

Commemorative Cover

MyPigeonForge.com



WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE WEEK
PIGEON FORGE ★ TN

33RD ANNUAL

Program Guide

JANUARY 28TH - FEBRUARY 1ST, 2025

AT THE RAMSEY HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER
3230 Parkway • Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Free Event!

Cover art courtesy of Ken Jenkins

PIGEON FORGE
TENNESSEE



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For Wilderness Wildlife Week questions prior to the event, please call (865) 429-7350.
If you have Wilderness Wildlife Week questions while it is going on (January 28 - February 1), please call (865) 453-8574.

* All schedules and activities subject to change.

Our Mission

Ken Jenkins

From its inception, Wilderness Wildlife Week has been committed to the education and enjoyment of the public to the wonders of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Our commitment is to create and provide an enjoyable and enriching series of walks, talks and workshops, as well as informative and entertaining exhibits to encourage attendees to know more of the abundant opportunities available in this beautifully diverse area.

In combining efforts from well-qualified authorities, Wilderness Wildlife Week has benefited attendees additionally by providing presentations and information from other regions of the country as we strive to illustrate how all life is truly connected. The balance of presentations is a further attempt to include material for every interest and every age level.

As experts share their knowledge, expertise and understanding with those who desire a deeper insight as to the significance and struggle that produced such a resilient people to settle the area, we believe a deeper connection to the mountains can be had by all who participate.

Wilderness Wildlife Week involves a continuous thread of wholesome, family-oriented presentations and excursions. It is the constant aim and commitment as Wilderness Wildlife Week proceeds (and succeeds) as an event of the highest standards and principles, to provide every participant a safe, encouraging and giving event.



KEN JENKINS
THE FATHER
OF WILDERNESS WILDLIFE WEEK



TAKE *A Hike!*

THEN COME IN AND FILL UP ON THE SMOKIES BEST BBQ!



Appetizers

Enjoy shareable appetizers like Deep Fried Deviled Eggs, Pulled Pork Nachos, Smoked Wings, Deep Fried Pickle Chips & more!



Sandwiches

From the OG Pulled Pork to Brisket to Smoked Sausage and everything in between, our sandwiches are great fuel before and after a hike in the Smoky Mountains!



Platters & Combos

Can't decide what to try? We got you! Our dinner platters and combos are shareable or perfect if you aren't sure which delectable smoked meat to try.



WWW.BENNETTS-BBQ.COM

TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

2910 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN

714 River Rd.
Gatlinburg, TN

In The Heart of Pigeon Forge

Enjoy a luxurious hotel at an affordable price.



Event Location Hours of Operation

The Ramsey Hotel and Convention Center (Also Host Hotel)

3230 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863

Phone: 865.428.2700

Website: MyRamseyHotel.com

Convention Center Event Hours

Open Daily at 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM

Vendor Hours

10 AM - 6 PM

Contact us

For Wilderness Wildlife Week questions prior to the event, please call 865.429.7350.

You may also email info@mypigeonforge.com or visit MyPigeonForge.com for further information.

Pigeon Forge Lodging Options

Should you decide you would prefer to stay at one of Pigeon Forge's other properties, whether it be cabins/chalets, condos, or campgrounds, you can visit MyPigeonForge.com and click on Where to Stay. The website will connect you with all the information you require to make an informed decision.



In The Heart of Pigeon Forge

*206 Interior Corridor Guest Rooms
12,000 sq. ft. Convention & Meeting Space
Indoor Waterfall Pool, Fire-Pit & Popcorn Movie Nights*

On Site Map

THE RAMSEY
HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER



Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Exhibitors and Vendors

Adkins Rollman Gallery
Aurora Harrison Bull, Artist
Barefoot University, Amber Brown
Bays Mountain Park (Tuesday)
Cades Cove Preservation Association and Museum
Cliff Dwellers Gallery
Custom Beaded Earrings, Artist
Danita Dawson, Author
Friends of Seymour Library
Friends of the Smokies
Golden View Alpacas and Mini Mill
Jewelry Designs by LaDonna
Keep Sevier Beautiful
LeConte Photographic Society
Louise Bales, Artist
Mark Warren, Medicine Bow Wilderness School
MoonPie General Store and the Original Book Warehouse
Mountain Wildlife Rehab
My People Senior Activity Center
Nancy East, Author

Natural Look Wood Carvings
Pat K. Thomas, Artist
Pink Jeep Tours
Proffitts Woodworks
Rocky Top Tours
Richard Way, Author
Sam Venable, Author (Tuesday, Wednesday)
Sevier County Master Gardeners
Smokies Life (formally Great Smoky Mountains Association)
Smoky Mountain Patriotic Quilters
Stanford Johnson, Author
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP)
Tennessee Naturalist Program, Frozen Head Chapter
Tennessee State Bank
The Salt Maker
Tim and Cherry on the Strings
Tree of Life Creations
Wildflowers of Tennessee by Jack Carman
Wildlife Photography by Clay Thurston
Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Merchandise



Pre-Registration Sessions



1. Class descriptions will be on line in late fall.
2. Online sign ups begin on January 15, 2025. You may only register two names per registration form.
3. If a limited session is full, interested individuals may sign up as alternates.
4. Participants who successfully register, as well as those who wish to be alternates, must be in the designated classroom or event space by the start time listed in the daily schedule. Attendance will be taken and if a registered participant is not present, then he/she will be replaced with the first alternate on the list who is present.

5. Participants cannot sign up for limited classes with conflicting time slots. This will not be allowed and if done said participant will lose his/her spot in both sessions.
6. More strenuous and attention based sessions are not recommended for small children. Certain activities are open to certain ages.
7. Parents are responsible for determining, in advance, children's ability to complete any limited session. A parent or guardian must accompany children ages 13 and under for any limited session.



8. **Please be courteous and respectful to all instructors.** They donate their goods and time to provide a unique hands-on approach and knowledge.



JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM



SPONSORED BY 

IT'S "BEAR" NECESSITIES FOR THE KIDS!

This year we are pleased to continue our Junior Ranger Program for ages 12 and younger. As an incentive program, youths can achieve free prizes and gifts daily by completing educational activities and sessions.

HERITAGE, EXPLORATION, WILDLIFE, AND ART

Stop by the Information Desk during the event and request a Junior Ranger Form to participate. Return the completed form to the Information Desk for your daily incentive prize!

Achievement milestone gifts may include a backpack, a Junior Ranger pin, stuffed animal, coloring book, seed packet, earth flyer, colored pencils, stickers, etc...

GREAT MILESTONE GIFTS FOR KIDS!

Goin' On A "Bear" Hunt

ADULTS DRAWING ONLY - Pick up your Explorer Passport at the Information Desk and embark on an adventure to meet some of our great onsite sponsors, exhibitors and vendors! At each booth, write down the Wilderness Wildlife Week bear's name with the corresponding exhibit. Once completed be sure to turn in your completed Explorer Passport in to the Information Desk for an opportunity to win a daily giveaway. Remember, bears roam and will find different homes daily. At the end of the night, we will draw for a daily winner. We hope you have fun visiting with all the participating organizations!



Outdoor Excursions Sign-Up Information

Sponsored by



The following rules have been developed to help ensure safety, enjoyment, and fairness to all those wishing to participate in outdoor excursions during Wilderness Wildlife Week:

SIGN-UP PROCEDURES

1. All hikes, bus trips, Jeep tours, and craft classes will have an online sign-up.
2. The hikes, bus trips, jeep tours, specialty and craft classes will be posted on the mypigeonforge.com website starting in mid December 2024. There will be a list and description of each activity.
3. Starting on January 15, 2025 you will be able to register online for **one hike or bus trip per day**. You may sign up two names per excursion.
4. You will receive a confirmation email upon successfully completing the sign-up. Please make sure to fully complete your shopping cart before exiting the order.
5. Alternates will be taken from the list of names beyond the cut-off number.
6. More strenuous excursions are not recommended for small children or less experienced participants. Parents are responsible for determining, in advance, children's ability to complete any hike/field trip including, but not limited to maintaining the hike/field trip pace. A parent or guardian must accompany children 13 and under at all times during hikes/field trips. Children ages 14-17 may participate in hikes, but must have a parent or guardian's signature on the release form.
7. The folders will be available at the Hike Desk at the event to sign up for any activities that did not fill-up online.

EXCURSION RULES

1. All excursions originate only from the Ramsey Hotel and Convention Center. For all excursions and activities, participants may not meet at the trail head or starting point of excursion.
2. It is essential that participants be at the designated assembly point (Hike Desk) for each hike on time. The first 15 minutes will consist of a hike orientation and completion of certain administrative requirements. Absence from this orientation may result in the loss of the participant's place on the excursion to an alternate participant.
3. Participants not present for the initial roll call for the bus loading will be replaced by an alternate participant, after the entire list is announced.

4. The excursion leaders and event staff will have the final decision to remove any individual from an excursion prior to departure due to, but not limited to, lack of essential equipment, or for any other reason.

5. It is the participant's responsibility to be prepared for a variety of weather conditions, such as wearing appropriate shoes, or carrying the proper equipment and supplies (water, trail snacks, poncho, flashlights, etc.).

