

Winter Heritage Festival

February 4—7, 2010

Townsend, Tennessee

Highlights:

- *Thursday evening reception at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont: “Mountain Voices” program with Sparky and Rhonda Rucker. Light hors d’oeuvres, music by Pistol Creek.*
- *Friday and Saturday lunch programs at Miss Lily’s Banquet Hall with Mary Fanslow and Ila Hatter.*
- *Friday evening “Owl Prowl” with Butch Mc Dade.*
- *Saturday morning “Mountain Craft Showcase” at Townsend Visitors Center.*
- *Saturday Evening BBQ Supper and Square Dance with “The Lost Hounds of Pumpkin Hollow” at The Barn Event Center.*
- *“Families of Cades Cove”, Cades Cove Preservation Association Exhibits at GSM Heritage Center.*
- *Guided Hikes in the Smokies, Cades Cove Heritage Tours.*
- *Presentations at Townsend Visitors Center, GSM Heritage Center, Little River Railroad Museum, GSMI Tremont*
- *Exhibits at Blount County Historical Museum, Little River Railroad Museum, Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center, Cades Cove/Thompson-Brown House Museum*
- *Sunday afternoon program: “Precious Memories—Cades Cove Homecoming III” at Valley View Lodge*

Please note: Schedule is subject to changes, including cancellations due to inclement weather. Call 865-448-6134 for updates and visit the website: www.smokymountains.org/winter-heritage.html

About the Winter Heritage Festival:

The Winter Heritage Festival is a community-wide event that celebrates the human history, natural beauty, and cultural traditions of Townsend, Cades Cove, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Speakers, hike leaders, tour guides, and musicians are knowledgeable and enthusiastic interpreters of our southern mountain heritage.

Smoky Mountain Convention and Visitors Bureau
Townsend Visitors Center
7906 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway
Townsend, TN 37882
800-525-6834



*Dedicated to the memory of
David Post.*

Advance Registration Required.
Call 865-448-6134 or 800-525-6834 to sign up for free events. For events with a charge, call the numbers listed for the host business.

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Don't miss these 2010 events at Townsend Visitors Center, featuring the music, arts, history, and nature of the Smokies.

- Smoky Mountain Fiber Arts Festival: March 19-21
- Herb and Wildflower Day: April 3
- Spring Festival: April 30 & May 1
- Trout Fest: May 14-16
- Smoky Mountain Pottery Festival: June 4 & 5
- Fall Heritage Festival: September 24 & 25

www.smokymountains.org
www.smokymountainfestivals.org

More events take place throughout the community. Call 800-525-6834.

Special Evening Programs:

Thursday, February 4:
Kick-Off at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont.
 7:00pm-9:00pm. "Mountain Voices" program with Sparky and Rhonda Rucker. Light hors d'oeuvres and social with music by Pistol Creek. \$10 per person. Call Tremont for Reservations: 865-448-6709. Sponsored by Great Smoky Mountains Association.

Friday, February 5
 7:00-9:00pm:
 "Owl Prowl" with Butch McDade, Park Ranger. Meet: Townsend Visitors Center. Pre-Register: 865-448-6134.
 10:00am—8:00pm Open House at Blount County Historical Museum. 865-454-4256



Saturday, February 6:
Barn Event Center:
BBQ Supper and Square Dance with "The Lost Hounds of Pumpkin Hollow"
 6:00pm-9:00pm.
 \$25 per person.
 Call for reservations: 865-448-3812.
Sponsored by Great Smoky Mountains Association.

Museum and Gallery Exhibits:

Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center Townsend.
Exhibit Gallery with Native American and early settler history, plus "Families of Cades Cove" displays. Visit with descendants of early settlers and view old photos and memorabilia.
 Hours: 10:00am—5:00pm
 Call 865-448-0044.

Little River Railroad Museum Townsend. Exhibits and tours about the logging and railroad days. Hours: Sat.: 10am—5pm; Sun.: 1pm—5pm. Call 865-448-2211.
Blount County Historical Museum Maryville, will feature "Prehistory, History, and Peoples of the Park" plus the permanent Civil War exhibit, and the largest catfish ever caught in Tennessee waters. Hours: Tues.—Sat. : 10am—3pm; Fri.: Open House until 8:00pm; Sun.: 2pm—4pm. 865-454-

