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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.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jim Hart

Every year, like you, I am presented with opportunities to donate to many causes- from helping to diminish hunger in my community to funding lifesaving programs for children and animals. The needs are vast and compelling. It led me to wonder, how can we talk about preserving a national treasure like Great Smoky Mountains National Park in a way that demonstrates not only what we collectively give to the Park, but what it gives back to us?



We take care of what we value. In this report, we are sharing stories of why Great Smoky Mountains National Park is so valuable to so many, and why they choose to support Friends of the Smokies.

Our national park is a sanctuary for wildlife, as we all know, but it also serves as a place where many of our members enhance their spiritual lives. When fires and storms create scars in the forest, nature heals itself in remarkable time; in a similar way many Friends donors have transformed their mental and physical health by embarking on a new life-changing hiking regimen. Frequently park lovers report that they come to the Smokies to find quietude, even while it is the busiest national park in the country teeming with numerous

species that also make it one of the most biodiverse places on earth. Families make Great Smoky Mountains National Park a yearly, monthly, or weekly destination where they build treasured memories away from technological distractions. People come to the Smokies for so many reasons, and what they find there better equips them for daily life.

Being a Friend of the Smokies is good for you, and it is good for Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Thank you for your contributions in 2015, and for your continued support. The ongoing preservation of our national park is possible only through the generosity of people like you.



## LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT CASSIUS CASH

If you want to find people with vision, passion, and a legacy mindset then look no further than each of you who have so generously donated to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). Giving is usually focused around very tangible projects – new trails, interpretive centers, and educational programs. These are all very worthy causes and they keep our park thriving and relevant to the millions of visitors every year.



A story that is not often told but one that is perhaps even more powerful, and that is the direct impact GSMNP, with your help, is making in the lives of people who visit; stories of restored health and pure enjoyment and stories of inspired vision for personal contribution.

By now, I hope you've heard about the Smokies Centennial Challenge--Hike 100. This initiative is how we're uniquely celebrating the National Park Service's Centennial. In this challenge, I invite people to join me in hiking 100 miles in 2016. Through the scheduled private and public hikes, I have had the opportunity to personally hear the stories of visitors and witness first-hand of how the GSMNP is making an impact in Eastern Tennessee and Western North Carolina.

I often share with hikers in how my own health was transformed by hiking. Several years ago my doctor told me I needed to manage my high blood pressure or it would manage me. He essentially told me, "Cash, take a hike and call me in the morning." I'm glad to say that I'm living proof that a 'Park Prescription' works!

Then there's the story of a hiker who went on a Friends of the Smokies' "Missy Kane Hike" last summer who said my story of using trails to help me control my high-blood pressure inspired her to commit to hiking and taking control of her diabetes. Fifty pounds lighter and diabetes well in check, I'd say this hiker benefited from a 'Park Prescription' as well.

When I hear these stories, it puts a huge smile to my face. For those of you that know my story, I started out in my college career to become a medical doctor – to help people. What an amazing opportunity I have, as GSMNP Park Superintendent, to do that very same thing and not have to wear a white coat...I have realized that I can still do it by wearing the "Grey and Green!"

The next time you give to the GSMNP, realize that your gift is building a legacy of health, connection, and inspiring the next generation of users, supporters and advocates.



## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUTDOOR ENGAGEMENT & BENEFITS

“Current evidence suggests that children have much to gain from time spent outdoors and much to lose from a lack of park access. In addition to myriad health benefits offered by physical activity in general, research has shown that outdoor exercise in nature can enhance emotional well-being and amplify the benefits of physical exercise. And for kids in particular, being in or near green spaces has been found to be associated with better test scores, improved self-discipline and cognition, and reduced behavioral problems and symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).”<sup>1</sup>

1. Seltenrich, Nate. “Just what the doctor ordered: using parks to improve children’s health.” *Environmental Health Perspectives* 123.10 (2015): A254. Health Reference Center Academic. Web.

