BACKCOUNTRY HIKESUGGESTIONS

Backcountry hikes will be led by seasoned hikers and interpreters. Safety is paramount. You should be prepared for a long, strenuous day. Carry plenty of water and high-energy food. Your equipment should include functional rain gear, hat, change of socks, fitted broken-in footwear, comfortable backpack, and wicking type fabric clothing. Wear clothing in layers so you can add or remove to adjust to weather changes. Include a small first-aid kit, a small flashlight, and toilet paper. Leave heavy cameras, tripods, radios, and other unnecessary weight at home.

PARTICIPATING PARTNERS

TENNESSEE UNIVERSITY OF KNOXVILLE
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE CHATTANOOGA
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

LOCAL SPONSORS

GLENSTONE LODGE

The 67th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage offers 148 programs over four days during the peak of the spring flowering season in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Professionally guided walks and indoor presentations explore the region’s rich natural and cultural resources.

Most programs are conducted on the trails in the park, while indoor programs are presented in the Mills Conference Center and GSMNP Sugarlands Training Room. All programs are held rain or shine.

The pilgrimage headquarters is at Mills Conference Center in Gatlinburg, Tennessee where participants pick up pre-registration packets, register on-site, attend indoor programs, and meet for van departures.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

The program booklet lists pilgrimage programs by date and time. Each description includes starting points (capital letters in parentheses are keyed to a map on pages 27-28), walking distances, trail ratings from easy to strenuous, and registration limits. Driving time (DT) is from Mills Conference Center in Gatlinburg, Tennessee to the meeting site. Popular programs repeated at different times and days are listed as “similar programs.” An alphabetical index of all program topics and destinations appears on page 21.

Programs that begin at trailheads or other park sites require participants to arrange their own transportation. Vans are provided where trailhead parking is limited.

PROTECT PARK RESOURCES BY DOING THE FOLLOWING:
➤ Stay on trails
➤ Do not pick plant material
➤ Do not touch salamanders without appropriate hand coverings
➤ Do not collect any organisms or rocks
➤ Do not feed wildlife
➤ Do not use recorded bird songs or calls to attract birds
➤ Stay away from all unoccupied buildings in Elkmont
➤ Pets are prohibited on most trails
➤ Follow the time-honored advice: Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

BE KIND TO OUR GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Pilgrimage leaders have permits to handle plants, fungi, invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians for educational purposes. National Park Service rules prohibit visitors from harming organisms in the Park.

PROGRAM IS HELD INDOORS
Program is held indoors
Program is held outdoors
Van service is provided
Program is in North Carolina
Program is led by National Park Service staff
Program is led by National Park Service volunteer
Program is led by Great Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont staff
Birding program
Event held in a fire zone
DT Estimated driving time from Gatlinburg in minutes
Participants are strongly encouraged to use the free van service when provided.

**Online Registration**

Online registration begins on March 1 and ends April 7, 2017 at www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org. Participants who registered online should check in at the pilgrimage registration desk at the Mills Conference Center (see maps on pages 23-26) to pick up packets containing nametag, event reservations, and printed program.

**On-site Registration**

On-site registration will be held at Mills Conference Center, April 11-15, at the following times:

- **Tuesday** 5 PM–9 PM
- **Wednesday–Friday** 7 AM–7:30 PM
  *(registration packet pickup service only between 1–5 PM)*
- **Saturday** 7 AM–12 PM

Available programs are displayed at the registration desk. Pilgrims may select programs where space exists or switch programs. Green dots are used to indicate available spaces. White dots represent spaces taken.

On-site registrants should have program choices and alternative selections, as well as credit card information, in hand. The “Program Planner” on page 4 is handy for making program choices.

**Registration Fees**

All events are covered by the following registration fees:

- **Adults**—$50.00 for one day
  $75.00 for two or more days
- **Students**—$15.00 for one or more days
  (high school/college status will be verified at on-site registration with ID)
- **Children under 12**—Free (must be accompanied by a registered adult. All children must be registered for programs they are attending.)

Payment may be made with credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover), cash, or check.

Refunds are **NOT** provided and fees will be used as a contribution to help support this event.

**Parking**

Pilgrimage participants may park for free in the municipal parking lot on Reagan Drive next to the fire station. (See map on pages 25-26.)

Other parking lots scattered throughout Gatlinburg charge a parking fee. Unauthorized parking at the church and motel parking areas adjacent to Mills Conference Center may result in an expensive towing bill.

**T-shirts**

This year, T-shirts will be printed on-site. Pilgrims will be able to select from a variety of logos and watch them be printed in only a minute or two. The Wildflower Pilgrimage logo, 2017 winning artist image (cover on brochure), and a few other select logos or nature quotes, such as “I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees.” – H.D. Thoreau, can be applied to your personalized shirt. We will also have a variety of t-shirt colors, sleeves length, and sweatshirts available.

**Emergency Info**

In the event of an emergency, contact 911. To contact someone within the National Park Service, dial (865) 436-1294. The Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage at Mills Conference Center phone number, (865) 436-6900, ext. 2004, is active ONLY from April 11-15, 2017 during Conference Center open hours.

**Plant Display and Vendors in the Mills Gallery**

A native plant display, the Great Smoky Mountain Association store (www.smokiesinformation.org), Fine Design T-shirts, and Sunlight Gardens native plants (www.sunlightgardens.com) will be open to the public during the following hours:

- **Tuesday** 5:00 PM–9:00 PM
- **Wednesday & Thursday** 8:00 AM–7:30 PM
- **Friday** 8:00 AM–5:00 PM

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**Next year’s 68th Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage will be held April 24-28, 2018.**

Wildflowers artwork on the cover is by Mary Ruden. Ruden’s artwork is on display at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts at the Geoffrey A. Wolpert Gallery from April 11 thru May 20, 2017. Join us for her reception on April 12th, event #38!

See page 24 for a listing of hotels in Gatlinburg offering rooms at a special discounted rate for pilgrims!

For Local Info:
Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 527
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(800) 568-4748 or visit www.gatlinburg.com

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a sanctuary. Plants and animals are fully protected. Regulations prohibit picking and digging plants. Pets are prohibited on most trails. For more details or to learn more about the park, visit www.nps.gov/grsm.
**Program Planner**

Use this page to plan your week at the pilgrimage. Read through the program descriptions on the following pages, then record the program numbers of events you wish to attend here. If your first choice has an attendance limit, list alternate program choices. Remember that popular programs are repeated throughout the week, and a listing of similar programs is included at the end of each program description.

Please have this sheet filled out when you arrive if you plan to register on-site.

