



WILDERNESS  
**WILDLIFE WEEK**  
PIGEON FORGE ★ TN

**May 5-9, 2020**  
**Meet the Experts**

**Jeff Alt** is a talented speaker, hiking expert and award-winning author. His Appalachian Trail book, *A Walk for Sunshine*, has won six awards including a Gold Medal in the Book of the Year Awards. Alt has walked the 2,160-mile Appalachian Trail, the 218-mile John Muir Trail with his wife, and he carried his 21-month old daughter on a family trek across a path of Ireland. Alt is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) and is the author of three books: *Get Your Kids Hiking: How to Start Them Young and Keep it Fun*, *Four Boots One Journey* (John Muir Trail) and *A Walk for Sunshine* (Appalachian Trail). Alt presents in and around the National Parks. His adventures and hiking expertise have been featured on ESPN, Hallmark Channel, Discoverychannel.com, CNN-Radio, Fox News, in the AP, USA Today, LA Times, Philadelphia Enquirer, the Knoxville-News Sentinel, Scholastic Parent and Child and many more.  
E-mail: [jeff@jeffalt.com](mailto:jeff@jeffalt.com)

**American Eagle Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization dedicated to the mission and vision of preserving the USA's majestic eagles and fragile environment for future generations to enjoy. They are also dedicated to caring for other birds of prey, many of which have been injured or orphaned. Their goal is to rehabilitate raptors for reintroduction into the wild, yet provide a home for those that are permanently disabled. At the Dollywood based facility, they are federally licensed caregivers to more than 60 resident birds that are non-releasable due to physical handicaps or accidental imprinting with humans. Some are trained for educational purposes, while others are placed in captive breeding projects. As a result of their reproduction efforts, they have released dozens of eagles into the Great Smoky Mountains.  
E-mail: [aefeagles3@comcast.net](mailto:aefeagles3@comcast.net)

**Mark Armstrong** has been interested in birds his entire life and made it a career by working as the bird curator at Zoo Knoxville. He spent 36 years at the Zoo and retired at the end of 2015. He has been able to participate in numerous Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts and fall hawk counts. Mark is also an active birder and has been able to bird in Costa Rica, Belize and Kenya. While at the zoo, he became interested in doing more with native species and became a bird bander in 2003. Since then, Mark has banded over 10,000 birds including hummingbirds, songbirds and owls.

**Louise Bales** is a self-taught artist who lives "off the traveled path" in Gatlinburg, as her family has for generations. The quality of Louise Bales' delicately detailed watercolors reflects her dedication to her craft. The scope of her subject matter and the rich and abundant wildlife of her mountain home are the expression of a woman whose roots are deeply planted in the rich soil her family has owned for generations.  
Website: [www.louisebales.com](http://www.louisebales.com)

**Stephen Lyn Bales** is a native of Gatlinburg, Tennessee and is has recently retired from the position of senior naturalist at Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville. He is also the author of two books: Natural Histories and Ghost Birds, both published by UT Press.

**Dr. William M. Bass** is the founder of the University of Tennessee's Anthropology Research Facility, known worldwide as the Body Farm. A dedicated educator, Dr. Bass was honored as National Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. In addition to teaching forensic anthropology, he is author or coauthor of more than two hundred scientific publications. Dr. Bass and his students have revolutionized the field of forensic anthropology and assisted law enforcement in solving countless cases. Dr. Bass is coauthor, with Jon Jefferson, of two nonfiction books about his career, Death's Acre and Beyond the Body Farm. They also collaborated as the writing team of Jefferson Bass, which has produced ten novels about a fictionalized version of the Body Farm. For information about upcoming speaking engagements by Dr. Bass, or to inquire about booking a presentation, visit [BoneZones.com](http://BoneZones.com).

**Boogertown Gap Old-Time String Band**, Keith Watson and Ruth Barber, will be at their booth full time when not conducting programs to talk about their Old-Time Music, its heritage, and its place in Great Smoky Mountain life, as well as demonstrate, educate, and offer hands on playing of some of their instruments, especially the wooden musical spoons. They will have for sale at their booth all four of their CD recordings, as well as musical spoons, penny whistles, and BTG stickers. They will even have a map to show you where Boogertown is! Come by for a lot of fun.

Website: [www.boogertowngap.com](http://www.boogertowngap.com)

E-mail: [boogertowngap@comcast.net](mailto:boogertowngap@comcast.net)

**Mike Braun** is a volunteer with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, attached to the Back Country Office. He is a Master Educator with the Leave No Trace organization, and assists with training other volunteer and park staff about the principles of Leave No Trace. Mike is an avid hiker and backpacker.

**Tom Brosch** owned and operated a popular hiking store near Great Smoky Mountains National Park for 15 years. His deep knowledge of history on the park, the people who lived there and the location of the many trail systems provides him with ample skill to serve as the Wilderness Wildlife Week Assistant Transportation Director.

E-mail: [srbearpctn@gmail.com](mailto:srbearpctn@gmail.com)

**Fred Brown** is a retired Senior Writer for the Knoxville News-Sentinel and has been named to the Friends of Literacy East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame for excellence in Journalism. He was a working journalist for more than 45 years. Besides his columns and stories for the News Sentinel, Fred has published numerous books and writes frequently for historical magazines and journals.

