



Big South Fork Visitor Guide

2006

The official newspaper of
Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area



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2006 Special Events and Program Calendar

Spring Planting Festival

April 29 - Spring Planting Day- 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Join in a celebration of spring from the late 1800s through the early 1900s. Demonstrations of horse and mule drawn equipment, plowing, planting, dulcimer music, farm animals and tasks of the homemaker will be going on throughout the day.

Astronomy

May 20- Solar Viewing - 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. weather permitting Bandy Creek Visitor Center.

May 20 - Astronomy - Bandy Creek - 9:00 p.m. Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee.

July - Astronomy - Bandy Creek - 9:00 p.m. Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee.

October - Astronomy - Bandy Creek
Other Astronomy Programs will be offered at Obed Wild and Scenic River (423) 346-6294.

National Trails Day - June 3. Volunteers will be working throughout the park on hiking, biking, horse and multiple-use trails. National Trails Day is held each year throughout the United States. Thousands of volunteers participate in work projects in national areas, parks and forests. If you would like to volunteer, Contact Wally Linder for further information at (423)569-2404 ext. 321.

Storytelling Festival

September 23 - Dulcimer Workshop

Bring your own dulcimer and learn to play a tune. Two beginners' sessions will be held beginning 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and again at 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. A limited number of dulcimers will be on hand for the public's use. Please sign up in advance for this workshop by calling (423) 286-7275.

Storytelling Festival Craft Workshops

Learn about some of our old time crafts of the region through classes and demonstrations. Crafts offered may include tatting (old time lace making), quilting, wood carving, soap making, survival skills and basket making. Class participants will be asked for a donation to assist with class materials and instructor fees. Sign up for classes will be done in advance. Please call Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286 -7275 to check about classes offered and to sign up with your name and address to reserve a place in a class. Each class will be a minimum of 4 hours in length. Classes will be scheduled throughout the day beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m.

Haunting in the Hills Storytelling and Evening Presentations

3:00 p.m. Special Local Tellers

5:00 p.m. Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club Concert

6:30 p.m. Bluegrass Music

8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Haunting in the Hills Storytelling

Cumberland Heritage Month

October Saturdays at Blue Heron Mining Community – Enjoy a different cultural heritage activity each week. Demonstrations and presentations include storytelling, woodworking, natural dyes, spinning, old timey toys, dulcimer music, pioneer history, and coal mining displays. Times and schedules will be announced for each Saturday in October.

All events are Eastern Time

All Programs are Subject to Change

Contact Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275 (PARK), the Stearns Depot Visitor Center (606) 376-5073 or the Blue Heron Interpretive Center (606) 376-3787 for program details. Also see page 6 for more information about the special events.

If you are looking for information and unique items concerning Big South Fork, check out the bookstores located at Bandy Creek and the Stearns Depot Visitor Center. The bookstores are operated by Eastern National, a non-profit cooperating association founded in 1947 and authorized by Congress to work with America's National Parks and other public trusts. The mission of Eastern National is to provide quality educational and interpretive products to the public.

Eastern provides a variety of unique items that will enhance your visit. Items offered for sale include maps, trail guides, books of local interest and unique craft items. By purchasing an item from the bookstore, you are supporting Big South Fork. Eastern returns a percentage of its profits to use for promoting the historical, scientific and conservation activities of the National Park Service. Among other projects, these donations are used to fund publications such as this newspaper. Membership in Eastern National entitles you to a discount on merchandise and helps support the programs of the National Park Service. For more information about Eastern National or to become a member, visit www.EasternNational.org.

Any item you see in our bookstore can be ordered by mail, by telephone or by visiting the Big South Fork web site. If ordering by mail, you may use a personal check made payable to "Eastern National" or you may use a credit or debit card when ordering by phone. All items are subject to tax, shipping and handling charges that apply. An order form may be downloaded from the Big South Fork web site at www.nps.gov/biso. Call (423) 286-7275 or write to Eastern National Bookstore, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida, Tennessee 37841.

Below are some popular items from the bookstore.

National Geographic, Big South Fork Trail Map by Trails Illustrated - a large scale, topographic map of the entire system of designated hiking, horse and mountain bike trails. Waterproof and tear resistant. \$9.95

Hiking the Big South Fork - a complete guide to hiking trails in Big South Fork and selected trails in the adjoining Daniel Boone National Forest and Pickett State Park and Forest. Deaver, Smith and Duncan \$14.95

100 Trails of the Big South Fork - as the title implies, a trail guide with accurate descriptions of horse, hiking and bike trails in Big South Fork. Manning and Jamieson \$16.95

Exploring the Big South Fork - a trail and visitors guide to horse, hiking and mountain biking trails and the many activities at Big South Fork. Campbell and Campbell \$16.95

Photographs on cover

On left top: Big South Fork River and gorge. Top right: Spring Planting Day with Joye Gowan spinning and Koy Flowers' mules in the background. Bottom left: Angel falls in winter. Fall mushrooms and spring Trout lilies in center bottom. All photographs courtesy of the National Park Service.

A Year in the Big South Fork - a wonderful, photographic presentation depicting the beauty of Big South Fork. Summers \$9.95

Natural Arches of the Big South Fork - an arch hunter's delight, a guide to the most accessible arches in the area. McDade \$12.95

Big South Fork Children's Guide and Coloring Book - an excellent way to introduce children to the wonders of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Duncan \$2.50

New items:

South Fork Country - an excellent book dealing with the early history of the Big South Fork River and the region around it. Perry \$21.95

Folk life along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River - an in-depth look at the people and culture that are unique to the Cumberland Plateau. Howell \$30.50.



Printing of this publication has been made possible by Eastern National.

Welcome from the Superintendent

Welcome to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Last year we celebrated the completion and approval of the park's first General Management Plan. Based on the direction provided by that document, the park can now be managed in such a way as to provide for the highest degree of natural and cultural resource protection while assuring the development of recreational opportunities which will benefit park visitors, neighbors and partners.

We now begin the exciting and sometimes challenging task of implementing the changes outlined in the General Management Plan. This spring we have begun the implementation of the designated trail system as defined in the General Management Plan. While full implementation will take some time, the final result will be an expanded, well defined and more integrated network of trails in Big South Fork.

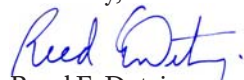
As you enjoy the vast array of trails in Big South Fork, you will soon notice that we have begun to institute a new system of trail signing and blazing which will clearly define those types of trail use allowed on any of the designated trails within the park.

With well over 300 miles of trails to sign and blaze, however, this will be a very time consuming task for park staff to complete. The trail blazing and signing project, as well as general trail maintenance, does provide an excellent opportunity for individuals and organized groups to lend their assistance through our Volunteer in Parks program. If you are interested, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator.

The staff of Big South Fork NRRA remains committed to the goals of resource protection and quality visitor service. Together with our many park partners and neighbors we will be striving to find realistic, innovative approaches to solving the challenges we face and meeting the goals we have set.

You are our valued guest, so please let us know if you have concerns or comments. We hope that you will explore the park, enjoy the area, have fun, and return often.