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**Featured Wildflower Artist Reception**
*(Free Admission)*

**Reading Between the Lines**
*With Charles Maynard* *(Free Admission)*

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**Natural Sounds and Night Skies**
*With Scott McFarland* *(Free Admission)*

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**Fire Ecology in GSMNP**
*With Rob Klein and/or Greg Salansky* *(Free Admission)*

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**Wednesday 4.12.17**

**MORNING PROGRAMS**

1. **Birding along Cades Cove Loop Road**
   - 7:45 AM–12:00 PM
   - Cades Cove at Information Kiosk before Loop Road Entrance (MM)
   - Walk with naturalist, birder, and musician Keith Watson to look for and listen to the signs of spring in Cades Cove. Stops will include Sparks and Hyatt Lanes, Burchfield Woods (Red-headed Woodpecker) and sewage ponds. Short easy walk. **Bring binoculars and rain gear.** Limit 15 people. DT: 50 min.
   - Similar programs: 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

2. **Birding on Cove Hardwood Nature Trail**
   - 7:30 AM–11:30 AM
   - City Parking Lot on Reagan Drive by Gatlinburg Fire Station (NN)
   - Aaron Steed, international bird explorer, leads a search for spring migrants and Appalachian specialties at Sugarlands Visitor Center and the Black-throated Blue Warbler at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail. **Bring binoculars and rain gear.** Short, easy walks. Limit 15 people.
   - www.birdventures.com
   - Similar programs: 1, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

3. **Wildflower Walk: Huskey Gap Trail**
   - 8:00 AM–11:30 AM
   - Mills Conference Center—Vans (V)
   - Walk the old trail that connected the settlers of Sugarlands Valley and Little River as you view the wildflower displays and homesites along the way. Elevation change: 1,000’. A 2-mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people.
   - Similar programs: 31, 83, 112, 130

4. **Birding on School House Gap Trail**
   - 8:00 AM–11:30 AM
   - Townsend “Y” on Little River Road to Begin Carpool (FF)
   - Scan the trees along a stream for Warblers, Vireos, Scarlet Tanager and American Goldfinch, among other species, with Liz Domingue, naturalist guide, birder, wildlife biologist and photographer. **Bring binoculars, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 12 people. DT: 45 min. www.justgetoutdoors.com
   - Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

5. **Bird Photography**
   - 8:00 AM–11:30 AM
   - Mills Conference Center—Vans (V)
   - Bird photographer, Bob Howdeshell, gives a short visual presentation, then shows the group how to approach bird subjects and frame the photographic composition. **Bring camera (please, no cell phone or iPad cameras).** Limit 15 people.
   - Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

6. **Wildfire in GSMNP**
   - 8:15 AM–11:30 AM
   - City Parking Lot on Reagan Drive by Gatlinburg Fire Station (NN)
   - A drought and high winds made the 11/23/16 Chimney Tops 2 Fire more intense than wildfires common to the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Join Fire Ecologist Nicole Turrill Welch on a journey into the aftermath of this fire. Learn about its environmental impacts and how this forest will recover. A 1.5 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.
   - Similar programs: 18, 47, 57, 82, 97, 117, 123, 136

7. **Wild Birding at Sugarlands and Newfound Gap**
   - 8:00 AM–11:30 AM
   - Mills Conference Center—Vans (V)
   - With naturalist and birder, Jay Sturmer, search for spring migrants and Appalachian specialties starting at Sugarlands and ending at Newfound Gap. **Bring binoculars and rain gear.** Short, easy walks. Limit 15 people.
   - www.birdventures.com
   - Similar programs: 1, 2, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

8. **Nature Journaling**
   - 8:30 AM–11:30 AM
   - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Shelter off of Little River Road (U)
   - Art Stupka and Aaron Sharp were early naturalists who documented the biological diversity of the Smokies by keeping journals. Today’s nature journals combine sketching, writing, and mixed media to record your observations and reflections. **Bring an unlined journal and join Mary Priestley, an avid nature journalist, to make a lasting memory of the pilgrimage and other natural world experiences.** Limit 15 people. DT: 30 min. Art supplies can be obtained at Arrowmont School of Art and Crafts.
   - Similar programs: 19, 25, 61, 88

NEW!
**WILDFLOWER WALK: CLEVELAND Hardwood**
8:30 AM–11:30 AM
CHIMNEYS PICNIC AREA (F)

Observe abundant wildflowers, including dwarf ginseng and fringed phacelia, in this old-growth forest. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 25 min.

Similar programs: 2, 51, 64, 94, 121, 129, 139

**FERN WALK: THE SINKS**
8:30 AM–11:30 AM
SINKS PARKING AREA OFF LITTLE RIVER ROAD (II)

See a variety of the park’s ferns and fern allies such as bristle fern, log fern, royal fern, and walking fern. Bring a hand lens. A 2-mile, easy to moderate off-trail walk. Limit 20 people. DT: 30 min.

Similar programs: 49, 90, 137

**WILDFLOWER WALK: PORTERS CREEK TRAIL**
8:30 AM–11:30 AM
CHIMNEYS PICNIC AREA (F)

See abundant wildflowers including painted trillium and many more. Pass old homesteads and a cemetery along this popular trail which leads to an old-growth cove hardwood forest. A 2-3 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.

Similar programs: 32, 104, 115, 131, 138

**EDIBLE MUSHROOM WALK**
8:30 AM–11:30 AM
CHIMNEYS PICNIC AREA (F)

Learn the do's and don'ts about recognizing edible mushrooms and their habitat preference with field and culinary mycologists, Brian Looney and Emma Harrower. A 2-3 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.

Similar programs: 108, 146

**NATIVE PEOPLE’S USE OF NATURE’S GARDEN**
8:30 AM–11:30 AM
TWIN CREEKS PAVILION OFF CHEROKEE ORCHARD ROAD (GG)

Gather at the cook fire with Native American Karen LaMere (Ho-Chunk) and listen to an oral history which has been passed down through the generations by America’s indigenous people. Taste and discover ingenious uses of native plants gathered from nature’s garden. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 10 min.

Similar programs: 20, 85, 101

**WILDFLOWER WALK: QUIET WALKWAY**
8:00 AM–11:30 AM
MILLS CONFERENCE CENTER—VANS (V)

This easy walk from Newfound Gap Road to the river has a rich diversity of wildflowers. Dutchman’s pipe vine and pawpaw are usually in flower along the path. A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.

Similar programs: 44, 58, 84

**WILDFLOWER WALK: CHESTNUT TOP TRAIL**
8:45 AM–11:30 AM
TOWNSEND “Y” ON LITTLE RIVER ROAD (II)

One of the grandest wildflower displays in the Smokies. A 2 mile, moderate walk. Limit 15 people. DT: 45 min.

Similar programs: 66, 107, 132

**CASCADES AND WILDFLOWER WALK ALONG LYNN CAMP PRONG**
8:45 AM–11:30 AM
END OF TREMONT GRAVEL ROAD (I)

See myriad wildflowers as you stroll past a number of cascades. A 4 mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 45 min.

Similar programs: 34, 53, 109

**NEW!**

**AFTERNOON PROGRAMS**

**WILDFIRE IN GSMNP**
1:00 PM–4:30 PM
MILLS CONFERENCE CENTER—VANS (V)

A drought and high winds made the 11/23/16 Chimney Tops 2 Fire more intense than wildfires common to the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Join Fire Ecologist Nicole Turrill Welch on a journey into the aftermath of this fire. Learn about its environmental impacts and how this forest will recover. A 1.5 mile easy walk. Limit 25 people.

