



Big South Fork Visitor Guide

2007

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



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2007 Special Events and Program Calendar

Spring Planting Festival

April 28 - 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 at Bandy Creek and the Lora Blevins houseplace. Craft demonstrations and sales will also be on display.

Astronomy

June 16 - Solar Viewing - 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. weather permitting Bandy Creek Visitor Center.

June 16 - Astronomy - Bandy Creek - 9:00 p.m. Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee.

August 18 - Astronomy - Bandy Creek - 9:30 p.m. Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee.

October - Astronomy and Solar Viewing - Bandy Creek date and time to be announced.

Other astronomy programs will be offered at Obed Wild and Scenic River (423) 346-6294.

National Trails Day - June 7

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 22

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, demonstrations and sales. 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 four 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

1:00 p.m. Family Oriented Stories

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. - Ghost Stories

Cumberland Heritage Month

October Saturdays at Blue Heron Mining Community - Enjoy a different cultural heritage activity each week. Demonstrations and presentations include blacksmithing, woodworking, 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 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

Top left: Mountain Laurel blooms. Clockwise Spring Planting Day with Cliff Thacker, Blacksmith; Cumberland Rosemary; Yahoo Falls; horseback riders on the Big Island trail. Bottom right: Blue Heron Tipple. Angel Falls Rapid in the background. All photographs courtesy of the NPS.

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 (NRRRA). It has been two years now since Big South Fork completed development of its first General Management Plan, and we continue to move forward with the exciting and challenging task of implementing the changes which were outlined in the General Management Plan.

Implementation of the designated trail system as defined in the General Management Plan was a top priority last year and will continue to be so for this year and for many years to come. We look forward to the well defined and integrated network of trails which will ultimately be realized at Big South Fork NRRRA.

As you enjoy the vast array of trails in Big South Fork NRRRA this year, you will continue to notice that we are installing 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. What you will also discover is that we are also beginning to install a new system of park bulletin boards not only at trailheads, but at river access points, parking areas and many other locations where park visitors may be stopping or entering Big South Fork NRRRA.

With well over 300 miles of trails to sign and blaze, and over 100 identified bulletin board locations, these projects will be a very time consuming task for park staff to complete. Please be patient.

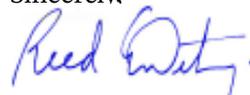
The trail blazing and signing project, general trail maintenance, and even helping in one of the park's two visitor centers continue to provide excellent opportunities for individuals and organized groups to lend their assistance through our Volunteer in Parks program. If you are interested, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator.

Every spring and fall Big South Fork continues to host two major festivals, the Spring Planting Festival in late April and the Haunting in the Hills Storytelling Festival in late September. Both of these events continue to grow in popularity and are fun, free, entertaining and educational ways to come and experience Big South Fork NRRRA.

The staff of Big South Fork NRRRA 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

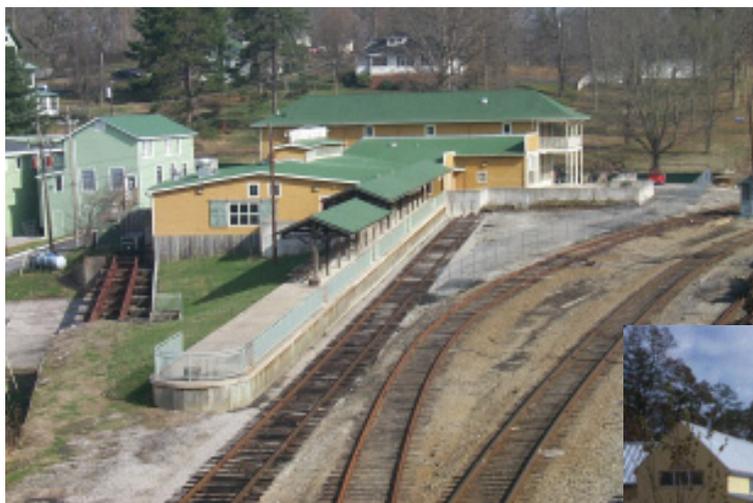
Make Your First Stop Here

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 a 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 both 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 and Interagency Senior, Access, and Annual Passes.

A stop at the visitor center can make your visit more enjoyable, safer, and maximize your time to allow 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.

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) operated by the National Park Service and two horse campgrounds (Station Camp and Bear Creek) operated by a concessionaire. Bandy Creek Campground is located in the Tennessee portion of the park; Blue Heron and Alum Ford campgrounds are located in Kentucky. Station Camp Horse Camp is in Tennessee and Bear Creek is in Kentucky.

Bandy Creek Campground

Bandy Creek Campground is open year round. Sites may be reserved April 1 through October 31 **online at www.recreation.gov** or by calling 1-877-444-6777. 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 will be at the entrance station kiosk.

The Bandy Creek Pool will be open from Memorial Day through Labor Day in 2007. 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 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. Three sites in area D are accessible to mobility impaired visitors. In the group area, E-I is also handicapped accessible. Restroom/bathhouse facilities are located in areas A, C and D which have hot showers and are handicapped accessible.

Bandy Creek sites in areas B, C, and D are **\$22.00 for water/electric hookups** per night and **\$19.00 for tents** per night in Area A. Although Area A has no electric hook-ups, RVs, pop-ups, and horse trailers are permitted in sites A1 – A12. Sites A13 – A49 are restricted for **tents only**. Holders of Senior and Access Passes 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 a 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. Reserva-

tions can be made for the group camp April 1 through November 15 online at www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Blue Heron

Blue Heron Campground sites may be reserved from May 1 through October 31 by calling 1-877-444-6777. Blue Heron is closed during the winter season.