**Aurora Harrison Bull** is an award winning artist and painting instructor who will be displaying nature and wildlife paintings in oil. Her paintings hang in numerous corporate and private collections throughout the US and abroad. Aurora will be demonstrating the process and offering hands on projects to patrons on during Wilderness Wildlife Week on Wednesday and Thursday 1:00 - 2:00 PM.

**Cades Cove Preservation Association** was established to preserve the history, heritage and families that once called Cades Cove home prior to the formation of GSMNP. The "CCPA" volunteers clean the churches, repair trails to the old home sites and cemeteries and help the park service where needed in Cades Cove. The CCPA also maintains the Cades Cove museum located in the historic Thompson-Brown log house in Maryville.

Website: [www.cadescovepreservation.com](http://www.cadescovepreservation.com)

**Jack Carman** is a graduate of Mississippi State University and a retired aeronautical engineer. An amateur botanist and recipient of several photography awards, Jack is the author of Wildflowers of Tennessee, Tennessee's first color photographic field guide.

E-mail: [jcarman@WildflowersTn.com](mailto:jcarman@WildflowersTn.com)

**Kefyn Catley** is Professor of Biology at Western Carolina University. A naturalist, passionate photographer, and lifelong observer of the tiny creatures “that run the world”, Kefyn gives talks and workshops at photographic clubs and societies where he encourages photographers to become citizen scientists by documenting and sharing their local arthropod diversity online. A portfolio of Kefyn’s images can be found at: [www.hiddennatureimages.com](http://www.hiddennatureimages.com)

**Kendall Chiles** is a freelance nature photographer with more than 30 years of photography experience. His photographs have appeared in numerous books, magazines and brochures. He is an instructor for the University of Tennessee/Smoky Mountain Field School and is President of Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers.  
E-mail: [kchiles@knology.net](mailto:kchiles@knology.net)

**Anna Van Curen** is an actress who transforms into Emma "Grandma" Gatewood to describe what it was like to be the first woman to solo hike the Appalachian Trail in 1955. The dramatization is based off of the book "Grandma Gatewood's Walk", which was written from accounts of Gatewood's surviving family members, newspaper magazine articles and her own diaries and trail journals.

**Donna Cyr** has taught wild edibles for more than 45 years. She teaches how to turn weeds into food medicine and utilitarian items. Such items include weed ravioli, instant wound medicine and weaving mats out of cattails. Donna has taught workshops and classes across the United States and has called Tennessee home since 1998.

**Mark Davidson** is a retired Blount County (TN) educator, having taught 38 years, primarily in a high school setting. He has also worked for 5 years as a teacher’s aide in an elementary school. He has lived in the shadow of the Smokies all his life and has developed a love for “all things mountain.” He developed a program called Appalachian Studies while at William Blount High School, which he has adapted to the non-credit OUR APPALACHIA series of classes which he now teaches at the Blount County Campus of Pellissippi State Community College near Maryville.

**Brenda Dawson** helped Tony Thomas and Judy Carson during past Wilderness Wildlife Week events by teaching Autoharp. This year she will help you learn how to tune your harp and produce a song as you to learn and play before the week is up. Brenda will play and sing old tunes you can learn, as well.

**Bill Deitzer** has hiked in 51 National Parks and in all 50 U.S. states. He is a member of the 900 Mile Club having hiked all 800 trail miles in the Great Smokies Mountain National Park. Bill has completed seven hikes to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. He is retired as CFO of Cincinnati State Technical & Community College.

**Arlene Eagle's** grandmother was a half breed, she was almost 50 before walking on the pow wow grounds at a local event, and immediately felt at home. Almost 30 years later, she is totally invested in her heritage, their crafts and her Cherokee/Catawba husband (Brave Standing Eagle). The love of her people is something she is always willing to share.

**Brave Standing Eagle** was raised among his people, the Cherokee. He served as Principal Chief of the Southern Iroquois Confederation for several years. His father was Shucata Standing Eagle who was considered a healer among his people. His grandfather was raised in the Cherokee orphanage. He is proud of his heritage and wishes to share it with others.

**The East Tennessee Historical Society** promotes, interprets, and preserves East Tennessee’s incredible history through our membership publications and services, popular educational programs, and through our award-winning Museum of East Tennessee History’s exhibits. Located in the East Tennessee History Center in downtown Knoxville, the ETHS serves all who walk through their doors, as well as reaching out beyond our walls to the rest of East Tennessee, the region and state.

**Jim Eastin** is a minister, photographer, performer, and storyteller who helps people share their joys with words, music and the visual arts. He has been performing in the area and teaching people to use cameras in the Smoky Mountains since 2000.

Website: [www.JimEastin.net](http://www.JimEastin.net)

**Jon Elder** is a fifth generation life-long Sevier County resident. His mother, Betty Walkingstick Elder, was a full-blooded member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and his father, Bill Elder, is a local businessman. Jon's maternal great-grandfather was a Cherokee Chief; his paternal great-grandfather was the doctor who diagnosed the first case of appendicitis in Sevier County. Jon is a graduate of Sevier County High and the University of Tennessee. He achieved his master's degree from Lincoln Memorial University. He resides on the family farm in the Harrisburg Community with his wife Jamie Beth.