Sincerely,


Reed E. Detring
Superintendent

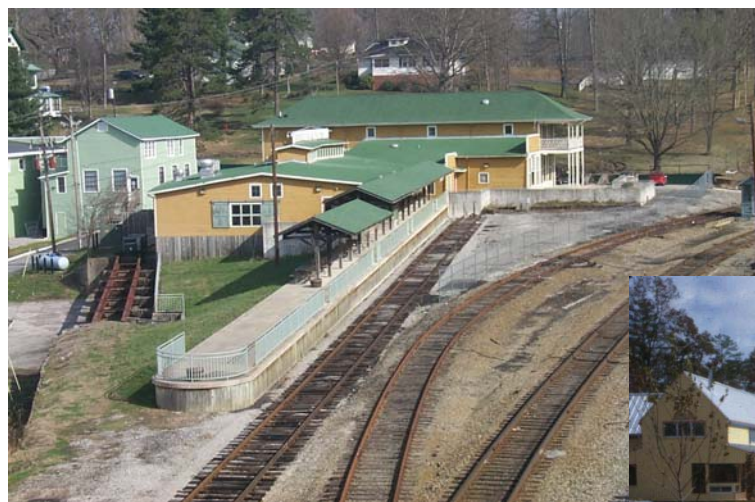
Make Your First Stop Here

Whether you are a first time visitor or a regular user of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, your first stop should be at one of the park's two visitor centers. A quick stop at the visitor center can help you get the most out of your visit.

Park staff at Bandy Creek Visitor Center in Tennessee and the Stearns Depot Visitor Center in Kentucky can provide information on a wide range of recreation options and park information. In addition to providing information on Big South Fork, park rangers can provide information about the surrounding area, including state parks and forests, area attractions and federal lands.

At the visitor centers, one has access to free information, as well as maps and guide books available for purchase. Each visitor center has a sales area operated by Eastern National, a non-profit cooperating association dedicated to providing educational materials to the public and supporting the programs of the National Park Service. A percentage of each purchase is donated to the park to support local activities. The visitor centers also issue backcountry camping permits, Golden Age and Golden Access Passports and the National Park Pass.

A stop at the visitor center can make your visit more enjoyable, safer, and will maximize your time allowing you to get the most from a truly outstanding area. For more information you may call the Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275 or the Stearns Depot Visitor Center at (606) 376-5073.



Stearns Depot Visitor Center in Kentucky offers park information and Eastern National bookstore. NPS photo.



Bandy Creek Visitor Center (building on the right) offers visitor information, Eastern National bookstore and also sells ice. NPS photo.

Emergency Numbers

When emergency assistance is needed, dial 911 or:

Tennessee

Bandy Creek Visitor Center

(423) 286-7275 (PARK) - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Eastern Time.

Big South Fork NRRA

Resource Protection Hotline - (423) 569 2404
ext 505. Also see page 9.

Scott County Hospital, Highway 27, Oneida,
TN (423) 569-8521

Scott County Ambulance, Oneida, TN
(423) 569-6000

Scott County Sheriff

Huntsville, TN
(423) 663-2245

Jamestown Regional Medical Center

W. Central Avenue, Jamestown, TN
(931) 879-8171

Fentress County Ambulance

(931) 879-8147

Fentress County Sheriff

Jamestown, TN
(931) 879-8142

Kentucky

Stearns Depot Visitor Center

(606) 376-5073. During train season
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Blue Heron Interpretive Center

(606) 376-3787

McCreary County Ambulance

(606) 376-5062

McCreary County Sheriff

(606) 376-2322

Campgrounds

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area offers three campgrounds: Bandy Creek, Blue Heron, and Alum Ford. Bandy Creek Campground is located in the Tennessee portion of the park; Blue Heron and Alum Ford campgrounds are located in Kentucky.

Bandy Creek Campground

Bandy Creek Campground is open year round. Sites may be reserved April 1 through October 31 by calling Spherix, Inc. at 1-800-365-2267 code 244. Although a reservation system is in place, campers are still welcome on a first-come, first-served basis for unreserved campsites. It is always a good idea, however, to call the Bandy Creek Campground at (423) 286-8368 before coming. The campground does fill up during holidays, special events, weekends and the whole month of October. Check-in for the campground is at the entrance station kiosk.

The Bandy Creek Campground pool will be open from Memorial Day through Labor Day in 2006. Check at the campground entrance kiosk or at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center for a schedule of the times and days the pool will be open.

From November 1 through March 31, campsites are taken only on a first-come, first-served basis. During this time campers self register by filling out an envelope from the entrance station, picking their site and then placing the fee into the provided envelope. Drop the envelope into the fee collection box at the campground entrance station.

Areas B, C and D offer 98 sites which have electric/water hookups. Area A offers 49 tent sites. Three sites in area D are accessible to mobility-impaired visitors. In the group area, E-1 is also accessible. Restroom facilities are also accessible in these areas.

Bandy Creek sites in areas B, C, and D are \$20.00 for water/electric hookups per night and \$17.00 for tents per night in Area A. Although Area A has no electrical hook-ups, RVs, pop-ups, and horse trailers are permitted in sites A1 - A12. Sites A13 - A49 are restricted for tents only. Holders of Golden Age and Golden Access Passports are entitled to a 50% discount for campsites.

Bandy Creek Group Area E-1 and E-2 are for large groups of 25 or more. E-1 offers 19 individual sites and E-2 offers 16 individual sites. These sites do not have electric/water hookups. The group areas offer a covered pavilion with electric/water and cooking area. A fire ring for campfires is available. Separate bathhouses for each area offer hot showers. The cost is \$75.00 minimum charge per night for up to 25 persons, plus \$3.00 for each additional person. Reservations can be made for the group camp April 1 through November 15 by calling 1-800-365-2267, code 244.

Blue Heron

Blue Heron Campground sites may be reserved from May 1 through October 31 by calling Spherix, Inc. at 1-800-365-2267 code 244. Blue Heron is closed for the winter season.

Blue Heron offers 45 sites, with one site designated as accessible to mobility impaired individuals. Restroom facilities are also accessible. There is a fire ring and a dump station provided. Sites are \$15.00 per night with water/electric hookups. Although a reservation system is in place, campers are still welcome on a first-come, first-served basis for unreserved campsites. For additional information call (606) 376-2611.

Alum Ford

Alum Ford is a primitive campground and offers six campsites. There are no restroom facilities or water located at this area. The fee is \$5.00 per night. For additional information call (606) 376-2611. Alum Ford also has a boat ramp.

Bandy Creek Pool

The Bandy Creek Pool will be open for the 2006 summer season from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend. Check at the visitor center or campground kiosk for the pool schedule of times and days of operation.

