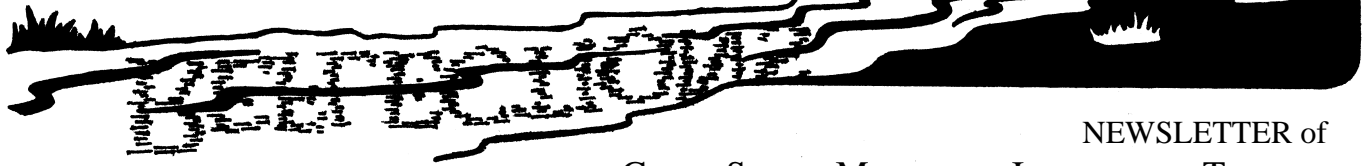


WALKER VALLEY REFLECTIONS



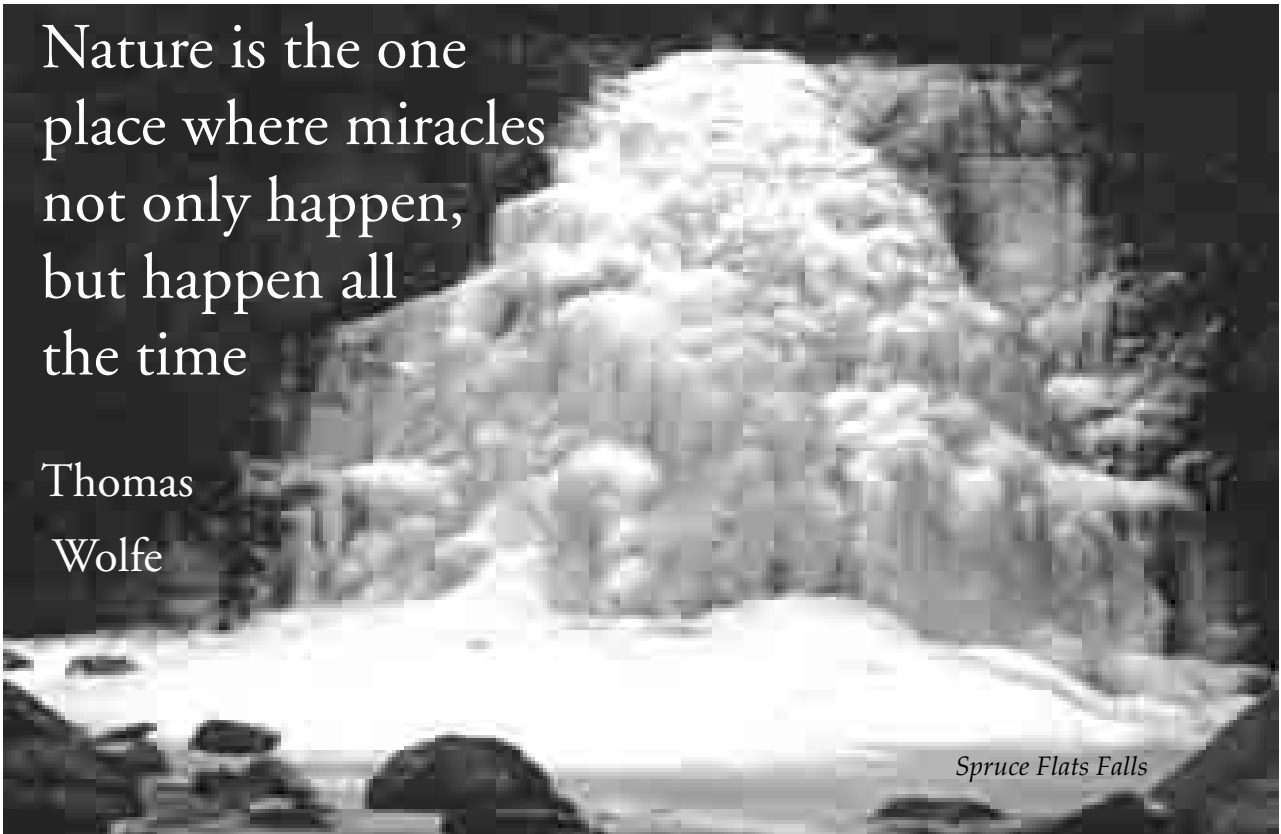
WINTER 2001-2002

NEWSLETTER of
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE AT TREMONT

The staff of GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS
INSTITUTE AT TREMONT thanks you for a
marvelous year and wishes you a new one
full of nature's miracles.

Nature is the one
place where miracles
not only happen,
but happen all
the time

Thomas
Wolfe



Spruce Flats Falls

TREMONT HAPPENINGS

TRANSITIONS

Jason Barschdorf is heading home to Maine after serving at Tremont for over a year as a Senior Teacher Naturalist. Jason is continuing his interest in wilderness medicine as he pursues paramedic training. Thanks, Jason, for all you've contributed.

Crawford Paylor worked with us last summer and will be returning as a Teacher Naturalist this coming January. Crawford is graduating in December from North Carolina State with a degree in Parks Recreation & Tourism Management. Welcome back, Crawford!

SCHOOL SCHEDULING FOR 2002-2003

Winter is arriving here in Walker Valley with a burst of cold air and frost on the ground. Let's not forget, however, that spring is just around the corner. We still have openings on our calendar for 2002 in late winter and early spring including weekends in March! If you are interested in finding out what we have open please contact our registrar, Lainie Frye.