6. Please respect all participants and leave cell phones behind or "off" while hiking or on excursions.

7. You will be required to sign the Off-Site Excursion Release Form acknowledging that you will have read and understand all rules pertaining to requirements for excursions during Wilderness Wildlife Week.

Note: All programs and excursions are subject to rescheduling or cancellation.

CHECKLIST FOR HIKERS

Traditionally, January is cooler, with daytime highs in the 40s and 50s and lows in the 20s and 30s. This time of year you can be dealing with snow, ice, and rain. If you are joining us for one of our day hikes into the mountains, be prepared. Not only should you wear a sturdy pair of hiking boots, and possibly a hiking stick, be sure you also include the following items in your backpack:

- Gloves
- Head Cover (hat, toboggan or hooded coat)
- Rain Gear/Poncho
- Lunch or Trail Snacks (fruit, nuts)
- Pocketknife
- Extra pair of socks
- Towel
- Flashlight
- Water



The Smoky Mountain Charity Credit Card and Debit Card



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Snow Line
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Offered exclusively at Tennessee State Bank. Featuring artwork by Robert A. Tino. For an annual contribution of \$10, you may carry the Smoky Mountain Charity Card. 100% of your contribution benefits The Friends of the Smokies.

Tennessee State Bank is a proud sponsor of
Wilderness Wildlife Week
and transportation to its Outdoor Excursions.
We hope you enjoy this wonderful event.



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15 locations across Sevier, Knox, Jefferson & Cocke Counties

Smokies Through the Lens Photography Contest

The most up to date rules and entry information can be found online at www.colbysphotosvideos.com/smokies-through-the-lens-photography-contest/

Submission Dates

SUBMISSIONS END: MIDNIGHT, JANUARY 8, 2025

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please read everything below. If you still have problems, contact Colby McLemore at colby@colbysphotography.com or (865) 924-1455.

Do not e-mail images as they will not be processed - use the following link:

www.colbysphotosvideos.com/smokies-through-the-lens-photography-contest/

Images will be displayed during Wilderness Wildlife Week, January 28 - February 1, 2025, at The Ramsey Hotel and Convention Center in Pigeon Forge from 10 AM to 6 PM daily.

Categories and Criteria

#	Category	Subject
1	Scenic Views of Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Any broad view image of land within Great Smoky Mountain National Park. The photograph may have people or human-made objects, but they must not be the dominant subject of the picture.
2	Wildlife of Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Any wildlife subject within Great Smoky Mountain National Park (no pets, posed subjects, or studio photographs).
3	Black and White Images of Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Any subject or scene related to nature, wilderness, or wildlife within Great Smoky Mountains National Park (no pets, posed subjects, or studio photographs) in black and white.
4	Man-made Landmarks of Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Entry must be of a human-made Great Smoky Mountains National Park landmark (such as the Walker Sisters' Cabin, John Oliver Cabin, John Cable Grist Mill, Tyson McCarter Place, Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, etc.). The entry can be from any season (fall, winter, spring, or summer). Artistic interpretations are welcome.
5	Macros of Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Any image that is photographed close up and must be photographed within Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
6	Youth	All entries must conform to one of the above categories AND the submitter be 16 years or younger on the deadline for submissions.

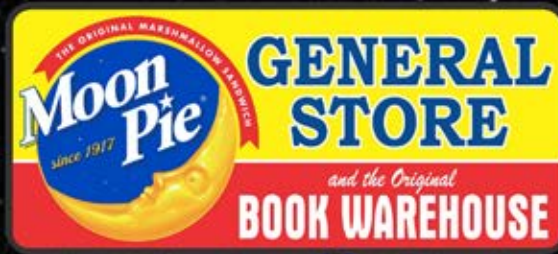
Awards in each Category

FIRST PLACE: \$50 + RIBBON • SECOND PLACE: \$30 + RIBBON • THIRD PLACE: \$20 + RIBBON

One **Best of Show Ribbon**, along with \$50 will be awarded to the photo the judges deem to have the best overall image quality while representing the spirit of wilderness and wildlife found in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. All first-place winners in all categories are eligible for the Best of Show award. The image awarded Best in Show, 1st Place, 2nd Place, or 3rd place winners may be included in Wilderness Wildlife Week promotions. **An image file of sufficient print quality must be given to the City and its representatives once the contest and judging are complete. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of this honor.**

All qualified images will be digitally displayed during Wilderness Wildlife Week, along with the winning photos, which will also be printed and displayed.

NOTE: Winners are to pick up their ribbons, checks, and potential printed images, at the informational front desk at the Wilderness Wildlife Event on Friday, January 31st before 5:00 pm or contact cheryl.lutes@cityofpigeonforgetn.gov for an alternate pickup.



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FRI-SAT 9AM-10PM

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OFFICIAL EVENT MERCH

Check out some of the great merchandise available for 2025!

In addition to the official event shirts, other quality merchandise for sale includes event hats, hiking sticks, books along with commemorative coins, lapel pins and medallions.



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Meet the Featured Speakers

Tuesday, January 28th

SAM VENABLE

7:00 PM – The Ever Changing Majesty of These Mountains

Naturalist and award winning author and newspaper-magazine columnist Sam Venable, was born in the shadow of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and has lived a life of outdoor adventure throughout Southern Appalachia. Initially trained as a forester at the University of Tennessee, he eventually switched majors to journalism, graduated, and has spent more than 55 years sharing this unique blend of talents with untold hundreds of thousands of readers. His lively stories, accompanied by photographs old and new, will not only entertain the audience, but vividly illustrate how nothing stays the same in the mountains. Whether by the hands of nature or humans, this region has changed markedly through the years-and will continue to do so until the end of time.

Sam has written for the Knoxville News Sentinel since 1970, first as an outdoors editor and since 1985 as a columnist specializing in humor. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and author of 15 books. His most recent book is "Naked Dining Is Not on My Menu...and Other Whimsy". Sam is a native of Knoxville, TN. He has a 1969 B.S. in Journalism with minor studies in forestry and wildlife management. In addition to the numerous awards and published articles, Sam is popular as a comedic entertainer. He delivers his bizarre look on a wide variety of topics we all can relate to in life. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and fishing, spending time with his wife, Mary Ann, his two grown children, their spouses, and three teenaged grandchildren.



Wednesday, January 29th

MISSY KANE

7:30 PM – Get on the Trail with Missy and Friends-Fitness, Fun and Raising Funds

Missy Kane is a US Olympian, SEC Coach of the Year, TV Fitness Host, and Exercise Physiologist. She is a native Tennessean and avid hiker in the Great Smoky Mountains. She is a UT Lady Vol Hall of Fame member and has also been inducted in the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. In 1998 she created an annual hiking program, "Get on Trails with Friends and Missy" in partnership with Friends of the Smokies to raise awareness and funds in its mission to preserve and protect the GSMNP. Over the past 26 years this successful hiking series has brought fitness, fun and fundraising to benefit the GSMNP. The "Get on Trails program has raised more than a quarter of a million dollars and introduced hundreds of people to the beauty of the Smokies.



KEN JENKINS

7:00 PM - Heaven and Nature Sings

Ken Jenkins grew up in East Tennessee and lives in Gatlinburg, TN with his wife Vicki. He has worked as a natural history photographer for 45 years and operated an 8,000 square foot gallery/nature center at the western entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains for 42 years. His books on wildlife and the outdoors have been distributed nationally and internationally. He has exhibited in galleries across the country including the Officer's Gallery at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He recently presented an exhibition of his work in London at British Airlines' Gallery One after filming a documentary with the BBC in Scotland.

Ken's ministry, "Illustrated Principles", uses his gift of photography to illustrate and speak on biblical principles in churches and conferences for over 35 years. He taught on cruises and traveled with Dr. Charles Stanley. He spoke at every ReFresh Conference with Michael Catt and Tom Elliff for 16 years, traveling from Alaska to Boston and many areas in between. He was co-speaker with Ted Kersh at every Encouragers Pastor Conference in Branson, MO. On multiple occasions he has taught at several locations in the Holy Land, and was one of three speakers at every Heartland Bible Conference in Oklahoma City for seven years. Ken has spoken multiple times at the International Mission Board in Virginia and travels widely to speak in individual churches across the country. He does Christian Cowboy Roundups in South Dakota each year. In addition to photographing for ongoing clients and projects, Ken is currently serving as an interim pastor in Greeneville, TN.

www.kenjenkins.com - www.brokenandbranded.com - ken@kenjenkins

Thursday, January 30th



Meet the Featured Speakers

JUDY FELTS

Thursday, January 30th

7:00 PM - Heaven and Nature Sings

Judy Felts moved to Nashville in 1980 to pursue a music career as a performer at Opryland USA and later traveled with Grand Ole Opry Star Bill Anderson as a back-up singer and keyboard player. Judy graduated from Ouachita Baptist University with a degree in Music Education. She later pursued graduate studies at Auburn University and Middle Tennessee State University. She taught high school music in Arkansas and later Nashville Metro schools. She has sung for numerous churches, women's conferences, special events and mission organizations. She has recorded 3 CDs. Her newest CD is a Christmas CD completed in 2022. She has traveled to over 15 foreign countries.

