

SEPTMBER 13-14

SMOKIES LIFE

# MEMBERS WEEKEND



TOWNSEND,  
TENNESSEE

20  
24

WELCOME TO

## MEMBERS WEEKEND

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is more than a natural wonder. It is a land imbued with human history and inspiring stories of resilience, adaptation, and community.

From the Cherokee who have called these mountains home for millennia to the European settlers and others who sought refuge here more than two centuries ago, people have been shaping the Smokies and being shaped by them since time immemorial. Today, we are all inheritors of this rich cultural heritage—the result of an ongoing conversation between the mountains and their people over countless generations.

By gathering here, we have an opportunity to better understand this history, consider our role as contemporary stewards of this precious landscape, and appreciate the enduring spirit of the Smokies reflected in local art, foods, and customs.

We look forward to joining you as we celebrate this extraordinary place and deepen our connection to its natural and cultural legacies.

Sincerely,

*Smokies Life  
membership team*



## Smokies Life

### MEMBERSHIP TEAM



**Peyton Proffitt**  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



**André Brousseau**  
MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST



**Jane Maurer**  
BUSINESS OUTREACH SPECIALIST



**Anne May**  
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM MANAGER



**Charlene Shiver**  
MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE

If you have any questions or comments to share throughout the weekend, please find one of the friendly faces on the membership team.

## members weekend 2024 programming

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**13**  
friday

### Attendee check-in

**Location:** Great Smokies Welcome Center  
**Time:** 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Please check in with the Smokies Life membership team and pick up your attendee packet and name badge.

### Bear management presentation and Q&A

**Guide:** Ryan Williamson  
**Location:** Great Smokies Welcome Center Tent  
**Time:** 9–10:30 a.m.

Join NPS Wildlife Technician Ryan Williamson as he explores the nuanced landscape of bear management in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He will discuss ongoing efforts in and around the park, including those of the Smokies BearWise Task Force.

### Mammal tracks and traces classroom session

**Guide:** Wanda DeWaard  
**Location:** Great Smokies Welcome Center, Level 2  
**Time:** 9–10:30 a.m.

Tracking is an ancient survival skill, but it can open up a whole new way of seeing and understanding the natural world. Join Wanda DeWaard in a classroom setting to learn how to detect and interpret the traces left behind by some of the park's most elusive mammals. You may be surprised at how much you'll find when you slow down, look closer, and accept the challenge of tracking in the Smokies. Registrants for this session are strongly encouraged to also register for one of DeWaard's two Saturday mammal tracks and traces field sessions in Cades Cove.

### NPS Collections Preservation Center tour

**Guides:** Michael Aday, GSMNP Librarian-Archivist, and Baird Todd, GSMNP Park Curator  
**Location:** National Park Service Collections Preservation Center  
**Time:** 9–10:30 a.m.

Tour the park's Collections Preservation Center and learn about the preparation, care, and preservation of artifacts including early documents, photographs, textiles, furniture, and other pieces of Smokies history. Photography will be allowed. Food and drink will not be permitted in this session, and touching or handling of the items in the collections is prohibited.

### Cades Cove heritage bus tour

**Guide:** Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center  
**Location:** Meet at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center  
**Time:** 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Catch a ride with a seasoned guide from Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center and learn about the history of Cades Cove and the families that lived there. You may see bears, deer, and other wildlife. Bring snacks, a drink, and binoculars if you wish. This is a bus tour and does not include much walking.

### Great Smokies Welcome Center open for business

**Time:** 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Friday and Saturday)  
Check out the newest visitor center in the Smokies and shop for premium Smokies gear.



## Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center open for tours

### Self-guided tours

**Location:** Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center Museum

**Time:** 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Enjoy a special opportunity to visit the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center museum at no cost to Smokies Life members. The Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center celebrates the rich cultural history of the Smokies and seeks to preserve and share the stories of the diverse peoples who have inhabited this unique part of the Southern Appalachians for more than 10,000 years. In the museum's Main Gallery, explore prehistoric life in Tuckaleechee Cove through the pottery, stone tools, and other artifacts that have been uncovered there in one of the largest archaeological digs ever conducted in Tennessee. Visitors are advised to dedicate at least an hour and 15 minutes to enjoy the museum or arrive by 3:45 p.m. at the latest to see everything before the museum closes at 5 p.m.

## NPS Collections Preservation Center tour

**Guides:** GSMNP Librarian-Archivist Michael Aday and GSMNP Park Curator Baird Todd

**Location:** National Park Service Collections Preservation Center

**Time:** 10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Tour the park's Collections Preservation Center and learn about the preparation, care, and preservation of artifacts including early documents, photographs, textiles, furniture, and other pieces of Smokies history. Photography will be allowed. Food and drink will not be permitted in this session, and touching or handling of the items in the collections is prohibited.



## Exploring old-time music traditions

**Guides:** Ruth Barber and Keith Watson

**Location:** Great Smokies Welcome Center Tent

**Time:** 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join musicians Ruth Barber and Keith Watson on a journey through the rich traditions of old-time music in East Tennessee and the Great Smoky Mountains. Drawing on their deep roots in the region's musical heritage and experience as seasoned performers, Barber and Watson will share insights and stories about the history of old-time music in the area. Whether you're a musician, a music lover, or a curious beginner, this session will have you feeling inspired, tapping your feet, and singing along to the timeless beauty of old-time music.

## Cades Cove heritage bus tour

**Guide:** Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center

**Location:** Meet at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center

**Time:** 12:30–4:30 p.m.

Catch a ride with a seasoned guide from Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center and learn about the history of Cades Cove and the families that lived there. You may see bears, deer, and other wildlife. Bring snacks, a drink, and binoculars if you wish. This is a bus tour and does not include much walking.

## Mammal tracks and traces classroom session

**Guide:** Wanda DeWaard

**Location:** Great Smokies Welcome Center, Level 2

**Time:** 1:30–3 p.m.

Tracking is an ancient survival skill, but it can open up a whole new way of seeing and understanding the natural world. Join Wanda DeWaard in a classroom setting to learn how to detect and interpret the traces left behind by some of the park's most elusive mammals. You may be surprised at how much you'll find when you slow down, look closer, and accept the challenge of tracking in the Smokies. Registrants for this session are strongly encouraged to also register for one of DeWaard's two Saturday mammal tracks and traces field sessions in Cades Cove.

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## Smokies Most Wanted: Community science in action

**Guide:** Will Kuhn, Director of Science and Research at DLiA

**Location:** Great Smokies Welcome Center Tent

**Time:** 1:30–3 p.m.

Sit down with Dr. Will Kuhn, director of science and research at Discover Life in America (DLiA), and get the inside scoop on the latest findings from DLiA initiatives including the Smokies Most Wanted list and the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI). You'll learn how to use the iNaturalist app to contribute to community-science projects that are proving essential in the effort to better understand and protect local biodiversity.

## Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center field trip

**Guide:** Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center

**Location:** Meet at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center

**Time:** 1:30–4 p.m.

Go back in time and take a field trip at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center to learn about the daily lives of early European settlers and Native Americans in our area.

## Staff and member meet-and-greet and book signing

**Location:** The Barn Event Center of the Smokies

**Time:** 5–6 p.m.

Join fellow members and Smokies Life staff for an early evening social hour. New book titles will be available for purchase. Signing copies will be Janet McCue and Paul Bonesteel, authors of *George Masa: A Life Reimagined*; Mary Arkiszewski and Emma Oxford, author and illustrator of *Pho: A Smokies Firefly Adventure*; and Frances Figart, author of *Camilla and the Caterpillars*.