Beginning in January, we will be mailing out scheduling information for the 2002-2003 school year. Be on the lookout and be ready with preferred dates.

If you have students that won't be able to come to Tremont without financial assistance, we have some financial aid available through our scholarship fund. Don't let financial matters keep any of your students from experiencing the beauty and magic of these mountains. For more information, please see the article on scholarship funds in this issue.

SMOKIES FIRES

This fall's drought has certainly affected the Smokies. There were a number of days when Walker Valley was filled with smoke as fires burned in and around the park. The Sharp Fire above Deep Creek Campground

near Bryson City grew to 5,800 acres. All but about 85 acres of the burn was inside the Park. This fire and a number of the smaller fires around the park were believed to be set by arsonists. Park Superintendent Michael Tollefson announced that a reward of up to \$5,000 is available for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for starting the Sharp Fire near Bryson City. The superintendent also issued a parkwide ban on open fires.

TREMONT POSTERS

With the help of Ackermann Public Relations who donated their services, and Photographer Willard Clay who donated a favorite image of the Middle Prong, we were able to produce a beautiful poster to give to participants and those who will help us spread the word about our programs and the importance of connecting people and nature in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

If you don't have a copy yet please stop by and get one. If you know of a school, business, outdoors store or club that would like to post one of these fine posters please pick one up for them or let us know and we will send them one.

COOK'S CORNER

In the last newsletter we mistakenly left out the end of the recipe we included and have many people waiting to complete this great dessert. Here is the full version.

Nanaimo Bars (Nah-Neye-Mow) (A small fishing village on the Pacific side of the Vancouver Islands in British Columbia, Canada)

Bottom Layer
1/2 cup Butter or Margarine
1/4 cup granulated sugar
5 T cocoa
1 egg, beaten

1 3/4 cup graham cracker crumbs
1 cup fine coconut
1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts (I've also substituted peanuts)
Melt first 3 ingredients in heavy pot.
Add egg and stir to cook and thicken-remove from heat.
Stir in crumbs, coconut and nuts.
Press firmly into an ungreased 9x9 pan.

Second Layer

1/3 cup butter or margarine
3 T milk
2 T vanilla pudding powder
2 cups powdered sugar
Cream butter, milk, pudding and sugar.
Beat until light and fluffy.
Spread over bottom layer.

Third Layer

2/3 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips or 4 squares (1 oz each)
2 T butter or margarine
Melt chips and butter over low heat, cool.
When cool but runny, spread over 2nd layer.
Chill in refrigerator.
Use a sharp knife to cut, 36 squares, Enjoy!!!

Here the man is no longer the center of the world,
Only a witness, but a witness who is also a partner
In the silent life of nature, bound by secret affinities to the trees.

-Dag Hammarskjold

FINDING REFUGE IN TROUBLED TIMES

There probably isn't anybody in America whose life wasn't touched in some way by the events that occurred on September 11. Most of the Tremont staff was in the office that morning, listening with shock at what we heard on the radio. Despite our relative geographic isolation both from the events as well as "civilization" – nestled as we are in our mountain valley home – like everyone else we felt all too vulnerable and full of fear.

In the days that followed, I listened to news interviews with people who described feelings of dissatisfaction with their jobs, which now seemed meaningless in light of the tragedy. Faced with such violence and suffering, everyday tasks such as buying gasoline and groceries felt precious and fragile, no longer something we could take for granted. Connections with friends and family and home suddenly became more important than anything else.

I shared a lot of these feelings in the days following the disaster, but

there was at least one important difference. I never felt in the least like my job had lost meaning or had become irrelevant. On the contrary, connecting people and nature seemed more important than ever.

Just as nature is a classroom – something we at Tremont strive to help our participants better understand and love – it can also be a refuge in times of trouble. Our programs here at Tremont have provided just this kind of sanctuary this fall. We've had programs like Fall Elderhostel, Fall Naturalist Weekend, Women's and Fall Adult Backpack, Photography Weekend, plus over a dozen school groups. Over and over again, I listened to people saying how nice it was to get away from the news. How a simple walk in the woods lifted their spirits. How filling their senses with brilliant fall colors and the sound of Spruce Flats Falls had touched their lives in ways they couldn't fully express.

When times are hard we look more closely at what is right around

us and take for granted fewer things. Remembering the Walker Sisters philosophy of life seems especially appropriate: "Use it up, wear it out. Make do or do without." Lately, on the other hand, we've been hearing a different message in the media, how to show our patriotic duty we should – of all things – go shopping. Feeding the glut of a consumer economy – which damages ecosystems the world over and has been in place only since the last world war – doesn't seem to me to be an accurate expression of what it means to be an American. Visiting a national park, our nation's equivalent of cathedrals in Europe, does.

While working this fall with such a rich diversity of people, I have been reminded how important our public lands are and how vital a role Tremont plays in bringing people to the Smokies. In times of peace and war alike, the natural world is always there, always welcoming and nourishing us, perhaps now more than ever.

-Jeremy Lloyd

WHERE THERE IS A WILL THERE IS A WAY

While many people make annual contributions to help support the educational mission of Tremont, a few of our supporters make the extra commitment of providing for Tremont through a will or trust. These special gifts provide lasting support for our efforts to deliver the best residential environmental education experience at the least cost to our students.