“Greener environments enhance recovery from surgery, enable and support higher levels of physical activity, improve immune system functioning, help diabetics achieve healthier blood glucose levels, and improve functional health status and independent living skills among older adults.”<sup>2</sup>

2. Frances E. (Ming) Kuo, Ph.D. *Parks and Other Green Environments: Essential Components of a Healthy Human Habitat*. National Recreation and Park Association [http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications\\_and\\_Research/Research/Papers/MingKuo-Research-Paper.pdf](http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications_and_Research/Research/Papers/MingKuo-Research-Paper.pdf)

“There is even some evidence to suggest that exercise may feel easier when performed in the natural environment. When allowed to self-select walking speed, participants tend actually to walk faster outdoors, compared to indoors. Paradoxically, they report a lower rating of perceived exertion.”<sup>3</sup>

3. Source: Gladwell, V. F., Brown, D. K., Wood, C., Sandercock, G. R., & Barton, J. L. (2013). *The great outdoors: how a green exercise environment can benefit all*. *Extreme Physiology & Medicine*, 2, 3.

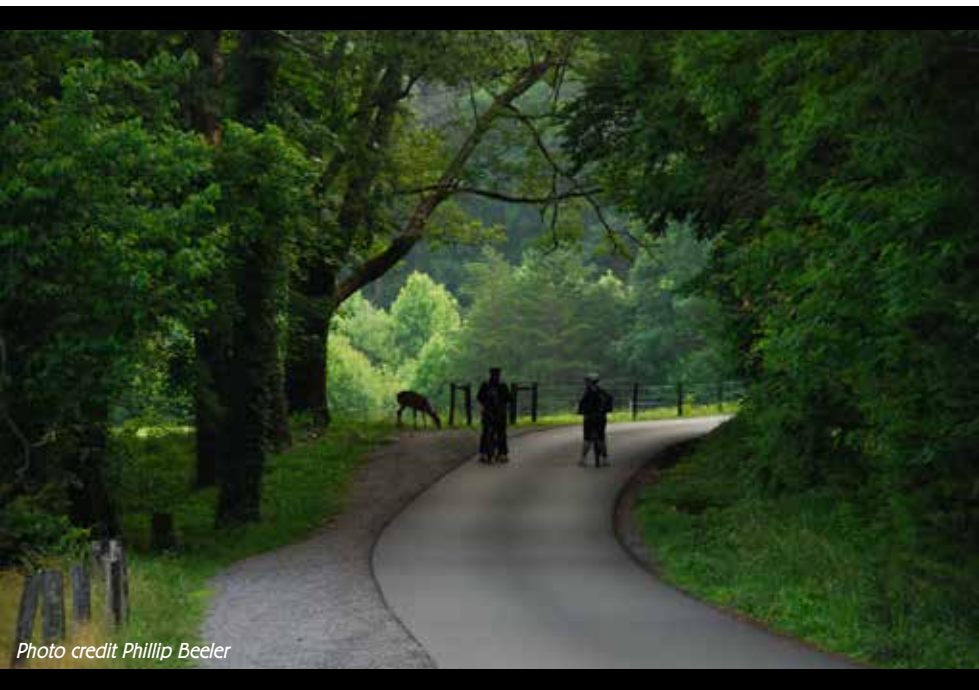


Photo credit Phillip Beeler

### **Seeing the Smokies from Two Wheels**

Bicycles can travel on most roads within the Park. However, due to steep terrain, narrow road surfaces, and heavy automobile traffic, many park roads are not well suited for safe and enjoyable bicycle riding. Cades Cove Loop Road is an exception. The 11-mile one way road is a popular bicycling area. From early May until late September each year, the loop road is closed to motor vehicle traffic on Wednesday and Saturday mornings until 10:00 a.m. to allow bicyclists and pedestrians to enjoy the cove.