Similar programs: 7, 47, 57, 82, 97, 117, 123, 136

NEW!

**BIRD SKETCHING**
1:15 PM–2:30 PM
SUGARLANDS VISITOR CENTER—PARK IN 3RD LOT ON RIGHT (EE)

Wildlife artist Chris Myers discusses ways to capture bird morphology and behavior on paper. Bring your sketchbook, pencils, pens, or watercolors. Limit 20 people. DT: 15 min.

Nuevo programa: 8, 25, 61, 88

NEW!
**Native People's Use of Nature's Garden**
Gather at the cook fire with Native American Karen LaMere (Ho-Chunk) and listen to an oral history which has been passed down through the generations by America's indigenous people. Taste and discover ingenious uses of native plants gathered from nature's garden. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 10 min.
Similar programs: 13, 85, 101

**Wildflower Walk: Old Settlers Trail**
Walking through these former homesteads, discover the many wildflowers now growing in the abandoned fields and among the stone chimneys and fences. Elevation change: 200' ascent. A 2 mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 73, 93

**Trilliums of the Smokies Walk**
Travel with Tom Patrick, botanist with the Georgia Natural Heritage Program and trillium expert, to focus on the biology and diversity of trilliums in the park. Short, easy walks. Bring a hand lens. Limit 20 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar program: 103

**Black Bear and Wild Hog Walk**
Walk with David Whitehead, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Manager, as he describes the life history, tracking signs, human impacts, and environmental issues of black bears and wild hogs in the southern Appalachians and GSMNP. A 2-3 mile, easy walk. Limit 20 people.
Similar programs: 50, 87, 125

**Going Natural in the Garden**
Explore the principles of Mother Nature’s aesthetic design in wild landscapes and discover ways to utilize her natural beauty in your garden. Led by Nancy Rennie, a retired landscape designer and horticultural consultant and Margie Hunter author of Gardening with Native Plants of Tennessee. A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 20 people. DT: 30 min.

**Nature Journaling**
Art Stupka and Aaron Sharp were early naturalists who documented the biological diversity of the Smokies by keeping journals. Today's nature journals combine sketching, writing, and mixed media to record your observations and reflections. Bring an unlined journal and join Mary Priestley, an avid nature journalist, to make a lasting memory of the pilgrimage and other natural world experiences. Limit 15 people. DT: 30 min. Art supplies can be obtained at Arrowmont School of Art and Crafts.
Similar programs: 8, 19, 61, 88

**Wildflower Walk: Noah "Bud" Ogle Trail**
See a splendid variety of wildflowers and American chestnut tree remnants in the reforested fields of this farmstead. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 10 min.
Similar programs: 45, 86, 124

**Moss Walk Along Injun Creek Trail in Greenbrier**
Discover the elegant forms of moss, liverwort, and hornwort and ways to recognize them. Bring a hand lens. A 3-mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 69, 102, 128

**Salamander Foray From Low to High Elevation**
Discover some of the 31 species of woodland and stream-side salamanders, and discuss their unique life history. A 1 mile, easy walk. Prepare to get wet and bring a hand lens. Limit 20 people.
Similar programs: 60, 106, 148

**Tree and Shrub Identification Walk**
Similar programs: 48, 94, 100
BEGINNER’S PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP
See a short visual presentation, then travel outdoors for hands-on instruction in composition and techniques by authors Jack Carman (Wildflowers of Tennessee) and Robert Hutson (Great Smoky Mountain Wildflowers: When and Where to Find Them). Bring a camera and tripod. A 2-mile, easy walk. Limit 20 people. DT: 15 min.
Similar programs: 6, 46, 62, 99, 126

WILDFLOWER WALK: HUSKEY GAP TRAIL
Hike with Park Botanist Janet Rock to discover a diversity of wildflowers and unique plants. A 3 mile, moderate hike. Limit 15 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 5, 83, 112, 130

WILDFLOWER WALK: PORTERS CREEK TRAIL
Pass old homesteads and a cemetery along this popular trail which leads to an old-growth cove hardwood forest. See a rich variety of wildflowers including painted trillium and many more. A 2-3 mile, moderate hike. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 11, 104, 115, 131, 138
NEW!

WILDFLOWER WALK: APPALACHIAN TRAIL FROM INDIAN GAP TO NEWFOUND GAP
Pass from the closed canopy of the old-growth Spruce Fir forest into the open canopy of a pristine Beech Gap forest where early spring ephemeral wildflowers abound. A 1.5 mile, moderate walk. Elevation change 500’. Limit 25 people. DT: 45 min.
Similar programs: 67, 95

CASCADES AND WILDFLOWER WALK ALONG LYNN CAMP PRONG
See myriad wildflowers as you stroll past a number of cascades. A 4 mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 45 min.
Similar programs: 16, 53, 109

BIRDING AT OCONALUFTEE AND COLLINS CREEK
Birding in open field and rivulet habitats in the Oconaluftee area (chipping and white-throated sparrows) and forested streams in the Collins Creek area (blackburnian and black throated green warblers) with international bird explorer Simon Thompson. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. Short, easy walks. Limit 12 people. DT: 60 min. www.birdventures.com
Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

WILDFLOWERS ALONG BAXTER CREEK TO MT. STERLING FIRE TOWER
CAUTION: VERY PHYSICALLY CHALLENGING! For the experienced hiker only! Join Doris Gove, author of Exploring the Appalachian Trail: Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, on a 12.4 mile, round trip, ascending 4,130’ to Mt. Sterling fire tower. Walk from a very unique rich cove hardwood forest to the Spruce Fir. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. See Backcountry Hike Suggestions on page 2. Limit 20 people. DT: 70 min., 40 miles
Similar program: 146
NEW!
### Featured Wildflower Artist Reception

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts is proud to feature Mary Ruden, the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage’s Artist of the Year. Ruden’s illustration, *Wildflowers*, was selected as the image for this year’s pilgrimage brochure, website, and T-shirts. Her artwork will be exhibited in the Geoffrey A. Wolpert Gallery from April 11 – May 20, 2017. An opening reception will be held during the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage on Wednesday, April 12, 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Refreshments provided. DT: 15 min. No daily pilgrimage fee or registration required. Open to the public.

NEW!

### Reading Between the Lines: Stories of Writing About the Smokies’ Waterfalls, Churches, and Trails

Charles Maynard, a person of many talents, pastor, published author, story teller, outdoorsman, founding Executive Director of Friends of GSMNP, and member of several high-profile outdoors advocacy groups, will enchant you with narrative story. Sponsored by Great Smoky Mountains Association. No daily pilgrimage fee or registration required. Open to the public.

NEW!

### Owl Prowl

Listen and learn about the flying predator of the night. This 2-hour Owl Prowl is guided by retired Great Smoky Mountains National Park Ranger Arthur “Butch” McCade. *Bring warm clothes and flashlight*. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 15 min. Meet at vending/bathroom area. Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

NEW!