Mountain Sage Gallery Townsend, will be open with a wide variety of artwork, pottery, jewelry, baskets, woodcrafts, weaving, and other treasures. Townsend.
 Call 865-448-0809
Cades Cove/Thompson-Brown House Museum Maryville, has wonderful exhibits depicting the heritage of Cades Cove. Hours: Thurs.—Sat.: 10am—3:00pm; Sun.: 2—4pm
 Call 865-982-0705; 982-3051

Program Schedule: Friday, February 5

At Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center
 8:30—9:30am: "Cades Cove Forge", Dwight McCarter
 10:00—11:00am: "The Joe Gregory Story", Inez McCauley Adams
 12:30—1:30pm: "Granny Women of the Cove", Dr. Gail Palmer
 2:00—3:00pm: "Growing up in Cades Cove", Bernard Myers
 3:15—4:15pm: "Cades Cove Today and Yesterday", Missy Tipton Green

At Blount County Historical Museum
 10:00am—8:00pm: Open House. Visit with staff and volunteers and enjoy hot cider, cookies, and historical excitement!

At Townsend Visitors Center
 9:00—9:45am: "The Prehistory of Tuckaleechee Cove", Dr. Boyce Driskell
 10:15—11:00am: "Discover Life in America, the Smokies Heritage of Natural Diversity", Todd Witcher
 11:30am—12:15pm: "The Walker Sisters", Butch McDade
 1:30—2:15pm: "Ann Davis, Mother of the Park", Robin Goddard
 1:00—4:30pm: Hike: "The Summer Community at Elkmont", Herb Handly
 2:45—3:30pm: "GSMNP's Natural History Collections", Adriean Mayor
 9:00am—4:00pm: "Old Fashioned Photos in front of the hearth", Mary Grace and Bud McCaffery
 4:00—7:00pm: "Volunteer Appreciation Open House" 865-448-6134

Cades Cove Heritage Tours (CCHT)
 12:00noon—5:00pm: Depart for "Trip around the Loop" to CCC program, below. **Call 865-448-8838 for reservations.** \$15, \$13. Meet at Townsend Visitors Center

At Cades Cove (meet at the Missionary Baptist Church or take CCHT)
 1:00—2:30pm: "Company Camp 1214/5427, the CCC Boys of Cades Cove", Mike Maslona

At Little River Railroad Museum
 10:00am—1:00pm: "Walking Tour of Elkmont", Raymond Palmer
 3:00—4:00pm: "Walking Tour of Townsend", Don Headrick

Friday, continued:

At Great Smoky Mountains Institute
9:00—11:00am: “Home in Walker Valley”, stroll with Jeremy Lloyd
2:00—4:00pm: “Salamander Foray”, Christina McCoy

At Mary Tippitt Memorial Library
2:00—4:00pm: Myers Lane Book-signing, Marilyn Myers Byrd

Friday Lunch Program:

At Miss Lily’s Banquet Hall
12:30—2:00pm: “What Do They Do at the Springs—East TN Resorts of the Early 1900’s”, Mary Fanslow

Call for reservations: 865-448-1924, \$12 per person.

Sponsored by Miss Lily’s Cafe.

Saturday Lunch Program:

At Miss Lily’s Banquet Hall
12:30—2:00pm: “Weather Folklore”, Ila Hatter

Call for reservations: 865-448-1924, \$12 per person.

Sponsored by Miss Lily’s Cafe.

Program Schedule, Saturday, February 6:At Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center

8:30—9:30am: “Happy Valley—A Living Part of Cades Cove”, Jim Phillips
10:00—11:00am: “Historic Myers Family and Cemetery”, Marilyn Myers Byrd
12:30—1:30pm: “Understanding the Old with the New: Archeological Techniques Used to Identify and Preserve Cades Cove’s Past”, Erik Kreuzsch
2:00—3:00pm: “Family Life in the Good Old Days”, Verna Burchfield Myers
3:15—4:15pm: “Nathan Sparks—A Cades Cove Frontiersman, 1828-1891”, Larry Sparks

At Townsend Visitors Center

9:00—11:45am: “Mountain Craft Showcase”, Woodworking, Basketry, Spinning, Pottery
9:00am—2:00pm: Hike: “Walker Sisters Homestead”, Butch McDade
1:30—2:15pm: “TNT Dulcimer Trio Concert”, Ginny Cliett, Deby Libby, and Linda Smith
2:45—3:30pm: “Mountain Music and Mountain People”, Bob Fulcher
4:00—4:45pm: “Horace Kephart and the Smokies”, Butch McDade

10:00am—4:00pm: Apple Cider Making Demonstration, campfire, and hot cider in the Pavilion

9:00am—4:00pm: “Old Fashioned Photos in front of the hearth”, Mary Grace and Bud McCaffery

Cades Cove Heritage Tours (CCHT)

1:00-5:00pm: Trip Around the Loop. \$15, \$13. **Call 865-448-8838 for reservations.** Meet at the Townsend Visitors Center.

