

# 2014 Donor Salute

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## Mission Statement

*The mission of Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park is to assist the National Park Service in its mission to preserve and protect Great Smoky Mountains National Park by raising funds and awareness and providing volunteers for needed projects.*



*Anna Lee Zanetti*

## CLASSIC HIKES OF THE SMOKIES

**By Anna Lee Zanetti**

Classic Hikes of the Smokies are guided day hikes in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. These fun, informative hikes promote healthy lifestyles and offer the opportunity to experience the park first hand with hiking guide and local author Danny Bernstein. “We are very fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer like Danny to lead these hikes. Her passion for the park is felt with every single step, and hiking with her invites a sense of adventure while exploring new territory,” said hike co-leader Anna Lee Zanetti, Friends of the Smokies NC Development and Outreach Coordinator



More than 230 people joined Friends on a Classic Hike in 2014, many of whom were visiting the park for the first time. During each hike Danny and Anna Lee highlight stewardship projects in Great Smoky Mountains National Park made possible by donations to Friends. These projects include native trout management, hemlock wooly adelgid treatment, historic structure preservation, Parks as Classrooms, elk management and much more. The hike series showcases the effort that goes into managing more than 500,000 acres and how important donations made to Friends of the Smokies are in providing for the park and needed programs.

Join in on the fun and sign up for a Classic Hike of the Smokies. Hikes are on every second Tuesday of the month. To register contact Anna Lee at (828) 452-0720.

# NPS COLLECTIONS PRESERVATION CENTER

By Julie Dodd

Work is underway on the new NPS Collections Preservation Center, a facility to preserve more than 400,000 artifacts and 1.3 million archival records documenting the history of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and four other NPS areas in East Tennessee. The 14,000 square-foot facility is being built in Townsend, TN on land adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center and is scheduled to open January 2016.



*Photo Credit: GSMNP photos and illustrations*

*The groundbreaking ceremony for the NPS Collections Preservation Center was held last November. FOTS President Jim Hart is second from right. The center is scheduled to open in January 2016.*

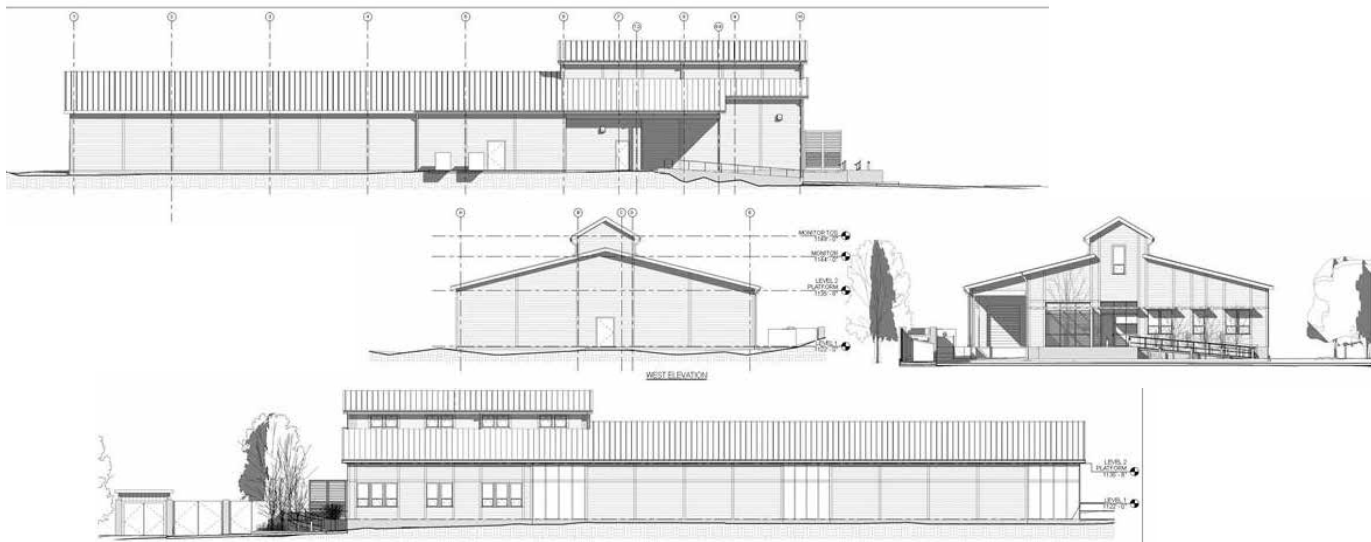
Friends of the Smokies and Great Smoky Mountains Association combined to donate \$1.9 million for the construction of the building. The total cost of the facility will be \$4.1 million, which is being funded through public-private partnerships, with both federal funds and public donations. The Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center donated the 1.6-acre parcel of land to the Park.