### Birding at Sugarlands and Newfound Gap

Follow Aaron Steed, international bird explorer, to search for spring migrants and Appalachian specialties starting at Sugarlands and ending at Newfound Gap. *Bring binoculars and rain gear*. Short, easy walks. Limit 15 people.

www.birdventures.com

Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

NEW!

### Birding on School House Gap Trail

Scan the trees along a stream for Warblers, Vireos, Scarlet Tanager and American Goldfinch, among other species, with birders Allen Trently and Jay Sturmer. *Bring binoculars, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes*. Limit 12 people. DT: 45 min.

Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

NEW!

### Birding at Townsend Wye

Explore the Townsend Wye from the perspective of a bird with Tiffany Beachy from Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. We will watch the antics of Northern Rough-winged Swallows by the bridge, check on the Eastern Phoebes who nest along the river, search the banks for little tail-bobbing Louisiana Waterthrushes, and venture up the Chestnut Tops trail to look for and listen to a variety of spring migrants. *Bring binoculars, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes*. Limit 12 people. DT: 45 min.

Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

NEW!

### Wildflower Walk: Quiet Walkway

This easy walk from Newfound Gap Road to the river has a rich diversity of wildflowers. Dutchman’s pipe vine and pawpaw are usually in flower along the path. A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.

Similar programs: 14, 58, 84
WILDFLOWER WALK: NOAH "BUD" OGLE TRAIL
See a splendid variety of wildflowers and American chestnut tree remnants in the reforested fields of this homestead. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 10 min.
Similar programs: 26, 86, 124

POINT AND SHOOT FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY
Learn how to improve your wildflower images with a point and shoot camera. Authors Jack Carman (Wildflowers of Tennessee) and Robert Hutson (Great Smoky Mountain Wildflowers: When and Where to Find Them) give hands-on instruction in composition and photo techniques.
Bring a point and shoot camera and tripod.
A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 20 people. DT: 15 min.
Similar programs: 6, 30, 62, 99, 126

WILDFIRE ECOLOGY
Cherokee Orchard contains areas illustrating different intensity levels of recent wildfire on vegetation and soil. With Greg Schmidt (plant ecologist) explore these differences in the burn intensity as it relates to the earliest signs of vegetation regrowth. A 2 mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 7, 18, 57, 82, 97, 117, 123, 136 NEW!

TREE AND SHRUB IDENTIFICATION WALK
Similar programs: 29, 94, 100

FERN WALK: LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED
See a variety of the park’s 25 more common ferns and fern allies. Bring a hand lens. A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.
Similar programs: 10, 90, 137

BLACK BEAR AND WILD HOG WALK
Walk with David Whitehead, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Manager, as he describes the life history, tracking signs, human impacts, and environmental issues of black bears and wild hogs in the southern Appalachians and GSMNP. A 2-3 mile, easy walk. Limit 20 people.
Similar programs: 23, 87, 125

AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

THE WALKER SISTERS’ CABIN AND LITTLE GREENBRIER SCHOOL
Meet volunteer Frances Hensley at Metcalf Bottoms to take a walk to the Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse. There, join long-time school marm Robin Goddard on a stroll back in time to discover the history of the schoolhouse and the famous Walker Sisters. A 3.4 mile, moderate hike. Limit 25 people. DT: 45 min.
Similar programs: 13, 20, 65, 85, 89, 101

HERB LORE OF APPALACHIA
Learn about the edible, medicinal, and otherwise useful plants of our area with Ila Hatter, Wanda DeWaard, and Britney Hughes. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people.
Similar programs: 92, 133
**Wildfire in GSMNP**

A drought and high winds made the 11/23/16 Chimney Tops 2 Fire more intense than wildfires common to the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Join Fire Ecologist Nicole Turrill Welch on a journey into the aftermath of this fire. Learn about its environmental impacts and how this forest will recover. A 1.5 mile easy walk. Limit 25 people.

Similar programs: 7, 18, 47, 82, 97, 117, 123, 136

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**Wildflower Walk: Quiet Walkway**

This easy walk from Newfound Gap Road to the river has a rich diversity of wildflowers. Dutchman’s pipe vine and pawpaw are usually in flower along the path. A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.

Similar programs: 14, 44, 84

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**Wildflower Walk: Quiet Walkway**

This easy walk from Newfound Gap Road to the river has a rich diversity of wildflowers. Dutchman’s pipe vine and pawpaw are usually in flower along the path. A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.

Similar programs: 14, 44, 84

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**Wildflower Identification for Beginners**


Similar program: 91

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**Wildflower Walk: Cove Hardwood Nature Trail**

Observe abundant wildflowers, including dwarf ginseng and fringed phacelia, in this old-growth forest. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 25 min.

Similar programs: 2, 9, 51, 94, 121, 129, 139

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**History Walk: Fighting Creek and Forks of the River**

Hike with long-time Park volunteer Jackie Leach to learn the history of these communities and see remnants of days gone by. A 2 mile easy walk. Limit 20 people. DT: 15 min.

Similar programs: 13, 20, 55, 85, 89, 101

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**Wildflower Walk: Chestnut Top Trail**

One of the grandest wildflower displays in the Smokies. A 2 mile, moderate walk. Limit 15 people. DT: 45 min.

Similar programs: 15, 107, 132

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**Wildflower Walk: Appalachian Trail from Indian Gap to Newfound Gap**

Pass from the closed canopy of the old-growth spruce-fir forest into the open canopy of a pristine beech gap forest where a display of the early first spring ephemeral wildflowers abound. A 1.5 mile, moderate walk. Elevation change: 500.’ Limit 25 people. DT: 45 min.

Similar programs: 33, 95

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**Wildflower Walk: Kanati Fork Trail**

An exceptional site to see many species of spring wildflowers including painted trillium and Canada mayflower. A 2 mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 45 min.

Similar program: 52, 105, 140, 144
**NEWFOUND GAP TO 1:45 PM – 4:30 PM**

**ALUM CAVE**

8:15 AM – 4:30 PM

**BEGIN CARPOOL (U)**

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

**GREENBRIER ROAD – CARPOOL FROM PICNIC AREA, 2.5 MILES FROM ROUTE 321 (N)**

**BIRDING AND WILDFLOWER MOTORCADE: SUGARLANDS TO CADES COVE**

7:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**CITY PARKING LOT ON REAGAN DRIVE BY GATLINBURG FIRE STATION (NN)**

International birder and plant naturalists Simon Thompson and Fred Holtzclaw will stop along the loop to explore birds in the Cove’s varied habitats, including pine and oak forests, streams and wetlands, and open fields. Short, easy walks. **Bring binoculars, lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 15 people.

www.birdventures.com

Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

**FOREST FORENSICS**

8:15 AM – 4:30 PM

**FIGHTING CREEK GAP (U)**

Join ecologist Paul Durr and botanist Ken McFarland to analyze clues of natural and human induced impacts on trees and forests. The journey will include stops at different vegetation biomes to discuss their distribution on the landscape and evaluate their long-term survival in the wake of factors such as climate change and fire. Short easy walks en route. **Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 20 people. DT: 15 min.