At Cades Cove in GSMNP (meet at the John Oliver Cabin)

2:00—3:30pm: “The Oliver Family of Cades Cove—a sense of place”, Ann Schlichting

At Little River Railroad Museum

10:00am—12:00pm: “Walking Tour of Tremont”, Ron Briggs
3:00—4:00pm: “Whistle Over the Mountain”, Jim Thurston

Program Schedule, Sunday, February 7:

Cades Cove Heritage Tours 1:00-5:00pm: Trip Around the Loop. \$15, \$13. **Call 865-448-8838 for reservations.** Meet at the Townsend Visitors Center.

At Valley View Lodge 2:00—4:00pm: “Precious Memories—Cades Cove Homecoming III” Call 982-0705.

A special note: The 2010 Winter Heritage Festival is dedicated to the memory of David Post, CCPA member and friend, who passed away December 19, 2009. He did so much to convey appreciation of the people and places of the Smokies.

Presenters (in alphabetical order of last names)

Lendel Abbott: Saturday morning, Feb. 6, Townsend Visitors Center. “Mountain Craft Showcase”—Woodcarving.

Inez McCauley Adams: Friday, Feb. 5, 10:00–11:00am, GSM Heritage Center. “The Joe Gregory Story”

Our Cades Cove heritage features the accomplishments and sacrifices of many individuals and families. Triumphs and tragedies accentuated the lives of many residents. A Cades Cove native shares the life story of Josiah Jonathan “JJ” Gregory using information partially derived from the recorded memories of a son.

Inez McCauley Adams was born in Cades Cove to Millard and Dulcie Abbott McCauley. Her paternal grandparents were John and Rutha Myers McCauley and maternal grandparents, John and Rhoda Lawson Abbott. Inez has maintained a lifelong passion for researching and documenting her Cove heritage, which she shares with her husband Earl Adams. They are lifelong residents of Blount County, never venturing far from their mountain roots. Earl and Inez explore and visit the sites of their ancestral roots “when the snakes are in” and are frequently solicited for information about that heritage.

Ron Briggs: Saturday, Feb. 6, 10am—12:00pm, Little River Railroad Museum. “Walking Tour of Tremont”

The walking tour of the Tremont area highlights the logging operations of the last area logged by Little River Lumber Co. Locations of structures, facilities and company houses will be shown. Meet at Little River Museum and carpool to the Tremont area. Ron is a Board Member of the Museum and has spent many hours researching the Tremont area.

Marilyn Myers Byrd: Friday, Feb. 5, 2:00-4:00pm, “Book-Signing”, Mary Tippitt Library. Saturday, Feb. 6, 10:00 – 11:00am, GSM Heritage Center, “Historic Myers Family & Cemetery”

John and Jane Dunn Myers were among the early settlers of Tuckaleechee Cove. They and their descendants had a profound impact there and in nearby communities, including Cades Cove. A burying ground in the community, established in 1802, became known as the Myers Cemetery. The significance of those interred in the cemetery and current efforts for preservation will be presented.

Marilyn Myers Byrd was born in Townsend to Lee and Angie Caylor Myers with a home on Myers Road. She has deep ancestral roots in the community being the great great granddaughter of John and Jane Dunn Myers. Marilyn maintains a deep passion and respect for her family and community heritage. She authored “Up Myers Lane”, a history of Myers, Feezell, Law and Caylor families, published in 2008.

Boyce Driskell: Friday, Feb. 5, 9:00—9:45am, Townsend Visitors Center. “The Prehistory of Tuckaleechee Cove”

Dr. Driskell is Director of the Archeological Research Lab at the University of Tennessee. His M.A. and PhD are from the University of Kentucky and his research interests include cultural resource management, lithic technology (including microscopic usewear analysis), basketry technology, Southeastern U.S. archaeology, Ohio Valley archaeology, and Near Eastern archaeology.

Mary Fanslow: Friday, Feb. 5, 12:30—2:00pm, Miss Lily’s Banquet Hall. “What Do They Do at the Springs”

Discover the health, social, natural, and recreational features of the mineral spring resorts of East Tennessee, including several in Blount County.

