



Legend

- ADA Accessible 
- Light on the Legs 
- Transportation Provided ,
- Color Coded Titles: **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

Wednesday All Day

1. [Birding: A Musical Walk Through Greenbrier](#)

Wednesday AM

-  2. [Photography Workshop for Beginners](#)
-  3. [Bird Banding Basics at the Premier Seven Islands State Birding Park](#)
4. [Birding from Sugarlands to the Cove Hardwood Nature Trail](#)
-  5. [Native People's Use of Nature's Garden at Chimney's Outdoor Classroom](#)
-  6. [Tour the GSMNP Natural History Museum at Twin Creeks](#)
-  7. [Fungi: Edible Mushrooms at Chimneys Picnic Area](#)
- 7.5. [Geology: Karst and Bull Cave](#)
-  8. [Insects: Aquatic Insect Diversity Walk at Twin Creeks](#)
-  9. [Black Bear and Wild Hogs in the Smokies - Jakes Creek](#)
10. [Ferns at Little River above Elkmont](#)
11. [Moss Walk: Appalachian Trail from Indian Gap to Newfound Gap](#)
-  12. [Understanding Leaves of Trees, Shrubs, and Lianas: Structures, Form, Function](#)
13. [Trees and Wildflowers of Metcalf Bottoms](#)
-  14. [Understanding Flowers: Structures, Form, Function](#)
15. [Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail](#)
16. [Wildflower Hike at Cucumber Gap Trail - Short Version](#)
-  17. [Wildflower Hike at Huskey Gap Trail - Short Version](#)

18. [Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail](#)



19. [Wildflower Hike at Spruce Fir Nature Trail](#)

19.5. [Wildflower Hike at Trillium Gap Trail](#)



20. [Wildflower Hike on the Riverview Quiet Walkway](#)

21. [Salamanders: Streams, Springs, and Leaves... What Hides Beneath?](#)

22. [Fire Ecology in the Fire-Adapted Table Mountain Pine Ecosystem at Bullhead Trail](#)

23. [iNaturalist: Become a Pioneer Pilgrim by Learning How to Use the iNaturalist App!](#)

24. [Skills of a Naturalist: Observing Nature](#)

25. [NEON: Learn about how our National Science Foundation is monitoring long-term climate change in the GSMNP using NEON!](#)

Wednesday PM



27. [Nature Journaling at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area](#)



28. [Elkmont, Then and Now](#)



29. [Fungi and their Funky Forest Friends found in the Cosby Picnic Area](#)

29.5. [Geology: A Mess of Faults](#)



30. [Pollinators and Plants: Lessons in Pollination Biology](#)



31. [Black Bear and Wild Hogs in the Smokies - Jakes Creek](#)

32. [Moss Walk: Basics of Mosses and their Relatives at Chimneys Picnic Area](#)



33. [Tree and Shrub Identification Walk at Cosby Picnic Area](#)



35. [Understanding Leaves of Trees, Shrubs, and Lianas: Structures, Form, Function](#)

36. [Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail](#)

37. Wildflower Hike at Abrams Falls Trail - Short Version

37.25. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail

38. Wildflower Hike at Gabes Mountain Trail

39. Wildflower Hike at Kephart Prong Trail

40. Wildflower Hike at Rainbow Falls

41. Wildflower Hike at Snake Den Ridge Trail

42. Wildflower Hike at Trillium Gap Trail

43. Wildflower Hike on the Appalachian Trail from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap

44. Wildflowers and Shrubs of Mingus Creek Trail

45. Wildflowers: Lady Slippers at Bud Ogle

 **46. Salamanders of the Smokies: Motorcade from Peaks to Seeps**

 **47. Fun with Names: Botanical Latin for Beginners**

48. NEON: Learn about how our National Science Foundation is monitoring long-term climate change in the GSMNP using NEON!

49. Secret Stories of The Wildflowers Along Meigs Creek Trail.

Wednesday Evening

 **50. Owl Prowl at Mynatt Park**

 **51. Why 'Pilgrimage?': Theories, Stories, and Reflections on the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage**

52. Fungi: Lichens at Night in the Smokies

 **53. Bats: Stirring the Cauldron at the Twin Creeks Area**

Thursday All Day

 **54. Art Workshop: Exploring Botanical Patterns and Motifs in Clay**


54.5. Wildflower Hike at Abrams Falls Trail - Long Version

55. Wildflower Hike at Meigs Creek and Curry Mountain Trails Loop

56. Wildflower Hike at Low Gap - Long Version

Thursday AM

 **57. Nature Journaling at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area**

 **58. Photography of Flowers Using iPhone**

 **59. Bird Banding Basics at the Premier Seven Islands State Birding Park**

 **59.5. Birding at the East End of Cades Cove**

60. Birding on School House Gap Trail

 **61. Native People's Use of Nature's Garden at Collins Creek Pavilion**

 **62. Tour the GSMNP Natural History Museum at Twin Creeks**

63. Fungi of Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway

63.75. Geology: Karst and Bull Cave

 **64. Insects: Aquatic Insect Diversity Walk at Twin Creeks**

 **65. Pollinators and Plants: Lessons in Pollination Biology**

 **66. Black Bear and Wild Hogs in the Smokies - Jakes Creek**

67. Ferns at Baxter Creek Trail, along Big Creek

68. Ferns at Little River above Elkmont

69. Moss Walk: Basics of Mosses and their Relatives at Chimneys Picnic Area

70. Tree and Shrub Identification Walk at Metcalf Bottoms

 **71. Understanding Leaves of Trees, Shrubs, and Lianas: Structures, Form, Function**

 **72. Understanding Flowers: Structures, Form, Function**

73. Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail

74. Wildflower Hike at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail (Chimneys Picnic Area loop trail)

74.5. Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail

75. Wildflower Hike at Rainbow Falls

76. Wildflower Hike on the Appalachian Trail from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap



77. Wildflower Hike on the Riverview Quiet Walkway

78. Wildflowers: Lady Slippers at Bud Ogle

79. Salamanders: Streams, Springs, and Leaves... What Hides Beneath?



80. Life in the Leaf Litter: A Tour of the Seldom-Seen Animal Diversity at Our Feet

81. Fire Ecology in the Fire-Adapted Table Mountain Pine Ecosystem at Bullhead Trail

82. NEON: Learn about how our National Science Foundation is monitoring long-term climate change in the GSMNP using NEON!

83. The Wild-ness and Wilderness of the Park

84. Secret Stories of The Wildflowers Along Meigs Creek Trail.

Thursday Mid-Day



85. Book Signing: Bill Landry, A Last Hurrah!

Thursday PM



86. Photography of Flowers Motorcade



87. Sketching Wildflowers at Cosby Picnic Area Pavilion



88. A Walk through History: The Walker Sisters of Little Greenbrier



89. Elkmont, Then and Now

90. Fungi of Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway



91. Insects: Aquatic Insect Diversity Walk at Twin Creeks

92. Ferns at the Cosby Nature Trail

93. Moss Walk: Appalachian Trail from Indian Gap to Newfound Gap



94. Moss Walk: Sugarlands Valley Nature Trail



95. Tree Identification for Beginners at Collins Creek Picnic Pavilion

96. Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail

97. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail

97.5. Wildflower Hike at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail (Chimneys Picnic Area loop trail)

98. Wildflower Hike at Cucumber Gap Trail - Short Version

99. Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail

100. Wildflower Hike at Little River Above Elkmont

101. Wildflower Hike at Rainbow Falls

101.5. Wildflower Hike on the Appalachian Trail from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap



102. Wildflower Hike on the Riverview Quiet Walkway



103. Wildflower Identification for Beginners at Chimneys Picnic Area

104. Salamanders: Streams, Springs, and Leaves... What Hides Beneath?



105. Explore the Wonders of Animal Communication at Collins Creek

106. iNaturalist: Become a Pioneer Pilgrim by Learning How to Use the iNaturalist App!

107. NEON: Learn about how our National Science Foundation is monitoring long-term climate change in the GSMNP using NEON!



108. Parasites! An Important Component of Our Hidden Biodiversity

Thursday Evening

108.5. Artist-of-the-Year Reception at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts for Audry Deal-McEver



109. Owl Prowl at Mynatt Park



110. William Bartram (1739-1823): An Unlikely Explorer

111. Book Signing: Bill Landry, A Last Hurrah!

112. Fungi: Lichens at Night in the Smokies



113. Bats: Stirring the Cauldron at the Twin Creeks Area

114. Wildflowers by Light: Sights and Sounds at Night on Kephart Prong Trail

Friday All Day



115. Art Workshop: Natural Dye with Kitchen Scraps and Extracts

116. Birding on Alum Cave Trail

117. Wildflower Hike at Abrams Falls Trail - Long Version



118. Wildflower Hike at Huskey Gap Trail - Long Version

Friday AM



119. Sketching Wildflowers at Collins Creek Pavilion

120. Birding from Sugarlands to Newfound Gap

121. Birding on School House Gap Trail

122. Birding the East End of Cades Cove



123. Elkmont, Then and Now



124. Tour the GSMNP Natural History Museum at Twin Creeks

125. Fungi of Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway



126. Pollinators and Plants: Lessons in Pollination Biology



127. Black Bear and Wild Hogs in the Smokies - Jakes Creek

128. Ferns at Baxter Creek Trail, along Big Creek

129. Forest Foods and Pharmacy at Metcalf Bottoms

130. Moss Walk: Basics of Mosses and their Relatives at Collins Creek Pavilion

131. Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail

132. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail



133. Wildflower Hike at Huskey Gap Trail - Short Version

133.5. Wildflower Hike at Little River Above Elkmont

134. Wildflower Hike at Gabes Mountain Trail

134.5. Wildflower Hike at Kephart Prong Trail

135. Wildflower Hike at Rainbow Falls

136. Wildflower Hike at Spruce Fir Nature Trail

137. Wildflower Hike at Trillium Gap Trail



138. Wildflowers Along the Sugarland Valley Nature Trail



139. Life in the Leaf Litter: A Tour of the Seldom-Seen Animal Diversity at Our Feet

140. iNaturalist: Become a Pioneer Pilgrim by Learning How to Use the iNaturalist App!

141. Skills of a Naturalist: Observing Nature

Friday Mid-Day



143. Book Signing: Bill Landry, A Last Hurrah!

Friday PM



144. Photography of Flowers with Mirrorless or SLR Cameras: Advanced Workshop



145. Nature Drawing for Beginners at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area

146. Birding on Bullhead Trail

147. History, Wildflowers, and Culture of Noah Bud Ogle



148. Fungi and their Funky Forest Friends found in the Cosby Picnic Area



149. Butterflies in Cades Cove

150. Ferns at Little River above Elkmont

151. Herblore of Appalachia

152. Moss Walk: Injun Creek Trail in Greenbrier

153. Exotic Plants on the Gatlinburg Trail

154. Tree and Shrub Identification Walk at Metcalf Bottoms

155. Trees and Shrubs of High Elevation at Indian Gap Trail

155.5. Trees and Shrubs of High Elevation at Sugarland Mountain Trail

156. Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail

157. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail

158. Wildflower Hike at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail (Chimneys Picnic Area loop trail)

159. Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail

160. Wildflower Hike at Cosby Nature Trail

161. Wildflower Hike at Snake Den Ridge Trail

162. Wildflower Hike at Trillium Gap Trail

163. Wildflowers: Lady Slippers at Bud Ogle

 **164. Salamanders of the Smokies: Motorcade from Peaks to Seeps**

 **165. Explore the Wonders of Animal Communication at Collins Creek**

  **166. Parasites! An Important Component of Our Hidden Biodiversity**

Friday Evening

 **167. A Last Hurrah! Bill Landry tells his own story this time!**

 **168. Book Signing: Bill Landry, A Last Hurrah!**

 **169. Bats: Stirring the Cauldron at the Twin Creeks Area**

 **170. Stargazing**

Saturday All Day

171. Sugar Magnolia Warblers and Scarlet Bignonias

 **172. Fungi: Rambling with Wildflowers, Mushrooms, and Lichens on the Big Creek Trail**

 **173. Tree Hike to See the Giants at Albright Grove**

174. Trees, Wildflowers, Fungi, and Friends All Day Long: Mt. Cammerer Fire Tower

175. Salamander Picnic

Saturday AM

 **176. Wildcrafting Walk in the Smokies**

 **177. Photography Workshop**

 **178. Sketching Wildflowers at Twin Creeks Pavilion**

179. Birding and Wildflowers on School House Gap Trail

180. Birding on Bullhead Trail

181. Birds of Cades Cove, By Song and Sight

182. Fungi of Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway

 **183. Black Bear and Wild Hogs in the Smokies - Jakes Creek**

184. Ferns at the Cosby Nature Trail

185. Moss Walk: Basics of Mosses and their Relatives at Collins Creek Pavilion

186. Exotic Plants on the Gatlinburg Trail

187. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail

187.5. Wildflower Hike at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail (Chimneys Picnic Area loop trail)

188. Wildflower Hike at Cucumber Gap Trail - Short Version

 **189. Wildflower Hike at Huskey Gap Trail - Short Version**

190. Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail

191. Wildflower Hike at Little River Above Elkmont

192. Wildflower Hike at Kephart Prong Trail

193. Wildflower Hike at Snake Den Ridge Trail

 **194. Wildflower Hike at Spruce Fir Nature Trail**

194.5. Wildflowers and Forest Ecology at Rainbow Falls

 **195. Life in the Leaf Litter: A Tour of the Seldom-Seen Animal Diversity at Our Feet**

 **196. Fun with Names: Botanical Latin for Beginners**

197. iNaturalist: Become a Pioneer Pilgrim by Learning How to Use the iNaturalist App!

Saturday PM

198. Birding on Low Gap Trail

199. History, Wildflowers, and Culture of Noah Bud Ogle

 **200. Fungi and their Funky Forest Friends found in the Cosby Picnic Area**

201. Ferns at Little River above Elkmont

 **202. Moss & Fern Walk: Sugarlands Valley Nature Trail**

203. Moss Walk: Basics of Mosses and their Relatives at Collins Creek Pavilion

203.5. Trees and Shrubs at Cucumber Gap

 **204. Trees and Shrubs of High Elevation at Spruce Fir Trail**

205. Wildflower Hike at Abrams Falls Trail - Short Version

206. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail

207. Wildflower Hike at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail (Chimneys Picnic Area loop trail)

 **208. Wildflower Hike at Huskey Gap Trail - Short Version**

209. Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail

209.5. Wildflower Hike at Cosby Nature Trail

210. Wildflower Hike at Rainbow Falls

211. Wildflower Hike at Trillium Gap Trail

212. Wildflower Hike on the Appalachian Trail from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap

 **213. Wildflower Hike on the Riverview Quiet Walkway**

 **214. Wildflowers Along the Sugarland Valley Nature Trail**

215. iNaturalist: Become a Pioneer Pilgrim by Learning How to Use the iNaturalist App!

Saturday Evening



216. Bats: Stirring the Cauldron at the Twin Creeks Area



217. Stargazing

1. Birding: A Musical Walk Through Greenbrier

Time: 7:00:00 AM to
4:30:00 PM
Trail: UT Field Station
(AM), Greenbrier Rd (PM)
Meeting Location: AH - UT
Field Station at Greenbrier

Come join naturalist Kevin Barry on an all-day workshop to learn to identify birds based on song! The program will begin in a field classroom setting at the UT Field Station. You will use the Cornell University Ornithology App to study songs and pictures of many of the Park's most common birds, paying particular attention to warblers, as they are some of the most interesting and confusing to identify. After lunch, you will put what you have learned into practice as you take an afternoon hike down the closed Greenbrier Rd. Bring a notebook/journal, pencil, binoculars, and a smartphone, if you have one.

Logistics: There are minimal parking spots along the road at the field station entry gate. This road needs to remain open, so please do not block it with your cars. More parking is available up the road 0.2 miles where the field station is located. However, cars will likely not be able to make it to the top, as they may bottom out and get stuck crossing ruts. If you have a SUV, truck, Outback, etc., you will easily be able to make it to the top, so please drive up the road and park there in order to make room for the cars that may not be able to make it to the top along the road. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

2. Photography Workshop for Beginners

Time: 8:15:00 AM to
11:30:00 AM
Trail: Sugarlands Training
Room
Meeting Location: AB -
Sugarlands Visitor Center
Training Room.



Learn how to improve your wildflower images with mirrorless and SLR cameras. Robert Hutson, co-author of Great Smoky Mountain Wildflowers: When and Where to Find Them, and Jack Carman, author of Wildflowers of Tennessee, will give a short visual presentation and then migrate outside for hands-on instruction in composition and photo technique. Bring hiking boots, a mirrorless or SLR camera, and a tripod. An easy 1-mile walk.

Logistics: Park in the third lot on the right. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min

3. Bird Banding Basics at the Premier Seven Islands State Birding Park

Time: 8:00:00 AM to
11:30:00 AM
Trail: Seven Islands State
Park (outside of GSMNP)
Meeting Location: AM -
Seven Islands State Birding
Park.



Join experienced birders and conservationists in a hands-on birding program outside of the GSMNP. Seven Islands State Birding Park is a premier birding park along the French Broad River where more than 215 species of birds have been documented! In this program, you will get closer up views of birds than programs in the GSMNP can offer; you will experience catching, identifying, measuring, aging, banding, and releasing many species, including spring migrants. You will be able to observe the whole process and release the birds after data are recorded.

Logistics: Meet your group at the Bluebird Barn near the main parking area, and walk approximately one mile to the banding site with your leaders. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 60 min [Map](#).

4. Birding from Sugarlands to the Cove Hardwood Nature Trail

Time: 7:30:00 AM to
11:30:00 AM
Trail: Sugarlands to Cove
Hardwood
Meeting Location: G - City
Parking Lot on Reagan
Drive By Gatlinburg Fire
Station.

Join expert birder Roger Hedge to search for spring migrants and Appalachian residents at Sugarlands Visitor Center, and look for the blackthroated blue warbler at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail. Bring binoculars and rain gear. Short, easy walks.

Logistics: Meet your group at the parking lot, and carpool in as few cars as possible to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

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- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

5. Native People's Use of Nature's Garden at Chimney's Outdoor Classroom

Time: 8:15:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Chimneys Picnic Area/Outdoor Classroom
Meeting Location: F - Chimneys Picnic Area on Newfound Gap Road.

Listen to Native American Karen La Mere (Ho-Chunk) as she tells an oral history that has been passed down through generations by America's indigenous people. You will also discover and even taste ingenious uses of native plants. Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/outdoor classroom above the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).



6. Tour the GSMNP Natural History Museum at Twin Creeks

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 11:00:00 AM
Trail: Twin Creeks Science and Education Center
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).

Come tour the natural history collections that have been used to document the biodiversity of the GSMNP since its beginning. In this behind-locked-doors tour of the GSMNP Natural History Museum, you will see specimens of mammals, birds (including the now-extinct passenger pigeon), fungi, insects, and plants. You will also learn about how these specimens are prepared, stored, and cataloged as well as their importance to the Park.

Logistics: Meet your group in the Twin Creeks Science and Education Center. Park in the Twin Creeks Public Parking Area, cross the street, and walk up the short trail to the south end of the Science and Education Center. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).



7. Fungi: Edible Mushrooms at Chimneys Picnic Area

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Chimneys Picnic Area/Outdoor Classroom
Meeting Location: F - Chimneys Picnic Area on Newfound Gap Road.

Learn the do's and don'ts about recognizing edible mushrooms and their habitat preferences with mycologists Rachel Swenie and Hill Craddock. Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/outdoor classroom above the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).



7.5. Geology: Karst and Bull Cave

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Ace Gap Trail
Meeting Location: AL - Ace Gap Trailhead

Tennessee has over 10,000 caves – the most of any state and the Smokies has the deepest one of them all! We will take a short walk to the cave entrance (but not enter the cave) and adjacent active sinkholes. We will discuss the very unique nature of this mountaintop karst feature and how it relates to nearby Cades and Tuckaleechee coves and Whiteoak Sink and learn how it all fits in with the geologic history of the Park.