## GROUNDBREAKING FOR CENTER

FOTS President Jim Hart was part of the groundbreaking crew for the ceremony last November. Hart joined GRSM Acting Superintendent Clayton Jordan, Great Smoky Mountains Association Executive Director Terry Maddox, and other officials.

“The Friends of the Smokies is privileged to partner with the Great Smoky Mountain Association to assist the NPS in the creation of such a lasting and meaningful resource for our area,” Hart said.





*NPS Collections Preservation Center blueprint. The center will be adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center. The other four NPS areas that are included are Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, and Obed Wild and Scenic River.*

## CENTER TO HOUSE HISTORIC ARTIFACTS AND DOCUMENTARY MATERIALS

The historic artifacts that will be housed in the Collections Preservation Center include items that would have been part of the lives of those who lived in the areas in the pre-park days, including farming implements, logging-era equipment, vintage weapons, butter churns and spinning wheels.

The collections also will include archaeological artifacts collected in the park that represent time periods up to 10,000 years ago, including projectile points, pottery sherds and trade beads. The collections also include documentary history — photographs, official documents, stories and oral histories.

The facility will provide a climate-controlled space for the items to be preserved and also will include office and lab space where the collection can be studied by NPS staff and visiting researchers.

Having the artifacts in a more accessible facility will enable the NPS to provide more opportunities for items to be shared for temporary display with approved public museums, including the adjacent Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center.

Work on the facility began in November and has included installing power lines, clearing and grading the area for the building, and installing erosion control, according to Imelda Wegwerth,

GRSM landscape architect. Construction has been slowed down somewhat by the winter weather, but the contractor has worked some Saturdays and holidays to make up the time.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Park officials recognized the efforts of Senate Lamar Alexander, Senator Bob Corker, Representative John Duncan, and Department of the Interior leaders who had supported the effort to building the facility. Department of the Interior Sally Jewell visited the Park in March 2014 to meet with officials and to announce the construction schedule for the Collections Preservation Center.



*Photo Credit: Jack Williams*

*United States Senator Lamar Alexander with Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and GRSM Acting Superintendent Pedro Ramos at the ceremony in March 2014 to announce the construction schedule for the Collections Preservation Center*

# We Salute You

Friends of the Smokies thanks each and every donor who helped give \$2.8 million to Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2014 – more than any other year in the organization's history. Here you will find a listing of donors who contributed \$100 or more between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014. On behalf of the board of directors and staff of Friends

of the Smokies, please accept our heartfelt thanks to all who extended generosity to Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2014. Your memberships, license plate purchases in North Carolina and Tennessee, special event participation, Trails Forever gifts, and donation box contributions all help preserve and protect one of America's greatest natural treasures.

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Photo Credit: Billy Jones

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## Hiram Caldwell House Repairs- 2014

This remarkable historic structure in Cataloochee received some much needed T.L.C. last year from the Park's historic preservation crew. Outstanding support from our North Carolina license plate owners, contributions from the donation boxes in Cataloochee, and donations from Raymond Caldwell and the descendants who participate in the annual Cataloochee reunion, made more than \$15,000 in repairs possible, such as fixing the leaky roof and shoring up the chimney, replacing siding, soffit, fascia, windows, and trim, fixing the porch, rehanging gutters and downspouts for proper drainage, and repairing both access bridges.