Judy served on the board for the Community Resource Board for the TN Prison for Women for over 20 years. She has also served as a volunteer facilitating a Friday night worship service for the last 23 years. In 2016 Judy started a non-profit organization called "Oak Cottage for Women", a transition home for women coming out of prison, she is the Founder/Executive Director. The first home opened in Franklin, TN in June of 2020. The second home was opened in March of 2022.

Judy is actively involved in her community in the Herb Society of Nashville serving as a past president. She is a member of the Franklin Noon Rotary and the Williamson County Chamber, she is active in her church at Christ Presbyterian and is a member of the choir.

Judy has a wide variety of interests. With her husband Mike, as Master Gardeners, Judy speaks for numerous garden organizations on growing and cooking with herbs. Judy also loves bread making and offers classes on bread making.

Judy has been married to Mike Felts for 42 years, they have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. Since 1999, Judy and Mike have been active in real estate and are both Real Estate Brokers. Judy serves as the Managing Broker for RE/MAX Choice Properties in Brentwood, TN. In addition to Judy's solo ministry, she also performs with Lee Porter as a duo. They have performed together for the last 19 years and are available for churches, conferences and events.



MARK WARREN

Friday, January 31st

7:00 PM - A History of Native People in Southern Appalachia

Mark Warren is from Medicine Bow Wilderness School in Dahlonega, Ga. In his nationally renowned wilderness school located in the Southern Appalachians, he teaches nature classes and primitive survival skills. Mr. Warren is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from the University of Georgia. Mark has written extensively about nature for local and national magazines. He lectures on Native American history and survival skills, and Western frontier history presenting at museums and cultural centers around the country. Warren has eighteen traditionally published books from both Lyons Press and Wolfpack. In 1980 the National Wildlife Federation named him Georgia's Conservation Educator of the Year. In 1989 Mark became the U.S. National Champion in Whitewater canoeing, and in 1999 he won the World Champion Longbow title. Among his many literary awards in 2022 Mark is a Georgia Author of the Year recipient for his book Song of the Horseman (Finest, Literary Fiction)

Mark Warren will share how the land of Southern Appalachia dictated the lifestyle of the people who first inhabited it. Through the use of show-and-tell items brought by Mark folks will come to understand the how the mountains, plants, animals, and the geology all played their parts.



Saturday, February 1st

JEFF ALT

7:00 PM - H.I.K.E. to Success-Lessons from the Trail

Jeff Alt is an accomplished adventurer and award-winning author of eight books. He is an expert at utilizing outdoor adventures to improve yourself. He is a talented speaker, award winning author, and an accomplished adventurer. Jeff has walked the entire 2160 mile Appalachian Trail solo, he hiked across the Sierra's California with his wife, he trekked across Ireland carrying his 22-month old daughter on his back, accompanied by his wife and extended family; and his son was on the Appalachian Trail at 6 weeks of age.

Alt's most notable books are A Walk of Sunshine, Get Your Kids Hiking, Four Boots One Journey and The Adventures of Bubba Jones National Park Series. He is a member of the National Speakers Association (NSA), the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) and a TEDx speaker. Jeff has been featured on ESPN, Hallmark Channel, Backpacker Magazine, weatherchannel.com, Women's Health, Shape, and many more. Jeff lives with his wife and two children in Lebanon, Ohio. Jeff will take you along on his life altering Appalachian Trail adventure and shares his Life Lessons which he has developed into his H.I.K.E. to success principals. This entertaining presentation will provide you with take-away lessons and inspiration to tackle all your outdoor pursuits and goals.



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A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MANY CONTRIBUTORS

Throughout three decades of Wilderness Wildlife Week, the City of Pigeon Forge and the event have relied heavily on contributors including event volunteers, knowledgeable field guides, expert presenters, as well as a multitude of educational organizations, exhibitors and vendors. Their input has been, and continues to be, invaluable in making Wilderness Wildlife Week a reality. For all our contributors past, present and future, thank you for your commitment to providing a hands-on educational experience for all who have and will continue to attend Wilderness Wildlife Week! While we wish we could thank everyone individually, here are a handful of men and women we would especially like to thank for their decades of behind-the-scenes assistance in producing Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025:

PIGEON FORGE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EVENTS STAFF

KEN JENKINS
LEON DOWNEY
ROCKY TOP TOURS
JOHN CLABOUGH
COLBY McCLEMORE
DOUG HUBBARD



JON ELDER
SPECIAL EVENTS
MANAGER

JAYNE MILLER-CARR
SPECIAL EVENTS
COORDINATOR

SHERRY LUTES
SPECIAL EVENTS
COORDINATOR

RYAN MORRIS
SPECIAL EVENTS
COORDINATOR

TODD HURST
SPECIAL EVENTS
COORDINATOR

WELCOME TO WILDERNESS WILDLIFE WEEK!

Greetings and welcome everyone to Wilderness Wildlife Week. It truly feels like a family reunion each January. We are very grateful Ken and Leon started building this wholesome event some thirty-three years ago. We are also grateful to all the hands and hearts that have supported Wilderness with their knowledge, humor, leading, sweeping, teaching, promoting, and love. They are the base on which we stand.

We have several new and exciting speakers, presentations and classes, and many of our returning favorites this year. Whether you like to explore the mountains or go birding in the parks, photograph the animals or talk to them, I hope you find your favorite thing to do. We are back this year with our full week running Tuesday through Saturday. Hopefully you will find several opportunities to indulge your passions.

Our exhibitors and vendors have been busy all year creating and acquiring things for you to see. The experts have put together programs to both entertain and educate you inside a warm building, while the bus trips and hikes have been designed to take you outside into our beautiful surroundings. This year several of our wildlife folks will invite you to visit their campuses and learn about bears and eagles while you are there! And some animals are even coming to visit us.

Colby and Doug have been putting together a Photography Contest showcasing our local talent. Your Special Events Team, Jon, Todd, Sherry, Ryan, and I have been hard at work gathering a collection of activities, presentations, art work, classes and music to delight your senses. But whatever your focus for this week may be, just enjoy it!!

See you on the wild side,

Jayne Miller-Carr, Special Events Coordinator

HOW TO BE A CONTRIBUTOR

Interested in being involved as a contributor for Wilderness Wildlife Week 2026? Please contact the Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events at 865.429.7350, or by email jayne.miller-carr@cityofpigeonforgetn.gov

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28 | EXCURSIONS

Sign-up online starting January 15, 2025.

*Due to flood damage or weather conditions, some hiking excursions and tours may be changed or cancelled after the printing of this booklet.

HIKES

Mount Cammerer Loop-Low Gap (15 miles, Strenuous)

7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Guide: Ranger Marty Silver

8 - 9hr Hike - Limit: 25

A chance to experience the Smokies at their best. We will discover new insights into winter wildlife, mountain geology, and park history. And of course, the amazing views from the Lookout Tower! There are some steep and rocky places, and some long uphill grades. Be sure to pack your lunch and snacks, plenty of water, and foul weather gear. Bring a flashlight (just in case) and wear sturdy hiking footwear.

Sugarlands Cemetery (5.5 miles, Easy/Moderate)

8:30 AM - 3:30PM

Guide: Joey Holt

5hr Hike - Limit: 12

This is a easy to moderate hike for everyone who is interested in the Sugarlands Valley, the conservation of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and history of the inhabitants of the area before the establishment of the GSMNP. Touring the old home sites, cemetery and the CCC camp will give you a feel for the early times. Don't forget to bring your snacks/lunch, water, and good sturdy walking shoes/boots. The trail is muddy in spots and there are exposed roots.

BUS TRIPS

American Eagle Foundation Tours (Easy to Moderate)

10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Guides: Todd Hurst, Ann Lockett

Presentation and Tour - Limit: 24

Classroom activities and guided tour of American Eagle Foundation's new headquarter location. Join us for up close encounters with birds of prey, activities and exploration of the museum, or even try our playscape! Donations appreciated and accepted at the American Eagle Foundation location.

Appalachian Bear Rescue (Easy)

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Guide: Don Lockett

Limit: 24

You will be transported through the beautiful Wears Valley area to the Appalachian Bear Rescue's Trillium Cove Visitor and Education Center in Townsend. There you will learn about the rehabilitation of orphaned and injured bear cubs, and view videos of many of the ones who have been taken care of and released back into their natural habitat. There will also be a question and answer time after the program. Donations are greatly appreciated and accepted at the Visitor Center.

Pink Jeep Tours

10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Approximately 2.5 - 3 Hours Each Tour

Limit: 6

You will have a chance to take a scenic and educational tour of Elkmont Historic District. Your experienced guide will show you many sights of beauty not found by the normal visitor to the area, including a short off-road experience!