**Judy Felts**, originally from Arkansas, graduated with a degree in music and later moved to the Nashville area to pursue her music career. She was a performer at Opryland as well as keyboard and vocalist for Grand Ole Opry star, Bill Anderson. Judy started an organization in Nashville in 1995 called "Christian Women Connect" and also serves on the board for ACT (Artist in Christian Testimony) and on the Community Resource Board for the TN Prison for Women. She has also served as a volunteer at the Tennessee Prison for Women since 1999. Judy has been utilized as a keynote speaker, worship leader and soloist for various churches, conferences and mission events. In addition to Judy's solo ministry, she also performs with Lee Porter as a duo with piano, guitar, string bass and percussion. They have performed together for the last eight years and are available for churches, conferences and events. Judy and her husband Mike have been attending Wilderness Wildlife Week since 2000 and have a love for hiking and the outdoors. Website: [www.judyfelts.com](http://www.judyfelts.com)

**Melanie Fetterolf** is an active painter who enjoys working in a variety of mediums; however, her most recent work is watercolor because she enjoys the portability of the medium and painting on site whenever possible. In 1993 Melanie graduated with a BA in Fine Arts with a Painting concentration from Virginia Tech, and after a significant break for motherhood, she currently paints from her home studio in Seymour, Tennessee and teaches watercolor and art classes at the Seymour Public Library. Melanie prints most of her art into note cards, which can be found in a variety of retail establishments, and she sells her artwork at local farmers markets and area Arts and Crafts festivals. Melanie is an active member of the Knoxville Arts and Cultural Alliance, a juried selling member at the Appalachian Arts and Fine Crafts Center in Norris, Tennessee, and exhibits regularly throughout the Knoxville area.

**Keith Garnes** lives in Gatlinburg and leads hikes for Smoky Mountain Outdoors and is the hiking director for Friends of Pickett State Park in Middle Tennessee. He is active in promoting Pickett State Park's new addition, the Pogue Creek Canyon. Keith will share Pogue Creek Canyon's secrets during his Arches and Natural Bridges on Tennessee's Trails presentation during Wilderness Wildlife Week 2017.

**Rhonda Goins** works as a Naturalist at Bays Mountain Park, where she has been employed for 14 years. She holds a Bachelor's degree from ETSU in Biology and many certificates in wolf behavior and wildlife rehabilitation. Rhonda is also a member of the National Opossum Society and The Defenders of Wildlife. Being from the southeast, her minors, Geography and Appalachian Studies, come in handy teaching the topography and our Appalachian ways. Rhonda has worked closely with wolves for over 14 years and has designed and implemented the socialization of the Park's captive wolves. In 2009, she led and directed the capture of the escaped wolves and again in 2010. Rhonda works with all the animals and heads the Herpetarium which houses East Tennessee reptiles and amphibians. When the Herpetarium underwent a total renovation, Rhonda was instrumental in the design and implementation of all animal exhibits and habitats. Most recently, she directed the socialization of the Park's addition of 4 gray wolf cubs, born in 2014.

**Kathy Gwinn** is a former History Teacher. For the past 15 years, she has been employed as a Tour Guide for Smoky Mountain Tour Connection. She and her husband Mike, also perform music and storytelling and are known together as "Hills & Hollows".

**Dr. Al Hazari** believes science is for students ages two to 102—that's his motto. A lecturer and director of the undergraduate chemistry laboratories, Hazari is a champion for science. His chemistry "magic shows" have been enjoyed by countless kids and adults for over twenty-two years. It started with grant from the American Chemical Society, which allowed him to visit local schools to demonstrate hands-on activities. Since then, hundreds of people of all ages have

flocked to see Hazari demonstrate the wonders of chemistry. The real magic in the shows comes from his presentation, which brings an element of fun and excitement that many people would not associate with a scientific lecture. A fixture in the Knoxville community, Hazari has presented for schools, museums, civic organizations, assisted-living facilities, and organizations reaching underserved groups. The American Chemical Society has recruited him for their national speaker tour, so he now presents throughout the United States.

**Cherel Henderson** is a native of Jefferson County, with deep roots in several mountain counties of Western North Carolina and East Tennessee. She is the director of the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville and the founding director of the First Families of Tennessee project. For several years, she was very active in the Smoky Mountain Historical Society and served as editor of its newsletter.

**Joey Holt** grew up in the foothills of the Smokies. Joey has been a lover of the outdoors all his life enjoying activities such as camping and hiking. He has been an avid hiker for several years. Joey is a member of Great Smoky Mountains Association and is a volunteer with Appalachian Bear Rescue. He has been presenting a hiking program at a local camp resort for the past few years where he also does guided hikes for their guests, church groups, and others who just enjoy the outdoors.