Blue Heron offers 45 sites, with one site designated as accessible to mobility impaired individuals. Restroom facilities are also handicapped accessible. There is a fire ring and a dump station provided. Sites are **\$17.00 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 seven campsites. There are no restroom facilities or drinking 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, but due to Lake Cumberland draw-down the boat ramp is not useable at this time.

Horse Camps

Both Station Camp and Bear Creek are operated by a concessionaire. There is water and electric plus a tie out area for four horses at each site. The bathhouses have hot water showers. For more information about the horse camps or to make reservations call (423) 569-3321.

Horseback riders coming to stay Bandy Creek Campground make separate reservations for their horses at Bandy Creek Stables which is located just across the road from the campground. Paddocks and stalls are available for rent. For more information about Bandy Creek Stables please call (423) 286-7433. See article on page 11 about "Concession at Big South Fork" for additional information.

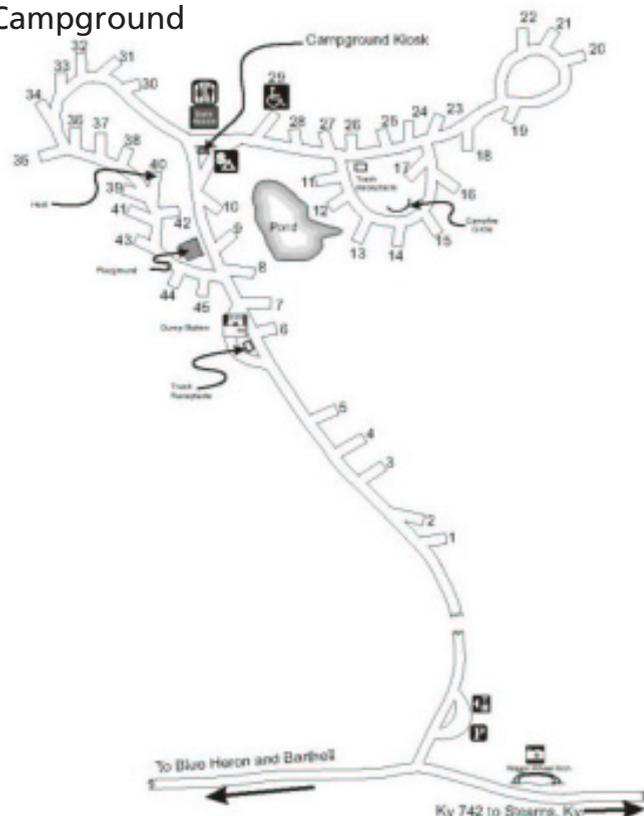
The Bandy Creek Pool

The Bandy Creek Pool will be open for the 2007 summer season from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. Check at the visitor center or campground kiosk for the pool schedule of times and days of operation.

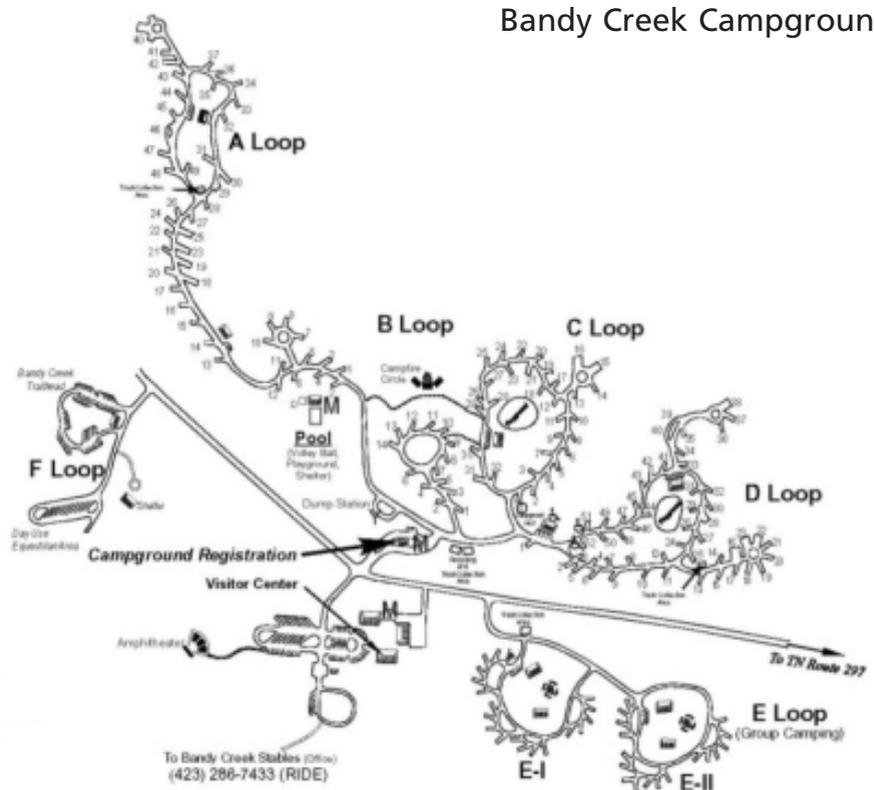
	Regular Rate*	Discount Rate*
Individual Adult	\$3.00	\$1.50
Child 12 and under	\$2.00	\$1.00
Annual Pool Pass (family)	\$35.00	\$17.50
Annual Pool Pass (individual)	\$25.00	\$12.50

*Holders of Senior/Access Passes only pay half the fee. Pass holders must have their card with them in order to receive the discount.