Mary is Principal Information Scientist at Eastman Chemical Co. in Kingsport. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and holds a Master of Librarianship from Emory University and an M.A. in History from East TN State. She has recently received East Tennessee Historical Society’s McClung Award.

Bob Fulcher: Saturday, Feb. 6, 2:45—3:30pm, Townsend Visitors Center. “Mountain Music and Mountain People”

Bob Fulcher develops folklore and natural history programs for Tennessee State Parks, interviewing and collecting from musicians, storytellers, and other talented mountain people. He is Park Manager of Cumberland Trail State Park, plays a mean banjo, and lives with his wife and two children near Clinton, TN.

Robin Goddard: Friday, Feb. 5, 1:30—2:15pm, Townsend Visitors Center. “Ann Davis and the Beginnings of the Park”

Ann Davis was often called the “Mother of the Park”. Come hear interesting facts about a key person who was responsible for all this land becoming a National Park. You might even get to meet that famous lady!

Robin taught at Rockford Elementary School for thirty-two years. She is a long time volunteer in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. She conducts the Old Fashioned School Days at Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse, was a 75th Anniversary Ambassador, and portrays Ann Davis at Tremont during the “Walker Valley Living History” program. Robin is active in a wide range of community projects and lives in Maryville with husband Jim, also a Park volunteer.

Herb Handly: Friday, Feb. 5, 1:00—3:30pm, to carpool, meet at noon at Townsend Visitors Center, OR at 1:00pm at Little River trail-head, Elkmont. “The Summer Community at Elkmont”

Herb is Executive Vice President of Tourism with Smoky Mountain Convention and Visitors Bureau. He has first hand knowledge about many of the cultural and natural areas in and around the Park, including the Elmont Historic District where his family kept a cabin.

Ila Hatter: Saturday, Feb. 6, 12:30—2:00pm, Lunchtime program at Miss Lily’s Banquet Hall. “Weather Folklore”

Ila Hatter, a descendant of Pocahontas, was raised on natural remedies along with a love and respect for nature. This led her into exploring the uses of native plants while living in the South from Texas to the Smoky Mountains, the Caribbean, Spain, and Southern Appalachia. Ila, known as THE LADY OF THE FOREST, is an interpretive naturalist, artist, wildcrafter, and gourmet cook with more than 25 years experience teaching the cultural heritage of native plants. She is a staff instructor for the University of Tennessee’s Smoky Mountain Field School, guest instructor for the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, the John C. Campbell Folk School (Brasstown, NC), The Mountain Retreat Center (Highlands, NC), Snowbird Mtn Lodge (Robbinsville, NC), Charter Board Member of the Yellow Creek Botanical Institute; and Storyteller for Elderhostel programs.

Presenters, continued:

Don Headrick: Friday, Feb. 5, 3:00-4:00pm, Little River Railroad Museum. “Walking Tour of Townsend”

Walking tour of Townsend detailing Little River Railroad and Little River Lumber Company building locations and operations. Meet at Little River Museum

Don grew up in Townsend and as a young boy played around the remaining structures that Little River owned. He is also a Little River Railroad Board Member.

Karen Kenst: Saturday morning, Feb. 6, Townsend Visitors Center. “Mountain Craft Showcase”—Basketry.

Erik Kreusch: Saturday, Feb. 6, 12:30 – 1:30pm, GSM Heritage Center. “Understanding the Old with the New: Archaeological Techniques Used to Identify & Preserve Cades Cove’s Past”

Modern technology has been successfully used to interpret the history of Cades Cove. Recent archaeological investigations and a background on a variety of methods utilized will be presented. Evaluations have utilized remote sensing techniques such as Ground Penetrating Radar and satellite mapping to identify and protect the archaeological resources of the GSMNP.

Erik Kreusch has served as the GSMNP Archaeologist for eight years. He previously worked for the NPS in West Texas and for the Bureau of Land Management in southern and western Utah. His archaeological investigations include sites from the Southern Plains, the Four Corners area, the Great Basin, and the Southern Appalachians. Erik received his Bachelors in Anthropology from the University of Texas at San Antonio and his Master of Arts in Archaeology from the University of Utah.

Dale Liles: Saturday morning, Feb. 6, Townsend Visitors Center. “Mountain Craft Showcase”—From Flax Seed to Linen Thread.

Sheri Liles: Saturday morning, Feb. 6, Townsend Visitors Center. “Mountain Craft Showcase”—Spinning.