Logistics: Meet your group in the gravel parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 50 min [Map](#).

8. Insects: Aquatic Insect Diversity Walk at Twin Creeks

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion, Twin Creeks Stream
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).

Learn to identify and collect insects in pristine streams with entomologists (scientists who study insects). During this program, you will take short walks on multiple streams in order to learn about the differences in the preferred habitats of a variety of insects. Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the gravel parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).



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9. Black Bear and Wild Hogs in the Smokies - Jakes Creek

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 11:00:00 AM
Trail: Jakes Creek Trail
Meeting Location: R - Jakes Creek Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.



Walk along this old railroad route with retired Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Managers and expert biologists as they describe the life history, tracking signs, human impacts, and environmental issues of black bears, wild hogs, and other mammals in the Southern Appalachians. An easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Jakes Creek Trailhead parking area that is 0.1 miles past the Little River Trailhead parking area. Meet your group at the Jakes Creek Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

10. Ferns at Little River above Elkmont

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Little River Trail
Meeting Location: S - Little River Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

Have you ever seen an adder's tongue, a sang pointer, or the hitchhiking southern lady? Do you understand what parts of ferns or fern allies are leaves, and what parts are stems? Come see a variety of the Park's more common ferns and fern allies, and learn about their structures, how they grow and reproduce, and their biodiversity in the Park. Bring a hand lens. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the parking area at the Little River Trailhead. The parking area and trailhead are just past the Little River Bridge. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

11. Moss Walk: Appalachian Trail from Indian Gap to Newfound Gap

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 11:00:00 AM
Trail: Appalachian Trail, Indian Gap, Newfound Gap
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

Discover the distinctive flora of high elevation mosses and liverworts along the Appalachian Trail. Learn about their adaptations to higher elevation habitats and how they differ from low elevation species. Bring a hand lens. A moderate 1-2 mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. Before beginning this hike, group members need to shuttle everyone in as few cars as possible to the start point of the hike at the Indian Gap parking area. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive one mile north on Clingmans Dome Rd, and the Indian Gap parking area will be on the right (35.60937, -83.44654). Leave cars there and begin your hike. After your hike, shuttle those that need to pick up their car at the Indian Gap parking area. **Transportation:** None provided. Car shuttle needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

12. Understanding Leaves of Trees, Shrubs, and Lianas: Structures, Form, Function

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Cosby Picnic Area/Pavilion
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).



Understanding how to interpret leaves, leaflets, stems, and axillary buds is a vital part of being able to interpret the basics of plants and distinguish species. This program will begin with a lecture on these structures and finish up with a short walk to apply what you have learned. After this program, your eyes will be opened to so much more during the rest of the Pilgrimage!

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

13. Trees and Wildflowers of Metcalf Bottoms

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (South), Metcalf Bottoms Trail
Meeting Location: U - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (South Parking Area).

Did you know that species of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers associate into different communities across the landscape? In this program, you will discuss the technical differences between trees and shrubs, as well as which species of wildflowers associate with them. You will learn to identify some trees, shrubs, and associated wildflowers on this walk with experts. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the south parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. Then, head out onto Metcalf Bottoms Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

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14. Understanding Flowers: Structures, Form, Function

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: UT Field Station
Meeting Location: AH - UT Field Station at Greenbrier

Understanding the parts of flowers and how to interpret flower structures is key to having a great Wildflower Pilgrimage! Come to this program early in the week for a lecture-style presentation that will allow you to better interpret flower structures. Reinforce your new knowledge by dissecting and studying a vast array of native flowers planted beside an old house at the UT Field Station. This program will sharpen your eye for the rest of the event, especially if you are a beginner.

Logistics: Park and meet your leader in the cemetery. The cemetery is located on the right before the gate. You will then hike 0.5 miles up the road with your leader to an old house. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

15. Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Middle Prong Trail
Meeting Location: AE - Tremont Road (parking lot at end of gravel road).

Stroll with expert botanists and conservationists along Middle Prong Trail while stopping along the way to enjoy many of the spring ephemeral wildflowers, ferns, and flowering trees of the Smokies such as tulip trees, wild ginger, and violets. Interestingly, this trail used to be a railroad bed, and carried out the last logs from the Smokies in 1939. A moderate 4-mile walk.

Logistics: From the Townsend Wye, take Laurel Creek Rd to Tremont Rd, continuing after it turns to gravel until it terminates at the Middle Prong Trail Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

16. Wildflower Hike at Cucumber Gap Trail - Short Version

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Cucumber Gap Trail
Meeting Location: R - Jakes Creek Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

Walk through a secondary cove hardwood forest, and enjoy the rich diversity of wildflowers along the way. This trip begins on Jakes Creek, following the old railroad route, terminates near Tulip Branch on Cucumber Gap Trail, and then returns. A moderate 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Jakes Creek Trailhead parking area that is 0.1 miles past the Little River Trailhead parking area. Meet your group at the Jakes Creek Trailhead. After walking 0.7 miles on Jakes Creek Trail with your group, you will turn left onto Cucumber Gap Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

17. Wildflower Hike at Huskey Gap Trail - Short Version

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Huskey Gap Trail
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.



The Huskey Gap Trail is one of the few trails that was chosen for the first SWFP in 1951, and this botanically rich trail continues to be a must-see after 72 years! Walk the old trail that connected settlers of Sugarlands Valley and Little River, passing old homesites along the way while viewing the wildflower displays of crested dwarf iris, trillium, wild ginger, and bloodroot. A moderate 2-mile walk. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot, and take provided transportation to the Huskey Gap Trailhead. The bus will travel two miles south from Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd. The Huskey Gap Trailhead is directly across from the Riverview Quiet Walkway Trailhead. The bus will pick you up between 11:30am and 11:45am from the Huskey Gap Trailhead to return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 5 min.

18. Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Kanati Fork Trail
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

The Kanati Fork Trail has many spring ephemeral wildflowers including painted trillium, Clinton lily, foam flower, Indian cucumber root, brook lettuce, and Canada mayflower as well as a lot of the more common species in the Park. Turn around when the group is ready. A moderate 2 mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. There is limited parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead, so carpool in as few cars as possible with your group from Rockefeller Memorial to the Kanati Fork Trailhead. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive 8.4 miles east along Newfound Gap Road, and parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead will be on the left (35.58790, -83.36387). **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

19. Wildflower Hike at Spruce Fir Nature Trail

Time: 7:30:00 AM to 10:45:00 AM
Trail: Spruce Fir Nature Trail
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.



Explore the trees, shrubs, and wildflowers of the unique Spruce - Fir forests of the Smokies. This rare and endangered southeastern montane forest is an exceptional plant community. Learn about how this community was formed, the dynamics that maintain it and the factors that threaten its continued existence. An easy 1-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. There is very limited parking at the Spruce Fir Nature Trail parking area, so carpool in as few cars as possible (ideally 3-4 cars) with your group from Rockefeller Memorial to the Spruce Fir Nature Trail. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive 2.5 miles north on Clingmans Dome Rd, and the Spruce Fir Nature Trail parking area will be on the left (35.59569, -83.45871). **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

19.5. Wildflower Hike at Trillium Gap Trail

Time: 8:15:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Trillium Gap Trail
Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Explore the Trillium Gap Trail with expert botanists and conservationists. Along the way, you will cross creeks, wind through a forest of locusts, maples, and tulip trees, and observe a variety of wildflowers, including toothwort, hepatica, putty root orchids, striped pipsissewa, and downy rattlesnake plantain. A moderate 2.8-mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Trillium Gap Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

20. Wildflower Hike on the Riverview Quiet Walkway

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Riverview Quiet Walkway
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.



This easy walk from Newfound Gap Road to West Prong Little Pigeon River has a rich diversity of wildflowers, trees and shrubs, and plant communities. The trail follows the level flood plain of the river through groves of hardwoods and passes some seepages. This walk is one of the only places in the Park to see silky willow. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot at Sugarlands Visitor Center and take provided transportation to the Riverview Quiet Walkway. The bus will travel two miles south from Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd. The Riverview Quiet Walkway is past the Bullhead View Quiet Walkway and directly across from Huskey Gap Trail. After hiking the loop trail, the bus will pick you up at the Riverview Quiet Walkway Trailhead between 11:30am and 11:45am and return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 5 min.

21. Salamanders: Streams, Springs, and Leaves... What Hides Beneath?

Time: 8:45:00 AM to 12:00:00 PM
Trail: Cosby Picnic Area/Pavilion
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

This program begins with a short herpetology discussion on identification, life history, and ethics before embarking on a hike to search for some of Tennessee's greatest treasures (salamanders of course!). Hopefully, you'll get a chance to spot some of their scaly relatives along the way in this mid-elevation environment where densely forested streams and seeps meet open woodlands. Every amphibian-based hike will begin and end with decontamination, and a short discussion of survey protocols/ethics in order to protect these species from the spread of dangerous pathogens.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

22. Fire Ecology in the Fire-Adapted Table Mountain Pine Ecosystem at Bullhead Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Bullhead Trail
Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Fire is an important factor in many forest systems, and fire effects can vary from destructive to beneficial. Join GSMNP Ranger and Ecologist Troy Evans on the Bullhead Trail to see how fire affects forest types differently, while enjoying spring wildflowers along the way. The walk ascends the moderate Bullhead Trail for 2.2 miles, topping out in the fire-dependent Table Mountain Pine forests. The total round-trip hike is 4.5 miles.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Bullhead Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

23. iNaturalist: Become a Pioneer Pilgrim by Learning How to Use the iNaturalist App!

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Trails TBD
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.

iNaturalist is a free app that was created by workers at California Academy of Sciences. If you've been to the Pilgrimage over the past few years, you have certainly seen pilgrims using it. iNaturalist not only helps users determine what organisms they are observing, but it also collects biodiversity data that can be used by scientists, conservation workers, and land managers in the GSMNP. In this program, you will learn how you can use this app to discover the natural world around you while helping park managers better track and understand the biodiversity of the Smokies. Bring your smart phones!

Logistics: Meet your group in the Sugarlands Visitor Center bus parking lot, and your leaders will decide which trails to travel to from there. **Transportation:** None provided.

24. Skills of a Naturalist: Observing Nature

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (North)
Meeting Location: AU - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (North Parking Lot).

Nature is a remarkable teacher, and the GSMNP has been called a great outdoor classroom. Naturalists tap into their knowledge with observational methods of study. Through patience, awareness, and the five senses, you can discover a great deal about the natural world. Valuable tips and simple tools explored in this program will help cultivate and sharpen the skills needed to derive the greatest benefit from time spent outdoors and begin your journey as an amateur naturalist. Bring a small notebook or journal and writing implement of choice.

Logistics: Park at the north parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

25. NEON: Learn about how our National Science Foundation is monitoring long-term climate change in the GSMNP using NEON!

Time: 9:00:00 AM to 11:00:00 AM
Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).

Learn about the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Program and what kind of data collection NEON performs around the GSMNP. There will be a tour of the NEON Tower and Aquatic sensors, and a demonstration of sampling techniques used for measuring fauna and flora data. In this program, you'll walk about 600 yards in total, some of it off trail.

Logistics: Meet in the gravel parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

27. Nature Journaling at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (North)
Meeting Location: AU - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (North Parking Lot).



Keeping a nature journal is a fun way to create a record of your experiences in the natural world, using primarily images - usually drawings - or writing. We'll talk about different methods and ideas for ways to make your journal a lively, informative treasure to enjoy for years to come. No drawing skills are necessary - just the desire to keep a thoughtful notebook about what you observe. Bring at least a pencil and paper. Additional materials will be provided.

Logistics: Park at the north parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

28. Elkmont, Then and Now

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 3:30:00 PM
Trail: Elkmont Campground Area
Meeting Location: AZ - Elkmont Campground (field behind Elkmont Campground Office).



Join Interpretive Park Ranger and historian Brad Free on a tour of the human history of Elkmont. Learn about Elkmont's interesting history and politics while touring the old vacation homes and other buildings at Elkmont, some of which only foundations remain. See the amazing restoration efforts of some of these homes that have taken place over the last few years. Be sure to ask Brad about the plane crash at that site!

Logistics: Park within the Elkmont Campground. Meet your group in the grass field behind the Elkmont Campground Office. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

29. Fungi and their Funky Forest Friends found in the Cosby Picnic Area

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Cosby Picnic Area/Pavilion, Trails TBD
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).



Fungi are essential organisms in the forest. You will start this program by learning about what fungi are and what they are not. You will get to study, smell, and touch a display of different fungal types, including mushrooms, puffballs, cup fungi, conks, and lichens. After the fun fungal lesson, you will head out on a hike to explore the forest and look for evidence of the fungal friends and foes. Bring a hand lens if you have one. Easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

29.5. Geology: A Mess of Faults

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Little River Trail
Meeting Location: S - Little River Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

Take a walk up the Little River Trail to visit a particularly vexing area of the Smokies geology. We will talk about faulting in this area where thrust faults meet the Smokies version of the San Andreas fault (sort of anyway). We will tie it all in to how the Smokies were built and how they fit in with the study of mountain building. Approx. 3 miles of easy walking.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the parking area at the Little River Trailhead. The parking area and trailhead are just past the Little River Bridge. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

30. Pollinators and Plants: Lessons in Pollination Biology

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Cosby Nature Trail
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).



Did you know that oftentimes you can predict the types of insects that will pollinate certain plants based on the shapes and colors of their flowers? Join experts in pollination biology to learn how to predict pollinators based on floral characteristics.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

31. Black Bear and Wild Hogs in the Smokies - Jakes Creek

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Jake's Creek Trail
Meeting Location: R - Jakes Creek Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.



Walk along this old railroad route with retired Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Managers and expert biologists as they describe the life history, tracking signs, human impacts, and environmental issues of black bears, wild hogs, and other mammals in the Southern Appalachians. An easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Jakes Creek Trailhead parking area that is 0.1 miles past the Little River Trailhead parking area. Meet your group at the Jakes Creek Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

32. Moss Walk: Basics of Mosses and their Relatives at Chimneys Picnic Area

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Chimneys Picnic Area/Outdoor Classroom
Meeting Location: F - Chimneys Picnic Area on Newfoundland Gap Road.

Learn about the diminutive world of mosses: a diverse group of very beautiful, unique, and small non-flowering plants that are found throughout the Smokies. You will learn about a variety of mosses as you observe them along the trail. You will also discuss their life cycle and basic ways to distinguish them from one another. Bring a 10x hand lens or a strong magnifying glass if possible. Moderate 2-3 mile walk with a few uphill/downhill sections.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/outdoor classroom above the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

33. Tree and Shrub Identification Walk at Cosby Picnic Area

Time: 2:00:00 PM to 4:15:00 PM
Trail: Cosby Picnic Area/Pavilion, Trails TBD
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).



This program is more than an introduction to terms. You will learn characters used in the identification of woody plants (trees, shrubs, and woody vines). You will also learn how to differentiate leaf and bark characteristics, which will help you to distinguish between genera and species of common and lesser common woody plants in the Park. Bring field guides and hand lenses if you have them, but they are not required.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

35. Understanding Leaves of Trees, Shrubs, and Lianas: Structures, Form, Function

Time: 2:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: UT Field Station
Meeting Location: AH - UT Field Station at Greenbrier

Understanding how to interpret leaves, leaflets, stems, and axillary buds is a vital part of being able to interpret the basics of plants and distinguish species. This program will begin with a lecture on these structures and finish up with a short walk to apply what you have learned. After this program, your eyes will be opened to so much more during the rest of the Pilgrimage!

Logistics: Park and meet your leader in the cemetery. The cemetery is located on the right before the gate. You will then hike 0.5 miles up the road with your leader to an old house. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

36. Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail

Time: 1:45:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Middle Prong Trail
Meeting Location: AE - Tremont Road (parking lot at end of gravel road).

Stroll with expert botanists and conservationists along Middle Prong Trail while stopping along the way to enjoy many of the spring ephemeral wildflowers, ferns, and flowering trees of the Smokies such as tulip trees, wild ginger, and violets. Interestingly, this trail used to be a railroad bed, and carried out the last logs from the Smokies in 1939. A moderate 4-mile walk.

Logistics: From the Townsend Wye, take Laurel Creek Rd to Tremont Rd, continuing after it turns to gravel until it terminates at the Middle Prong Trail Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

37. Wildflower Hike at Abrams Falls Trail - Short Version

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Abrams Falls Trail
Meeting Location: A - Abrams Falls Trailhead in Cades Cove.

Against the backdrop of Abrams Creek, discover wildflowers like gay wings and rhododendron, which flourish in this geologically unique and regionally rare limestone valley. Bring snacks, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. A moderate 2-mile up-and-back hike that turns around before reaching the waterfall. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group in the parking area by the Abrams Falls Trailhead off of Cades Cove Loop Rd. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 75 min [Map](#).

37.25. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Chestnut Top Trail
Meeting Location: AD - Townsend Wye "Y" on Little River Road.

The Chestnut Top Trail is home to one of the grandest wildflower displays in the Smokies. While hiking on this narrow trail, be prepared to see wildflower species such as Jack-in-the-pulpit, little brown jug, stonecrop, Carey's saxifrage, miterwort, foam flower, fire pink, longspur violet, cross-vine, and many others. A moderate 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the Townsend Wye, across the road from the Chestnut Top Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

38. Wildflower Hike at Gabes Mountain Trail

Time: 1:45:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Gabes Mountain Trail
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

Starting near the large parking area, hike up Gabes Mountain paralleling Rock Creek for a short period. When confronted with a fork in the trail, take a left to head back to Cosby Campground, take a right to extend the hike and make it an out and back. On this hike you'll encounter creeping and blue phlox, wild geraniums, trout lilies, yellow fairy bells, cut-leaf and two-leaved toothworts, sweet white and canada violets, and who knows you might see some trilliums and orchids too. An easy 2-3 mile hike.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

39. Wildflower Hike at Kephart Prong Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Kephart Prong Trail
Meeting Location: T - Kephart Prong Trailhead

Hiking among history, water, and wildflowers, this trail will follow the Kephart Prong past the remains of a CCC camp, a former fish hatchery, and an old narrow gauge railroad. All of these historic remains have wildflowers such as wood betony and rue-anemone growing in and around them. Hike up to the Kephart Prong Shelter before turning around. An easy 4 mile walk.