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 to mobility impaired visitors. 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 handicapped accessible. Water and electrical hook-ups are available at both campgrounds also. Alum Ford in Kentucky is also handicapped 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 indicate 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 - 6 people	\$5.00
7 - 12 people	\$10.00
13 - 18 people	\$15.00
19 - 24 people	\$20.00
25 - 30 people	\$25.00

A yearly permit is available for \$50.00. In addition to the visitor centers, see the following list for authorized backcountry camping 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
Willie Lee's	(931) 879-6987

Kentucky Vendors

Fastway BP	(606) 376-2364
Big M's Discount	(606) 376-8500
Sheltowee Trace Outfitters	(606) 526-7238
One Stop Chevron	(606) 376-9200
Roger New Grocery	(606) 376-2579
Triple Oak Outdoors	(606) 376-3950

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 Burkes Road
Jamestown, Tennessee 38556
(931) 879-2260

Saddle Valley

350 Dewey Burkes Road
Jamestown, Tennessee 38556
(931) 879-6262

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 a snake.
- (2) 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.

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 report will be completed describing the item and where it was lost in the event it is recovered at a later date. 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 Hunting Seasons

Deer Archery - Zone 1-4: Third Saturday in September through third Monday in January.
Deer Muzzleloader - Zone 1-4: Two consecutive days beginning the fourth Saturday in October and seven consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in December.
Deer Modern Gun - Zones 1-2: 16 consecutive days, beginning the second Saturday in November. Zones 3-4: 10 consecutive days, beginning the second Saturday in November.
Deer 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 online 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's page may be directly accessed through www.nps.gov/biso.

**Fifteenth Annual
"Haunting in the Hills"
Storytelling
Festival**

September 22, 2007

Big South Fork NRRRA - Bandy Creek Field

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

Featured Tellers

Charles Maynard Lyn Ford Doc McConnel Guerry McConnel
 Gayle Ross Faye Wooden - Emcee

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 Sixth Annual Spring Planting Day on Saturday, April 28, 2007. 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. Items will also be available for sale by craftspersons. 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.



Stars Over South Fork

By Paul Lewis

This is our 17th year presenting astronomy in the Big South Fork. Regardless of where you are from, being under dark skies is the only way to really enjoy the heavens. The summer Milky Way is spectacular from our favorite spot at Bandy Creek Visitor Center where we will have three programs this year. We will also observe the sun on the afternoons of the June and October dates. See the schedule in this issue on page 2.

I would like to encourage you to take advantage of those binoculars that have been collecting dust in the back of your closet. And for those of you who don't have a pair, binoculars can be had for not a lot of money. Binoculars will open up a whole new sky that you have never experienced. You will see thousands more stars and a number of objects that are beyond the capability of the naked eye. Open and globular star clusters are easily seen objects, along with a number of gaseous nebula and a few galaxies. A handy companion to a pair of binoculars is a simple star chart. You can download the star chart for each month at www.skymaps.com for free. This handy chart offers a star chart on one page and another page of things you can locate with the naked eye, binoculars and a telescope. There is also a calendar of events for the month. It's a great way to learn the sky.

Jupiter, Saturn and Venus will be in the sky for our June program, so be prepared for a planet program complete with the latest images from the Hubble Space Telescope (HST), and Cassini and New Horizons spacecraft. In August we will talk about galaxies and see many different types of images from the HST. In October we will visit the moon through our telescopes and talk about our eventual return to the moon.

I hope you will try to join us for all our astronomy programs this year and whether you are able to or not, I hope you have clear skies to enjoy the heavens wherever you are.

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, handspinning, old timey toys, blackpowder rifle firing, woodworking, blacksmithing, 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

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area is implementing a new system of trailhead and trail markings. The system of trailhead and trail markings consists of graphic symbols and color coded reinforcement blazes to indicate the types of use authorized for a particular trail.

Symbols of all uses allowed on that particular trail are mounted on wooden posts located at the beginning of trails and at all trail junctions. The primary trail use symbol is displayed on the top of the sign with other trail uses displayed underneath. Trail blazes placed along the trail are consistent in color with that of the primary trail usage.

In an instance where a trail contains portions common to different uses, it will receive blazes for all uses that apply. The system is intended to make it easier for all park users to be sure they are on a trail authorized for that use. Signs indicating trail names and mileages will continue to be placed at key junctions.

The trailhead signing and trail blazing is being funded by monies generated through the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004.

Please remember: the absence of a symbol means that particular use is not permitted on that trail.



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



Hiking trails are designated for foot traffic only.



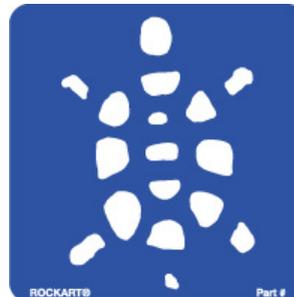
Horse trails are designated for horseback riding. Hiking and mountain bike riding are allowed on most horseback trails; however, some trails are blazed to be free of all other uses but foot travel.



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



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



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.

Trailhead Safety

By Jimmy Barna, Park Ranger

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area has several different trailheads throughout the park. Many of them are in very remote locations. Although all trailheads are patrolled on a regular basis, there are things you can do to further protect your vehicle.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- Leave your wallet or purse at home. Carry only the cash you will need and pack it along with you.
- Do your packing at home. If you decide to leave something behind, you won't have to leave it in your vehicle.
- Ask park rangers if certain trailheads have higher incidences of crime.
- If possible, leave an older vehicle at the trailhead.
- Remember to always inform someone about your destination, exactly where you plan to leave your vehicle and when you plan to return. Remember, backcountry camping permits are required if you plan to be gone overnight.

