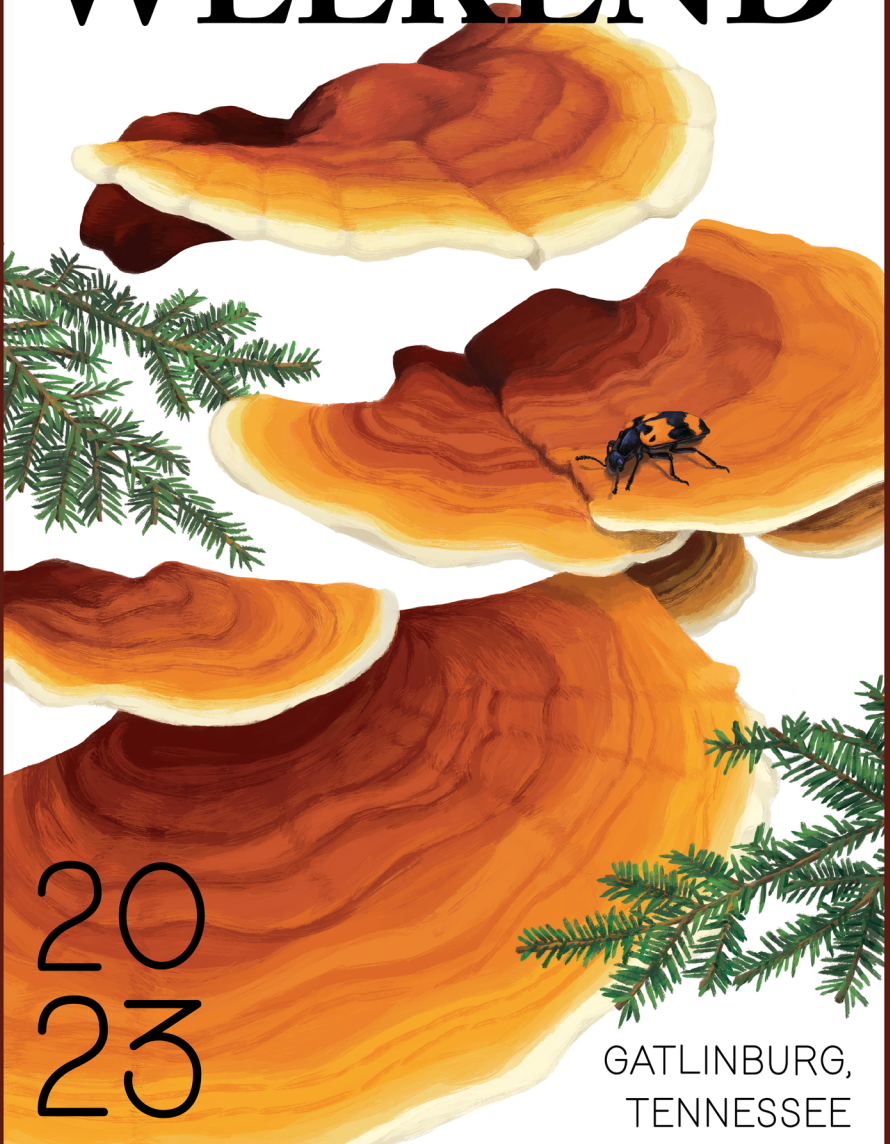


SEPTEMBER 15-16

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS WEEKEND



20
23

GATLINBURG,
TENNESSEE

WELCOME TO

MEMBERS WEEKEND

Great Smoky Mountains National Park's amazing biodiversity stands as a living testament to the wonders of the natural world. These ancient mountains are home to over 19,000 documented species, including 1,500 flowering plants, 200 species of birds, 68 species of mammals, and 67 species of native fish.

As I reflect on the extraordinary ecosystems of the Smokies, I can't help but feel grateful for our own network of members and park partners that come together to protect this special place.

This weekend, we convene to commemorate both the 70th anniversary of Great Smoky Mountains Association and the 25th anniversary of Discover Life of America as we reunite and celebrate this place we love so dearly. Throughout the weekend, we will hear from our distinguished guests and partners, learn from expert guides and fellow members, and gather to hike, paint, draw, write, and explore.