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Photo Credit: Beth LaFontaine

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Friends of the Smokies also thanks the following community foundations, gift funds, and businesses for facilitating contributions through payroll deduction, donor-advised funds, gifts of stock, guest donation programs, and other charitable gifts in 2014.

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The Caldwell House, constructed in 1902, is representative of early 20th century architecture that represented a historical shift in construction, housing standards, and way of life brought on by the industrial revolution. Unlike its log predecessors, the house is a modern framed structure with weatherboarding and interior paneling. The shingled gables reflect the nationally popular Eastlake style of the day.

# We Salute Our Donors



Photo Credit: Beth LaFontaine

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The following businesses generously participate in our membership benefits program by extending discounts to members of Friends of the Smokies. For an up-to-date listing of our membership partners, please visit our website at [FriendsOfTheSmokies.org](http://FriendsOfTheSmokies.org)

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Can you help us solve a mystery? We know that there are thousands of North Carolina and Tennessee residents who own our Friends of the Smokies license plates, but purchasers' names and addresses are kept confidential by the states. If you have one of the plates you see here, please let us know. We want to say, "Thank You" to everyone who buys or renews a Friends of the Smokies plate. Please help us spread the word that we are looking for our "Friends" who buy our plates.

**Mountaintop Friends**  
**\$414,000+**



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*Friends of the Smokies sincerely thanks employees of the tag offices and the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles for their support.*



## Hemlock Treatment Highlights for 2014

In 2014, the park's vegetation management staff treated 30,000 eastern hemlock trees in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, many for the first time as conservation areas and treatment along trails were expanded.

Mother Nature gave a helping hand in the form of good rainfall in recent years, allowing for treated trees' maximum uptake of applied chemicals to combat hemlock woolly adelgid. Additionally, the unusually cold winter of 2014 caused significant hemlock woolly adelgid die-off. Temperatures plunged below zero during the "polar vortex" (-4 degrees in Cades Cove and as low as -17 degrees on Mt. Le Conte.) The Smokies saw as much as a 97% HWA mortality in some of the higher elevation hemlock stands above 5000 feet. Cold-induced HWA mortality brought park staff more time to find healthy trees that may require treatment.





**\$366,000+**



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*Thank you to all of the Tennessee  
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In FY 2014 there were 18 releases of predatory beetles totaling 12,705 beetles that feed on hemlock woolly adelgids. Since biological controls were introduced, the park has released over 570,000 predator beetles as part of the overall control effort. Extensive research was done at the Lindsay Young Beneficial Insects Laboratory at the University of Tennessee to ensure that the predator beetles do not pose additional dangers to the park's natural resources before releasing them into the park to eat adelgids.

The park continues to share information and experience acquired during the treatment program with neighbors including state park managers, private landowners and national forests in a cooperative effort to preserve this unique tree and its associated ecosystem.

***Thank you to Fred & Alice Stanback for giving so generously to help successfully protect and treat eastern hemlocks in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.***

# We Salute Our Donors



Photo Credit: Angela Holton

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## Seeking Paths in Nature

Funded through a grant from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, Seeking Paths in Nature (SPIN) is an educational partnership between Cherokee Middle School in Cherokee, NC and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, adjacent to the school campus. This project aims to connect students to natural and cultural park resources in a hands-on way and instill stewardship for those resources while fostering emotional and intellectual connections to the park.





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2014, the first year of the program, was been a great success. Pre- and post-test data shows an increase in student knowledge related to natural and cultural resources in the park, teachers are already requesting programs for next school year, and the Cherokee Preservation Foundation recently renewed the grant for an additional year.



