



TRAILS FOREVER - THE SUCCESS OF 2010

By Christine Hoyer, GRSM Trails & Facilities Volunteer Coordinator



VOLUNTEERS FROM THE EXPERIENCE YOUR SMOKIES BLOUNT COUNTY GROUP WORKING TO IMPROVE TREAD ON THE PINE OAK NATURE TRAIL DURING A "SATURDAY IN THE SMOKIES" TRAILS FOREVER WORKDAY. CREDIT-CHRISTINE HOYER

The vision of the *Trails Forever* program is to fund a permanent trail crew in Great Smoky Mountains National Park that will focus on trail rehabilitation projects while incorporating the help of volunteers. As the Friends of the Smokies work towards the goal of a \$4 million endowment that will fund the crew, we have been piloting the program on the ground.

During this pilot phase which started in 2008, we have begun developing the program, building volunteer interest, and have tested the viability of incorporating volunteers into complex trail construction projects. With the success of the 2010 season, there is evidence that the *Trails Forever* program has great potential to benefit Great Smoky

Mountains National Park, the trail system and the volunteers!

The *Trails Forever* partnership requires support both from the Friends of the Smokies as well as the Park. In October 2009, the Park created the Trails & Facilities Volunteer Coordinator position which supports the *Trails Forever* effort by recruiting, coordinating, and leading volunteers in trail projects. With the Parks' extensive trails system, one of the other key additions was that of a *Trails Forever* tool trailer. This "mobile tool shed", in the shape of a 12-foot trailer with the *Trails Forever* logos on the side, is outfitted with equipment needed for trail work and can be pulled to any trailhead in the Park. Another key step was to build volunteer interest and the web was one of the tools used to spread the word. The *smokiestrailsforever.org* website with information on the program, the volunteer trail projects, and ongoing updates in the shape of a blog called the "Coordinators Corner" has become a valuable way to connect interested volunteers with the program.

The 2010 season started out at full speed with a number of college groups from across the country participating with Trails Forever as part of their spring break. The students camped at

different locations throughout the Park and spent their days digging out waterbars on Low Gap Trail, making improvements to the tread on Pine Oak Nature Trail, building structures to improve muddy areas on Newton Bald Trail, just to name a few. These groups provided both the opportunity to make trail improvements as well as a chance to inspire the next generation of Park stewards.

Sections of the Forney Ridge Trail, between Clingmans Dome and Andrews Bald, were rehabilitated and are much improved thanks to work done in 2009 as part of the *Trails Forever* program. Though we do not yet have a dedicated crew, we continued to make improvements on this section of trail, one workday at a time. This season was definitely a park-wide effort with Saturday workdays held on trails throughout the Park from Cades Cove, to Smokemont, to Twentymile and many places in between. The *Trails Forever* effort also supported the Parks' trail-work style celebration of National Park Week, National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day. Some trail events were set aside for particular groups of volunteers, others were catered to the skill level of students and scouts, while the majority were open to whoever wanted to dig in the dirt – from first time volunteers to the already diehard.

The steady growth of the number of volunteers and the quality of the trail improvements that have been already been made serve to highlight the value the program will have once the *Trails Forever* vision is fully realized! I encourage anyone who is interested in getting involved in *Trails Forever*, as a supporter or volunteer, to become a part of this lasting gift for the Smokies.

Contact Information

**Christine Hoyer - Trails & Facilities
Volunteer Coordinator**
Great Smoky Mountains
National Park - 828-497-1949
christine_hoyer@nps.gov



LEGACY



JIM HART, PRESIDENT
CREDIT- JACK WILLIAMS

Trails Forever, the most ambitious fundraising campaign in Friends of the Smokies' 17-year history, is creating a legacy not only for the Friends organization but also for three very special people who loved Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Trails Forever started as the dream of the Aslan Foundation of Knoxville and Lindsay Young's family. The foundation pledged a \$2 million matching grant to establish an endowment for hiking trail improvements in the Smokies. As Friends of the Smokies raises \$2 million, the Aslan Foundation matches it dollar-for-dollar. Lindsay Young's family felt that ensuring the conservation of the Park's trail system in perpetuity would be a fitting tribute to Lindsay's memory. He

loved the Smokies, and as a founding board member of Friends of the Smokies was passionate about Park preservation.

