

MyPigeonForge.com



WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE WEEK
PIGEON FORGE ★ TN

32ND ANNUAL

Program Guide



JANUARY 22-25, 2024

AT THE RAMSEY HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER

3230 Parkway • Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

PIGEON FORGE
TENNESSEE

Free Event!

Cover art courtesy of Ken Jenkins



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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 22-25), please call (865) 453-8574.

* All schedules and activities subject to change.



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**WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE WEEK**
PIGEON FORGE ★ TN



*Voted Best Fried Chicken
in The Smokies!*



EXTENDED BREAKFAST HOURS SATURDAY & SUNDAY 8AM - 1PM



From Mama's delicious, award winning biscuits to sausage, gravy and hashbrown casserole, Mama will fill you up and get your day started right.

And on the weekend, you don't even have to get up early to make it breakfast on time because we serve it until 1:00pm!!!



HAVE A GROUP OF HUNGRY FOLKS TO FEED?

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CALL OUR GROUP SALES DEPARTMENT
FOR MENU OPTIONS & PRICING

 **800-992-9780**

www.mamasfarmhouse.com

208 PICKEL STREET - PIGEON FORGE

Welcome to Wilderness Wildlife Week!

Greetings and welcome to all the Wilderness Wildlife Week attendees and friends. I hope you enjoy each and every moment of this great event. With the rich history of Wilderness covering a wide range of topics, hikes, photography and music it is hard to pick where to go next throughout the days!



JAYNE MILLER-CARR

In volunteering with the City of Pigeon Forge for so many years our events have become near and dear to my heart, especially Wilderness Wildlife Week. In joining the Office of Special Events I realize I have big shoes to try to fill with the legacy of Brandon and Butch and Wilderness. I hope with your help we can keep Wilderness not only running but thriving in the future.

There are so many wonderful things about our Great Smoky Mountains and the Appalachian area that we can discover and explore.

I hope you will continue to explore them with me and the Special Events team.

JAYNE MILLER-CARR, Special Events Coordinator

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

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WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE WEEK
PIGEON FORGE ★ TN

In The Heart of Pigeon Forge

Enjoy a luxurious hotel at an affordable price.



Event Location Hours of Operation

The Ramsey Hotel & 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

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.