Thank you for your presence, your dedication, and your love for these extraordinary mountains. Together, we can continue to make a lasting impact in safeguarding the Smokies for generations to come.

Payton Proffitt

Membership Director



Great Smoky Mountains Association

MEMBERSHIP TEAM



André Brousseau

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST



Jane Maurer

BUSINESS OUTREACH SPECIALIST



Anne May

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM MANAGER

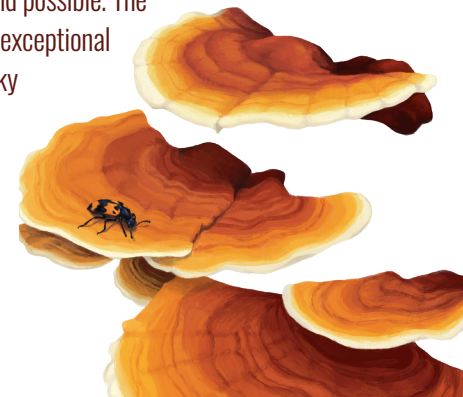


Charlene Shiver

MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE

GSMA's membership team makes Members Weekend possible. The success of this event is thanks in large part to their exceptional teamwork, coordination, and passion for Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

If you have any questions or comments to share throughout the weekend, please find one of the friendly faces on the membership team.





15 friday

Registration

Location: The Park Vista, Lower Lobby
Time: 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Please register at the GSMA table.



Fall warblers made simple

Guide: Keith Watson

Location: Sugarlands Visitor Center and Training Room
Time: 7:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Fall warblers can be confusing, but if you look carefully and in the right places, these warblers can be easily identified. We'll have a short morning walk through the Sugarlands Visitor Center grounds before heading back to the classroom to learn more about how to distinguish this unnecessarily intimidating group of songbirds. Then, back out to the field! Please wear shoes for walking and pack water and a lunch.

A day in the life of an Appalachian Trail thru-hiker

Guide: Jeff Alt

Location: The Park Vista, Gardenview AB
Time: 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Jeff Alt, Appalachian Trail thru-hiker and author of *A Walk for Sunshine*, will share stories of his AT journey along with advice for planning your own adventures and tips for those wanting to tackle the trail for themselves.



Twin Creeks Science and Education Center Natural History Collections tour

Guide: Baird Todd, NPS

Location: Twin Creeks Science and Education Center
Time: 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Are you curious about all the species of animals, plants, and other life in the Smokies? Tour the park natural history collections to learn about the preparation, care, preservation, and use of specimens collected in the Smokies. Photography is welcome, but no food or drink is allowed. Touching or handling items in the collections is prohibited.

Naturalist ramble on Bull Head Trail

Guide: Liz Domingue

Location: Old Sugarlands and Bull Head trails off Cherokee Orchard Road
Time: 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

On this naturalist-led hike, we will investigate whatever crosses our path and catches our interest, from salamanders and birds to animal traces and native flora. We'll begin along the old roadbed and easy grade of Old Sugarlands Trail, crossing LeConte Creek. The first half mile of Bull Head Trail is also an easy grade through the Sugarlands low country, passing through a cove hardwood forest and a stand of pines. The path gets steeper as we hike through large Thunderhead sandstone boulders, rock overhangs, and cliffs that tower above the trail. Please wear shoes for hiking and bring water and snacks.

How to contribute to community science

Guide: Wanda DeWaard

Location: The Park Vista, Gardenview AB
Time: 1:30–3 p.m.

Community science is a tool that blends education and research, enabling everyday

citizens to participate in real science projects that generate useful data for scientists. When people participate in community science, they can learn about the natural world and, at the same time, assist researchers in the collection of reliable data. We will review the long history of community science and talk about easy-to-use apps to learn about the natural world and assist in conservation efforts. Come learn about fun, fabulous, and productive ways to enjoy the natural world wherever you are and support Great Smoky Mountains National Park whenever you visit.