This year Natalie Haslam, another original Friends board member, recruited Knoxville Ann Furrow and Sherri Lee to serve as co-chairs for a new memorial fund within *Trails Forever*. Their combined hard work and dedication has resulted in over \$459,000 in gifts and pledges for the Tom Cronan Pathfinder Fund- so far. Wellness advocate Tom Cronan's favorite stress reliever was hiking Alum Cave Trail to Mt. LeConte. He thrilled at the opportunity to introduce people to his favorite destination. The generosity of Tom's friends, family, and associates of his wife Joan Cronan (UT's Womens Athletics Director) have brought the fund balance near its goal of \$500,000.

Many of you who love the Smokies already know Margaret Stevenson. Like Tom Cronan, she hiked Mt. LeConte religiously until her passing in 2006 (read her hiking journal online at (<http://www.mtleconte.com/msleconte.htm>)). In fact, Margaret's last hike to Mt. LeConte was with Tom Cronan! For many years Margaret Stevenson's Wednesday Hikers made holiday gifts in her honor to Friends of the Smokies, establishing a fund totaling \$42,000. When the Wednesday Hikers heard of the matching component of the Trails Forever endowment, they voted unanimously to make the Margaret Stevenson Fund part of Trails Forever, thereby doubling the balance.

Would you like to maximize your gift to Friends of the Smokies? Who is your pathfinder? You can contribute to Trails Forever in honor or memory of someone who has inspired you this holiday season, and the Aslan Foundation's match will double your support.

We need your help to reach our \$2 million goal. For more information, please contact Friends of the Smokies Development Director Sarah Weeks at 800-845-5665 or via e-mail at fotssw@bellsouth.net.

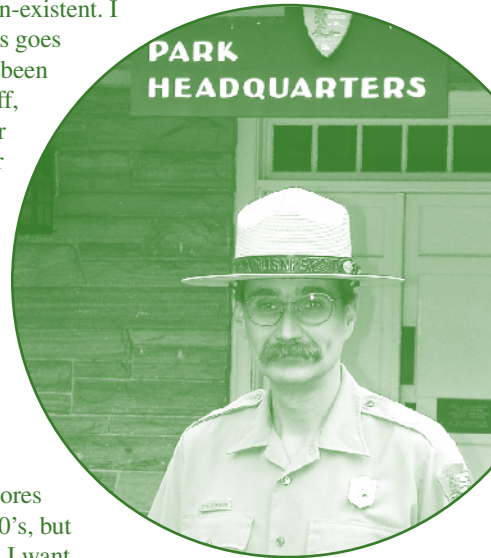
PRIVILEGE

In 2010 the Smokies was privileged to receive nearly \$80 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, which has resulted in broad improvements to the Park's roads, trails and facilities. The challenge presented by this huge influx of funding was that several popular Park roads including Clingmans Dome Road, Cades Cove Loop Road and Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail were closed at the same time, while numerous other roads and facilities were subject to lane closures or other visitor use limitations.

Despite these impediments, Park visitors and our neighboring communities were very understanding, and complaints were practically non-existent. I think much of the credit for this goes back to relationships that have been built up between the Park's staff, volunteers and partners and our gateway communities and their tourism entities. All of us worked hard to let visitors plan their activities around the construction and still have a quality visit. One indication of their success is that the Smokies received an overall visitor satisfaction rating of 100% on the 2010 National Park Visitor Survey. Historically, our satisfaction scores have always been in the high 90's, but have never achieved this level. I want to thank all of our staff, neighbors and partners for their patience with these inconveniences.