Although there are many different ways to provide a planned gift to Tremont, the most common method is a specific bequest through a will or codicil (an amendment to an existing will). Here is a sample of the language that can be used to make such a gift:

I give and bequeath to Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, a non-profit organization (Tax ID # 62-1833479), located at 9275 Tremont Road, Townsend, TN 37882, for its general purposes, the sum of ____ Dollars (\$____) – OR – ____% of my residuary estate.

If you would like more information about bequests, trusts, and other methods of planned giving, please call or write Executive Director Ken Voorhis, and ask for a copy of our four-page "Brief Guide to Planned Giving." Each request is handled confidentially and places you under no obligation. The information in the brochure is general in nature; we strongly recommend that you consult your attorney and your tax or financial advisors to draw up an estate plan that is specific to your needs and interests.

BROOK TROUT RESTORATION

If your favorite fall hike is up Thunderhead Prong to Sams Creek you may have had to take a detour this year. Fisheries biologists for Great Smoky Mountains National Park closed Sams Creek- a tributary in the Middle Prong Little River watershed- in an effort to restore native brook trout *Salvelinus fontinalis* to the area. The creek and surrounding trails were closed temporarily, but have since reopened upon the completion of a new brook trout restoration project.

Brook trout, the only trout species native to the Southern Appalachians, once flourished in what is now the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A combination of factors have limited the brook trout's range.

In the early twentieth century heavy logging filled the area's streams with silt. This silt and other pollutants caused by logging made it difficult for the brook trout to survive. Local residents became concerned for their personal well being when the fish all but disappeared below 3,000 feet elevation. Around 1910, the logging companies began to stock the streams with fish. More than 700,000 brook trout were transported from New England hatcheries from 1910-1950.

As the companies stocked the streams with brook trout they also introduced the non-native rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. This practice was continued- much to the delight of every fly-fisherman to visit the Smokies- until around 1974. Although stocking the streams with millions of rainbow trout increased the number of fish in the Smokies, this practice resulted in an overall loss of diversity.

When compared to brook trout the rainbows are a more aggressive species. Not only will rainbow trout tolerate warmer and mildly polluted water but they also mature and reproduce faster than brook trout. For these two reasons the rainbows have continually bumped the remaining brook trout up to

higher elevation streams. Today the brook trout has lost 75% of its range due to these two factors.

National Park Fisheries biologists, Steve Moore and Matthew Kulp have been heading a project to remove non-natives, such as rainbow trout, from designated park streams. This fall the biologists headed up past Tremont to Sams Creek. The goal for the Sams Creek project is to provide a safe haven for brook trout in lower Sams Creek and to open it for brook trout fishing in the future.

The first phase of the project was to remove the non-native rainbows with a piscicide, a pesticide used to kill fish, called Antimycin. Approximately four kilometers upstream of a waterfall was chemically treated. This waterfall will act as a natural barrier above which rainbow trout cannot climb. Once the stream was treated the Antimycin was neutralized with potassium permanganate downstream, so it would not affect the Middle Prong or the Little River.

The chemical nature of this project creates an ethical dilemma with which I have been struggling. Should we use chemicals like piscicides in a National Park? And more importantly, how is the Antimycin going to affect the insect larvae on which the brook trout will be feeding? The Antimycin alternative was chosen for a variety of reasons but the primary reason was its success in scientific studies in western North America. However, Moore and Kulp are concerned for the well being of the aquatic insects in Sams Creek.

An environmental-impact study was completed on the watershed with the help of Jon Souders and his environmental science students. This enthusiastic group of high school students from Glen Estes High School in Cincinnati has been using Tremont as a base camp to search for a rare caddis fly on Sams Creek. The caddis fly, *Neophylax*

kolodskii, has been found twice on Sams Creek and nowhere else in the world. The whereabouts of this endemic species needed to be studied before the brook trout project could begin. Fifteen students and four adults searched nine miles of the watershed for *N. kolodskii*. Fortunately for the brook trout *N. kolodskii* was not found and the project continued.

The restoration project so far has been a success. The first visual survey of insects and larvae after the treatment suggested good results. However, a follow-up study did report a minor impact on aquatic insects. These insect surveys will be continued quarterly to look at insect recovery. All the rainbow trout have been removed and the scientists will continue to evaluate the streams health. Upon completion Matt Kulp stated the removal project "was a success and that there were no surprises."

As for the brook trout, it is now up to them to move their way down into free waters. Monitoring of their migration will be done this spring and summer. This is a new restoration technique for biologists in the Smokies. If the project continues to go as expected the careful use of Antimycin will be tried in other streams within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for the same purpose.

Sams Creek is open again so we may all resume our regularly scheduled hiking programs for this winter. You may even catch a glimpse of the "speckled trout," as mountain folk call them. Leave your fly rod at home for now. Sams Creek is still closed to fishing while nature regains her balance. If the project here is successful, the high elevation streams may be opened for brook trout fishing in the future.



-Ryan Young

STUDENTS AS SCIENTISTS

"Will we catch any copper-heads?" asked one seventh grade student from Cottage School in Roswell, Georgia. "I don't know," I replied, "and that's the best thing about doing science!" These students were assisting with a study of reptile populations here at Tremont. Dr. Ben Cash, a herpetologist at Maryville College, set up a drift fence on our campus and loaned us a set of funnel traps that we can use to assess the populations of snakes and lizards at the site. When a traveling reptile is blocked by the drift fence, it turns to move along the fence and is intercepted by mesh bags with funnel-shaped openings. Once in the bag, the animal cannot escape easily back through the funnel and remains inside until the researcher releases it. This day, the students were the researchers. They checked each bag carefully and released the "by-catch" of spiders and crickets that had found their way into the trap.