**NEW!**

**BIRDS AND BLOOMS ON ALUM CAVE TRAIL**

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

**ALUM CAVE TRAILHEAD – 8.7 MILES SOUTH ON US 441 FROM SUGARLANDS VISITOR CENTER (LL)**

Join Keith Watson and ascend to Alum Cave, along the way looking and listening for early spring warbler migrants including Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and possibly Canada and Blackburnian. This trail is great for early Blue-headed Vireos, Veery and resident Southern Appalachian specialties: Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Winter Wren. Once at the cave, we’ll look and listen for Peregrine Falcons which nest in the area. **Elevation change 1100’. A 4.6 mile strenuous hike. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 15 people. DT: 30 min.

Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

**WILDFLOWER HIKE: OLD SETTLERS TRAIL**

7:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**CITY PARKING LOT ON REAGAN DRIVE BY GATLINBURG FIRE STATION (NN)**

Join ecologist Paul Durr and botanist Ken McFarland to analyze clues of natural and human induced impacts on trees and forests. The journey will include stops at different vegetation biomes to discuss their distribution on the landscape and evaluate their long-term survival in the wake of factors such as climate change and fire. Short easy walks en route. **Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 20 people. DT: 15 min.

Similar programs: 27, 102, 128

**WILDFLOWER HIKE: MEIGS CREEK AND CURRY MOUNTAIN TRAILS LOOP**

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

**METCALF BOTTOMS PICNIC AREA OFF OF LITTLE RIVER ROAD TO BEGIN CARPOOL (U)**

Numerous species of wildflowers are scattered along this trail as we pass through several wet and dry habitats. An 8.7-mile, strenuous loop hike from Metcalf Bottoms to the Sinks. Encounter sixteen non-bridge stream crossings and waterfalls. **Elevation change: 1,400’ ascent.** **Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 20 people. DT: 30 min.

**WILDFLOWER HIKE: ABRAMS FALLS TRAIL**

9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

**ABRAMS FALLS TRAIL**

Stroll along this river trail to discover wildflowers like gay wings which flourish in this limestone valley. View one of the Park’s more picturesque waterfalls. **Elevation change: 500’ ascent. A 5 mile, moderate hike.** **Bring binoculars, lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 25 people. DT: 75 min.

Similar program: 114

**EVENING PROGRAMS**

76

**7:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

**MILLS CONFERENCE CENTER – BALLROOMS C & D (V)**

**NATURAL SOUNDS AND NIGHT SKIES: PROTECTING THE ACOUSTIC AND NOCTURNAL ENVIRONMENTS OF NATIONAL PARKS**

Scott McFarland is a Regional Resource Specialist and Biologist with the Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division of the National Park Service. Scott will talk about acoustic and photic resource management within National Park Service managed lands and beyond. Topics addressed include: methods and techniques for conducting monitoring, improving the acoustic and photic environment, wildlife vocalizations, and the impacts to humans and wildlife from anthropogenic noise and artificial light. **No daily pilgrimage fee or registration required. Open to the public.**

Similar programs: 39, 117
Friday 4.14.17

**FINDING THINGS THAT GLOW IN THE NIGHT WALK**
Join naturalists Annette Ranger and Doris Gove as they lead you into the dark wilderness to find glowing organisms, known as foxfire and the night activities of other organisms. *Bring warm clothes, flashlight, and hand lens.* Short, easy walk. Limit 20 people.

**BUGS AT LIGHT**
If you want to see some really cool insects, join entomologist Stylianos Chatzimanolis as he attracts nocturnal moths, beetles and a wide diversity of other insects using a black light. *Dress warmly, bring a headlamp or flashlight, and hand lens.* No trail walking. Limit 25 people. DT: 10 min.

**NEW!**

**NIGHT OWL PROWL**
Come listen and learn about the flying predator of the night. This 1.5 hour Owl Prowl is guided by naturalists and birders Karen LaMere and Jay Sturner along the Cherokee Orchard Road. *Bring warm clothes and flashlight.* Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 10 min.

**Similar programs:** 59, 98, 119

**NEW!**

**WILDFLOWER WALK: QUIET WALKWAY**
This easy walk from Newfound Gap Road to the river has a rich diversity of wildflowers. Dutchman’s pipe vine and paw-paw can usually be seen in flower along the path. A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.

Similar programs: 14, 44, 58

**NEW!**

**WILDFLOWER WALK: HUSKEY GAP TRAIL**
Walk the old trail that connected the settlers of Sugarlands Valley and Little River as you view the wildflower displays and homesites along the way. Elevation change: 1,000’. An 2 mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people.

Similar programs: 5, 31, 112, 130

**NEW!**

**WILDFLOWER WALK: QUIET WALKWAY**
This easy walk from Newfound Gap Road to the river has a rich diversity of wildflowers. Dutchman’s pipe vine and paw-paw can usually be seen in flower along the path. A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.

Similar program: 14, 44, 58

**WILDFIRE IN GSMNP**
A drought and high winds made the 11/23/16 Chimney Tops 2 Fire more intense than wildfires common to the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Join Fire Ecologist Nicole Turrill Welch on a journey into the aftermath of this fire. Learn about its environmental impacts and how this forest will recover. A 1.5 mile easy walk. Limit 25 people.

Similar programs: 7, 18, 47, 57, 97, 117, 123, 136

**NEW!**

**BIRDING ON SCHOOL HOUSE GAP TRAIL**
Scan the trees along a stream for Warblers, Vireos, Scarlet Tanager and American Goldfinch, among other species, with international bird explorer, Aaron Steed. *Bring binoculars, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.* Limit 15 people. DT: 45 min. www.birdventures.com

Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141
WILDFLOWER WALK: NOAH “BUD” OGLE TRAIL
See a splendid variety of wildflowers and American chestnut tree remnants in the reforested fields of this homestead. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 10 min.
Similar programs: 26, 45, 124

BLACK BEAR AND WILD HOG WALK
Walk with David Whitehead, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Manager, as he describes the life history, tracking signs, human impacts, and environmental issues of black bears and wild hogs in the southern Appalachians and GSMNP. A 2-3 mile, easy walk. Limit 20 people.
Similar programs: 23, 50, 125

WILDFLOWER SKETCHING
Similar programs: 8, 19, 25, 61

WILDFLOWERS, FOLKLORE, AND HISTORY OF BIG GREENBRIER
Discover a diversity of wildflowers and hear stories of days gone by with Park Volunteer Frances Hensley, also known as Granny Frannie. A 3.5 mile, moderate hike. Limit 20 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 13, 20, 55, 85, 101

FERN WALK: GREENBRIER COVE
Have you ever seen an adder’s tongue? Come see a variety of the park’s more common ferns and fern allies. Bring a hand lens. A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 10, 49, 137

WILDFLOWER IDENTIFICATION FOR BEGINNERS
Similar program: 63

FOREST FOODS AND PHARMACY
Learn about the edible, medicinal, and otherwise useful plants of our area with Ila Hatter and Brittney Hughes. A 3 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 56, 133

WILDFLOWER WALK: OLD SETTLERS TRAIL
Walking through these former homesteads, discover the many wildflowers now growing in the abandoned fields and among the stone chimneys and fences. Elevation change: 200’ ascent. A 2 mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 21, 73