	Regular Rate*	Discount Rate*
Individual	\$2.00	\$1.00
Family	\$6.00	\$3.00
Annual Pool Pass (family)	\$35.00	\$17.50
Annual Pool Pass (individual)	\$20.00	\$10.00

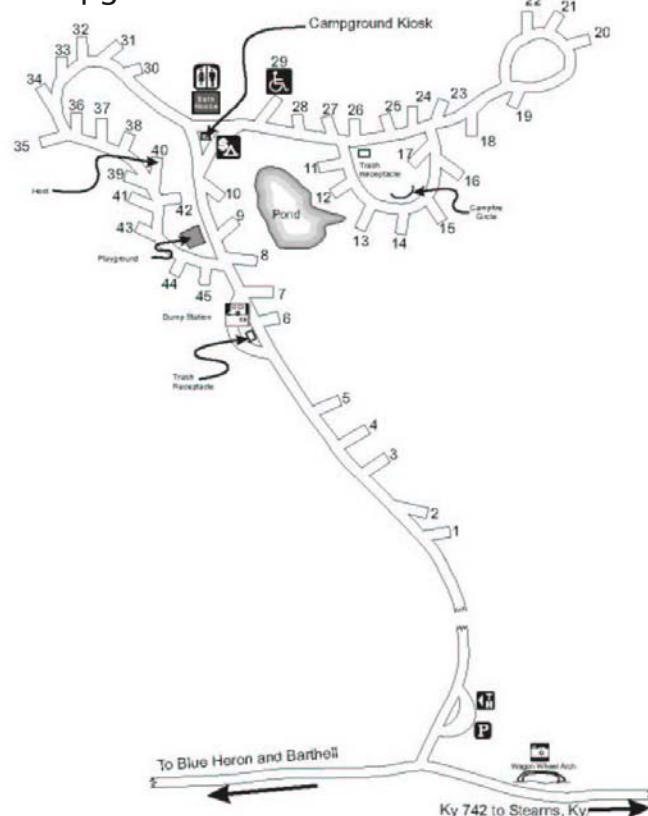
Campers pay a one-time fee and receive a pool pass that is valid for the entire duration of their camping stay. Non-campers pay fees on a daily basis.

*Holders of the Golden Age/Access Passport pay only half the fee. Passport holders must have their card with them in order to receive the discount.

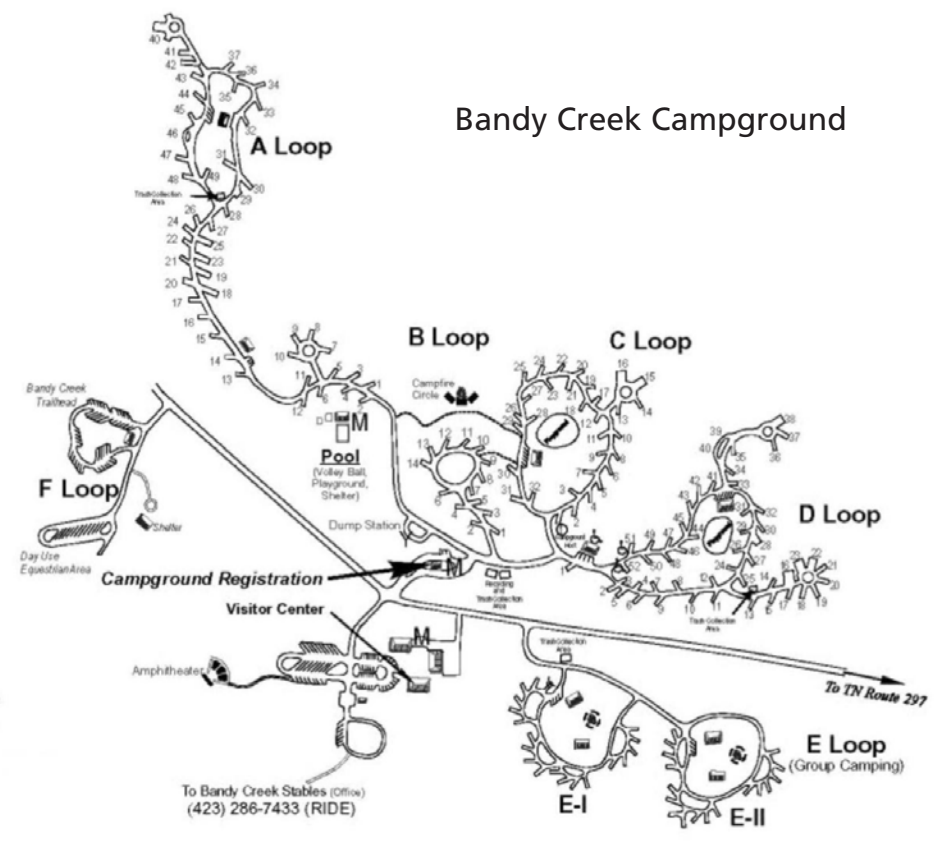
Aluminum Cans Go to the Dogs

Best Friends Sanctuary is the only humane society in Fentress County and the surrounding counties. They do not have a shelter building but concentrate mostly on spaying and neutering cats and dogs for low-income families in Fentress County. Grants that they have received help with this project but they also sponsor several fundraisers each year. In addition to these fundraisers, Best Friends have been collecting and selling aluminum cans. This money pays to spay and neuter animals. The organization helps when they can and when needed to rescue and place animals. Best Friends depend solely on contributions from individuals to accomplish the work they do. By depositing your aluminum cans in the green barrels provided within the park, you are helping the people and the animals of Fentress County. Thank you for your support!

Blue Heron Campground



Bandy Creek Campground



General Information

Visitor Centers

Tennessee - Bandy Creek Visitor Center

(423) 286-7275 (PARK).

Kentucky - Stearns Depot Visitor Center

(606) 376-5073.

Kentucky - Blue Heron (606) 376-3787.

Accessibility

Bandy Creek Visitor Center

The visitor center and its restrooms are accessible.

One or more rangers are trained, to some degree, in sign language. Large print brochures are available on request.

Stearns Depot Visitor Center

The visitor center and restrooms are accessible.

Campgrounds

Bandy Creek and Blue Heron Campgrounds have designated mobility impaired accessible sites for families and groups. Restroom facilities are also accessible. Water and electrical hook-ups are also available at both campgrounds. Alum Ford in Kentucky is accessible, but restrooms are primitive and there are no water hook-ups.

Overlooks and River Access

East Rim and Honey Creek Overlooks in Tennessee and the Devils Jump Overlook in Kentucky are accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. Leatherwood Ford River Access offers accessible trails and restrooms.

Blue Heron/Mine 18

The scenic train ride into Blue Heron is fully accessible. Blue Heron offers accessible restrooms and is partially accessible to individuals with mobility impairments (some steep grades and steps exist).

Backcountry Camping

Backcountry camping is allowed in Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. There are no designated campsites, but there are rules that tell you where you can and cannot camp. Check at the Bandy Creek or Stearns Depot Visitor Center or at Blue Heron for more information. **Backcountry permits are required** to camp in the backcountry overnight.

Permit fees are as follows:

1 to 6 people	\$5.00
7 - 12 persons	\$10.00
13 - 18 persons	\$15.00
19 - 24 persons	\$20.00
25 - 30 persons	\$25.00

A yearly permit is available for \$50.00. In addition to the visitor centers, please see the following list for authorized backcountry permit vendors. Please contact (423) 286-8368 for more information. Permits are checked by rangers and are necessary when emergencies arise should a ranger need to contact you.

Tennessee Vendors

Bandy Creek Stables	(423) 286-7433
Big John's (Marathon Gas)	(423) 569-9004
Big South Fork Motor Lodge	(931) 879-4230
Big South Fork Regional V. C.	(423) 663-4556

Country Store	(423) 569-5010
Rugby Commissary	(423) 628-5166
R & M Brooks and Son	(423) 628-2533
Buckhorn	(423) 569-9452
Stop N Go Market Elgin	(423) 627-4100
Big John's #2 (Exxon Gas)	(423) 569-6122
Express Market & Deli	(931) 879-8132
Allardt Express Market	(931) 879-8051
Cherokee Trail	(931) 879-0895
Uncle Dale's Trading Post	(423) 569-1544

Kentucky Vendors

Fastway BP	(606) 376-2364
Big M's Discount	(606) 376-8500
Sheltowee Trace Outfitters	(606) 526-7238
One Stop Shell	(606) 376-9200
Roger New Grocery	(606) 376-2579

River Information

The Big South Fork of the Cumberland River is a free flowing river. Sections of the river are calm enough for beginners while other parts are more challenging and have exciting whitewater. Peak times for river use are in the spring and sometimes late fall or winter.