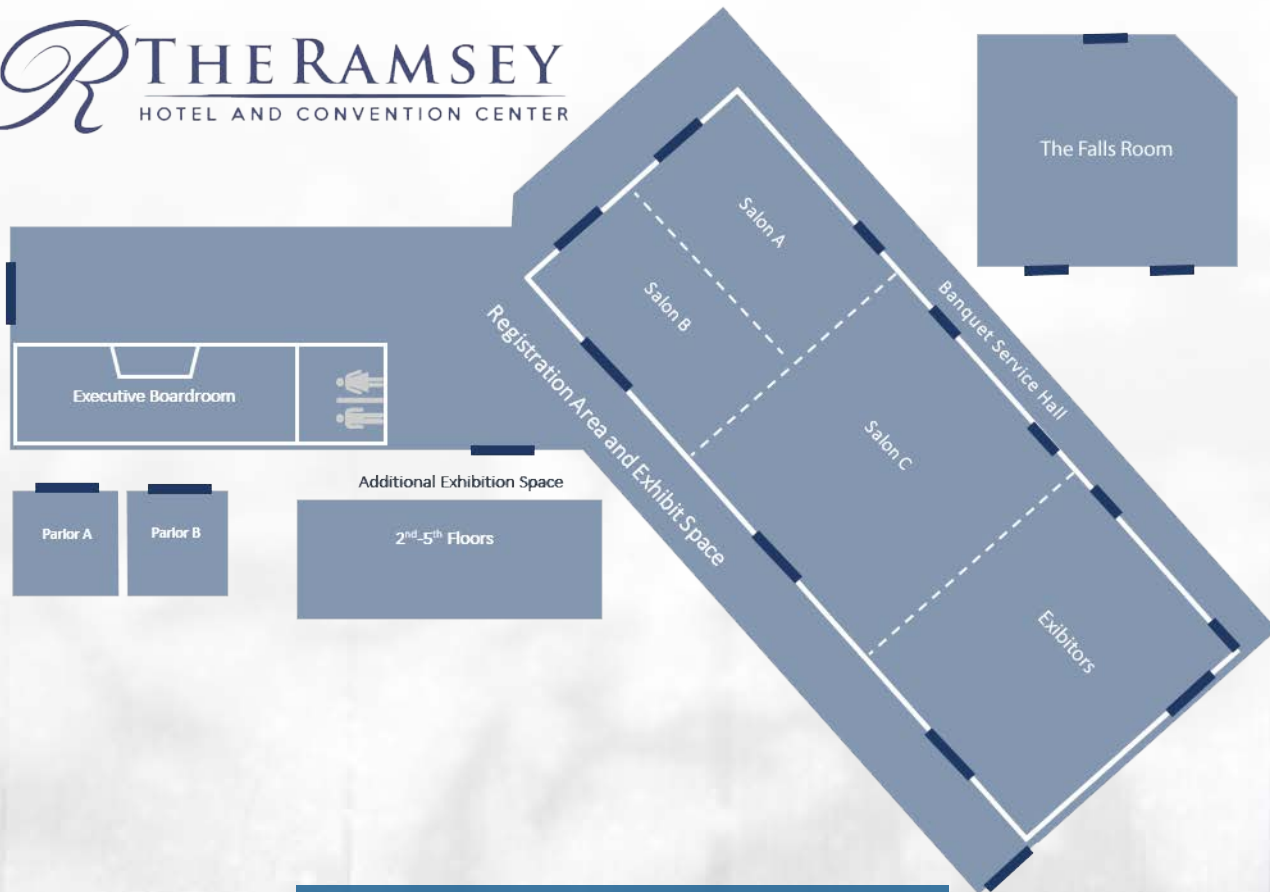
In The Heart of Pigeon Forge

206 Interior Corridor Guest Rooms

12,000 sq. ft. Convention & Meeting Space

Indoor Waterfall Pool, Fire-Pit & Popcorn Movie Nights

On Site Map



Wilderness Wildlife Week 2024 Exhibitors and Vendors

Aurora Harrison Bull, Artist
Cades Cove Preservation Association
Custom Beaded
Danita Dodson, Author
Discover Life in America
East Tennessee Historical Society
Exotic Pet Wonderland
Great Smoky Mountains Association
Jewelry Designs by LaDonna
Keep Sevier Beautiful
Louise Bales, Artist
Moon Pie General Store & Original Book Warehouse
Mountain Nuts
Mountain Wildlife Rehab
My People Senior Activity Center
Nancy East, Author
Natural Look Woodcarving
Pat Thomas, Artist

Pink Jeep Tours
Proffitts Woodworks
Richard Way, Stanford Johnson, Authors
Sevier County Master Gardeners
Smoky Mountain Historical Society
Smoky Mountain Living Magazine
Tennessee State Bank
The Salt Maker
Tim Simek Music
Tree of Life Creations
Wildflowers of Tennessee
Wild Ones Mountain Chapter
Wilderness Wildlife Week 2024 Merchandise

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PIGEON FORGE ★ TN

Pre-Registration Sessions



1. Class descriptions will be on line in mid fall.
2. Online sign ups begin on January 8, 2024. You may only register one name 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 not encountered on a daily basis.



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!





New Outdoor Excursions Sign-Up Information

Sponsored by



**Tennessee
State Bank**
"Banking at its Best"

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 starting this year!!
2. The hikes, bus trips, jeep tours, specialty and craft classes will be posted on the mypigeonforge.com website starting in mid December 2023. There will be a list and description of each activity.
3. Starting on January 8, 2024 you will be able to register online for **one hike or bus trip per day**. One name per online preregistration form.
4. You will receive a confirmation email upon successfully completing the sign-up.
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 & 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



Timeless
TSB Visa® Credit Card



Snow Line
TSB Visa® Debit Card

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.



Member FDIC

Tennessee State Bank

"Banking at its Best"®



(865) 453-0873

www.tnstatebank.com

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 7, 2024

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 22-25, 2024, at The Ramsey Hotel & 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 & 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	Manmade 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.

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 image 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 Wednesday, January 24th before 5:00 pm or contact cheryl.lutes@cityofpigeonforgetn.gov for an earlier pickup.



GENERAL STORE AND THE ORIGINAL Book Warehouse

Store Hours

SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY:

9AM - 8PM

FRIDAY THRU SATURDAY:

9AM - 10PM



✓ MOON PIES

✓ GIFTS

✓ BOOKS

✓ CANDY

✓ TIN SIGNS

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✓ CANVAS ART

✓ AND MORE!



200,000 + Books

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865-428-5708

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

GREAT MILESTONE GIFTS FOR KIDS!

OFFICIAL EVENT MERCH

Check out some of the great merchandise available for 2024!

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

Monday, January 22



KEN JENKINS & FRIENDS

7:30 PM – The Way It Was

Ken Jenkins, professional photographer and father 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 in 1990, Wilderness Wildlife Week is a free event built around the principles of family, education and enjoyment of the outdoors. While Wilderness Wildlife Week is an award-winning event, having won prestigious awards from the International Festivals and Events Association, the best facet of the event is that the event has remained true to its values and has continued to grow and incorporate new components to further educate, entertain and connect folks to our natural world.

Ken Jenkins will moderate a panel of some longtime residents from the Cades Cove and Appalachian area. They will be discussing the Great Smoky Mountain National Park before it became a National Park through stories from themselves and family members.

Tuesday, January 23

KEN JENKINS & JUDY FELTS

7:30 PM – Heaven & Nature Sings

Judy Felts moved to Nashville in 1980 to pursue a music career as a performer at Opryland USA and later traveling with Grand Ole Opry Star Bill Anderson, 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 TN State University. She taught high school music in Arkansas & Tennessee. She has sung for numerous churches, women's conferences, special events and mission organizations. She has recorded 3 CD's. Her newest CD is a Christmas CD completed in 2022. She has traveled to over 15 foreign countries.



Judy has served as a volunteer at the TN Prison for Women facilitating a worship service since 1999. In 2019 Judy started a non-profit organization called "Oak Cottage for Women," a transition home for women coming out of prison. The home opened in Franklin, TN in June, 2020. A second home was opened in March 2022.

Judy is actively involved in her community. For the last 12 years she has been involved in the Herb Society of Nashville and served as the Chairman from 2020 - 2022. She is a member of the Franklin Noon Rotary and the Williamson County Chamber and she is active in her church at Christ Presbyterian and is a member of the choir.

Judy has a wide variety of interests. Judy and her husband are both Master Gardeners and Judy speaks for numerous garden organizations on growing and cooking with Herbs. Judy also loves bread making and offers classes on making bread.

Judy has been married to Mike Felts for 40 years and 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 17 years and are available for churches, conferences and events.

Meet the Featured Speakers

Wednesday, January 24

ALAN WILLIAMS

7:30 PM: "Going My Way with Alan Williams"

Alan Williams found his niche in telling stories on TV way back in 1979 when he began as a TV sports anchor. It quickly developed into telling stories about us, our heritage, our mountains and the folks that make it special. Alan is a native East Tennessean. His mother's side of the family is from Sevier and Blount County, mostly settling in Wears Valley and Townsend. Alan retired two years ago but was lured back in a TV series called "Going My Way with Alan Williams" and seen weekly on WVLT-TV in Knoxville. His stories range from our heritage to the historic. You can also find his YouTube Channel, Going My Way with Alan Williams.