Twin Creeks Science and Education Center Natural History Collections tour

Guide: Baird Todd, NPS

Location: Twin Creeks Science and Education Center

Time: 1:30–3 p.m.

Are you curious about all the species of animals, plants, and other life in the Smokies? Tour the park natural history collections to learn about the preparation, care, preservation, and use of specimens collected in the Smokies. Photography is welcome, but no food or drink is allowed. Touching or handling items in the collections is prohibited.

Naturalist ramble on Huskey Gap Trail

Guide: Liz Domingue

Location: Meet at shuttle pickup at entrance to the Park Vista

Time: 1:30–3:30 p.m.

On this naturalist-led hike, we will investigate whatever crosses our path and catches our interest, from salamanders and birds to animal traces and native flora. Huskey Gap Trail offers a moderate climb through second-growth hardwood forest from the Sugarlands area up to Huskey Gap and the ridge of Sugarland Mountain. We'll cross over Flint Rock Branch as it flows underground beneath the trail and walk through boulder fields, evidence of the last ice age. We may even enjoy some nice vistas through the open forest along the way. Please wear shoes for hiking and bring water and snacks.

Rendering the Smokies with colored pencil

Guide: Teresa Pennington

Location: The Park Vista, Gardenview CD

Time: 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Join Teresa Pennington, a renowned colored-pencil artist and gallery owner, as she shares her experiences growing up in the Smokies and how the mountains have influenced her artistic journey. In this session, she will discuss her artistic techniques and style, plus demonstrate tips for using colored pencils to capture the intricate details and textures of the Smokies. Artists and art lovers alike are encouraged to attend!

Lookout League fair featuring silent auction

Location: The Park Vista, lower level

Time: 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Meet our Lookout League partners and place bids on a range of items from hiking essentials to books to one-of-a-kind Smokies-themed decor. Businesses will be displaying all they have to offer members. Silent auction opens at 3:30 p.m. All proceeds go to support GSMA's Legacy Fund.

Staff and member meet-and-greet and book signing

Location: The Park Vista, Vista Garden

Time: 5–6 p.m.

Gather as a community during a meet-and-greet social hour with GSMA staff before dinner. Say hello to Creative Services Director Frances Figart, who will be signing her two GSMA children's books, *A Search for Safe Passage* and *Mabel Meets a Black Bear*. Both will be available at our onsite store.



Welcome and music with Boogertown Gap

Location: The Park Vista, Tennessee Ballroom
Time: 6–6:30 p.m.

Join us for a warm welcome to the weekend's festivities with an official greeting from Membership Director Peyton Proffitt. Music before and after is provided by Boogertown Gap, the Smokies-inspired group of Appalachian melody makers featuring the husband-and-wife duo Keith Watson and Ruth Barber with Austin Stovall on fiddle and mandolin.

Remarks, dinner, and NPS presentation

Board Chair Mitch Crisp, CEO Laurel Rematore, and GSMNP Chief of Resource Education Stephanie Kyriazis

Location: The Park Vista, Tennessee Ballroom
Time: 6–8 p.m. (dinner), 7–8 p.m. (presentation)

As a contributing member of GSMA, you help fund new projects and keep essential programs and services running smoothly in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. That's because GSMA works closely with key park managers to strategically direct important donations of cash and in-kind services. Get the inside scoop from GSMNP on exactly how your membership is supporting the park mission as we enjoy dinner as a group.

16

saturday

Greetings, breakfast, and silent auction closing

Location: The Park Vista, Tennessee Ballroom
Time: 8–8:20 a.m. (auction close/remarks), 8:20 a.m. (breakfast)

Come together for our last community gathering of the weekend before we separate into individual sessions. Membership Director Peyton Proffitt will share final remarks, and our silent auction will close.

An introduction to Discover Life in America and the BioBlitz

Will Kuhn, Discover Life in America
Location: The Park Vista, Tennessee Ballroom
Time: 9–10 a.m.

