

Greetings from The Smoky Mountains

There is an unbelievable amount of events in the area this month and there seems to be something for everyone. Lots of happenings in the National Park gearing up to the 75th anniversary celebration. Why not come for a working vacation and help with trail maintenance on National Trails day. If you like to play more than work then defiantly check out Dollywood's Kidsfest. More artsy? How about a pottery festival in Townsend, storytelling festival in Pigeon Forge or the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra will be playing in Cades Cove. There is a Firefly Festival and a Civil War re-enactment. If none of these appeal to you then just come sit in front of the creek and watch people! June is a great month because normally the weather is very nice- not too hot and not too cold. Come the 1st couple of weeks of June and beat the crowds (plus the rates are lower).

We are in the process of making a new web video of the motel. It should be posted on the web site soon www.johnsonsinn.com . We had a lot of fun shooting it and Bobby and Joyce Hankins at Pinnacle Image Media Group were a joy to work with.

Smoky Mountains Storytelling Festival- Pigeon Forge

6/4/2009, 6/5/2009, 6/6/2009 Activities from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily
Nominal admission charge for adults, children free

Smoky Mountains Storytelling Festival will feature traditional mountain stories, Jack tales, and other mountain heritage/history stories with an emphasis on youth storytelling, along with nationally known storytellers. The event will again be the leading event in the U.S. for youth storytellers as National Youth Storytelling Showcase is permanently headquartered in Pigeon Forge, bringing young storytellers from across the nation.

Website: <http://www.mypigeonforge.com>

Smoky Mountain Pottery Festival- Townsend

06/05/09, 06/06/09 9:00am--5:00pm Free

The Smoky Mountain Pottery Festival, June 6, 2009, brings together over 30 talented potters from the Smokies and beyond. This is a juried show that highlights fine pottery in many styles. Visitors have the opportunity to meet the artisans, see them work, and purchase unique wares--from functional bowls, place settings, mugs, and vases to distinctive sculptures. Special activities include demonstrations of wheel-throwing, hand-building, and Raku firing. In the Children's Tent, families can try to make a pot or create a

clay animal. Guest potters will be on hand to show their techniques, and the heritage of pottery from Great Smoky Mountains National Park will be illustrated. Music and good food are also part of the event.

Website: <http://www.smokymountains.org/pottery-festival.html>

National Trails Day 2009-GSMNP

6/6/2009 Staging @ 7:30 AM; Work period = 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Picnic @ 5:30 PM Registration= \$15.00 per person

National Trails Day is observed in the Smokies every year with a day of planned work projects that are performed by volunteers who pay a registration fee to participate. Participants receive coffee, juice & donuts in the morning, then a picnic at the end of the day, as well as a commemorative t-shirt, and a chance to win great door prizes. This annual event brings together folks who love the Smokies, and who want to do help take care of it by performing important trail maintenance work on the Appalachian Trail. This event is jointly coordinated by Friends of the Smokies and the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club.

Website: <http://www.friendsofthesmokies.com/events.html>

"Dinner on the Grounds"- Gatlinburg

6/7/09 11am - 3pm 35 cents PLUS a donation to the Park (minimum \$5.00) Cliff Dwellers Gallery will host "Dinner on the Grounds" as a fundraiser with all proceeds going to the Park. Dinners will be based on a typical 1930's Sunday noon meal similar to one served at the Wonderland Hotel at that time. Dinner will be served on Sunday, June 7, 2009 from 11 am to 3 pm. The charge will be the 1930's price of 35 cents plus a donation to the Park (\$5.00 suggested minimum). This is the second of three "Dinner on the Grounds."

Website: <http://cliffdwellersgallery.com>

Firefly Festival- GSMNP

6/12/2009 10:00 am -- 6:00 pm free

COME AND ENJOY MUSIC, FOOD & DRINK, AN INSECT ZOO, MEET A FIREFLY EXPERT, ENJOY MEETING A LOCAL NATURE AUTHOR, AND MORE! ALL THE WHILE LEARNING ABOUT AND CELEBRATING THE WONDROUS DIVERSITY OF THE SYNCHRONOUS FIREFLIES IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK!

Website: <http://www.dlia.org>

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 75th Anniversary: Cades Cove

6/13/2009 Special exhibits and programs will highlight the cultural history of Cades Cove. The finale will be an outdoor performance by the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. In order to manage traffic flow and seating, visitors must have a vehicle pass to attend. Passes can be purchased by calling the KSO box office at 865/291-3310. Only two passes will be issued per person.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 75th Anniversary: Park Headquarters

6/14/2009 All day free

An open house at Park Headquarters near Gatlinburg, TN will highlight park development, park management activities, park architecture, and the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). An exhibit, "Snapshots of 1934, the Establishment Year of GSMNP." featuring some authentic and some reproduction archival materials including photos, maps, drawings, data sheets, journals entries, and a few small artifacts will be on display in the Sugarlands Training Room.

Battle of Burg Hill- Civil War Re-enactment

Gatlinburg

6/19/2009, 6/20/2009, 6/21/2009 Daytime free

Civil War Re-enactment and Living History Days of the historic Battle of Burg Hill, the only Civil War skirmish in Gatlinburg. Join hundreds of Civil War historian re-enactors camping and living as was done in 1865. Witness a battle between the Blue and Gray with infantry and canons. Learn the history and experience Civil War living first hand. Educational and entertaining for the entire family.

Website: <http://www.eventsgatlinburg.com>

Dollywoods KidsFest- Pigeon Forge

6/12/2009-8/02/2009

Lots of fun geared towards kids young and old.

<http://festivals.dollywood.com/mini-section/default.aspx?id=107&season=summer>

Ronnie Milsap in Concert- Pigeon Forge

6/26/2009 Country Tonight Theater, Pigeon Forge; For more information

call 1-800-792-4308

A Note from Vickie:

With warmer weather comes the gnats in East Tennessee. When Max was a boy he liked to hike and camp in the mountains and one of the favorite camping spots was at the Chimney's which is now picnicking only but in the late 1940 and 50's there were camping sites there also. He said that you didn't go in the summer because the gnats were so thick you could not breath. These days there are not gnats in the Chimney Picnic area and I always wonder exactly why they used to be so bad but aren't anymore. I was reading the book "The Wild East: A biography of the Great Smoky Mountains" by Margaret Brown and she talks about how when the area that is now the National Park was being logged the mountain sides would be stripped from all the trees then when a heavy rain would fall the water would wash all the vegetation and mud into the streams and rivers. The mud and debris would destroy the aquatic homes and kill the salamander, frogs, fish and other insect eating animals. So therefore the gnat larva population was able to explode thus causing the gnats to be thick. Which makes perfect sense as to why the gnats were so bad in the 40's and 50's but now that the trees have grown and the streams are no longer clogged with debris, the insect loving animals are able to flourish and keep the gnat population under control. By the way- did you know that the Salamander population here is the largest animal population in the Smokies. If you were to gather all the salamanders in the Smokies and weigh them, they would weight more than all the black bears found in the park!



Come find some salamanders of your own!

**Vickie Johnson Bradshaw
Max and Jean Johnson
The staff of Johnson's Inn**

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