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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 2024:

PIGEON FORGE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EVENTS STAFF

KEN JENKINS
LEON DOWNEY
JOHN CLABOUGH
MARVELLE SEWELL
COLBY McCLEMORE
DOUG HUBBARD



**JAYNE
MILLER-CARR**
SPECIAL EVENTS
COORDINATOR

**SHERRY
LUTES**
SPECIAL EVENTS
COORDINATOR

**RYAN
MORRIS**
SPECIAL EVENTS
COORDINATOR

**JON
ELDER**
SPECIAL EVENTS
MANAGER

**TODD
HURST**
SPECIAL EVENTS
COORDINATOR

WE WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU THE AWARDS WILDERNESS WILDLIFE WEEK HAS RECEIVED THIS YEAR!



HOW TO BE A CONTRIBUTOR

Interested in being involved as a contributor for Wilderness Wildlife Week 2025?
Please contact the Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events at 865.429.7350, or by email events@mypigeonforge.com

MONDAY, JANUARY 22 | EXCURSIONS

Sign-ups online starting January 8, 2024.

HIKES

Chimney Tops (4 miles, Strenuous)

7:30 AM-3 PM

Guide: Todd Hurst

3.5- 4 hr Hike - Limit: 12

This will be an interesting hike for those who know of the devastating fires the Smokies endured in late November 2016. The Chimneys were closed for an extended period and has only recently partially reopened. You will be able to ascertain some of the destruction and regrowth as you journey up a portion of the trail to where the gate area is located due to the uncertain terrain above. The views at the top are well worth the hike. Please bring water, snack, sturdy boots/shoes.

Seven Islands State Birding Park (3 miles, Easy)

7:30 AM-2:00 PM

Guide: Keith Watson

4.5hr Hike - Limit: 15

Birding lovers, this is the hike for you. The hike is mostly on a mowed grass trail, with paved roads and walkways on sections. Bring your binoculars as your guide will be able to point out and discuss some of up to 190 species of birds, and from novice to professional birders will be rewarded for the experience. This park was named "State Park of the Year" for 2023 by Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Rainbow Falls Trail (5.1 miles, Moderate-Difficult)

9:30 AM- 3:30 PM

Guide: Stella Koret

3.5 hr Hike- Limit: 12

The original trail is arguably the oldest or earliest route to Mount LeConte. The trail begins off Cherokee Orchard road and you will be rewarded for your climb by the beautiful Rainbow Falls of LeConte Creek and the 82 foot drop of the falls. The mist reflecting in the sunlight gives the falls its name. Please bring water, a snack, rain gear and sturdy hiking boots/shoes. You will cross LeConte Creek at least twice.

Hiking with the Llamas (5.5 miles, Easy/Moderate)

8:30 AM - 3:45 PM

Guide: Laura Higgins, MD, San Juan Mtns Llama Treks

4.5-5hr Hike - Limit 10

Come and hike with a Llama on this old historic trail. You will first learn about the Llamas and go over some instructions in a short lesson from Dr. Higgins. You will hike the wide footpath, following an old road bed and there is one stream crossing while you learn about the history of the C.C.C. camp and the Old Cemetery on the Old Sugarlands Trail. Children 6 years and older are welcome on this hike if they accompanied by a parent/legal guardian. Please wear good hiking boots/shoes, bring a lunch or snack and water.

BUS TRIPS

Cades Cove and Little River Tour (Easy to Moderate)

9:00 AM - 4 PM

Guide: Kathy Gwinn

6-7 Hrs (Bring your sack lunch)- Limit 23

Highlights on this trip would include the history of the families in Cades Cove, history of the Civil War in the Cove, the Cherokee in the area, logging and C.C.C. camp in the area. There will be some walking back to the churches, cabins, cemeteries etc... You will need to bring a sack lunch and water for a picnic style lunch break.

Pink Jeep Tours

10 am & 2 PM

Approximately 2.5 - 3 Hours Each Tour - RIDER LIMIT: 6 EACH TOUR

You will have a chance to take a scenic and educational tour of the 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 2024 Program Schedule

MONDAY, JANUARY 22 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2024

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
9 AM - 10 AM	For 4 Years North Platte Nebraska Became a Family for 6 Million Soldiers in WWII	Rosemary Deitzer, Diana Kloenne	Salon A	North Platte Nebraska fed and connected with 6 million soldiers at their railroad depot during WWII.
9 AM - 10:30 AM	Stream Fishing for Small Mouth Bass	Greg D. Ward, Rocky Top Outfitter	Salon B	A How-To class on catching stream small mouth bass locally. We will cover bait, equipment, and technique.
9 AM - 10 AM	Fox Tails!	Rhonda Goins, Gail Stout	Salon C	Learn about red foxes, their behavior, family life and general facts about these sly critters. Meet a fox and learn about a sanctuary for these beautiful creatures.
9 AM - 10 AM	Wild Flowers of Tennessee	Jack Carman	Falls Room	Wildflowers across the state of Tennessee
10 AM - 6 PM	Photography Contest Exhibit	Event Staff	Falls Foyer Balcony	A running digital display of the photography contest entries, and the winning photos!
10 AM - 6 PM	Exhibits and Vendors		Lobby & Salon D	
10 AM - 11 AM	Making Natural Gemstone Earrings - (Preregistration. 18 yrs and older.)	LaDonna Twyman	Parlor A	Learn how to wire wrap a natural gemstone for a pendant.
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Look & Touch Wildlife Program	Chris Ogle, TWRA	Salon C	This will be an interactive program with preserved wildlife specimens & a live reptile.
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	What Makes the Smokies the Most Visited National Park and Ways to Improve It	Bill Deitzer, Jay & Sandra Aldrich	Falls Room	Discuss why the Smokies are the most visited National Park and ways to improve it.
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Adventures of Ted and Fred - (Kid's Track)	Keep America Beautiful	Salon A	This is a fun interactive lesson that focuses on storm water through a fun adventure of two fish friends traveling downstream. One enjoys a clean stream while the other encounters pollutants along the way.
11 AM - 12:30 PM	Stream Fishing for Trout	Greg Ward, Rocky Top Outfitter	Salon B	A How To class on catching stream trout from area streams. Equipment, baits, and techniques will all be discussed.
12 PM - 1 PM	Introduction to the Big South Fork Region of TN/Ky	Keith Garnes, Craig Johnston	Falls Room	An introduction to the Big South Fork and Pickett CCC Memorial State Park's natural features and points of interest.
12 PM - 1 PM	I Spy with my Eagle Eye: Field Identification of Diurnal Raptors in East Tennessee	Dr. Robyn Miller, American Eagle Foundation	Salon C	Get ready to spread your wings & dive into the captivating world of raptor identification in the heart of East Tn. This presentation promises a mix of expert insights and a pinch of pun-filled fun, tailored for nesting raptor enthusiasts and fully-fledged eagle experts alike.
1 PM - 2:30 PM	Carving and Owl Ornament - (Preregistration. 12 yrs and older. Minors must be accompanied by a Parent/Guardian. Must bring your own knife. Limit: 8)	Don Taylor	Parlor A	Wood carving an owl, using a carving knife, stop cuts, and relief carving. "Bring your own knife"
1 PM - 3 PM	"Painting Nature in Oils" - (Preregistration. 12 yrs and older. Limit: 10)	Aurora Harrison Bull	Parlor B	Students will paint an 8 x 10 oil painting w/materials provided and following a demonstration.

