will have “fallen” for the Smokies as well.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

♿

### Indians, Buskwalkers and Conscripts: The Civil War in the Smokies

*Elkmont Campground Amphitheatre*

8:00 p.m.

Learn about how the Civil War divided people and even families in these mountains and how it affected their daily lives.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

♿

## Saturday

### The CCC in the Smokies

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

1:00 p.m.

The men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) left an indelible mark and legacy on the lands of the Smokies. Come learn where you can go to see the remnants of their great work and to hear more about the history of the CCC in the Smokies.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

♿

### Autumn Creature Feature

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

2:30 p.m.

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 during this “Ranger’s Choice” style program.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

♿



## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### Sorghum Molasses Making Demonstration

*At the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road.*

August 30, 31 & Sept. 1

September 12, 13 & 14

November 9, 10 & 11

November 14, 15 & 16

November 21, 22 & 23

November 28, 29 & 30

10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Watch sorghum cane be magically transformed into delicious molasses.

♿

### Cades Cove Full Moon Hike

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

Tuesday, September 9 & Thursday, October 9

8:30 p.m.

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Level:** Easy. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a flashlight

♿

### Blacksmith Demonstrations

*Meet at the Blacksmith building near the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area.*

Saturday & Sunday, September 13 - 14

Saturday & Sunday, October 25 - 26

10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

♿

### Traditional Old Tymes Music

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

Wednesday - Saturday, September 17 - 20, September 24 -

27, October 1 - 4, October 8 - 11 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The group Tymes Past presents music gleaned from the immigrant homeland and altered to a unique lifestyle in the Appalachians.

### Mountain Life Festival

*Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center*

Saturday, September 20

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join park staff and volunteers as we celebrate the fall harvest. The Mountain Farm Museum will be alive with history as demonstrators provide visitors with a glimpse

into the past as they make soap, apple cider, sorghum molasses, hominy, music and more.

### Wilderness Turns 50! A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

*Sugarlands Visitor Center Theater*

Saturday, September 27th

9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Wilderness Act is 50 years old and we’re celebrating. Discover the importance of the Smokies in the establishment of the Wilderness Society in the 1930s and learn how a local environmental hero, Knoxville’s own Harvey Broome, played a pivotal role in getting the Wilderness Act written and passed by Congress in 1964.

The celebration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the showing of the film, Wild By Law, along with other wilderness-themed films. At 11:00 a.m. a panel of experts will discuss how wilderness principles have guided park management through the years. At 1:00 p.m. Ed Zahniser, son of Howard Zahniser who is widely regarded as the lead author of the Wilderness Act, will speak on his father’s legacy as well as his close friendship with Harvey Broome.

### Cades Cove Stargazing

*Meet at the Orientation Shelter at the beginning of the Loop Road.*

Saturday, September 27

7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Join a park ranger and the Smoky Mountain Astronomical Society as we learn about the stars and galaxies. Numerous telescopes will be available for viewing the night skies. Bring warm clothes, a blanket to sit on and a flashlight. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. The program will be postponed in case of rain and/or cloudy weather where the night sky is not clear for viewing. Call 865 448-4104 for more information and by 9 a.m. on September 27 to check if program will be cancelled due to cloudy or rainy weather.

**Difficulty:** Easy 1/3 mile walk to the program site in an open field.

♿

### Back Porch Old-Time Music Jam

*Porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center*

Saturday, October 4 & 18, November 1

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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.

♿

# songcatcher at work

*Joseph Hall's recordings preserve history in music*

## Old-time Music Was Often a Family Affair

Music is one of the threads that runs continuously through Smoky Mountain history and ties together generations of family members as well as friends, neighbors, and congregations. Throughout the mountains of east Tennessee and western North Carolina, songs as well as musical instruments are handed down from parent to child so diligently that family gatherings are often highlighted by hours of string band jam sessions.

Linguist and songcatcher Joseph S. Hall recognized the importance of music when he first arrived in the Smokies in the late 1930s with his bulky recording equipment and the intention of capturing and preserving as much mountain culture as he possibly could. Hall, a graduate student from California, had managed to obtain a grant to

document mountain speech just as the establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park was displacing hundreds of farm families from their ancestral homes. As well as recording stories and speech and producing books and papers related to the mountain vernacular, Hall collected hundreds of ballads, songs, and instrumentals.

Hall's relationship with the people of the Great Smoky Mountains and their culture ended up lasting most of the professor's lifetime. In 1956 he returned to the mountains with a reel-to-reel recorder and asked his friend Teague Williams to invite some of the area's premier musicians into his living room so Hall could make a tape for the Library of Congress. The young musicians did not initially believe that their music would really be preserved and honored in such a profound way, but they put on inspired performances regardless.

One of the musicians who happened to be present was Carroll Best, the son of a well-respected banjo player. Though only 25 at the time, Best would go on to become nationally recognized as one of the most innovative banjo players of his generation.