Roy Lindsey: Saturday morning, Feb. 6, Townsend Visitors Center. “Mountain Craft Showcase”—Woodturning.

Jeremy Lloyd: Friday, Feb. 5, 9:00—11:00am, Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. “Home in Walker Valley”

Take a ramble around “Walker Fields” to learn about the places that were home to the Walkers, Stinnetts, Moores, and other 19th century families. Hear stories of the remarkable individuals whose legends live on today.

Jeremy has worked as a teacher and naturalist at Tremont for many years and has just published [Home in Walker Valley](#).

Lost Hounds of Pumpkin Hollow: Saturday, Feb. 6, evening program, The Barn Event Center. “Barn Dance”

After a wonderful BBQ supper at the Barn, enjoy called square dances and old fashioned round and line dances with this lively mountain band.

The Lost Hounds of Pumpkin Hollow include Herb and Kathleen Williams (Kathleen is the caller, Herb plays fiddle); Darrel Acuff on fiddle, Dale Stansberry on banjo, Sam Simmons on bass, and Morgan Simmons on guitar. All members have been playing together in various configurations for 20 years. They reside in Anderson or east Knox County. The Lost Hounds play old time string band music and especially enjoy playing for dances, getting everyone up and kickin’.

Adriean Mayor: Friday, Feb. 5, 2:45—3:30pm, Townsend Visitors Center. “Great Smoky Mountains National Park’s Natural History Collections”

Ever since the formation of the Park, skilled naturalists have collected and documented the astounding diversity of living things in the forests and streams of the mountains. From the beetles to skulls, rocks, leaves, fungi, and flowers, the Collections provide an exceptional resource for study and appreciation. View a sampling of interesting specimens.

Adriean Mayor is Curator of Natural History Collections with GSMNP and is an entomologist with special interests in beetles and bees.

Mike Maslona: Friday, Feb. 5, 1:30—3:00pm, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, meet Missionary Baptist Church. “Company Camp 1214 – The CCC of Cades Cove”

Join a park ranger as he brings Civilian Conservation Corp camp to life at Cades Cove. Visit the site and see old photographs of the camp, an official uniform, and learn about the CCC boys’ activities and accomplishments and how they contributed to the park. See the bronze plaque dedicated to the CCC camp at the Cove

Mike is a Park Ranger in the Resource Education Division in the Cades Cove district of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He has been working in the Cove for over 5 years and in the Smokies for 14 years.

Mary Grace and Bud McCaffery: Friday, Feb. 5 and Saturday, Feb. 6, 9:00am—4:00pm, Townsend Visitors Center. “Art Photography and Old Fashioned Portraits”

Mary Grace will make portraits of your family and friends at the Townsend Visitors Center—ready instantly. A wonderful setting in front of the grand hearth. Catch a moment in time for long-lasting memories.

Dwight McCarter: Friday, Feb. 5, 8:30 – 9:30am. GSM Heritage Center. “The Cades Cove Forge”

Once imported iron articles failed, or new articles were required, the isolated communities of the Southern Appalachians required a local source for iron. Many communities, such as Cades Cove, developed sources of iron by developing and deploying an ironworks capability. The history of the Cades Cove Bloomery Forge and the discovery of a critical component will be presented.

Dwight McCarter has deep family heritage in the Smokies with ancestral roots from Gatlinburg, the Spicewoods area of Walker Valley and Cades Cove. He experienced a 27 year career with the NPS as a “back country ranger” and in the course of that career covered thousands of miles on trails, man ways, deer paths and stream beds. He has developed an intimate relationship and knowledge of most crooks and crannies of the Smokies. Dwight has the uncanny ability to “see what once was” and to interpret what others fail to comprehend. Dwight has authored three publications based on his experiences in the GSMNP, “Lost – A Ranger’s Journal of Search and Rescue”, “Mayday – Mayday”, a chronicle of plane crashes in the Smokies, and most recently, “The Meigs Line”.

Presenters, continued:

Christina McCoy: Friday, Feb. 5, 2:00—4:00pm, Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. “Salamander Foray”

Learn about the salamanders in the Park: what they eat, how they survive, why they are so special, and the best places to find them.

Christina McCoy is a teacher/naturalist at GSMI Tremont. She grew up in Michigan and Georgia and is excited to be teaching and living in the south again, exploring the mountains and learning new plants. Some of her favorite activities are hiking, kayaking, and berry picking.