TRAILHEAD ALTERNATIVES

- If you're in a group with multiple vehicles, try to get everyone into one vehicle. That way you can leave the remaining vehicles at a relatively

safe location like the large parking lot across from the Bandy Creek Visitor Center.

- Use a shuttle service. Ask rangers for services that are available in the area.

KNOW WHERE TO PARK

- The riskiest trailheads are the ones that receive moderate use and are close to the main road.
- Look around the trailhead parking area for any signs of break-ins.
- Notice the other people around the trailhead. If they don't look like they belong there, then they probably don't. Write down license plates and descriptions of suspicious individuals.

DEFENSIVE PARKING

- Always park with the rear hatch or trunk of the car facing the parking area and not the woods. This gives thieves less cover to work under.
- Remove your stereo if possible and avoid leaving any visible valuables inside your car. Also be careful not to leave any towels or blankets in sight because this suggests that you are leaving concealed valuables inside.
- Do not hide keys around the vehicle. Someone may be watching, so just pack them with you.

Walking Sticks

By Sherry Fritschi, Park Ranger, Interpretation

Have you hiked a trail in Big South Fork? If so, you've probably encountered a wide variety of terrain from sandy soil to mud, stream crossings with slippery stones that rock and roll under your boots, uphill that last forever and downhill that dare your feet to slide, but you love it and probably would do it all over again, maybe next time with a walking stick.

This extra leg can help keep your balance, but if you do fall, it might ease the descent. Knees, hips and back will thank you with fewer aches and pains. Another benefit involves the tendency to look down and ahead more often when using a walking stick: a good way to avoid that lazy snake sunning himself smack dab in the middle of the trail. No, don't hit it with the stick. Just walk around him.



Many stores sell walking sticks in lots of shapes and sizes. An artisan can create a very appealing curly walking stick from a branch shaped by a clinging vine. A woodcarver likes to add his personal touch by whittling the tops or sides of a staff. The simplest

walking stick is a branch you find on the forest floor. Choose one that's light-weight but sturdy. It should fit comfortably under the armpit.

Did you know there are walking sticks that move without the guidance of a human hand? Not only can they maneuver on the ground but also through treetops, especially after dark when they are nearly impossible to see. During the day, these six-legged sticks blend into their surroundings. It sounds like magic, but Mother Nature is just up to her old tricks of making a creature look like something else. These walking sticks are actually leaf-eating insects that are commonly found here in the park.

Worldwide, there are about 2,500 species of walking sticks, but only ten live in North America. Since they don't closely resemble any other insect, some entomologists want to "stick" sticks into a family all by themselves. Some bug scientists claim sticks are kin to cockroaches; still others include them with grasshoppers and crickets. The debate goes on. Meanwhile, walking sticks continue to meander through life oblivious to the confusion they've caused.

Walking sticks have cylindrical bodies with long skinny legs and tiny heads with slender antennae. Some species have colorful wings. The nymphs are green but turn brown as they mature, some reaching nearly six inches long. Losing a leg along life's journey is usually not a problem. Sticks molt several times as they grow and can regenerate a leg.

During daylight hours, walking sticks mostly rest on tree trunks or leaves and sway with the breeze. Camouflage appearance often hides them from birds and other predators. The next line of defense, called "quaking," involves flexing legs and rocking from side to side. If this scary display doesn't work, opening folded wings or falling to the ground and playing dead just might. A few species of sticks produce and spray a substance that irritates eyes while others use their spiny legs to prick predators. With most of their enemies retreating at darkness, walking sticks start moving around and eating foliage.



Autumn triggers the instinct to reproduce. A few species don't even require mating to lay eggs, the end result being identical offspring; however, those that mate create random variations that over time and generations can help walking sticks survive in a specific habitat. Tiny, hard seedlike eggs fall to the ground where they sometimes remain for two years before hatching. Newborns look like tiny adults as they climb trees in search of food and shelter.

Where and when can you see a walking stick? Choosing the perfect walking stick might be easier than observing the living variety, that is unless you have excellent night vision and are fond of climbing trees in the dark. After the leaves fall in late September and early October, walking sticks become easier to find. Look for the insect resting on outside walls, tree trunks and low foliage during the day. If you watch quietly, it might "stick" around for hours.



Chris Evans, University of Georgia, www.forestryimages.org

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID, THE NEXT THREAT TO OUR FORESTS

The hemlock woolly adelgid (a-DEL-jid), a tiny insect first detected in the western United States in 1924, kills eastern and Carolina hemlocks within a few years of first infesting them. The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is steadily spreading south into the oldest and largest stands of hemlocks in the Southern Appalachians, threatening a unique forest ecosystem and the animal and plant communities it shelters.

Native to Japan and China the hemlock woolly adelgid is an aphid-like insect you can barely see with the naked eye. What you can see is the white, waxy "wool" that covers the adelgid. A sure sign of HWA infestation is tiny cottony tufts at the base of hemlock needles. This "wool" is present throughout the year, but is most prominent in late spring.

The HWA feeds on the sap at the base of hemlock needles, restricting nutrients to the foliage and causing the needles to die and fall off. Without needles the tree starves to death, usually within three to five years of the initial attack.