Logistics: Park in the Kephart Prong parking lot and meet your group at the trailhead **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

40. Wildflower Hike at Rainbow Falls

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Rainbow Falls Trail
Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Join expert botanists on Rainbow Falls Trail to experience a variety of wildflower diversity. Begin your trip by walking along an area that was once home to the apple orchard owned by M.M. Whittle from 1930 to 1960. A few old trees still bloom here and produce apples. After about a mile, you will begin to follow Le Conte Creek past rosebay rhododendron, galax, and tea berry. At about two miles once you hit a walking bridge, you will need to turn around. A steep 4-mile walk, but your group may turn around at anytime.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Rainbow Falls Trail.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

41. Wildflower Hike at Snake Den Ridge Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Snake Den Ridge Trail
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

This 4-5 mile round trip does not go all the way to the top of the ridge, but still sees some significant elevation gain. On this trail you will encounter species such as white clintonia, fraser sedge, silver bells, foam flower, squirrel corn, creeping phlox, and fraser magnolia.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. Walk through the campground with your leader to find the trail head. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

42. Wildflower Hike at Trillium Gap Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Trillium Gap Trail
Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Explore the Trillium Gap Trail with expert botanists and conservationists. Along the way, you will cross creeks, wind through a forest of locusts, maples, and tulip trees, and observe a variety of wildflowers, including toothwort, hepatica, putty root orchids, striped pipsissewa, and downy rattlesnake plantain. A moderate 2.8-mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Trillium Gap Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

43. Wildflower Hike on the Appalachian Trail from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Appalachian Trail, Indian Gap, Newfound Gap
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

Pass from the closed canopy of an old growth spruce-fir forest into the open canopy of a pristine beech gap forest where early spring ephemeral wildflowers like trout lilies, more spring beauties than you can imagine, white phacelia, and various trilliums abound because of protections afforded from feral hog exclosures. A moderate 1.5-mile walk. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. Before beginning this hike, some group members need to shuttle their cars to the end point of the hike at the Indian Gap parking area, while others wait at Rockefeller Memorial. Leave as many cars at the Indian Gap parking area as will be necessary to shuttle everyone back to Rockefeller Memorial after the hike. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive one mile north on Clingmans Dome Rd, and the Indian Gap parking area will be on the right (35.60937, -83.44654). Leave cars there, and return to Rockefeller Memorial to begin your hike. After your hike, shuttle everyone back to Rockefeller Memorial. **Transportation:** None provided. Car shuttle needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

44. Wildflowers and Shrubs of Mingus Creek Trail

Time: 1:15:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Mingus Creek Trail
Meeting Location: AO - Mingus Mill Parking Lot

Hike up the Mingus Creek Trail for 2 miles and turn around. On this beautiful hike you are likely to find fire pink, dog hobble, blue and creeping phlox, four species of violets, anemone, several trilliums, wild geranium, may apples, liverleaf, shrub yellow root, buffalo nut, sweet shrub, spice bush, rhododendrons and azaleas, and mountain laurel.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 50 min [Map](#).

45. Wildflowers: Lady Slippers at Bud Ogle

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Noah Bud Ogle Trail
Meeting Location: X - Noah "Bud Ogle" parking area on Cherokee Orchard Road.

Walking through former homesteads, you will see a splendid variety of wildflowers and American chestnut tree remnants in the reforested fields. Pink Lady's slippers are found along this trail in abundance and are sure to delight seekers of these beautiful plants! Leaders will discuss the differences between Lady Slipper species (other than their color) as well as their life histories and pollination syndromes. Short, easy walk with one creek crossing at the beginning (caution: the rocks here are often very slippery).

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles: Birds, Fungi, Insects, Mammals, Plants, Reptiles & Amphibians, Other**

46. Salamanders of the Smokies: Motorcade from Peaks to Seeps

Time: 1:15:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Chimneys Picnic Area/Outdoor Classroom, Ash Hopper Branch
Meeting Location: G - City Parking Lot on Reagan Drive By Gatlinburg Fire Station.



In this program, you will travel from high to low elevation in search of Tennessee's slimy jewels. These hikes are short, but time will fly while discovering the true diversity of salamanders on this motorcade through the Smokies. Learn why Tennessee is the salamander capital of the world! The first stop will be at the Chimneys Picnic Area to see high elevation salamander communities and the Smoky's only endemic amphibian species. The program will conclude at the Sugarlands Visitor Center (Ash Hopper Branch) to see a vastly different community of mid to low elevation salamanders. Every amphibian-based hike will begin and end with decontamination, and a short discussion of survey protocols/ethics in order to protect these species from the spread of dangerous pathogens. Be prepared for wet or muddy conditions.

Logistics: Meet your group at the parking lot. Fit as many people into as few cars as possible for this motorcade adventure. Fewer cars helps with traffic and parking. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

47. Fun with Names: Botanical Latin for Beginners

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Trail
Meeting Location: U - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (South Parking Area).



On this leisurely hike, observe a variety of beautiful wildflowers, learn to identify them, and hear the stories behind their Latin names. You will discover that learning botanical names can be as much fun (or more fun!) as knowing the common ones, discuss the importance of botanical names, and realize that knowing a little basic Latin helps you better understand various aspects of plants and their relationships to others. Previous experience is not needed.

Logistics: Park at the south parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. Then, head out onto Metcalf Bottoms Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

48. NEON: Learn about how our National Science Foundation is monitoring long-term climate change in the GSMNP using NEON!

Time: 1:00:00 PM to 3:00:00 PM
Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).

Learn about the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Program and what kind of data collection NEON performs around the GSMNP. There will be a tour of the NEON Tower and Aquatic sensors, and a demonstration of sampling techniques used for measuring fauna and flora data. In this program, you'll walk about 600 yards in total, some of it off trail.

Logistics: Meet in the gravel parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

49. Secret Stories of The Wildflowers Along Meigs Creek Trail.

Time: 1:15:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Meigs Creek Trail
Meeting Location: AU - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (North Parking Lot).

Come on this relaxed, thoughtful, and sensory-immersive hike for a unique blend of wildflower folklore, indigenous plant usage, and our relationship to the natural world. Bring a sketchbook and pen for recording experiential impressions and take part in some simple 'green sketching' activities. No sketching or drawing experience necessary. Total round-trip will be 3-4 miles.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the north parking area at Metcalf Bottoms. There is limited parking at the Sinks Bridge parking area, so carpool with your group in as few cars as possible from Metcalf Bottoms to the Sinks Bridge parking area (35.669493° - 83.662464°). From Metcalf Bottoms, turn right onto Wear Cove Gap Rd. Then, turn right onto Little River Gorge Rd, and follow this road for 2 miles. The trailhead will be on the left. Hike up Meigs Creek trail, over Meigs Mountain, and down Curry Mountain Trail to arrive back at your cars at Metcalf Bottoms. After the hike, shuttle drivers back to their cars at the Sinks Bridge parking area. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool and car shuttle needed. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

50. Owl Prowl at Mynatt Park

Time: 8:30:00 PM to 10:30:00 PM
Trail: Mynatt Park
Meeting Location: W - Mynatt Park.



Come learn about the night predators that reign supreme after the sun goes down. This 2-hour "Owl Prowl" is guided by Karen La Mere. Bring warm clothes and a flashlight (preferably with a red light). Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Park in the Mynatt Park parking area off of Cherokee Orchard Road. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed.
Drive Time: 15 min [Map](#).

51. Why 'Pilgrimage?': Theories, Stories, and Reflections on the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage

Time: 7:30:00 PM to 8:30:00 PM
Trail: Arrowmont Auditorium
Meeting Location: C - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts on Gatlinburg Parkway.



Join two novice Spring Wildflower pilgrims, Bengt Carlson and Dr. Christopher Johnson, to collectively reflect on the meaning of a pilgrimage. Explore the history of the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in the context of the history of human pilgrimages as a whole, gain insights from theories about the nature of pilgrimages, and share experiences to reflect on what it means to be a pilgrim in this context. This will be an interactive session.

Logistics: There is limited parking on the Arrowmont campus. There are two parking options with a fee near the campus: 1) the city parking garage located at 526 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (traffic light #3), which has an adjoining walkway to the Arrowmont campus, 2) or the Anakeesta parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

52. Fungi: Lichens at Night in the Smokies

Time: 8:00:00 PM to 10:30:00 PM
Trail: Trails TBD
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.



Come explore the fascinating world of lichens at night! Many lichens produce secondary chemicals and metabolites that fluoresce brightly under UV light. Using handheld UV lights to scan tree trunks and rocks, we will search for lichens with brilliant colors of yellow, orange, electric blue, and more on this unique lichen night walk. Bring a flashlight, warm clothes, and comfortable walking shoes. The leaders will have 4-5 UV lights that you can borrow, but if you have one, bring it along. Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the Sugarlands Visitor Center bus parking lot, and your leaders will decide which trails to travel to from there. **Transportation:** None provided.

53. Bats: Stirring the Cauldron at the Twin Creeks Area

Time: 7:30:00 PM to 9:30:00 PM
Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).

In this program, learn from chiropterologists (people who study bats) about the ecology, distributions, feeding and mating behaviors of bats as well as why bats are important and economically beneficial to preserve. You will also get to use some high-tech gadgetry to listen to bats echolocating to hunt insects. Bring warm clothes and a flashlight (preferably with a red light). Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

54. Art Workshop: Exploring Botanical Patterns and Motifs in Clay

Time: 9:00:00 AM to 3:00:00 PM
Trail: Arrowmont Art Studios: Pottery Studio
Meeting Location: C - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts on Gatlinburg Parkway.



In this workshop, students will create a series of clay tiles that will be decorated with patterns and motifs inspired by the world of botany! By utilizing decorative techniques such as sgraffito, mishima, carving, and underglaze painting, students will be taught how to use texture, line, and color to create botanical imagery of their favorite plants. All experience levels are welcome in this workshop, including those with no previous clay experience! After the workshop, the Arrowmont staff will coat your pieces in a clear glaze, kiln fire them, and ship them to you.

Logistics: There is limited parking on the Arrowmont campus. There are two parking options with a fee near the campus: 1) the city parking garage located at 526 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (traffic light #3), which has an adjoining walkway to the Arrowmont campus, 2) or the Anakeesta parking lot. Walk from your parking location to meet your group at the Arrowmont Art Studios: Pottery Studio.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

54.5. Wildflower Hike at Abrams Falls Trail - Long Version

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Abrams Falls Trail
Meeting Location: A - Abrams Falls Trailhead in Cades Cove.

Against the backdrop of Abrams Creek, discover wildflowers like gay wings and rhododendron, which flourish in this geologically unique and regionally rare limestone valley. Bring snacks, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. A moderate 5-mile up-and-back hike that displays one of the Park's more picturesque waterfalls. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group in the parking area by the Abrams Falls Trailhead off of Cades Cove Loop Rd. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 75 min [Map](#).

55. Wildflower Hike at Meigs Creek and Curry Mountain Trails Loop

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Meigs Creek Trail, Curry Mountain Trail
Meeting Location: AU - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (North Parking Lot).

Numerous species of wildflowers are scattered along this trail as you intermittently pass through several wet and dry habitats with many stream crossings. On the upper, drier ridges, you'll see shortleaf pine, white pine, mountain laurel, huckleberries, oaks, maples, and their associated wildflowers. As you move through the wetter coves and across creeks, you'll see hemlock, pawpaw, lots of ferns, and seersucker sedge (plantain-leaved sedge). A strenuous 8.7-mile one-way hike from the Sinks Bridge at Meigs Creek Trail to Metcalf Bottoms via Meigs Mountain and Curry Mountain trails. Sixteen non-bridge stream crossings and waterfalls await! Elevation gain: 1,400'. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the north parking area at Metcalf Bottoms. There is limited parking at the Sinks Bridge parking area, so carpool with your group in as few cars as possible from Metcalf Bottoms to the Sinks Bridge parking area (35.669493° - 83.662464°). From Metcalf Bottoms, turn right onto Wear Cove Gap Rd. Then, turn right onto Little River Gorge Rd, and follow this road for 2 miles. The trailhead will be on the left. Hike up Meigs Creek trail, over Meigs Mountain, and down Curry Mountain Trail to arrive back at your cars at Metcalf Bottoms. After the hike, shuttle drivers back to their cars at the Sinks Bridge parking area. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool and car shuttle needed. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

56. Wildflower Hike at Low Gap - Long Version

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Low Gap Trail
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

Cosby, an area previously known as the moonshine capital of the state, was a CCC site in the 1930's. The Low Gap Trail will take you along Cosby Creek through forests of eastern hemlocks and tulip trees, past boulder block fields, and eventually into oak and rhododendron forests before reaching the Appalachian Trail. Through all of these different forest types and elevations, you'll encounter different suites of wildflowers. 6 mile round trip if you make it to the Appalachian Trail.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

57. Nature Journaling at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (North)
Meeting Location: AU - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (North Parking Lot).



Keeping a nature journal is a fun way to create a record of your experiences in the natural world, using primarily images - usually drawings - or writing. We'll talk about different methods and ideas for ways to make your journal a lively, informative treasure to enjoy for years to come. No drawing skills are necessary - just the desire to keep a thoughtful notebook about what you observe. Bring at least a pencil and paper. Additional materials will be provided.

Logistics: Park at the north parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

58. Photography of Flowers Using iPhone

Time: 8:15:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Sugarlands Training Room
Meeting Location: AB - Sugarlands Visitor Center Training Room.



Learn how to improve your wildflower images with an iPhone. Join Robert Hutson, co-author of Great Smoky Mountain Wildflowers: When and Where to Find Them, and Jack Carman, author of Wildflowers of Tennessee, and Rachel Swenie as they give hands-on instruction in composition and photo techniques. Bring hiking boots and a smart phone (the focus of this program will be on iPhones, but Samsungs are welcome). An easy 1-mile walk.

Logistics: Park in the third lot on the right. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min

59. Bird Banding Basics at the Premier Seven Islands State Birding Park

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Seven Islands State Park (outside of GSMNP)
Meeting Location: AM - Seven Islands State Birding Park.



Join experienced birders and conservationists in a hands-on birding program outside of the GSMNP. Seven Islands State Birding Park is a premier birding park along the French Broad River where more than 215 species of birds have been documented! In this program, you will get closer up views of birds than programs in the GSMNP can offer; you will experience catching, identifying, measuring, aging, banding, and releasing many species, including spring migrants. You will be able to observe the whole process and release the birds after data are recorded.

Logistics: Meet your group at the Bluebird Barn near the main parking area, and walk approximately one mile to the banding site with your leaders. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 60 min [Map](#).

59.5. Birding at the East End of Cades Cove

Time: 7:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Cades Cove Loop Road
Meeting Location: D - Cades Cove Campground Store.



On this bird walk at the east end of Cades Cove, you will see and hear birds of the forest and streamside. Birders of all levels are welcome. Bring binoculars. An easy 1.5-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the store's parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 50 min [Map](#).

60. Birding on School House Gap Trail

Time: 7:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: School House Gap Trail
Meeting Location: AD - Townsend Wye "Y" on Little River Road.

The School House Gap Trail follows a beautiful stream lined with rhododendron, and ultimately enters into an upland deciduous habitat with scattered pines containing a variety of colorful spring warblers, vireos, and tanagers. Bring binoculars, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.

Logistics: Leaders may elect to hike a trail in the Townsend Wye area, or they may organize carpool to travel from Townsend Wye to School House Gap Trailhead. If going to Schoolhouse Gap Trailhead, then carpool may be needed to drive 3.9 miles towards Cades Cove on Laurel Creek Rd to School House Gap Trailhead. There is limited parking there. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

61. Native People's Use of Nature's Garden at Collins Creek Pavilion

Time: 8:15:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Collins Creek Pavilion, Trails TBD
Meeting Location: I - Collins Creek Pavilion on Newfound Gap Road near Cherokee, NC.

Listen to Native American Karen La Mere (Ho-Chunk) as she tells an oral history that has been passed down through generations by America's indigenous people. You will also discover and even taste ingenious uses of native plants. Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

62. Tour the GSMNP Natural History Museum at Twin Creeks

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 11:00:00 AM
Trail: Twin Creeks Science and Education Center
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).

Come tour the natural history collections that have been used to document the biodiversity of the GSMNP since its beginning. In this behind-locked-doors tour of the GSMNP Natural History Museum, you will see specimens of mammals, birds (including the now-extinct passenger pigeon), fungi, insects, and plants. You will also learn about how these specimens are prepared, stored, and cataloged as well as their importance to the Park.

Logistics: Meet your group in the Twin Creeks Science and Education Center. Park in the Twin Creeks Public Parking Area, cross the street, and walk up the short trail to the south end of the Science and Education Center. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).



63. Fungi of Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 11:00:00 AM
Trail: Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway
Meeting Location: AE - Tremont Road (parking lot at end of gravel road).

Learn from expert mycologists about fungal biology and the importance of fungi in nutrient and life cycles within forest ecosystems. Leaders will also discuss classification of fungi and edible vs. poisonous fungi. An easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: From the Townsend Wye, take Laurel Creek Rd to Tremont Rd, continuing after it turns to gravel until it terminates at the Middle Prong Trail Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

63.75. Geology: Karst and Bull Cave

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Ace Gap Trail
Meeting Location: AL - Ace Gap Trailhead

Tennessee has over 10,000 caves – the most of any state and the Smokies has the deepest one of them all! We will take a short walk to the cave entrance (but not enter the cave) and adjacent active sinkholes. We will discuss the very unique nature of this mountaintop karst feature and how it relates to nearby Cades and Tuckaleechee coves and Whiteoak Sink and learn how it all fits in with the geologic history of the Park.

Logistics: Meet your group in the gravel parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 50 min [Map](#).

64. Insects: Aquatic Insect Diversity Walk at Twin Creeks

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion, Twin Creeks Stream
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).

Learn to identify and collect insects in pristine streams with entomologists (scientists who study insects). During this program, you will take short walks on multiple streams in order to learn about the differences in the preferred habitats of a variety of insects. Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the gravel parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).



- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

65. Pollinators and Plants: Lessons in Pollination Biology

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Cosby Nature Trail
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).



Did you know that oftentimes you can predict the types of insects that will pollinate certain plants based on the shapes and colors of their flowers? Join experts in pollination biology to learn how to predict pollinators based on floral characteristics.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

66. Black Bear and Wild Hogs in the Smokies - Jakes Creek

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Jake's Creek Trail
Meeting Location: R - Jakes Creek Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.



Walk along this old railroad route with retired Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Managers and expert biologists as they describe the life history, tracking signs, human impacts, and environmental issues of black bears, wild hogs, and other mammals in the Southern Appalachians. An easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Jakes Creek Trailhead parking area that is 0.1 miles past the Little River Trailhead parking area. Meet your group at the Jakes Creek Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

67. Ferns at Baxter Creek Trail, along Big Creek

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Baxter Creek Trail
Meeting Location: AP - Big Creek and Baxter Creek Parking Area

Come join expert pteridologists (people who study ferns) on this walk to learn about fern species in the Park. You will learn about the parts of ferns and the life cycle and ecology of ferns, as well as how to distinguish different forms. Bring a hand lens if you have one. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 50 min [Map](#).

68. Ferns at Little River above Elkmont

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Little River Trail
Meeting Location: S - Little River Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

Have you ever seen an adder's tongue, a sang pointer, or the hitchhiking southern lady? Do you understand what parts of ferns or fern allies are leaves, and what parts are stems? Come see a variety of the Park's more common ferns and fern allies, and learn about their structures, how they grow and reproduce, and their biodiversity in the Park. Bring a hand lens. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the parking area at the Little River Trailhead. The parking area and trailhead are just past the Little River Bridge. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

69. Moss Walk: Basics of Mosses and their Relatives at Chimneys Picnic Area

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Chimneys Picnic Area/Outdoor Classroom
Meeting Location: F - Chimneys Picnic Area on Newfound Gap Road.

Learn about the diminutive world of mosses: a diverse group of very beautiful, unique, and small non-flowering plants that are found throughout the Smokies. You will learn about a variety of mosses as you observe them along the trail. You will also discuss their life cycle and basic ways to distinguish them from one another. Bring a 10x hand lens or a strong magnifying glass if possible. Moderate 2-3 mile walk with a few uphill/downhill sections.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/outdoor classroom above the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

70. Tree and Shrub Identification Walk at Metcalf Bottoms

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM

Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (South), Metcalf Bottoms Trail

Meeting Location: U - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (South Parking Area).

This program is more than an introduction to terms. You will learn characters used in the identification of woody plants (trees, shrubs, and woody vines). You will also learn how to differentiate leaf and bark characteristics, which will help you to distinguish between genera and species of common and lesser common woody plants in the Park. Bring field guides and hand lenses if you have them, but they are not required. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the south parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. Then, head out onto Metcalf Bottoms Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

71. Understanding Leaves of Trees, Shrubs, and Lianas: Structures, Form, Function

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM

Trail: Twin Creeks Outdoor Classroom, Trails TBD

Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).

Understanding how to interpret leaves, leaflets, stems, and axillary buds is a vital part of being able to interpret the basics of plants and distinguish species. This program will begin with a lecture on these structures and finish up with a short walk to apply what you have learned. After this program, your eyes will be opened to so much more during the rest of the Pilgrimage!

