



# Big South Fork Visitor Guide

2003

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



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## 2003 SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAM CALENDAR

**April 12- Spring Planting Day- 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.** Join in a celebration of spring from the late 1800's through the early 1900's. Demonstrations throughout the day of horse and mule drawn equipment, plowing, planting, dulcimer music, farm animals and tasks of the homemaker.

**April 19 - Wildflower Walk - Leatherwood Ford.**

**May 3 - Pioneer Encampment - Kentucky Visitor Center at Stearns - 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.** - Join staff and volunteers as they re-create a late 1700's pioneer camp. See traditional pioneer skills demonstrated.

**May 31 - Astronomy - Bandy Creek - Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee.**  
**Solar Viewing - weather permitting 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.** Bandy Creek Visitor Center.

**June 21- Harmony in the Hollow- Blue Heron Mining Community -** Join local musicians as they entertain you with a variety of music at the Blue Heron Depot. Times to be announced.

**June 28 - Astronomy - Bandy Creek - Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee.**

**August 23- Astronomy at Historic Rugby - Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee.**

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### Storytelling Festival - September 20

#### Dulcimer Workshop

Bring your own dulcimer and learn to play a tune. Two sessions will be held beginning at 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. One for beginners and one for intermediate players. 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. See page 6 for details.

#### Craft Workshops and Demonstrations

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, flintknapping, wood carving, survival skills and basket making. Donations will be accepted 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 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.



#### Storytelling

Join the National Park Service as they host the eleventh annual Haunting in the Hills night of storytelling, 8:00 p.m. Bandy Creek. Call Steven Seven at (423) 569-2404 extension 237 for more information about this event.

**October 4 - Astronomy - Bandy Creek - Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee.**

**October Saturdays - Cumberland Heritage Month -** Join in a day of cultural heritage activities at Blue Heron Mining Community. Craft demonstrations and presentations of storytelling, woodworking, natural dyes, spinning, old timey toys, dulcimer music, long hunter rifle firing, pioneer history, coal mining displays. Times and schedules will be announced.

**All events are Eastern Time.**

**All Programs Are Subject To Change.**

Contact Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275(PARK), or the Kentucky Visitor Center (606) 376-5073 or the Blue Heron Interpretive Center (606) 376-3787 for program details. **Also see the list below for other summer weekend programs and page 6 for more information about the astronomy programs.**

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## More Interpretive Programs

The following is a sampling of interpretive programs. Please check with the Bandy Creek or Kentucky Visitor Center or Blue Heron for dates, times and locations.

### Tennessee

**Stories of the Big South Fork -** Hear some the interesting local history, legend and folklore. Bandy Creek Campfire Circle.

**Songs of Appalachia -** Sing along to songs of our local culture. Bandy Creek Campfire Circle.

**River Adventure -** Take a river trip without getting wet! Slide presentation. Bandy Creek Amphitheater.

**A Park for All Seasons -** Big South Fork activities year round as shown through slides. Bandy Creek Amphitheater.

**Clean Water -** Water quality program involving active participation from the crowd. Leatherwood Ford.

**John Muir -** Talk about the famous naturalist at Leatherwood Ford.

**Flora of the Big South Fork -** Slide presentation will introduce you to some of the beautiful and unusual plants in the area. Bandy Creek Amphitheater.

**History of the Big South Fork -** Slide program showing the history of the Big South Fork region. Bandy Creek Amphitheater or Campfire Circle.

**Horses in Big South Fork Country -** Come meet one of the park horses. Learn about safety and sharing the trails with horses. Bandy Creek Amphitheater or Bandy Creek Stables.

**Junior Ranger Activities -** Different activities will be offered at Bandy Creek Visitor Center throughout the summer.

## ON THE COVER

Photos of Angel Falls Overlook, Mountain Laurel in bloom and Needle Arch.

## PARKS ON THE INTERNET

Many National Park areas have a web page. 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](http://www.nps.gov). Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area page may be directly accessed through [www.nps.gov/biso](http://www.nps.gov/biso).

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### Kentucky

**Scrip -** Program detailing the history of coal scrip. Audience will have an opportunity to examine examples of the Stearns Coal and Lumber Company scrip. Blue Heron Church.

**WWII - Blue Heron and the Home Front -** How did the coal industry and the people in the Stearns Company contribute to the war effort?

**Sunday Afternoon Nature Walk- Blue Heron Coal Mining Community -** Topic will vary with the season.

**Night Hike - Blue Heron Coal Mining Community -** Living in a coal mining camp had its rewards and challenges. Bring a flashlight and wear comfortable walking shoes, not sandals. Meet at the Blue Heron Depot.

**Owl Prowl -** Hear facts and folklore about owls. Take an easy evening stroll and learn how to "call in" Barred Owls. Bring a flashlight in case of emergency, but be ready to walk quietly in the dark.

**Coal Miner's Music: His Story in Song -** Highlight the history of early and popular coal mining song through their recordings.

**Moonshining -** Program describes the making of moonshine and the history of moonshine in this area.

**Evening Music Program - Music Tells Stories -** Come learn about the land that became Big South Fork NRR, its natural resources and the people who lived and worked here. You're welcome to sing-along.

**Evening Legends Program -** For generations, local folks have passed along stories about unusual occurrences, people and places of the Cumberland Plateau. Some of these stories happened close by. Listen to legends and let your imagination go wild. Maybe you'd like to share a story.

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## WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area!

Congress established Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in 1974 to provide recreational opportunities and to preserve and protect its resources. It belongs to the American people and is administered by the National Park Service to both protect those resources and to provide for an array of healthful outdoor recreational activities.

This year Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area will complete its first General Management Plan. This plan, developed with public input and comment, will provide the park service with a “map” to guide the management, development and maintenance of Big South Fork NRRRA for the next 10-15 years.

We have benefited from the care of past generations, and our care now will keep the area as a priceless gift for future generations.

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

Sincerely,

Reed E. Detring  
Superintendent  
Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

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## MAKE YOUR FIRST STOP HERE

By Lynn Thornton

Whether you are a first-time or regular visitor to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, your first stop should be at one of the park visitor centers where informed park personnel will help you get the most out of your visit.

Park staff at Bandy Creek, Tennessee, and Stearns, Kentucky, can provide information on camping, hiking, river use, horseback riding, and the most scenic views in the park. Staff also will advise you of weather conditions, known safety hazards on the trails and river, and guidelines on backcountry camping.

In addition to supplying information about the Big South Fork, staff members can suggest nearby historic sites and state parks to visit, and provide the driving directions to them.

The visitor has access to several free brochures, pamphlets, booklets, and handouts about the park and surrounding areas. Both visitor centers have boxes and counters with these items. Sit awhile and read this material or enjoy the interesting exhibits of cultural and natural artifacts, photographs, and animal specimens. Someone in gray and green may add to your knowledge by answering your questions about these displays.

For those looking for specialized maps, books or a unique souvenir to take home there is an Eastern National bookstore inside each visitor center. Eastern National is a co-operating association that sells educational items. A portion of its proceeds is donated to the Big South Fork. Visitor center staff members are very familiar with the contents of the bookstores—don't hesitate to ask them for a recommendation or their advice.