Although we didn't catch any reptiles this time, the activity was still of both scientific and educational value. From a scientist's perspective, we are attempting to better understand the distributions of reptiles in the park as part of the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI). Negative data, such as the data we collected with the Cottage School students, is important to the study, as we try to understand where species are *and* where they are not. From an educator's perspective, these students were able to connect to nature in a new and exciting way. At the same time, they learned something about how scientists study reptiles in the field and they made a real contribution to an actual scientific study. The data they collected will be used by Dr. Cash and other researchers to understand and protect the national park's resources.

Finding ways to help more students get these "real science" experiences is my mission here at Tremont, and my professional passion. Too often there are communication gaps among researchers doing science, teachers

teaching science, and students learning science. All three groups have much to gain from greater interaction. By partnering with students and teachers, scientists can



do more long-term, broad-scale studies that require many assistants. In return, scientists can help students move beyond the dry facts in science textbooks and experience the excitement of the scientific process in action.

As more scientists and educators realize the mutual benefits of working together, the number of formal student-scientist partnerships increases. Some of the most well-known programs include Global Learning to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE), Cornell University's FeederWatch, and Journey North. Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont is making its own name in the citizen science world and has become a model for other environmental education institutions interested in incorporating science into their activities. Over the past three years, more than 40 students have come to Tremont to do research as part of our volunteer research intern program. Countless more students have had brief encounters with our research projects while visiting with school groups and summer camps. Our vision is to have more teachers bring their students to Tremont to learn about scientific research by actually doing it in the national park.

Marsha Sega, a science teacher at Saint Mary's School in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, has tried involving her students in Tremont's ATBI research, with great success. She teamed up with eight of her students to do a trailside inventory of ferns, snails, and beetles at Tremont. Each week during the summer, the team hiked along a trail, stopping every 200 meters for a survey point. They would collect all the empty snail shells they could find, identify and count all of the ferns in a defined circle, and collect beetles from the trees and shrubs. They also measured and recorded habitat characteristics, such as canopy cover and dominant tree species. "I could have taught these things in the classroom, but it would not have had the same impact," says Sega. The students are now analyzing their results and developing science fair projects based on their Tremont study.

Involving students in research can be intimidating. When we do real science, we don't know the "answers" ahead of time. The potential is high for results to turn out differently than we expected or for our methods to not work as well as we had planned. These challenges make excellent learning opportunities; Marsha Sega named problem-solving as an important skill that her students gained from their trailside inventory research. When the GPS unit failed or the group did not recognize a tree species, they had to use the resources at hand to overcome that challenge.

If you are an educator intrigued by the potential of citizen science, I invite you to attend our Integrating Science workshop for teachers April 5-7, 2002. We will discuss a variety of citizen science opportunities and how to make them work in the classroom. And, in Tremont tradition, we will spend plenty of time outside refreshing our understanding of science by participating in some of the many research projects happening here.

-Michelle Prysby

A MOONLIT COVE

October 2nd this year was a typical fall day in the Smokies. Temperatures in the seventies, with that crystal clear air that makes every leaf on every tree on the mountainside stand out. There was however, one thing that made this autumn day special; it was the night of the first full moon of fall. During this time of year, the moon rises earlier in the evening for several nights in a row, light that is much appreciated by farmers who have dubbed it the harvest moon. Since I arrived at Tremont last May, I have heard stories of other staff taking advantage of a full moon's light to bike around the 11-mile Cades Cove road. A beautiful sunset ended the day, seeming to drive home the point that we shouldn't waste this opportunity. So a plan was hatched for a group of staff to meet with our bikes at nine o'clock to begin our nocturnal adventure.

We loaded our bikes onto a few cars and drove to the entrance to the cove. After we all suited up against the chilly night air, we rode around the gate and into the moonlit cove. The moon was so bright that there was no need for any of us to turn on the headlamps we brought with us. The first few miles of the road are level or downhill, so we coasted along silently, in awe of seeing the tall grasses and mountains lit up with soft moonlight. As we rode on, we were serenaded by the whistling call of a Screech Owl from far back in the woods, a sound that always manages to send a chill through my body. Cades Cove is one of the most popular attractions in the park, usually filled to overflowing with visitors during the day. But this night, we had the amazing experience of knowing we might be the only humans for miles around.

As we continued up and down the hills and around the sharp bends the road had waiting for us, we would stop every now and then to catch our breath, only to have it taken away again by the spectacular scenery that was spread before us. The ride was easier than I had

expected, and the miles fell behind us as we rode along keeping our eyes peeled for people walking and on the deer grazing by the roadside. Before I knew it, we were halfway around the loop at Cable Mill. The trees bordering the next section of road were much thicker, creating a tunnel of branches and leaves overhead, forcing us to reluctantly turn on our headlamps. Our pace slowed, not only because of the darkness, but also because of some particularly steep and winding curves. The brakes on my bike screeched in protest, so it was quite a relief when we reached flatland and took a break where the Hyatt Lane cutoff connects with the main loop.