National Park

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Program Schedule

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2025

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
9:00am-10:00am	Early Schoolhouses in the Smokies	Kathy Gwinn	Salon AB	Learning the 3 R's, childhood pranks, teacher requirements in the 1800's, curriculum of the day etc...
9:00am-10:00am	Bobcats of North America	Rhonda Goins and Gail Stout	Salon C	Come hear about the most common wildcat in North America. They number from 700,000 to 1.5 million, but they are rarely seen.
9:00am-9:30am	Being the Official Educational Partner of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park	Jane Maurer	Falls Room	Learn how the Smokies Life supports the scientific, historical, and interpretive activities of Great Smoky Mountains National Park by providing educational products and services to park visitors.
9:00am - 10:30am	Wood Burning for Beginners (12 years and up. Limit: 10)	Linda Feagans-Tree of Life Creations	Parlor A	Wood burn an ornament/magnet with Smoky Mountains on it. Must have an adult present with each child.
10:00am-6:00pm	EXHIBITS AND VENDORS OPEN	Staff	Salon D and Lobby Area	
10:00am-6:00pm	PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST EXHIBIT	Staff	Falls Foyer Balcony	A running digital display of the photography contest entries and the winning photos!
10:30am-11:30am	The Obed and Wild Scenic River: Protected, thanks to engaged citizens	Hans Christen	Salon A	This presentation will summarize the history of the Obed Wild and Scenic River and illustrate its natural beauty and importance. The Tennessee Citizens for Wildlife Planning (TCWP) and the TN Scenic Rivers Association have worked together to protect over 40 miles of such waters.
10:30am-11:30am	Keep Sevier Beautiful-Engaging Community for Environmental Change	Keep Sevier Beautiful	Salon B	Keep Sevier Beautiful will discuss their efforts in environmental change and how the community can help.
10:30am-11:30am	Scales and Tales: Reptiles of Tennessee	John Phillips, Bays Mountain	Salon C	You will learn about the native reptiles of Tennessee. There will be live snakes for the presentation.
10:00am-11:00am	People, Plants and Their Stories	Sherra Owen	Falls Room	This program has generational stories of Southern Appalachian plants and the people associated with them.
10:00am - 11:00am	Gemstone Earrings (18 years and up only. Limit: 12)	LaDonna Twyman	Parlor B	Come and learn how to weave wire with gemstones to make a pair of earrings.
11:30am-12:30pm	Birds of Seven Island State Birding Park	Clare Dattilo	Falls Room	Interpretive Ranger Clare Dattilo will talk about this unique state park and the birds that can be seen there throughout the year.
12:00pm-12:30pm	Quilts of Valor Awards Ceremony	Smoky Mountain Patriotic Quilters	Salon C	Quilts of Valor will award a quilt to a veteran who has been touched by war.
12:00pm-1:00pm	Duck River Valley Scenes	Jack Carman	Salon A	Scenic area of the Duck River Valley are presented.
12:00pm-1:00pm	Writing By Nature: Outdoors-Inspired Poetry	Danita Dawson	Salon B	In this poetry writing workshop, poet Danita Dawson will share some poems as inspiration for how to write about nature, providing writing prompts and suggestions along the way. She will guide participants in short meditations about the outdoors, and ultimately lead them to capture snapshots of nature by creating their own poems.
12:00pm-1:00pm	Build a Bed for Wildlife (Ages 8yrs and up. Limit: 10)	Jim and Karen Summerville	Parlor A	After a review of types of beds for different animal species, attendees will choose an animal and build its den or bed.
12:30pm-1:30pm	Concert: Civil War Stories and Songs	Brenda Lentz-Dawson	Falls Room	Brenda, Bill and Denise Stillwell will entertain you with their autoharp, banjo, guitar and mandolin to sing and play stories and songs.

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Program Schedule

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2025

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
1:30pm-2:30pm	From Gadgets to Gardens: Your Guide to Beginning Bird Watching (Ages 5 years and up.)	Cindy Johnson, Smoky Mtn Nature Lady	Salon C	Join the Smoky Mountain Nature Lady for an engaging beginner birding class for all ages. You'll learn the essentials for bird watching and how to attract a variety of birds to your space. The program includes valuable info on helpful gear and practical tips for creating a bird friendly environment. Enhance your outdoor experience and connect with nature by discovering the fun of birding.
1:30pm - 3:30pm	Painting Nature in Oils (Ages 12 yrs old and up. Adults welcome. Limit: 10)	Aurora Harrison Bull	Parlor B	Students will paint an 8x10 oil painting with materials provided following a demonstration.
1:30pm-2:30pm	Tennessee's Wildlife Diversity	Chris Ogle	Salon AB	We will learn about several of Tennessee's little known, strange and amazing creatures with an emphasis on salamanders, frogs, snakes, and bats.
2:30pm-3:30pm	Changing Perspective	Bruce McCamish	Falls Room	Professional and award winning photographer Bruce McCamish will talk about just changing the viewing perspective of a photograph can make it unique and more interesting. Bruce will show examples how using something as simple as an extension pole, using a drone, or shooting from a different or unusual angle will make your photos stand out from the group.
3:00pm - 4:30 pm	Old-Time Appalachian Music Concert	Boogertown Gap	Salon C	Boogertown Gap brings the old-time music of our ancestors to life through stories, traditional songs and traditional instruments.
4:30pm-5:30pm	Six Weeks in the Park	Brian Railsback	Salon AB	The 2023 Steve Kemp Writer in Residence lived in the GSMNP for 6 weeks. He will present his writings, including his observations of black bears and people from Cades Cove, the place of highest concentration of bear/human interaction in the world. A limited number of copies of his work, published in the Fall 2024 issues of Smokies Life, will be available for free.
4:00pm-5:00pm	Photographing Insects: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly!	Clay Thurston	Falls Room	You will learn how, when, and where to photograph insects and which ones can be harmful!
5:15pm-6:15pm	Steps and Missteps in the Smokies	David Morris and Charles Maynard	Salon C	Adventures while walking and writing in the Smokies over 35 years hiking together!
5:30pm-6:30pm	Creative Travel Photography	Chris S. Rohwer	Falls Room	Explore taking your travel photography from documentation to a creative, and even artistic endeavor.
5:45pm-6:45pm	What Bears Would Tell Us (If They Could Talk)	Joel Zachry	Salon AB	Bears are often unnecessarily feared and misunderstood. If they could talk, they would tell a different story than many individuals believe about them.
7:00pm-8:00pm	"The Everchanging Majesty of These Mountains"	Sam Venable	Salon ABC	Through his own brand of humor in lively stories, and photographs, Sam will vividly illustrate how nothing stays the same in the mountains.

National Park

33RD ANNUAL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 | EXCURSIONS

Sign-up online starting January 15, 2025.

*Due to flood damage or weather conditions, some hiking excursions and tours may be changed or cancelled after the printing of this booklet.

HIKES

Baskins Creek Falls Trail (3 - 4 miles, Moderate/Strenuous)

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Guide: Keith Garnes

3 - 3.5 hr Hike - Limit: 12

Described as one of the best kept secrets of the Great Smoky Mountains. The trail starts at Cherokee Orchard and features a short climb with a long descent. You will see old homesteads, new growth in the areas of the fires of 2016, hear an explanation of the three watersheds flowing from LeConte, and discover the Baskins Creek cemetery and bat cave. There is at least one stream crossing. A hiking stick, snacks and water will help on the steep cardio challenge on the return trip!

Elkmont Hike (7.2 miles, Moderate)

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Guide: David Morris/Charles Maynard

5hr Hike - Limit: 15

You will start out at Little River to Cumberland Gap to Jakes Creek Falls on the Jakes Creek Trail. Charles and David will then take you back down Jakes Creek past the Chapman House to the parking area at Daisy Town. You will learn the history of this Elkmont area and the early settlers who lived there. Do not forget to bring snacks/lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots/shoes and rain gear.

Seven Islands State Birding Park (3.1 miles, Easy/Moderate)

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Guide: Stephanie Mueller

3 Hour Hike in Park - Limit: 24

You will learn the history of Seven Islands State Birding Park, current bird/wildlife species found in the Park, programs offered, and habitat management. About half of the hike will be on paved surfaces, but the other half will include grass/dirt trails with some exposed roots in some spots. Good walking/hiking footwear is recommended. Don't forget your water and snacks.

Pigeon Forge Greenway (2.25 miles, Easy)

8:00 AM - Noon

Guide: Keith Watson

3.5 Hour Hike/Walk - Limit: 15

Pack your binoculars, snacks, and water for this hike along the beautiful Greenway River Walk in Pigeon Forge, starting near the Community Center and following the trail to the LeConte Center. Keith will show the numerous birds and wildlife along the way. The entire trail is paved sidewalks, maybe straying off to the grass to get a better look at some points. This is an enjoyable hike.

BUS TRIPS

American Eagle Foundation Tours (Easy to Moderate)

10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Guides: Don Orilio, Linda Williams

Presentation and Tour - Limit: 24

Classroom activities and guided tour of American Eagle Foundation's new headquarter location. Join us for up close encounters with birds of prey, activities and exploration of the museum, or even try our playscape! Donations appreciated and accepted at the American Eagle Foundation location.

Appalachian Bear Rescue (Easy)

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Guide: Don and Ann Luckett

Limit: 23

You will be transported through the beautiful Wears Valley area to the Appalachian Bear Rescue's Trillium Cove Visitor and Education Center in Townsend. There you will learn about the rehabilitation of orphaned and injured bear cubs and view videos of many of the ones who have been taken care of and released back into their natural habitat. There will also be a question and answer time after the program. Donations are greatly appreciated and accepted at the Visitor Center.