There is only one commercial company which provides equipment and trips for canoeing and rafting the river. If you are planning on embarking on the river with your own equipment and expertise, please check in at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center to file a trip plan, register for overnight river trips, and obtain information that will help you have a safe trip.

Permitted Outfitters

Sheltowee Trace Outfitters

P.O. Box 1060

Whitley City, Kentucky 42653

1-800-541-RAFT

(606) 376-5567

Southeast Pack Trips, Inc.

299 Dewey Burke Road

Jamestown, Tennessee 38556

(931) 879-2260

Safety Facts

To help you enjoy your trip to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, be aware of some safety precautions:

- (1) There are poisonous snakes (copperheads and timber rattlesnakes), ticks, chiggers, and poison ivy found in this area. Be cautious as you hike the trails or use the backcountry. Always use a flashlight when walking at night to avoid stepping on any snake.
- (2) Plan to leave information about your trip with someone at home.
- (3) Backcountry camping permits are required. These provide information to park rangers in case of emergencies. File a trip report with rangers at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center, Stearns Depot Visitor Center or at any of the vendors mentioned in the list above.
- (4) Store all food, food containers and coolers out of reach from wildlife. A copy of the food storage regulations can be obtained from the visitor centers or the campground kiosks.
- (5) Are you concerned about driving up and down the steep hills? Your vehicle will perform more efficiently if you use a lower gear while going down steep grades. Consequently, you won't need to use the brakes as often and they are less likely to overheat and burn. Here's to fresher air for everybody!

Lost and Found

Lost items may be reported to rangers at the Bandy Creek or Stearns Depot Visitor Center or at Blue Heron Mining Community. A file will be made describing the item and where it was lost. Items that have been found should be turned in at the Bandy Creek or Stearns Depot Visitor Center or at Blue Heron.

Concessionaires

Bandy Creek Stables - (423) 286-7433

Big South Fork Scenic Railway - (800) GO-ALONG

Charit Creek Lodge - (865) 429-5704

Eastern National - (423) 286-7275

Station Camp Equestrian Area - (423) 569-3321

Bear Creek Equestrian Area- (423) 569-3321

Hunting Seasons

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area does allow hunting during regular state seasons. Check with the visitor centers or at Blue Heron for maps of the safety (no hunting) zones and regulations.

Kentucky Big Game - Deer

Deer Archery - Zone 1-4: Third Saturday in September through third Monday in January.

Muzzleloader - Zone 1-4: Two consecutive days beginning the the fourth Saturday in October and seven days beginning second Saturday in December.

Modern Gun Deer - Zones 1-2: 16 consecutive days, beginning the second Saturday in November. Zones 3-4: 10 consecutive days, beginning the second Saturday in November.

Youth Hunt - Zones 1-4: Two consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in October.

Boar - Wild hogs may be taken during open deer season and during the extended hog season.

For exact dates, contact Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, 1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 (502) 564-4336. Website: www.fw.ky.gov.

Tennessee Big Game Hunting Seasons

Permanent Opening Dates

Quail and Rabbit - Second Saturday in November.

Squirrel - Fourth Saturday in August.

Deer/Archery - Last Saturday in September.

Deer/Gun - Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Deer/Juvenile only - First Saturday and Sunday in November.

Boar - Wild hogs may be taken during open deer season and during the extended hog season.

For exact dates please contact Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Region III, 216 East Penfield, Crossville, Tennessee 38555, (931) 484-9571 or 1-800-262-6704 in Tennessee. Website: www.tnwildlife.org. Check Kentucky and Tennessee hunting guides for Small Game Seasons.

Parks on the Internet

Most National Park areas have a web page, and camping reservations for many parks may be done on line as well. To find more information about camping and park facilities, special events and programs that each National Park Service area has to offer, use www.nps.gov. Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area page may be directly accessed through www.nps.gov/biso.

● Fourteenth Annual Haunting in the "Hills" Storytelling Festival



September 23, 2006

Big South Fork NRRRA - Bandy Creek Field

- 10:00 am Folk Art Workshops and Demonstrations
- 1:00 pm Family Oriented Storytelling
- 3:00 pm Special Local Tellers
- 5:00 pm Dulcimer Concert
- 6:30 pm Blue Grass Music
- 8:00 pm Ghost Stories guaranteed to thrill and chill listeners of all ages.

Come join us for a full day of fun and activities.
Free and open to the public.



For further information contact Big South Fork Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275

Spring Chores Turned Into Traditional Arts Spring Planting Day Celebration



By Sue H. Duncan, Park Ranger Interpretation

The time of the year is spring. It is a time for new beginnings and growth. Mountain families begin their planning for crops, vegetable gardens and live-stock production. This production will sustain a family through the rest of the year.

The early families who settled the Big South Fork area depended on their ability to successfully raise animals, crops, and gardens to feed themselves. Most of the farming that occurred here was truly subsistence farming. The family often consumed the entire production of the garden. There was continued use of wild plant and animal foods, but the "kitchen garden" was vital to a sustainable food supply. This tradition continues with many families even today. It is not uncommon for local residents to have large gardens that provide a substantial amount of food.

Along with planning for their gardens and crops, families had a number of annual spring "chores" that were performed --spring cleaning and airing out of the house and bed linens, repairing paling fences, livestock care and animal husbandry, and mending and making clothing for the spring and summer seasons. Various crafts and forgotten arts of today were skills of yesterday -- skills needed for survival in the area we now call the Big South Fork, Cumberland Mountains or Appalachia.

In celebration of these skills and traditions of spring, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area will be hosting its Fifth Annual Spring Planting Day on Saturday, April 29, 2006. Craftspersons will be demonstrating forgotten arts such as blacksmithing, basket making, hand spinning, weaving, woodcarving, chair caning, soap making, garden herb lore and use, and paling fence making. Displays of women's life, antique farm tools, farm animals and old-timey toys will delight young and old alike. Toe-tapping tunes of mountain dulcimer music will be performed by the Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club throughout the day. Plowing and planting with mules and horses will be taking place at the Lora Blevins field. Come join in our celebration of spring and traditional mountain ways.

The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Check with the Bandy Creek Visitor Center for the location and more information about this event.



If You See A Myriad Of Stars, It's Nighttime In The Big South Fork

By Paul Lewis

One of the greatest pleasures of the Big South Fork is the dark of night. Dark skies are something we are experiencing less and less of in our cities and immediate surrounding areas where we live and work. The places that we can escape to to enjoy the beautiful vistas of the Milky Way are rapidly becoming fewer and farther between.

Our astronomy programs in the park are meant to bring you some understanding of the night sky and space science as well as telescope views of some of the many wonders to be found in those skies. We will have Saturn and Jupiter to observe in May. Saturn will be much lower in the west in our June skies but Jupiter will dominate the night skies for the remainder of the summer.