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

**Nate Housley** is a Tennessee State Park Ranger and has been serving the State of Tennessee for seven years. Through his career he has worked at Huntington Beach and Charles Towne Landing State Park in South Carolina, Big Ridge, Harrison Bay, Hiwassee Ocoee Rivers, and Seven Islands State Birding Park here in Tennessee. His love of the outdoors began at an early age with camping and hiking trips in nature with his father. He was fortunate enough to incorporate his love of the outdoors into a career, and is more than happy to share his experiences and love of nature with others.

**Douglas Hubbard** has a passion for photography spanning more than 50 years. By the age of 13, he had contracted his first wedding which included the darkroom work. He progressed from film capture to digital capture by digitalizing film and processing those files in Photoshop. Douglas has served as president of the Camera Club of Oak Ridge; has been successful in photography competitions; chaired major photographic competitions; and presented photographic programs.

**Jim Jenkins** graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a B.S. in Wildlife Management. Jim is very knowledgeable about plant and animal identification and has hiked extensively in GSMNP. Jim has been a tour guide for more than 30 years.

**Ken Jenkins**, professional photographer and creator of Wilderness Wildlife Week, is known throughout North America. He is an accomplished author of numerous books covering black bears, grizzlies and other wildlife. Because of Ken's vision 27 years ago, WWW is an award-winning event, having won prestigious awards from the International Festivals and Events Association for Best Environmental Program, Best Educational Program, Best Children's Programming and Best Community Outreach Program from among approximately 1,500 award entries.

**Craig Johnston** grew up in Western Pennsylvania hiking and camping in the Allegheny Mountains. He left city life behind, moving from DC to Gatlinburg over three (3) years ago to pursue his passion for history and the outdoors.

Now working for the Great Smoky Mountains Association, he is further able to continue to learn more about the beautiful Smokies, and enjoys passing along his knowledge, and educating others about this amazing National Park.

**Glenna Julian** is a Lifetime Master Gardener whose special interest are butterflies, birds, and herb gardening. She volunteers many hours at Sevier County Volunteers in the Garden Senior building. Glenna gives programs on butterfly gardening, tagging and herbs. The Mountain Press and WVLT, Knoxville has recognized our work and our screened butterfly house this year.

**Guane Julian** is a Sevier County Master Gardener who fills his days with hard background work prep for programs with mom, Glenna. Guane is a member of Wild Ones and currently works with Sevier County Library System.

**The Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club** started 30 years ago with a few players gathering in a private home. Currently the group has over 150 members. The KADC is dedicated to teaching, sharing, and enjoying the playing of Appalachian and hammered dulcimers. Additional information may be found at [knoxvilledulcimer.org](http://knoxvilledulcimer.org) and on the KADC Facebook page.

**Matt Kulp** holds a BS in biology from Pennsylvania State University ('92) and a MS in biology (fisheries) from Tennessee Technological University ('94). Matt began his career with Great Smoky Mountains National Park in May 1994 as a fishery technician, in May 1995 became a fishery biologist and in 2014 became the Supervisory Fishery Biologist at the Park. His fisheries management objectives focus on brook trout inventory and monitoring, brook trout genetics, native fish restoration, threatened and endangered fish reintroduction and monitoring, and long-term water quality monitoring/modelling and critical load development. Matt has authored or coauthored over 30 peer reviewed publications covering fisheries management, water quality monitoring and biotic effects and native fish restoration. He enjoys time turkey hunting and woodworking with spending time with his wife Mimi and kiddos Michael and Pauline, all of whom reside in Wears Valley, Tennessee.

**Dr. Don Linzey** is on the faculty of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. He began working in the Park as a seasonal Park Ranger-Naturalist in 1964. He has conducted research on Park mammals for the past 54 years and has authored several books including "Mammals of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Third Edition" and "A Natural History Guide to Great Smoky Mountains National Park". Dr. Linzey and his wife, Nita, reside in Blacksburg but also have a home in Gatlinburg.

**Bobbie Lamons Lovell** was born in the Lemons Hollow in the foothills of the Smokies. Her passions include art and poetry. Retirement has allowed Bobbie to paint daily and early morning musings gift her with subjects for poems. The Great Smoky Mountains provide Bobbie with subject matter for both. Her art and poetry reflect her love and memories of the mountains and its people and their traditions.

**Carroll McMahan** resides in Fountain City. He is the Special Projects Coordinator for the Sevierville Chamber of Commerce. Carroll is a contributing writer and coordinator of Upland Chronicles, a weekly column featuring mountain heritage stories in The Mountain Press. In 2010, he organized and continues to coordinate the annual Rose Glen Literary Festival at Walters State Community College, Sevier County Campus. A native of Sevierville, he moved back to East Tennessee after 25 years in Nashville and for one entire summer in Glacier Bay, Alaska. For the past seven years, Carroll has presented various heritage programs at Wilderness Wildlife in Pigeon Forge. He periodically conducts walking history tours of downtown Sevierville. Carroll is recipient of the 2012 Community History Award presented by the East Tennessee Historical Society and the Historic Preservation Recognition Award presented on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Spencer Clack Chapter. He is married to Michelle Ingolia McMahan who is a nurse at the Sleep Disorder Center of Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center. They are members of St. Albert the Great Catholic Church and serve together on the advisory board of East Tennessee Catholic Charities. His interests include hiking in the Smokies, history, folklore and storytelling.