Do you need your National Park Passbook stamped? Each visitor center, as well as Blue Heron Mining Community, has its own stamp. Each sells backcountry permits, Golden Age and National Park Passes, and issues the disabled access through the Golden Access Passport.

These are just a few of the services provided to visitors by the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area Visitor Centers in Tennessee and Kentucky. Making them the first stop on your visit will go a long way to making your stay in the Big South Fork a pleasant and memorable one.

Note: Bandy Creek Visitor Center is open every day except Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST and 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. DST during the summer months. It is located just off Hwy. 297, 15 miles west of Oneida, TN. The Bandy Creek Visitor Center telephone number is (423) 286-7275 (PARK). The Kentucky Visitor Center is open 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST (Mar.—Nov.) Call for days and times (Dec—Feb.) (606) 376-5073. It is located on Hwy. 92, west of downtown Stearns, KY.



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## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

When emergency medical assistance is needed, dial 911 or:

### Tennessee

#### **Bandy Creek Visitor Center**

(423) 286-7275 (PARK) - 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during the summer.

**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

#### **Fentress County General Hospital**

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

#### **Fentress County Ambulance**

(931) 879-8147

#### **Fentress County Sheriff**

Jamestown, TN (931) 879-8142

### Kentucky

#### **Kentucky Visitor Center at Stearns**

(606) 376-5073. During train season 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

#### **Blue Heron Interpretive Center**

(606) 376-3787

#### **McCreary County Ambulance**

(606) 376-5062

#### **McCreary County Sheriff**

(606) 376-2322

## CAMPGROUNDS

By Kathy Daugherty, Supervisory Visitor Use Assistant

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 Spherics Inc. 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 month of October. Check-in for the campground is at the entrance station kiosk.

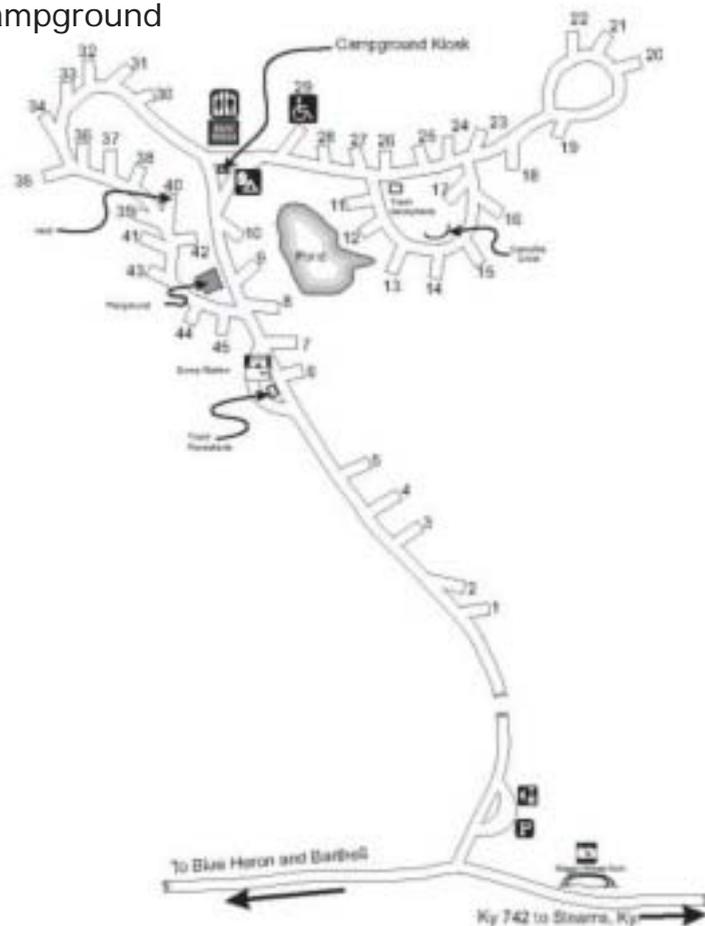
From November 1 through March 31 campsites are only taken on a first-come, first-served basis. During this time campers self register by filling out an envelope from the entrance station, picking their site and then placing the fee into the provided envelope. Drop the envelope into the fee collection 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. Two sites in area D are wheel chair accessible. In the group area, E-1 is also wheelchair accessible. Restroom facilities are also accessible in these areas.

Bandy Creek sites 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, RV's, 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 area offers 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. Groups which are smaller than 25 campers must pay the minimum \$75.00 per night fee.

### Blue Heron Campground



### Campground Pool

We also offer a pool at the Bandy Creek Campground. The pool hours are from 11:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. daily Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Prices are for campers:	Family/stay	\$6.00
	Person/stay	\$2.00
For non-campers:	Family/day	\$6.00
	Person/day	\$2.00

You can also purchase an annual pool permit for the summer season:

Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$35.00

Other non-camping fees are \$5.00 for the dump station and \$2.00/person for showers.

For additional information call Bandy Creek Campground (423) 286-8368.

### Blue Heron

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

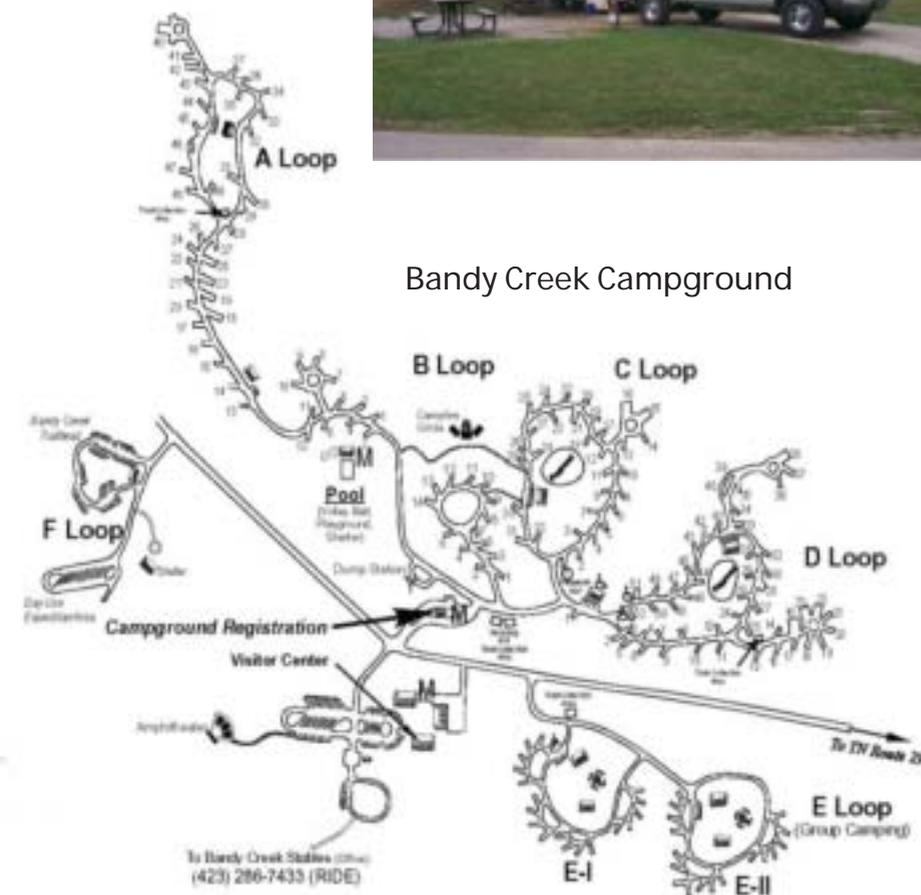
Blue Heron offers 45 sites, with one site that is designated wheel chair accessible. Restroom facilities are also accessible. There is a fire ring and a dump station provided. Sites are \$15.00 per night with water/electric hookups. Although a reservation system is in place, campers are still welcome 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. It offers 7 campsites. There are no restroom facilities or water located at this area. The fee is \$5.00 per night. For additional information call (606) 286-2611. Alum Ford also has a boat ramp. Fees for the boat area are \$3.00 per day.

