

## February 2010 Newsletter

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Great Smoky Mountain National park is receiving 77.4 million dollars to resurface and rebuild roads in the park this spring resulting in numerous road closings. The two affecting visitors to Gatlinburg the most will be the closing of Cherokee Orchard Road from February 15-May 28, 2010 and the Cades Cove Loop Road from March 1-May 21,2010. ( for more info go to [GSMNP website](#))

**BUT...** have no fear for there is still plenty to do in the park. One of the least visited but truly beautiful is the Cataloochee Valley in North Carolina. It takes about 1½ hours from Gatlinburg . The National Park Service reintroduced Elk into the park in 2001 in Cataloochee Valley and they have flourished.



Cataloochee Valley, GSMNP

Another favorite spot in the National Park that is not as heavily

visited is Greenbrier, just outside of Gatlinburg on Highway 321 about 6 miles . The road runs beside the Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon River with a couple of picnic areas along the way. Porters Creek trail in Greenbrier is great for viewing wildflowers in the spring.



My restaurant recommendation for this month is The Best Italian Restaurant in Elks Plaza located near the Ober Gatlinburg Tram (traffic light #10). The pizza is great, I love their muffaletta sandwich but the best is their garlic rolls - "*Baked fresh daily from the finest ingredients, baked to a golden brown. Topped with olive oil, fresh chopped garlic, freshly prepared Parmesan and Romano cheeses and a blend of spices. Beware.....They are addictive!*"

**Stay warm!**

Vickie Johnson Bradshaw  
Max and Jean Johnson  
And the staff of Johnson's Inn

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