The canopy above had opened back up, and we had a view of the stars that no planetarium could ever match. The horizons made of mountain ridges, we had constellations like Sagittarius and Cassiopeia watching over us, as well as the faint white stripe of the Milky Way stretching across the black sky. As we stood next to our bikes, from the middle of the cove off to our right, I heard a coyote howl at a full moon for the first time in my life. With the stars and mountains surrounding us, I am not sure that a more perfect and beautiful sound could ever be heard. The coyote continued to howl as we stood there in silence, and was soon answered by another coyote off to our left. Before we knew it, the calls of half a dozen different coyotes echoed from the hills facing us. The symphony continued for a few minutes, gradually fading into nothing, leaving us in a remarkable quiet once again.

We stayed where we were for a few moments longer, all of us struck with the lack of words that always follows a once in a lifetime experience in nature. As we climbed back on our bikes and rode by the Dan Lawson homestead, I couldn't help but think what life must have been like for the pioneers who called this cove their home. The show of

stars and wilderness that we had just experienced must have been a regular occurrence for them. I can picture old John Oliver or Kermit Caughron sitting on their front porch after supper, looking out over their fields and listening to the same sounds we just heard. I wondered what they would think of the way we live our lives today, when seeing more than a few dozen stars in the sky is a special thing for most people, and hardly any have heard a coyote howl in the wild. I can imagine them laughing, calling us crazy, then going back inside their simple log cabins to sit by the fire with their families.

The Cove had one more treat for us that night. As we cut back across Sparks Lane, over the sound of gravel crunching under our tires, we heard the "Who cooks for you" call of a Barred Owl. The hollow hooting seemed like the final touch on an unforgettable night in the Smoky Mountains. Living in the national park, I try not to take these mountains for granted. But every now and then, it is nice to have an experience like that moonlit ride around Cades Cove that helps me to remember what a truly fascinating, unique, and beautiful place in which I live.

-Adam Barnes



CHANGING APPEARANCE OF CADES COVE

Long-time visitors to Cades Cove have noticed some changes in recent years. Large fields are being broken up, some areas are being allowed to undergo natural succession, other areas are being mowed less often, and fires are even being set by the park. Many visitors wonder why these changes are happening. Here is a little background to help explain the changes.

The National Park Service (NPS) operates under two mandates. One is to protect natural, cultural and historic resources, such as endangered species, Indian artifacts, historic buildings and plant communities. The other mandate is to provide an opportunity for public recreation, including hiking, biking and kayaking as well as access to historic buildings and archaeological sites. These two goals sometimes conflict.

One such conflict exists in Cades Cove, which is the most heavily visited area of the park, and a place which Tremont participants visit often. Most visitors hope to see black bear and white-tailed deer, so many want the park to make these animals more visible. Some folks believe that short, golf course-like grass – also known as fescue - is the solution. Some have gone so far as to complain about the grass being taller now than in years past, making it a bit more of a challenge to see animals. So why is the grass higher? Why is the park mowing less frequently?

Several changes in 1997 helped bring about the current look of the Cove. One change was the retirement of a concession that used to hay approximately 600 acres west of Hyatt Lane. The park's plant management team is now working to restore native plants in that area. They have removed many of the non-native, or exotic, plants from it. They are actively harvesting seeds from here, since bringing in seeds from outside the park may reduce genetic integrity. Most native grasses grow to about waist height – taller than fescue, which is in most lawns.

Native grasses are an important component of a cove habitat. They provide the necessary cover for many animals to survive and they produce very high volumes of seed that are needed by migratory birds and other animals, whereas fescue does not. Grasses will not produce seeds if cut regularly. Warm season grasses are also better at stabilizing soil, thus protecting fertile topsoil and preventing siltation of creeks, which would reduce fish populations. Scientists believe these important benefits outweigh the decreased visibility afforded by native grasses.

Another change was the implementation of a working fire management plan that includes intentional burns. This is done by the Fire Management staff for the purposes of preventing large-scale uncontrollable fires. The fires are also used to protect native plant communities, many of which are being overrun by exotic species.

Additionally, in 1995 there was an Executive Order mandating that federal agencies increase their efforts to help protect native species of plants and animals from the exotic species, which are not a part of the natural ecosystem, and often are not beneficial to other plants or animals in the area.

In addition to the environmental issues there are cultural ones. The long term goal of the park has been to preserve the way the Cove looked during the era of European settlement – roughly 1860 to 1920. Back then the Cove was inhabited by numerous families and businesses, who owned variable amounts of land and used it in many different ways. So instead of the large, monotonous fields to which visitors have become accustomed, there were many different fields of various shapes and sizes, with a diversity of crops. For a number of years ending in 1999 however, there were cattle in the Cove. There still is a horseback riding concession. Those uses find larger fields of shorter grass prefer-

able. They also tend to use exotic plant species, specifically fescue. Now that the cattle are gone, there is an opportunity to reduce the fescue.

The Plant Management Crew is using various methods to restore native warm season grasses, including controlled burns, spraying exotic plants, and simple physical removal of exotics, followed by planting natives. These methods, of course, take lots of effort. Several Tremont staff have volunteered time to help with this, and we encourage others who are interested in the preservation of our natural heritage to do so as well. Information about volunteering in the park can be obtained by calling the park's volunteer coordinator at 865-436-1265.