**Note: Spherics Inc. will no longer be the National Park Service Campground Reservation system provider as of the end of 2003. Reserve America will be the new National Park Service provider.**

Trailer camping at Bandy Creek Campground.



## GENERAL INFORMATION



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

## VISITOR CENTERS

Tennessee - Bandy Creek Visitor Center  
(423) 286 7275 (PARK).

Kentucky - Kentucky 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.

### Kentucky Visitor Center at Stearns

The visitor center and restrooms are accessible.

### Campgrounds

Bandy Creek and Blue Heron Campgrounds have designated wheel chair accessible sites for families and groups. Restroom facilities are also accessible. Water and electrical hook-ups are available at both campgrounds also.

### 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 and Kentucky Visitor Centers 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 list below for authorized backcountry permit vendors. Please contact (423) 286-8368 for more information. Permits are checked by rangers and are necessary when emergencies arise where a ranger may need to contact you.

### Tennessee Vendors

Big John's (Marathon Gas) (423) 569-9004  
Country Store (423) 569-5010

Rugby Commissary (423) 628-5166  
R & M Brooks and Son (423) 628-2533  
Buckhorn's (423) 569-9452  
Stop N Go Market Elgin (423) 627-4100  
Willie Lee's General Store (931) 879-6987  
Big John's #2 (Exxon Gas) (423) 569-6122  
Express Market & Deli (931) 879-8132  
Allardt Food Mart (931) 879-8051  
T & S Grocery (931) 879-0895

### Kentucky Vendors

Fastway (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  
Hansford Grocery (606) 376-5379

## 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 with exciting whitewater. Peak times for river use are in the spring and sometimes late fall or winter. There are a number of commercial companies who provide 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

### Tally Ho Stables

P.O. Box 4773  
Oneida, Tennessee 37841  
(423) 569-9472

## 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) File a trip report with rangers at the Bandy Creek or Kentucky Visitor Center.

## LOST AND FOUND

Lost items may be reported to rangers at the Bandy Creek or Kentucky 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 Kentucky Visitor Center or at Blue Heron.

## CONCESSIONAIRES

Bandy Creek Stables - (423) 286-7433  
Big South Fork Scenic Railway - (800) GOALONG  
Charit Creek Lodge - (865) 429-5704  
Eastern National - (423) 286-7275  
Station Camp Equestrian Area - (423) 569-3321  
Bear Creek Equestrian Areas - (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, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 (502) 564-4336

### 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.

Check Kentucky and Tennessee hunting guides for Small Game Seasons.

## EASTERN NATIONAL

During your visit to Big South Fork NRR or Obed WSR you are invited to stop by one of the Eastern National bookstores located at the visitor centers. These bookstores offer a variety of books, maps and local craft items. Eastern National is a non-profit, cooperating association authorized by Congress to assist the National Park Service in providing educational and interpretive materials to the public. Each year Eastern National donates a percentage of all income to the parks in which they operate. These donations are used to further the historical, scientific and educational activities of the National Park Service. The publication of this paper was made possible due to these donations.

## 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 their crops, vegetable gardens and livestock 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



Cliff Thacker demonstrates the art of blacksmithing. Top right: Martn Henry woodcarving. Bottom right: Women's work display with Beath Byler carding wool.



Mule drawn equipment turns the fields at the Lora Blevins home place.

the house and bed linens, repairing paling fences, livestock care and animal husbandry, 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 Third Annual Spring Planting Day on Saturday, April 12, 2003. The event will take place at the Lora Blevins home place located on West Bandy Creek Road from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Skilled persons will be demonstrating forgotten arts such as blacksmithing, basket making, hand spinning, weaving, woodcarving, chair caning, soap making, garden herb lore and use, plowing and planting with mules and horses, and paling fence making. Displays of cooking, 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. Come join in our celebration of spring and traditional mountain ways.

## BIG SOUTH FORK, A SKY OBSERVER'S DELIGHT

By Paul Lewis, Astronomy Outreach University of Tennessee

I have been presenting programs in Big South Fork for over 13 years. I have always enjoyed coming to this beautiful dark, quiet and secluded place for the benefit of the wonderful night skies. You don't even need a telescope to enjoy the thousands of stars, the planets and the vistas of the Milky Way. If you have a pair, bring your binoculars. They are the best way to get acquainted with the stars. This year, I plan to spend some time showing you how great just a pair of binoculars can be. You can see open and globular clusters, beautiful star forming clouds of gases called nebulae, the Galilean moons of Jupiter and an occasional satellite as it zips across your field of view. Where and when are the best places and times to observe will be discussed.

We will, of course, bring and set up telescopes for your viewing experience as we search for fainter objects beyond the grasp of binoculars. Jupiter will be high in the sky in May. Mars will be at opposition in August so we will have a wonderful view of the "Red" planet this year as it will be at its closest. Solar observing is always popular so we will set up our special filters on our scopes in both May and October.

This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of manned, powered flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright. What they did in 1903 merely amounted to flying 22 feet a distance that is today just shy of the wingtip to wingtip measurement of a B-2 bomber. The efforts of the Wright brothers and the efforts of so many who followed will be addressed in a program on "How and Why We Left Earth and Re-discovered the Solar System".

We will visit the heavens from the Big South Fork in May, June, August and October this year. Even if you can't make it for the whole weekend, I hope you will be able to join us for our Saturday evening adventures in astronomy.

**Eleventh Annual  
A Haunting in the "Hills"  
Storytelling  
Festival**

**September 20, 2003**

**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 <i>guaranteed to thrill and chill listeners of all ages.</i>

**Featured Artists**

Bev Twillmann	Mike Anderson	Lynn Rubright	Perrin Stifel
Fred Shaw	Finley Stewart	Faye Wooden	Annette Harrison

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

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# RIVER DANCE

By Kevin Moses, Protection Ranger

“Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it.” These words were immortalized by author Norman Maclean in his timeless memoir of his boyhood fishing days, *A River Runs Through It*. The book recounts how he and his brother, through their father’s wisdom, learned to appreciate the blessings that can only be found in the glorious waters of a free-flowing river. Maclean was fortunate both to have grown up along the shores of such a splendid waterway and to have had a father who knew the worth of acquainting his children with wild rivers.