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2024 Program Schedule

MONDAY, JANUARY 22 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
1 PM - 2 PM	Animals in Disguise - (Preregistration. Kid's Track, ALL age kids. Limit: 50)	Nessie O'Neil, Lindsey Hembree	Salon AB	Young explorers will learn all about the secrets of animal camouflage and mimicry, and they'll get a chance to put their creativity to the test. Kids will receive an animal (form) of their choosing and decorate in a way that will help it best to survive in the wild.
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	"Growing Up in Pigeon Forge in the 60's"	Butch Helton, Jackie Barnes, Harriet Barrier, Bill Bradley	Salon C	Panel discussion with Butch Helton as the Moderator. Sharing memories of Pigeon Forge in the 60's. Question & answer format.
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Arches Along the Way	Keith Garnes, Craig Johnston	Falls Room	A presentation of arches and natural bridges along Tennessee's trails.
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	"Wiley Oakley-Living and Dying in the Smokies"	Lew Bolton	Salon AB	Wiley's true tales about the customs and events of daily life and death in the mountains.
3 PM - 4 PM	Waterfalls & Natural Features of the GSMNP	Keith Garnes, Craig Johnston	Salon C	Waterfalls, overlooks, and natural features of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.
3 PM - 4 PM	Cellphoneography-getting the most from your cellphone's camera!	Colby McLemore	Falls Room	Discover the full potential of your cellphone's camera! Join us for this hands-on presentation that will elevate your photography skills. Get ready to embark on this thrilling experience and take your wildlife photography to new heights!
4 PM - 5 PM	A Cades Cove Wiley Oakley-Uncle Sherman Myers	Bernard Myers	Salon AB	Gatlinburg had Wiley Oakley who rubbed elbows with the rich and famous... Cades Cove had Daniel Sherman Myers who never got the opportunity...Uncle Sherman got his quick wit from his mother's Irish ancestors...Never at a loss for a reply to any situation...most of them hilarious!
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Ragman and the Deep Woods Ensemble	Joseph Williams & Friends	Falls Room	Poetry and music of the Ragman stemming from his life in the mountains. The poetry and music of the mountains.
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	New Joints and Gear for Old Hikers	Joel & Kathy Zachry	Salon C	Join Joel and Kathy for a discussion on how newer equipment, gear, and information on joint replacement to make hiking easier.
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	The Ten Essentials Everyone Should Carry	Joey Holt	Salon AB	The ten essentials everyone should carry with them, and the importance of each.
6 PM - 7:30 PM	Boogertown Gap Old-Time String Band Concert	Boogertown Gap	Falls Room	The band will perform a concert of old-time Appalachian traditional music. All ages will appreciate the variety of musical instruments used during the concert.
6 PM - 7 PM	From Rim to Rim on a Whim-Grand Canyon Adventure	Charles Maynard, David Morris	Salon C	A walk through time with three old friends from the North Rim across the Colorado River to the South Rim. David and Charles will share their Grand Adventure in an amazing iconic national park with pictures and stories.
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM	"The Way It Was"	Ken Jenkins and Friends	Salon ABC	Ken Jenkins will moderate a panel of some longtime residents from the Cades Cove and Appalachian area. They will be discussing the Great Smoky Mountain National Park before it became a National Park through stories from themselves and family members.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 | EXCURSIONS

Sign-ups online starting January 8, 2024.

HIKES

Little River>Huskey Gap>Newfound Gap Road (6.5 miles, Moderate)

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Guide: Joel & Kathy Zachry

4hr hike - Limit: 15

Starting out at the Elkmont Little River Trailhead you will learn about the history and culture of the area, discover the flora, fauna, and back country safety. There is at least one river/stream crossing, exposed roots and steep slopes on this trail. Please wear sturdy boots, layers, bring rain gear, trail snacks, and water to have a safe and enjoyable time!

Laurel Falls/ Walker Sisters (8.5 miles-Moderate/Strenuous)

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Guides: Charles Maynard/David Morris

6.5 hr hike- Limit: 12

Starting at the Laurel Falls Trail Head, crossing the bridged river crossing (which may be icy) the hike climbs around 1000 feet in 3 miles, and you will see the beautiful 80-foot high waterfall. Continuing on Cove Mountain to the Walker Sisters' cabin (which is now open again), you will learn about the geology of the Smokies, the logging, the Old Growth Forest, the Walker Sisters, Little Greenbrier school and church, ending in the scenic Metcalf Bottoms Picnic area.