**Karen Miller** is the Education Coordinator for Keep Sevier Beautiful. She has been working with children for most of her career teaching drug prevention and as a youth leader in Ohio. Karen moved to Tennessee where she has been with Keep Sevier Beautiful for over a year working with students to learn litter prevention, beautification, composting and recycling education. Karen can be reached at KSB to schedule a class for your group at [kmiller@keepsevierbeautiful.org](mailto:kmiller@keepsevierbeautiful.org).

**Ben Montgomery** is author of the New York Times-bestselling 'Grandma Gatewood's Walk,' winner of a 2014 Outdoor Book Award, 'The Leper Spy,' and 'The Man Who Walked Backward,' from Little, Brown & Co. He spent most of his 20 year newspaper career as an enterprise reporter for the Tampa Bay Times. He founded the narrative journalism website Gangrey.com and helped launch the Auburn Chautauqua, a Southern writers collective. In 2010, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in local reporting and won the Dart Award and Casey Medal for a series called "For Their Own Good,"

about abuse at Florida's oldest reform school. In 2018, he won a National Headliner award for journalistic innovation for a project exploring police shootings in Florida. He was among the first fellows for Images and Voices of Hope in 2015 and was selected to be the fall 2018 T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professor at the University of Montana in Missoula. He's now the James A. Clendinen Professor at the University of South Florida. Montgomery grew up in Oklahoma and studied journalism at Arkansas Tech University, where he played defensive back for the football team, the Wonder Boys. He worked for the Courier in Russellville, Ark., the Standard-Times in San Angelo, Texas, the Times Herald-Record in New York's Hudson River Valley and the Tampa Tribune before joining the Times in 2006. He lives in Tampa.

**Harry Moore** holds both a BA (1971) and MS degree (1974) in Geology from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He retired June 30, 2009 from Tennessee Department of Transportation after 37 years where he managed the TDOT Geotechnical Engineering Office in Knoxville for the last 17 years. Currently, Harry works part time as a Senior Consultant with Golder Associates, Atlanta office. He has authored numerous technical papers dealing with karst, landslides, and other geotechnical issues related to highways. Harry has also authored numerous books including *The Bone Hunters: The Discovery of Miocene Fossils in Gray, Tennessee*. Now Harry resides in Knoxville, Tennessee with his wife Alice Ann, who retired in July of 2008 as the State Director of the University of Tennessee Extension 4-H program.

**Stephanie Mueller** is the seasonal ranger at Seven Islands State Birding Park in Kodak, TN where she has been volunteering and working since 2017. She received her BS degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences and a minor in Environmental Science from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. She received her MS degree in Natural Resources-Wildlife Concentration from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where her research thesis was on the habitat relationships of songbirds in peatland swamps of Wisconsin. Stephanie is a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association for Interpretation and enjoys guiding hikes and programs for nature enthusiasts of all ages.

**Frank Murphy** hosts the afternoon show on Classic Hits 93.1 WNOX. He joined WNOX in 2013 and has been on the radio in Knoxville since 2002. In 2017, he became a host of East Tennessee PBS Scholars' Bowl, which airs weeknights at 5:30 p.m. Frank joined the comedy improv troupe **Einstein Simplified** upon moving to Knoxville. The group performs Tuesday nights at Scruffy City Hall. Frank was selected as the 2014 Knoxville recipient of the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award. He earned the title "Man of the Year" in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's 2017 fundraising competition. He served terms as president of the Front Page Foundation and as president of the FBI Knoxville Citizens Academy Alumni Association. Frank has been in the cast of Oak Ridge Civic Ballet Association productions since 2010, including *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Beauty & the Beast*, and *Into the Woods*.

**Chris Ogle** is a native son of Sevier County, Tennessee. He works as a Wildlife Surveys Manager for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) within their administrative Region IV and covers the 21 eastern counties. Chris' job is to inventory nongame wildlife on the agency's Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and provide technical assistance to private landowners for issues concerning nongame species. He specializes in rare, threatened, and endangered species. Chris holds a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a M.S. from East Tennessee State University where he conducted a project on tiger salamanders in East Tennessee. He is also heavily involved in the local community. For the past few years he has taught the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Hunter's Education class at Caton's Chapel Elementary School. Chris also attends and works with many ministries at Richardson's Cove Baptist Church, and serves as Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 211.

**George Owen** has led hikes and done intensive trail work in the Southern Appalachians for the last half century. He has served as trail maintenance director and trail construction director for both the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, serving also as president of the latter. George provided the layout and supervised much of the construction of the Benton MacKaye Trail in Georgia. He has also served as conservation director for three trail clubs, and is a recent past president of the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition. For 10 years he served part summers as an alpine guide for two companies in the Swiss Alps following his occupational retirement in 2002. In addition, George has led hiking group adventures from Virginia to California. He now has years of exploring and leading hikes on trails in the Smokies, beginning with his children decades ago. Currently George serves as a leader in a southeastern regional project to provide accessible trails for the mobility impaired, mainly on public lands.