Maclean’s beloved river is in Montana, but folks visiting the Cumberland Plateau region can enjoy the pleasures of free-flowing rivers right here along the 75 plus miles of navigable waterways within the boundaries of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. A number of recreational possibilities exist for visitors in and near the park’s watercourses, such as picnicking and hiking along the shorelines, swimming in cool, refreshing pools, and fishing for the many species of game fish that call the rivers and streams home.

And for many visitors, a favorite way to enjoy the rivers and explore the park’s more remote regions is by plying the waters via paddle-powered craft. In their book, *Paddle Your Own Canoe*, Gary and Joanie McGuffin remind us that “traveling by wild waterways leads us as much inward as onward.” Whether you’re paddling your own canoe, kayak, inflatable kayak (duckie), oar-frame or paddle



raft, you’ll have several options by which to travel inward and onward at Big South Fork. The park’s rivers boast a full spectrum of difficulty levels to challenge folks, regardless of their paddling abilities.

For a relaxing flatwater float, visitors can put-in at Blue Heron and paddle ten miles to the improved take-out at Alum Ford. Another stretch that offers relatively flat water, with some fun Class I ripples scattered here and there, is the eight miles from Leatherwood Ford to Station Camp (with one major portage, the Class IV Angel Falls rapids). Or, for those wishing to embark on a two- or three-day excursion, put in at Station Camp and paddle 17 miles to Blue Heron. Paddlers can expect Class I rapids here, too, and another major portage, the Class IV Devils Jump rapids. Of course, an even longer trip, 35 miles and three to four days, is available by simply putting in at Leatherwood Ford and going all the way to Alum Ford.

So what about those who are seeking the type of thrilling experience that can only be found amidst the roaring thunder of more difficult whitewater? Big South Fork can be their playground, too. Put in at Zenith on North White Oak Creek and paddle 8.5 miles of Class II+ whitewater through a narrow, enchanting gorge that eventually opens into the main river a mile and a half above Leatherwood Ford. Due to several narrow drops, canoes, kayaks, and duckies are more suitable for this run than are rafts. Another moderate run of Class II and III rapids is the 16.5 miles between Peters Bridge and Burnt Mill Bridge on the Clear Fork (and two shorter trips, either 6 or 10.5 miles, are possible by using Brewster Bridge as a launch or take-out site). Either way, the Clear Fork offers charming scenery and enjoyable paddling for those skilled in moderate difficulty levels.

But that’s just the beginning of the excitement that can be found on the Big South Fork. For a more challenging float, skilled boaters can run the sections of river

commonly known as the “Canyon” and the “Gorge.” These two stretches offer Class III and IV rapids, respectively, and are the pinnacle of whitewater experiences at the park. The Canyon run starts at Pine Creek, which is accessed off the O&W Road, and ends four miles later at Leatherwood Ford. Though short-lived, this trip offers jam-packed action right from the put-in and dramatic, sweeping vistas of the rim-rock that towers above the river.

The lengthier Gorge trip, 11 miles, begins at Burnt Mill Bridge (see page 9 for bridge closure information) on the Clear Fork and continues through the Canyon section on to Leatherwood Ford. This trip is particularly worthy of a run for appropriately skilled boaters, in that they are blessed to witness at once both an awesome spectacle and a moment of grace: The birth of a mighty river. Four miles downstream from Burnt Mill Bridge, the Clear Fork joins with the New River at the Confluence, and behold, the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River is born! With renewed momentum from two streams merging into one great river, it surges forward with an average gradient of 20 feet per mile, offering to intrepid souls a whitewater roller-coaster ride on a Class IV scale. As your boat slams down hard into the foaming froth of a big, scary drop, and your heart is pounding deep in your chest as you feel the raw, muscular power of the river beneath your boat, take solace in an old English proverb: “A skillful mariner a smooth sea never made.”

For those willing to become intimate with it, this section of the Big South Fork will reveal unto them an enriching glimpse of its true and dichotomous character; a glimpse that only a few are fortunate enough to see. And the experience they take home with them will remain in their memory always. As Mark Twain once wrote, “The face of the river in time became a wonderful book... which told its mind to me without reserve, delivering its most cherished secrets as if it had uttered them with a voice.”

Regardless of which trip you choose, please be sure to follow several safety precautions. First off, choose a trip according to the abilities of you and your paddling partners. Do not over-estimate your abilities, or under-estimate the river’s power. Keep in mind that difficulty levels vary according to flow rates, which can change quickly, sometimes with little warning. Typically winter and spring are the seasons for river rafting and canoeing as the free-flowing river usually drops in level during the summer and fall. Carry with you all the equipment that you will need, depending on the difficulty of the water you expect to encounter. At a minimum, bring a sturdy, dependable boat, personal floatation devices (PFDs) for each member in your party, extra paddles, throw ropes, and appropriate clothing depending on water and ambient temperatures and expected weather conditions. Hypothermia can happen quickly if you are not prepared. There is a fifty-fifty rule that paddlers use which states if the air temperature and the water temperature do not add up to 100 than you need a wet/dry suit. For whitewater sections, wear a helmet as well.

Also, be sure to tell a responsible party exactly where you intend to travel. Leave an itinerary with them including put-in and take-out times and locations, descriptions of your vehicles, expected time of return, names of those in your party, park phone numbers, and what to do if you fail to return on time. This information will assist rangers in our efforts to locate you in the event that you’re reported overdue. Another simple step you can take to make your trip safer and more enjoyable is to call the park or stop in at a visitor center or ranger station and speak with a ranger about the trip you intend to take. Also, request ahead of time river brochures and maps, and remember to read information posted on kiosks at the put-in. And lastly, if your adventure takes you overnight, don’t forget to secure the required backcountry camping permit from a campground, visitor center, or any one of several local merchants who sell them.

Whether you are a newcomer to the joy of navigating free-flowing rivers, or a seasoned veteran whose paddle has dipped into waters the world over, we extend to you an invitation to come visit the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. Experience its magic as your craft glides effortlessly and without a sound across its glassy surface; let it speak to you...listen to what it has to say. Like Norman Maclean, allow a beautiful river to flow into the fabric of your life, stirring your soul as it meanders its way northward.

Perhaps Kenneth Grahame, in his classic children’s book, *The Wind in the Willows*, captures it best as he describes an encounter between two friends: “I’ve never been in a boat before,” said the Mole. “What?” cried the Water Rat. “Believe me, there is nothing half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats,” he said dreamily. “Just—messing—about. Say, I have an idea. Suppose we go down river.”