-Charlie Muise

River of Life

*Oh river of life, like crystal you flow
Fed by the rains ever swifter you grow
Life giving river, your banks lined with
trees
Your pools full of creatures, and a
refuge to me*

*I love when you roar as your banks
they do swell
Your power rolls boulders as you seem
to yell
I love when you whisper in the stillness
of night
and lull me to sleep, you are peace,
you are might*

*Sing to me river, my neighbor my friend
You never quit singing as you round
each bend
You play over rocks, into clear pools
you spill
You run to the ocean as you spring
from the hills*

-Ken Voorhis

WOMEN IN THE WOODS

Ten intrepid women arrived at the Ace Gap Trailhead off Rich Mountain Rd on a splendid Friday afternoon, unloaded the backpacks one by one from the roof of the van, and snapped a couple of group photos (to be used as before and after comparisons, one participant jokingly mentioned.) The route chosen for the annual women's three-day backpacking trip covered just over 19 miles northeast of Cades Cove. It was to be women's bonding at its best—a chance to escape hectic lives, meet other women with a similar love for the outdoors, and to experience the Smokies in all their autumn glory.

The first night was spent at Campsite # 3 which is located in a stand of hemlocks near Beard Cane Creek. We awoke the next morning to slightly overcast skies and although the weather forecast had predicted rain and storms for the weekend, at that point we had managed to stay dry. Most of the morning was spent on Beard Cane Trail, one of the straightest trails in the park, running through fertile, moist bottomlands filled with rhododendron and dog-hobble. After lunch we were met once again with a beautiful display of autumn colors—the deep burgundy of sourwood leaves, the pale yellow

umbrella-like leaves of Frasier Magnolias, and the golden leaves of hickories—all along Hatcher Mountain Trail.

The last mile of the day was spent hiking on the most mentally and physically challenging trails we would travel along during our trip. Little Bottoms Trail leading to Campsite #17, our home for the second night, is considered a relic of the past, narrowing at times to only a foot in width and traveling steeply uphill and downhill in places. Although slightly unnerved from our hike in, we arrived with a sigh of relief. After a hot supper we settled in around a campfire with its soft, warm light reflecting off our faces, listening to stories of Cherokee legends and legendary fiddlers told by Elizabeth Rose, a professional storyteller and participant.

That night, we finally received the storm that had been predicted earlier in the week. Most awoke to the sound of raindrops hitting the tent flies with loud splatters and the wind howling loudly through the trees. After a somewhat fitful night of sleep we mercifully awoke to a clearing sky and the sun shining through the damp Hemlocks.

After taking down camp and packing we retraced our steps over a soggy Little Bottoms Trail and arrived on Hatcher Mountain Trail with high spirits having just over four miles to go. Shortly thereafter we made the turn towards Abrams Falls, traveling right alongside the creek, and at times, through dense rhododendron thickets. We stopped at Abrams Falls, where the creek spills majestically twenty-five feet into a broad pool below. There we discussed the past couple of days, with topics ranging from backpacking gear and trip planning, to Leave No Trace principles while we munched on Tremont's famous homemade beef jerky.

We made the last push over several long ascents and descents on one of the most popular trails in the Park. Arriving at the trailhead, we snapped more pictures, thankfully removed our packs and our boots, and sat down to give our tired feet a rest. We had all returned safely with memories of the days past and newfound friendships. By simply living off what we had carried on our backs, we would have stories to tell to family and friends of our time spent in the quiet peace and solitude of the woods and mountains.

-Bethany Hanna

SMOKE SIGNALS

A feature especially for teachers bringing groups to Tremont

As the animals prepare for winter, so do Tremont's programs and staff. You couldn't tell by the weather outside that winter is almost here. However, we are beginning to focus on how the forest and its inhabitants adapt and survive what can be a brutal season. We are studying the changes in the forest, the changes in animal behavior and the changes in the Middle Prong. What a great time to bring your school group to Tremont! We have so much to offer this time of year that it is a shame when the fact that it is winter turns some people away. The views of the mountains are still awe inspiring and you can get that occasional glimpse of the snow covered mountain tops. We can customize a program for your school depending on your curriculum needs. Please contact us about some of the great opportunities during the winter.

All lead teachers for schools that are coming to Tremont this winter and spring should have received the newly titled Tremont Trip Planner (formerly the User Guide). Please read through this material and contact me if you have any questions. Pay particular attention to the Tremont Checklist and Schedule Request Form. These timelines are set up to help you with the planning process. Please let us know your goals and objectives by filling out the Group Profile form. This is invaluable information to our staff when planning for your students. Also, any teachers that will be leading a lesson as part of the 50/50 teaching agreement should have copies of all or any lesson that they are leading. If you do not have a lesson manual, please let me know. We feel strongly that in order to reach our goals and objectives with the 50/50 teaching, teachers understand and are prepared before they come to Tremont. I understand that due to classroom priorities and the amount of work you do as a teacher this is not always possible. Therefore, our staff is prepared to walk you through any lessons, guide you to the trail, and answer any questions you may have. Communication with our staff will insure a successful and rewarding experience for all.

-Bill Klein

SCHOLARSHIPS CONNECT KIDS & SMOKIES

During the 10-day Teen Science Camp in July, twelve energetic campers came to Tremont to study everything from moths and birds to salamanders and plants. While participating in these science projects, the campers learned more about the Great Smoky Mountains and the exact methods that scientists use to study our natural world. Without scholarship monies, though, one-third of the group would not have made it.

Those four campers were able to attend only because of scholarships that they received from *The Daily Times* of Maryville, Tennessee and the Episcopal Church of the Ascension of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Kaitlin Kolarik, 14, from Maryville, Tennessee and Adam Heinrich, 13, from Louisville, Tennessee are very thankful for the assistance. "We have learned and experienced so much in the short time that we have been here," said Kaitlin. "There is no way to explain the

feeling of holding a bird in your hands or massaging a bear's paw."