Pink Jeep Tours

10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Approximately 2.5 - 3 Hours Each Tour

Limit: 6

You will have a chance to take a scenic and educational tour of Elkmont Historic District. Your experienced guide will show you many sights of beauty not found by the normal visitor to the area, including a short off-road experience!



WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE WEEK
PIGEON FORGE ★ TN

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Program Schedule

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2025

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
9:00am-10:30am	Wood Burning for Beginners (Ages 12 years and up. Limit: 10)	Linda Feagans, Tree of Life Creations	Parlor A	Learn how to wood burn an ornament/magnet with Smoky Mountains on it. Must have adult present with each child.
9:00am-11:00am	Painting Wildflowers (Age 16 years and up. Adults welcome. Limit: 8)	John Adkins	Parlor B	Learn to paint Pink Lady's Slippers or Trilliums in oil. Materials provided.
9:00am-10:00am	Milky Way photography.. what shot should I...can I ..take	Lisa Mayo	Falls Room	Going over the different types of Milky Way photos and how your location and situation may help determine what shot would be best for you to take!
9:00am-10:00am	The Saga of the Lower Town Cherokee	Don Wells	Salon C	In 1776, the militia attacked and burned the Cherokee Lower Towns, killing as many as two thirds of the Cherokee. Many of those who survived fled to Georgia and hid from the authorities for many years. This presentation is the story of their saga, where they went, and what happened to them.
9:00am-10:00am	"The French Broad River Valley-it's Tributaries and the People That Settled It"	Kathy Gwinn	Salon AB	This session explains the importance and contributions of this river and its watershed. How the river was used as a major transportation system, as well as the families who settled along it.
10:00am-6:00pm	EXHIBITS and VENDORS	Staff	Salon D and Lobby area	
10:00am-6:00pm	PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST EXHIBIT	Staff	Falls Foyer Balcony	A running digital display of the photography contest entries, and the winning photos!
10:30am-11:30am	Harvesting History: The Journey from Paleo-Indians to Modern Agriculture	Chelsea Walters and Melody Rose	Salon B	Throughout history, humans have shaped the way we interact with the land, transforming wild frontiers into farmland. From the earliest Americans who first sowed seeds to today's innovators making food more widely accessible, each generation has redefined our relationship with agriculture. Learn more about the American agriculture timeline during this presentation from David Crockett Birthplace State Park and the University of Tennessee Extension.
10:30am-11:30am	Logging in the Smokies	Rick Turner	Salon A	This program provides an in-depth look at how railroads changed the GSMs, and especially the Elkmont and Tremont areas in the way people lived and worked prior to the establishment of the Park in 1934.
10:30am-11:30am	Butterflies and Other Pollinators	Glenna Julian, Lois Worthington	Salon C	We will tell what host plants and nectar sources we have used successfully to attract butterflies and other pollinators.
10:30am-11:30am	Capture the Wild through Nature Journaling (Limit: 50)	Amber Brown, Barefoot University	Falls Room	Join us to inspire curiosity and wonder as we engage with nature through journaling. Participants will receive a journal, and 8 watercolor pencils as we guide you and your child through reflecting and journaling what you see in nature. Developing observation skills and recording scientific data helps us connect to, and learn about the world around us.
11:30am-12:30pm	Make a Gemstone Ring (Ages 18 yrs and up. Limit: 12)	LaDonna Twyman	Parlor A	Learn the art of wrapping wire and gemstones to make a ring.
12:00pm-1:30pm	Edible Wild Plants of Southern Appalachia	Mark Warren, Medicine Bow Wilderness School	Salon C	Learn about the nutritious plants of our region, including native species and those introduced from other countries that are now naturalized as part of our environment. Techniques for preparing foods will also be discussed. This will be a conversational program with information and questions from the audience encouraged.

National Park

33RD ANNUAL

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Program Schedule

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2025

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
1:00pm-2:00pm	The Revival of Elkmont	Carroll McMahan	Salon AB	The history and revival of the Elkmont area.
1:00pm-2:00pm	Tim and Cherry on the Strings	Tim Simek and Cherry Lemonds	Falls Room	A concert of electric instrumentals featuring the hammer dulcimer. Musical selections vary from traditional Appalachian and Celtic to American Pop and Classic Rock.
1:00pm-3:00pm	Carving a Wooden Snowman (Ages 12 yrs and up. Limit: 8)	Don Taylor	Parlor A	Must bring your own carving knives. Learn how to carve a wooden snowman in this hands on workshop. An adult must be present for each child.
1:30pm-3:30pm	Painting Nature in Oils (Ages 12 years and up. Adults welcome. Limit: 10)	Aurora Harrison Bull	Parlor B	Following a demonstration, Students will paint an 8x10 oil painting with materials provided.
2:30pm-4:00pm	Wonder of Wolves	Rhonda Goins and Gail Stout	Salon AB	Our experiences living with and socializing wolves for 24 years. Rhonda is a retired Ranger/Animal Curator and Gail is a volunteer for Bays Mountain Park.
2:30pm-3:30pm	The Walker Sisters of Little Greenbrier	Robin Goddard	Salon C	Learn about the self-sufficient women of Little Greenbrier in the GSMNP-women from another generation who lived in modern times and Robin's time spent with them.
2:30pm-3:30pm	Philanthropy Then and Now: Supporting Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Dana Soehn, Friends of the Smokies	Falls Room	Discover the roots of philanthropy in the creation of the park 100 years ago and the continuing support through Friends of the Smokies. As we approach the 100th Anniversary of the GSMNP in 2034, there are many milestone moments to commemorate along the way, including the role that advocates played in raising \$10 million for the purchase of lands in the 1920s. We'll also share what philanthropy looks like in 2025 in supporting the long-term care of the park.
4:00pm-5:00pm	Wildflowers of the Smokies	Jack Carman	Falls Room	PowerPoint presentation of the wildflowers of the Smoky Mountains
4:30pm-5:30pm	Notable Guests at the Oliver Lodge at Cades Cove	Stephen G. Weber	Salon AB	In the 1920s John W. Oliver built a tourist lodge on his property in Cades Cove. His grandson will talk about several notable guests at the lodge.
4:30pm - 5:30pm	Grandma Gatewood's Walk	Anne Van Curen	Salon C	Actress Anne Van Curen transforms into Emma "Grandma" Gatewood to describe what it was like to be the first woman to solo hike the AT in 1955. It is based off the book "Grandma Gatewood's Walk", written from accounts from her own trail journals.
6:00pm-7:00pm	Through the Eyes of a Naturalist-What Some Notice that Others Overlook	Joel Zachry	Salon AB	"Repetition is the mother of all learning," and the experienced naturalist will often notice things in nature that others overlook.
6:00pm-7:00pm	When Buffalo Roamed and Their Essential Value	Ken Jenkins	Salon C	Using actual buffalo parts, personal photographs, and actual regalia from his Native American friends, Ken will pass along stories and illustrations of the many uses of the buffalo and how it was the most valuable mammal in North America. He will tie in the former presence of the buffalo in the Smokies as well. Entertaining, educational, and appealing to all ages.
7:30pm-8:30pm	Get on Trails with Friends and Missy-Fitness, Fun and Raising Funds	Missy Kane	Salon ABC	Olympian and fitness expert Missy Kane will share her love for hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains and how she developed a 25-year partnership with the Friends of the Smokies to benefit the national park.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 | EXCURSIONS

Sign-up online starting January 15, 2025.

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HIKES

Hen Wallow Falls (4.5 miles, Moderate/Challenging)

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Guide: Keith Garnes

3 - 3.5 hr Hike - Limit: 12

Starting at the Cosby Campground, this is a pleasant hike through a hemlock and rhododendron forest. A side trail will lead you down to the base of the falls. The falls are only two feet wide at the top; it then fans out to 20 feet wide at the bottom some 90 feet below. This is an historical trail with a few hiking stories that will be shared along the way to the "Bat Caves". Don't forget to bring your walking stick, a snack/lunch, water, rain gear, and good sturdy walking shoes/boots.

Little River Trail-Out and Back (5 miles, Moderate)

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Guide: Joel and Kathy Zachry

4 hr Hike - Limit: 12

Come and hike the Little River Trail in the Elkmont area to learn about the natural history, seasonal flora and fauna, and discover some hiking tips for safety. Winter synthetic clothing layers including gloves and hat, trekking poles or hiking stick; water/fluid, snacks/lunch, sturdy rain gear and adequate seasonal hiking boots are a must for this trip. There are uneven terrain, roots, and rocks with ups and downs in elevation, but it is well worth the trip!

Barefoot University Activity Hike (.8 miles, Moderate)

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Guide: Amber Brown

2 hr Hike - Limit: 20

Engage your senses on an immersive journey through the Smokies. Starting at the Cades Cove Campground we will hike the Pine Oak Nature Trail loop, experiencing nature in new ways as we learn basic survival skills. There is an incline and a mossy bridge on this hike. Wear good walking shoes and do not forget to bring water with you. Participants will receive a compass, survival bandana, and a fire starter. We will end with a fun snack over the fire!