Logistics: Meet your group at the outdoor classroom. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).



72. Understanding Flowers: Structures, Form, Function

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM

Trail: Collins Creek Pavilion, Trails TBD

Meeting Location: I - Collins Creek Pavilion on Newfound Gap Road near

Understanding the parts of flowers and how to interpret flower structures is key to having a great Wildflower Pilgrimage! Come to this program early in the week for a lecture-style presentation that will allow you to better interpret flower structures. Then, go for a short walk to reinforce your new knowledge by studying flowers in the field. This program will sharpen your eye for the rest of the event, especially if you are a beginner.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

Cherokee, NC.

73. Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Middle Prong Trail

Meeting Location: AE - Tremont Road (parking lot at end of gravel road).

Stroll with expert botanists and conservationists along Middle Prong Trail while stopping along the way to enjoy many of the spring ephemeral wildflowers, ferns, and flowering trees of the Smokies such as tulip trees, wild ginger, and violets. Interestingly, this trail used to be a railroad bed, and carried out the last logs from the Smokies in 1939. A moderate 4-mile walk.

Logistics: From the Townsend Wye, take Laurel Creek Rd to Tremont Rd, continuing after it turns to gravel until it terminates at the Middle Prong Trail Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

74. Wildflower Hike at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail (Chimneys Picnic Area loop trail)

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Cove Hardwood Nature Trail

Meeting Location: F - Chimneys Picnic Area on Newfound Gap Road.

Cove hardwood forests are one of the most biologically diverse communities in North America. This easily accessible trail is a great place to see a lot of different wildflowers as well as trees, shrubs, and vines. There are more species of wildflowers along this short, easy walk than just about any other place in the Park, making it a must for those wanting to learn about spring wildflowers like dwarf ginseng, showy orchis, fringed phacelia, several trillium species, golden saxifrage (can you spot this tiny little plant?), wild ginger, and more. Short walk with elevation gain.

Logistics: Park in the Chimneys Picnic Area parking lot, and meet your group at the Cove Hardwood Nature Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

74.5. Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Kanati Fork Trail
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

The Kanati Fork Trail has many spring ephemeral wildflowers including painted trillium, Clinton lily, foam flower, Indian cucumber root, brook lettuce, and Canada mayflower as well as a lot of the more common species in the Park. Turn around when the group is ready. A moderate 2 mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. There is limited parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead, so carpool in as few cars as possible with your group from Rockefeller Memorial to the Kanati Fork Trailhead. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive 8.4 miles east along Newfound Gap Road, and parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead will be on the left (35.58790, -83.36387). **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

75. Wildflower Hike at Rainbow Falls

Time: 8:15:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Rainbow Falls Trail
Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Join expert botanists on Rainbow Falls Trail to experience a variety of wildflower diversity. Begin your trip by walking along an area that was once home to the apple orchard owned by M.M. Whittle from 1930 to 1960. A few old trees still bloom here and produce apples. After about a mile, you will begin to follow Le Conte Creek past rosebay rhododendron, galax, and tea berry. At about two miles once you hit a walking bridge, you will need to turn around. A steep 4-mile walk, but your group may turn around at anytime.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Rainbow Falls Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

76. Wildflower Hike on the Appalachian Trail from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap

Time: 8:15:00 AM to 11:15:00 AM
Trail: Appalachian Trail, Indian Gap, Newfound Gap
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

Pass from the closed canopy of an old growth spruce-fir forest into the open canopy of a pristine beech gap forest where early spring ephemeral wildflowers like trout lilies, more spring beauties than you can imagine, white phacelia, and various trilliums abound because of protections afforded from feral hog enclosures. A moderate 1.5-mile walk. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. Before beginning this hike, some group members need to shuttle their cars to the end point of the hike at the Indian Gap parking area, while others wait at Rockefeller Memorial. Leave as many cars at the Indian Gap parking area as will be necessary to shuttle everyone back to Rockefeller Memorial after the hike. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive one mile north on Clingmans Dome Rd, and the Indian Gap parking area will be on the right (35.60937, -83.44654). Leave cars there, and return to Rockefeller Memorial to begin your hike. After your hike, shuttle everyone back to Rockefeller Memorial. **Transportation:** None provided. Car shuttle needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

77. Wildflower Hike on the Riverview Quiet Walkway

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Riverview Quiet Walkway
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.

This easy walk from Newfound Gap Road to West Prong Little Pigeon River has a rich diversity of wildflowers, trees and shrubs, and plant communities. The trail follows the level flood plain of the river through groves of hardwoods and passes some seepages. This walk is one of the only places in the Park to see silky willow. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot at Sugarlands Visitor Center and take provided transportation to the Riverview Quiet Walkway. The bus will travel two miles south from Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd. The Riverview Quiet Walkway is past the Bullhead View Quiet Walkway and directly across from Huskey Gap Trail. After hiking the loop trail, the bus will pick you up at the Riverview Quiet Walkway Trailhead between 11:30am and 11:45am and return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 5 min.



- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

78. Wildflowers: Lady Slippers at Bud Ogle

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Noah Bud Ogle Trail
Meeting Location: X - Noah "Bud Ogle" parking area on Cherokee Orchard Road.

Walking through former homesteads, you will see a splendid variety of wildflowers and American chestnut tree remnants in the reforested fields. Pink Lady's slippers are found along this trail in abundance and are sure to delight seekers of these beautiful plants! Leaders will discuss the differences between Lady Slipper species (other than their color) as well as their life histories and pollination syndromes. Short, easy walk with one creek crossing at the beginning (caution: the rocks here are often very slippery).

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

79. Salamanders: Streams, Springs, and Leaves... What Hides Beneath?

Time: 8:15:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Cosby Picnic Area/Pavilion
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

This program begins with a short herpetology discussion on identification, life history, and ethics before embarking on a hike to search for some of Tennessee's greatest treasures (salamanders of course!). Hopefully, you'll get a chance to spot some of their scaly relatives along the way in this mid-elevation environment where densely forested streams and seeps meet open woodlands. Every amphibian-based hike will begin and end with decontamination, and a short discussion of survey protocols/ethics in order to protect these species from the spread of dangerous pathogens.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

80. Life in the Leaf Litter: A Tour of the Seldom-Seen Animal Diversity at Our Feet

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: UT Field Station
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.



Join zoologists at the University of Tennessee Field Station to explore the seldom-seen diversity living in the fallen leaf layer under the trees. Leaf litter provides habitat to many organisms and plays an important role in nutrient cycling in the forest. In this program, you will learn some of the methods that scientists use to study the animals that call leaf litter home. You will look under cover boards for salamanders and snakes, check live animal traps to find small mammals, and use Berlese funnels and microscopes to see the tiny invertebrates that live under our feet.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot, and take provided transportation to the UT Field Station at Greenbrier. The bus will drop you off at the entry gate, and you will walk up to the Field Station with your group. The bus will pick you up between 11:30am and 11:45am from the entry gate at the Field Station and return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 30 min.

81. Fire Ecology in the Fire-Adapted Table Mountain Pine Ecosystem at Bullhead Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Bullhead Trail
Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Fire is an important factor in many forest systems, and fire effects can vary from destructive to beneficial. Join GSMNP Ranger and Ecologist Troy Evans on the Bullhead Trail to see how fire affects forest types differently, while enjoying spring wildflowers along the way. The walk ascends the moderate Bullhead Trail for 2.2 miles, topping out in the fire-dependent Table Mountain Pine forests. The total round-trip hike is 4.5 miles.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Bullhead Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

82. NEON: Learn about how our National Science Foundation is monitoring long-term climate change in the GSMNP using NEON!

Time: 9:00:00 AM to 11:00:00 AM
 Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion
 Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).

Learn about the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Program and what kind of data collection NEON performs around the GSMNP. There will be a tour of the NEON Tower and Aquatic sensors, and a demonstration of sampling techniques used for measuring fauna and flora data. In this program, you'll walk about 600 yards in total, some of it off trail.

Logistics: Meet in the gravel parking lot. Transportation: None provided. Drive Time: 15 min [Map](#).

83. The Wild-ness and Wilderness of the Park

Time: 9:00:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
 Trail: Porters Creek Trail
 Meeting Location: N - Greenbrier Road Terminus at Porters Creek Trailhead.

Did you know that 89% of the GSMNP is managed as Wilderness? Come join Park Ranger and Backcountry Manager Christine Hoyer to learn about the backcountry from a management perspective. Porters Creek Trail is a great place to explore this topic, as part of the trail is managed as Wilderness, and there are great features along the way. The total round-trip hike is 4.5 miles.

Logistics: Turn onto Greenbrier Rd from Hwy 321, and drive for 4.5 miles, all the way to the end where you will reach the Porters Creek Trailhead. Transportation: None provided. Drive Time: 40 min [Map](#).



84. Secret Stories of The Wildflowers Along Meigs Creek Trail.

Time: 8:15:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
 Trail: Meigs Creek Trail
 Meeting Location: AU - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (North Parking Lot).

Come on this relaxed, thoughtful, and sensory-immersive hike for a unique blend of wildflower folklore, indigenous plant usage, and our relationship to the natural world. Bring a sketchbook and pen for recording experiential impressions and take part in some simple 'green sketching' activities. No sketching or drawing experience necessary. Total round-trip will be 3-4 miles.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the north parking area at Metcalf Bottoms. There is limited parking at the Sinks Bridge parking area, so carpool with your group in as few cars as possible from Metcalf Bottoms to the Sinks Bridge parking area (35.669493° - 83.662464°). From Metcalf Bottoms, turn right onto Wear Cove Gap Rd. Then, turn right onto Little River Gorge Rd, and follow this road for 2 miles. The trailhead will be on the left. Hike up Meigs Creek trail, over Meigs Mountain, and down Curry Mountain Trail to arrive back at your cars at Metcalf Bottoms. After the hike, shuttle drivers back to their cars at the Sinks Bridge parking area. Transportation: None provided. Carpool and car shuttle needed. Drive Time: 20 min [Map](#).

85. Book Signing: Bill Landry, A Last Hurrah!

Time: 11:30:00 AM to 1:30:00 PM
 Trail: Arrowmont Auditorium
 Meeting Location: C - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts on Gatlinburg Parkway.

Come meet Bill Landry! Our evening speaker for Thursday and Friday nights, Bill will be available during lunch hours to have casual conversations and sign his new book "A LAST HURRAH."

Logistics: There is limited parking on the Arrowmont campus. There are two parking options with a fee near the campus: 1) the city parking garage located at 526 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (traffic light #3), which has an adjoining walkway to the Arrowmont campus, 2) or the Anakeesta parking lot. Transportation: None provided. Drive Time: 15 min [Map](#).



- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles: Birds, Fungi, Insects, Mammals, Plants, Reptiles & Amphibians, Other**

86. Photography of Flowers Motorcade

Time: 1:15:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Trails TBD
Meeting Location: G - City Parking Lot on Reagan Drive By Gatlinburg Fire Station.



Travel with Jack Carman, author of Wildflowers of Tennessee, and Robert Hutson, co-author of Great Smoky Mountain Wildflowers: When and Where to Find Them, to nearby wildflower locations to learn basic and advanced techniques for photographing wildflowers. They provide hands-on instruction and assistance. Short, easy walks.

Logistics: Meet your group at the city parking lot, and leaders will decide which trails to carpool toward from there. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

87. Sketching Wildflowers at Cosby Picnic Area Pavilion

Time: 1:45:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Cosby Picnic Area/Pavilion
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).



View wildflowers through the eyes of expert botanical artists, and explore your own creativity in the natural world. Bring your own art materials (at least a pencil and paper). Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

88. A Walk through History: The Walker Sisters of Little Greenbrier

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (South), Metcalf Bottoms Trail, Walker Sisters Cabin
Meeting Location: U - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (South Parking Area).



Listen to National Park VIP Robin Goddard as she tells the fascinating story of the Walker Sisters, their strength and perseverance, and their lifetime living in the Greenbrier section of the GSMNP. Robin grew up visiting the Walker Sisters, and she has 53 years of experience working in the Park. You will meet Pat Carbone at the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (South), and walk 0.6 miles to Little Greenbrier School, identifying wildflowers along the way. You will meet up with Robin Goddard for the rest of the program to walk around the Walker Sisters cabin and other nearby homesites.

Logistics: Park at the south parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

89. Elkmont, Then and Now

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 3:30:00 PM
Trail: Elkmont Campground Area
Meeting Location: AZ - Elkmont Campground (field behind Elkmont Campground Office).



Join Interpretive Park Ranger and historian Brad Free on a tour of the human history of Elkmont. Learn about Elkmont's interesting history and politics while touring the old vacation homes and other buildings at Elkmont, some of which only foundations remain. See the amazing restoration efforts of some of these homes that have taken place over the last few years. Be sure to ask Brad about the plane crash at that site!

Logistics: Park within the Elkmont Campground. Meet your group in the grass field behind the Elkmont Campground Office. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

90. Fungi of Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway
Meeting Location: AE - Tremont Road (parking lot at end of gravel road).

Learn from expert mycologists about fungal biology and the importance of fungi in nutrient and life cycles within forest ecosystems. Leaders will also discuss classification of fungi and edible vs. poisonous fungi. An easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: From the Townsend Wye, take Laurel Creek Rd to Tremont Rd, continuing after it turns to gravel until it terminates at the Middle Prong Trail Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

91. Insects: Aquatic Insect Diversity Walk at Twin Creeks

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 3:45:00 PM
Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion, Twin Creeks Stream
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).

Learn to identify and collect insects in pristine streams with entomologists (scientists who study insects). During this program, you will take short walks on multiple streams in order to learn about the differences in the preferred habitats of a variety of insects. Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the gravel parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).



92. Ferns at the Cosby Nature Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Low Gap Trail/Cosby Nature Trail
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

Come join expert pteridologists (people who study ferns) on this walk to learn about fern species in the Park. You will learn about the parts of ferns and the life cycle and ecology of ferns, as well as how to distinguish different forms. Bring a hand lens if you have one. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

93. Moss Walk: Appalachian Trail from Indian Gap to Newfound Gap

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Appalachian Trail, Indian Gap, Newfound Gap
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

Discover the distinctive flora of high elevation mosses and liverworts along the Appalachian Trail. Learn about their adaptations to higher elevation habitats and how they differ from low elevation species. Bring a hand lens. A moderate 1-2 mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. Before beginning this hike, group members need to shuttle everyone in as few cars as possible to the start point of the hike at the Indian Gap parking area. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive one mile north on Clingmans Dome Rd, and the Indian Gap parking area will be on the right (35.60937, -83.44654). Leave cars there and begin your hike. After your hike, shuttle those that need to pick up their car at the Indian Gap parking area. **Transportation:** None provided. Car shuttle needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

94. Moss Walk: Sugarlands Valley Nature Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Sugarland Valley Nature Trail
Meeting Location: AQ - Sugarland Valley Nature Trail

Learn about the diminutive world of mosses: a diverse group of very beautiful, unique, and small non-flowering plants that are found throughout the Smokies. You will learn about a variety of mosses, liverworts, and hornworts as you observe them along the trail, rock fences, and remnant chimneys. You will also discuss their life cycle and basic ways to distinguish them from one another. Bring a 10x hand lens or a strong magnifying glass, if possible. This wheelchair accessible program runs along the flat concrete 0.5 mile Sugarland Valley Nature Trail, next to the Bullhead Branch creek.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min [Map](#).



- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

95. Tree Identification for Beginners at Collins Creek Picnic Pavilion

Time: 1:15:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Collins Creek Pavilion
Meeting Location: I - Collins Creek Pavilion on Newfound Gap Road near Cherokee, NC.

This program is for novices who want to gain a better understanding of trees and shrubs. After your leaders teach you the basics of leaf shapes and patterns, you will take a short hike to apply and reinforce what you have learned. Bring a hand lens and/or magnifying glass if you have them, but they are not required. A moderate 1.5-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. This large pavilion will be shared with another program. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

96. Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail

Time: 1:45:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Middle Prong Trail
Meeting Location: AE - Tremont Road (parking lot at end of gravel road).

Stroll with expert botanists and conservationists along Middle Prong Trail while stopping along the way to enjoy many of the spring ephemeral wildflowers, ferns, and flowering trees of the Smokies such as tulip trees, wild ginger, and violets. Interestingly, this trail used to be a railroad bed, and carried out the last logs from the Smokies in 1939. A moderate 4-mile walk.

Logistics: From the Townsend Wye, take Laurel Creek Rd to Tremont Rd, continuing after it turns to gravel until it terminates at the Middle Prong Trail Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

97. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail

Time: 1:45:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Chestnut Top Trail
Meeting Location: AD - Townsend Wye "Y" on Little River Road.

The Chestnut Top Trail is home to one of the grandest wildflower displays in the Smokies. While hiking on this narrow trail, be prepared to see wildflower species such as Jack-in-the-pulpit, little brown jug, stonecrop, Carey's saxifrage, miterwort, foam flower, fire pink, longspur violet, cross-vine, and many others. A moderate 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the Townsend Wye, across the road from the Chestnut Top Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

97.5. Wildflower Hike at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail (Chimneys Picnic Area loop trail)

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Cove Hardwood Nature Trail
Meeting Location: F - Chimneys Picnic Area on Newfound Gap Road.

Cove hardwood forests are one of the most biologically diverse communities in North America. This easily accessible trail is a great place to see a lot of different wildflowers as well as trees, shrubs, and vines. There are more species of wildflowers along this short, easy walk than just about any other place in the Park, making it a must for those wanting to learn about spring wildflowers like dwarf ginseng, showy orchis, fringed phacelia, several trillium species, golden saxifrage (can you spot this tiny little plant?), wild ginger, and more. Short walk with elevation gain.

Logistics: Park in the Chimneys Picnic Area parking lot, and meet your group at the Cove Hardwood Nature Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

98. Wildflower Hike at Cucumber Gap Trail - Short Version

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Cucumber Gap Trail
Meeting Location: R - Jakes Creek Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

Walk through a secondary cove hardwood forest, and enjoy the rich diversity of wildflowers along the way. This trip begins on Jakes Creek, following the old railroad route, terminates near Tulip Branch on Cucumber Gap Trail, and then returns. A moderate 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Jakes Creek Trailhead parking area that is 0.1 miles past the Little River Trailhead parking area. Meet your group at the Jakes Creek Trailhead. After walking 0.7 miles on Jakes Creek Trail with your group, you will turn left onto Cucumber Gap Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

99. Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Kanati Fork Trail
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

The Kanati Fork Trail has many spring ephemeral wildflowers including painted trillium, Clinton lily, foam flower, Indian cucumber root, brook lettuce, and Canada mayflower as well as a lot of the more common species in the Park. Turn around when the group is ready. A moderate 2 mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. There is limited parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead, so carpool in as few cars as possible with your group from Rockefeller Memorial to the Kanati Fork Trailhead. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive 8.4 miles east along Newfound Gap Road, and parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead will be on the left (35.58790, -83.36387). **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

100. Wildflower Hike at Little River Above Elkmont

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Little River Trail
Meeting Location: S - Little River Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

While walking up this former logging railroad bed, you will discover the tenacity of nature in recovering from the massive logging operations that cleared this valley in the early twentieth century. Many species of wildflowers, ferns, and trees dot the landscape and are easily observable. An easy 2-mile walk. Elevation gain: 200'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the parking area at the Little River Trailhead. The parking area and trailhead are just past the Little River Bridge. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

101. Wildflower Hike at Rainbow Falls

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Rainbow Falls Trail
Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Join expert botanists on Rainbow Falls Trail to experience a variety of wildflower diversity. Begin your trip by walking along an area that was once home to the apple orchard owned by M.M. Whittle from 1930 to 1960. A few old trees still bloom here and produce apples. After about a mile, you will begin to follow Le Conte Creek past rosebay rhododendron, galax, and tea berry. At about two miles once you hit a walking bridge, you will need to turn around. A steep 4-mile walk, but your group may turn around at anytime.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Rainbow Falls Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

101.5. Wildflower Hike on the Appalachian Trail from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Appalachian Trail, Indian Gap, Newfound Gap
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

Pass from the closed canopy of an old growth spruce-fir forest into the open canopy of a pristine beech gap forest where early spring ephemeral wildflowers like trout lilies, more spring beauties than you can imagine, white phacelia, and various trilliums abound because of protections afforded from feral hog enclosures. A moderate 1.5-mile walk. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. Before beginning this hike, some group members need to shuttle their cars to the end point of the hike at the Indian Gap parking area, while others wait at Rockefeller Memorial. Leave as many cars at the Indian Gap parking area as will be necessary to shuttle everyone back to Rockefeller Memorial after the hike. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive one mile north on Clingmans Dome Rd, and the Indian Gap parking area will be on the right (35.60937, -83.44654). Leave cars there, and return to Rockefeller Memorial to begin your hike. After your hike, shuttle everyone back to Rockefeller Memorial. **Transportation:** None provided. Car shuttle needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

102. Wildflower Hike on the Riverview Quiet Walkway

Time: 1:00:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Riverview Quiet Walkway
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.