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## Emerald Ash Borer

In 2014, 170 (frontcountry) ash trees were treated with systemic insecticides from Cherokee Orchard Road to Laurel Springs Road. These developed areas' trees are a priority for public safety and visitor enjoyment as emerald ash borer has been rapidly impacting ash trees in infested areas. The stem injected trees should have three years of protection before requiring re-treatment, which allows park managers to move to other high priority trees... The park's vegetation staff will evaluate treatment effectiveness in 2015. Without treatment most ash trees are dying within 3-4 years of infestation so treatment is essential to preserve a portion of Great Smoky Mountains National Park's ash resource. There are some large healthy ash trees in high visitor use areas, and this project will help protect them for the future.





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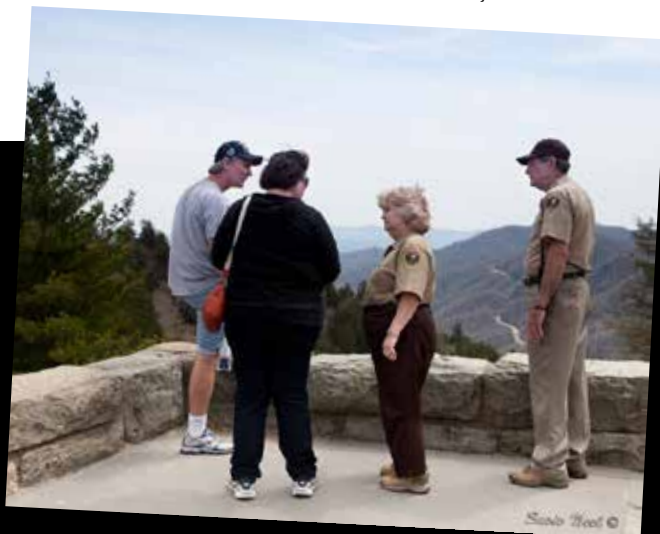
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## Volunteer Visitor Assistance Program (V.A.P.)

The Volunteer Visitor Assistance Program is a unique outreach for retired law enforcement officers and their spouses and former enlisted military personnel and their spouses. It's a program where they can put their public relations skills to use in helping park visitors cope with difficult situations like vehicle breakdowns, flat tires, and vehicle lockouts. Since the program began, with funding support from Friends of the Smokies, 57 different volunteers have donated 36,123 hours participating in this program.



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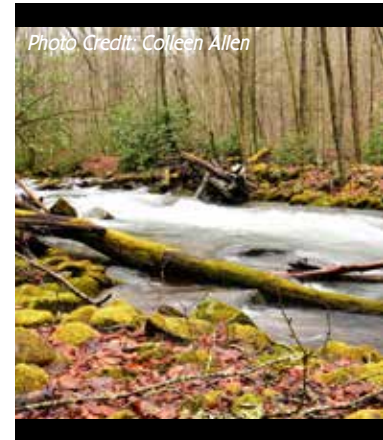


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## The Value of V.A.P.'s- A Ranger's Perspective

"The Roadside Assistance volunteer program is the most important volunteer program within the resource and visitor protection division. These volunteers bring with them a wealth of experience and exceptional work ethic. They handle much of our low level/ low priority law enforcement type calls and work most of our traffic control related calls. These incidents are typically extremely time consuming and prevent law enforcement (LE) rangers from being able to actively patrol the park to help prevent LE activity from occurring. Routine incidents that VP units assist with are: Bear Jams, disabled vehicles, vehicle lockouts, visitor shuttles, delivery of mail, and a multitude of different types of traffic control. They assist rangers with crowd control/road closures during significant law enforcement/rescue incidents. They are INVALUABLE to the success of our operation."

Jamie Sanders, Law Enforcement Ranger, Great Smoky Mountains National Park



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## The V.A.P. Experience - Meeting the Most Awesome People

Jim and Irene Roy have been members of the Volunteer Visitor Assistance Program for nine years; they have patrolled in the Smokies for the past seven years, and worked previously for two seasons at Yosemite National Park.

Both Jim and Irene have a law enforcement background; he is a retired criminal investigator and she served as secretary to the sheriff of Columbia, Mississippi. Irene said that 90% of her job with the sheriff's department was public relations, putting people at ease in stressful situations.