**Sherra Owen** is a retired Home Economics/Character Education Teacher of 33 years, mother of two sons and grandmother of six. In addition to being an Audubon Master Naturalist, Sherra is a Master Gardener, a member of the Garden Clubs of Mississippi, the Mississippi Native Plant Society and curator of the William Faulkner Literary Garden. Sherra is a Garden Lecture Series speaker and has been a popular native plant educator, tour guide and speaker since 1986. She and husband, Ken, maintain a backyard native woodland garden and a mile trail through a mature riparian forest which they open to the public in April where she educates about food, fun, folklore, medicinal value and sustainability of native plants. When asked how she would like to be introduced, she says simply, "I love God. I love my family. I love people. I love plants and nature and I love sharing stories about all of them."

**Jerry and Joan Paul of Lost Mill String Band** have been sharing their American Roots Music with visitors and locals of the Great Smoky Mountains and surrounding area since 2005. The duo sings and performs a variety of genres, including the music of Appalachia, both past and present. Joan plays harmonica, guitar and clawhammer banjo and Jerry plays upright bass and bluegrass banjo. Their presentation is a mix of history, humor and harmonies.

Email: [www.lost\\_mill@hotmail.com](mailto:www.lost_mill@hotmail.com) Website: [www.lostmill.com](http://www.lostmill.com)

**Jacki and Janis Proffitt** are craft artists who continue to draw from their rich history and cultural heritage of Appalachia. Woodworking has been in their family for several generations dating back to some of the first settlers in Sevier County. Proffitt's Woodworks was established in 1979 in the town of Pittman Center, Tennessee by their father, Ellis Proffitt. Jacki and Janis grew up helping their father in his shop learning their woodworking skills from him. For more than 20 years they have been running the family business carrying on traditional Appalachia turnings such as wooden fruit and bowls, candle holders, bud vases and many on-of-a-kind pieces using woods native to the area.

Website: [www.proffitts-woodworks.com](http://www.proffitts-woodworks.com)

**Jim Renfro** is the Air Resource Specialist for Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He started working for the Smokies in 1984, and is currently responsible for managing the Park's air quality program; one of the most comprehensive air monitoring programs in the National Park Service. He earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Forestry (Forest Recreation and Park Management) from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Jim's current duties at the Smokies include coordinating air resources management operations and monitoring activities at seven research stations. Jim has more than 31 years of experience in the areas of monitoring and research, public education and outreach projects, long-lasting partnerships, and air regulatory and policy issues related to the Clean Air Act and protection of Class I Areas under the Act and the effects of air pollution on the natural resources of the Park, specifically ozone, acid deposition, regional haze, particulate matter, mercury, and climate. Jim lives in Gatlinburg, Tennessee with his wife Jeanne (an elementary school teacher at Pi Beta Phi in Gatlinburg) and their three children Joey 16, Jaynie 19, and Jake 24.

**Jeff Rennie** is the keynote speaker for this year's Wilderness Wildlife Week. Crawling into the dens of hibernating black bears in Colorado, river rafting in China, exploring Antarctica on a Russian research vessel, climbing Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro, Jeff has traveled the world for more than 20 years as a writer for such prestigious publications as National Geographic Traveler, Reader's Digest, Backpacker and others. His writing on destinations on six continents has twice been awarded gold medals for excellence by the Society of American Travel Writers and includes over 250 magazine articles and 10 books such as Treasures of Alaska: Last Great American Wilderness published by National Geographic Books and Spirit of the Hills: Black Bears of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. His photography, known for its creative artistry, has been featured in publications such as Reader's Digest, National Geographic Traveler, and Backpacker and was included in an exhibit honoring the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in the American Museum on Natural History. He teaches Wilderness Literature and Nature Photography at Conserve School in Wisconsin's northwoods.

**Jim Rigsby** has, since 2013, co-produced a blog titled "Remembrance" on the Knoxville News Sentinel's website GoSmokies, memorializing the Smoky Mountain backcountry cemeteries. Jim's writing has appeared in the Indianapolis Star Magazine and a variety of commercial websites devoted to Smoky Mountain travel.



**Pamela Rodgers** is the Backcountry Information Specialist for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. She is a Leave No Trace Master Educator. She loves to hike and share her knowledge of the Smokies with park visitors.

**John Rose** is the cartoonist for the popular, long-running Snuffy Smith comic strip which is syndicated by King Features to hundreds of newspapers and websites worldwide, including many in Tennessee. He has authored three Snuffy Smith comic strip book collections.

**Tim Simek** has been playing both the mountain dulcimer and hammer dulcimer for 34 years playing a wide variety of traditional/contemporary music. He is a 2 time national champion, winning the national title for the mountain dulcimer in 1993 and the hammer dulcimer in 2011. Tim currently makes his living as a full-time musician, performer, recording artist and offers private lessons and workshops to those interested in taking up the art of music.