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

9:00 AM – 3:30 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 which features a short climb and 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 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!

Metcalf Bottoms>Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse>Walker Sisters' Cabin (4 miles, Easy)

9:00 AM – 3 PM

Guide: Clayton LePrees

3-4 hr hike - Limit: 12 - Smoky Mountain Guides are providing transportation bus

This easy hike starts at the Metcalf Bottoms picnic area near Wears Cove and makes a gentle climb to the one-room Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse which operated from 1882 until 1936. The hike continues to the Walker Sisters' cabin, home to the sisters who continued to live a traditional mountaineer lifestyle after the creation of the GSMNP. Along the way we'll have an opportunity to learn about many plants and animals that call this area home. Bring water, a snack and wear good walking shoes/boots please.

BUS TRIPS

Cades Cove Museum & Blount County Museum (Easy)

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Guide: Richard Anderson

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 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.

Pink Jeep Tours

10 am & 2 PM

Approximately 2.5 - 3 Hours Each Tour - RIDER LIMIT: 6 EACH TOUR

You will have a chance to take a scenic and educational tour of the 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 2024 Program Schedule

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2024

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
9 AM - 10 AM	Milling Around at the Old Mill	Chuck Childers	Salon A	A look at the happenings behind the scenes at the Old Mill.
9 AM - 10 AM	Wildflowers of the Smokies	Jack Carman	Salon B	Wildflowers found in the Smoky Mountains.
9 AM - 10 AM	Bats of Tennessee	Chris Ogle, TWRA	Salon C	We will take a look at the life history of bats found in Tennessee, as well as highlight several research projects involving bats in the state.
9 AM - 10 AM	Appalachian History with the Salt Maker	Jim Bordwine	Falls Room	Come and learn about the history of salt in Appalachia.
10 AM - 6 PM	Photography Contest Exhibit	Event Staff	Falls Foyer Balcony	A running digital display of the photography contest entries and the winning photos!
10 AM - 6 PM	Exhibits and Vendors		Lobby and Salon D	
10 AM - 11 AM	Wire Wrapping a Natural Gemstone - (Preregister. 18 years and older. Limit: 12)	LaDonna Twyman	Parlor A	Learn how to wire wrap a natural gemstone for a pendant.
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Logging in the Smokies	Rick Turner	Salon A	This program provides an in depth look at how railroads forever changed the Great Smoky Mountains and specifically the Elkmont area in the way people lived and worked there prior to the establishment of the Park in 1934.
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Andy Huff, The Mountain View Hotel, & Gatlinburg's Huff Family	Kathy Gwinn	Salon B	The impact of Andy & Martha Huff, and their 2 sons in the town of Gatlinburg, the Pi Beta Pi, and lodging
10:30 AM - 12 PM	Wonder of Wolves	Rhonda Goins & Gail Stout	Salon C	Our experiences living with and socializing wolves for 24 years. Rhonda, as a retired Park Ranger, and Gail, volunteering for these inhabitants of Bays Mountain Park.
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	"Build a Wild Bed" - (Preregister. Kid's Track. Limit : 12 children. A Parent/Guardian must accompany child.)	Jim & Karen Summerville	Parlor B	We will talk about wildlife sleeping spaces and utilizing natural materials and play dough, create nests or miniature dens.
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Appalachian Sounds: Part One	Knoxville Dulcimer Club	Falls Room	Musicians from the Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club will play a variety of traditional songs on dulcimers and other accompanying instruments.
12 PM - 1 PM	Smokies Most Wanted: Record Life in the Smokies	Discover Life in America: Jaimie Matzko and Will Kuhn	Salon B	Do you visit the Smokies? Do you have a phone? Then you can contribute to science in the Smokies. 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 science project called Smokies Most Wanted. It's fun, easy, and a great way for kids and families! (Parent/Guardian permission required for kids under 13)
12 PM - 1 PM	Adventures in the Woods-Our Stories	Sherra Owen	Salon A	This is an interactive sharing of woodland fun and artifacts.



Wilderness Wildlife Week 2024 Program Schedule

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
12 PM - 1 PM	Appalachian Sounds: Part Two	Knoxville Dulcimer Club	Falls Room	Musicians from the Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club will play a variety of traditional songs on dulcimers and other accompanying instruments.
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Raccoon Report	Nessie O'Neil, Linsey Hembree	Salon C	Come and learn about the lives, behaviors, and adaptations of raccoons both in captivity and the wild, as well as the proper husbandry of these amazing animals in zoos and sanctuaries. As a special treat, get up close and personal with a live raccoon ambassador and gain a new found appreciation for these clever and charismatic creatures.
1 PM - 2:30 PM	Carving an Owl Ornament - (Preregister. 12 years and older. Minors must be accompanied by an Parent/Guardian. Limit: 8 Must bring your own knife.)	Don Taylor	Parlor A	Wood carving an owl using carving knife, stop cuts and relief carving. Bring your own knife
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	The Civilian Conservation Corps-FDR'S Tree Army	Bil Deitzer, Diane Kloenne	Salon A	The CCC program improved U.S. Parks, forests, and agriculture, created job opportunities and developed skills.
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Cades Cove Baptist Church Records 1826 to 1971	Stephen G. Weber	Salon B	History of Cades Cove Primitive Baptist Church, baptisms, ministers, feuds, exclusions, and last meetings. From the Great-Grandson of William H. Oliver, a minister of the church. (Yes, that Oliver)
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Winter Hummingbirds in East Tennessee	Mark Armstrong	Falls Room	Hummingbirds are rare birds during the winter in East Tennessee. Most of them are Rufous hummingbirds, but other species are possible. We are participating in a long term project to study these special birds.
2 PM - 3 PM	Raptor Rehabilitation and Veterinary Opportunities in Wildlife Medicine	Michael Jones, DVM, ABVP & Nancy Zagaya, LVMT	Salon C	Four bald eagle reports from the American Eagle Foundation Veterinary Team: rescue, physical exam, rehab, and release. Also a discussion of veterinary opportunities in wildlife medicine.
2 PM - 3 PM	"Thumbprint Designs" - (Preregistration. Kid's Track, All Ages. Minor must be accompanied by a Parent/Guardian. Limit: 12 participants.)	Aurora Harrison Bull	Parlor B	This class will be FOR ALL AGES (geared toward children, but adults enjoy it too). They will be making animated characters with their own thumbprint to tell a story.
3 PM - 4 PM	Graveyard Forensics-"Who are you Walking On"	Arthur M. Bohanan	Salon B	This presentation takes forensic science into the cemeteries, old and new, using simple methods to read old grave stones, locating and gendering long dead. Many updates from current cases in 2023. Civil War graves located. Come visit, see, learn and ponder much.
3 PM - 4 PM	Murder and Mayhem in the Great Smoky Mountains	Stanford Johnson	Salon A	Stanford will discuss two books: At The Dead of Midnight: A Bloody Reign of Terror in the Great Smoky Mountains, and Our LITTLE Secret: A Smoky Mountain's Family Saga and Coming of Age Story Inspired by True Crimes. He will also discuss why he chooses to write what he writes.
3 PM - 4 PM	People, Plants and Their Stories	Sherra Owen	Falls Room	Come and experience general plant stories from 1612 to present day!!