The HWA was first detected in the eastern United States in Richmond, Virginia, in the 1950s, where it began to spread rapidly. The HWA currently infests about one-half of the area where hemlocks grow in the east. In Virginia's Shenandoah National Park, 80 percent of the hemlocks are now dead.

Hemlocks help cool mountain streams that are home to trout, other native fish, as well as crawfish, salamanders and numerous aquatic insects. In the winter, hemlocks moderate ground-level temperatures and help keep streams ice-free. The devastation caused by the HWA cannot be underestimated.

Foresters warn of a potential disaster comparable to the chestnut blight, which eliminated chestnut trees from the Southern Appalachians and radically changed the forest composition of the southeast. In this area the first HWA infestations were found in the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests in 2001, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2002 and in both Royal Blue WMA and Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in 2006.

There are currently three recommended methods to control the spread of the HWA: systemic injections of pesticides, insecticidal oils and soaps, and biological control. For homeowners, pesticide-based methods work best with individual trees and for small stands, but are impossible to apply in backwoods areas. For large stands of hemlock trees the most promising treatment option is biological control.

Currently two tiny nonnative beetles, the Lari and PT beetle, show the most promise for keeping populations of the adelgid in check. Both beetles actively hunt the adelgid as prey, feed voraciously, and only eat adelgids. Whether they are successful in controlling the spreading destruction of the HWA remains to be seen, however.

If you believe you have seen hemlock trees infested with the HWA in or near Big South Fork NRR, please stop by either visitor center and let a ranger know.

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.

Under the direction of the General Management Plan, 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. When developed, this trail will be located outside the defined “gorge area” of the park, and 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 NRRA.

This process of public input and follow-up monitoring will allow Big South Fork NRRA to fulfill the legal requirements as outlined in Executive Order 11644 that requires 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 (9) 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 vehicles 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. This is currently being done.

Until 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 that are open to the general public for the riding of ATVs.

Brimstone Recreation

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 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

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.

WILDERNESS ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

By Phyllis Trabold, Community Planner

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, in keeping with requirements outlined under National Park Service Management Policies, Director's Order 41 and the recently completed General Management Plan, has recently begun the process of conducting a Wilderness Eligibility Assessment on lands within park boundaries.

During this Wilderness Eligibility Assessment, park staff and regional representatives are meeting to determine which park lands, if any, possess the necessary characteristics to be considered a wilderness. The Wilderness Act of 1964 describes wilderness as “. . . an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” This Wilderness Eligibility Assessment is a non-decisional draft recommendation that would require concurrence from both the Southeastern Regional Director and the Director of the National Park Service.

Should portions of Big South Fork NRRA be determined to possess the necessary wilderness characteristics, the park will request funding to further examine those lands as a part of a formal Phase II “Wilderness Study”. The conclusion of this study would be the point that would constitute an agency decision. Ultimately, however, the actual creation of a wilderness area will require an act of Congress and will be based on the recommendations made in the “Wilderness Study.”

Wilderness areas themselves may accommodate wide varieties of recreation pursuits such as camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, trapping, and use of horse or mule drawn wagons. Neither would a wilderness designation alter cemetery access. Private oil and gas operations on private mineral

lands in the park would not be included in any proposals hence there would be no affect on current or future levels of activity.

It is also important to realize that the time interval from the first step of a Wilderness Eligibility Assessment to the creation of a Congressionally legislated “wilderness” may be very long, potentially spanning 20 years or more. During this interim time, existing uses such as bike riding and recurring group events may continue as they traditionally have in Big South Fork NRRA.

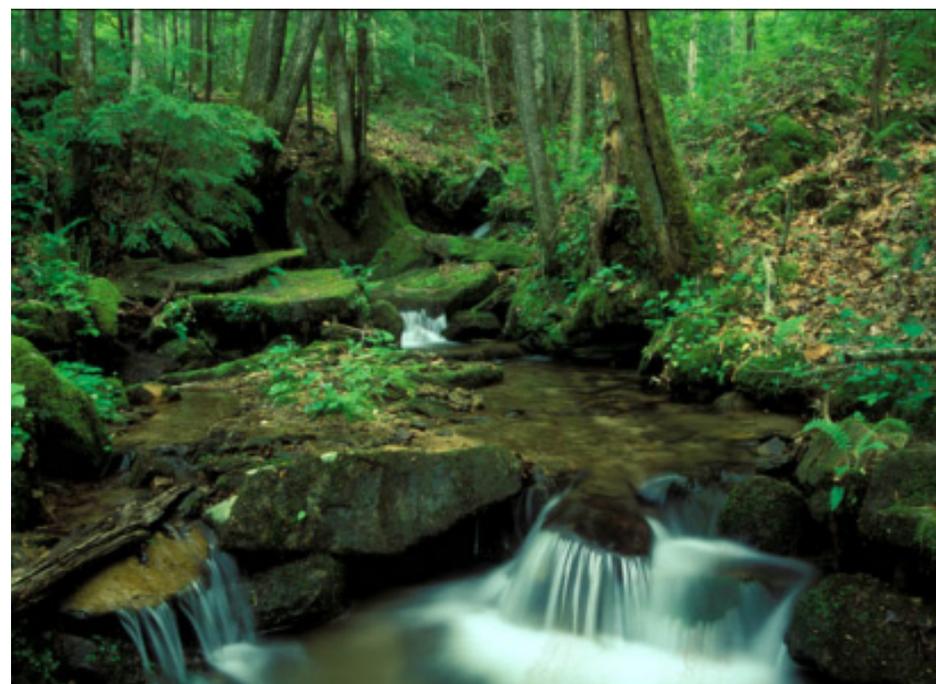


Photo by Chuck Summers

THE STORY OF ILLEGAL DISTILLERY SITES IN THE BIG SOUTH FORK AREA



NPS Photo Lawrence O'Neal (L) & Jerome Cecil Moonshining on Williams Creek (circa 1920)

Photograph donated by Mr. Michael R. O'Neal.