There have been numerous occasions when the Friends and other partners have played an especially vital role in enabling the Park to respond to unexpected problems or opportunities. In 2002, when the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid showed up in the Smokies, the Friends was there to fund our pest suppression actions immediately enabling us to begin saving trees years earlier than would have been possible if we had been forced to compete for traditional federal funding. In 2005, as we prepared to contract for the new Twin Creeks Science and Education Center, the available funding was almost \$600,000 less than the lowest bid. Again the Friends stepped up, along with the Great Smoky Mountains Association, and each provided nearly \$300,000 to bring the project to fruition.

This summer a 20 acre tract of land, almost entirely surrounded by the National Park, unexpectedly came on the market. The parcel was a high priority for acquisition, but the Smokies has no authority to purchase land, only to accept it via donation. Again, Friends was there and purchased the property, using funds raised through a series of events hosted by long-time supporters, Jim Ogle and Vicky and Phillip Fulmer, helping to protect the Park boundary and ensure the protection of the Park's natural and cultural resources for future generations.



DALE DITMANSON, SUPERINTENDENT
CREDIT- NPS

BECAUSE OF YOU

By Holly Demuth, North Carolina Director

As a newcomer to the Friends of the Smokies team, I often ask people, “Out of all the great causes out there, why do you continue to give so generously to Friends of Great Smoky

Mountains National Park?” Invariably, people initially get a faraway look, then their eyes light up with an extra sparkle. They lean in, as if to share a secret, their replies pouring forth:

- “Some of my fondest memories as a child were in the Smokies. I want my children’s children to have the possibility of that special experience.”

- “I love bears.”

- “Knowing that over ½ a million acres are being protected with challenges from pollution, exotic insects, humans—what a huge undertaking. And so important. I want to be a part of that.”

- “My favorite view (or trail/drive/campground/picnic spot) is in the Smokies.”

- “If thousands of schoolchildren during the Great Depression can find a way to support the park, then so can I!”

- “The Park means so much to my family, my business, and my community.”

- “It is, simply put, a National Treasure.” From improving trails to saving hemlocks, sparking learning in schoolchildren and conserving wildlife—bears, elk, trout, salamanders, and all—there is a lot going on in our Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Your gifts to the Friends of the Smokies help make these important efforts possible.

Thank you for sharing your stories and your resources. Together they inspire and enable our great park to flourish.

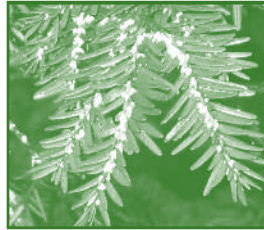


THE MOUNTAIN FARM MUSEUM NEAR THE OCONALUFTEE VISITORS CENTER
CREDIT-SAM HOBBS

LASTING INSIGHTS

By Kathryn Robertson, Office/Special Projects Coordinator

Great Smoky Mountains National Park coordinated its 10th annual Experience Your Smokies class this fall. Experience Your Smokies is a fantastic field-based program which gives its members the unique opportunity to get an inside look at and



HWA MANIFESTS ON THE UNDERSIDE OF NEEDLES AS COTTONY “FLUFF”.

hands-on experience with park issues while networking with other community leaders. It is the perfect opportunity for park neighbors to explore the wonders of their 800 square mile “backyard” and get an insider’s look at day-to-day operations in America’s most-visited national park.

The program consists of five sessions in which participants learn from

park specialists about their area of expertise while exploring the national park. This year’s curriculum, organized by Park Ranger Caitlin Worth, includes topics such as wildlife management, historic preservation, and cultural resource management. The class heard from Supervising Air Quality Specialist Jim Renfro, Entomologist Becky Nichols, and Supervising Fishery Biologist Steve Moore.



Experience Your Smokies was designed to promote volunteerism and awareness for Great Smoky Mountains National Park. “Our hope is that, with this insider perspective, those that participate may be knowledgeable park proponents in the communities surrounding this place for years to come, and hopefully make some meaningful connections with those in their class as well,” said Worth.

AIR QUALITY PROGRAM MANAGER JIM RENFRO SPEAKS TO THE EYS 2010 CLASS ON TOP OF CLINGMAN’S DOME. RENFO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE PARK’S AIR QUALITY PROGRAM, ONE OF THE MOST EXTENSIVE AIR MONITORING PROGRAMS IN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.
CREDIT-NPS.