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2024 Program Schedule

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Birds of the Smokies and Sevier County	Keith Watson	Salon C	A powerpoint presentation will be offered to highlight the birds of the Smokies and Sevier County, Tennessee.
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	"Incredible Wild Edibles"	Donna Cyr	Salon A	Common wild plants that grow right outside your door. Some are used for food, others for medicine, and some are used for utilitarian purposes. And plants that can be used for all three purposes.
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Modern Navigation: Are Map & Compass Obsolete?	Nancy East, SAR	Salon B	Come learn about the pros and pitfalls of various ways to navigate in the wilderness, including a deep dive into the world of navigation apps.
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Mountain Ballads	Ruth Barber & Brenda Lentz Dawson	Falls Room	Ruth and Brenda will sing and share the histories of mountain ballads from the early settlers up to the 1920s.
5 PM - 6 PM	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 solo hike the Appalachian Trail in 1955. This dramatization is based off the book "Grandma Gatewood's Walk".
6 PM - 7 PM	Friends of the Smokies: Preserving Forever Places	Dana Sohen	Salon AB	Discover how Friends of the Smokies, an organization that has been a stalwart champion of the GSMNP for decades, has harnessed the power of community and generosity, putting over \$87 million in donor dollars to work, safeguarding and enriching America's most visited National Park. Learn how their newest endeavor, Forever Places, is committed to ensuring the long-term protection of cherished historic treasures like the Walker Sister's Cabin, the awe-inspiring Mt. Cammerer Fire Tower, and so much more. Discover how these iconic landmarks are not just relics of the past, but vibrant connections to the rich history of the Great Smoky Mountains.
6 PM - 7 PM	"We Need a Little Christmas"	Hills-N-Hollows	Falls Room	Hear the songs, traditions and the stories of the Mountain People during the 12 days of Christmas
6:10 PM - 6:30 PM	Everything Smokies	Jane Maurer	Salon C	Learn how the official educational partner supports the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Heaven and Nature Sing	Judy Felts, Ken Jenkins and Friends	Salon ABC	End your evening on a high note with music and photographs telling a beautiful story of how heaven and nature combine to uplift and refresh the soul.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24 | EXCURSIONS

Sign-ups online starting January 8, 2024.

HIKES

Twin Creeks Trail (2.5 miles, Easy/Moderate)

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Guide: Jaimie Matzko

4 hr hike- Limit: 15

Do you visit the Smokies? Do you have a phone? Then you can contribute to community science in the Smokies through the Smokies Most Wanted Project! On this hike, you will learn how to use a nature app called iNaturalist to document the animals & plants you encounter in the GSMNP (bring your phones). We will also be touring the park's natural history collection at the Twin Creek Science Center to learn more about Discover Life in Americas work on the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, an ambitious project to document every species in the park! ***There is at least one stream crossing that may require a "rock hop" during high water. Twin Creek Trail Head is the start and Noah Bud Ogle Parking Lot is the trail end.**

Mt Sterling (Baxter Creek) (13 miles, Strenuous)

7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Guide: Marty Silver

8 hr hike- Limit: 25

Hike to the high country above Big Creek. Enjoy the young woodlands full of birds and small mammals, and the many hints of early human settlement. Work hard to climb up to the fire tower, where we will enjoy (weather permitting) awesome 360 views of the surrounding mountains. 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. ***Some steep & rocky places, and some long uphill grades.**

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

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Guide: Keith Garnes

6 Hr Hike- Limit: 12

This historic hike will start and end back at School House Gap. This area is a small basin surrounded by steep hills. Along with a few sink holes, 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.

BUS TRIPS

Appalachian Bear Rescue (Easy)

9 AM – 1 PM

Guide: Don Luckett

Limit: 24

You will be transported through the beautiful Wears Valley area to the Appalachian Bear Rescue's Trillium Cove Visitor & Education Center in Townsend. There you will learn about the rehabilitation of orphaned and injured bear cubs and view the 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..