BASIC TREE IDENTIFICATION IN THE COVE HARDWOOD FOREST
Take a walk with Park Biologist Glenn Taylor to learn the basics of tree identification in one of the Smokies most diverse forest types. A moderate 1.5 mile walk. Limit 20 people.
Similar programs: 29, 48, 100

WILDFLOWER WALK: APPALACHIAN TRAIL FROM INDIAN GAP TO NEWFOUND GAP
Pass from the closed canopy of the old-growth spruce-fir forest into the open canopy of a pristine Beech Gap forest where early spring ephemeral wildflowers abound. A 1.5 mile moderate walk. Elevation change 500’. Limit 25 people. DT: 45 min.
Similar programs: 33, 67

YOGA CLASS AT WALKER SISTERS CABIN
Join Michelle Harris and Emily Shaw on a journey to the Walker Sisters Cabin on the Metcalf Bottoms Trail to exercise and relax in this serene environment. Bring an exercise mat or large towel and water. A 4 mile, moderate hike. Limit 25 people. DT: 45 min.
Similar program: 132A NEW!
**AFTERNOON PROGRAMS**

**96**  
**1:00 PM—4:30 PM**  
*CADES COVE CAMPGROUND STORE PARKING LOT (MM)*  
**BIRDING ALONG CADES COVE LOOP ROAD**  
Join National Park Service Volunteer Warren Bielenberg and Outdoor Educator, Wanda DeWaard for birding in a diversity of habitats along the Loop Road. Birders of all levels welcome.  
*Bring binoculars.* Short, easy walks. Limit 15 people.  
DT: 50 min.  
Note: Warren and Wanda will also be leading the Friday morning birding program at the east end of Cades Cove. Register for event #80.  
Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141  
NEW!

**97**  
**1:00 PM—4:30 PM**  
*MILLS CONFERENCE CENTER—VANS (V)*  
**WILDFIRE IN GSMNP**  
A drought and high winds made the 11/23/16 Chimney Tops 2 Fire more intense than wildfires common to the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Join Fire Ecologist Nicole Turrill Welch on a journey into the aftermath of this fire. Learn about its environmental impacts and how this forest will recover. A 1.5 mile easy walk. Limit 25 people.  
Similar programs: 7, 18, 47, 57, 82, 117, 123, 136  
NEW!

**98**  
**1:15 PM—4:30 PM**  
*NOAH “BUD” OGLE PARKING AREA OFF CHEROKEE ORCHARD ROAD (Y)*  
**BUGS AND BUTTERFLIES WALK**  
Walk with Allen Trently, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas Stewardship Ecologist (West TN), to discover the diversity and beauty of the largest group of macro-organisms in the Park.  
*Bring a hand lens.* Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people.  
DT: 10 min.  
Similar programs: 59, 78, 119

**99**  
**1:15 PM—4:30 PM**  
*SUGARLANDS VISITOR CENTER TRAINING ROOM—PARK IN 3RD LOT ON RIGHT (EE)*  
**ADVANCED FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY FOR SLR CAMERA**  
Learn how to improve your wildflower images with SLR. Authors Jack Carman (Wildflowers of Tennessee) and Robert Hutson (Great Smoky Mountain Wildflowers: When and Where to Find Them) give a short visual presentation, then migrate outside for hands-on instruction in composition and photography technique.  
*Bring SLR camera and tripod.* A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 20 people.  
DT: 15 min.  
Similar programs: 6, 30, 46, 62, 126

**100**  
**1:30 PM—4:30 PM**  
*METCALF BOTTOMS PICNIC AREA OFF OF LITTLE RIVER ROAD (U)*  
**TREE AND SHRUB IDENTIFICATION WALK**  
An introduction to identification of woody plants.  
*Bring a hand lens.* A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.  
DT: 45 min.  
Similar programs: 29, 48, 94

**101**  
**1:30 PM—4:30 PM**  
*TWIN CREEKS PAVILION OFF CHEROKEE ORCHARD ROAD (IG)*  
**NATIVE PEOPLE’S USE OF NATURE’S GARDEN**  
Gather at the cook fire with Native American Karen LaMere (Ho-Chunk) and listen to an oral history which has been passed down through the generations by America’s indigenous people. Taste and discover ingenious uses of native plants gathered from nature’s garden. Short easy walk. Limit 25 people.  
DT: 10 min.  
Similar programs: 13, 20, 85

**102**  
**1:30 PM—4:30 PM**  
*GREENBRIER ROAD—CARPOOL FROM FIRST PARKING LOT ON RIGHT, 200 FEET FROM ROUTE 321 (M)*  
**MOSS WALK: INJUN CREEK TRAIL IN GREENBRIER**  
Discover the elegant forms of moss, liverwort, and hornwort and ways to recognize them.  
*Bring a hand lens.* A 3 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.  
DT: 30 min.  
Similar programs: 27, 69, 128

**103**  
**1:30 PM—4:30 PM**  
*GREENBRIER ROAD—CARPOOL FROM FIRST PARKING LOT ON RIGHT, 200 FEET FROM ROUTE 321 (M)*  
**TRILLIUMS OF THE SMOKIES WALK**  
Travel with Tom Patrick, botanist with the Georgia Natural Heritage Program and trillium expert, to focus on the biology and diversity of trilliums in the park. Short, easy walks.  
*Bring a hand lens.* Limit 20 people.  
DT: 30 min.  
Similar program: 22

**104**  
**1:30 PM—4:30 PM**  
*GREENBRIER ROAD TERMINUS AT PORTERS CREEK TRAILHEAD—4.5 MILES FROM ROUTE 321 (O)*  
**WILDFLOWER WALK: PORTERS CREEK TRAIL**  
Pass old homesteads and a cemetery along this popular trail which leads to an old-growth cove hardwood forest. See a rich variety of wildflowers including painted trillium and Canada mayflower. A 2-3 mile, moderate hike. Limit 25 people.  
DT: 30 min.  
Similar programs: 11, 32, 115, 131, 138

**105**  
**1:45 PM—4:30 PM**  
*ROCKEFELLER MEMORIAL AT NEWFOUND GAP TO RENDEZVOUS (BB)*  
**WILDFLOWER WALK: KANATI FORK TRAIL**  
An exceptional site to see many species of spring wildflowers including painted trillium and Canada mayflower. A 2 mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people.  
DT: 45 min.  
Similar programs: 52, 68, 140, 144
**SALAMANDER WALK: COSBY PICNIC AREA**

Discover some of the 30 species of woodland and aquatic salamanders which reside in the Park. **Prepare to get wet and bring a hand lens.**

- Elevation change: 300’ ascent. A 2 mile, easy walk.
- Limit 25 people. DT: 60 min.
- Similar programs: 28, 60, 148

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**WILDFLOWER HIKE: CHESTNUT TOP TRAIL**

One of the grandest wildflower displays in the Smokies. A 2 mile, moderate hike. Limit 15 people.