Our first astronomy program will be on May 20. Weather permitting we will observe the Sun at 3:30 P.M. and have our evening program and telescope observations beginning at 9:00 P.M. Join us again on July 29 for an evening program followed by telescope observing. We will have a third day of astronomy in October - the date to be announced.

Some of our favorite objects through telescopes are the great globular cluster of stars M13 in Hercules, the beautiful Ring Nebula, a planetary nebula in Lyra, the Double Cluster in Perseus and several stellar nurseries where stars and planets are forming in huge clouds of dust and gas thousands of light years distant. Some objects just look better in binoculars so be sure to bring yours along and we will help you locate some of those fine objects that are just too big for telescopes.

Cultural Heritage Days



Enjoy October Saturdays at the Blue Heron Coal Mining Community in celebration of the area's cultural heritage. Each Saturday a different activity or event will be presented. Native American stories and music, spinning and natural dyes, old timey toys, blackpowder rifle firing, woodworking, dulcimer concerts and coal mining programs are just a few of the events presented by park staff and volunteers. All events are free to the public and everyone is invited to attend. Times and dates of these events will be announced prior to each Saturday in October, or call: (606) 376-5073, or (606) 376-3787.

New Trail Blazing and Signing System for Big South Fork

In an effort to make the trail system more user friendly for the wide variety of users at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, the park is implementing a new system of trailhead and trail markings. This new system will consist of both graphic symbols and color coded blazes to indicate the types of use authorized for a particular trail. The absence of a symbol will mean that a particular use is not permitted on that trail.

Symbols of all uses allowed on that particular trail will be mounted on wooden posts and placed at the beginning of trails and at all trail junctions. The primary trail use symbol will be displayed on the top of the sign with other trail uses displayed underneath. The symbols will represent a horse, hiker, mountain biker, multiple-use trail, and a wagon wheel for the trails accessible to horse drawn wagons.

In addition to the graphic symbol, the trail use will also be reinforced with a color code for the primary use authorized for that particular trail. Colors selected for the various uses are red for horse and wagon trails, green for foot trails, blue for biking trails and orange for multiple-use trails. The existing symbols for the John Muir Trail and Sheltowee Trace trails will continue to be used. Additionally, the existing signs indicating trail names and mileages will also continue to be used.



Horse trails are designated for horseback riding. Hiking and mountain bike riding are allowed on most horseback trails; however, some trails are blazed to be free of all other uses but foot travel.



Hiking trails are designated for foot traffic only.



Mountain bike trails are designated as open for use by mountain bikes and may also be used by hikers.



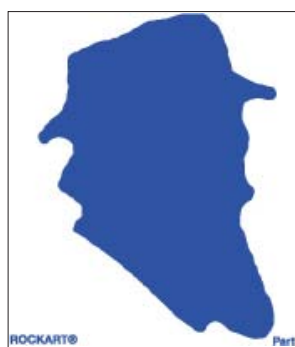
Multiple-use trails are designated as open to all trail uses including motorized vehicles. In addition, licensed hunters may use ATVs on these trails while actively engaged in the legal hunting of either deer or wild boar.



Wagon routes are designated for use by horseback riders, mountain bike riders and hikers, and are also maintained with sufficient width and clearance to allow their use by horse or mule drawn vehicles.



The Sheltowee Trace National Recreational Trail is a designated hiking trail with sections in Big South Fork NRA, Pickett State Forest and Daniel Boone National Forest.



The John Muir Trail is designated as a hiking trail with trail sections both in Big South Fork NRA and Pickett State Park.



Where different uses overlap on the same trail they may receive both colored blazes for those user groups. An example of this would be the section of the Oscar Blevins Farm Loop (a hiking trail) and the Collier Ridge Bike Loop. These two trails share two common segments. In that instance the portion common to both uses will receive both blazes.

The use of this new system should make it easier for all park users to be sure they are on a trail that is designed and open for their particular use.

The trailhead signing and trail blazing is being funded by monies generated through the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program. This program which has now been made permanent by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004, collects user fees for specific recreational activities such as backcountry camping permits, camping in the park's developed campgrounds, use of the Bandy Creek swimming pool, and the hunting of wild hogs. The monies are then made available to improve visitor related facilities within Big South Fork NRA.

As with any new system it will take time to fully implement and there will be some learning and adjustment on the part of trail users. Your patience, attention and assistance will be required.

In this example, horseback riding is designated as the primary trail use. Mountain bike riding and hiking would also be designated uses allowed on this trail. The notification that the trail is closed to motorized vehicle will occur at points where trails enter from outside the park or where trails enter the "gorge" area.

Blue Tails

By Sherry Fritschi, Park Ranger Interpretation

“Quick, catch him!” I said, as the little lizard zipped under a chair and out of reach. Once again our clumsy efforts to capture the five-lined skink basking on the living room carpet were in vain. It’s just as well. A skink can give a harmless but painful bite. I’ve not seen him for awhile. Maybe he’s taken up residence in one of my large house plants or slipped under a door and found his way back to the great outdoors.

Assuming you have spent any time in Big South Fork hiking or just walking from a parking lot to a building, you’ve likely encountered a small striped lizard with a bright blue tail scurrying through the leaves, across a log or porch. If this juvenile reptile would just stay still, you’d see a sleek black lizard with five yellowish stripes and a sky blue tail.

Three similar species of skinks live in the southeastern United States. The five-lined skink and the southeastern five-lined skink have both been observed and documented at Big South Fork. The broad-headed skink is probably living in the park but has not been studied here by biologists. If you could set up a little showroom to display these fast sporty lizards, you’d notice subtle differences in appearance. Both models of adult five-lined skinks are 5 to 8 ½ inches long, black or brown in body color. When young, the southeastern five-lined skink has five light pinstripes whereas the five-lined skink’s stripes are wider. Both species’ stripes and blue tail color fade with maturity, but heads of breeding males turn red-orange to attract mates. In case you’re into details, it’s worth noting that the five-lined skink and broad-headed skink both have a wide lengthwise row of scales under the tail, but this wide row is not present on the southeastern five-lined. The adult male broad-headed skink is brown with a wide red-orange head. It’s body is nearly 13 inches long. As a juvenile, it displays five wide light stripes and bright blue tail color that fade with maturity.

Spring is mating season for skinks. The female lays eggs in rotten logs, sawdust piles or under objects. She tends and guards the eggs until they hatch. The brilliant blue tail of a youngster helps protect it from predators by drawing attention away from vital body parts. When grabbed, the tail breaks off and

continues to wriggle. While the predator is distracted, the lizard gets away. It will slowly grow a new tail that is not as strong or colorful as the original.

Skinks, like other reptiles, are most active on warm sunny days when they can crawl out on rocks or logs and absorb heat. After recharging their “engines” they dash up tree trunks or tunnel through leaf litter and under logs in search of food that’s not as fast as they are. Spiders, roaches, crickets, grasshoppers, beetle larvae, earthworms, crustaceans, lizards and small mice are on the menu. Ferocious for their size, broad-headed skinks have been known to shake pupae out of paper wasp nests without getting stung by the adults. Nature shields lizards from insect stingers with an armor of scaly skin.

Break-away tails and scales won’t protect skinks from all predators. Snakes, birds of prey, raccoons, skunks, opossums and foxes eat these lizards. Unfortunately, if a pet cat eats the blue tail of a skink, within two hours it can react to toxins produced by the lizard. Signs of toxicity are excessive salivating, circling, trembling, and paralysis. If you suspect that your cat has eaten a skink, promptly take it to a veterinarian for medical attention.