"Without *The Daily Times* scholarship there is no way that we would have been able to attend this year," said Adam. "This is a perfect place to learn about science, and I'm just so thankful to be here."

Sebastian Riddle, 12, and Dwight Schooler, 13, from Knoxville received the Church of the Ascension scholarships. "This camp has given me the opportunity to do things that I can't do at home," says Sebastian. "I have never seen a lot of these animals in real life before."

If you know of someone who could benefit from attending Science camp or another of our Summer Camp opportunities please contact us for more information.

Many school groups who attend Tremont also receive financial aid from donations to our scholarship funds. This past year we were able to give over \$5,000 in aid to students attending with school groups. We

are hoping to have a significantly larger amount of scholarship funds available in 2002 so if you are a school group scheduled and have children in need please contact us for financial aid applications. If you have wondered if your school could afford to attend Tremont please contact us as well. We want all children to be able to attend our programs and are building the support to allow that to happen.

The grants from *The Daily Times* and the Church of the Ascension are not the only sources of scholarship support for Tremont students. Interest from the Tremont Endowment provides thousands of dollars of additional scholarship funding each year. With additional grants and a growing endowment, more students will be able to experience Tremont first-hand, regardless of their financial need. For more information on making a financial gift to Tremont, please contact our office, at (865) 448-6709.

-George Ivey
Friends of the Smokies

LOOKING AHEAD

PROGRAM BROCHURE

Look forward to the 2002 Program Brochure's arrival in your mailbox in early January. We have exciting, new program offerings as well as many of the old favorites. Details on upcoming programs are below, and check out Tremont's website www.gsmit.org for information on the entire 2002 program series.

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER JANUARY 20 - 27

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER REFRESHER COURSE FEBRUARY 13 - 15

Do you know how to respond to backcountry emergency situations? Anyone interested in the wilderness or in emergency medical training will benefit from this course. Instructors from Roane State Community College will lead the program. The curriculum will meet the Tennessee Dept. of Transportation's standards for First Responder while focusing on the special situations that may develop in the wilderness. Participants will be eligible for national registry and state testing upon completion of this program. Test fee and meals included in cost. Cost: \$650. There will be an additional fee to purchase textbooks.

If you have taken Wilderness First Responder in the past and are due for a renewal, the Refresher program will satisfy the requirements to renew certification in First Responder on the national registry. Limited enrollment! Program lasts from Wednesday morning to Friday afternoon, meals included. Cost \$275.

NEW PROGRAM SERIES

SECRET SPACES, SPECIAL PLACES

We are excited to offer this new series which focuses on some of the more unknown areas of the Smokies. Participants in these activities should expect travel, solitude, beauty, and wonder as they explore areas that most people don't experience. Some of these places could be in the most popular regions of the park or they could take hours to reach. Some may be day programs while others are part of our weekend or weeklong workshops. Either way they will make you glad you came. The following day programs are our Winter 2002 explorations:

SPICEWOODS: A SMOKY MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY FEBRUARY 16, 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Small farming and logging communities dotted the Great Smokies during the early 20th Century. Some of these, such as Cades Cove, are easy to visit while others are well off the trodden path and are known only to a few. Visit the Spicewoods, a community lost in time, as you roam the hills and coves along Fodderstack Mountain. Learn the story of this once thriving community as we visit old homesites, streams, and trails. Knowledgeable staff will guide you as you explore this unvisited part of the park. Much of this hike will be moderate and off-trail. Family Day Program. Ages 8 and up. Meet at Tremont. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing and bring a sack lunch. Cost: \$30/family

GREEN CAMP GAP MARCH 9, 10:00AM – 4:00PM

In the early part of this century, much of the Great Smokies was heavily logged. The area around Green Camp Gap was the last to be logged. See how the forest has recovered and explore one of the largest trailless areas in the Park where signs of wildlife are often abundant. This overgrown railway bed will guide us back and forth across glorious Sam's Creek. You will encounter a small elevation change during this hike, however be prepared to do some rock hopping and to hike off the trodden path. Family Weekend Program. Ages 12 and up. Meet at Tremont. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing and bring a sack lunch. \$30/family

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & THE ARTS FEBRUARY 22 - 24

This fun-filled and inspirational early spring weekend is dedicated to using the arts to teach environmental education. Tap into your creativity and spark your imagination with hands-on sessions on a wide range of topics. Exploring the environment through storytelling is the theme of this weekend. We are still lining up our featured presenters but we are looking at some of the top names in storytelling so watch for more details. Along with the spoken word, nature illustration, crafts, and music will round out this weekend's activities. We will begin the weekend with Friday evening storytelling, just the thing to get you in the Smoky Mountain spirit. Saturday will be full of concurrent sessions that explore many aspects and methods of creativity. We'll finish Saturday with our Open Mic Night, a chance to further enjoy the talents of those gathered and join in yourself if you like. On Sunday we'll put it all together with Environmental Expression Activities, a favorite EE & The Arts tradition. Come ready to laugh, play, and learn to use your creativity to explore your connection to the wild outdoors. Program lasts from Friday supper through Sunday lunch. Cost: \$150. One hour of graduate credit is available for an additional fee.