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## SIMPLY DI-VINE

By Sherry Fritschi, Park Ranger Interpretation

A friend of mine decided to make grapevine wreaths to give away as gifts. After gathering vines in the woods, she twisted them into attractive wreaths to decorate. Unfortunately, her skin broke out in a rash that most of us have come to know sooner or later. Her uninvited guest, poison ivy, has a reputation for making the skin of its host blister and itch. If only she had known how to identify some common vines, she could have avoided touching it.

Big South Fork provides numerous opportunities to leave pavement behind and go into the woods. What hiker hasn't enjoyed resting upon a boulder or fallen tree? Because plants need to reach for the sun, some of them creep slowly towards boulders and trees. Inch by inch, vines twine their way up so their leaves can catch more rays and produce more food through photosynthesis. With a little know-how, a visitor to the woods can live in harmony with nature's vineyard.

The three most common vines encountered in the park are grape, Virginia creeper and poison ivy. Learning to identify them by their leaves is only part of the story because sometimes the greenery is way up high and difficult to see. When leaves fall in the autumn, identifying vines can be tricky but important. Urushiol, the oil in poison ivy leaves that causes allergic reactions, is also present in the woody plant parts. Becoming familiar with characteristics of leaves, wood and vine will help insure that your vacation memories are itch free.

If poison ivy always looked the same it would be easier to identify. The mature plant blooms small yellowish flowers, some of which are pollinated and develop whitish-green berries, a winter food for birds. Often poison ivy grows low to the ground on a short stem.

Things get a little hairy when a poison ivy plant decides to catch a few more rays. Eventually, it bumps into a tree or rock to climb. Just like a person shimmying up a tree, if it doesn't hold on tightly it will fall off. We have a limited number of arms and legs, but a poison ivy plant that chooses to be a vine when it grows up, sprouts lots of hairy roots. As it gains girth and height, the vine attaches itself by hair, by golly. **Do not touch a hairy vine** and never forget "leaves of three, leave it be."



If you develop a rash and can't recall touching poison ivy, you might have contacted the oil by using a garden tool. Urushiol can lie in wait for years on an object until the next victim comes along. Also, the tail-wagging family pet can share with you more than friendship after a walk through the woods. Oil clings quite nicely to hair then transfers to hands. Wash with soap, and then rinse with lots of water to dilute the oil. Gently patting the skin with rubbing alcohol will help neutralize the oil. Numerous ointments can be purchased to treat the skin rash. It may provide some relief as will the knowledge that bursting a blister will not spread the rash. Just like the common cold, it will last about two weeks whether or not you treat it.

The plant most often confused with poison ivy is Virginia creeper. The compound toothed leaves usually have five leaflets, the small flowers are green and the ripe berries are blue. This vine has tight bark with a knotty surface. Virginia creeper holds on with tendrils that look like disk-tipped bean runners. Take a peek for yourself but watch out for poison ivy. It often grows alongside Virginia creeper.

Old-timers say that wild grapes used to be more plentiful than they are today. Probably many large grapevines were cut years ago when trees were harvested for timber, but some remained and new vines sprouted from seeds and cuttings. "Corkscrew" tendrils grasp onto trees as the vines climb and wind towards the sky. The toothed heart-shaped grape leaves and green flowers intermingle with the tree's leaves. Come fall, a wild turkey looking for acorns on the forest floor will find a fallen grape now and then.

A mature grapevine is easy to distinguish from a stout hairy poison ivy vine. By the time it has gradually twisted around trunk and branch, the grapevine can be as big around as an adult's arm. The bark naturally peels loose in long thin strips that give the vine a ragged appearance.

Next time you're in the woods, look for these three vines and become familiar with their characteristics. Now that you know how to avoid the negative side of poison ivy, you might find it attractive. After all, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

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## LEAVE NOTHING BUT HOOFPRIENTS - OR - HOW TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS ON HORSEBACK

By Howard Ray Duncan, Park Ranger Interpretation

No question about it, a day in the woods on horseback is a great pleasure. Spending a day or even a few hours with a good horse and good friends is a wonderful experience. However, horses do have an impact on the land. By consideration and forethought the rider can help minimize the impact their mounts have upon the trails and landscape. A little attention to preserving the land can make riding more enjoyable for all. Following are some suggestions for minimizing impact on the land we ride through.

Riders should stay on designated trails.

Do not ride on trails not designated for equestrian use. Trails not designed for horse use can be heavily damaged by even one trip through by horses.

Don't be tempted to cut across switchbacks, severe erosion will result.

Use provided hitch rails. Do not tie horses to trees.

Keep group size small.

Do not litter.

Be considerate of other riders when meeting on trails.

Consider riding during dryer seasons.

Time your trip to coincide with periods of low use. You may find that you have the trail all to your self.

Train your horse to go through muddy areas not around them. Riding around muddy areas only widens them, creating greater impact.

Ride directly across streams when you must ford. Only cross at designated fording areas. Big South Fork River crossings are marked with orange flags.

If backcountry camping with horses, scatter manure well away from your campsite and well away from streams.

Consider volunteering to maintain your favorite trail or adopt a trail in need.



Many horse trails leave from the Bandy Creek area.

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## MOUNTAIN BIKING GROWING IN BIG SOUTH FORK

By Joe Cross, Big South Fork Bicycle Club

The idea of riding a bicycle in the backcountry has blossomed. Since the late 1980's, the sport of mountain biking has seen tremendous growth across the globe. It is now an Olympic event and has been embraced by the public as a true sport and not merely a passing fad.

All across the country, people are using bicycles to explore the great outdoors. Our Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area is no exception. Bicycles are allowed on many of the trails in Big South Fork enabling cyclists to explore the thousands of acres of natural beauty in our area.

The bicycles are a lot like the balloon-tired cruisers of the 50's. Fat tires and an upright riding position allow riders to traverse the dirt trails quite nicely—easily rolling over many of the bumps and obstacles present on the trail. The technology explosion of recent years has also influenced the bike industry. The bicycles now have built-in shock absorbers, stronger wheels, more gears, stronger-but-lighter frames, and easier braking.

Better clothing materials allow the riders to stay cooler in the hot weather, warmer in cold weather, and drier in the rain. Backpacks that have a water system attached allow riders to carry plenty of water and food and other supplies effortlessly. All of these factors working together allow the riders to ride farther and stay out in the woods for longer periods of time. It is not unusual for riders to be equipped with lighting systems to allow trail riding after the sun goes down.

All recent health studies continue to show the unhealthiness of the American population. The U.S. is fatter and more out of shape than ever. Schools do not offer any type of physical education for our children. Video games, home computers, and the "Net" have the effect of luring children inside the house instead of outside in the fresh air and sunshine. The baby-boomer generation will probably live longer than their parents—but will also be facing a poorer quality of life in those years due to health neglect. However, the news is not all bad, for many families have discovered the benefits of cycling. Parents' riding

with their children allows them to have fun—together. Whether they are on a paved road or a trail, the mountain bike allows more comfortable riding for everyone. The fitness benefits are becoming more known to everyone and more people are beginning to ride for better health...and are having fun doing it.