Just remember, if you want to observe a zippy lizard, think like a skink. Find a warm boulder, look around to make sure a snake isn’t resting where you want to be, and then sit down. Get your camera ready and expect to see a blue tail at any time. Even if you don’t see one, it was fun trying and who knows what other natural wonders might catch your attention.



Big South Fork Fire Season

By Andi Stebleton, Seasonal Forestry Technician

Another fire season has arrived at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. ‘Fire season’ is a term used often in the media, in our national parks and national and state forest lands. What does the term ‘fire season’ mean, when is it, and how does it affect a visitor this year to Big South Fork?

A fire season refers to the time in the spring and in the fall when environmental conditions such as warm weather, sunshine, and wind, plus dead, dried fuels make an area receptive to fire. Big South Fork’s spring fire season starts around February 15 and continues until green-up when new plant growth emerges, usually by May 15. The fall season coincides with deciduous leaf fall that starts around October 15 and ends typically by December 15. Although the spring season is normally the more severe season of the two, the potential for wildfires is equally great during the fall, mainly because the hunting season increases visitation and activity in the woods. Even though we have designated fire seasons when fire danger is the highest, abnormally dry periods and high temperatures can increase the fire danger any time of the year. Be aware of the weather and any restrictions or bans on burning within the park and the local area, and follow them.

Nearly all the wildfires in Big South Fork are human caused, either set intentionally or because of carelessness. Park staff would like to remind you to never leave your campfire unattended and completely extinguish your fire before you leave your campsite. Only use designated campfire rings for fires. Completely extinguish cigarettes and matches and place them in the proper receptacles. During extremely dry weather, consider using a backpacking camp stove instead of an open fire.

Wildfires aren’t the only fires a visitor may see this spring. Starting March 15, Big South Fork will be conducting prescribed burns at three locations in Kentucky and two locations in Tennessee. Prescribed burning refers to an intentionally lit fire performed by trained personnel under carefully outlined weather and vegetation conditions of the burn area. Prescribed burns are a cost effective way to meet resource objectives and goals within the park. Some of the goals fire managers hope to achieve this spring are to reduce fuel loads that prevent wildland fire spread and intensity within and around the park, encourage native species, restore fire as a natural ecological process, improve habitat for a variety of wildlife, and provide the public an opportunity to learn about the positive effects of fire. The burns will vary in size from 40-600 acres, and 20-25 firefighters and two to three engines will staff each burn. During a prescribed burn, some roads and all trails in the burn area temporarily close for visitor safety. Please obey all closure signs. Once the burn is complete and it is safe, these roads and trails reopen. Contact the park’s visitor center at 423-286-7275 for the latest information on the various burn dates and associated closures.

Big South Fork’s fire season is off to an early start. As of March 12, 2006, we have already had four small wildfires in the park. With the unseasonably warm, dry spring, we are expecting to have an active season and successful prescribed burns. If you notice a burnt area on your trip through the park, take a moment to look at the new life that springs up through the ashes. Come back a year later to that same spot and see how the fire has changed the area. Fire can be devastating but when used correctly it can also be a wonderful tool to help manage the resources within the park. Have a safe and enjoyable fire season.

General Management Plan Regarding ATV Use

By **Steven Seven, Chief of Interpretation**

In May of 2005, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (NRRA) completed its General Management Plan. The plan, now in place, will serve to guide the park in its management of existing facilities and the development of new recreational opportunities.

The only trails open to ATV use in Big South Fork are those trails that are designated as multiple-use trails. In compliance with the legislated limitations on motorized transportation within the “gorge area” of Big South Fork, these multiple-use trails are all located outside the gorge on the plateau portion of the Big South Fork. Licensed hunters while they are actively engaged in the legal hunting of either deer or wild boar may use ATVs on these multiple-use trails. For the recreational ATV rider there are no designated ATV trails within Big South Fork at this time.

The General Management Plan does allow for the development of an ATV trail(s) in the Darrow Ridge area of the park in the future. This trail, also located outside the defined “gorge area” of the park, will be laid out and developed with input from a variety of interest groups including local/regional ATV organizations.

When completed, the National Park Service will monitor these ATV trail(s) to assess any impacts that might result from this activity upon the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Big South Fork. The results of this monitoring will then allow the park management to make a decision based on well defined and defensible facts as to whether an ATV trail system is possible within Big South Fork.

This process of public input and follow-up monitoring will allow Big South Fork NRRA to fulfill the legal requirements as outlined in Executive Orders 11644 and 11989.

In addition, Executive Order 11644 requires areas and trails to be located to:

- minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resources on public lands.
- minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats.
- minimize conflicts between off-road users and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands.
- Trails shall be located in areas of the National Park System only if the agency head determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, aesthetic, or scenic values.

Executive Order 11989 added Section (g) to Executive Order 11644 providing for “Special Protection of the Public Lands.” Under this section whenever it is determined that the use of off-road vehicle will cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat or cultural or historic resources of particular areas or trails of the public lands, the agency shall immediately close such areas or trails to the type of off-road vehicle causing such effects.

Title 36 CFR Section 4.10 (b) also requires the Big South Fork NRRA to draft a special regulation authorizing the use of ATVs on trails within the park.

Until such time as this trail is developed, ATV riders must find riding alternatives outside the boundaries of Big South Fork NRRA. The following is a list of public and private lands near the Big South Fork NRRA which are open to the general public for the riding of ATVs.

Brimstone Recreation

Brimstone Recreation manages and promotes the recreational use of over 45,000 acres nestled in the remote wilds of Northeast Tennessee and located in the heart of Appalachia. The area has over 300 miles of OHV trails with numerous overlooks and culture exploration points of interest.

A land use permit is required to access the area. For additional information, please visit <http://www.brimstonerecreation.com>, call 1-423-663-4868 or email info@brimstonerecreation.com.

Coal Creek OHV Area

The Coal Creek OHV Area is 72,000 acres of off road fun, located in Oliver Springs, Tennessee. The area’s trails are open to everyone and just about any type of vehicle. ATVs, motorcycles, Jeeps, buggies and trucks all enjoy some of the best off-roading in the country each weekend.

The property is privately owned by The Coal Creek Company and a land use permit is required to access the area. For additional information, please visit <http://www.coalcreekohv.com/>.

Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area

Royal Blue WMA offers over 130,000 acres and 430 miles of TWRA mountain trails varying in degrees of difficulty. The area’s trails range from leisurely treks that families can enjoy together, to challenging obstacles and creeks for the risk-taking rider.

For further information on Royal Blue trails and information on the required permits, please contact Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Region 4 by writing TWRA Region 4 Office, 3030 Wildlife Way, Morristown, TN 37814, or calling 1-800-332-0900.

Pickett State Forest

Pickett State Forest protects almost 19,000 acres of land in northern Tennessee. Within the State Forest, some 50 miles of ATV trails exist and are open to the public. No permit is required to ride these trails.

For further information on Pickett State Forest trails, please contact their office at (931) 879-5170.