In 1959 Hall returned once more to the Williams' home to fill more tapes with old-time and bluegrass tunes played by Best, the Kirkpatrick brothers, and several others. Because Hall really did follow through with his promise to have these recordings preserved in the Library of Congress and other archives, they can be enjoyed today by music lovers on a new



Top left: Carroll Best (in the mid-1980s) with the banjo he played for Joseph S. Hall. Best is credited with pioneering a unique style of banjo playing called "three-finger fiddle style." Best said he developed the technique while playing square dances in and around Maggie Valley where he tried to match the fiddle players note for note on his banjo.

Top right: The Kirkpatrick Family band, circa 1940.



PHOTOS COURTESY LOUISE BEST & FRENCH KIRKPATRICK

(Left to Right) Billy Kirkpatrick (fiddle), Carroll Best (banjo), Lowell Messer (electric guitar), and French Kirkpatrick (guitar) in Teague Williams' living room circa late 1950s. Image courtesy French Kirkpatrick.

CD titled "Carroll Best and the White Oak String Band: Old-time Bluegrass from the Great Smoky Mountains."

The CD was produced through a collaboration between Dr. Ted Olson of East Tennessee State University and Great Smoky Mountains Association, a nonprofit organization that works to preserve nature and history in the Smokies. The new CD follows an earlier collection of Joseph Hall recordings made in 1939 titled Old-Time Smoky Mountain Music that was nominated for a Grammy Award for

Best Historical Album. Both CDs are available at park visitor bookstores or by contacting [www.SmokiesInformation.org](http://www.SmokiesInformation.org) or 1-888-898-9102 x226.

Traditional mountain music is also featured at many of the special programs and festivals held in the park throughout the year, through funding provided by Great Smoky Mountains Association. The annual "Music of the Mountains" festival, held each April at Sugarlands and surrounding communities, presents some of the finest old-time string band music, as well as gospel, ballads, and old-world fiddle tunes. Monthly "Back Porch Pickin'" jam sessions are held on Saturday afternoons at the Oconaluftee Visitor Center near Cherokee during the season. And mountain music can often be heard wafting around the Cable Mill complex in Cades Cove. Through these and other programs, the park seeks to tell the story of old-time music and keep these traditions alive.



French Kirkpatrick, Carroll Best, and the Best's daughter Alpha in the Bests' living room. The portrait on the wall is Carroll's father, Hugh, who taught Carroll the banjo. Many in the music industry agree that Carroll would have achieved much greater fame but for the fact he insisted on staying home and taking care of his farm and family rather than going out on the road as a professional touring musician.

# if you love the smokies...

help protect this place for ourselves and future generations

## become a proud 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 2014 alone, the association plans to provide more than \$1 million in assistance that includes saving hemlock trees, living history demonstrations, environmental education programs, salaries for seasonal rangers, 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*;
- Coming soon: Exclusive digital access to the award-winning quarterly park newspaper, *Smokies Guide*, and the association's newsletter, *The Bearpaw*
- A 15-25% discount on books, music, gifts, and other products sold at park visitor centers and at our web store
- Discounts up to 20% 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](http://www.SmokiesInformation.org), or call us at 1-888-898-9102 x222. Memberships start at just \$35.

JOHN DICKSON



Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the few large national parks without an entrance fee. Most parks now charge \$20 or \$25 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 on this page.

## 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 \$49. Contact: (865) 974-0150 or [smfs.utk.edu](http://smfs.utk.edu)

## gsmit 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, teacher escapes, and photography. Contact (865) 448-6709 or [www.gsmit.org](http://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 \$555. Fees include meals, lodging, and most equipment.

Next 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](http://www.gsmit.org)

## GSMA MEMBERS

*Stay in Touch with the Smokies All Year Long!*

- Individual Annual Membership \$35
- Annual Supporting Membership \$50  
*\*covers 2 persons per household*
- Lifetime Membership \$500  
*payable in 4 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 \$34 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).

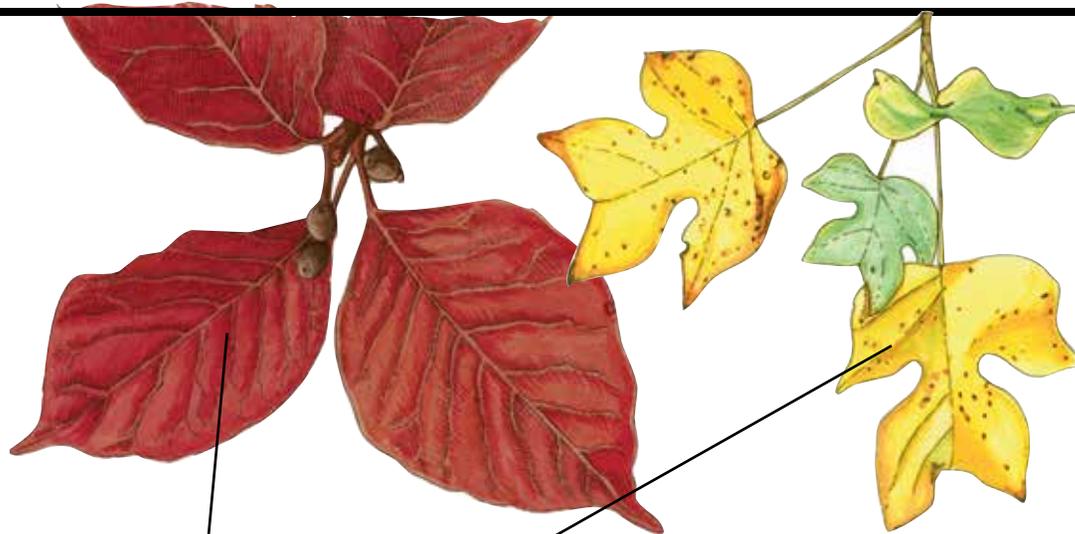
However you choose to give, your donation will really help protect the Great Smoky Mountains for many years to come!