BUS TRIPS

American Eagle Foundation Tours (Easy to Moderate)

10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Guides: Drew Brown, Gary Camiliere

Presentation and Tour - Limit: 24

Classroom activities and guided tour of American Eagle Foundation's new headquarter location. Join us for up close encounters with birds of prey, activities and exploration of the museum, or even try our playscape! Donations appreciated and accepted at the American Eagle Foundation location.

Pink Jeep Tours

10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Approximately 2.5 – 3 Hours Each Tour

Limit: 6

You will have a chance to take a scenic and educational tour of Elkmont Historic District. Your experienced guide will show you many sights of beauty not found by the normal visitor to the area, including a short off-road experience!

National Park

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Program Schedule

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2025

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
7:45am-8:30am	Breathe and Stretch with Chair Yoga	Ruth Barber	Salon AB	A time for breathing and stretching before heading out on your hike or sitting in programs. Adults only, please.
9:00am-10:00am	Ten Essentials Everyone Should Carry	Joey Holt	Salon AB	The ten essentials every hiker should carry and the importance of each.
9:00am-10:00am	Tennessee's Sounds of the Night	Chris S. Ogle, TWRA	Salon C	Join a TWRA biologist to learn about the variety of nocturnal animals and the sounds they make with emphasis on birds, frogs, toads and bats.
09:00am-11:00am	Painting Wildflowers (Ages 16 years and up. Limit: 8)	John Adkins	Parlor B	Learn to paint Pink Lady's Slippers or Trilliums in oil.
9:00am-10:30am	Beginning Wood Burning (Ages 8yrs and up. Limit: 10)	Linda Feagan, Tree of Life Creations	Parlor A	Learn how to wood burn an ornament/magnet with Smoky Mountains on it. An adult must be present for each child.
9:00am-10:00am	Let's Be Friends! (Bracelet Making) (Limit: 30)	Rhonda Goins and Gail Stout	Falls Room	Make a friendship bracelet with yarn! Bring back the 80's!! Make one for yourself and one to trade. Take home your bracelet maker.
10:00am-6:00pm	EXHIBITS AND VENDORS	Staff	Salon D and Lobby area	
10:00am-6:00pm	PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST EXHIBIT	Staff	Salon D and Lobby area	A running digital display of the photography contest entries, and the winning photos!
10:30am-11:30am	Louis E. Jones and the Cliff Dwellers	Brian McNight, Louise Bales and Pat K. Thomas	Salon AB	Join us for a special program featuring a brief history and introduction by Cliff Dweller's owners. Followed by the premier of the new documentary directed by Brian McNight. After the screening, there will be a question and answer session.
10:30am-11:30am	Meet Aunt Liddy	Anne Van Curen	Salon C	Join Anne as she portrays Lydia Kear Whaley (1840-1926). Born in Sevier County, TN, this Civil War widow served the Sugarlands' community as a healer, midwife, teacher, tailor, undertaker and talented basket weaver helping many people in the Smoky Mountain area.
10:30am-11:30am	Daily Grind at the Old Mill	Chuck Childers	Falls Room	The Miller will talk about the history of the Old Mill in Pigeon Forge. You will learn the ins and outs of the business and all that grinding!
11:00am-12:00pm	Learn to make a Gemstone Pendant (Ages 18 and up. Limit: 12)	LaDonna Twyman	Parlor A	Learn to wrap wire to make a pendant gemstone necklace.
12:00pm-1:00pm	Valentine's Day Card Making (Ages 4 years to 10 years. Limit: 12)	Dolora Batchelor	Parlor B	Come make a Valentine's Day card using paper, markers, glue, etc... Please have an adult with each child.
12:00pm-1:00pm	Appalachian Sounds- Part One	Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club	Falls Room	We are a small group of musicians from the Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club, a 35 year old organization with over 100 members. We enjoy playing a variety of mostly traditional songs on dulcimers and a variety of accompanying instruments. We play at East TN events, festivals, museums, community centers, churches, parks, and senior living facilities throughout the year.
12:30pm-1:30pm	Communities of the Smokies and the Clans who Settled Them	Tommy Burns	Salon AB	This is a slide show presentation with photos about the different communities of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the families who originally settled there.
12:30pm-2:00pm	Survival Tricks of the Trail	Mark Warren-Medicine Bow Wilderness School	Salon C	Mark shares some easy-to-use native plant medicines and practical materials for trail hikers and all lovers of the great outdoors. He covers many easy-to-identify plant remedies for bee sting, fire ants, stinging nettle, poison ivy, nausea, mouth sores, minor infection, inflammation, food or water poisoning, constipation, diarrhea and natural insect repellents. Also, some great tips for successfully observing wildlife.



WILDLIFE WEEK
PIGEON FORGE ★ TN

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Program Schedule

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2025

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
1:00pm-3:00pm	Carving a Wooden Snowman (Ages 12 years and up. Limit: 8)	Don Taylor	Parlor A	Must bring own carving knives. Learn to carve a wooden snowman. Adult must be present for each child.
1:45pm-2:45pm	Living with Natives and Nature's Most Important Plant	Sherra Owen	Falls Room	A story of native plants tickling the senses.
2:00pm-3:00pm	"Thumbprint Designs" (Ages 5 yrs to 90 yrs. Limit: 12)	Aurora Harrison Bull	Parlor B	Students will be making animated characters with their own thumbprints to tell a story. It is open for ALL ages. This class is geared toward children, but adults enjoy it too!
2:00pm-3:00pm	People Who Shaped the Smokies	Bill Dietzer and Dianne Klonne	Salon AB	Smokies history involving Horace Kephart, The Walker Sisters, Thomas Clingman and the Whaley Family.
2:30pm-3:30pm	Growing Up in Pigeon Forge in the 1970's	Butch Helton and Friends	Salon C	Moderator Butch Helton along with Bill Bradley, Randy Starkey, Jackie Barnes and Harriet Berrier will discuss growing up in the 1970s in Pigeon Forge, TN.
3:15pm-4:15pm	Appalachian Sounds Part Two	Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club	Falls Room	A smaller group of musicians from the club will play a variety of mostly traditional songs on dulcimers and a variety of accompanying instruments.
4:00pm-5:00pm	Discover Life in America: Smokies Most Wanted Project	Jamie Matzko	Salon AB	Do you visit the Smokies? Do you have a phone? Then you can contribute to science in the Smokies through the Smokies Most Wanted Project! In this program, you'll learn how to use a nature app called iNaturalist to document the animals and plants you encounter in the GSMNP, through a community service project. It's fun, easy, and great for kids and families! (Parent/guardian permission required for kids under 13)
4:00pm-5:30pm	Safe and Found: Documentary Film	Nancy East, Search and Rescue member Haywood County	Salon C	Safe and Found: Showcases the gripping world of Search and Rescue in the Smokies and surrounding mountains of Western North Carolina. The film portrays experiences of rescuers and those in need of their help, while highlighting how to stay safe and found on a hike. There will be a question and answer session afterwards with Nancy.
5:00pm-6:00pm	"Because the Truth is Stranger than Fiction"	Hills-n-Hollows Mike and Kathy Gwinn	Falls Room	Music and stories of remarkable mountain people, some of their feats and some of their quirks will make you laugh and cry at the same time.
5:30pm-6:30pm	"Far Appalachia"--Horace Kephart's Journey to the Great Smokies	Arthur "Butch" McDade	Salon AB	Horace Kephart came to the pre-national park Smokies from the Midwest in 1904 after a series of personal setbacks. In the Smokies, he found his forever home where he lived and worked among the mountain people for the next 25 years until his death in 1931. He wrote Our Southern Highlands, and The Book of Camping and Woodcraft, among other works. He worked for the establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
7:00pm-8:30pm	Heaven and Nature Sing	Ken Jenkins, Judy Felts and Friends	Salon ABC	This inspirational presentation of music and song, nature photographs and commentary will encourage, as well as entertain everyone who attends.

National Park

33RD ANNUAL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 | EXCURSIONS

Sign-up online starting January 15, 2025.

*Due to flood damage or weather conditions, some hiking excursions and tours may be changed or cancelled after the printing of this booklet.

HIKES

Seven Islands State Birding Park (3 miles, Easy)

7:15 AM – 2:00 PM

Guide: Keith Watson

4.5 hr Hike - Limit: 15

Birding lovers, this is the hike for you! The hike is mostly on a mowed grass trail with paved roadways and walkways in sections. Bring your binoculars as your guide will point out and discuss some of up to 190 species of birds, and from novice to professional birders you will be rewarded for the experience. This park was named "State Park of the Year" for 2023 by TN Department of Environment and Conservation. Don't forget to bring your snacks/lunch and water.

White Oak Sinks Trail (4.6 miles, Easy/Moderate)

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Guide: Keith Garnes

6 hr Hike - Limit: 12

This historic hike will start and end at School House Gap. This area is a small basin surrounded by steep hills. In addition to a few sinkholes, there are four caves located in the area along with a waterfall near one of the more visited "Bat Cave" sites. Structural remains prior to the formation of the GSMNP give a glimpse of those who resided in the area as well. Don't forget your snacks, lunch, and water!