Burnt Mill Bridge

As previous visitors to Big South Fork know, the old Burnt Mill Bridge across the Clear Fork River has been closed since 2002. The bridge, which was built in the early 1930’s, had become unsafe for vehicle traffic. Burnt Mill Bridge and Burnt Mill Ford Road are under the jurisdiction of the Scott County Highway Department. Scott County and the Tennessee Department of Transportation, with cooperation from the National Park Service, undertook the replacement of the old bridge with a new one. Construction of the new bridge is expected to be completed sometime during 2006, perhaps as early as this fall. In conjunction with the bridge project, improvements will be made to the Burnt Mill Trailhead and River Access. In order to help preserve the historic scene, the old bridge will be left in place but only for foot traffic. The completion of the new bridge will reopen an important link for local residents and visitors to Big South Fork.



Help protect archeological sites and habitats
for threatened and endangered species.

**Don't camp or build
fires in rockshelters or
along the cliffs.**



Resource Protection Hotline Available

In order to increase the number of backcountry “eyes and ears” helping protect the park’s valuable and often irreplaceable resources, a Resource Protection Hotline has recently been established.

Any park visitor or neighbor who witnesses what they believe to be an illegal activity such as digging arrowheads, poaching wildlife or harvesting plants, is encouraged to call the **Resource Protection Hotline at (423) 569 2404 ext 505**. All information will be treated confidentially. No name or phone number will be required; however, persons wishing to leave contact information may do so.

Protecting our Archeological Sites

By Tom Des Jean, Park Archeologist

Public interest in the prehistoric inhabitants of the Upper Cumberland Plateau has been evident for over 50 years. This interest is reflected in the numerous collections of Indian relics that many people in the area possess. But because of the haphazard way that these artifacts are being collected, a great deal of other types of information about these Native Americans people is being lost. The “mission” of the National Park Service is to preserve the archeological sites on our United States public lands so that, in time, controlled excavations and scientific analysis can be done to recover the most complete and accurate story possible. Here at Big South Fork the numerous prehistorically occupied rockshelter sites represent a resource that can fill in a lot of the 12,000 year prehistory of Native American occupation of the Upper South.

Unfortunately, there are collectors who come onto public lands and continue to destroy archeological sites in a search for “arrowheads”. To protect those sites that have not been destroyed, the National Park Service, together with University of Tennessee, is implementing a Condition Assessment program to document and monitor the hundreds of prehistoric archeological sites within the National Area boundary. All of the known sites are being investigated for any impacts, whether human, animal, or erosion. The sites and damages are photographed and sketched and then systematically checked again to determine if damages are occurring. If new damages are noticed, then National Park Service Rangers and Managers take measures to preserve and protect those sites.

The National Park Service Condition Assessment Project that started in 2005 will be an ongoing effort. Through this program, archeological sites will be preserved that will allow careful scientific excavation to reveal the story of this country’s prehistoric Native American inhabitants.

Volunteers in Parks

**By Sue H. Duncan, Park Ranger
Interpretation and Volunteer Coordinator**

Throughout the National Park Service there are a number of people who are devoted to making your park visit enjoyable and safe. Permanent and temporary employees work in various capacities such as: Administration, Resource Management, Visitor Protection, Maintenance, and Visitor Services and Education. You may see any of these employees on your visit to the park in the visitor centers, campgrounds, and backcountry or along the trails. But what about the other people who volunteer their time and skills to make the park a better place for you too?



Volunteers-In-Parks are people of all ages who spend anywhere from a few hours per week to several months working for the park. There are people who serve as campground hosts, evening program presenters, special events demonstrators, visitor center information providers, maintenance and trail workers, resource management assistants, search and rescue team members and much more. Volunteers are relied on heavily to fill in gaps where regular employees cannot. They often have the time to do tasks that are in many instances left unattended or not completed by our regular staff. Volunteers may have talents and skills that are utilized during special events. They provide interpretive programs and demonstrations that are interesting to visitors. A large number of volunteers work with trail maintenance crews clearing trees and brush from paths improving conditions for visitor use. There are even a number of volunteer groups that have adopted trails within the park and are responsible for working on that same trail throughout the year.

If you have a special interest or skill that you want to share and would like to participate in the Volunteer-In-Parks program, please write or e-mail: Sue H. Duncan, Volunteer Coordinator, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida, Tennessee 37841, e-mail: Sue_Duncan@nps.gov or call for more information (423) 286-7275. We will be happy to send you an application and give you the opportunity to join our team of Volunteers-In-Parks. Check out our special events made possible because of our volunteers on page 6.



Destruction of Big South Fork prehistoric past through the looting of rockshelters.

Hey Kids, Become a Junior Ranger!

In order to become a Junior Ranger, it is important for you to learn about the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Then you can help park rangers teach others how to be safe, enjoy the park, and protect it from harm! There are several activities listed below that you can do alone or with your friends, but it takes time to learn about the park. These activities may take you a few hours or days to complete. After you complete the activities, go to the Bandy Creek or Stearns Depot Visitor Center where a park ranger will ask you some questions before you are awarded your Junior Ranger Badge.

Junior Ranger Activities

Complete 6 of the activities below.

1. Hike a trail along the Big South Fork River. Name the trail.
2. Pick up litter in the park.
3. Visit the Stearns Depot Visitor Center and Blue Heron. Get a cancellation stamp from the area.
4. Visit three rock shelters in the area and list them.
5. List three groups of historic people who lived here before it was a park.
6. Take a ride by horseback or mountain bike into the backcountry. Name the trail.
7. Identify four kinds of trees or wildflowers that grow along the river.
8. Name two homeplaces that still remain within the park.
9. Name four animals that live here.
10. Attend a ranger led program.

From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, park rangers provide fun and educational programs or hikes. Look at the bulletin boards in the campground or ask at the visitor center for the name of program, time and location. There are programs at both Bandy Creek and Blue Heron.

Scavenger Hunt

See how many of the following things your group can locate. Remember, never take or disturb any plant, animal, land, geological formation, historic site or artifact. You might want to keep a record by taking pictures or just put a check mark by the things you see. You may need to make several visits to the park to find everything on the list. Good Luck!

- Three different kinds of leaves on a single sassafras tree
- Archeological artifacts displayed in a glass case
- Lump of coal
- Old log cabin (Which farm?)
- Live wild animal (Kind?)
- Fresh animal track
- Scat or an owl pellet
- Sandstone bluff (Color?)
- Small creek
- Wildflower (Name?)
- Protected river overlook (Name?)
- Chewed beaver stick
- Park Ranger (Name?)
- Evergreen tree (What kind?)
- Umbrella magnolia leaf
- Rock shelter
- Arch (Name?)
- Coal tipple
- Picnic table
- Canoe or kayak
- Horse
- Insect (Name?)
- Turkey vulture
- Black bear display
- Bridge (Name?)



Have A Wonderful Time at the Big South Fork. Be Safe and Come Back Soon!



Discover Historic Rugby

Historic Rugby is a non-profit museum and historic site founded in 1966 to carry out the restoration, preservation, and interpretation of one of the south's most intriguing historic places. Guided interpretive tours of the public buildings are conducted daily except on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Many special events, craft and outdoor workshops and other educational programs are presented year-round. The Rugby colony was established in 1880 by famous British author and social reformer Thomas Hughes as a social and agricultural utopia. Twenty historic buildings remain today. Rugby is again growing as new "colonists" build historically compatible homes based on the original town plan. The entire Rugby village was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. Historic Rugby is directly adjacent to Big South Fork, 16 miles from Jamestown, 24 miles from Oneida. Unique lodging in historic buildings and food service at the Harrow Road Café is available year round.