(Source: [nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/biking.htm](https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/biking.htm))



# SMOKY MOUNTAIN THERAPY

By Sam McGroom

If anyone had happened by at that moment, surely their face would bear an expression that's hard to disguise when a person is thinking "what a nut case". My impromptu dance of giddiness rivals any of those touchdown celebrations in the NFL. I had just seen my first whorled pogonia and I was ecstatic. Honestly, I will probably do that same dance every time I see one, no matter how many I get to see in this life. I can't help it. I get excited to see all sorts of wildflowers and critters – even fairly common ones. There are also sound effects that typically precede the dance. It sounds something like a child in elementary school who knows the answer to the question the teacher just asked and is hoping the excited "Oooo, oooo, ooo" will compel the teacher to call on them. The red-cheeked salamander I discovered in a water bar I was recently cleaning out on the Appalachian Trail near Clingmans Dome got to hear my "song" of elation.

The Great Smoky Mountains have been my playground, my church, my therapist and my personal trainer. I am an avid hiker and new friends will ask when I started hiking since many of them took up the pastime well into their forties or fifties. I started hiking shortly after I learned to walk. It's what my family did. We hiked, fished, camped, backpacked and canoed. I was around 7 years old when we hiked to the Mt. Cammerer tower. Some children are pushed to take piano lessons but quit playing altogether the first chance they get, while some of the others become concert pianists. I guess I am more like the concert pianist when it comes to hiking.

When people set out to hike all the trails in the Park they are said to be marking a map. I have marked two of those maps. The physical and logistical challenge appealed to me and I needed to combat the health issues that arise in middle age from an imbalance caused by too much caloric intake and too little caloric burn. So the first map was for physical health and reconnecting with something I have loved most of my life. The second go 'round was to get myself re-centered following my mother's death and shortly thereafter, my divorce. Nature has a tremendous healing capacity and the mountains have restored me. I have met some fascinating people and forged special friendships through fishing, hiking and volunteering in the Park. My family has made some extraordinary memories in the Smokies and we are cherishing the moments spent creating more with the newest generation of McGrooms.

These mountains are an integral part of who I am and I am full of gratitude that visionary leaders established the National Park System 100 years ago. I am so thankful for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the individuals and organizations, like Friends of the Smokies, who work tirelessly to preserve this precious place.



*Sam with her grandson Rowan, taken upon the completion of her second "map" (which means the second time Sam hiked all of the trails in GSMNP)*



*Sam holds a Red-Cheeked Salamander, which is a species found only in Great Smoky Mountains National Park*

Photographer Tom Haxby is a generous member and supporter of Friends of the Smokies. He will be deepening his relationship with Great Smoky Mountains National Park as an Artist-in-Residence during the fall of 2016.

In his application, he wrote, “For 57 years our natural environment has fascinated me and given me my living...my first exposure to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was on a field trip for botany class in 1978. My 26-year career as a forester and natural resource manager was my living, but it was also my passion...”



My second career as a landscape and wildlife photographer is about sharing what I find to be awe inspiring about nature. It has been my pleasure to capture and share photos of amazing scenes and wildlife, but it has also been about the story behind the photographs and what nature has done to make that photograph possible.

I have made many, many trips to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for photographs, but the park has come to be more than just about capturing photos. It has come to be a place where I renew my spirit and to watch and enjoy nature...I hope that I can pass along my lifetime of knowledge and appreciation of nature to those who will carry forward into the future and that these places will continue to inspire future generations.”



**Photos used throughout this report are courtesy of Tom Haxby.**



# We Salute You

Friends of the Smokies thanks each and every donor whose gifts collectively contributed \$846,429 to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Here you will find a list of donors who contributed \$100 or more between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015.