Butch McDade: Friday, Feb. 5, 11:30—12:15pm, Townsend Visitors Center. “The Walker Sisters”. Friday, Feb. 5, 7:00—9:00pm, “Owl Prowl”, meet Townsend Visitors Center. Saturday, Feb. 6, 9:00am—2:00pm, meet Townsend Visitors Center. “Hike to the Walker Sisters’ Homestead”. Saturday, Feb. 6, 4:00—4:45pm, Townsend Visitors Center, “Horace Kephart and the Smokies”

Walker Sisters of Little Greenbrier: The six unmarried Walker Sisters lived out their entire lives in a wooden house in Little Greenbrier, in what would become Great Smoky Mtns NP. Their lives spanned the 1870s through 1964, when the last unmarried sister died. These women lived simple mountain lives which reflected self reliance, independence and adaptation to the National Park. The Walker Sisters provide a compelling story of fortitude, and they are a testament to the good people of the Smoky Mountains area.

Owl Prowl: We’ll travel from the Townsend Visitors Center to the Tremont area for a winter’s evening outing listening for owls, those nocturnal birds of prey. Screech owls and barred owls should be evident during the outing. Participants must have flashlights and be prepared for cold winter conditions.

Walker Sisters Home: This moderately difficult hike begins at the Metcalf Bottoms picnic area and involves a round-trip distance of 3.5 miles. We’ll visit the Little Greenbrier school and the Walker Sister home, and talk about these independent women of the Smokies along the way. Participants should be prepared for backcountry hiking and winter conditions.

Horace Kephart: Horace Sowers Kephart came to the Smoky Mountains as an outsider in 1904, and found his true place, however, among the mountaineers of the Smokies. He wrote one of the most enduring books on the Smokies, entitled *Our Southern Highlanders*. Along with his writings, Kephart joined the movement for a national park in the Smokies and lent his considerable credibility to the effort. As a testament to his life and his love for the land, a mountain and stream are named for him.

Arthur “Butch” McDade recently retired from the National Park Service at Great Smoky Mtns Nat’l Park after a 35 year career. He is the author of two books, *The Natural Arches of the Big South Fork* (Univ. of TN Press) and *Old Smoky Mountain Days* (Panther Press), and is a contributor to the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* (Univ. of TN Press). Additionally, he has written over 30 magazine articles on the history and nature of the southern Appalachians in *Blue Ridge Country*, *The Tennessee Conservationist*, *America’s Civil War*, *Ranger Magazine*, *Park Science* and other periodicals. His most current article is about Wiley Oakley, the “Roamin’ Man” of the Smokies in the Sept/Oct issue of *Blue Ridge Country* magazine. He is working on several writing projects currently, and wrapping up hiking all the trails in Great Smoky Mtns NP.

Bernard Myers: Friday, Feb. 5, 2:00 – 3:00pm, GSM Heritage Center, “Growing Up in Cades Cove”

Prior to establishment of the GSMNP, Cades Cove was a thriving community with schools, stores, neighbors and social events. As families relocated, neighbors became scarce and the residents experienced a different environment. The experiences and memories of a former Cades Cove resident who “grew up in Cades Cove” are recalled.

Bernard Myers is the son of Golman and Viola Burchfield Myers with a Cades Cove home in the northwestern area where he lived until nine years of age. Bernard attended the Cable School and has fond memories of neighbors, relatives and activities of the early Park years. After leaving the Cove, the Myers family bought property in Townsend where Bernard resides with his wife, Jo Ann.

Verna Burchfield Myers: Saturday, Feb. 6, 2:00 – 3:00pm, GSM Heritage Center. “Family Life in the Good Old Days”

Although the challenges of raising a family today are similar to those experienced by our ancestors in the “good old days”, the innovations and alternatives enjoyed today could not be envisioned in the 19th Century. Shelter, food, health and education demanded significantly different solutions and customs for our ancestral roots in the Southern Appalachians. Life of the typical family will be discussed by a Cades Cove native who has maintained a close relationship with the Cove throughout her life.

Verna Burchfield Myers was born in Cades Cove to Vernie and Nora Myers Burchfield. Her paternal grandparents are John and Tennie Tipton Burchfield and maternal grandparents, Jonathan and Sis Lequire Myers. Verna is married to Hugh Myers, also born in the Cove, whose Cove lineage is as extensive as Verna’s. They maintained an occupational relationship with the Cove managing the Cades Cove Riding Stables until 2008. Verna is avidly interested in preservation and communication of Cades Cove heritage.