## Welcome and music with Boogertown Gap

**Location:** The Barn Event Center of the Smokies

**Time:** 6–6:30 p.m.

Gather for a warm welcome to the weekend's festivities with an official greeting from Membership Director Peyton Proffitt. Music is provided by Boogertown Gap, the Smokies-inspired group featuring the husband-and-wife duo Keith Watson and Ruth Barber with Austin Stovall on fiddle and mandolin. While you take in the tunes, explore the range of products and experiences presented by Smokies Life and Lookout League sponsors in the silent auction. All proceeds go to support the Smokies Life Legacy Fund.

## Remarks, dinner, and NPS presentation

**Board Chair Geoff Cantrell, CEO Laurel Rematore, and GSMNP Chief of Resource Education Stephanie Kyriazis**

**Location:** The Barn Event Center of the Smokies

**Time:** 6:30–8 p.m.

As a Smokies Life member, you help fund new projects and keep essential programs and services running smoothly in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. That's because Smokies Life works closely with key park managers to strategically direct important donations of cash and in-kind services. Get the inside scoop from GSMNP Chief of Resource Education Stephanie Kyriazis on exactly how your membership is supporting the park mission while we share our first group dinner of the weekend.

# 14 saturday

## Greetings, breakfast, and silent auction closing

**Location:** The Barn Event Center of the Smokies  
**Time:** 8–8:30 a.m.

Come together for our final community gathering of the weekend. Membership Director Peyton Proffitt will share remarks, and our silent auction will close.

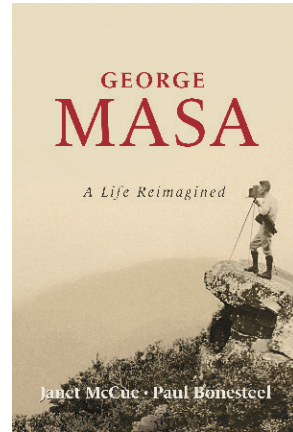
## Keynote presentation

**Speakers:** Janet McCue and Paul Bonesteel  
**Location:** The Barn Event Center of the Smokies  
**Time:** 9–10 a.m.

Join us for a special breakfast session with Janet McCue and Paul Bonesteel, co-authors of a new groundbreaking biography of the conservationist and photographer George Masa published by Smokies Life. We'll hear about their experience dedicating years to researching this visionary artist and learn about the lasting impact Masa has had in the Smokies. McCue is a writer, researcher, avid hiker, and co-author with the late George Ellison of the award-winning *Back of Beyond: A Horace Kephart Biography*. McCue's interest in Masa and Kephart began in the 1970s, persisted throughout her

career as a librarian at Cornell University, and continues today through her work on the Smokies Life board of directors. Bonesteel is an Asheville-based

filmmaker, writer, and passionate lover of the outdoors. His filmmaking, research, and writing have informed the conversation and celebration of George Masa since the release of his film *The Mystery of George Masa* in 2002, available on Vimeo with promo code "Masa."



## Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center open for tours

**Self-guided tours**  
**Location:** Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center Museum  
**Time:** 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Enjoy a special opportunity to visit the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center museum at no cost to Smokies Life members. The Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center celebrates the rich cultural history of the Smokies and seeks to preserve and share the stories of the diverse peoples who have inhabited this unique part of the Southern Appalachians for more than 10,000 years. In the museum's Main Gallery, explore prehistoric life in Tuckaleechee Cove through the pottery, stone tools, and other artifacts that have been uncovered there in one of the largest archaeological digs ever conducted in Tennessee. Visitors are advised to dedicate at least an hour and 15 minutes to enjoy the museum or arrive by 3:45 p.m. at the latest to see everything before the museum closes at 5 p.m.

## Letters from the Smokies author reading

**Guide:** Michael Aday, GSMNP Librarian-Archivist  
**Location:** Great Smokies Welcome Center Tent  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Within the archives of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a wealth of knowledge is tucked away in more than a million time-worn documents. Join Michael Aday, the park's librarian-archivist, as he reads excerpts from his book *Letters from the Smokies* and answers your questions about the stories that come to life within its pages.

## Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center field trip

**Guide:** Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center  
**Location:** Meet at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Go back in time and take a field trip at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center to learn about the daily lives of early European settlers and Native Americans in our area.

## Cades Cove heritage bus tour

**Guide:** Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center

**Location:** Meet at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Catch a ride with a seasoned guide from Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center and learn about the history of Cades Cove and the families that lived there. You may see bears, deer, and other wildlife. Bring snacks, a drink, and binoculars if you wish. This is a bus tour and does not include much walking.

## Look Rock hawk watch

**Guide:** Keith Watson

**Location:** Look Rock

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Pull up a chair, sit back, and look to the sky during this special fall migration event. Work as a team to identify, count, and report the raptors and other bird species that fly by on their way south for the winter.

## Mammal tracks and traces field session

**Guide:** Wanda DeWaard

**Location:** Cades Cove Orientation Shelter

**Time:** 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

As a follow-up to Friday's classroom session, join DeWaard in the field to practice the ancient art of tracking. Enjoy an easy ramble in a field and forest area of Cades Cove. You will be able to apply the tracking knowledge you gain on your next outdoor adventures!

## Middle Prong naturalist hike

**Guide:** Leah LaRocco

**Location:** Middle Prong Trailhead/Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center shuttle departs 1 p.m.

**Time:** 1:30–4:30 p.m.

Join naturalist Leah LaRocco on a guided 4.8-mile hike along the Middle Prong Trail, making regular stops to discover hidden details throughout the Smokies landscape.

## Grandma Gatewood's walk

**Guide:** Anne Van Curen

**Location:** Great Smokies Welcome Center Tent

**Time:** 1–2 p.m.

Actress Anne Van Curen transforms into Emma "Grandma" Gatewood to describe what it was like to be the first woman to solo hike the Appalachian Trail in 1955. The dramatization draws from the book *Grandma Gatewood's Walk*, which was written from accounts of Gatewood's surviving family members, newspaper magazine articles, and her own diaries and trail journals. Van Curen has performed from Georgia to Maine at multiple Trail Days festivals and hiking clubs, as well as at the AT Museum in Pennsylvania.

## Letters from the Smokies author reading

**Guide:** Michael Aday, GSMNP Librarian-Archivist

**Location:** Great Smokies Welcome Center Tent

**Time:** 2:30–4 p.m.

Within the archives of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a wealth of knowledge is tucked away in more than a million time-worn documents. Join Michael Aday, the park's librarian-archivist, as he reads excerpts from his book *Letters from the Smokies* and answers your questions about the stories that come to life within its pages.

## Cades Cove heritage bus tour

**Guide:** Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center

**Location:** Meet at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center

**Time:** 2:30–6:30 p.m.

See opposite page.

## Mammal tracks and traces field session

**Guide:** Wanda DeWaard

**Location:** Cades Cove Orientation Shelter

**Time:** 3:30–6:30 p.m.

See opposite page.