This easy walk from Newfound Gap Road to West Prong Little Pigeon River has a rich diversity of wildflowers, trees and shrubs, and plant communities. The trail follows the level flood plain of the river through groves of hardwoods and passes some seepages. This walk is one of the only places in the Park to see silky willow. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot at Sugarlands Visitor Center and take provided transportation to the Riverview Quiet Walkway. The bus will travel two miles south from Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd. The Riverview Quiet Walkway is past the Bullhead View Quiet Walkway and directly across from Huskey Gap Trail. After hiking the loop trail, the bus will pick you up at the Riverview Quiet Walkway Trailhead between 4:30pm and 4:45pm and return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 5 min.

103. Wildflower Identification for Beginners at Chimneys Picnic Area

Time: 1:15:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Chimneys Picnic Area/Outdoor Classroom
Meeting Location: F - Chimneys Picnic Area on Newfound Gap Road.



If you want to learn the basic parts of flowers, leaves, and stems, then this program is for you! Bring a pencil, paper, and a hand lens (not required). At the outdoor classroom, leaders will show and tell characteristics of leaves, stems, and flowers. After a 30-60min tutorial in the classroom, you will head out on the nature trail to apply what you have learned. Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/outdoor classroom above the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

104. Salamanders: Streams, Springs, and Leaves... What Hides Beneath?

Time: 1:15:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Cosby Picnic Area/Pavilion
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

This program begins with a short herpetology discussion on identification, life history, and ethics before embarking on a hike to search for some of Tennessee's greatest treasures (salamanders of course!). Hopefully, you'll get a chance to spot some of their scaly relatives along the way in this mid-elevation environment where densely forested streams and seeps meet open woodlands. Every amphibian-based hike will begin and end with decontamination, and a short discussion of survey protocols/ethics in order to protect these species from the spread of dangerous pathogens.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

105. Explore the Wonders of Animal Communication at Collins Creek

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 3:30:00 PM
Trail: Collins Creek Pavilion
Meeting Location: I - Collins Creek Pavilion on Newfound Gap Road near Cherokee, NC.



Why do birds sing? Did you know that some fireflies lie to each other? Do bees do the tango or fox trot when they are excited? Loren Hayes and Monica Miles will lead a discussion, game, and walk focused on why and how animals communicate in the GSMNP. Bring your dancing shoes (hiking boots).

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. This large pavilion will be shared with another program. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

106. iNaturalist: Become a Pioneer Pilgrim by Learning How to Use the iNaturalist App!

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Gatlinburg Trail
Meeting Location: Z - Park Headquarters Road.

iNaturalist is a free app that was created by workers at California Academy of Sciences. If you've been to the Pilgrimage over the past few years, you have certainly seen pilgrims using it. iNaturalist not only helps users determine what organisms they are observing, but it also collects biodiversity data that can be used by scientists, conservation workers, and land managers in the GSMNP. In this program, you will learn how you can use this app to discover the natural world around you while helping park managers better track and understand the biodiversity of the Smokies. Bring your smart phones!

Logistics: Meet your group outside of the gated area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min [Map](#).

107. NEON: Learn about how our National Science Foundation is monitoring long-term climate change in the GSMNP using NEON!

Time: 1:00:00 PM to 3:00:00 PM
Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).

Learn about the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Program and what kind of data collection NEON performs around the GSMNP. There will be a tour of the NEON Tower and Aquatic sensors, and a demonstration of sampling techniques used for measuring fauna and flora data. In this program, you'll walk about 600 yards in total, some of it off trail.

Logistics: Meet in the gravel parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

108. Parasites! An Important Component of Our Hidden Biodiversity

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: UT Field Station
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.



Parasite Ecologist Dr. Ricky Fiorillo from Georgia-Gwinnett College will discuss the natural history and ecology of an often-unappreciated component of our hidden biodiversity, while guiding you through a hands-on dissection searching for worm parasites in a natural host. You will examine the heart, liver, and digestive tract of common freshwater fish species. See for yourself just how interesting and beautiful parasites can be, and why they are an important component of our ecosystem. The minimum age to perform dissections is high school, but anyone can watch.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot, and take provided transportation to the UT Field Station at Greenbrier. The bus will drop you off at the entry gate, and you will walk up to the Field Station with your group. The bus will pick you up between 4:15pm and 4:30pm from the entry gate at the Field Station and return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 30 min.

108.5. Artist-of-the-Year Reception at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts for Audry Deal-McEver

Time: 5:30:00 PM to 7:00:00 PM
Trail: Arrowmont Geoffrey A. Wolpert Gallery
Meeting Location: C - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts on Gatlinburg Parkway.

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts is proud to feature Audry Deal-McEver, the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage's Artist-of-the-Year. Audry was invited to teach an Art Workshop this year on Exploring Botanical Patterns and Motifs in Clay, which will be Thursday, All Day. The workshop will require an additional fee, but you will take home your own piece of pottery! A motif she designed is featured on this year's brochure, website, T-shirt, and other merchandise. Come appreciate her real work exhibited in the Geoffrey A. Wolpert Gallery. Refreshments provided.

Logistics: There is limited parking on the Arrowmont campus. There are two parking options with a fee near the campus: 1) the city parking garage located at 526 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (traffic light #3), which has an adjoining walkway to the Arrowmont campus, 2) or the Anakeesta parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

109. Owl Prowl at Mynatt Park

Time: 8:30:00 PM to 10:30:00 PM
Trail: Mynatt Park
Meeting Location: W - Mynatt Park.



Come learn about the night predators that reign supreme after the sun goes down. This 2-hour "Owl Prowl" is guided by Karen La Mere. Bring warm clothes and a flashlight (preferably with a red light). Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Park in the Mynatt Park parking area off of Cherokee Orchard Road. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed.
Drive Time: 15 min [Map](#).

110. William Bartram (1739-1823): An Unlikely Explorer

Time: 7:30:00 PM to 8:30:00 PM
Trail: Arrowmont Auditorium
Meeting Location: C - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts on Gatlinburg Parkway.



William Bartram (1739-1823) was an early scientific explorer who visited the Smoky Mountains from 1773-1777 to document the plants and animals of this little explored part of the world at that time. Come learn about Bartram's travels, discoveries, interactions with Native Americans, and more in this one-hour presentation, which will be followed by a book signing for Bill's new book: "A LAST HURRAH."

Logistics: There is limited parking on the Arrowmont campus. There are two parking options with a fee near the campus: 1) the city parking garage located at 526 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (traffic light #3), which has an adjoining walkway to the Arrowmont campus, 2) or the Anakeesta parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

111. Book Signing: Bill Landry, A Last Hurrah!

Time: 8:30:00 PM to 9:30:00 PM
Trail: Arrowmont Auditorium
Meeting Location: C - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts on Gatlinburg Parkway.

Come meet Bill Landry! Bill will be available after his presentation to have casual conversations and sign his new book "A LAST HURRAH."

Logistics: There is limited parking on the Arrowmont campus. There are two parking options with a fee near the campus: 1) the city parking garage located at 526 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (traffic light #3), which has an adjoining walkway to the Arrowmont campus, 2) or the Anakeesta parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

112. Fungi: Lichens at Night in the Smokies

Time: 8:00:00 PM to 10:30:00 PM
Trail: Trails TBD
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Come explore the fascinating world of lichens at night! Many lichens produce secondary chemicals and metabolites that fluoresce brightly under UV light. Using handheld UV lights to scan tree trunks and rocks, we will search for lichens with brilliant colors of yellow, orange, electric blue, and more on this unique lichen night walk. Bring a flashlight, warm clothes, and comfortable walking shoes. The leaders will have 4-5 UV lights that you can borrow, but if you have one, bring it along. Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the Sugarlands Visitor Center bus parking lot, and your leaders will decide which trails to travel to from there. **Transportation:** None provided.

113. Bats: Stirring the Cauldron at the Twin Creeks Area

Time: 7:30:00 PM to 9:30:00 PM
Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).



In this program, learn from chiropterologists (people who study bats) about the ecology, distributions, feeding and mating behaviors of bats as well as why bats are important and economically beneficial to preserve. You will also get to use some high-tech gadgetry to listen to bats echolocating to hunt insects. Bring warm clothes and a flashlight (preferably with a red light). Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

114. Wildflowers by Light: Sights and Sounds at Night on Kephart Prong Trail

Time: 7:00:00 PM to 9:30:00 PM
Trail: Kephart Prong Trail
Meeting Location: T - Kephart Prong Trailhead

Experience the Smokies like the folks who lived here. Join expert naturalists on a walk at dusk to a hiker's cabin to enjoy time on the porch while seeing the sights and listening to the sounds of the wilderness at night. Along the way, you'll observe wildflowers closing as night falls and discuss why this happens. Bring water, warm clothes, a flashlight (with red light/lens if possible), and a hand lens. A moderate 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park in the Kephart Prong parking lot and meet your group at the trailhead **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

115. Art Workshop: Natural Dye with Kitchen Scraps and Extracts

Time: 9:00:00 AM to 3:00:00 PM
Trail: Arrowmont Art Studios: Textiles Studio
Meeting Location: C - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts on Gatlinburg Parkway.



This workshop will center around natural dye as a vehicle for surface techniques on plant-based fibers. We will go over the mordanting process and different types of natural dye extracts and kitchen scraps that can be used for natural dye. Students will have the opportunity to immerse whole pieces of fabric and use soybean paste for a resist technique. All experience levels welcome!

Logistics: There is limited parking on the Arrowmont campus. There are two parking options with a fee near the campus: 1) the city parking garage located at 526 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (traffic light #3), which has an adjoining walkway to the Arrowmont campus, 2) or the Anakeesta parking lot. Walk from your parking location to meet your group at the Arrowmont Art Studios: Textiles Studio. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

116. Birding on Alum Cave Trail

Time: 7:00:00 AM to 2:00:00 PM
Trail: Alum Cave Trail
Meeting Location: B - Alum Cave Bluffs Trailhead on Newfound Gap Road.

On this hike, look and listen for black-throated blue, black-throated green, and possibly blackburnian. You will also find early blue-headed vireos and southern Appalachian residents, such as black-capped chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, and winter wren. Once you reach Alum Cave, you'll look and listen for early spring warbler migrants and peregrine falcons, which nest in the area. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. A strenuous 4.6 mile hike. Elevation gain: 1100'.

Logistics: Park at either of the parking lots for Alum Cave Bluffs (the U-shaped lot or the long, straight lot). Meet your group in the long, straight parking area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

117. Wildflower Hike at Abrams Falls Trail - Long Version

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Abrams Falls Trail
Meeting Location: A - Abrams Falls Trailhead in Cades Cove.

Against the backdrop of Abrams Creek, discover wildflowers like gay wings and rhododendron, which flourish in this geologically unique and regionally rare limestone valley. Bring snacks, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. A moderate 5-mile up-and-back hike that displays one of the Park's more picturesque waterfalls. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group in the parking area by the Abrams Falls Trailhead off of Cades Cove Loop Rd. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 75 min [Map](#).

Friday All Day

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

118. Wildflower Hike at Huskey Gap Trail - Long Version

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 4:30:00 PM

Trail: Huskey Gap Trail

Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.



Follow expert botanists on a physically challenging, one-way trek from Huskey Gap to Little River Trail, Cucumber Gap, and then Jakes Creek Trail. Hikers may elect to take a short detour to the Mayna Treanor Avent Studio Cabin, which was once used as a retreat for the noted artist. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. A strenuous 6-mile one-way hike. Maximum elevation gain: 1,500'.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot at Sugarlands Visitor Center and take provided transportation to the Huskey Gap Trailhead. The bus will travel two miles south from Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd. The Huskey Gap Trailhead is directly across from the Riverview Quiet Walkway Trailhead. The bus will pick you up between 4:15pm and 4:30pm at Jakes Trailhead in Elkmont to return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 5 min.

119. Sketching Wildflowers at Collins Creek Pavilion

Time: 9:00:00 AM to 12:00:00 PM

Trail: Collins Creek Pavilion

Meeting Location: I - Collins Creek Pavilion on Newfound Gap Road near Cherokee, NC.



View wildflowers through the eyes of expert botanical artists, and explore your own creativity in the natural world. Bring your own art materials (at least a pencil and paper). Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. This large pavilion will be shared with another program. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

120. Birding from Sugarlands to Newfound Gap

Time: 7:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Sugarlands to Newfound Gap (Hybrid)

Meeting Location: G - City Parking Lot on Reagan Drive By Gatlinburg Fire Station.

Join expert birders to search for spring migrants and Appalachian residents. These walks will begin at Sugarlands, a low elevation area, then you will carpool to Newfound Gap, a high elevation area, where the program will end. Bring binoculars and rain gear. Short, easy walks.

Logistics: Meet your group at the parking lot, and carpool in as few cars as possible to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

121. Birding on School House Gap Trail

Time: 7:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: School House Gap Trail

Meeting Location: AD - Townsend Wye "Y" on Little River Road.

The School House Gap Trail follows a beautiful stream lined with rhododendron, and ultimately enters into an upland deciduous habitat with scattered pines containing a variety of colorful spring warblers, vireos, and tanagers. Bring binoculars, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.

Logistics: Leaders may elect to hike a trail in the Townsend Wye area, or they may organize carpool to travel from Townsend Wye to School House Gap Trailhead. If going to Schoolhouse Gap Trailhead, then carpool may be needed to drive 3.9 miles towards Cades Cove on Laurel Creek Rd to School House Gap Trailhead. There is limited parking there. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

122. Birding the East End of Cades Cove

Time: 7:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Cades Cove Loop Road

Meeting Location: D - Cades Cove Campground Store.

Retired National Park Service Ranger, Warren Bielenberg and Outdoor Educator, Wanda DeWaard have been chasing birds and butterflies for over 30 years. Join them to explore a variety of habitats in Cades Cove to identify birds and butterflies on the wing. Dress for the weather and bring a field guide if you have one, binoculars, water, and rain gear. Short, easy walks.

Logistics: Meet your group in the store's parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 50 min [Map](#).

123. Elkmont, Then and Now

Time: 9:00:00 AM to 11:00:00 AM

Trail: Elkmont Campground Area

Meeting Location: AZ - Elkmont Campground (field behind Elkmont Campground Office).



Join Interpretive Park Ranger and historian Brad Free on a tour of the human history of Elkmont. Learn about Elkmont's interesting history and politics while touring the old vacation homes and other buildings at Elkmont, some of which only foundations remain. See the amazing restoration efforts of some of these homes that have taken place over the last few years. Be sure to ask Brad about the plane crash at that site!

Logistics: Park within the Elkmont Campground. Meet your group in the grass field behind the Elkmont Campground Office.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

124. Tour the GSMNP Natural History Museum at Twin Creeks

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 11:00:00 AM

Trail: Twin Creeks Science and Education Center

Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).



Come tour the natural history collections that have been used to document the biodiversity of the GSMNP since its beginning. In this behind-locked-doors tour of the GSMNP Natural History Museum, you will see specimens of mammals, birds (including the now-extinct passenger pigeon), fungi, insects, and plants. You will also learn about how these specimens are prepared, stored, and cataloged as well as their importance to the Park.

Logistics: Meet your group in the Twin Creeks Science and Education Center. Park in the Twin Creeks Public Parking Area, cross the street, and walk up the short trail to the south end of the Science and Education Center. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

125. Fungi of Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway

Meeting Location: AE - Tremont Road (parking lot at end of gravel road).

Learn from expert mycologists about fungal biology and the importance of fungi in nutrient and life cycles within forest ecosystems. Leaders will also discuss classification of fungi and edible vs. poisonous fungi. An easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: From the Townsend Wye, take Laurel Creek Rd to Tremont Rd, continuing after it turns to gravel until it terminates at the Middle Prong Trail Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

126. Pollinators and Plants: Lessons in Pollination Biology

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Cosby Nature Trail

Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).



Did you know that oftentimes you can predict the types of insects that will pollinate certain plants based on the shapes and colors of their flowers? Join experts in pollination biology to learn how to predict pollinators based on floral characteristics.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

127. Black Bear and Wild Hogs in the Smokies - Jakes Creek

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Jake's Creek Trail

Meeting Location: R - Jakes Creek Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.



Walk along this old railroad route with retired Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Managers and expert biologists as they describe the life history, tracking signs, human impacts, and environmental issues of black bears, wild hogs, and other mammals in the Southern Appalachians. An easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Jakes Creek Trailhead parking area that is 0.1 miles past the Little River Trailhead parking area. Meet your group at the Jakes Creek Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

128. Ferns at Baxter Creek Trail, along Big Creek

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Baxter Creek Trail

Meeting Location: AP - Big Creek and Baxter Creek Parking Area

Come join expert pteridologists (people who study ferns) on this walk to learn about fern species in the Park. You will learn about the parts of ferns and the life cycle and ecology of ferns, as well as how to distinguish different forms. Bring a hand lens if you have one. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 50 min [Map](#).

129. Forest Foods and Pharmacy at Metcalf Bottoms

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (North)

Meeting Location: AU - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (North Parking Lot).

Ethnobotany--the relationship between plants and people--entails learning about how wild plants can be used for medicines, foods, dyes, and tools. Take a walk in the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area with expert naturalists to identify many plants and trees that were used by the people of the Smoky Mountains as a part of their daily lives.

Logistics: Park at the north parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

130. Moss Walk: Basics of Mosses and their Relatives at Collins Creek Pavilion

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:15:00 AM

Trail: Collins Creek Pavilion

Meeting Location: I - Collins Creek Pavilion on Newfound Gap Road near Cherokee, NC.

Mosses are terribly understudied, and few people understand their basic structures, even though they are essential organisms in the forest. In this program, you will learn about what mosses are and the "mossy misnomers" they are often confused with. There will be a display and talk on the main moss growth forms and tips for identifying common genera in the field. After the mostly mossy lesson, you will head out on a hike to solidify what you have learned. Bring a hand lens if you have one, as it will enhance your viewing. There will be extras for you to borrow if you don't have one. Easy 1-2 mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. This large pavilion will be shared with another program. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

131. Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Middle Prong Trail

Meeting Location: AE - Tremont Road (parking lot at end of gravel road).

Stroll with expert botanists and conservationists along Middle Prong Trail while stopping along the way to enjoy many of the spring ephemeral wildflowers, ferns, and flowering trees of the Smokies such as tulip trees, wild ginger, and violets. Interestingly, this trail used to be a railroad bed, and carried out the last logs from the Smokies in 1939. A moderate 4-mile walk.

Logistics: From the Townsend Wye, take Laurel Creek Rd to Tremont Rd, continuing after it turns to gravel until it terminates at the Middle Prong Trail Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

132. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Chestnut Top Trail
Meeting Location: AD - Townsend Wye "Y" on Little River Road.