Pink Jeep Tours

10 AM & 2 PM

Approximately 2.5 - 3 Hours Each Tour - RIDER LIMIT: 6 EACH TOUR

You will have a chance to take a scenic and educational tour of the 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 2024 Program Schedule

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Pre-register for limited sessions in RED online starting January 8, 2024

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
9 AM - 10 AM	Snakes Alive!! - (Preregister for the craft class. Kid's Track, 12 years and under for craft class. Limit: 30)	Rhonda Goins, Gail Stout	Salon C	Learn about snakes and interact with them. Kids can also make a craft snake to take home with them!
9 AM - 10 AM	"The Pottery That Helped Mold Pigeon Forge"	Christina Wolfenbarger	Salon A	Pigeon Forge Pottery was a tourism staple for decades in the City of Pigeon Forge. But do you know how truly deep its roots go and its surprising connection to TVA? Join us for an in-depth look at this early tourism icon and potter Douglas Ferguson.
9 AM - 10 AM	Living with Natives-Food, Folklore, Medicine & More	Sherra Owen	Salon B	Using the 5 senses to experience daily life around native plants, highlighting nature's most important plant.
9 AM - 10 AM	Image Selection and Judging Criteria for Photography Competition	Douglas Hubbard	Falls Room	How do we judge a photograph? Some say that the choice is arbitrary or is just an opinion. This presentation is to explain some of the more common guidelines used in a judging photographs and to show there is structure to this process and that it is not just a personal opinion. Even if you are not interested in competing, this program should help in understanding the judge's selections and also when objectively evaluating your images.
10 AM - 6 PM	Photography Contest Exhibit	Event Staff	Falls Foyer Balcony	A running digital display of the photography contest entries and the winning photos!
10 AM - 6 PM	Exhibits and Vendors		Salon D and Lobby	
10 AM - 11 AM	Making Natural Gemstone Earrings - (Preregister. 18 years and older. Limit: 12)	LaDonna Twyman	Parlor A	Learn how to make natural gemstone earrings.
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Mythological Creatures of Tennessee	Chris Ogle, TWRA	Salon C	Join a TWRA biologist to learn the TRUTH about goatsuckers, hoop snakes, and black panthers in Tennessee.
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	People Who Shaped the Smokies	Bill Deitzer, Diane Kloenne	Salon AB	Smokies history involving Mayna Avent, Colonel Townsend, Elkmont, Lem Ownby, and Bill Walker.
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	How to Photograph a Solar Eclipse	Steve Zigler	Falls Room	A total eclipse of the sun is one of the most spectacular events in nature. This program will teach you how to photograph an eclipse and enjoy the incredible experience at the same time.
12 PM - 1 PM	"Incredible Wild Edibles"	Donna Cyr	Salon AB	Common wild plants that grow right outside your door. Some are used for food, others for medicine, and some are used for utilitarian purposes. And plants that can be used for all three purposes.
12 PM - 1 PM	"Mayday Mayday Plane Down"	Joey Holt	Salon C	Stories and histories of plane crashes inside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and surrounding Appalachian Mountains through the eyes of a Search And Rescue volunteer.



Wilderness Wildlife Week 2024 Program Schedule

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
12 PM - 1 PM	Image Post Processing	Douglas Hubbard	Falls Room	One person's approach to image editing from start to finish. This program will demonstrate basic techniques to edit images with intent, composition and eye movement within the photograph.
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Bookbinding - Preregister. 16 years and older. Limit: 8	Pat K. Thomas	Parlor A	A simple book will be constructed using bookboard, glue, thread, and decorative papers.
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	The Intelligence of Corvids	Ashley Frye, American Eagle Foundation	Salon C	Corvids are the smartest birds on earth. Their intelligence is in mythology, history, and science across the world. Let's explore how the world views these incredible birds and their problem solving abilities.
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	A Journey on the Applachian Trail	Edd Spencer	Salon AB	My journey as a section hiker on this fantastic trail of 2,175 miles from Georgia to Maine. I will share my experiences on the trail with pictures, some magic and stories about bears.
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	"Photography as Art-and Fun"	Clay Thurston	Falls Room	This program will go over what is needed for a photograph to be considered artistic. It will emphasize composition and how to balance the photograph. Photographs will be mostly of nature and wildlife subjects.
2 PM - 3 PM	Sharpie Dyed Tile - (Preregister. Kid's Track, Children 4-11 years old. Limit: 12 Parent/ Guardian must accompany child.)	Dolora Batchelor	Parlor B	We will create colorful tile coasters using sharpies, rubbing alcohol and sealer.
3 PM - 4 PM	Civil War Songs	Brenda Lentz-Dawson	Salon A	Civil War period songs covering love, loss of family, and the funny side of it too!
3 PM - 4 PM	You're Wrong-the Truth About Bears	Joel Zachry	Salon C	Come and learn that bears don't growl, hibernate, are only opportunistic carnivores, and much more!
3 PM - 4 PM	Reminiscing and Recipes - (Preregistration. Limit: 25 Food Allergen Warning.)	Marcia Huskey Nelson	Salon B	Join Pigeon Forge Public Library Diector Marcia Huskey Nelson as she highlights some of her favorite Appalachian/Smoky Mountain/Sevier County cookbooks in the library's collection. Sample tasting will be available. This traditional food may contain any number of ingredients including dairy, gluten, wheat, and/or nuts. Attendees with food allergies should not plan to take part in this session. Limited to 25 preregistered participants.
3 PM - 4 PM	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.
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Amazing Animal Adaptations	Nessie O'Neil, Linsey Hembree	Salon C	Discover the remarkable world of animal survival strategies as we showcase various fox species from around the globe. From Arctic foxes to Fennec foxes, join us as we delve into the diverse ways these clever creatures have evolved to thrive in their distinct environments.