**Mark & Janet Snyder** are retired school educators who reside in Townsend, Tennessee. Both are members of Cades Cove Preservation Association, with Mark serving on the Board of the CCPA. Both Mark and Janet serve as Board Members of the Little River Railroad and Lumber Museum. They also maintain a section of the Appalachian Trail north of Newfound Gap. Mark is a driver/interpreter of the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center's 'Cades Cove Heritage Tours'. He also works part-time at the Townsend Visitor Center. Janet's love of hiking is evident in her quest to hike the entire AT. She was going to hike with or without Mark, so reluctantly he joined her. They completed their five year section hike in 2014. Both Mark and Janet are 900 mile hikers having completed all the park trails. They really enjoy off trail hiking looking for history prior to the creation of GSMNP.

**Marci Spencer** obtained A Master's of Science Degree from East Tennessee State University, which prepared her for a career as a nurse practitioner in the fields of cardiology, emergency services, family medicine and overseas medical missionary work. Now retired, Marci has volunteered for Great Smoky Mountains National Park, stationed at Clingmans Dome, and has authored three regional histories: "Clingmans Dome, Highest Mountain in the Great Smokies," (2013) "Pisgah National Forest: a History," (2014) and "Nantahala National Forest: a History," (2017), all published by History Press. In 2015, Grateful Steps Publishing Co. of Asheville published her children's book, based on true events, "Potluck, Message Delivered: "The Great Smoky Mountains are Saved!" The Yosemite Conservancy included Marci's essay, "Pine Siskins Make History" in its book, "The Wonder of it All: 100 Stories from the National Park Service," published to celebrate the centennial of the NPS. Marci earned naturalist certifications from the NC Arboretum, Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and the NC Environmentalist Education Program & offers presentations on the history of Pisgah, Nantahala and the Smokies. She has taught classes on the Spruce-Fir Forest Ecosystem at the N.C. Arboretum and on the history of Pisgah and Nantahala at the Blue Ridge Community College and the Montreat College Lifelong Learning Centers. She spoke to USFS Retirees from all over the country at their 2018 National Reunion at the Cradle of Forestry. Children attend her hands-on programs about the natural history of birds and bears at schools and summer camps.

**Lee Stetson** has portrayed John Muir in several productions in Yosemite National Park for more than a quarter of a million visitors since 1983. He is passionate about promoting the performing arts in the national parks. Stetson founded the Hawaii Performing Arts Company, served as the artistic manager of both the Hawaii Theatre Festival and the Antique Theatre Festival of Idaho, and has been a freelance director. As an actor, he has performed more than 50 major roles from Shakespeare to Neil Simon, and his television credits include a dozen episodes of Hawaii Five-0.

**Jim Strohm** is originally from the Midwest and is currently retired. He previously served in the US Navy for 20 years in the Submarine Service. After that he worked at the South Carolina State Ports Authority and retired after 17 years as a Heavy Lift Maintenance Supervisor. Jim currently volunteers with the American Red Cross Palmetto Chapter and responds to local disasters such as residential fires, floods, and ice storms. He is a Journeyman Beekeeper in the South Carolina Master Beekeeper program; a member of the Charleston Area Beekeepers Association; and the President of the Charleston Community Bee Gardens (CCBG). Jim has been beekeeping in the Lowcountry for seven years. Additionally, he teaches a South Carolina Certified Beekeeper Course annually along with several Beekeeping Seminars at the local

Technical College and frequently speaks to garden clubs about pollinators. The group recently held a week long “Junior Beekeeper Camp” during the summer for 7-14 year olds with a school as the sponsor.

**Alan Sutterfield** has been an actor and playwright for many years. Recently, he has played leading roles in James Joyce’s *The Dead*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. He is gratified to add Theodore Roosevelt to his acting credits, which include historic characters General Custer, Captain James Cook and John Merrick (*The Elephant Man*). Sutterfield’s latest play, *King Kalahkua’s Poker Game*, was produced in May 2013 in Honolulu.

**Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning**, an Oak Ridge-based environmental advocacy organization, was established in 1966. The organization empowers citizens to help our natural lands and waters through informational outings and programs and science-based comments on environmental issues. The bi-monthly TCWP Newsletter is acclaimed throughout the state as an outstanding informational resource on environmental issues. Enroll for free e-alerts at [www.tcwp.org](http://www.tcwp.org).

**Rick Turner** has been a VIP (Volunteer in Park) since 2004 working at the Sugarlands Visitor Center where he enjoys meeting, greeting and directing visitors to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Rick enjoys learning about and explaining the rich history of the land that forms GSMNP and what led up to the formation of the Park. From 2005 to 2012, Rick served as president of the Little River Railroad and Lumber Company Museum in Townsend, Tennessee which led to his developing programs about logging and railroads in what is now GSMNP. Prior to his volunteer work in GSMNP, Rick enjoyed a career as a software developer and is retired from the U.S. Navy.

**Becky Weaver** is a native of East Tennessee and has always enjoyed working with her hands to create useful items. She has been weaving baskets since 2005 and is a teacher at heart. She loves to share her skills with others, especially those who may not think they are not creative. Her style of basketry ranges from traditional Appalachian to rustic variations using local vines. Becky is a member of the Tennessee Basketry Association and the Foothills Craft Guild. She can be found demonstrating her craft at various historical events in the local area.