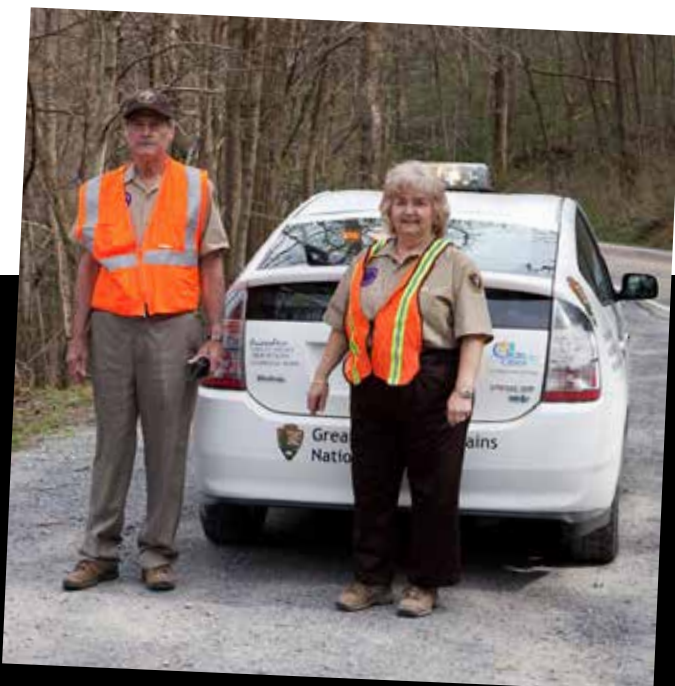






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Of their volunteer work in the Smokies, Irene says, "It is so rewarding to us when we assist visitors and help them continue their vacations enjoying these beautiful mountains. We meet the most awesome people."

Friends of the Smokies was proud to provide \$10,610 in funding to Great Smoky Mountains National Park to support the Volunteer Roadside Assistance Program in 2014 that was used to furnish the V.A.P.'s with uniforms, necessary equipment, and gasoline to keep the teams up and running. The Prius vehicles driven by the roadside assistance volunteers were generously donated to the Park by Toyota and Friends of the Smokies.

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## Did You Know?

In 2014, 2560 volunteers donated 150,679 hours of service to Great Smoky Mountains National Park; that's an average of 58 hours per volunteer







## GIFTS-IN-KIND

We thank the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for their in-kind gifts last year - everything from food and beverages for special events to auction items to services and equipment to help us keep our operating expenses down. To all of our in-kind donors, thank you for helping us help the Smokies.

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**Honorariums are a meaningful way to recognize a special friend, colleague, loved one, pet or cause on an anniversary, birthday or other special occasion. Friends of the Smokies is pleased to recognize the following honorees for 2014:**

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## Did You Know?

There are more than 1500 black bears in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Last year, Friends of the Smokies gave the Park \$153,000 for black bear conservation, which is about \$100 bucks per bear! What a bargain!

# We Salute Our Donors

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**A memorial gift to Friends of the Smokies is a treasured way to express sympathy and encouragement when someone you care about experiences the loss of a friend or family member. Individuals remembered through memorial gifts in 2014 are as follows:**

Ann Adams by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ayres; Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Barrett; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bertelkamp, Jr., Brown, Brown & West; Dr. Henry Callaway, Jr.; Mrs. Peter Denton; Lucy Dover; Julie Fannon; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Goddard; Mary Goodman; Mr. and Mrs. William Hayes;

## Did you Know

In 2014, the Trails Forever crew completed a 3-year total overhaul of the Chimney Tops Trail.