Chestnut Top Trail to School House Gap Trail (6.4 miles, Moderate/Strenuous)

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Guide: Joel and Kathy Zachry

6 hr Hike - Limit: 12

We will start at the Chestnut Top Trailhead at the Townsend WYE and travel over uneven terrain with roots and rocks up about 1300 feet and down about 500 feet. You will learn about the history of the area, the natural history, the flora and fauna and hiking tips for a safe and enjoyable experience. Winter synthetic clothing layers including gloves and hat along with adequate seasonal hiking boots are a must. Trekking poles or hiking sticks are also highly suggested. Do not forget your snacks, lunch, fluids, and some sturdy rain gear.

BUS TRIPS

The Back Roads to Bush's (Easy)

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Guide: Kathy Gwinn

4 hr Trip - Limit: 23

Let's take the back roads to Chestnut Hill, Bush Beans Visitor Center, Museum, and Café where we have a reservation for lunch, with a museum tour following. (Lunch is at your own expense) We will learn about Dolly, the Sevier County Courthouse, downtown Sevierville, the Cherokee, history of the Bush family and their family business along the way.

Cades Cove Museum and Blount County Museum (Easy)

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Guide: Richard Anderson

About 2 hrs per stop - Limit: 24

Museum lovers this is the tour for you! The Cades Cove Museum is located in the Thompson-Brown cabin, located on its original foundation, and in its original location next to Maryville College. It's small, but has a lot of information and artifacts relating to Cades Cove and the many families who lived there. Some of the helpful volunteers are related to some of the original families of Cades Cove. Just a short walking distance away is the Blount County Museum. Opened in the 1920s and filled with artifacts from the first families in the area. There are items that have been collected and on loan from the families throughout the county. It might be a good idea to bring water, snacks, and lunch with you on your journey.



Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Program Schedule

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2025

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
8:30am-9:30am	Brrr! It's Cold Outside!!!	Rhonda Goins and Gail Stout	Salon AB	Discussion of how animals stay warm. Types of fur will be compared. Pelts on display for touch.
9:00am-10:00am	"Tales of the Trail- 25 years of Packing with Llamas"	Laura Higgins, MD	Salon C	Laura will discuss her experience in hiking/packing with Llamas and training them too! There will be a live presentation with Llamas!! Starting in Salon C and possibly moving to the parking lot.
9:00am-11:00am	Painting Wildflowers (Ages 16 years and above. Limit: 8)	John Adkins	Parlor B	Learn to paint Pink Lady's Slippers or Trilliums in oil.
9:00am-10:00am	Look and Touch Wildlife Program	Chris Ogle, TWRA	Falls Room	This will be an interactive program with preserved wildlife specimens and a live reptile.
9:00am-10:30am	Woodburning for Beginners (Ages 12 yrs and up. Limit: 10)	Linda Feagans, Tree of Life Creations	Parlor A	Come learn to wood burn an ornament/magnet with Smoky Mountains on it. An adult must be present with each child.
10:00am-6:00pm	EXHIBITS and VENDORS	Staff	Lobby area and Salon D	
10:00am-6:00pm	PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST EXHIBIT	Staff	Falls Foyer Balcony	A running digital display of the photography contest entries, and the winning photos!
10:00am-11:30am	Trout Fishing in East Tennessee	Greg Ward and Dennis Ogle	Salon A	Spin fishing and fly fishing in area streams, rivers and lakes for trout. Equipment, bait and areas to fish discussed.
10:00am-11:00am	Wildflowers of Tennessee	Jack Carman	Salon B	A PowerPoint presentation showing the wildflowers in the state of Tennessee.
10:30am-11:30am	What Makes the Smokies the Most Visited National Park and Ways to Improve It	Bill Dietzer, Jay and Sandra Aldrich	Salon C	Bill, Jay and Sandra will illustrate why the Smokies are the most visited National Park and discover how to improve it.
10:30am-11:30am	Reminiscing and Recipes (Limit: 23)	Marcia Huskey Nelson	Falls Room	Join Marcia Huskey-Nelson, Pigeon Forge Public Library Director, as she highlights some of her favorite Southern/Appalachian cookbooks in the library's collection, as well as her favorite recipes from childhood. Sample tastings will be available. This traditional food may contain any number of ingredients including dairy, gluten, wheat, or nuts. Attendees with food allergies should not plan to take part in this session.
11:30am-12:30pm	Making a Wire Wrapped Gemstone Ring (Ages 18 years and up. Limit: 12)	LaDonna Twyman	Parlor A	Learn to wrap wire around gemstone beads to make a ring.
12:00pm-1:00pm	Photographic "Timing"	Clay Thurston	Falls Room	Learn the many ways that timing can impact your wildlife and nature photography.
1:00pm-2:30pm	Stream Fishing: Small Mouth Bass	Greg Ward and Dennis Ogle	Salon A	How to fish area streams for small mouth bass. Equipment, baits, and areas to catch East Tn Smaller!
1:00pm-2:00pm	Our Little Secret: A Smoky Mountain Family Saga and Coming of Age Story Inspired by True Crimes	Stanford Johnson	Salon B	A murder took place in Townsend in the 1920's, when the Rich Mountain Road into Cades Cove was being improved. The victim was buried in a "marked" grave on the summit of the Hickory Flat Ridge at Lawson Crossroad, and Johnson carried this story in his spirit for 50+ years. Stanford's semi-autobiographical debut novel, "Our Little Secret".
1:00pm-3:00pm	"From Methodist to Mynatt", plus 30 minute movie on "Camp Activities"	Leslie (Les) Williams	Salon C	Stories of the Holston Methodist Assembly grounds neighborhood-the people, the camps, and the Park. After the one hour presentation, there is a 30 minute vintage movie on camp activities.

National Park

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Program Schedule

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2025

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
1:30pm-2:30pm	Nature Art for Children (Ages 8 yrs to 13 yrs. Limit: 10)	Pat K. Thomas	Parlor A	Children will construct art projects with natural materials. Everything supplied.
1:30pm-2:30pm	Photography in a Macro World	Kendall Chiles	Falls Room	Let's discover the aspects of close-up photography. Bring your questions about this special skill for Kendall with you.
2:00pm-3:00pm	"Thumbprint Designs" (Ages 5yrs to 90 yrs. Limit: 12)	Aurora Harrison Bull	Parlor B	Students will be making animated characters with their own thumbprints to tell a story. This class is for all ages. This class is geared toward children, but adults love it too!
3:00PM-4:00pm	The Civilian Conservation Corps-FDR's Tree Army	Bill Dietzer and Dianne Klonne	Salon A	You will learn how the CCC program improved U.S. Parks, Forests and agriculture with an emphasis on the Smokies structures and activities.
3:00PM-4:00pm	Jewels from the Sky	Kris Light	Salon B	Snowflakes are beautiful jewels from the sky. Learn about the different types of snowflakes and how they form in the clouds.
3:00pm-4:00pm	Imaging the Wonderful World of Wildlife	Tom and Pat Corey	Falls Room	This program will feature a combination of technique and artistic aspects focusing on some of our favorite wildlife subjects.
4:00pm-5:00pm	Time Travel Through the Smokies Like A Pro: Fun Park Adventures for the Entire Family	Jeff Alt	Salon C	Jeff Alt, author of the Adventures of Bubba Jones: Time Traveling Through the Great Smoky Mountains, shares inside park tips for the entire family including: historical sites and some of the stories behind them; family friendly trails and views for every ability.
4:30pm-5:30pm	"From River to Raptor: The Story of Bald Eagle Conservation and the Tennessee River	Robyn Miller, Eagle Foundation	Salon AB	Soar into the inspiring story of bald eagle conservation in Tennessee! In the mid-1900s, bald eagle populations plummeted due to the pesticide DDT. Their remarkable recovery not only highlights their role in our history but also their vital place in our native ecosystems. This presentation blends hope and history, reveals the powerful connection between bald eagles, the Tennessee River Watershed, and human health.
4:30pm-5:30pm	Old Time Jam Session	Brenda Lentz-Dawson and Friends	Falls Room	Bring your own instrument and learn the art of jamming with Brenda, Tom, and Denise.
5:30pm-6:30pm	May Day, May Day, Plane Down!!	Joey Holt	Salon C	Stories and history of plane crashes in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the surrounding Appalachian Mountains.
			Salon AB	
6:00pm-7:00pm	Wiley Oakley in the Wild Woods	Lew Bolton	Falls Room	Wiley's true stories and tall tales from his adventures in the Smoky Mountain Wilderness.
7:00pm-8:30pm	A History of Native People in Southern Appalachia	Mark Warren from Medicine Bow Wilderness School	Salon ABC	This program includes a great deal of show-and-tell items brought by the presenter to share with the audience. Learn about early crafts, weapons, hunting techniques, attitudes, clothing, tools, foods and games.



WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE WEEK
PIGEON FORGE ★ TN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 | EXCURSIONS

Sign-up online starting January 15, 2025.

*Due to flood damage or weather conditions, some hiking excursions and tours may be changed or cancelled after the printing of this booklet.