Wilderness Wildlife Week 2024 Program Schedule

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24 | PROGRAM SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Time	Session Topic	Presenter(s)	Location	Description
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Sevier County Butterflies	Lois Worthington, Glenna Julian	Salon A	Pictures we have taken of butterflies in our gardens presented in a powerpoint program.
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Wild Lilies and Orchids of the Mid South	Jack Carman	Salon B	Wild lilies and orchids found in the Mid-South.
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	The Stars Shine Bright Above the Smokies	Lisa Mayo	Falls Room	A beginners guide to Milky Way photography. We will go over when, where, equipment, and how to get started. Kids are welcome!
6 PM - 7 PM	Lucinda Oakley Ogle: "The Queen of the Smokies"	Kathy Gwinn	Salon AB	Stories about Wiley Oakley's daughter, Lucinda, her growing-up years, and later her role as a wife, mother and Gatlinburg Booster.
6 PM - 7 PM	Six Weeks: Living & Writing in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Dr. Brian Railsback	Salon C	Fiction and non-fiction readings from the 2023 Steve Kemp Writer in Residence, from work done while living in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, with Q&A discussion to follow.
6 PM - 7:30 PM	Old Time Music & Musicians of the Smokies	Boogertown Gap & Friends	Falls Room	A powerpoint presentation will be offered that depicts musicians and singers of the Smokies. We will perform select songs from those musicians and singers.
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Reminiscing About Wilderness with Alan Williams	Alan Williams	Salon ABC	Join Alan Williams as he looks back through the years and discusses his connection to Wilderness Wildlife Week and other nature related shows. As a staple in most Tennessee homes during the dinner hour Alan has informed us, guided us, and provided us with many hours of entertainment throughout his career. He was and is a much loved and respected force in East Tennessee. Come and meet him!



THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 | EXCURSIONS

Sign-ups online starting January 8, 2024.

HIKES

Sugarlands Cemetery 5.5 miles (Easy/Moderate)

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Guide: Joey Holt

5.5 hr Hike - Limit: 12

This is an easy to moderate hike for everyone who is interested in the Sugarland 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 homes sites, cemetery and the CCC camp will give you a feel for the early times. Don't forget your water, snack/lunch, rain gear and good sturdy hiking shoes.

Hen Wallow Falls (4.5 miles, Moderate/Challenging)

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Guide: Todd Hurst

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, but 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. Don't forget to bring your walking stick, a snack/lunch, water, rain gear, and good sturdy walking shoes/boots.

Albrights Grove (6.6 miles, Moderate)

9 AM – 3:30 PM

Guide: Keith Garnes

4.5 hr hike - Limit: 12

This enjoyable historic hike starts at the Maddron Bald Trailhead passing through a vast forest with a canopy of Eastern Hemlock on an old road bed, then moves along an exposed root trail with a foot log crossing of Indian Camp Creek. You will explore the Baxter cabin on the Jenkins' Home Place and the Old Growth Forest. The trees on this trail are the largest that grow in the GSMNP. A good walking stick, water, a lunch/snack and good hiking shoes are a must on this hike.

BUS TRIPS

Cades Cove, Little River Tour (Easy to Moderate)

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Guide: Kathy Gwinn

6-7 Hrs (Bring your sack lunch)- Limit: 23

Highlights on this trip would include the history of the families in Cades Cove, history of the Civil War in the Cove, the Cherokees in the area, logging and the C.C.C. Camp in the area. There will be some walking back to the churches, cabins, cemeteries etc. You will need to bring a sack lunch and water for a picnic style lunch break..

Appalachian Bear Rescue (Easy)

9 AM – 1 PM

Guide: Don Luckett

Limit: 24

You will be transported through the beautiful Wears Valley area to the Appalachian Bear Rescue's Trillium Cove Visitor & Education Center in Townsend. There you will learn about the rehabilitation of orphaned and injured bear cubs, and view the 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.

Pink Jeep Tours

10 AM & 2 PM

Approximately 2.5 - 3 Hours Each Tour - RIDER LIMIT: 6 EACH TOUR

You will have a chance to take a scenic and educational tour of the 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!

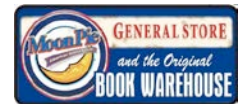
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WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE WEEK
PIGEON FORGE ★ TN

JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Would you like to participate in the 2025 WWW?

- Do you know of a program you would like to present?
- Do you have merchandise to sell that goes along with this event?
- Do you want to lead a hike, or sweep a hike?
- Do you want to lead a bus trip?
- Do you have any suggestions to make this great event even better?
- Would you like to become a sponsor for this event?
- Would you like to become a volunteer for the Office of Special Events?

Please fill out your **name**, **address**, **phone number** and **email address** on the paper, with a **message**, and drop it in the box located on the information desk during the event.

-or-

Email Jayne.miller-carr@cityofpigeonforgetn.gov

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Message: _____



Join us for the 33rd annual
Wilderness Wildlife Week - January 28-February 1, 2025
at the Ramsey Hotel & Convention Center
mypigeonforge.com

Be sure to check out our other superb city-sponsored special events coming up soon:



PIGEON FORGE'S CHUCK WAGON COOKOFF
MARCH 1-3, 2024



MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS SPRING PARADE
APRIL 13, 2024



A MOUNTAIN QUILTFEST
JUNE 2-6, 2024
(CLASSES BEGIN JUNE 1)



PATRIOT FESTIVAL
JULY 4, 2024



WINTERFEST KICKOFF & SALUTE TO VETERANS
NOVEMBER 7, 2024
WINTERFEST VILLAGE - PATRIOT PARK
NOVEMBER 7-10, 15-17, 22-30, 2024

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE GREAT EVENTS,
PLEASE CALL (865) 429-7350, OR VISIT MYPIGEONFORGE.COM.**

Warm up with breakfast to start your day!





VISITOR CENTER

MUSEUM | CAFE | GENERAL STORE



EXPLORE THOSE BEAUTIFUL BEAN BEGINNINGS

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.

Café Hours: April – December: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

January – March: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(Check website for holiday closures)

Call 865-509-3077 or visit bushbeans.com/visitorcenter

3901 U.S. Highway 411, Dandridge, TN 37725

We're conveniently located off I-40 at exits 417 and 432



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SCAN TO PLAN
YOUR VISIT