Timothy J. Smith II, Resource Management Assistant, and Tom Des Jean, Park Archeologist

The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (NRRA) consists of a 125,000 acre area in Tennessee and Kentucky surrounding the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. This area boasts an exceptional number of well-preserved historic period distillery sites.

Moonshine is one of the many terms given to a distilled alcoholic beverage that is manufactured anywhere other than a legal distillery. Other names, aside from the more familiar term *moonshine*, include corn whiskey, corn squeezings, stump-hole water, mountain dew, sugar-jack, hooch, mule-kick, and white lightning. Moonshining, the process of manufacturing illicit spirits, is one of the oldest illicit activities in the United States.

Moonshine manufacture has been an important clandestine activity in the hills and mountains of Tennessee for almost 200 years. Undeniably, the primary reason it was produced was to make an intoxicating beverage. However, it was also much easier to carry a barrel or two of liquor for sale or trade than it was to take hundreds of bushels of corn to market. Rye, wheat, and corn, reduced to their liquid state, could be more easily transported, had a much higher market value relative to volume, and had ready markets.

Another reason to produce a high-alcohol content liquor was for use in medicinal products and herbal remedies. Rural farmers had no first responders or 911 medics. They had to rely on their own abilities to deal with injuries and illness. Alcohol was probably the only antiseptic available and it also served as a primary ingredient in many herbal remedies. Finally, moonshine was almost certainly manufactured and sold to supplement marginal incomes of the area residents. Coal and timber companies paid low wages, often in company scrip that could only be redeemed at the company store. This, combined with few job opportunities in the area, resulted in a limited cash economy. Moonshine manufactured for sale certainly added to the local economy and allowed moonshiners to earn cash.

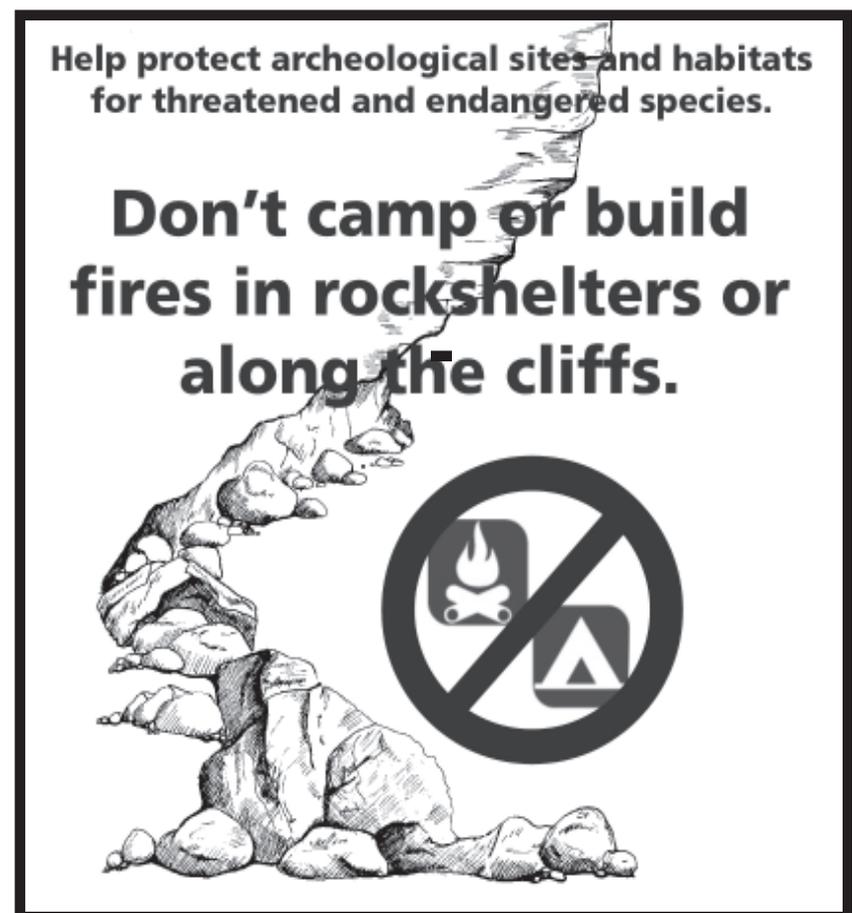
Moonshine manufacture is quite simple: the four main ingredients are grain (usually corn meal, but sometimes wheat or rye), sugar, yeast, and water. Moonshiners used a varying recipe, but for the most part they mixed about 50 pounds of sprouted corn meal with some sugar and warm water in a 55 gallon barrel. The stages in the process itself are fermentation, distillation, and condensation. Fermentation is the chemical change that transforms sugar into alcohol. To begin this stage, sprouted corn, or malt, is added to a wooden or metal barrel, along with water and sugar. These mixed ingredients constitute what is called "mash." Yeast for the process was obtained by allowing corn or other grain to sprout attracting wild yeast spores already present in the atmosphere. The mash was then heated by a small fire and allowed to ferment into ethyl alcohol, chemically transforming the sugars into a product known as "sour mash." Once at its peak alcohol content, the sour mash was then transferred to a metal still set on top of a firebox.