The Chestnut Top Trail is home to one of the grandest wildflower displays in the Smokies. While hiking on this narrow trail, be prepared to see wildflower species such as Jack-in-the-pulpit, little brown jug, stonecrop, Carey's saxifrage, miterwort, foam flower, fire pink, longspur violet, cross-vine, and many others. A moderate 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the Townsend Wye, across the road from the Chestnut Top Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

133. Wildflower Hike at Huskey Gap Trail - Short Version

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Huskey Gap Trail
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.



The Huskey Gap Trail is one of the few trails that was chosen for the first SWFP in 1951, and this botanically rich trail continues to be a must-see after 72 years! Walk the old trail that connected settlers of Sugarlands Valley and Little River, passing old homesites along the way while viewing the wildflower displays of crested dwarf iris, trillium, wild ginger, and bloodroot. A moderate 2-mile walk. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot, and take provided transportation to the Huskey Gap Trailhead. The bus will travel two miles south from Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd. The Huskey Gap Trailhead is directly across from the Riverview Quiet Walkway Trailhead. The bus will pick you up between 11:30am and 11:45am from the Huskey Gap Trailhead to return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. SHUTTLE TIME: 5 min.

133.5. Wildflower Hike at Little River Above Elkmont

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Little River Trail
Meeting Location: S - Little River Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

While walking up this former logging railroad bed, you will discover the tenacity of nature in recovering from the massive logging operations that cleared this valley in the early twentieth century. Many species of wildflowers, ferns, and trees dot the landscape and are easily observable. An easy 2-mile walk. Elevation gain: 200'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the parking area at the Little River Trailhead. The parking area and trailhead are just past the Little River Bridge. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

134. Wildflower Hike at Gabes Mountain Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Gabes Mountain Trail
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

Starting near the large parking area, hike up Gabes Mountain paralleling Rock Creek for a short period. When confronted with a fork in the trail, take a left to head back to Cosby Campground, take a right to extend the hike and make it an out and back. On this hike you'll encounter creeping and blue phlox, wild geraniums, trout lilies, yellow fairy bells, cut-leaf and two-leaved toothworts, sweet white and canada violets, and who knows you might see some trilliums and orchids too. An easy 2-3 mile hike.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

134.5. Wildflower Hike at Kephart Prong Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Kephart Prong Trail
Meeting Location: T - Kephart Prong Trailhead

Hiking among history, water, and wildflowers, this trail will follow the Kephart Prong past the remains of a CCC camp, a former fish hatchery, and an old narrow gauge railroad. All of these historic remains have wildflowers such as wood betony and rue-anemone growing in and around them. Hike up to the Kephart Prong Shelter before turning around. An easy 4 mile walk.

Logistics: Park in the Kephart Prong parking lot and meet your group at the trailhead **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

135. Wildflower Hike at Rainbow Falls

Time: 8:15:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Rainbow Falls Trail

Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Join expert botanists on Rainbow Falls Trail to experience a variety of wildflower diversity. Begin your trip by walking along an area that was once home to the apple orchard owned by M.M. Whittle from 1930 to 1960. A few old trees still bloom here and produce apples. After about a mile, you will begin to follow Le Conte Creek past rosebay rhododendron, galax, and tea berry. At about two miles once you hit a walking bridge, you will need to turn around. A steep 4-mile walk, but your group may turn around at anytime.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Rainbow Falls Trail.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

136. Wildflower Hike at Spruce Fir Nature Trail

Time: 7:30:00 AM to 10:45:00 AM

Trail: Spruce Fir Nature Trail

Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

Explore the trees, shrubs, and wildflowers of the unique Spruce - Fir forests of the Smokies. This rare and endangered southeastern montane forest is an exceptional plant community. Learn about how this community was formed, the dynamics that maintain it and the factors that threaten its continued existence. An easy 1-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. There is very limited parking at the Spruce Fir Nature Trail parking area, so carpool in as few cars as possible (ideally 3-4 cars) with your group from Rockefeller Memorial to the Spruce Fir Nature Trail. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive 2.5 miles north on Clingmans Dome Rd, and the Spruce Fir Nature Trail parking area will be on the left (35.59569, -83.45871). **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

137. Wildflower Hike at Trillium Gap Trail

Time: 8:15:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Trillium Gap Trail

Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Explore the Trillium Gap Trail with expert botanists and conservationists. Along the way, you will cross creeks, wind through a forest of locusts, maples, and tulip trees, and observe a variety of wildflowers, including toothwort, hepatica, putty root orchids, striped pipsissewa, and downy rattlesnake plantain. A moderate 2.8-mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Trillium Gap Trail.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

138. Wildflowers Along the Sugarland Valley Nature Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM

Trail: Sugarland Valley Nature Trail

Meeting Location: AQ - Sugarland Valley Nature Trail

Walking through former homesteads, you will see and discuss many of the common wildflowers in the lower elevation reforested former settlement that was Sugarland Valley. Bring a 10x hand lens or a strong magnifying glass, if possible. This wheelchair accessible program runs along the flat concrete 0.5 mile Sugarland Valley Nature Trail, next to the Bullhead Branch creek.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min [Map](#).



- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

139. Life in the Leaf Litter: A Tour of the Seldom-Seen Animal Diversity at Our Feet

Time: 9:30:00 AM to
11:45:00 AM
Trail: UT Field Station
Meeting Location: AC -
Sugarlands Visitor Center.



Join zoologists at the University of Tennessee Field Station to explore the seldom-seen diversity living in the fallen leaf layer under the trees. Leaf litter provides habitat to many organisms and plays an important role in nutrient cycling in the forest. In this program, you will learn some of the methods that scientists use to study the animals that call leaf litter home. You will look under cover boards for salamanders and snakes, check live animal traps to find small mammals, and use Berlese funnels and microscopes to see the tiny invertebrates that live under our feet.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot, and take provided transportation to the UT Field Station at Greenbrier. The bus will drop you off at the entry gate, and you will walk up to the Field Station with your group. The bus will pick you up between 11:30am and 11:45am from the entry gate at the Field Station and return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 30 min.

140. iNaturalist: Become a Pioneer Pilgrim by Learning How to Use the iNaturalist App!

Time: 8:30:00 AM to
11:30:00 AM
Trail: Gatlinburg Trail
Meeting Location: Z - Park
Headquarters Road.

iNaturalist is a free app that was created by workers at California Academy of Sciences. If you've been to the Pilgrimage over the past few years, you have certainly seen pilgrims using it. iNaturalist not only helps users determine what organisms they are observing, but it also collects biodiversity data that can be used by scientists, conservation workers, and land managers in the GSMNP. In this program, you will learn how you can use this app to discover the natural world around you while helping park managers better track and understand the biodiversity of the Smokies. Bring your smart phones!

Logistics: Meet your group outside of the gated area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min [Map](#).

141. Skills of a Naturalist: Observing Nature

Time: 8:30:00 AM to
11:45:00 AM
Trail: Chimneys Picnic
Area/Outdoor Classroom,
Cove Hardwood Nature
Trail
Meeting Location: F -
Chimneys Picnic Area on
Newfound Gap Road.

Nature is a remarkable teacher, and the GSMNP has been called a great outdoor classroom. Naturalists tap into their knowledge with observational methods of study. Through patience, awareness, and the five senses, you can discover a great deal about the natural world. Valuable tips and simple tools explored in this program will help cultivate and sharpen the skills needed to derive the greatest benefit from time spent outdoors and begin your journey as an amateur naturalist. Bring a small notebook or journal and writing implement of choice.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/outdoor classroom above the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

143. Book Signing: Bill Landry, A Last Hurrah!

Time: 11:30:00 AM to
1:30:00 PM
Trail: Arrowmont
Auditorium
Meeting Location: C -
Arrowmont School of Arts
and Crafts on Gatlinburg
Parkway.



Come meet Bill Landry! Our evening speaker for Thursday and Friday nights, Bill will be available during lunch hours to have casual conversations and sign his new book "A LAST HURRAH."

Logistics: There is limited parking on the Arrowmont campus. There are two parking options with a fee near the campus: 1) the city parking garage located at 526 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (traffic light #3), which has an adjoining walkway to the Arrowmont campus, 2) or the Anakeesta parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles: Birds, Fungi, Insects, Mammals, Plants, Reptiles & Amphibians, Other**

144. Photography of Flowers with Mirrorless or SLR Cameras: Advanced Workshop

Time: 1:15:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Sugarlands Training Room
Meeting Location: AB - Sugarlands Visitor Center Training Room.



Learn how to improve your wildflower images with mirrorless and SLR cameras. Robert Hutson, co-author of Great Smoky Mountain Wildflowers: When and Where to Find Them, and Jack Carman, author of Wildflowers of Tennessee, will give a short visual presentation and then migrate outside for hands-on instruction in composition and photo technique. Bring hiking boots, a mirrorless or SLR camera, and a tripod. An easy 1-mile walk.

Logistics: Park in the third lot on the right. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min

145. Nature Drawing for Beginners at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area

Time: 1:45:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (South)
Meeting Location: U - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (South Parking Area).



Sketching the outdoors allows you to learn more about the world around you. From observing the tiniest leaf margins to the tallest trees, keeping an observational sketchbook is a great way for botanical artists to take visual notes. Learn the basics of how artists apply observational sketching in the outdoors at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area. Materials not provided.

Logistics: Park at the south parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

146. Birding on Bullhead Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Bullhead Trail
Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Join expert birders for a hike on the Bullhead Trail. Bring binoculars and rain gear. The walk ascends the moderate Bullhead Trail for 2.2 miles. The total round-trip hike is 4.5 miles.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Bullhead Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

147. History, Wildflowers, and Culture of Noah Bud Ogle

Time: 1:15:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Twin Creeks and Noah Bud Ogle Trail
Meeting Location: AR - Grassy Branch Trailhead

In this program, you will discover a diversity of wildflowers and hear stories of Noah Bud Ogle and his family. What was his life like in this area? How did people use this magnificent landscape? What was a day in the life like for people who made the Great Smoky Mountains their home? Park Volunteer and VIP Frances Hensley, also known as Granny Frannie, will be in character to convey these things and much more during this moderate 2-mile hike.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot across from the Grassy Branch Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

148. Fungi and their Funky Forest Friends found in the Cosby Picnic Area

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Cosby Picnic Area/Pavilion, Trails TBD
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).



Fungi are essential organisms in the forest. You will start this program by learning about what fungi are and what they are not. You will get to study, smell, and touch a display of different fungal types, including mushrooms, puffballs, cup fungi, conks, and lichens. After the fun fungal lesson, you will head out on a hike to explore the forest and look for evidence of the fungal friends and foes. Bring a hand lens if you have one. Easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

149. Butterflies in Cades Cove

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Cades Cove Loop Road
Meeting Location: D - Cades Cove Campground Store.



Retired National Park Service Ranger, Warren Bielenberg and Outdoor Educator, Wanda DeWaard have been chasing birds and butterflies for over 30 years. Join them to explore a variety of habitats in Cades Cove to identify birds and butterflies on the wing. Dress for the weather and bring a field guide if you have one, binoculars, water, and rain gear. Short, easy walks.

Logistics: Meet your group in the store's parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 50 min [Map](#).

150. Ferns at Little River above Elkmont

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Little River Trail
Meeting Location: S - Little River Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

Have you ever seen an adder's tongue, a sang pointer, or the hitchhiking southern lady? Do you understand what parts of ferns or fern allies are leaves, and what parts are stems? Come see a variety of the Park's more common ferns and fern allies, and learn about their structures, how they grow and reproduce, and their biodiversity in the Park. Bring a hand lens. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the parking area at the Little River Trailhead. The parking area and trailhead are just past the Little River Bridge. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

151. Herblore of Appalachia

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (North)
Meeting Location: AU - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (North Parking Lot).

Learn about the edible, medicinal, and generally useful plants of the Smokies with Ila Hatter and Brittney Hughes. Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Park at the north parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

152. Moss Walk: Injun Creek Trail in Greenbrier

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Injun Creek Trail
Meeting Location: M - Greenbrier Road Ranger Station.

Learn about the diminutive world of mosses: a diverse group of very beautiful, unique, and small non-flowering plants that are found throughout the Smokies. You will learn about a variety of mosses, liverworts, and hornworts as you observe them along the trail. You will also discuss their life cycle and basic ways to distinguish them from one another. Bring a 10x hand lens or a strong magnifying class if possible. An easy 2-mile hike that includes a narrow but sturdy stream crossing with a handrail and a short rocky area that is often wet and muddy.

Logistics: Turn onto Greenbrier Rd from Hwy 321, drive 1 mile, and park and meet your group at the Greenbrier Road Ranger Station (35.729633° -83.406016°). You will then head out onto Injun Creek Trail from the Ranger Station. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

153. Exotic Plants on the Gatlinburg Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Gatlinburg Trail
Meeting Location: Z - Park Headquarters Road.

Since the 1700s, botanists have used the term "exotic" to describe plant species from elsewhere introduced into a new area. During this hike, you'll focus on learning to identify exotic plant species, the differences between naturalized exotic species and those that aren't, what makes a species "invasive," and about the negative impact these species have on our native plants and animals. An easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group outside of the gated area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min [Map](#).

154. Tree and Shrub Identification Walk at Metcalf Bottoms

Time: 1:15:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (South), Metcalf Bottoms Trail
Meeting Location: U - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area off Little River Road (South Parking Area).

This program is more than an introduction to terms. You will learn characters used in the identification of woody plants (trees, shrubs, and woody vines). You will also learn how to differentiate leaf and bark characteristics, which will help you to distinguish between genera and species of common and lesser common woody plants in the Park. Bring field guides and hand lenses if you have them, but they are not required. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the south parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. Then, head out onto Metcalf Bottoms Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

155. Trees and Shrubs of High Elevation at Indian Gap Trail

Time: 1:45:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Appalachian Trail, Indian Gap, Newfound Gap
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

Pass from the closed canopy of an old growth spruce-fir forest into the open canopy of a pristine beech gap forest. You'll start to notice giant dead Fraser firs, which have succumbed to the spread of the invasive balsam woolly adelgid. A 1.5-mile moderate walk. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. Before beginning this hike, some group members need to shuttle their cars to the end point of the hike at the Indian Gap parking area, while others wait at Rockefeller Memorial. Leave as many cars at the Indian Gap parking area as will be necessary to shuttle everyone back to Rockefeller Memorial after the hike. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive one mile north on Clingmans Dome Rd, and the Indian Gap parking area will be on the right (35.60937, -83.44654). Leave cars there, and return to Rockefeller Memorial to begin your hike. After your hike, shuttle everyone back to Rockefeller Memorial. **Transportation:** None provided. Car shuttle needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

155.5. Trees and Shrubs of High Elevation at Sugarland Mountain Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Sugarland Mountain Trail
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Walk through a range of forest types as you hike through the elevation changes along the Sugarland Mountain Trail. You'll notice epiphytic tree growth, signaling the temperate rainforest nature of this high point in the mountains. The trail follows a ridgeline surrounded by old, largely uncut sections of yellow birch and red spruce.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Sugarlands Visitor Center. There is limited parking at the Sugarland Mountain Trailhead, so carpool from Sugarlands Visitor Center to the Sugarland Mountain Trailhead in as few cars as possible. From Sugarlands Visitor Center, turn right onto Fighting Creek Gap Rd / Little River Gorge Rd. Continue for 3.5 miles. The trailhead parking area will be on your left. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. DT: 10 min.

156. Wildflower and Cascade Walk Along Middle Prong Trail

Time: 1:45:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Middle Prong Trail
Meeting Location: AE - Tremont Road (parking lot at end of gravel road).

Stroll with expert botanists and conservationists along Middle Prong Trail while stopping along the way to enjoy many of the spring ephemeral wildflowers, ferns, and flowering trees of the Smokies such as tulip trees, wild ginger, and violets. Interestingly, this trail used to be a railroad bed, and carried out the last logs from the Smokies in 1939. A moderate 4-mile walk.

Logistics: From the Townsend Wye, take Laurel Creek Rd to Tremont Rd, continuing after it turns to gravel until it terminates at the Middle Prong Trail Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

157. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Chestnut Top Trail
Meeting Location: AD - Townsend Wye "Y" on Little River Road.

The Chestnut Top Trail is home to one of the grandest wildflower displays in the Smokies. While hiking on this narrow trail, be prepared to see wildflower species such as Jack-in-the-pulpit, little brown jug, stonecrop, Carey's saxifrage, miterwort, foam flower, fire pink, longspur violet, cross-vine, and many others. A moderate 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the Townsend Wye, across the road from the Chestnut Top Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

158. Wildflower Hike at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail (Chimneys Picnic Area loop trail)

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Cove Hardwood Nature Trail
Meeting Location: F - Chimneys Picnic Area on Newfound Gap Road.

Cove hardwood forests are one of the most biologically diverse communities in North America. This easily accessible trail is a great place to see a lot of different wildflowers as well as trees, shrubs, and vines. There are more species of wildflowers along this short, easy walk than just about any other place in the Park, making it a must for those wanting to learn about spring wildflowers like dwarf ginseng, showy orchis, fringed phacelia, several trillium species, golden saxifrage (can you spot this tiny little plant?), wild ginger, and more. Short walk with elevation gain.

Logistics: Park in the Chimneys Picnic Area parking lot, and meet your group at the Cove Hardwood Nature Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

159. Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Kanati Fork Trail
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

The Kanati Fork Trail has many spring ephemeral wildflowers including painted trillium, Clinton lily, foam flower, Indian cucumber root, brook lettuce, and Canada mayflower as well as a lot of the more common species in the Park. Turn around when the group is ready. A moderate 2 mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. There is limited parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead, so carpool in as few cars as possible with your group from Rockefeller Memorial to the Kanati Fork Trailhead. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive 8.4 miles east along Newfound Gap Road, and parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead will be on the left (35.58790, -83.36387). **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

160. Wildflower Hike at Cosby Nature Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Low Gap Trail/Cosby Nature Trail
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

An easy walk along Low Gap Trail takes you to the 1 mile Cosby Nature Trail loop. On this hike you'll encounter creeping and blue phlox, wild geraniums, trout lillies, yellow fairy bells, cut-leaf and two-leaved toothworts, sweet white and canada violets, and who knows you might see some trilliums and orchids too. An easy 2-3 mile hike.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

161. Wildflower Hike at Snake Den Ridge Trail

Time: 1:45:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Snake Den Ridge Trail
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

This 4-5 mile round trip does not go all the way to the top of the ridge, but still sees some significant elevation gain. On this trail you will encounter species such as white clintonia, fraser sedge, silver bells, foam flower, squirrel corn, creeping phlox, and fraser magnolia.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. Walk through the campground with your leader to find the trail head. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

162. Wildflower Hike at Trillium Gap Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM

Trail: Trillium Gap Trail

Meeting Location: A1 - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Explore the Trillium Gap Trail with expert botanists and conservationists. Along the way, you will cross creeks, wind through a forest of locusts, maples, and tulip trees, and observe a variety of wildflowers, including toothwort, hepatica, putty root orchids, striped pipsissewa, and downy rattlesnake plantain. A moderate 2.8-mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Trillium Gap Trail.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

163. Wildflowers: Lady Slippers at Bud Ogle

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM

Trail: Noah Bud Ogle Trail

Meeting Location: X - Noah "Bud Ogle" parking area on Cherokee Orchard Road.

Walking through former homesteads, you will see a splendid variety of wildflowers and American chestnut tree remnants in the reforested fields. Pink Lady's slippers are found along this trail in abundance and are sure to delight seekers of these beautiful plants! Leaders will discuss the differences between Lady Slipper species (other than their color) as well as their life histories and pollination syndromes. Short, easy walk with one creek crossing at the beginning (caution: the rocks here are often very slippery).