Ashley Adams, Publicity Coordinator for Dollywood, is a member of this year’s class. “I knew EYS would allow me to learn interesting facts about the park that I might never discover on my own. The various backgrounds of the class members, as well as the interaction with knowledgeable park rangers and the setting of GSMNP, has made every session a perfect retreat!”

Former class member Rob Fightmaster says, “It is an experience I will never forget. I can’t say enough about the instructors’ knowledge and passion about what they do.” Fightmaster is the Fly-Fishing Director for Blackberry Farms.

For more information or to apply for Experience Your Smokies class of 2011, please contact Kathryn Robertson at 865-932-4794 or fotskr@bellsouth.net.

INSPIRATION FROM A FRIEND



I must say that I am THANKFUL that Cataloochee and the ELK are there for all to visit. I cherish this photo that I took last October of our dear Elk 21 just two weeks prior to losing him by a senseless shooting. A special thanks to all the

Elk Bugle Volunteers who have such a thankless task ensuring that all visitors remain safe and have a great time in the Valley!

- Cyndee Leatherwood

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FRIENDS OF THE SMOKIES PURCHASES LAND ADJACENT TO NATIONAL PARK

By Holly Scott



MAP OF LAND PURCHASED ALONG SOAK ASH CREEK. CREDIT-MCCARTER AUCTION COMPANY.

On September 11, 2010 Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park was the successful bidder in a public auction of 20 acres of land surrounded on three sides by Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The acreage was divided in two tracts, with a purchase price of \$775,000.

Major funding for the land purchase was made possible from proceeds from Friends' annual Ogle-Fulmer "Picnic in Pittman for the Park" fundraiser over the last ten years. The Foothills Land Conservancy also partnered with Friends of the Smokies in the purchase, contributing \$25,000.

In the words of Friends President Jim Hart, "In addition to providing this rare opportunity for the Park to add 20 acres of prime property to its holdings, we also fulfilled our annual Needs List commitment of about \$1.5 million to the Park the same week."

At the most recent Friends of the Smokies board meeting on November 8th, the directors voted unanimously to deed the undeveloped ten-acre tract which contains no bricks and mortar structures to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Environmental assessments performed by the Park will ensure that the land can be added to the Park's boundary as soon as possible. The remaining acreage and structures will be retained by Friends of the Smokies. Possible future uses of that property are under consideration in coordination with Park management.



SOAK ASH CREEK PROPERTY. CREDIT-MCCARTER AUCTION COMPANY.

SELFLESS DEDICATION

By Holly Scott

In September, members of the Appalachian Trail Maintainers from the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club completed renovation of Russell Field- the final backcountry trail shelter rehab project along the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This was the 13th shelter rehabilitated by the crew, consisting primarily of volunteers from the hiking club and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. At a rate of one shelter overhaul per year, these volunteers were unbelievably committed to making our Park's backcountry shelters safer and more enjoyable for the thousands of hikers who use them each year.

Friends of the Smokies partnered with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in the eleven of the shelter renovations, with tremendous generosity from The Richard Haiman National Parks Foundation which has contributed more than \$150,000 for the shelter projects, trail rehabilitation, backcountry permit stations, and educational trail signage in Great Smoky

Mountains National Park since 1999 (read more about the foundation on page 6.)

We extend an enormous thanks to Phyllis Henry for her hard work in planning and organizing materials, meals, and personnel for each of the projects. Philip Royer donated his architectural



THE OLD CREDIT-WAYNE WILLIAMS

expertise to the redesign of each shelter. Our appreciation also goes out to Mike Burrus, Bill Clabough, Andrew Downs, Terry Elmore, Bert Emerson, James Fondren, Caleb Grey, Tom Howard, Dick Ketelle, Mac McNutt, George Minnich, Ed Peck, Mark Purchell, Jake Reagan, Steve Reagan, Paul Ruble, Stewart Taylor, Sam Tillery, Jerry Troxler, and Wayne Williams for donating countless hours of manual labor, sleeping on hard surfaces in poor conditions, and eating Phyllis's cooking for the duration of the project.