The next step in moonshine manufacture is called distillation. During distillation the sour mash is heated by applying fire directly underneath the sealed still. Since ethyl alcohol has a lower boiling point than the water in

which it forms, the alcohol is first to vaporize. This vapor rises and leaves the still boiler via an outlet pipe. Often moonshiners here made use of a device known as a "thump-keg". The thump-keg or "doubler," served three purposes: filled with sour mash it was used to redistill the alcohol a second time using the heat of the vapor itself; it served to increase the alcohol content of the final product; and finally, the thump-keg served to catch any solids or impurities that boiled over out of the mash.

The last stage in the production of moonshine is known as condensation. The vaporized alcohol leaves the thump-keg and travels down the line into a condenser. Because the vapor would condense only when subjected to a lower temperature, it was critical for the moonshiner to select his still location within reach of plenty of cool, circulating water. In order for the moonshiner to condense the vaporized alcohol, the vapor was directed into a large barrel filled with continuously circulating cool water. Inside this container, the vaporized alcohol passed through a coiled copper tube called a "worm." Because of the cooler water circulating outside the worm, the vapor condensed into liquid alcohol was collected from the end of the worm, and bottled or jarred for transport.

There has been limited archaeological investigation of historic moonshine sites at Big South Fork NRRA. However, researchers have identified several interesting points. They have found that moonshine sites appear to reflect similar levels of technology. This is suggested by the uniformly small scale of operations and by the construction techniques and materials observed on the sites. Furthermore, the still sites exhibit a patterned relationship to natural and cultural features on the landscape and can be associated with specific historic period settlement types. Occasionally still sites are found associated with upland farmsteads but moonshining sites are found with much more frequency clustered around coal mining communities and logging camps. The remains of these sites reveal that there is a great deal more information about the nature of moonshine activity that can be found here on the Upper Cumberland Plateau.



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.

Place Names of Big South Fork NRR

By Howard Duncan, Interpretive Ranger

What's in a name? Many place names can tell a good deal about the history of an area. The origin of some place names is obvious, such as a family name or a particular outstanding feature. Others, however, are more obscure. The following is a list of some interesting names found in Big South Fork.

Bandy Creek – This small creek got its name from an abandoned homestead. The word *abandoned* was shortened to “Bandy.”

Charit Creek – Local legend tells of a young girl named Charity who drowned while crossing this rain swollen stream. Older people speak of “Charit’s Creek” in the possessive form.

Leatherwood Ford – This name comes from the small Leatherwood shrub which grows along the river here. The tough, pliant, inner bark was used by Native Americans and early settlers for tying fish traps, baskets and shoe strings.

New River – this name was very likely transferred from New River, West Virginia. The two rivers have a striking similarity.

Parch Corn Creek- Legend has it that two longhunters were trapped near the creek by an enormous blizzard. After several days all they had left to eat was parched corn, and they had to ration that!

Cumberland Valley – this pretty sounding name is somewhat misleading. The name comes not from a local geographic feature, but from the Cumberland Valley Lumber Company which had a sawmill and camp set up there in the 1920s.

Maude’s Crack – This rather odd sounding place was named after Minnie Maudie Roysdon who lived with her husband Reverend Isham Roysdon near No Business. She reportedly used this natural crevice in the bluff to access a large rockshelter that the couple was temporarily living under when their house burned.

Station Camp – The early longhunters in this region set up stations, or camps, along many of the creeks in this region. For this reason the name is common in both Tennessee and Kentucky.



Maude's Crack from the bottom. Located off the John Muir Trail near No Business Creek. NPS Photo.



Charit Creek Lodge Cabin. NPS photo.

Concessions at Big South Fork NRR

By Frank Graham, Chief Park Ranger, Law Enforcement

Here at Big South Fork NRR we have four concession operated businesses within the park. They are Bandy Creek Stables, Charit Creek Lodge, Station Camp and Bear Creek Horse Camps and Eastern National convenience items. A concession is a business that operates within the park and is supported by the park, but is not operated by National Park Service personnel.

A little bit about each one:

The Bandy Creek Stables are operated by Gretta and Bobby Gene York. They are from the local community in Fentress County, Tennessee, and have been around horses all their lives. They took over the stable operations in 1999 and now offer stall rental along with gift and convenience items at the tack shop. The main focus of their business is stall rental and care for your horse. For your visit, Bandy Creek Stables could be considered the “Hilton” for horses. Also, if you do forget some piece of tack, don’t forget you can always find it at the tack shop. Call (423) 286-7433 for reservations.

If experiencing the quiet backcountry solitude of the Big South Fork NRR is your desire, but you don’t want to sleep on the ground and cook over an open fire, then Charit Creek Lodge is the place for you. Charit Creek Lodge is operated by Stokely Enterprises of Sevierville, Tennessee. This backcountry lodge is only one mile down the trail from the end of Fork Ridge Road so a short hike or horseback ride is all it takes to get you to the rustic, historic setting of Charit Creek. There are two cabins for 12 people in each or a communal area for those who need even less formal living space. The hosts at Charit Creek will fix you a breakfast and supper that will amaze you for taste, especially considering there is no electricity. With no phones, faxes or cell phones, the peace and quiet is truly enjoyable. So hike on down and enjoy yourself at Charit Creek Lodge. Reservations can be made by calling (865) 429-5704.