Join us for a breakfast session with Director of Science and Research at DLiA Dr. Will Kuhn. He will introduce DLiA's initiatives, including the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), the Smokies Most Wanted list, and some results of their work. You'll learn how to use the iNaturalist app and why understanding local biodiversity is essential. Dr. Kuhn will also discuss today's BioBlitz: a hands-on opportunity to discover insects, plants, fungi, and other life with expert naturalists. Your participation in the BioBlitz as a community scientist will contribute to our knowledge of life in the Smokies, helping park management better conserve the natural resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



BioBlitz Block 1

Guide: Will Kuhn, Discover Life in America
Location: Meet at shuttle pickup at entrance to the Park Vista
Time: 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Help catalog life in the Smokies with Discover Life in America! GSMA members will help document all the animals, plants, and other organisms we can find around the Cosby area of the park. As a community scientist, you'll gather real scientific data, contributing to the park's All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI). **Please download the iNaturalist app to your smartphone and log into the app before you reach the cell signal deadzone at Cosby.** Experts from DLiA will teach you how to use the app then guide small groups around nearby trails and point out interesting facts about the bugs, birds, plants, and other life we encounter. We'll use iNaturalist to photograph, help us identify, and keep track of these organisms. Be prepared for possible inclement weather and lots of fun! Please wear shoes for hiking and bring water and snacks.

Historical stroll through Elkmont

Guide: Jeff Alt

Location: Meet at shuttle pickup at entrance to the Park Vista

Time: 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Jeff Alt, author of *The Adventures of Bubba Jones: Time Traveling Through the Great Smoky Mountains*, will lead members on a walk back in time through the Elkmont historical area to learn about the community before the Smokies became a park.

Animal life drawing

Guide: Emma Oxford

Location: Sugarlands Visitor Center and Training Room

Time: 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Artist and naturalist Emma Oxford will lead participants through a short presentation on drawing as an observational technique followed by a guided life drawing session using the animal “models” of the natural history museum. This program is appropriate for all ages and abilities and is designed for anyone hoping to learn more about drawing the wildlife of the Smokies. Clipboards, pencils, and paper will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring any additional materials of their choosing. Beginners are welcome.

BioBlitz Block 2

Guide: Will Kuhn, *Discover Life in America*

Location: Meet at shuttle pickup at entrance to the Park Vista

Time: 3–5:30 p.m.

Help catalog life in the Smokies with *Discover Life in America*! GSMA members will help document all the animals, plants, and other organisms we can find around the Cosby area of the park. As a community scientist, you’ll gather real scientific data, contributing to the park’s All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI). **Please download the iNaturalist app to your smartphone and log into the app before you reach the cell signal deadzone at Cosby.** Experts from DLiA will teach you how to use the app then guide small groups around nearby trails and point out interesting facts about the bugs, birds, plants, and other life we encounter. We’ll use iNaturalist to photograph, help us identify, and keep track of these organisms. Be prepared for possible inclement weather and lots of fun! Please wear shoes for hiking and bring water and snacks.

The magic of monarch butterflies

Guide: Wanda DeWaard

Location: The Park Vista, Gardenview AB

Time: 4–5:30 p.m.

Monarchs are an iconic American butterfly known the world over as the only butterfly that makes a true migration every fall. And this migration occurs only in the Americas, where the butterfly can travel over 2,000 miles to its winter destination. But as the media has been reporting, this natural event is considered endangered. This session will share detailed information about the monarch butterfly, its life cycle, migration, and the challenges that exist for this incredible creature. Find out when and where monarchs are expected to be seen in the Smoky Mountain region, plus learn of several ways you can help with monarch conservation through community science projects, butterfly gardening, and butterfly counts here in the Smokies or from your own home.