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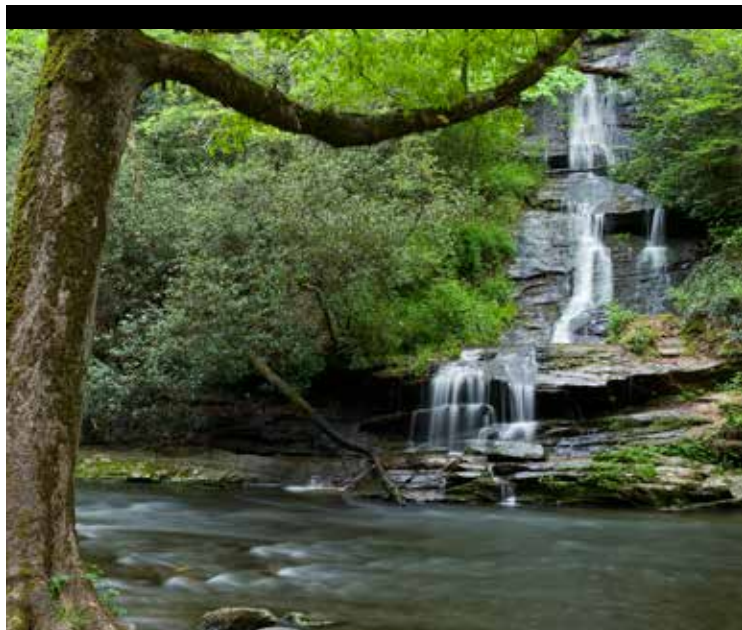
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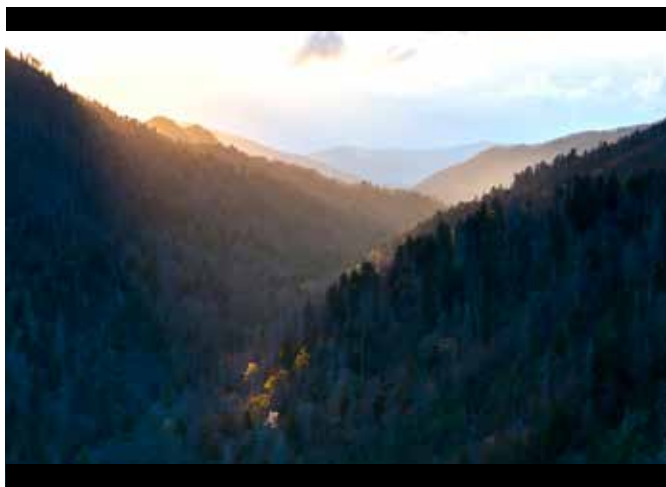
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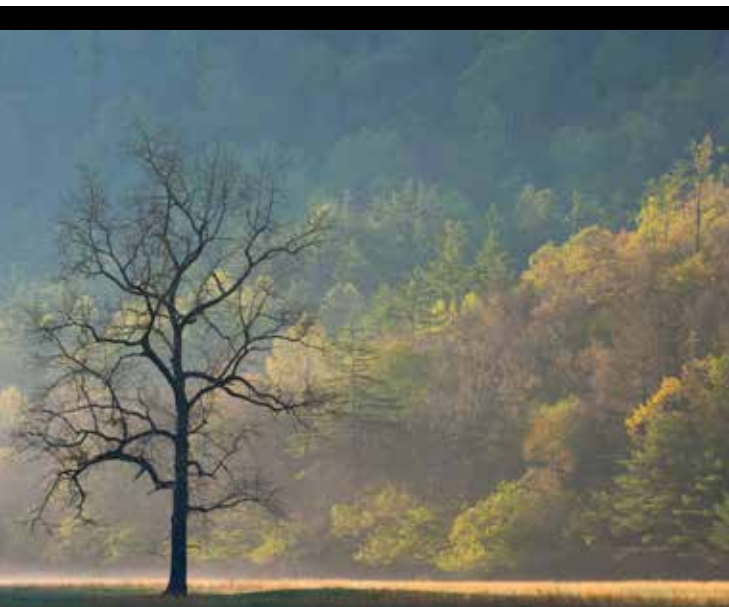
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**Honorariums are a meaningful way to recognize a special friend, colleague, loved one, pet or cause on an anniversary, birthday or other special occasion. Friends of the Smokies is pleased to recognize the following honorees for 2015:**