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

164. Salamanders of the Smokies: Motorcade from Peaks to Seeps

Time: 1:15:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM

Trail: Chimneys Picnic Area/Outdoor Classroom, Ash Hopper Branch

Meeting Location: G - City Parking Lot on Reagan Drive By Gatlinburg Fire Station.



In this program, you will travel from high to low elevation in search of Tennessee's slimy jewels. These hikes are short, but time will fly while discovering the true diversity of salamanders on this motorcade through the Smokies. Learn why Tennessee is the salamander capital of the world! The first stop will be at the Chimneys Picnic Area to see high elevation salamander communities and the Smoky's only endemic amphibian species. The program will conclude at the Sugarlands Visitor Center (Ash Hopper Branch) to see a vastly different community of mid to low elevation salamanders. Every amphibian-based hike will begin and end with decontamination, and a short discussion of survey protocols/ethics in order to protect these species from the spread of dangerous pathogens. Be prepared for wet or muddy conditions.

Logistics: Meet your group at the parking lot. Fit as many people into as few cars as possible for this motorcade adventure. Fewer cars helps with traffic and parking. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

165. Explore the Wonders of Animal Communication at Collins Creek

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 3:30:00 PM

Trail: Collins Creek Pavilion

Meeting Location: I - Collins Creek Pavilion on Newfound Gap Road near Cherokee, NC.



Why do birds sing? Did you know that some fireflies lie to each other? Do bees do the tango or fox trot when they are excited? Loren Hayes and Monica Miles will lead a discussion, game, and walk focused on why and how animals communicate in the GSMNP. Bring your dancing shoes (hiking boots).

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. This large pavilion will be shared with another program. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

166. Parasites! An Important Component of Our Hidden Biodiversity

Time: 1:30:00 PM to
4:30:00 PM
Trail: UT Field Station
Meeting Location: AC -
Sugarlands Visitor Center.



Parasite Ecologist Dr. Ricky Fiorillo from Georgia-Gwinnett College will discuss the natural history and ecology of an often-unappreciated component of our hidden biodiversity, while guiding you through a hands-on dissection searching for worm parasites in a natural host. You will examine the heart, liver, and digestive tract of common freshwater fish species. See for yourself just how interesting and beautiful parasites can be, and why they are an important component of our ecosystem. The minimum age to perform dissections is high school, but anyone can watch.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot, and take provided transportation to the UT Field Station at Greenbrier. The bus will drop you off at the entry gate, and you will walk up to the Field Station with your group. The bus will pick you up between 4:15pm and 4:30pm from the entry gate at the Field Station and return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 30 min.

167. A Last Hurrah! Bill Landry tells his own story this time!

Time: 7:30:00 PM to
8:30:00 PM
Trail: Arrowmont Wolpert
Gallery
Meeting Location: C -
Arrowmont School of Arts
and Crafts on Gatlinburg
Parkway.



A LAST HURRAH! This time Bill Landry tells his own story, which is one of a man who spent 30 years telling other people's tales of the Great Smoky

Mountains and beyond. Bill, two-time Emmy Award-winning director, and IRIS Award winner for "On-Camera Talent," was the host and narrator of television's long-running: "The Heartland Series". According to Bill, "It'll be a party. Everyone's invited! I'm really looking forward to being back in east Tennessee and seeing my old friends! I am still

alive!"

Logistics: There is limited parking on the Arrowmont campus. There are two parking options with a fee near the campus: 1) the city parking garage located at 526 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (traffic light #3), which has an adjoining walkway to the Arrowmont campus, 2) or the Anakeesta parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

168. Book Signing: Bill Landry, A Last Hurrah!

Time: 8:30:00 PM to
9:30:00 PM
Trail: Arrowmont
Auditorium
Meeting Location: C -
Arrowmont School of Arts
and Crafts on Gatlinburg
Parkway.



Come meet Bill Landry! Bill will be available after his presentation to have casual conversations and sign his new book "A LAST HURRAH."

Logistics: There is limited parking on the Arrowmont campus. There are two parking options with a fee near the campus: 1) the city parking garage located at 526 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (traffic light #3), which has an adjoining walkway to the Arrowmont campus, 2) or the Anakeesta parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

169. Bats: Stirring the Cauldron at the Twin Creeks Area

Time: 7:30:00 PM to
9:30:00 PM
Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion
Meeting Location: AF -
Twin Creeks (off Cherokee
Orchard Road).



In this program, learn from chiropterologists (people who study bats) about the ecology, distributions, feeding and mating behaviors of bats as well as why bats are important and economically beneficial to preserve. You will also get to use some high-tech gadgetry to listen to bats echolocating to hunt insects. Bring warm clothes and a flashlight (preferably with a red light). Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles: Birds, Fungi, Insects, Mammals, Plants, Reptiles & Amphibians, Other**

170. Stargazing

Time: 8:30:00 PM to 10:30:00 PM
Trail: Carlos Campbell Overlook
Meeting Location: AR - Carlos Campbell Overlook



Experience the natural history of the universe in a truly dark sky. In this program, you will learn the basics of skywatching, star names, and constellations, and examine the wonders of the deep sky through a variety of optical instruments. Bring warm clothes and binoculars if you have them, but not a flashlight. Very short, easy walk. Not recommended for children under 10.

Logistics: Parking is limited. Park and meet your group at the Carlos Campbell Overlook. If Carlos Campbell Overlook parking is full, alternate parking can be found 0.1 miles north and south of the Carlos Campbell Overlook. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

171. Sugar Magnolia Warblers and Scarlet Bignonias

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 3:30:00 PM
Trail: Gabes Mountain Trail, Maddron Bald Trail
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).



Spring is here! The birds are singing and the flowers are popping up along the forest floor. Join us on an ears-open, eyes-open hike as we look for springtime birds and wildflowers along the Gabes Mountain Trail. We welcome nature lovers of all levels to join us as we learn about local birds from song and sight and share tips for identifying Smoky Mountain wildflowers. This is an all-day hike, so be sure to bring water, snacks, and binoculars if you have them.

Logistics: Meet your group at the Cosby Picnic Area parking lot. After hike, the bus will pick you up between 3:30pm and 4:00pm from Maddron Bald Trailhead to return you to the Cosby Picnic Area. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 15 min. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

172. Fungi: Rambling with Wildflowers, Mushrooms, and Lichens on the Big Creek Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Big Creek Trail
Meeting Location: AP - Big Creek and Baxter Creek Parking Area

This strenuous hike will take you through magnificent cove hardwood and hemlock forests, eventually crossing the Big Creek at the Mouse Creek Falls. On this adventure, you will catch glimpses of unique lichens and mushrooms inhabiting a multitude of microhabitats. Majestic trees and wildflowers are also plentiful. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. 5-6 mile out and back, elevation gain: 1000'.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 50 min [Map](#).

173. Tree Hike to See the Giants at Albright Grove

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Maddron Bald Trail, Albright Grove Loop Trail
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.



Hike to one of the most magnificent groves of old-growth trees in the Park. See massive tulip poplars, fraser magnolias, silverbells, maples, and hemlocks (which are unfortunately mostly now fallen because of hemlock wooly adelgids). Pass wonderful displays of wildflowers and an 1889 cabin made of chestnut. See if you can spot the epiphytic elderberry way up in the canopy of a large tree! Bring lunch, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. A moderate 6.5-mile hike. Elevation gain: 1,600'.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot, and take provided transportation to the Maddron Bald Trailhead, located off of Hwy 321 and Baxter Road (behind Imagination Mountain Camp Resort). The bus will pick you up between 4:00pm and 4:30pm from the Maddron Bald Trailhead to return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 40 min.

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

174. Trees, Wildflowers, Fungi, and Friends All Day Long: Mt. Cammerer Fire Tower

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 5:30:00 PM

Trail: Low Gap Trail, Appalachian Trail from Low Gap to Mount Cammerer Trail, Mount Cammerer Trail

Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

Come join Joey Shaw and Ed Lickey for an 11-mile, 3000ft elevation gain and loss, roundtrip hike up to one of the most panoramic vistas in the GSMNP, the Mt. Cammerer Fire Tower. Joey is the Director of the Pilgrimage and an author and editor of the Guide to the Vascular Plants of Tennessee and Ed knows as many plants and fungi as anyone in the GSMNP having organized fungal ATBI during his post-doc days at UTK. Shannon, the SWFP's Meeting Planner, will add colorful commentary and witness this cardiovascular extravaganza of heavy breathin', knee-hurtin', wildflower-identifin', fungi learnin', fern pointin' out'in, ecological journey. We'll travel from forests full of wildflowers and ferns through the elevational diversity of to oak-rhododendron forests, cove hardwoods, seepy communities, dry ridges, and spruce-fir forests. 11.1 miles. Bring water, lunch, snacks, and whatever gear the weather calls for. If the weather looks bad (as in super foggy and likely no views), then we'll pick another trail out of Cosby Picnic Area.

Logistics: Meet your group at the Cosby Hiker Parking Area, which is to the left of the campground registration booth. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

175. Salamander Picnic

Time: 10:00:00 AM to 3:00:00 PM

Trail: Chimneys Picnic Area/Outdoor Classroom (AM), Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (North) (PM)

Meeting Location: G - City Parking Lot on Reagan Drive By Gatlinburg Fire Station.

Join this all-day program to hunt for the hidden treasures of the Smokies that are just out of site. This hike starts out at Chimneys Picnic Area, where you may catch a glimpse of the Smoky's only endemic salamander and many more species. Bring a lunch, and join for part two at the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (North). You will learn about the broad diversity of Tennessee's salamanders from high to low elevation, how to identify them, their life history, and threats to their long-term viability. Depending on the weather, this hike will move from mountains to foothills, where you may find some scaly friends. Come armed with questions and shoes you don't mind getting wet. Every amphibian-based hike will begin and end with decontamination, and a short discussion of survey protocols/ethics in order to protect these species from the spread of dangerous pathogens.

Logistics: Meet your group at the parking lot, and carpool to the Chimneys Picnic Area/Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area. If you plan to only attend the first half of this event, be sure to carpool with others who also plan to only attend the first half. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

176. Wildcrafting Walk in the Smokies

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Big White Oak Quiet Walkway

Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.



"Wildcrafting" is a term for the age-old practice of collecting plant materials from their natural habitats for the purposes of food, medicine, and craft. Originally, wildcrafting was the only grocery store, medicine chest, and hardware store available. In this program, you will discover plants that have been used for medicines, foods, dyes, crafts, and tools by the people of the Smoky Mountains while walking along the Big White Oak Quiet Walkway.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot, and take provided transportation to the Big White Oak Quiet Walkway. The bus will travel one mile west of Sugarlands Visitor Center via Fighting Creek Gap Rd / Little River Gorge Rd. The bus will pick you up between 11:15am and 11:30am from the Big White Oak Quiet Walkway Trailhead to return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 5 min.

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

177. Photography Workshop

Time: 8:15:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Sugarlands Training Room
Meeting Location: AB - Sugarlands Visitor Center Training Room.



Learn how to improve your wildflower images with mirrorless and SLR cameras. Robert Hutson, co-author of Great Smoky Mountain Wildflowers: When and Where to Find Them, and Jack Carman, author of Wildflowers of Tennessee, will give a short visual presentation and then migrate outside for hands-on instruction in composition and photo technique. Bring hiking boots, a mirrorless or SLR camera, and a tripod. An easy 1-mile walk.

Logistics: Park in the third lot on the right. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min

178. Sketching Wildflowers at Twin Creeks Pavilion

Time: 8:45:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).



View wildflowers through the eyes of expert botanical artists, and explore your own creativity in the natural world. Bring your own art materials (at least a pencil and paper). Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

179. Birding and Wildflowers on School House Gap Trail

Time: 7:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: School House Gap Trail
Meeting Location: AD - Townsend Wye "Y" on Little River Road.

The School House Gap Trail follows a beautiful stream lined with rhododendron, and ultimately enters into an upland deciduous habitat with scattered pines containing a variety of colorful spring warblers, vireos, and tanagers. Bring binoculars, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes.

Logistics: Leaders may elect to hike a trail in the Townsend Wye area, or they may organize carpool to travel from Townsend Wye to School House Gap Trailhead. If going to Schoolhouse Gap Trailhead, then carpool may be needed to drive 3.9 miles towards Cades Cove on Laurel Creek Rd to School House Gap Trailhead. There is limited parking there. **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

180. Birding on Bullhead Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Bullhead Trail
Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Join expert birders for a hike on the Bullhead Trail. Bring binoculars and rain gear. The walk ascends the moderate Bullhead Trail for 2.2 miles. The total round-trip hike is 4.5 miles.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Bullhead Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

181. Birds of Cades Cove, By Song and Sight

Time: 7:30:00 AM to 10:00:00 AM
Trail: Cades Cove Loop Road
Meeting Location: D - Cades Cove Campground Store.

Explore a diversity of habitats--some unique to Cades Cove--in search of our feathered friends of the open country and forest edge. Yellow-breasted chat, eastern meadowlark, indigo bunting, eastern kingbird, and blue grosbeak are some of the many species you will see during this program. Birders of all levels are welcome. Bring binoculars. An easy 1.5-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the store's parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 50 min [Map](#).

182. Fungi of Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM
Trail: Thunderhead Prong Quiet Walkway
Meeting Location: AE - Tremont Road (parking lot at end of gravel road).

Learn from expert mycologists about fungal biology and the importance of fungi in nutrient and life cycles within forest ecosystems. Leaders will also discuss classification of fungi and edible vs. poisonous fungi. An easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: From the Townsend Wye, take Laurel Creek Rd to Tremont Rd, continuing after it turns to gravel until it terminates at the Middle Prong Trail Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

183. Black Bear and Wild Hogs in the Smokies - Jakes Creek

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Jake's Creek Trail

Meeting Location: R - Jakes Creek Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

Walk along this old railroad route with retired Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Managers and expert biologists as they describe the life history, tracking signs, human impacts, and environmental issues of black bears, wild hogs, and other mammals in the Southern Appalachians. An easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Jakes Creek Trailhead parking area that is 0.1 miles past the Little River Trailhead parking area. Meet your group at the Jakes Creek Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

184. Ferns at the Cosby Nature Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Low Gap Trail/Cosby Nature Trail

Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

Come join expert pteridologists (people who study ferns) on this walk to learn about fern species in the Park. You will learn about the parts of ferns and the life cycle and ecology of ferns, as well as how to distinguish different forms. Bring a hand lens if you have one. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#)

185. Moss Walk: Basics of Mosses and their Relatives at Collins Creek Pavilion

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:15:00 AM

Trail: Collins Creek Pavilion

Meeting Location: I - Collins Creek Pavilion on Newfound Gap Road near Cherokee, NC.



Mosses are terribly understudied, and few people understand their basic structures, even though they are essential organisms in the forest. In this program, you will learn about what mosses are and the "mossy misnomers" they are often confused with. There will be a display and talk on the main moss growth forms and tips for identifying common genera in the field. After the mostly mossy lesson, you will head out on a hike to solidify what you have learned. Bring a hand lens if you have one, as it will enhance your viewing. There will be extras for you to borrow if you don't have one. Easy 1-2 mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. This large pavilion will be shared with another program. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

186. Exotic Plants on the Gatlinburg Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Gatlinburg Trail

Meeting Location: Z - Park Headquarters Road.

Since the 1700s, botanists have used the term "exotic" to describe plant species from elsewhere introduced into a new area. During this hike, you'll focus on learning to identify exotic plant species, the differences between naturalized exotic species and those that aren't, what makes a species "invasive," and about the negative impact these species have on our native plants and animals. An easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group outside of the gated area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min [Map](#).

187. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Chestnut Top Trail

Meeting Location: AD - Townsend Wye "Y" on Little River Road.

The Chestnut Top Trail is home to one of the grandest wildflower displays in the Smokies. While hiking on this narrow trail, be prepared to see wildflower species such as Jack-in-the-pulpit, little brown jug, stonecrop, Carey's saxifrage, miterwort, foam flower, fire pink, longspur violet, cross-vine, and many others. A moderate 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the Townsend Wye, across the road from the Chestnut Top Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

187.5. Wildflower Hike at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail (Chimneys Picnic Area loop trail)

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:30:00 AM

Trail: Cove Hardwood Nature Trail

Meeting Location: F - Chimneys Picnic Area on Newfound Gap Road.

Cove hardwood forests are one of the most biologically diverse communities in North America. This easily accessible trail is a great place to see a lot of different wildflowers as well as trees, shrubs, and vines. There are more species of wildflowers along this short, easy walk than just about any other place in the Park, making it a must for those wanting to learn about spring wildflowers like dwarf ginseng, showy orchis, fringed phacelia, several trillium species, golden saxifrage (can you spot this tiny little plant?), wild ginger, and more. Short walk with elevation gain.

Logistics: Park in the Chimneys Picnic Area parking lot, and meet your group at the Cove Hardwood Nature Trailhead.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

188. Wildflower Hike at Cucumber Gap Trail - Short Version

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM

Trail: Cucumber Gap Trail

Meeting Location: R - Jakes Creek Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

Walk through a secondary cove hardwood forest, and enjoy the rich diversity of wildflowers along the way. This trip begins on Jakes Creek, following the old railroad route, terminates near Tulip Branch on Cucumber Gap Trail, and then returns. A moderate 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Jakes Creek Trailhead parking area that is 0.1 miles past the Little River Trailhead parking area. Meet your group at the Jakes Creek Trailhead. After walking 0.7 miles on Jakes Creek Trail with your group, you will turn left onto Cucumber Gap Trail.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

189. Wildflower Hike at Huskey Gap Trail - Short Version

Time: 8:00:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM

Trail: Huskey Gap Trail

Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.



The Huskey Gap Trail is one of the few trails that was chosen for the first SWFP in 1951, and this botanically rich trail continues to be a must-see after 72 years! Walk the old trail that connected settlers of Sugarlands Valley and Little River, passing old homesites along the way while viewing the wildflower displays of crested dwarf iris, trillium, wild ginger, and bloodroot. A moderate 2-mile walk. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot, and take provided transportation to the Huskey Gap Trailhead. The bus will travel two miles south from Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd. The Huskey Gap Trailhead is directly across from the Riverview Quiet Walkway Trailhead. The bus will pick you up between 11:30am and 11:45am from the Huskey Gap Trailhead to return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 5 min.

190. Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM

Trail: Kanati Fork Trail

Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

The Kanati Fork Trail has many spring ephemeral wildflowers including painted trillium, Clinton lily, foam flower, Indian cucumber root, brook lettuce, and Canada mayflower as well as a lot of the more common species in the Park. Turn around when the group is ready. A moderate 2 mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. There is limited parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead, so carpool in as few cars as possible with your group from Rockefeller Memorial to the Kanati Fork Trailhead. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive 8.4 miles east along Newfound Gap Road, and parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead will be on the left (35.58790, -83.36387). **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

191. Wildflower Hike at Little River Above Elkmont

Time: 8:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM

Trail: Little River Trail

Meeting Location: S - Little River Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

While walking up this former logging railroad bed, you will discover the tenacity of nature in recovering from the massive logging operations that cleared this valley in the early twentieth century. Many species of wildflowers, ferns, and trees dot the landscape and are easily observable. An easy 2-mile walk. Elevation gain: 200'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the parking area at the Little River Trailhead. The parking area and trailhead are just past the Little River Bridge. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

192. Wildflower Hike at Kephart Prong Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to
11:45:00 AM
Trail: Kephart Prong Trail
Meeting Location: T -
Kephart Prong Trailhead

Hiking among history, water, and wildflowers, this trail will follow the Kephart Prong past the remains of a CCC camp, a former fish hatchery, and an old narrow gauge railroad. All of these historic remains have wildflowers such as wood betony and rue-anemone growing in and around them. Hike up to the Kephart Prong Shelter before turning around. An easy 4 mile walk.

Logistics: Park in the Kephart Prong parking lot and meet your group at the trailhead **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

193. Wildflower Hike at Snake Den Ridge Trail

Time: 8:30:00 AM to
11:30:00 AM
Trail: Snake Den Ridge
Trail
Meeting Location: J -
Cosby Picnic Area off TN
Route 32 (parking area on
left).