THE NEW CREDIT-WAYNE WILLIAMS

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I'm grateful that I live so close to the Smokies and the Blue Ridge Parkway. I'm grateful that here in the Southern Appalachians, we can hike comfortably all year round without crampons, snow shoes and ice axes. This year, I volunteered at Oconaluftee VisitorCenter. Once a week, I was behind the desk for four hours and answered visitors' questions. I learned so much about the park - the kind of behind the scenes information that you can't learn from a book or website. Then I roved the trails and again learned so much by answering questions from hikers. - Danny Bernstein, author of *Hiking North Carolina's Blue Ridge Heritage*

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To stay informed of the latest happenings with Friends of the Smokies

be sure to sign-up for our e-newsletter at: www.FriendsOfTheSmokies.org.

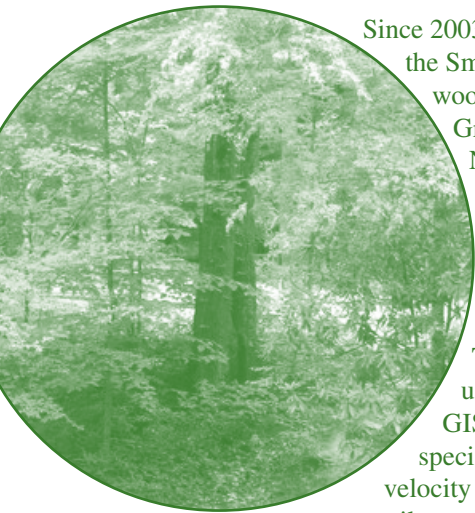
You can also "Like" us on Facebook at Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Get our "tweets" on Twitter at SmokiesFriends.



EVERYDAY THEY WRITE THE BOOK

By Holly Scott



HEMLOCKS GROWING ALONG WATERWAYS IN THE SMOKIES HELP TO REGULATE STREAM TEMPERATURES FOR THE BENEFIT OF AQUATIC SPECIES. CREDIT- BAILEY LOMBARDO

Since 2003, support from Friends of the Smokies to fight the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) in Great Smoky Mountains National Park has exceeded \$1.3 million dollars. Recently, I spent a day with vegetation specialist Jesse Webster observing the frontlines of this battle. The HWA combat crew uses sophisticated software, GIS/GPS mapping devices, specialized vehicles, and high-velocity spray guns. They hike for miles regardless of weather through a tangled understory of rhododendrons packing gear and supplies. Their detailed recordkeeping enables them to pinpoint the exact location of trees treated, the dates of treatments, and the types and amounts of treatments delivered.

Park employees like Jesse Webster can spot treatment-worthy hemlocks in a cluster of other tree species from the window of a moving vehicle traveling 45 miles an hour! Today, members of our Park's vegetation crew are experts in the field, but when the program began there was no manual to tell them what, when, or how to do it, or the types of materials needed in what amounts. Their progress in seven years is truly amazing.

Generous Friends of the Smokies supporters like the Aslan Foundation of Knoxville, North Carolinians Fred and Alice Stanback, Brad and Shelli Stanback, and many others helped create a successful HWA treatment and monitoring program that is an example for public land agencies across the United States.

Did you know that Great Smoky Mountains National Park has the largest hemlock woolly adelgid combat program in the world? More than 130,000+ eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) trees in the Smokies have been treated by hand; in contrast, the second-largest program in the Delaware Water

Gap has hand-treated over 6,000 trees. Other public land management areas do not treat for hemlock woolly adelgid- they only monitor the progression of the infestation.

The efficiency of the Smokies program is demonstrated in the fact across the 520,000+ acres in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, all hemlocks above 8" in diameter within a 25' buffer zone along administrative roads, in campgrounds, and in picnic

areas have received at least one form of treatment over the last eight years. That is quite an accomplishment when you consider that in the summer months department staffing maxes out at an average of twelve to fifteen crew members.