**David Weaver** is a native and lifelong resident of East Tennessee. He grew up watching his grandfather use his hands to make useful objects and continues the same by chair seat weaving. Because this is a dying art, David wants to share his skills with others. He is a member of the Foothills Craft Guild and can be found demonstrating his craft at various historical events in the local area.

**Don Wells** is President of the Mountain Stewards. The Mountain Stewards, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, formed in 2003 launched in conjunction with others in three states, the National Trail Tree Project to locate, document and preserve Indian Trail Trees which are part of the heritage of Native Americans. In late 2007, the Mountain Stewards launched the Indian Trails Mapping Program to more precisely map Indian Trails from old survey maps of the 1700 and 1800’s era. In 2011, Mountain Stewards published their book, *Mystery of the Trees* and produced the documentary *Mystery of the Trees* in 2015.

**Jerry Whaley** is an East Tennessee writer, photographer and Getty Images contributor. His images are marketed worldwide by Getty and several other stock photo agencies. Jerry’s images have appeared in *Sierra Club Calendars*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Blue Ridge Country*, *Outdoor Photographer*, *Peterson’s Photographic*, *Reiman’s Country*, *Backpacker*, *Southern Living* & many other books, magazines, postcards, calendars, and trade publications. Jerry is a regular contributor to the *Smoky Mountain Journal of Photography* and does photography workshops through the Smoky Mountain School of Photography at [www.smokymountainsop.com](http://www.smokymountainsop.com). You can see more of Jerry’s images at [www.jerrywhaley.photoshelter.com](http://www.jerrywhaley.photoshelter.com).

**David Whitehead** received a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from UT Knoxville in 1983 and started working for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in 1984 as a Wildlife Officer. In 1986 he transferred to the Wildlife Manager/Biologist position for the 6000-acre Tellico Lake Wildlife Management Area and the 305,000-acre South

Cherokee WMA which is part of the Cherokee National Forest. David started working with wildlife as a research volunteer in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1976 with wild hogs, then with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on the Brook Trout Recovery Project and as a Zoo Keeper at the Knoxville Zoo, working with the large carnivores. In 1983 he worked as a Wildlife Technician with the National Park Service on wild hog control and black bear management and continues to work with bears and wild hogs as a Wildlife Manager/Biologist. In 2016 David received the Wildlife Biologist of the Year Award. His wife, Anita, is a retired fourth grade teacher, and they have two daughters and five grandchildren. David retired March 31, 2017.

**WildOnes®** is a national non-profit (501c3) organization with the national office in Wisconsin. With about 50 chapters and a membership of over 4,000, the major goal is to encourage homeowners and businesses to include native plants in the landscape to promote local biospheres.

**Joe Williams** has performed and written music and poetry as the Appalachian Ragman in Sevier County for over thirty years. He currently performs as a member of an Americana band, The New Mountain Grass, though he often performs his music and poetry as a solo performance. The Ragman tailors his performances as journeys suited to the venue in which he's performing. Join him as he shares the story of the early ragmen of Appalachia and brings their important contributions as early traders and links of communication to life through stories, music and poetry. Joe has written three books of poetry as the Appalachian ragman including an e-book and CD of poetry and original music.

**Les Williams** is the current president of the Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club. He is a long time Pigeon Forge volunteer who is retired from a 40 year career as a school and church music director and organist. Les and his wife Cindy, also a longtime volunteer, are actively involved in several area organizations involving the history and heritage of the area.

**Wings of America** is an up-close look at America's magnificent Birds of Prey. This educational program features non-releasable birds including eagles, hawks, owls, falcons and vultures, some in amazing free flight. The program is a dramatic and effective way to learn about wildlife, environmental and ecological concerns.

**Bob Worthington** is a native of Michigan. After serving in the Army he worked for Pan American World Airways in Detroit. He continued in the transportation business in many capacities after Pan American. Now semi-retired, he works part-time delivering caskets for Batesville Casket Company. Lois English and Bob married three years ago. Bob states, "I caught my wife's love of butterflies from her."

**Lois English Worthington** has raised Monarchs, and five of the six Swallowtails that live in Tennessee, plus several different Fritillaries since 2007. She is a Master Gardener, member of Smoky Mountains Wild Ones, has a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat and a Certified Monarch Waystation (#1913). Lois is a volunteer at greenhouse and gardens at Sevierville Senior Center, and has volunteered at UT Gardens. She has given PowerPoint presentations at Wilderness Wildlife Week, Senior Centers, Garden Clubs, Schools, libraries, and churches. Her programs are about butterflies, flower gardens, and backyard animals. The Mountain Press did an article on her and fellow experts at the Sevierville Senior Center in the butterfly house on September 5, 2017. WVLT channel 8 TV aired a video on the Senior Center Butterfly House on September 29, 2017.

**Joel and Kathy Zachry** are the owners and guides for Great Outdoors! Adventure Travel and completed the 2,175 miles of the Appalachian Trail in 2005. They have been instructors for the University of Tennessee/National Park Service *Smoky Mountain Field School* since the early 1980s and are the current directors of the award-winning program in its 36<sup>th</sup> season.

Website: [www.gowithgoat.com](http://www.gowithgoat.com)

E-mail: [joel@gowithgoat.com](mailto:joel@gowithgoat.com)