Gail Palmer: Friday, Feb. 5, 12:30 – 1:30 pm, GSM Heritage Center, “Granny Women of the Cove”

They were called “Aunt” or “Granny” and provided critically needed services in the 1800s and early 1900s. Sometimes they walked miles through fields and up rough trails on cold, dark nights, or rode a horse along a narrow mountain path lighted by a kerosene lantern with a small black bag tied to the saddle horn. They brought knowledge and comfort and strong, knowing hands to help women who were about to give birth. By examining their contributions, we see these people more clearly, their dreams and their sorrows, their tenacity and originality in dealing with problems as well as their humor, sometimes in not so humorous circumstances.

Gail Palmer is a Blount County native whose grandparents, John Marion and Elizabeth Shuler Sparks, maintained a Cades Cove home. Gail holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she served as director of the Advising Center for the College of Communications. Her research interests have resulted in “Cemeteries of the Smokies,” scheduled to be published possibly summer of 2010. She has authored and produced a video entitled “Sacred Places of the Smokies” and publication and distribution of “Medicine Women of the Smokies: Momma Was the Doctor” is planned for early 2010.

Raymond Palmer: Friday, Feb. 5, 10:00am—1:00pm, Little River Railroad Museum. “Walking Tour of Elkmont”

A walking tour of the Elkmont area detailing the way the town appeared during the logging heydays of Little River Lumber Company from 1908 to 1926.

Raymond is a Board Member of the Museum and a Volunteer in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He has extensive knowledge of the Elkmont area. Meet at Little River Museum and carpool to Elkmont.

Presenters, continued:

Jim Phillips: Saturday, Feb. 6, 8:30 – 9:30am, GSM Heritage Center, “Happy Valley – A Living Part of Cades Cove”

Since settlement in the latter half of the nineteenth century, Happy Valley was integrated with Cades Cove. Tucked into the mountains next to Cades Cove, Happy Valley was the neighboring community that many Cove residents traveled through on their way to town. After the establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the construction of the western part of the Foothills Parkway, much like Cades Cove, Happy Valley became surrounded by the national park.

Jim Phillips spent the first thirty years of his life in Wisconsin, leaving for the University of Delaware where he researched solar cells until retirement. Jim “discovered” Happy Valley on a vacation trip to the Smokies 43 years ago. After going up the newly completed Foothills Parkway and bouncing down a rocky, rutted road, he found one of the prettiest, secluded valleys he had ever seen. After retirement, Jim and his wife, Joan, built a home and became active, permanent residents of Happy Valley. Their current activities include participation with several community organizations and volunteer services with the GSMNP.

Pistol Creek Catch of the Day: Thursday, Feb. 4, 7:00—8:00pm, Great Smoky Mountains Institute: Music for the “Kick Off”.

Members of this lively, local band are Edward Harper, Bill Cabage, Carl Gombert, and Scott Hinds. They are donating their talents for the Winter Heritage Festival.

Jimmy Rader: Saturday morning, Feb. 6, Townsend Visitors Center. “Mountain Craft Showcase”—Dough bowl carving.

Sparky and Rhonda Rucker: Thursday evening, Feb. 4. 7:00—9:00pm, Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. “Mountain Voices” program.

Sparky and Rhonda share the rich heritage of their southern Appalachian and “Affrilachian” roots. In addition to sharing traditional Appalachian songs, they also include “newer” songs and stories from the struggles that Appalachian people have had because of coal mining in the mountains.

Sparky and Rhonda Rucker perform throughout the U.S. as well as overseas, singing songs and telling stories from the American folk tradition. Sparky Rucker has been performing over forty years and is internationally recognized as a leading folklorist, musician, historian, storyteller, and author. He accompanies himself with fingerstyle picking and bottleneck blues guitar, banjo, and spoons. Rhonda Rucker is an accomplished harmonica, piano, banjo, and bones player, and also adds vocal harmonies to their songs.

Ann Schlichting: Saturday, Feb. 6, 2:00—3:30pm, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, meet at John Oliver Cabin. “the Oliver Family of Cades Cove—A Sense of Place”

Join Ranger Ann on a walk to the John Oliver cabin for an opportunity to discover why these first permanent white settlers came to Cades Cove. What drew the Oliver family to the cove? What challenges did they face? What influence did four generations of the Oliver family have on the community of Cades Cove? After a walk to the John Oliver cabin, take a short off trail hike to the former homesite of George “Drake” Oliver and explore this “behind the scenes” area for a chance to experience the sense of place Cades Cove descendants share.