## A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MOUNT CAMMERER LEVEL SPONSORS



**Roamstead**



## Lookout League partners 2024

### MOUNT CAMMERER LEVEL

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### COVE MOUNTAIN LEVEL

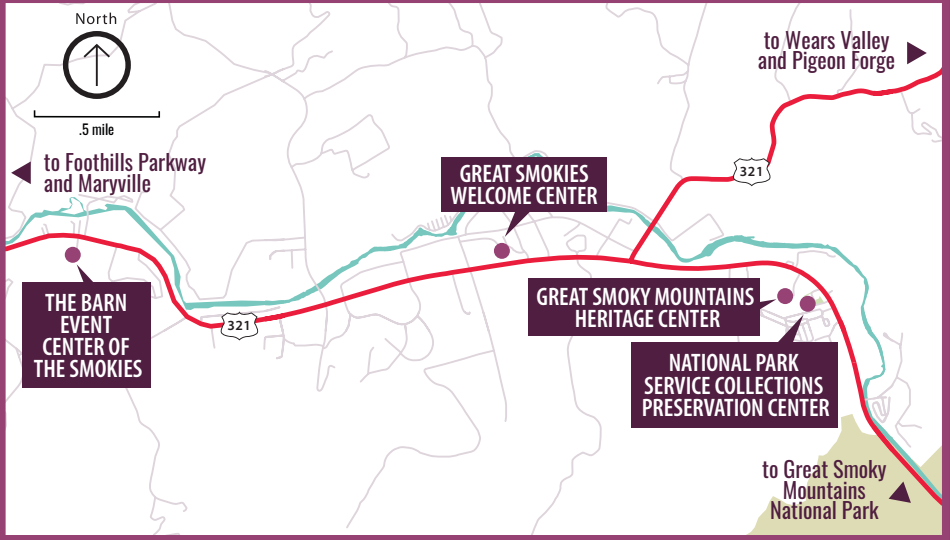
Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts  
 Cataloochee Ranch  
 Eden Crest Vacation Rentals  
 Great Smokies Inn Cherokee  
 Haywood County Tourism  
 Development Authority  
 The Swag  
 Townsend Gateway Inn

### SHUCKSTACK LEVEL

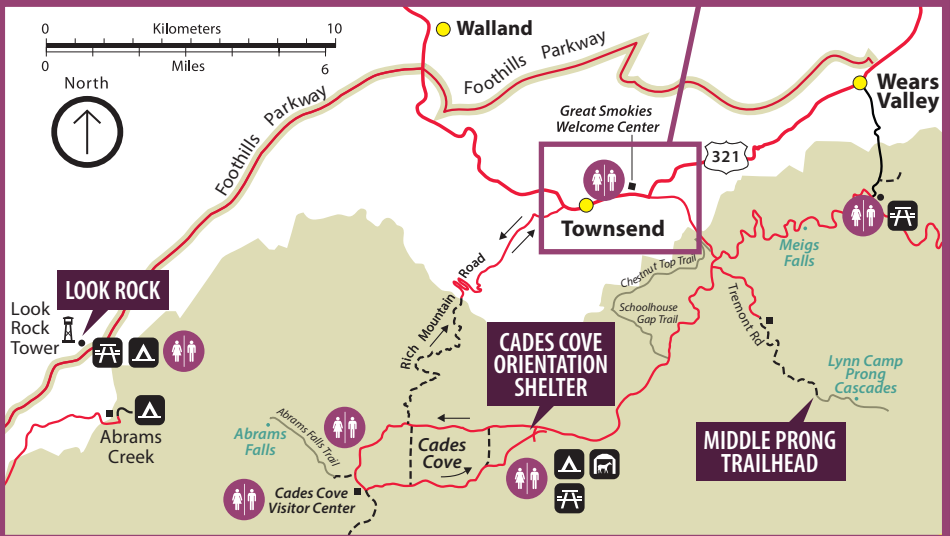
American Patriot Getaways  
 Chilhowee Club  
 Comfort Inn and Suites at Dollywood  
 Lane  
 Dale's Wheels Through Time Museum  
 Ely's Mill  
 Fontana Village Resort  
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 Margaritaville Resort Gatlinburg  
 Misty Mountain Soap Company  
 National Parks Conservation Association  
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 Outpost  
 Parkside Cabin Rentals  
 Richardson Turner Construction  
 Route 19 Inn  
 Russell Printing Options  
 Shaffer Insurance Agency  
 The Maples' Tree  
 Wildland Trekking Company  
 Zoder's Inn and Suites



# TOWNSEND MAP



# AREA MAP



A valid parking tag must be displayed when parked for more than 15 minutes anywhere in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Parking tags will be available for purchase at the Great Smokies Welcome Center during business hours. Visit [go.nps.gov/GRSMfees](http://go.nps.gov/GRSMfees) for more info.