Exploring old-time music traditions

Guide: Ruth Barber and Keith Watson

Location: The Park Vista, Gardenview CD

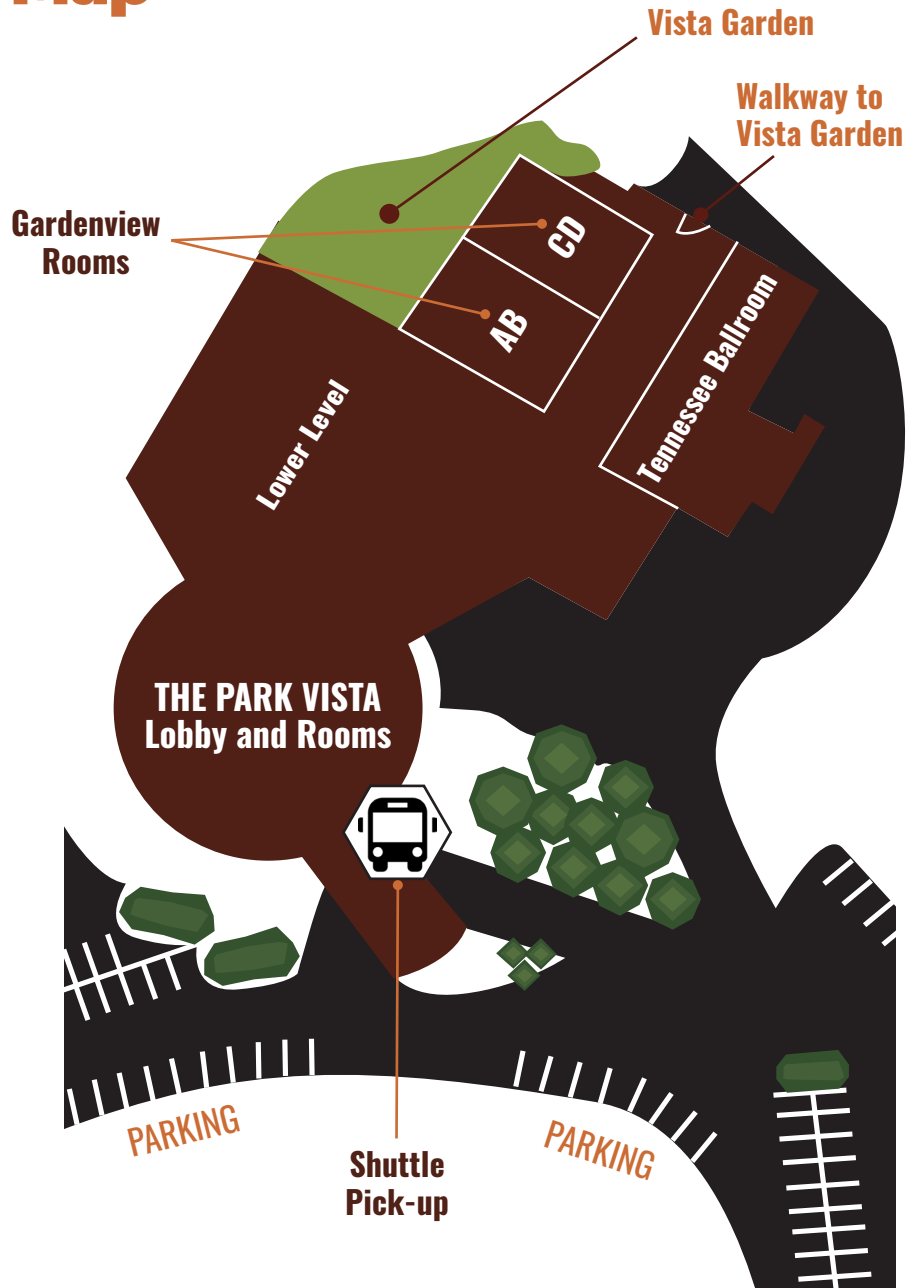
Time: 4–6 p.m.

Join musicians Ruth Barber and Keith Watson on a journey through the rich traditions of old-time music in East Tennessee and the Smokies. With their deep roots in the region’s musical heritage, Ruth and Keith will share insights and stories about the history and lasting impacts of old-time music in the area. Whether you are a musician, a music lover, or a curious beginner, you’ll find insights and inspiration in this exploration of regional music history. Get ready to tap your feet and sing along as Ruth and Keith showcase the timeless beauty of old-time music.