Ranger Ann works in the Cades Cove District of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. She discovered her family connection to log cabins when she arrived to the park four years ago. She enjoys sharing the stories of the Cades Cove community with park visitors. On her days off, Ann can be found hiking the many trails in the park.

Larry Sparks: Saturday, Feb. 6, 3:15 – 4:15pm, GSM Heritage Center. “Nathan Sparks – A Cades Cove Frontiersman, 1828– 1891”

The Sparks surname is included among the pioneering families of Cades Cove. Nathan Sparks, in particular, had a significant impact on the community. The accomplishments and hardships endured by the family during the early years of Cades Cove will be discussed. Nathan’s family relocated from North Carolina and he experienced his father’s loss at an early age. Yet, through all of his hardships, Nathan was able to prosper as a community leader, businessman and major land owner.

Larry Sparks is a Cades Cove native, one of twelve children born to Asa and Amy Burchfield Sparks. His ancestors were among the first to own land and live in the Cove. His immediate family was forced to sell their land with establishment of the GSMNP in the 1930s but, although most neighbors moved out, his family remained in the Cove as lease holders until 1960 when Larry was twelve years of age. Larry later graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and established a home in Loudon, Tenn. which he enjoys with his wife Katie. Larry is extremely proud of his ancestral roots and is a member of The First Families of Tennessee.

Jim Thurston: Saturday, Feb. 6, 3:00—4:00pm, Little River Railroad Museum. “Whistle Over the Mountain”

View this updated video of the late Bill Hooks presentation that was originally given at the Elkmont campground recounting the history of logging operations performed by Little River Lumber Company from 1901 to 1939.

Jim is the immediate past president of the Little River Railroad and Lumber Co. Museum and worked closely with Bill Hooks to produce the video.

Missy Tipton Green: Friday, Feb. 5, 3:15 – 4:15pm, GSM Heritage Center. “Cades Cove Today & Yesterday”

Cades Cove is visited by over two million people annually who come to experience the flora, fauna and heritage. Few realize the thriving community, the structures and events which were once appreciated by the residents. Today’s visual images are associated with Cades Cove’s past in this informative presentation.

Missy Tipton Green is the daughter of Wayne and Faye Everett Tipton. She is the granddaughter of Roy and Myrtle Nuchols Tipton and great granddaughter of “Preacher Johnnie” and Louisa Myers Tipton and proudly claims extensive Cades Cove lineage. Missy lives in Maryville with husband Ricky. Missy has demonstrated a lifelong interest in her heritage which has been published in “Precious Memories” and “From Mineral Springs to Bedsprings – A History of Hotels and Resorts in the Foothills of the Smokies”, the latter co-authored with Paulette Ledbetter.

Presenters, continued:

TNT Dulcimer Trio: Saturday, Feb. 6, 1:30—2:15pm, Townsend Visitors Center. “Dulcimer Concert”

The trio, consisting of Ginny Cliett, Deby Libby, and Linda Smith, plays Appalachian, Celtic, and other traditional tunes and songs on mountain dulcimers. They are members of the Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club and have been playing together for three years.

Monte Walker: Saturday morning, Feb. 6, Townsend Visitors Center. “Mountain Craft Showcase”—Woodturning.

Carol Ware: Saturday morning, Feb. 6, Townsend Visitors Center. “Mountain Craft Showcase”—Pottery.

Todd Witcher: Friday, Feb. 5, 10:15-11:00am, Townsend Visitors Center. “Discover Life in America—The Smokies’ Heritage of Natural Diversity”

Every aspect of life in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is being studied extensively by scientists. The goal is to discover and catalog every type of living organism in the park from bacteria and slime molds to black bears and elk. This project is called the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (or ATBI); it is being coordinated by Discover Life in America (DLIA). Over 900 species new to science and nearly 6500 species new to the park have been documented by the Discover Life in America teams of scientists and volunteers. Please join us to get an update on this amazing project.

Todd P. Witcher is the Executive Director of Discover Life in America. DLIA is the non-profit coordinator of the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Todd is an eighth generation Tennessean. Before becoming the ED at DLIA he worked as an educator for Ijams Nature Center for 16 years. Todd has an undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee in Biology (1987), a Masters in Business from Lincoln Memorial University (1991), and a Masters in Education from the University of Tennessee (1997). In his spare time Todd enjoys hiking, gardening and restoring old houses.

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