Call Historic Rugby toll-free at 1-888-214-3400 or (423) 628-2441 for reservations and lodging. Email: rugbylegacy@highland.net. Website: www.historicrugby.org

Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Park

The Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Park, located in Pall Mall, Tennessee, is dedicated to Sgt. York for his famous World War I actions. Sgt. York led his squad to capture 132 German soldiers and take 25 casualties in an attack in the Argon Forest against the German Army. His efforts earned him more than 40 awards including the Congressional Medal of Honor and the French equivalent, the Croix de Guerre.

At the park you can visit the family home and farm, the post office/general store that he built and operated for several years, his burial site, and the York Gristmill which was built in the early 1880's.

The park also offers picnicking with two picnic shelters, which hold up to 50 people and are available for rent by reservation. There are also 25 picnic tables that are available on a first-come first-serve basis.

Fishing is also available at the park in Wolf River. A valid Tennessee fishing license with a trout stamp is required to fish at the park. During the summer months, TWRA releases trout into Wolf River.

Also located at the park is a hiking trail. The trail leads across the York farm, crosses Wolf River via suspension bridge and leads to Sgt. York's gravesite. This trail is six-tenths of a mile one way and ranges from easy to moderate. The trailhead is located behind the house.

During the year there are several planned programs. In the summer months a seasonal interpretive ranger is available for programming, and during the rest of the year a ranger is available to do scheduled programs. There are also annual events/programs which include the following:

- Sgt. Alvin C. York Shooting Match- March 2007. Contact the park for more information.
- Hwy. 127 Yard Sale - First weekend in August
- Christmas at the York Store and Home- December. Contact the park for more information



Cumberland Falls State Park

The “Niagara of the South” is often used to describe Cumberland Falls State Resort Park. Imagine the breathtaking beauty of a waterfall plunging 60 ft into a boulder-strewn gorge. The mist rising from the base of the falls creates the magic of a moonbow, a phenomena only visible at a few places in the world. A moonbow is a rainbow at night created by moonlight refracted from a water droplet. On a clear night a moonbow can be seen about two nights before a full moon until about two days after.

The park is a nature lovers retreat with about 20 miles of hiking trails to explore. Eagle Falls Trail is a hikers favorite, which treks you through the Cumberland Falls Nature Preserve. At the end of your journey you will be renewed by the sight of Eagle Falls. A stop by the Cumberland Falls Visitor Center will enlighten the visitor about the geology, history, trail system and recreation opportunities of the park.

Guests can stay in the historic Dupont Lodge built of native sandstone and hemlock beams. Fifty- two rooms offer beautiful views and full amenities. The lodge dining room has beautiful views of the Cumberland River Gorge. The dining room serves Kentucky cuisine for breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. For the vacationer who prefers all the comforts of home, choose one of our 24 cottages. The one and two bedroom cottages feature stone fireplaces and private views into the woodlands. Tableware, cooking utensils and linens are provided. For the traveler who prefers to sleep in a tent or RV, enjoy the outdoors in our 50 site campground featuring electric and water hookups. Kentucky handmade crafts can be purchased at the park gift shop located near the falls.

Outdoor recreation opportunities abound, such as canoeing and whitewater rafting with Sheltoewe Trace Outfitters (1-800-541-RAFT). Cool off on a hot summer day with a dip in our Olympic-size pool. Guided horseback trail rides are available daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day. If fishing is more your style, the Cumberland River is home for bass, catfish, and panfish.

Park guests can also enjoy year around interpretive programs focusing on the cultural and natural history of the park. During the summer months recreation programs are planned daily. Folk dancing has been a long standing tradition at Cumberland Falls. Line, folk, and square dancing is taught several nights a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Many other diverse activities are conducted such as crafts, games, outdoor skills and guided walks.

Cumberland Falls has been a resort since the 1870's. The affluent traveled to Cumberland Falls by horse and wagon to reach the old inn that used to sit above the falls. For over 100 years, vacationers to honeymooners have traveled to enjoy the park's beauty. Your trip to Eastern Kentucky would not be complete without a visit to Cumberland Falls.

Several special events are planned through out the year. Call Cumberland Falls State Park at (606) 528-4121 for more information.

Discover Pickett State Park

The Glow Worms of Hazard Cave

Throughout the Big South Fork area there are numerous sights to see. Pickett State Park is our next door neighbor and is located about 20 minutes away from the Bandy Creek Visitor Center. Pickett State Park offers a wealth of scenic treasures for the day hiker, casual stroller, serious backpacker and overnight camper. Cabins are even available to rent throughout the year.

A fascinating aspect of this natural area is a glowworm that inhabits Hazard Cave and nearby overhanging, sandstone rock bluffs. Hazard cave is not considered to be a true cave. True caves are areas where no light can penetrate. Geologists often call these “caves” rock shelters instead. Within these rock shelters there exists a larvae of the fungus gnat (Diptera mycetophilidae). This larvae has been found in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina, Pickett State Park and at a few locations within the Big South Fork as well as a cave named Luminous Cave in Claiborne County, Tennessee. Until recent times, there was only one other place to find these creatures, which was New Zealand.

The “glowworms” may be viewed at night in the furthest reaches of Hazard Cave only when you turn off your flashlight and sit patiently while your eyes become adjusted to the darkness. Slowly you will begin to see their dim, bluish-green glow as if a magical city were appearing before your eyes.

Park staff will lead you to see these minute creatures during evening programs held during the summer months. Check with the Pickett State Park offices for times and dates of these and other naturalist programs by calling (931) 879-5821.

Friends of the Big South Fork Reaching New Heights in 2006

2005 was an exciting year for the Friends of the Big South Fork. We were able to accomplish our committed programs through the efforts of our Director, Barbara Shoemaker. It also became a challenging year with the departure of Barbara when she left the Friends to return to her love of teaching.

We find the Friends starting 2006 with a new director, James Taylor. James has been involved with the Friends for the past several years, serving in many capacities. This year will be very busy with the many projects that are currently being developed like the Big South Fork Cookbook, Calendar, and the Adventure Race (May 2007) to name just a few. The Carta Vista project (virtual fly through of the park) continues to move forward, along with the planned Wings over the Big South Fork Fly-in scheduled for September. The Friends are also working to secure funding to support the Haunting in the Hills Storytelling Festival and get the storytellers back into the area classrooms this year.

June 2006 is the deadline for our Big South Fork license plate campaign. The Friends must have a total of 1,000 plates sold before the state will put the plate into production. This is an opportunity for you to support the Friends, so that the Friends can assist the Big South Fork. Please support the Friends by visiting our website at www.friendsofbigsouthfork.org and reserving your license plate today.

The Friends also have several other projects currently in the planning stages which will be announced at a later date. Visit the Friends website at www.friendsofbigsouthfork.org for a listing of all upcoming activities and dates. While visiting our website, be sure to check out the General Store for new products coming this year.

The Friends would also like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors: First National Bank of Oneida, National Coal Corporation, Moth Wing Camo, Grand Vista Hotel, First Trust & Savings Bank, and Bank of McCreary County.

Yes! I want to be a Friend of the Big South Fork.

Enclosed is my gift of:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | Yahoo Falls Friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | Honey Creek Friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Station Camp Friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Angel Falls Friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | Blue Heron Friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Bandy Creek Friend |