Emergency funding provided by Friends of the Smokies donors enabled the program to get off the ground with little delay when HWA was discovered in the remote western areas of the Park in 2002. Friends contributed \$150,000 to help establish the Lindsay Young Beneficial Insects Laboratory at the University of Tennessee. Research, development, and predator beetle rearing continue there today; these biological controls may hold the greatest promise for saving a larger percentage of hemlocks in the Smokies.

While park personnel continue assessment of predator beetle effectiveness (signs of promise include recovery of predator beetle hatchlings in 2009 from biocontrol release sites in 2004) ongoing measures buy time for the eastern hemlocks in the Smokies. Trunk injections of special pesticides can provide a defense for individual trees. Spraying trees with water-soluble horticultural oil along the roadsides in Cosby Campground and the Cades Cove Loop Road reduces the adelgid population in large stands of hemlocks. If the vegetation crew can get back to the sprayed areas to treat individual trees with a soil drenching chemical, the treated trees have the greatest chance of long term survival.

Each tree treated with the soil drenching method can potentially be saved for 5 to 10 more years without further preventive action. Some trees that were treated one time seven years ago are adelgid-free now. On the crisp fall day when Jesse Webster and I applied the chemical along Little River Road, we hand-treated nineteen trees with this technique thereby "buying" as many as 190 healthy years for those hemlocks.

In one day, I saw predator beetle larvae being harvested in Elkmont for further study, applied the soil drenching chemical to several hemlock trees, and hiked into the backcountry near Cosby campground to see examples of old growth giants thriving following beetle releases and chemical treatments. Here are some more facts that I learned:

- More than 4,000 acres of hemlock-dominated forest have been set aside as special conservation areas and that their geographic array maintains biological diversity within the species of eastern hemlock in the Smokies.
- The eastern hemlock is the only shade-tolerant conifer in our park.
- *Tsuga Canadensis* is one of the oldest species in the Smokies, and it is a keystone species, meaning that there are myriad species tied to the eastern hemlock that can be lost as well.
- The majority of green trees that you see in the Smokies in winter are hemlocks.



THE RICHARD HAIMAN NATIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION

By Tom Brosch



ALUM CAVE TRAIL
CREDIT- ALLYSON VIRDEN

Richard Haiman was an avid outdoors man who loved hiking in the Smokies. Living in Orlando, he made three to four trips each year to the Great Smoky Mountains bringing along friends so that they could be introduced to the most visited National Park in the United States.

Shortly after Hurricane Opal hit the east coast, in October 1995 Richard heard that his favorite trail, Alum Cave Bluff, had been devastated by the storm. He called Tom Brosch in Gatlinburg, a

friend and fellow hiker, to see what could be done to help the Park Service with repairs so the trail could be re-opened for everyone to enjoy.

Karen Wade, the Park Superintendent at the time, was contacted on New Years Eve for more details and to set up a meeting for Richard and Tom, his hiking partner, to talk with the Park Service Staff. This meeting took place the first week of January 1996 where staff members showed pictures of trail conditions and discussed the damage.

Richard inquired about the cost involved to get this trail re-opened. The reply was approximately \$185,000. Without any hesitation Richard expressed his feelings that the Park Service should pay a portion of the cost, and suggested a donation from Friends of the Smokies to which he personally would donate \$65,000.

Karen Wade was pleasantly pleased and asked what Richard wanted in return for such a wonderful donation. Richard's reply was he wanted three things: the opportunity to be notified when the trail work was complete, to be allowed to be the first hiker on the repaired trail, and finally that no recognition would be made regarding his donation. He then wrote a check for this amount on his Looney Tunes identified checks and presented it to the Park.

His wishes were honored as he was kept informed on the status of the work, was in fact the first person to hike the repaired trail in April of 1996 along with numerous friends including Charles Maynard, then Executive Director of Friends of the Smokies, and until this time no material recognition of this sizeable donation has been made.