Among the highlights of this work are:

- 367 rock steps, each weighing approximately 300 pounds each!
- 40,000 cubic feet of crush rock fill (6 million pounds) made on site by hand to harden trail tread and fill trail structures
- 53 hazard trees removed
- 291 locust logs steps each weighing about 80 pounds each



and Mrs. Stanley Smartt; G. Robert and Betsy Smith; Mr. and Mrs. William Stevenson, Jr.; Bradley Vaughn; Sarah Weeks  
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# We Salute Our Donors

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Judy Shamblin by Joseph Nance  
Ed Shields by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sarten; Sevier County Commercial Realty; Ed Stallings Auction Service  
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Danny Thompson; James Thompson; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vinsant; Mr. and Mrs. Allen Williamson  
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Virginia Bolt Sponholtz by Sarah Davis; Tish Griffey; Wendi Johnson; Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Sponholtz  
Margaret Stevenson by Mr. and Mrs. Joel Morris, Jr.  
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Jimmy Temple by Marie Temple  
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Hasenauer; Herrin, Booze & McPeak; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hillmer; Mr. and Mrs. C. Eddie Huffaker; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Iglehart; Kathleen Kerin; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Key; Mr. and Mrs. Ken Krushenski; Michael McClamroch; Mr. and Mrs. Dennis McClane; Dr. and Mrs. William McKissick; Moore, Rader & Fitzpatrick; Mr. and Mrs. James Morrison; William Myers, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Bud Ogle; Ortho Tennessee; Timothy Rash and Beth Dible; Mr. and Mrs. William Reagan, Sr.; Robinson, Smith & Wells; Mr. and Mrs. John Rochelle; Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Sanders; Sharp & Ripley; State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company; Mr. and Mrs. David Stroud; Jack and Charlotte Tallent; Georgiana Vines; William Vines, III; Justice and Mrs. Gary Wade; Tamara Warner; Mr. and Mrs. David Washburn; Dr. and Mrs. P. Merrill White; Jack Woodall and Sharon Boyce  
Robert "Chic" Stanford Webb by Elizabeth Reeves  
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# We Salute Our Donors

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The amounts presented here are derived from audited financial statements of Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park for years ending December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2014. There are slight variances in figures due to rounding. Copies of the complete audited financial statements of Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park are available upon request.

<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>		
Year Ended	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash & Cash equivalents	\$ 4,830,778	\$5,873,442
Prepaid Expenses	\$37,540	\$29,596
Pledges Receivable	\$0	\$31,920
Accounts Receivable	\$192,958	\$178,212
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,061,277</b>	<b>\$6,113,170</b>
Investments	\$5,057,681	\$4,897,547
Long Term Pledges Receivable	\$0	\$1,000
Equipment Net of Depreciation	\$71,993	\$76,994
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Beneficial interest in assets held by others	\$216,890	\$214,241
Deposits	\$275	\$275
<b>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</b>	<b>\$217,165</b>	<b>\$214,516</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$10,408,115</b>	<b>\$11,303,228</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$25,820	\$ 10,438
Deferred Revenue	\$189,451	\$238,600
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$215,271</b>	<b>\$249,038</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	\$1,982,021	\$2,700,390
Temporarily restricted	\$3,603,782	\$3,823,152
Permanently Restricted	\$4,607,040	\$4,530,648
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$10,192,844</b>	<b>\$11,054,189</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$10,408,115</b>	<b>\$11,303,228</b>
<b>Statement of Activities</b>		
Year Ended	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>		
Contributions & grants	\$1,308,885	\$1,189,091
Less amounts designated by donors for other organizations	(\$13,600)	(\$17,500)
Tennessee license plate revenue	\$368,653	\$384,988
North Carolina license plate revenue	\$425,680	\$413,280
Special events (net of direct expenses)	\$351,062	\$246,189
In-kind contributions	\$74,415	\$62,114
Investment income	\$343,518	\$746,117
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUE AND OTHER</b>	<b>\$2,858,614</b>	<b>\$3,024,279</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Expenses (park projects & related support)	\$2,967,621	\$1,179,417
Management & general	\$291,854	\$303,903
Fundraising	\$460,485	\$431,906
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,719,960</b>	<b>\$1,915,227</b>





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