If your desire is to enjoy the beauty of Big South Fork NRR from the back of a horse, then the Station Camp and Bear Creek Horse Camps can be a place to stay. These horse camps are operated by Benard Terry of Oneida, Tennessee. Each camp offers campsites with electric and water while your horse stays at a tie stall right next to your campsite. Bathhouses are located at each camp and have hot showers. The trails can be accessed directly from your campsite meaning you never have to drive to any location to enjoy miles and miles of horse trails Big South Fork offers. When you return from your ride, you simply unsaddle your horse and you’re back in camp, a great way to experience the nature and wonders of Big South Fork from a horse. Call (423) 569-3321 for information, rates and reservations.

Last are the convenience items that are offered for sale at the Eastern National book store. Eastern National is a non-profit company that operates book stores in many National Park Service areas. If you want guide books, maps, forgot your camera, need a bag of ice, or just want to buy a soda pop, this is the place to go. Eastern offers many small items also such as batteries and insect repellent that will help you have a safe and enjoyable time here at Big South Fork NRR. (See page 2 for a list of some of their items.)

These are the concessions of Big South Fork NRR. They offer a wide range of activities and souvenirs along with a few essentials. If you have any questions about the services offered by the concessioners of the park, please contact the park for further information at (423) 569-9778.

AQUATIC RESOURCES OF BIG SOUTH FORK

Did you ever wonder what is so important about the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River and why the river and associated streams were protected as a unit of the National Park Service? Below is a summary of the water resources and specific information on fish.

The Big South Fork is part of the Cumberland River watershed and is the largest free flowing river entirely contained within the Cumberland Plateau of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. The Big South Fork watershed covers approximately 1,120 square miles in seven counties in Tennessee and Kentucky, of which only about 15 percent is inside the boundaries of the National River and Recreation Area. Big South Fork occupies the downstream portion of this large drainage, and therefore, the health of its aquatic systems is dependent to a large degree on the quality of its tributaries.



NPS Photo, Drum

Within the park, there are approximately 72 miles of small to medium-sized rivers, including the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River, and its two major tributaries, Clear Fork and New River. In addition, Big South Fork encompasses roughly ten miles of Lake Cumberland backwaters at the northern end of the park and hundreds of miles of tributary and headwater streams within its 125,000 acres. The New River, the largest tributary to the Big South Fork River, drains a basin which supplied more than half of Tennessee's coal during the 1970's. Thirty years later, the effects of this mining activity are still evident in deposits of sediment and coal fines on the river bed and floodplain, and in acid mine drainage discharging from abandoned mines. However, evidence suggests that the New River has recovered to some extent in recent years, as land stewardship has become more compatible with water quality goals.

Although there are streams with pollution problems in and around the park, Big South Fork also contains some of the most biologically diverse and pristine waters on the Cumberland Plateau. Because of this diversity, the river and its associated biota play a critical role in aquatic species conservation. Based on resource inventories that have recently been completed, the Big South Fork contains 26 species of mussels and is home to 79 species (113 species if areas adjacent to the park are included) of fish in 12 different families, including lampreys, darters, shiners, minnows, and suckers. Six mussels and three fish species are so unique that they are listed as federally threatened or endangered, and the park is required to take special precautions to protect these species.



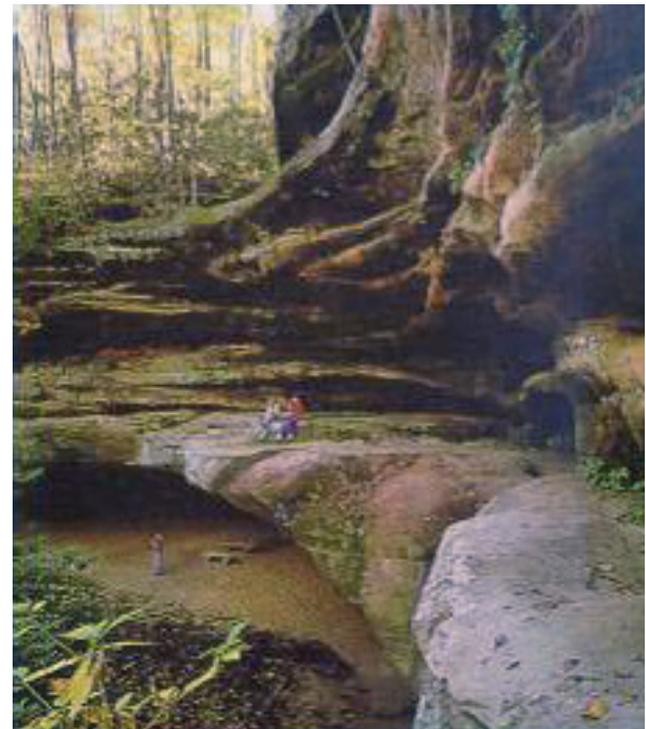
NPS Photo, Ohio lamprey

If you are a fisherman, then the Big South Fork has many opportunities for you. All streams are open to fishing with a valid state fishing license. Some of the common game fish that are caught include channel catfish, flathead catfish, white bass, rock bass, six types of sunfish, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, largemouth bass, walleye and musky. Some of the unusual species you might encounter include five types of redhorse suckers, two types of lampreys, longnose gar, sauger, freshwater drum, and smallmouth buffalo.

For information on fishing regulations see the fishing regulations for the states of Tennessee and Kentucky. Please note that mussels are not allowed to be harvested in the park.

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 larva of the fungus gnat (*Diptera mycetophilidae*). This larva 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.

Discover Historic Rugby Big South Fork's Southern Neighbor

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