HIKES

Lead Cove/Bote Mountain Trail (5.8 miles, Moderate)

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Guide: Joey Holt

5 hr Hike - Limit: 12

Starting at the Lead Cove Trail Head you will travel through old home sites while learning the history of Bote Mountain and how it got its unusual name. There are some parts of the trail that are steep and rocky in places. Don't forget to bring water, snacks/lunch, good sturdy hiking shoes, boots, rain gear, and a hiking stick.

Huskey Branch Falls (4 mile loop - Easy)

9:00AM – 3:30PM

Guide: Stella Koret

4 hr Hike - Limit: 12

Starting at the Trail Head in Elkmont you will travel past the remains of some of the very first wealthy tourist homes along with the famous "Troll Bridge". You will discover the history of the once booming logging industry of the early 1900's. Do not forget to bring water, snacks, lunch, and good walking/hiking shoes.

BUS TRIPS

"Daisy Town Days" (Easy/Moderate)

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Guide: Kathy Gwinn

4 hr Tour - Limit: 23

Join Kathy for this historic tour of Elkmont and Daisy Town in the National Park. You will learn of logging and the Little River Railroad and Logging Company, the flora and fauna of the area, the history of Fighting Creek Gap, early tourism and summer camping in the Smokies. The tour is mostly level on sidewalks, some areas are on dirt trails to cabins/sites, and one incline. Please bring a lunch/snacks and water with you as we will picnic in the national park.

Cades Cove Museum and Blount County Museum (Easy)

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Guide: Richard Anderson

About 2 hrs per stop - Limit: 24

Museum lovers, this is the tour for you! The Cades Cove Museum is located in the Thompson-Brown cabin, located on its original foundation, and in its original location next to Maryville College. It's small, but has a lot of information and artifacts relating to Cades Cove and the many families who lived there. Some of the helpful volunteers are related to some of the original families of Cades Cove. Just a short walking distance away is the Blount County Museum. Opened in the 1920s and filled with artifacts from the first families in the area. There are items that have been collected and on loan from the families throughout the county. It might be a good idea to bring water, snacks/lunch with you on your journey.

National Park

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Program Schedule

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2025

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
9:00am-10:30am	Wood Burning for Beginners (Ages 12 years and up. Limit: 10)	Linda Feagans, Tree of Life Creations	Parlor A	Come and learn how to woodburn an ornament/magnet with Smoky Mountains on it. An adult must be present with each child.
9:00am-10:00am	Sam Davis, Confederate Hero	Jack Carman	Salon AB	Life story of Sam Davis, Confederate hero from Smyrna, TN.
9:00am-10:00am	Behavioral Enrichment and Its Role in Captive Wildlife Management	John Simcox, Eagle Foundation	Salon C	Behavioral enrichment is the act of stimulating an animal physically, mentally, or socially by encouraging them to use or develop species-specific behaviors. This is the foundation to captive wildlife management to preserve the health, welfare, and quality of life of animals under human care.
9:00am-10:00am	From the Mountains to the Sea-Photographing the Natural World	Tom and Pat Corey	Falls Room	Featuring some of our favorite locations, this program will illustrate both the art and technique of imaging the natural world.
10:00am-6:00pm	EXHIBITS and VENDORS	Staff	Salon D and Lobby area	
10:00am-6:00pm	PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST EXHIBIT	Staff	Falls Foyer Balcony	A running digital display of the photography contest entries, and the winning photos!
10:30am-11:30am	Arches and Natural Bridges Along Tennessee's Trails	Keith Garnes and Craig Johnston	Salon A	Visit the arches and natural bridges through pictures and stories.
10:30am-11:30am	Margaret Stevenson: The First Smokies Trail Completer	Bill Dietzer and Dianne Klonne	Salon B	Bill and Dianne will explain how Margaret became the first trail completer and was called God's Lady of the Mountains.
10:30am-11:30am	Snakes Alive! (Limit: 30)	Rhonda Goins and Gail Stout	Salon C	Learn about snakes and interact with them. Make and decorate a craft paper snake to take with you.
10:30am-11:30am	Photograph and Identify Dragonflies and Damselflies	Clay Thurston	Falls Room	You will learn how, when and where to photograph and identify dragonflies and damselflies.
11:00am-12:00pm	Learn to Play the Autoharp (Limit: 8)	Brenda Lentz-Dawson	Parlor B	Brenda will sing and teach 3 chord songs with the autoharp. Bring your autoharp if you have one. All ages welcome. Must have adult present for each child.
12:00pm-1:00 pm	Introduction to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area of Kentucky/Tennessee	Keith Garnes and Craig Johnston	Salon AB	Introduction to the Big South Fork Region including Pickett State Park and Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area.
12:00pm-1:00 pm	From the Mouth of Boyd's Creek: A History of Seymour, TN and the Boyd's Creek Valley	Steve Petty, Colleen Shannon, Anna Garber	Salon C	Each author will present a few highlights from one of the periods in the history of these two Sevier County communities: a)the indigenous people who roamed and settled here as far back as 10,000 BC; b) the significance of the French Broad River during the first 150 years of European Settlement; c) slavery and the civil war.
12:00pm-1:00 pm	A Collection of Photography Composition	Douglas Hubbard	Falls Room	A collection of photography composition: rules, tips, suggestions, guidelines to help create a more visually appealing image.
12:00pm-1:00 pm	Glitter Animals (Ages 8yrs and up. Limit: 8)	Jim and Karen Summerville	Parlor A	Let's talk about "glitter"(germs, etc) animals can carry. Get a chance to do some rehab cleaning of a glitter stuffed animal. Warning: GLITTER
2:00pm-2:30pm	Quilts of Valor Award Ceremony	Smoky Mountain Patriotic Quilters	Salon AB	Quilts of Valor will award a quilt to a veteran who has been touched by war.



WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE WEEK
PIGEON FORGE * TN

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025 Program Schedule

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2025

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
2:00pm-3:30pm	Eco-Art Imprint Book Binding (Ages 18 yrs and up. Limit: 8)	Pat K. Thomas, Cliff Dwellers Gallery	ParlorB	Participants will construct a handmade book from Eco-Art Imprints supplied by Pat. Cutting, gluing, sewing skills will be used.
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Into the Woods-Food? Fun? Necessity? Or MISCHIEF???	Sherra Owen	Falls Room	True adventure stories in the woodland.
2:00pm-3:00pm	Birds of the Smokies and Sevier County	Keith Watson	Salon C	A PowerPoint presentation will be offered to highlight the birds of the Great Smoky Mountains and Sevier County.
3:00pm - 4:00pm	The Birds and Bees of Wildflowers	Kris Light	Salon AB	Flowers have fascinating techniques for attracting their pollinators. Learn how color, shape, odor, and even "drugs" lure insects, birds, bats, and other pollinators to flowers.
3:30pm - 4:30pm	Ragman and the Deep Wood's Ensemble	Appalachian Ragman and Friends	Falls Room	Take an imaginary journey with the Ragman down the Old Settler's Trail to a cabin porch where we will share music with a variety of instruments.
3:30pm-4:30pm	The People of Cades Cove from the Beginning	Bernard Myers	Salon C	Back before there were roads in Cades Cove, the earliest settlers followed the indian trails through the mountains. Learn about them and their journey to make a home in Cades Cove way before it became a national park.
5:00pm-6:30pm	Living With a Pack of Wolves	Rhonda Goins and Gail Stout	Salon C	Raising wolf cubs is a full time job. Socialization of 15 wolves for Bays Mountain Park. The program shows details, hard work and fun!
5:30pm-6:30pm	At the Dead Hours of Midnight: A Bloody Reign of Terror in the Great Smoky Mountains	Stanford Johnson	Salon AB	There have been a few books written about the White Caps of Sevier County, and their reign of terror in 1890's. But none more thoroughly researched and documented than "At the Dead of Midnight." Richard Way and Johnson included information that had not been published in any of the previous works, which they will detail in their presentation.
5:30pm-6:30pm	Five Ways (Maybe More) to Stay Alive in the Smokies	Joel Zachry	Falls Room	Explorers and hikers often worry about the wrong things, like encountering nefarious individuals, bears, snakes, etc., but there are greater dangers in the weather and being unprepared for the unexpected.
7:00pm-8:00pm	H.I.K.E. to Success-Lessons from the Trail	Jeff Alt	Salon ABC	Accompanied with slides and music, Jeff will weave entertaining stories and lessons from his 2000 mile Appalachian Trail expedition and other family adventures. You will experience bears, bugs, blisters and hilarious food cravings. You will experience turning dreams into goals and achieving them.

National Park

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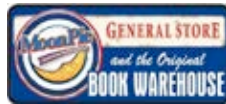
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JUNE 10-12, 2025
(CLASSES BEGIN JUNE 9)



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Head to the Bush's Visitor Center, located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in Chestnut Hill, Tennessee! Here, you can experience the Bush's story right in the place where it all began, with a completely renovated museum dedicated to our family, our company history and, of course, the humble little bean. You can also shop our general store and have lunch at our on-site cafe.

OPEN YEAR-ROUND | MONDAY-SATURDAY

Store/Museum: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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