- DT: 45 min.
- Similar programs: 15, 66, 132

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**FUNGAL ROLES IN FOREST ECOLOGY**

Fungi are essential organisms in the nutrient and life cycles within ecosystems. Learn from mycologists Ed Lickey and Coleman McCleneghan about fungal biology and its importance in the forest ecosystem. Leaders will also discuss classification and edible vs. poisonous fungi. A 2-3 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people DT: 45 min.

- Similar programs: 12, 146

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**CASCADES AND WILDFLOWER WALK ALONG LYNN CAMP PRONG**

See myriad wildflowers as you stroll past a number of cascades. A 4 mile moderate walk. Limit 25 people.

- DT: 45 min.
- Similar programs: 16, 34, 53

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**ALL-DAY PROGRAMS**

**BIRDING AND WILDFLOWER MOTORCADE: MYNATT PARK TO NEWFOUND GAP**

Starting at a low elevation, plant and bird naturalists Fred Holtzclaw and Simon Thompson guide the group to sites along US 441 to observe a diversity of birds as elevation increases. Short, easy walks. **Bring binoculars, lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 15 people.

- DT: 10 min. www.birdventures.com
- Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

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**BIRDS ON ALUM CAVE TRAIL**

With naturalist, birder, Jay Sturner, look for Peregrine Falcons, Black-throated Blues, Black-throated Greens, Blue-headed Vireos, and possibly Canada and Blackburnian Warblers. Listen to the sounds of spring in the park's middle elevations. Pass through Arch Rock, view the Eye of the Needle, and Alum Cave Bluff. Elevation change 1100’. A 4.6 mile, strenuous hike. **Bring binoculars, lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 15 people. DT: 30 min.

- Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127, 141

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**WILDFLOWER WALK: HUSKEY GAP TO CUCUMBER GAP**

**CAUTION: VERY PHYSICALLY CHALLENGING! For the experienced hiker only!** Join Doris Gove, author of Exploring the Appalachian Trail: Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, on a 12 mile trek on Huskey Gap and Cucumber Gap trails. Maximum elevation change 1,500’. **Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** See Backcountry Hike Suggestions on page 2. Limit 20 people.

- Similar programs: 5, 31, 83, 130

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**WILDFLOWER HIKE: ABRAMS FALLS TRAIL**

Stroll along this river trail to discover wildflowers like gay wings which flourish in this limestone valley. View one of the Park’s more picturesque waterfalls. Elevation change: 500’ ascent. A 5 mile, moderate hike. **Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 25 people. DT: 75 min.

- Similar program: 75
WILDFLOWER HIKES

WILDFLOWER HIKE: PORTERS CREEK TRAIL
Highlights of this hike include painted trillium, fields of phacelia, old home sites, a cemetery, and old-growth forest. Elevation change: 600’ ascent. A 6-7 mile, moderate hike. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 11, 32, 104, 131, 138

WILDFLOWER HIKE: LITTLE CATALOOCHEE TRAILS
A splendid wildflower show awaits those who venture on these little-traveled trails which lead through a rich, second-growth forest. Elevation change: 1,120’ descent. A 5.2 mile, moderate, one-way hike. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, a hand lens, and comfortable walking shoes. Limit 25 people. DT: 70 min.

EVENING PROGRAMS

FIRE ECOLOGY OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
Rob Klein, Fire Ecologist, and/or Greg Salansky, Zone Fire Management Officer, Appalachian-Piedmont Fire Management Zone will discuss how fire adapted plant communities within the park react to fire disturbance with an emphasis on the recent Chimney Tops 2 wildfire. No daily pilgrimage fee or registration required. Open to the public.
Similar programs: 7, 18, 47, 57, 82, 97, 117, 123, 136
NEW!

WILDFLOWER WALK: NOAH "BUD" OGLE TRAIL
See a splendid variety of wildflowers and American chestnut tree remnants in the reforested fields of this homestead. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 10 min.
Similar Programs: 26, 45, 86
BLACK BEAR AND WILD HOG WALK
Walk with David Whitehead, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Manager, as he describes the life history, tracking signs, human impacts, and environmental issues of black bears and wild hogs in the Southern Appalachians and GSMNP. A 2-3 mile, easy walk. Limit 20 people.
Similar programs: 23, 50, 87

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP
This program starts with a short visual presentation, then goes outdoors for hands-on instruction in composition and photo techniques by authors Jack Carman (Wildflowers of Tennessee) and Robert Hutson (Great Smoky Mountain Wildflowers: When and Where to Find Them). Bring a camera and tripod. A 2-mile, easy walk. Limit 20 people.
DT: 15 min.
Similar programs: 6, 30, 46, 62, 99

BIRDS AT CLINGMANS DOME
DH: 60 min.
Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 141

MOSS WALK: INJUN CREEK TRAIL IN GREENBRIER
Discover the elegant forms of moss, liverwort, and hornwort and ways to recognize them. Bring a hand lens. A 3 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 27, 69, 102

WILDFLOWER WALK: COVE HARDWOOD NATURE TRAIL
Observe abundant wildflowers, including dwarf ginseng and fringed phacelia, in this old-growth forest. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 25 min.
Similar programs: 2, 9, 51, 64, 94, 121, 139

WILDFLOWER WALK: HUSKEY GAP TRAIL
Walk the old trail that connected the settlers of Sugarlands Valley and Little River as you view the wildflower displays and homesites along the way. Elevation change: 1,000’. A 2 mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people.
Similar programs: 5, 31, 83, 112

WILDFLOWER WALK: PORTERS CREEK TRAIL
See a wide variety of flowers including painted trillium and many more. Pass old homesteads and a cemetery along this popular trail which leads to an old-growth cove hardwood forest. A 2-3 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.
DT: 30 min.
Similar programs: 11, 32, 104, 115, 138

WILDFLOWER WALK: CHESTNUT TOP TRAIL
One of the grandest wildflower displays in the Smokies. A 2 mile, moderate hike. Limit 15 people.
DT: 45 min.
Similar programs: 15, 66, 107

YOGA CLASS AT WALKER SISTERS CABIN
Join Michelle Harris and Emily Shaw on a journey to the Walker Sisters Cabin on the Metcalf Bottoms Trail to exercise and relax in this serene environment. Bring an exercise mat or large towel and water. A 4 mile, moderate hike. Limit 25 people.
DT: 45 min.
Similar program: 95A NEW!

WILDCRAFTING WALK
Learn about the edible, medicinal, and otherwise useful plants of our area with Ila Hatter, Wanda DeWaard, and Brittney Hughes. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people.
DT: 60 min.
Similar programs: 56, 92

AQUATIC INSECTS WALK
For the veteran, novice, and kid aquatic insect searcher. Entomologist Stylianos Chatzimanolis will show you the most diverse group of organisms on the planet first hand. Bring hand lens and mud shoes. Short, easy walk along streams. Limit 25 people. DT: 15 min.
Similar programs: 17, 54, 59, 78, 119
Exotic Plant and Wildflower Walk:

Gatlinburg Trail


Wildfire Ecology

Cherokee Orchard contains areas illustrating different intensity levels of recent wildfires on vegetation and soil. With Greg Schmidt (plant ecologist) explore these differences in the burn intensity as it relates to the earliest signs of vegetation regrowth. A 2 mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.