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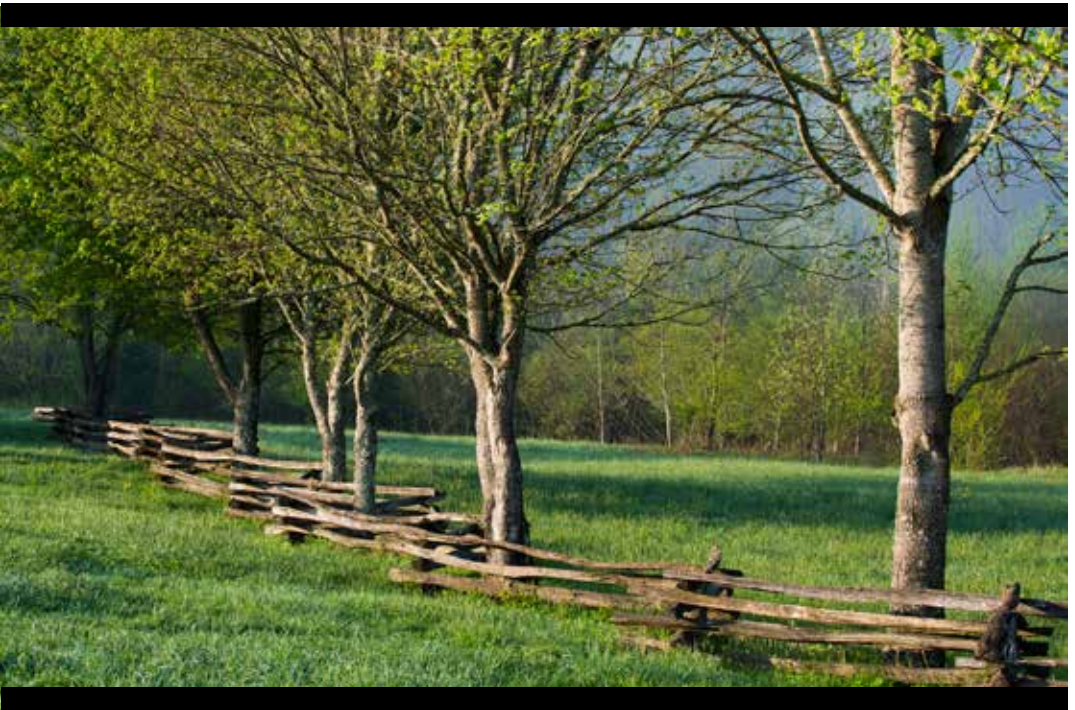
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# FRIENDS OF THE SMOKIES

by Gary Wade, Chair Emeritus – Friends of the Smokies Board of Directors

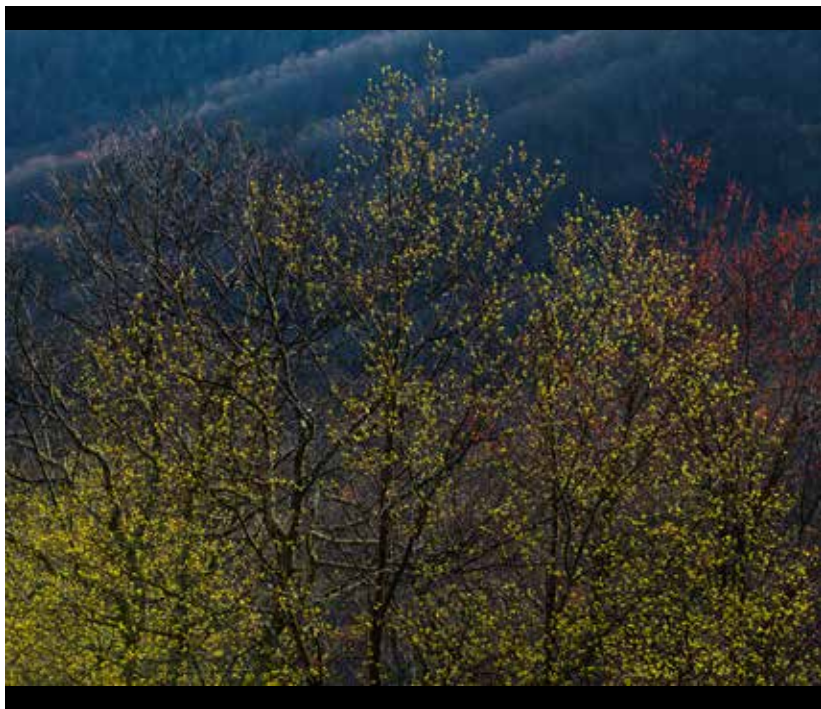
In late July, my daughter Katie traveled with me to Maine for some cooler weather, hiking, and lobster rolls. So now I can mark the Acadia National Park off my “bucket list.” The Great Head Trail was our favorite. We came, we saw, and, well, . . . we were not disappointed. Years ago, Bob Miller, the longtime “voice of the Smokies,” had spoken of his time in Acadia. Later, I met David Rockefeller Jr., who declared that Acadia was his favorite park of all. Endorsements from the likes of Bob and a member of the famed Rockefeller family were good enough for me.