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area is somewhat unique. It was only the second unit of the National Park System to allow bicycles on the trails. Local volunteers worked closely with the Park Service to identify certain trails for cycling. The volunteers helped construct the trails, built and erected the signs, and mapped out the trails for the Big South Fork visitors. The local mountain bike volunteers have "adopted" the trails and routinely maintain them. This eases the budget crunch of the park and allows a good working relationship between the user group and the National Park Service. They have also tried to educate the user group by showing the visitors proper trail etiquette as determined by the International Mountain Bike Association. All of this information is available at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center.

Better bikes, more technologically advanced clothing and supplies, and the desire for better health have all played a role in getting more people riding bicycles for recreation. The low cost of the sport allows virtually everyone to purchase a bike and explore the great outdoors inexpensively and healthfully. The main factor, however, in the increasing numbers of riders is that it is just plain FUN. Spirits are rejuvenated, stress is relieved, and tough-to-break bonds are formed. The Big South Fork NRRRA is a wonderful playground allowing for this type of clean, cheap, healthy FUN.



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## BURNT MILL BRIDGE IS CLOSED

By Howard Ray Duncan, Park Ranger Interpretation

Burnt Mill Bridge is closed indefinitely. The bridge, which is the property of Scott County Highway Department, was closed in October of 2002. The closure was necessary for public safety, as the old bridge is considered too hazardous to use. The Tennessee Department of Transportation, in the early 1990's, recommended Burnt Mill Bridge for replacement. Construction of a new bridge was investigated in 1993 and planning for new bridge construction was undertaken. Although plans are being finalized for the construction of a new bridge, the construction dates are not currently known.

The existing bridge was built in 1930. The bridge is a two-truss span consisting of a Pratt through-truss span and a Pony truss span. (A Pony truss is characterized by a lack of struts and lateral top bracing.) Before that time the only way to cross the river was by actually fording in the riverbed. Local residents used a particular boulder in the river as a gage of water depth to decide if the river was too deep to cross safely. This boulder was known as the "fording rock". The bridge receives its name from the fact that it was built on the site of an early twentieth century water powered gristmill, which of course burned. Traces of the old mill may still be seen in the riverbed at low water. An attempt was also made to mine coal near what is now the parking area on the west side of the bridge. Due to constant flooding the mine had to be abandoned. The old mine site was reclaimed in the late 1980's along with development of the parking area.

The closure of the Burnt Mill Bridge means that persons wishing to visit the Burnt Mill Bridge River Access and Trailhead or the Honey Creek Overlook and Trail must use an alternate route. Traveling from the east, one should take Highway 52 west from Elgin at US 27 continuing through Rugby to the Mt. Helen Road. Follow signs for Burnt Mill Bridge from there. Traveling from Bandy Creek take 297 west to Highway 154 and then 154 South into Jamestown. In Jamestown take Highway 52 east through Allardt to the Mt. Helen Road. Follow signs for Burnt Mill Bridge. If you are traveling north on US 127 toward Jamestown you may take Highway 296 east from US 127 to Allardt and then Highway 52 east from there.



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## BIG SOUTH FORK COAL IS CONNECTED TO GREAT LAKES LUMBER

By Edward W. Lollis, Knoxville, TN

The people of Blue Heron Community in Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area worked nearby coal mines from 1937 until 1962. They received their supplies from Stearns, Kentucky, over the Kentucky & Tennessee Railway and shipped their coal by the same route.

Today, the Blue Heron Community is an open-air museum of the National Park Service. The K&T has become the privately-operated Big South Fork Scenic Railway (606-376-5330).

Visitors can ride the train between Blue Heron and Stearns. Along the way, they can stop and see more coal mining history at the privately-restored Barthell Coal Mining Camp (606-376-8749).

All of these facilities—the town of Stearns, the railroad, Blue Heron, Barthell, and several other mines—were once the property of a single company. And its former office building in Stearns is now the McCreary County Museum (606-376-5730) — where even more history can be seen.

Curiously, the company which did so much in Kentucky was in fact run from Ludington, Michigan. That's because Justus Stearns [1845-1933], one of the last of the Great Lakes "lumber barons," was running out of timber to cut in Michigan. He found more timber in Wisconsin and Washington and Florida. And he invested in other Ludington businesses: Salt, hotels, marine engines—even the famous Carrom game board company.

But his biggest investment was coal and timber along the Big South Fork. Stearns hired Edward East Barthell [1866-1937], a lawyer from Nashville, to help acquire

130,000 acres in Kentucky and Tennessee. In 1902, they created the new company which they named Stearns for the Michigan "lumber baron." And within a year they were producing their first coal —from a mine named Barthell for the Tennessee lawyer.

Edward East Barthell and Stearns' son Robert Lyon Stearns [1872-1939], married sisters in Nashville. By 1915, Barthell was doing so much business for the companies of Justus Stearns that he moved his law practice to Chicago.

Both families—Barthell and Stearns—had summer cottages together on Lake Michigan. And both families are laid to rest in Ludington's Lakeview Cemetery. In the Stearns mausoleum lie Justus Stearns, his son, and his grandson—the first three presidents of the Stearns Coal & Lumber Company of Stearns, Kentucky.



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## KENTUCKY'S CUMBERLANDS CORRIDOR What a Great Place to Be

By Christopher J. Stubbs, Community Planner

Shining lakes. Deep river gorges. Sandstone arches. Civil War battlefields. Historic mining towns. Scenic train rides. What do these things have in common? The answer is the Cumberlands Corridor of southeastern Kentucky.

The Cumberlands Corridor is a five-county area that stretches from Lake Cumberland west to Somerset and south along Route 27 to the Kentucky/Tennessee line. This area is home to premier outdoor recreation, rich cultural heritage, and scenic tourist destinations.

Lake Cumberland is the largest man-made water body east of the Mississippi River. On its glassy waters you can rent a houseboat, go water skiing, or fish to your heart's content. Along the shores of Lake Cumberland lies the historic Mill Springs Battlefield, where the Union defeated Confederate troops in early 1862 in a fierce battle for this crucial border state. A visit to the battlefield reveals that Mill Springs was the first significant Union victory of the Civil War. It proved critical to Union control of Kentucky and the interior South and shaped later developments in the war.

East of Lake Cumberland lies the Daniel Boone National Forest, which abounds in outdoor recreation opportunities. For a horseback rider, this is the place to be: miles of equestrian trails link scenic destinations and several horse camps, including Barren Fork and Bell Farm. The Sheltoewe Trace National Recreation Trail runs through the forest, offering hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders the chance for long-distance travel in the backcountry. Along this trail, one can find such scenic destinations as Rock Creek, Hemlock Grove picnic area, and Great Meadow campground. For the sportsman, Daniel Boone National Forest is open to hunting and fishing under Kentucky State regulations.

Nestled in the southern end of the "Boone" is the National Historic District of Stearns. Stearns was once a booming company town and headquarters for the Stearns Coal and Lumber Company. Today you can tour through original and restored buildings, one of which houses the McCreary County Museum, and enjoy numerous shopping opportunities. A short drive from Stearns is the stunning Cumberland Falls State Park. The thunderous waterfall in this park,

which is located on the main stem of the Cumberland River, carries one of the largest water volumes of any falls in the east. Cumberland Falls is also home to one of only two world-known "Moonbows". This phenomenon appears only at night during the full moon.