Similar programs: 7, 18, 47, 57, 82, 97, 117, 123

Fern Walk: Location To Be Determined

See a variety of the park's 25 more common ferns and fern allies. Bring a hand lens. A 2 mile, easy walk. Limit 25 people.

Similar programs: 10, 49, 90

Wildflower Walk: Porters Creek Trail

Pass old homesteads and a cemetery along this popular trail which leads to an old-growth cove hardwood forest. See a rich variety of wildflowers including painted trillium and many more. A 2-3 mile, moderate hike. Limit 25 people. DT: 30 min.

Similar programs: 11, 32, 104, 115, 131

Wildflower Walk: Cove Hardwood Nature Trail

Observe abundant wildflowers, including dwarf ginseng and fringed phacelia, in this old-growth forest. Short, easy walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 25 min.

Similar programs: 2, 9, 51, 64, 94, 121, 129

Wildflower Walk: Kanati Fork Trail

An exceptional site to see many species of spring wildflowers including painted trillium and Canada mayflower. A 2 mile, moderate walk. Limit 25 people. DT: 45 min.

Similar programs: 52, 68, 105, 144

Wood Warblers of the Smokies

Join international birder Simon Thompson to study behaviors, habitats, and songs of this often brilliantly colored family of birds as we search low and mid elevations. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. Short, easy walks. Limit 15 people.

www.birdventures.com

Similar programs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 70, 72, 79, 80, 81, 96, 110, 111, 113, 121, 120, 122, 127

New!

Big Trees Hike: Albright Grove

Hike to one of the most magnificent groves of large, old-growth trees in the park. Pass wonderful displays of wildflowers and an 1889 cabin made of chestnut. Elevation change: 1,600' ascent. A 6.5 mile, moderate hike. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. Limit 25 people.

Wildflower Hike: Sweat Heifer Trail to Kephart Prong

After a short 1.7 mile uphill climb, descend from early to late spring wildflower displays as you pass through different vegetation types and rich cove forests. Elevation change: 400' ascent and 2,650' descent. A 7.5 mile, strenuous hike. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. Limit 25 people.
145
9:00 AM–4:30 PM
CADES COVE AT INFORMATION KIOSK BEFORE LOOP ROAD ENTRANCE (MM)

**Wildflower Walk: Rich Mountain Loop Trail**
Follow Ed Lickey and Joey Shaw on a journey along the northern edge of Cades Cove. Walk the Rich Mountain Trail to Indian Grave Gap Trail and return on the Crooked Arm Ridge Trail. See the John Oliver Place and the valley view from Cerulean Knob. Maximum elevation change 1,600 ft. **Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** A 9 mile strenuous hike. Limit 25 people. DT: 60 min.

NEW!

146
9:00 AM–4:30 PM
BIG CREEK PARKING AREA—I-40 NC, WATERVILLE EXIT 451 (KK)

**Fungi, Lichen, and Wildflower Hike: Baxter Creek Trail and Big Creek Trail to Mouse Ear Falls**
Join mycologists Coleman McClenehan and Brain Looney, and ecologist Gary Walker to discover the rich diversity of wildflowers, fungi, and lichens as you walk. An 8-mile, strenuous hike. **Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 25 people. DT: 70 min., 40 miles
Similar programs: 12, 108
NEW!

147
9:00 AM–4:30 PM
COSBY PICNIC AREA—OFF TN RT. 32 HIKER PARKING LOT ON LEFT TO BEGIN VAN SHUTTLE TO MADDRON BALD TRAIL—VAN(H)

**Wildflower Hike: Gabes Mountain Trail**
An 8 mile, moderate, one-way hike passing through many wildflower displays and old-growth forests from Maddron Bald Trail to Cosby Picnic Area with a visit to 90' Hen Wallow Falls. Elevation change: 1,400'. **Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.** Limit 25 people. DT: 60 min.
Similar program: 37

148
10:00 AM–3:00 PM
CITY PARKING LOT ON REAGAN DRIVE BY GATLINBURG FIRE STATION (IN)

**Salamanders of the Smokies: Mid and Lower Elevations**
Join John Byrd and Floyd Scott, two of Tennessee’s eminent herpetologists, on an exploration tour of salamander species diversity at different elevations in the Smokies. **Prepare to get wet and bring a hand lens.** Short, easy walks en route. Limit 20 people.
Similar programs: 28, 60, 106
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Have you considered becoming a Sponsor of the Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage?
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Hotel Offers Exclusively for the 2017 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage

Select hotels in Gatlinburg are offering rooms at a special discounted rate for people registered for the 2017 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. Be sure to mention you’re a pilgrim when making reservations*!

- **Carr’s Cottages**
  421 W. Laurel Road
  (800) 370-5593
  www.CarrsCottages.com

- **Clarion Inn**
  1100 Parkway
  (800) 933-0777
  www.clariongatlinburg.com

- **Edgewater Hotel at the Aquarium**
  402 River Road
  (800) 423-9582
  www.edgewater-hotel.com

- **The Gillette Motel**
  235 Historic Nature Trail
  (800) 437-0815
  www.gillettemotel.com

- **Glenstone Lodge**
  504 Historic Nature Trail
  (800) 362-9522
  www.glenstonelodge.com

- **Holiday Inn Express Gatlinburg Downtown**
  322 Historic Nature Trail
  (865)868-6200
  www.hiexpress.com/gatlinburgdtn

- **Holiday Inn Club Vacations Smoky Mountain Resort**
  404 Historic Nature Trail
  (866) 327-3014
  www.hiclubvacations.com/gatlinburgtn

- **River Edge Motor Lodge**
  665 River Road
  (865) 436-9292
  www.riveredgemotorlodgegatlinburgtn.com

- **Royal Townhouse**
  937 Parkway
  (800) 433-8792
  www.riversidehotels.com/gatlinburg-hotel

- **Zoder’s Inn & Suites**
  402 Parkway
  (865) 436-5681
  www.zoders.com

*Availability and rates vary

Create Your Own Custom 2017 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage T-shirt On-site!

Available in all sizes, short-sleeves, long-sleeves, and some sweatshirts!

This year’s shirt features Mary Ruden’s beautiful illustration of Wildflowers. Join us for her opening reception at Arrowmont April 12, program #38!

This year, T-shirts will be printed on-site only. Pilgrims will be able to select from a variety of logos and watch them be printed in only a minute or two. The Wildflower Pilgrimage logo, 2017 winning artist image (cover on brochure and left), and a few other select logos or nature quotes, such as “I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees.” – H.D. Thoreau, can be applied to your personalized shirt. We will also have a variety of t-shirt colors, sleeves length, and sweatshirts available.

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City of Gatlinburg and Local Parking Map

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

SIMPLIFIED MAP NOT TO SCALE

To Cosby, Greenbrier, & I-40

To Newfound Gap, Clingmans Dome, & Cherokee, NC

City of Gatlinburg Convention Center

To Pigeon Forge, Sevierville, Knoxville, & I-40

Gatlinburg, TN