In April of 1997, Richard made a trip to Gatlinburg to ask Tom Brosch to serve with his own son, Darren, on the Board of a Foundation he was starting for National Parks. Tom didn't hesitate to say "yes", due to their longtime friendship and knowing this was to be the last time he would see Richard prior to his death in June of that same year.

Richard's legacy lives on as his Foundation has contributed \$436,000 to various national parks with emphasis on the Smokies. His legacy shall continue on so that people can truly understand the beauty of the world that surrounds us.

For further information and detail on the Foundation's accomplishments, go to:

www.RichardHaimanNationalParksFoundation.org.
(Website to debut in December 2010!)

Throughout this issue, there have been many mentions of Alum Cave Trail and Mt. LeConte. Stokely Hospitality, which operates LeConte Lodge at the summit of the mountain, commissioned Smokies native son and famed artist Robert A. Tino to paint the first official image of the cabins there. The print is available from Stokely Hospitality (<http://www.leconte-lodge.com/catalog>) with proceeds benefitting Friends of the Smokies. The prints make great gifts for those who have honeymooned there, celebrated birthdays or anniversaries, or simply enjoyed a most rewarding day atop LeConte.



WILLIAM B. STOKELY IV AND ROBERT A. TINO WITH 'THE LODGE AT LECONTE' CREDIT- STOKELY HOSPITALITY.

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My favorite GSMNP memory that I am thankful for is my first visit to the Park back in 1973. My parents took my sister and I to the GSMNP when I was 11 years old on our way back to Ohio from Tennessee. That experience began my love for GSMNP, and even helped to shape the course of my life as my husband and I hope to volunteer at the Park when we retire. Thank you allowing me to share my most thankful Park memory.- *Kelli Felde*

I love living right next to the Smokies and want to do what I can to help keep them beautiful. When I was growing up, my family would always take a fall/winter vacation to the mountains, so I'm just doing my little part to help you guys make a difference for the families that do that in the future. I started a new job in July (which is how I'm able to give more) and my new company will also match my contribution (that's one of the reasons I decided to work with this company), so I'll start the match paperwork shortly to send a little more help your way. - *Adam B., Knoxville, TN*

A SMALL LEGAL MATTER IN SWAIN COUNTY

By Luke Hyde, Board Member



PRESENT DAY LAKESHORE TRAIL AS IT RUNS ALONG THE ROADBED OF OLD NC 288, WHICH WAS FLOODED BY THE FILLING OF THE FONTANA DAM, CUTTING OFF ROAD ACCESS TO THE NORTHSHORE AFTER ABOUT 1943.

Our family reunion in Swain County, N.C. always takes place on Decoration Day which is one week before the rest of the country observes Memorial Day. In the mid 1980's my brother Herb and I visited the Watkins Cemetery. As we walked around from headstone to headstone of our departed loved ones, Herb casually asked, "Would you be willing to work with me on a small legal matter?" "What is the issue?" I asked. "The North Shore Road," he came back.

"Let me do a little reading and study on your question, and then we will talk again." I replied.

After reading hundreds of documents, including the court cases involving the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the planning and creation of the Tennessee Valley

Authority Fontana Lake, I called Herb at his office in Asheville and said, "Can we talk about the small legal matter in Swain?"

Sitting in Herb's law office in Asheville we discussed the need for a plan which would resolve the North Shore Road issue. We agreed upon seven essentials. First, our purpose or mission must be clear, and it must be simple, short and easy to articulate to a team assembled. Second, our team must know the history and political, financial, and philosophical aspects of the issues. Third, we must be focused and sensitive to all parties involved and we must be alert all the time. Fourth, we must be patient and determined and display to the region, the State, and the nation that our cause is just and less costly than other alternatives. Fifth, we must anticipate problems, pitfalls, and setbacks and have solutions or factual answers before the matters come up. Sixth, we must build a network of individuals, conservation and environmental groups, political, and community leaders who will support the mission throughout the region, the State, and the Nation. Seventh, we must refute the mis-information, myths and illusions, and half truths, or total untruths given out by adversaries. Our position must be supported by consistent, persuasive facts which are totally true and which are positive.