Finally there is Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, which anchors the southern end of the Cumberlands Corridor. A unit of the National Park System, Big South Fork offers unparalleled scenery, outstanding recreation, and abundant cultural history. You can find out more about the park's features by stopping by the Kentucky Visitor Center in Stearns on Highway 92 or contact them at (606)376-5073.

Within the Kentucky portion of Big South Fork, Blue Heron draws tens of thousands of visitors each year. Once a bustling coal-mining town, Blue Heron is now an oral history center with "ghost structures" and restored mining artifacts that tell the tale of the people and events of this coal-mining town. Visitors can drive to Blue Heron, or ride there on the Big South Fork Scenic Railway, a charming open-air train ride through the heart of the former coal country. The train makes layovers during its trips at the town of Barthell. Barthell is a restored coal mining town located just outside the park.

Big South Fork visitors can camp in the established campground at Blue Heron, or they may choose to spend the night in a rustic campsite at Alum Ford or in the backcountry. One can enjoy miles of hiking and equestrian trails, and the more adventurous at heart can go rock climbing or mountain biking. While here, do not forget to visit Yahoo Falls — at 113 feet high, it is the tallest waterfall in Kentucky. Outdoor adventurers take note: the area on the west side of the river between Blue Heron and the Kentucky/Tennessee state line may be the wildest and most remote terrain in the state.

And of course there is the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River, perhaps the prime attraction in the park. The river is famous for its springtime whitewater rafting and year-round canoeing and kayaking. Visitors come from all over the country in the springtime to ride the wild and free flowing rapids. North of Blue Heron, the river is flat water and provides excellent motor boating and fishing opportunities. There are scores of isolated coves where you can catch trophy walleye, catfish, and bass.

The Cumberlands Corridor of southeastern Kentucky. When you visit, you will say, "Aren't we lucky to be in Kentucky?"

## RARE, THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES, SO WHAT?

By Tom Blount, Chief of Resource Management

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area is a unique natural resource area that represents a wide range of plant and animal communities found on the Cumberland Plateau. The natural resources of this area are extremely diverse and many species have evolved in specific habitats that are only found in this area. The river contains one of the most diverse mussel faunas found anywhere in the world, and several species of plants are found in specific habitats associated with cliff areas. The area contains two federally-threatened plants, one federally-threatened animal, eight federally-endangered animals, 80 state-listed plants, and 25 state-listed animals. So what does all this mean and how does this affect the management of Big South Fork?

The Endangered Species Act, a federal law that all federal agencies must abide by, provides specific guidelines for the protection and management of federally-listed plants and animals. Although the National Park Service has agency policies which direct the protection of all natural resources under our care, we are also required to protect those species covered by the Endangered Species Act to the highest level of protection. National Park Service policies also mandate stringent protection for state-listed species.

The reason that animals or plants are listed as federally-threatened or endangered species is that they are extremely rare and may become extinct without active protection efforts. Those species listed as endangered are the rarest and those listed as threatened are rare but not as close to being lost. Plants and animals that are state-listed are those species that are rare for a specific state but not rare enough nationally to be federally listed.

Rare species are sometimes remnant populations which have developed specialized survival strategies that are linked to very specific habitats and others are on the verge of being lost because of exploitation, land use practices or pollution. Rare species are generally more sensitive to environmental changes and can be viewed as indicators of ecosystem stress. Mussels are a good example of species affected by pollution. The five federally-endangered mussel species found in Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area have been affected by water pollution primarily caused by upstream mining activities and pollution from upstream communities. Although water quality has improved in recent years in some sections of the river, we still must protect the remaining mussels and their habitats to the best of our ability in the hope that with improved protection efforts these species will be recovered to sustainable levels.

It is the mission of the National Park Service to protect all resources for future generations and this often requires the balancing of visitor use and park activities with the protection needs of these unique national treasures. Future restoration efforts for an entire region of the country may depend entirely on those resources protected within National Park units such as Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. So as you recreate and enjoy the natural resources of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, please be aware of the potential impacts of your actions and observe park regulations.



Clockwise: Southern Ladieslipper, Asheys Darter and Wood Lily

## BIG SOUTH FORK SCENIC RAILWAY

By Becki Egnew, Business Manager, Big South Fork Scenic Railway

The Big South Fork Scenic Railway, located in Stearns, Kentucky, can offer visitors to Big South Fork a pleasant alternative to experience the park than the traditional methods of hiking, biking, and horseback. The Big South Fork Scenic Railway begins its journey in the National Historic District of Stearns.

The town of Stearns once served as the operational hub for the Stearns Coal & Lumber Company. The Stearns Company was established in 1902. During its heyday the Stearns Company employed over 2000 people. The headquarters building is now home to the McCreary County Museum and remaining buildings in the Historic District offer some of the finest craft, gift, and antique shops around. Visitors will board the train at the restored freight depot. Once aboard, your journey into the past begins. The open-air cars pulled by a diesel engine descend about 600 feet to its destinations of Barthell and Blue Heron. While in route to these restored coal mining camps, you will experience the 286 foot tunnel and some of southern Kentucky's finest scenery.

The mining town of Barthell was the first camp established by the Stearns Coal & Lumber Company. The camp of Barthell was home to about 50 families and operated from 1903 to 1952. The mining camp has been recreated by the Koger family to represent its 1910 appearance. All the structures have been placed on the original sites and constructed from old photographs. Visitors can go on a guided tour for the Barthell experience. Barthell also has cabins for overnight stays. The train makes regular stops at Barthell; however, the camp is also accessible by Mine 18 Road.

The Blue Heron Mining Community, which is now operated by the National Park Service, was the last mining camp built by the Stearns Coal & Lumber Company. Known to many locals as "Mine 18," Blue Heron's coal tipple was built in 1937 and separated coal until 1962. Like Barthell, Blue Heron was also home for many families. Blue Heron has been restored with "ghost structures," which contain visual exhibits and oral history recordings by the people who lived and worked there. Visitors to Blue Heron can walk across the coal tipple on the tramway bridge to get a better view of the gorge area and the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. National Park Service rangers are available for questions while on your self-guided tour.

Trips on the Big South Fork Scenic Railway are approximately four hours in length. The train operates on a limited schedule. The first train of the season is on April 3, 2003. The train operates a full schedule May through October and also runs the first two Saturdays of November.

The train schedule is as follows:

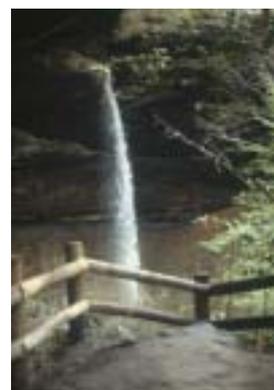
**April** - Thursday and Friday at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Saturday departures are at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 2:30 p.m.