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



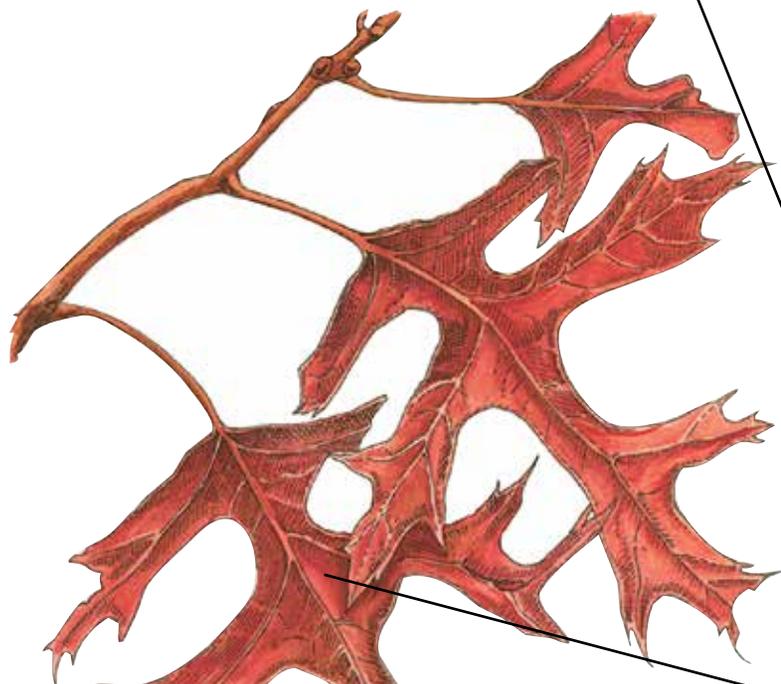
# fall all-stars

*100 species of native trees live in the national park*



## **Tuliptree**

In the Smokies this species attains a circumference of 25 feet and a height of 140 feet or more. It is one of the most common trees at the lower and mid elevations and is easily identified by its arrow-straight trunk. Tuliptree leaves turn a pale yellow, often as early as September.



## **Black Gum**

This small tree is another early changer; its leaves turn a brilliant red by mid September. The bluish-black berries it produces are coveted by bear, ruffed grouse, and wild turkey. Mountain farmers used the hollow trunks of this species to make bee hives and storage bins. Black gums over 400 years old have been found in the park.

## **Red Maple**

Five species of maple tree are native to the Smokies, including sugar, red, mountain, striped, and box elder. Red and sugar put on some of the brightest colors each fall. For years the Smokies have been home to the world champion red maple, a specimen that is 23 feet in circumference and 141 feet tall.

## **Scarlet Oak**

This oak was named just for its fall color. While most oaks present muted autumn hues at best, scarlet oak leaves turn a brilliant, boast-erous red. Scarlet oak habitat is dry slopes below elevations of 3,500 feet. It is often found growing among pines, mountain laurel, and other oaks.



## **Sourwood**

The leaves on this small tree may begin to turn in late August. They make a striking scene against a blue autumn sky. For many years a sourwood in the Smokies was the largest sourwood on earth, standing 96 feet tall.



# visitor information

for more information, [www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm)

## information

### General park information:

(865) 436-1200

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

### Backcountry information

(865) 436-1297

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

### To order maps & guides

(865) 436-7318 x226

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

## emergencies

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

Park Headquarters

(865) 436-9171

Cherokee Police

(828) 497-4131

Gatlinburg Police

(865) 436-5181

## hospitals

Le Conte/Sevier County  
(865) 446-7000, Middle Creek Rd., Sevierville, TN.

Blount Memorial (865) 983-7211, U.S. 321, Maryville, TN.

Haywood County (828) 456-7311, Waynesville, NC.

Swain County (828) 488-2155, Bryson City, NC.

## regulations

-Picking or digging plants is prohibited in the park.

-Persons feeding wildlife are subject to a \$5,000 fine.

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

## accessibility

Restrooms at all park visitor centers (Cades Cove, 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.