Of course, our Great Smoky Mountains National Park would not be what it is today (and might not be at all) if not for the Rockefeller family. The National Park Service was created in 1916. In 1926, President Coolidge signed a bill providing for the establishment of our park, and after Tennessee and North Carolina each appropriated \$2 million to start buying the land. The private sector chipped in another million or so, including the nickels and dimes from our school children, but Col. David Chapman and crew were still way short of what was needed. In 1928, perhaps the most critical time in our park’s history, the Director of the National Park Service, Arno Cammerer, persuaded John D. Rockefeller Jr. to make a gift of \$5 million from a foundation he had created in honor of his mother Laura Spellman Rockefeller. Later, Congress invested the \$1.1 million necessary to finish the job. On June 15, 1934, the Smokies were officially opened to the public.



Although Franklin Roosevelt visited our park twice, once in 1936 and again for the dedication ceremony on September 2, 1940 (driving by my parents’ home on Joy Street in Sevierville on each occasion – purportedly to pick up the Postmaster, Ralph Murphy, who was the only Democratic officeholder in the county!), John D. Rockefeller Jr. never made it to the Smokies to receive a proper thank you. So, ten or so years ago, the Friends,

hoping to make up for the omission, invited David Jr., then a board member of the National Park Foundation, to the Smokies in recognition of his grandfather's gift. He deferred to his aunt, Abigail Rockefeller O'Neil, the "elder stateswoman" of the Rockefeller family, who happened to be an acquaintance of Mimi Cecil, a Friends board member, and her husband Bill, the owner of the Biltmore Estate in Asheville. Next thing you know, then Governor Phil Bredesen agreed to host the Friends' board and guests at Deer Park on the Biltmore grounds for an official reception in honor and recognition of the Rockefeller's generosity – only about 75 years late! Not so long ago, on May 31, 2013, David



Rockefeller Sr. came to the Tennessee side of the Smokies. David Sr., who has a personal collection of over 90,000 beetles gathered from all over the world, could not resist a trip to the new Science Center at Twin Creeks in Gatlinburg to see a specimen of the passenger pigeon, at one time the most populous bird in the world but extinct by 1914.

In today's world, would it have been possible to purchase and set aside more than a half million acres of privately owned land in the southeastern part of the United States in order to create a national park? I don't think so—which makes it all the more important that we protect and maintain our park for all posterity. While in Acadia's Gatlinburg, Bar Harbor, I read that Superintendent Sheridan Steele had received the highest honor awarded the Acadia Friends group. That organization was touted for having raised \$21 million for its park. By comparison, in the last 22 years, the generous people of Tennessee, North Carolina, and representatives of every other state in the union have more than doubled that amount in their support of our Smokies. Trail maintenance, the preservation of our historic structures, and taking on threats like the chestnut blight and the adelgid infestations of the fraser fir and the mighty hemlock will always require help from those of us who understand the spiritual and economic value of our park. It is nice to occasionally look back to celebrate the successes of the Friends and other park partners. While there is so much else to do in order to protect our own national treasure, like Scarlet O'Hara, we can think about all that tomorrow.