This 4-5 mile round trip does not go all the way to the top of the ridge, but still sees some significant elevation gain. On this trail you will encounter species such as white clintonia, fraser sedge, silver bells, foam flower, squirrel corn, creeping phlox, and fraser magnolia.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. Walk through the campground with your leader to find the trail head. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

194. Wildflower Hike at Spruce Fir Nature Trail

Time: 7:30:00 AM to
10:45:00 AM
Trail: Spruce Fir Nature
Trail
Meeting Location: AA -
Rockefeller Memorial at
Newfound Gap on
Newfound Gap Road.



Explore the trees, shrubs, and wildflowers of the unique Spruce - Fir forests of the Smokies. This rare and endangered southeastern montane forest is an exceptional plant community. Learn about how this community was formed, the dynamics that maintain it and the factors that threaten its continued existence. An easy 1-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. There is very limited parking at the Spruce Fir Nature Trail parking area, so carpool in as few cars as possible (ideally 3-4 cars) with your group from Rockefeller Memorial to the Spruce Fir Nature Trail. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive 2.5 miles north on Clingmans Dome Rd, and the Spruce Fir Nature Trail parking area will be on the left (35.59569, -83.45871). **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

194.5. Wildflowers and Forest Ecology at Rainbow Falls

Time: 8:30:00 AM to
11:45:00 AM
Trail: Rainbow Falls Trail
Meeting Location: AI -
Rainbow Falls and Trillium
Gap Parking Area.

Did you know that dominant tree species build soils, alter moisture regimes, and ultimately determine which wildflowers are present beneath them? Come on this hike to learn about forest ecology and how dominant trees and shrubs shape and change the landscape. Short, easy walk through a couple of forested communities.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Rainbow Falls Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

195. Life in the Leaf Litter: A Tour of the Seldom-Seen Animal Diversity at Our Feet

Time: 9:30:00 AM to
11:45:00 AM
Trail: UT Field Station
Meeting Location: AC -
Sugarlands Visitor Center.



Join zoologists at the University of Tennessee Field Station to explore the seldom-seen diversity living in the fallen leaf layer under the trees. Leaf litter provides habitat to many organisms and plays an important role in nutrient cycling in the forest. In this program, you will learn some of the methods that scientists use to study the animals that call leaf litter home. You will look under cover boards for salamanders and snakes, check live animal traps to find small mammals, and use Berlese funnels and microscopes to see the tiny invertebrates that live under our feet.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot, and take provided transportation to the UT Field Station at Greenbrier. The bus will drop you off at the entry gate, and you will walk up to the Field Station with your group. The bus will pick you up between 11:30am and 11:45am from the entry gate at the Field Station and return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 30 min.

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

196. Fun with Names: Botanical Latin for Beginners

Time: 8:30:00 AM to
11:30:00 AM

Trail: Metcalf Bottoms Trail
Meeting Location: U -
Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area
off Little River Road (South
Parking Area).



On this leisurely hike, observe a variety of beautiful wildflowers, learn to identify them, and hear the stories behind their Latin names. You will discover that learning botanical names can be as much fun (or more fun!) as knowing the common ones, discuss the importance of botanical names, and realize that knowing a little basic Latin helps you better understand various aspects of plants and their relationships to others. Previous experience is not needed.

Logistics: Park at the south parking lot at Metcalf Bottoms, and meet your group at the picnic area. Then, head out onto Metcalf Bottoms Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

197. iNaturalist: Become a Pioneer Pilgrim by Learning How to Use the iNaturalist App!

Time: 8:30:00 AM to
11:30:00 AM

Trail: Appalachian Trail
Meeting Location: AA -
Rockefeller Memorial at
Newfound Gap on
Newfound Gap Road.

iNaturalist is a free app that was created by workers at California Academy of Sciences. If you've been to the Pilgrimage over the past few years, you have certainly seen pilgrims using it. iNaturalist not only helps users determine what organisms they are observing, but it also collects biodiversity data that can be used by scientists, conservation workers, and land managers in the GSMNP. In this program, you will learn how you can use this app to discover the natural world around you while helping park managers better track and understand the biodiversity of the Smokies. Bring your smart phones!

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking area before heading out on the Appalachian Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

198. Birding on Low Gap Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to
4:30:00 PM

Trail: Low Gap Trail
Meeting Location: J -
Cosby Picnic Area off TN
Route 32 (parking area on
left).

Join expert birders for a hike on the Low Gap Trail. Bring binoculars and rain gear. Easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot, and then head out on the Low Gap Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

199. History, Wildflowers, and Culture of Noah Bud Ogle

Time: 1:15:00 PM to
4:30:00 PM

Trail: Twin Creeks and
Noah Bud Ogle Trail
Meeting Location: AR -
Grassy Branch Trailhead

In this program, you will discover a diversity of wildflowers and hear stories of Noah Bud Ogle and his family. What was his life like in this area? How did people use this magnificent landscape? What was a day in the life like for people who made the Great Smoky Mountains their home? Park Volunteer and VIP Frances Hensley, also known as Granny Frannie, will be in character to convey these things and much more during this moderate 2-mile hike.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot across from the Grassy Branch Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles: Birds, Fungi, Insects, Mammals, Plants, Reptiles & Amphibians, Other**

200. Fungi and their Funky Forest Friends found in the Cosby Picnic Area

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Cosby Picnic Area/Pavilion, Trails TBD
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).



Fungi are essential organisms in the forest. You will start this program by learning about what fungi are and what they are not. You will get to study, smell, and touch a display of different fungal types, including mushrooms, puffballs, cup fungi, conks, and lichens. After the fun fungal lesson, you will head out on a hike to explore the forest and look for evidence of the fungal friends and foes. Bring a hand lens if you have one. Easy 2-3 mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the picnic area/pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

201. Ferns at Little River above Elkmont

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Little River Trail
Meeting Location: S - Little River Trailhead past Elkmont Campground.

Have you ever seen an adder's tongue, a sang pointer, or the hitchhiking southern lady? Do you understand what parts of ferns or fern allies are leaves, and what parts are stems? Come see a variety of the Park's more common ferns and fern allies, and learn about their structures, how they grow and reproduce, and their biodiversity in the Park. Bring a hand lens. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the parking area at the Little River Trailhead. The parking area and trailhead are just past the Little River Bridge. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

202. Moss & Fern Walk: Sugarlands Valley Nature Trail

Time: 9:30:00 AM to 11:45:00 AM
Trail: Sugarland Valley Nature Trail
Meeting Location: AQ - Sugarland Valley Nature Trail



Learn about the diminutive world of mosses and their ferny friends: diverse groups of beautiful and unique non-flowering plants that are found throughout the Smokies. You will learn about a variety of ferns, mosses, liverworts, and hornworts as you observe them along the trail, rock fences, and remnant chimneys. You will also discuss their life cycle and basic ways to distinguish them from one another. Bring a 10x hand lens or a strong magnifying glass, if possible. This wheelchair accessible program runs along the flat concrete 0.5 mile Sugarland Valley Nature Trail, next to the Bullhead Branch creek.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min [Map](#).

203. Moss Walk: Basics of Mosses and their Relatives at Collins Creek Pavilion

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM
Trail: Collins Creek Pavilion
Meeting Location: I - Collins Creek Pavilion on Newfound Gap Road near Cherokee, NC.

Mosses are terribly understudied, and few people understand their basic structures, even though they are essential organisms in the forest. In this program, you will learn about what mosses are and the "mossy misnomers" they are often confused with. There will be a display and talk on the main moss growth forms and tips for identifying common genera in the field. After the mostly mossy lesson, you will head out on a hike to solidify what you have learned. Bring a hand lens if you have one, as it will enhance your viewing. There will be extras for you to borrow if you don't have one. Easy 1-2 mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. This large pavilion will be shared with another program. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

203.5. Trees and Shrubs at Cucumber Gap

Time: 1:30:00 PM to
4:30:00 PM

Trail: Cucumber Gap Trail

Meeting Location: R -
Jakes Creek Trailhead past
Elkmont Campground.

This hike begins in a large grove of second growth tulip poplar trees. After the first mile, you will start to notice a change in tree species composition. Make sure to find the Fraser magnolias at the top of the gap. This trip begins at Jakes Creek, following the old railroad route, and ends near Tulip Branch on Cucumber Gap Trail, and then returns. A moderate 2-3 mile hike. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Park at the Jakes Creek Trailhead parking area that is 0.1 miles past the Little River Trailhead parking area. Meet your group at the Jakes Creek Trailhead. After walking 0.7 miles on Jakes Creek Trail with your group, you will turn left onto Cucumber Gap Trail.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 20 min [Map](#).

204. Trees and Shrubs of High Elevation at Spruce Fir Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to
4:30:00 PM

Trail: Spruce Fir Nature
Trail

Meeting Location: AC -
Sugarlands Visitor Center.



Pass through a changing forest of rosebay rhododendron, yellow birch, and red spruce. An easy 1-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot at Sugarlands Visitor Center and take provided transportation to the Spruce Fir Nature Trail. The bus will travel 13 miles south from Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd, then turn onto Clingmans Dome Rd and continue for another 2.5 miles. The Spruce Fir Nature Trailhead will be on the left side of the road. After hiking the loop trail, the bus will pick you up at the Spruce Fir Nature Trail Trailhead between 4:30pm and 4:45pm and return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Transportation: Van shuttle provided. DT: 5 min.

205. Wildflower Hike at Abrams Falls Trail - Short Version

Time: 1:30:00 PM to
4:45:00 PM

Trail: Abrams Falls Trail

Meeting Location: A -
Abrams Falls Trailhead in
Cades Cove.

Against the backdrop of Abrams Creek, discover wildflowers like gay wings and rhododendron, which flourish in this geologically unique and regionally rare limestone valley. Bring snacks, water, rain gear, and comfortable walking shoes. A moderate 2-mile up-and-back hike that turns around before reaching the waterfall. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group in the parking area by the Abrams Falls Trailhead off of Cades Cove Loop Rd. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 75 min [Map](#).

206. Wildflower Hike at Chestnut Top Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to
4:30:00 PM

Trail: Chestnut Top Trail

Meeting Location: AD -
Townsend Wye "Y" on Little
River Road.

The Chestnut Top Trail is home to one of the grandest wildflower displays in the Smokies. While hiking on this narrow trail, be prepared to see wildflower species such as Jack-in-the-pulpit, little brown jug, stonecrop, Carey's saxifrage, miterwort, foam flower, fire pink, longspur violet, cross-vine, and many others. A moderate 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at the Townsend Wye, across the road from the Chestnut Top Trailhead. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 40 min [Map](#).

207. Wildflower Hike at Cove Hardwood Nature Trail (Chimneys Picnic Area loop trail)

Time: 1:30:00 PM to
4:30:00 PM

Trail: Cove Hardwood
Nature Trail

Meeting Location: F -
Chimneys Picnic Area on
Newfound Gap Road.

Cove hardwood forests are one of the most biologically diverse communities in North America. This easily accessible trail is a great place to see a lot of different wildflowers as well as trees, shrubs, and vines. There are more species of wildflowers along this short, easy walk than just about any other place in the Park, making it a must for those wanting to learn about spring wildflowers like dwarf ginseng, showy orchis, fringed phacelia, several trillium species, golden saxifrage (can you spot this tiny little plant?), wild ginger, and more. Short walk with elevation gain.

Logistics: Park in the Chimneys Picnic Area parking lot, and meet your group at the Cove Hardwood Nature Trailhead.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 10 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

208. Wildflower Hike at Huskey Gap Trail - Short Version

Time: 1:00:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Huskey Gap Trail
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.



The Huskey Gap Trail is one of the few trails that was chosen for the first SWFP in 1951, and this botanically rich trail continues to be a must-see after 72 years! Walk the old trail that connected settlers of Sugarlands Valley and Little River, passing old homesites along the way while viewing the wildflower displays of crested dwarf iris, trillium, wild ginger, and bloodroot. A moderate 2-mile walk. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot, and take provided transportation to the Huskey Gap Trailhead. The bus will travel two miles south from Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd. The Huskey Gap Trailhead is directly across from the Riverview Quiet Walkway Trailhead. The bus will pick you up between 4:15pm and 4:30pm from the Huskey Gap Trailhead to return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided.

209. Wildflower Hike at Kanati Fork Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Kanati Fork Trail
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

The Kanati Fork Trail has many spring ephemeral wildflowers including painted trillium, Clinton lily, foam flower, Indian cucumber root, brook lettuce, and Canada mayflower as well as a lot of the more common species in the Park. Turn around when the group is ready. A moderate 2 mile walk.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. There is limited parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead, so carpool in as few cars as possible with your group from Rockefeller Memorial to the Kanati Fork Trailhead. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive 8.4 miles east along Newfound Gap Road, and parking at the Kanati Fork Trailhead will be on the left (35.58790, -83.36387). **Transportation:** None provided. Carpool needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

209.5. Wildflower Hike at Cosby Nature Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Low Gap Trail/Cosby Nature Trail
Meeting Location: J - Cosby Picnic Area off TN Route 32 (parking area on left).

An easy walk along Low Gap Trail takes you to the 1 mile Cosby Nature Trail loop. On this hike you'll encounter creeping and blue phlox, wild geraniums, trout lillies, yellow fairy bells, cut-leaf and two-leaved toothworts, sweet white and canada violets, and who knows you might see some trilliums and orchids too. An easy 2-3 mile hike.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking lot. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 45 min [Map](#).

210. Wildflower Hike at Rainbow Falls

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Rainbow Falls Trail
Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Join expert botanists on Rainbow Falls Trail to experience a variety of wildflower diversity. Begin your trip by walking along an area that was once home to the apple orchard owned by M.M. Whittle from 1930 to 1960. A few old trees still bloom here and produce apples. After about a mile, you will begin to follow Le Conte Creek past rosebay rhododendron, galax, and tea berry. At about two miles once you hit a walking bridge, you will need to turn around. A steep 4-mile walk, but your group may turn around at anytime.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Rainbow Falls Trail.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

211. Wildflower Hike at Trillium Gap Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM
Trail: Trillium Gap Trail
Meeting Location: AI - Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap Parking Area.

Explore the Trillium Gap Trail with expert botanists and conservationists. Along the way, you will cross creeks, wind through a forest of locusts, maples, and tulip trees, and observe a variety of wildflowers, including toothwort, hepatica, putty root orchids, striped pipsissewa, and downy rattlesnake plantain. A moderate 2.8-mile walk.

Logistics: Park at the Rainbow Falls and Trillium Gap main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, a second parking lot can be found 0.3 miles down the road on the right. Meet your group at the main parking lot, and then head out on the Trillium Gap Trail.

Transportation: None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

212. Wildflower Hike on the Appalachian Trail from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM

Trail: Appalachian Trail, Indian Gap, Newfound Gap
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

Pass from the closed canopy of an old growth spruce-fir forest into the open canopy of a pristine beech gap forest where early spring ephemeral wildflowers like trout lilies, more spring beauties than you can imagine, white phacelia, and various trilliums abound because of protections afforded from feral hog enclosures. A moderate 1.5-mile walk. Elevation gain: 500'.

Logistics: Park and meet your group at Rockefeller Memorial. Before beginning this hike, some group members need to shuttle their cars to the end point of the hike at the Indian Gap parking area, while others wait at Rockefeller Memorial. Leave as many cars at the Indian Gap parking area as will be necessary to shuttle everyone back to Rockefeller Memorial after the hike. From Rockefeller Memorial, drive one mile north on Clingmans Dome Rd, and the Indian Gap parking area will be on the right (35.60937, -83.44654). Leave cars there, and return to Rockefeller Memorial to begin your hike. After your hike, shuttle everyone back to Rockefeller Memorial. **Transportation:** None provided. Car shuttle needed. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

213. Wildflower Hike on the Riverview Quiet Walkway

Time: 1:00:00 PM to 4:45:00 PM

Trail: Riverview Quiet Walkway
Meeting Location: AC - Sugarlands Visitor Center.

This easy walk from Newfound Gap Road to West Prong Little Pigeon River has a rich diversity of wildflowers, trees and shrubs, and plant communities. The trail follows the level flood plain of the river through groves of hardwoods and passes some seepages. This walk is one of the only places in the Park to see silky willow. An easy 2-mile walk.

Logistics: Meet your group in the bus parking lot at Sugarlands Visitor Center and take provided transportation to the Riverview Quiet Walkway. The bus will travel two miles south from Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd. The Riverview Quiet Walkway is past the Bullhead View Quiet Walkway and directly across from Huskey Gap Trail. After hiking the loop trail, the bus will pick you up at the Riverview Quiet Walkway Trailhead between 4:30pm and 4:45pm and return you to Sugarlands Visitor Center. **Transportation:** Van shuttle provided. DT: 5 min.



214. Wildflowers Along the Sugarland Valley Nature Trail

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:00:00 PM

Trail: Sugarland Valley Nature Trail
Meeting Location: AQ - Sugarland Valley Nature Trail

Walking through former homesteads, you will see and discuss many of the common wildflowers and ferns in the lower elevation reforested former settlement that was Sugarland Valley. Bring a 10x hand lens or a strong magnifying glass, if possible. This wheelchair accessible program runs along the flat concrete 0.5 mile Sugarland Valley Nature Trail, next to the Bullhead Branch creek.

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking area. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 5 min [Map](#).



215. iNaturalist: Become a Pioneer Pilgrim by Learning How to Use the iNaturalist App!

Time: 1:30:00 PM to 4:30:00 PM

Trail: Appalachian Trail
Meeting Location: AA - Rockefeller Memorial at Newfound Gap on Newfound Gap Road.

iNaturalist is a free app that was created by workers at California Academy of Sciences. If you've been to the Pilgrimage over the past few years, you have certainly seen pilgrims using it. iNaturalist not only helps users determine what organisms they are observing, but it also collects biodiversity data that can be used by scientists, conservation workers, and land managers in the GSMNP. In this program, you will learn how you can use this app to discover the natural world around you while helping park managers better track and understand the biodiversity of the Smokies. Bring your smart phones!

Logistics: Meet your group in the parking area before heading out on the Appalachian Trail. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 30 min [Map](#).

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- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided** 
 - **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**

216. Bats: Stirring the Cauldron at the Twin Creeks Area

Time: 7:30:00 PM to 9:30:00 PM
Trail: Twin Creeks Pavilion
Meeting Location: AF - Twin Creeks (off Cherokee Orchard Road).



In this program, learn from chiropterologists (people who study bats) about the ecology, distributions, feeding and mating behaviors of bats as well as why bats are important and economically beneficial to preserve. You will also get to use some high-tech gadgetry to listen to bats echolocating to hunt insects. Bring warm clothes and a flashlight (preferably with a red light). Short, easy walk.

Logistics: Meet your group at the pavilion. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 15 min [Map](#).

217. Stargazing

Time: 8:30:00 PM to 10:30:00 PM
Trail: Carlos Campbell Overlook
Meeting Location: AR - Carlos Campbell Overlook



Experience the natural history of the universe in a truly dark sky. In this program, you will learn the basics of skywatching, star names, and constellations, and examine the wonders of the deep sky through a variety of optical instruments. Bring warm clothes and binoculars if you have them, but not a flashlight. Very short, easy walk. Not recommended for children under 10.

Logistics: Parking is limited. Park and meet your group at the Carlos Campbell Overlook. If Carlos Campbell Overlook parking is full, alternate parking can be found 0.1 miles north and south of the Carlos Campbell Overlook. **Transportation:** None provided. **Drive Time:** 55 min [Map](#).

- **ADA Accessible** , **Light on the Legs** , **Transportation Provided**
- **Color Coded Titles:** **Birds**, **Fungi**, **Insects**, **Mammals**, **Plants**, **Reptiles & Amphibians**, **Other**