INTEGRATING SCIENCE TEACHER WORKSHOP APRIL 5 - 7

Wondering how to get your students involved in hands-on science projects? The Great Smoky Mountains Institute is a leader in teaching inquiry-based science to students through participation in real field biological and ecological projects. Spend the weekend participating in field activities, including the study of salamanders and moths, and learning how your students can benefit from these experiences. Meet with teachers who have successfully integrated field research projects into their students' curriculum, and learn of additional student research opportunities such as the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory. Program lasts from Friday supper to Sunday lunch. Cost: \$150. One hour of graduate credit is available for an additional fee. Inquire about the availability of financial aid.

Our 2002 program brochure will be mailed to you soon and is loaded with many new and exciting programs as well as the tried and true! Check it out and register soon! We hope to see you in 2002! Changes are coming soon to our webpage as well so visit us at www.gsmit.org

Be a Friend of Tremont

At Tremont user fees pay for a significant percentage of our operation but to accomplish our dreams and help others to experience them we need your help. Please consider a donation to one of the following funds:

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

ANNUAL FUND

ENDOWMENT FUND

For students who have been shut up in classrooms for all their lives this is best thing that ever happened. Tremont gives children chances to learn things outdoors that they never had a chance to before. Teachers also have the opportunity teach students the importance of things they may have never experienced before or even thought about before. It provides a unique opportunity to live in and learn about national parks. Many important things are taught here that are not found in books. - Miss Elsie Burrell

Designate which fund you would like to contribute to and mail donations to:

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE AT TREMONT
9275 Tremont Rd. Townsend, TN 37882
865-448-6709 mail@gsmit.org website: www.gsmit.org

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE AT TREMONT PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out a separate form for each person registering.

NAME (as you want it on your name tag)

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

e-mail _____

age (if under 18) _____

Program title

Program date _____

Amt. enclosed _____

Return to: GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS
INSTITUTE AT TREMONT
9275 TREMONT ROAD
TOWNSEND, TN 37882
or fax to: 865-448-9250



To register by credit card call: 865-448-6709

Minimum deposit for a three-day program is \$50, and for all other programs is \$100. The balance is due 60 days prior to the program. Cancellations received in writing 60 days prior to a program will receive a 75% refund. Cancellations received less than 60 days prior to the program will not be refunded.

DONATIONS

Thanks to all of the following !
FROM 8/3/01 TO 11/20/01

Financial Contributions

Brackin Reunion The Cobble Family Foundation
Honorable Bill Crisp Clare McFarlane
Cottage Middle School Friends of the Smokies
Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association
Anne Dean McWhirter Naturalist Week Participants
Elizabeth Rogers Robert Gray Sample
Dick Ray Tremont Reunion
Westminster Christian Academy

Contributions to the Endowment Fund

Keith Goff Robert Crockett Susan Schott
in honor of John Dail Ogle Norma McGee Ogle

Sponsors for Science Camp

Daily Times Grant Edward Kenimer

Other Donations

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Becky Walton Cody West

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE AT TREMONT

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE
AT TREMONT

IS OPERATED IN COOPERATION WITH
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

PROGRAM CALENDAR

STAFF

<i>teacher/naturalists</i>	<i>food service</i>
Adam Barnes	Sam Crowe
Bethany Hanna	Jackie Davis
Ryan Young	Lori Flanagan
Karen White	Lois Tipton
<i>sci/ed specialist</i>	Sue Tipton
Michelle Prysby	Toni Vann
Paul Super	<i>grounds and facilities</i>
<i>sr. teacher naturalists</i>	Sean Flanagan
Jason Barschdorf	<i>registrar</i>
Jeremy Lloyd	Lainie Frye
Charlie Muise	<i>sales</i>
<i>school program director</i>	Linda Vananda
Bill Klein	<i>office manager</i>
<i>special program director</i>	Kathy Burns
Amber Parker	<i>executive director</i>
	Ken Voorhis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

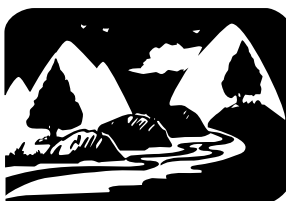
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Cathy Ackermann	



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Jan 20-27	Wilderness First Resp. Course
Feb 13-15	Wilderness First Resp. Refresher
Feb 22-24	Environmental Education & the Arts
Apr 7-12	Elderhostel - hiking
Apr 19-22	Spring Photography Workshop
Apr 19-21	Spring Adult Backpack
Apr 5-7	Integrating Science -teacher
	wkshp
May 24-26	Birding Workshop
May 17-19	Spring Awakenings Naturalist Wknd
June 9-14	Hiking Elderhostel
June 17-22	Discovery Camp 1
June 17-22	Wilderness Adventure Camp I
June 24-29	Discovery Camp 2
June 24-29	Wilderness Adventure Camp 2
July 1-6	Discovery Camp 3
July 1-6	High School Science Camp
July 1-6	Wilderness Adventure Camp 3
July 8-13	Naturalist Educator Week
July 8-13	Naturalist Hiking Week
July 15-25	Summer High Adventure
July 15-25	High School Science Program
July 15-20	Naturalist Expeditions I
July 20-25	Naturalist Expeditions II
July 29 - Aug 3	Nat Res College Consortium
Aug 4-9	Elderhostel -res management

Contact us for information on any program.
Information is also available at our website: www.gsmit.org
E-mail us at: mail@gsmit.org



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INSTITUTE AT TREMONT**
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