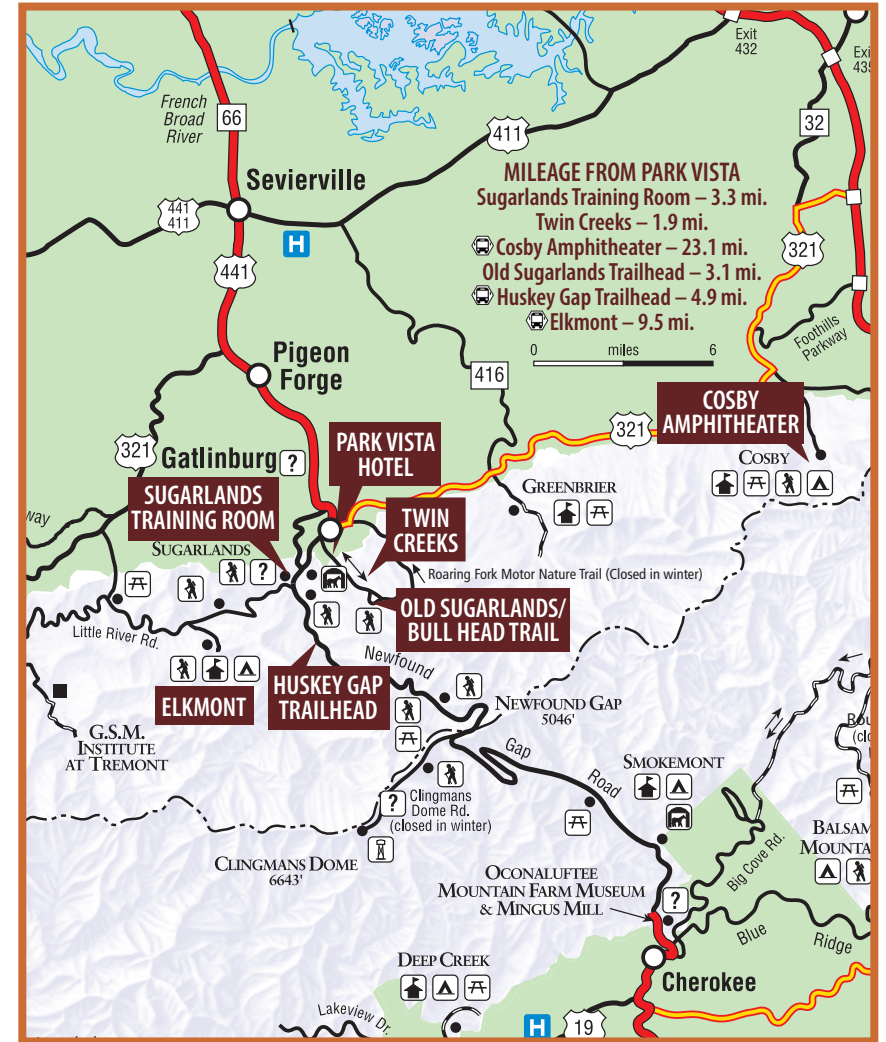


Illustrations by Emma Oxford. Graphic design by Miranda Bemis.

The Park Vista Map



Great Smoky Mountains National Park Map



Free shuttle service will be available for Husky Gap Trail, Elkmont, and Cosby Amphitheater events.

A valid parking tag must be displayed when parked for more than 15 minutes anywhere in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Parking tags will be available for purchase at the GSMA pop-up store on the lower level of the Park Vista beginning at 2:30 p.m. Friday. Visit go.nps.gov/GRSMfees for more info.

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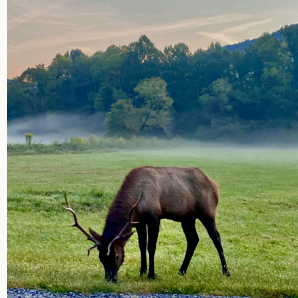
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Memories

2022
Members Weekend



Great Smoky Mountains Association supports the perpetual preservation of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the national park system by promoting greater public interest and appreciation through education, interpretation, and research.