**May through September** - Wednesday through Friday at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Saturdays at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 2:30 p.m. Sunday departures are at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

There is an extended schedule for the month of **October** to catch the fall foliage. Tuesday through Friday at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Saturdays at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 2:30 p.m. and Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

**November 1 and November 8** at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 2:30 p.m.

Departures on Memorial Day Monday and Labor Day Monday are at 11:00 a.m. only. For more information on prices, reservations, and special events call 606-376-5330 (within the McCreary County, Kentucky, or Scott County, Tennessee, area) or 800-462-5664. You can also access information at the Big South Fork Scenic Railway's website of [www.bsfsry.com](http://www.bsfsry.com).



## DISCOVER HISTORIC RUGBY

### At the Big South Fork Southern Boundary

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, crafts workshops and other educational programs are presented year-round. The Rugby colony was established in 1880 by famous British author and social former Thomas Hughes as a social and agricultural Utopia. Twenty historic buildings remain today. The entire Rugby village was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

Historic Rugby is in an area of exceptional natural beauty, 16 miles from Jamestown, 24 miles from Oneida, directly adjacent to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

## HISTORIC RUGBY 2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 27th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF BRITISH & APPALACHIAN CULTURE

Saturday & Sunday, May 17-18

With Continuous British Isles & Appalachian Music & Dancing...  
75 or More Traditional Arts & Craftsfolk Demonstrating & Selling Their Works...  
Storytelling Stage.....Historic Building Tours... Delicious Food  
Event \$7.00 Adults, \$4.00 Students, Members & Preschoolers Free

### 37th RUGBY VILLAGE PILGRIMAGE

Saturday & Sunday, August 2-3

18 or More Open Buildings, Including Many  
Private Historic and New Period Homes

Special Programs....Period Music....Traditional Morris Dancing  
Event \$10.00 Adults, \$4.00 Students and Members ; Preschoolers Free

### HALLOWEEN GHOSTLY GATHERING

Friday & Saturday, October 24-25

A Calling of the Spirits From Rugby's Past &  
A Look at How Halloween Came to Be

Chili & Cornbread Dinner...Candle & Lantern Lit Tours...Storytelling  
Limit 100 Each Night: Adults \$17; Students (6 & Above Only) \$8.  
Advance Reservations

### THANKSGIVING MARKETPLACE

Friday, November 28

Start or Finish Your Christmas Shopping at the Rugby Commissary  
Demonstrating Craftspeople...Tours of Historic Buildings  
Victorian Cream Tea at 1880 Newbury House B & B  
Delicious Meals at the Harrow Road Cafe  
Advance Reservations Required for Cream Tea - \$9.00

### CHRISTMAS AT HISTORIC RUGBY

Saturday, December 6 & Saturday, December 13

Visit Beautifully Decorated & Lamp Lit Historic Buildings  
To Bring an Old Fashioned Christmas Alive

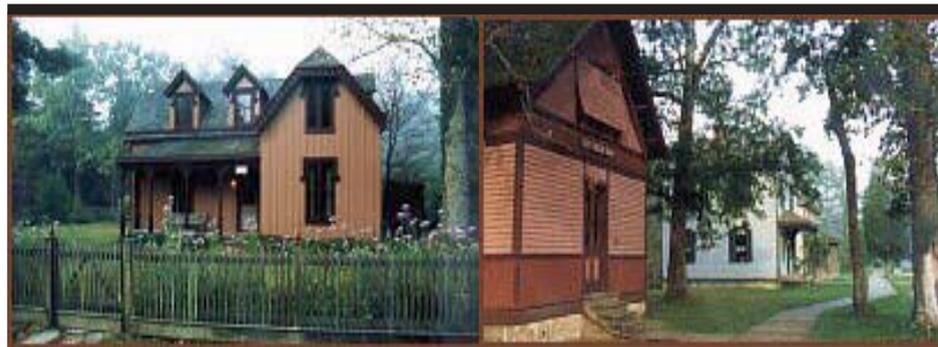
Enjoy Classical Music & Actors Portraying Early Rugby Colonists  
Join in an Old Fashioned Carol Singing w/Hot Wassail  
Lessons & Carols Service at Christ Church Episcopal...  
Christmas Treasure Shopping

Sumptuous Four Course Victorian Dinner at the Harrow Road Cafe  
Event \$6.00 Members, \$8.00 Adults, \$4 Students - Four Course Dinner \$29  
Advance Reservations Required

Call Historic Rugby at (423) 628-2441

For Reservations & Lodging

Email: [rugbytn@highland.net](mailto:rugbytn@highland.net) - Website: [www.historicrugby.org](http://www.historicrugby.org)



## FRIENDS OF THE BIG SOUTH FORK NRRRA

By Greg Love, President, Friends of the Big South Fork

### MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Big South Fork NRRRA provides support and assistance to the National Park Service to preserve, restore and enhance the natural beauty, ecological systems, and the historical heritage of Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area.

### ORGANIZATION

Friends of Big South Fork NRRRA was formed in June of 1995 to establish a voice from the surrounding communities and assist the National Park Service by raising funds, public awareness, and volunteers for needed projects. Over the years, we have raised money through corporate sponsors, special events and individuals. All funds that are received are used to accomplish the above mission statement.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past several years the Friends have assisted Big South Fork with various projects. In the spring of 1998, the Friends helped coordinate equipment and materials to clean up the aftermath of a snowstorm. During the spring of 2000 with the help of one of our directors, Jim Barna, a new log dormitory was constructed to house seasonal and volunteer workers. The cost of this structure was over \$150,000.

The Friends Group assisted with three major special events in 2002. They provided a food concession for the park employees, event staff, and those attending the April Spring Planting Day. Volunteer workers helped with the Annual River Cleanup week in the spring where trash was picked up along the river and trails in the park. During the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Storytelling Festival, "Haunting of the Hills", in September 2002 the Friends provided assistance to the park once again. During this event, Charles Maynard, former director of the Friends of the Smokies, and present director of the International Storytelling Center, addressed our Friends group with ideas for helping our organization to grow.

### ONGOING PROJECTS

The Friends continue to provide support to Big South Fork through donations. Jim Barna Log Homes is currently constructing five small log donation structures that will be placed in strategic areas in the park. Each donation building will have a mailbox to place donations and our quarterly newsletter will be posted on the wall. This project will be completed in spring of 2003.

A feasibility study is underway for the possibility of offering a Friends license plate to be sold. Legislation has been passed by Tennessee for us to go forward with this project. Preliminary drawings have been made and the state has sent the necessary application to us. This project has an initial outlay of \$31,000 and requires 1,000 applicants for the plates. If you have interest in this project, please contact us. Completion of this project will be fall of 2003.

The Friends continue to strive to improve and maintain our great park. With your help, we can accomplish even more. If you have any questions or comments, or would like to make a donation, please contact us at the following address: Friends of Big South Fork, Post Office Box 5407, Oneida, Tennessee 37841, Phone (423) 569-1599, Fax (423) 569-5903.



The proposed Friends of Big South Fork license plate.