Our mission was, a cash settlement of somewhere between forty and sixty million dollars for Swain County.

Herb and I knew of the work done over the years by Claude Douthit and others of Swain County to resolve the issue by a cash payment to Swain. Early on in our study it became crystal clear that the proposed road would not, could not, be built and a cash settlement appeared to be the only intelligent plan B. We talked with Claude Douthit and other Swain County leaders and Mr. Douthit started building a team to push for a cash settlement. The team would take the name Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County.

In 2000 Congress slipped \$16 million dollars into the conference committee federal budget for road construction.

The CEFSCO started meeting monthly at the Historic Calhoun Country Inn and developed a campaign consistent with the seven essentials Herb and I developed in 1985 and 1986. Everyone agreed that we needed Swain County Commissioners who supported a cash settlement. With the election of Glenn Jones as Chairman the Board endorsed the cash settlement. When Heath Shuler, a Swain County native, was elected to Congress, ending the sixteen year tenure of a congressman who said he supported building the road, prospects improved for a cash settlement.

Within a few months of Heath Shuler's election he gained the support of seventeen Congresspersons and Senators, with the strong support of Senator Lamar Alexander, who had always opposed building the North Shore Road. The U.S. Department of Interior, through the Park Service, held hearings required under the National Environmental Protection Act, and thousands of conservationist, environmentalists, and park lovers attended. The hearing process resulted in a decision by the National Park Service to seek a monetary settlement in lieu of further construction.

With Claude Douthit, Glenn Jones, and Leonard Winchester leading efforts in Western North Carolina, and with Ted Snyder, Ray Payne, Leroy Fox, D.J. Gerkin, Greg Kidd, and Don Barger, and Dr. Barney Coulter, and hundreds of others, leading efforts across the country, Congressman Heath Shuler and Senator Lamar Alexander were able to convince the new administration and Secretary Ken Salazar to commit to a contract to pay Swain County fifty-two million dollars to fulfill any obligation the Federal Government might have because of the ill-fated 1943 agreement. Superintendent Dale Ditmanson, and his leadership team, at the GSMNP, played important and significant roles, on the journey to a cash settlement.

On February 6, 2010 the contract was signed in a special ceremony held in the Swain County Center for the Arts.



**VICE CHAIR STEPHEN W. WOODY, LUKE HYDE, PRESIDENT JIM HART, CHAIR MARK WILLIAMS
CREDIT- JACK WILLIAMS**

All who attended, and all who supported the effort, would agree that the more than twenty-five year campaign was a work of art by good people who love the park and were determined to preserve, protect, and leave the Great Smoky Mountains National Park unimpaired, for the enjoyment of future generations.

Luke D. Hyde is a native of Swain County who grew up on a farm mostly surrounded by the park. He is an attorney in Raleigh, and an Innkeeper in Swain County, and a life long member of the political party which elected Heath Shuler to Congress. He serves as a member of the Board of The Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He is in his third term as Chairman of the 11th Congressional District, and serves as Chairman of the Board of The Cherokee Preservation Foundation, and as a member of The Board of Friends of Smoky Mountain History.



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I also learned that funding from Friends of the Smokies has made a real difference for hemlocks in our park. In 2011, Friends has committed to providing \$50,000 for the treatment program. If you would like to contribute, please visit our website at <http://shop.friendsofthesmokies.org/donations.html> and choose the “Save the Hemlocks” donation item from that page.

For more information, podcasts, and videos about the hemlock treatment program, please visit the park’s website at <http://www.nps.gov/grsm/naturescience/hemlock-woolly-adelgid.htm> or <http://www.nps.gov/grsm/naturescience/df209-main.htm>.

FRIENDS OF THE SMOKIES PROVIDED \$296,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF SPRAY TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT; SPRAY TREATMENTS ARE EFFECTIVE ALONG ROADSIDES. CREDIT-NPS

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