# 2015 Park Needs Fulfilled

Contributions to Friends of the Smokies funded the following projects and programs from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

## WILDLIFE, WONDERS & WILDERNESS - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & SCIENCE

### Suppress Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Infestation .....\$ 40,000

In 2003, Friends of the Smokies took a leadership role in supporting the most ambitious program in the Southeast aimed at protecting hemlocks from the invasive and deadly hemlock woolly adelgid. To date, more than 250,000 individual hemlock trees have been hand-treated, and more than 4,700 acres of hemlock-dominated forest have been set aside as special conservation areas. Protection includes a combination of soap spraying in the front country, systemic pesticides in more remote areas and biological control using predator beetles raised in the Lindsay Young Beneficial Insect Lab at UT.

### Public Safety Treatment of Ash Trees and Education Outreach ..... \$ 10,000

Emerald Ash Borer was confirmed in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2012 in two locations along the Gatlinburg Trail and Greenbrier Road, and more recently in Cades Cove in 2013. In addition, portions of Blount, Sevier, and Cocke counties in Tennessee have been confirmed positive for EAB. These funds supported the systemic treatment of 300 ash trees in developed areas (campgrounds, picnic areas, parking areas) to prevent hazard tree danger.

### Maintain Protection of Fraser Firs at Purchase Knob.....\$ 2,500

Since 1962, the balsam woolly adelgid, an exotic predatory European insect, has killed 91% of the Park’s naturally-occurring stands of high-elevation Fraser firs. The Park and UT planted 600 seedlings at the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center at Purchase Knob in 1995. While some of these trees have been attacked by the balsam woolly adelgid, they are treated annually with sprays and pesticides to preserve samples of the trees’ genetic material, which is important for species preservation. Park staff is hopeful that these will assist in future repopulation of firs.

### Mow the Viewshed in Cades Cove.....\$ 6,000

As a part of grassland management and restoration efforts in Cades Cove, fields are kept open by several methods to help provide varied habitats for turkey, coyote, fox, rabbit, deer, bear, ground nesting birds such as quail. Some fields are mowed after nesting season, while others are burned, plowed, and harvested in the gradual process to restore much of the Cove to native meadow habitat. These funds support our viewshed mowing that both keep the fields open and provide vistas into the grassland communities.

### Support Cataloochee Field Management.....\$ 3,000

As part of field management in Cataloochee, fields are mown once a year to preserve the historical landscape. Mowing is conducted in August to provide better summer habitat for elk.

### Support Appalachian Bear Rescue (ABR).....\$ 8,000

Each year a number of orphaned or injured Park bears are treated and housed in the nonprofit ABR center in Townsend until they can be released back into the Park. Prior to the creation of ABR, most of these animals were euthanized.



**Reduce Backcountry Bear Problems with Food Storage Cable Systems.....\$ 4,000**

Each backcountry campsite and shelter has a pulley and cable system which campers are required to use to hoist their food and packs out of the reach of bears for the increased safety of both visitors and bears. Each year a number of these systems are damaged through use or by falling trees and must be replaced.

**Support for 23 SCA/Interns for Resource Mgmt & Science Activities..... \$ 74,472**

These interns sprayed for hemlock woolly adelgids, eradicated non-native plants, sampled streams for brook trout, helped trap problem bears, and assisted with research activities. These interns received an enormous amount of work experience while providing a huge amount of cost-effective labor. This funding provided a small living allowance and Park housing to these young people who came from all over the United States.

**Support 2 Seasonal Wildlife Positions..... \$ 10,000**

**Water Quality Monitoring Program .....\$ 85,000**

One of the Park’s biggest single resource issues is trying to improve water quality in North Carolina and Tennessee. All of the Park’s watersheds have their headwaters deep within the protection of the Park far from any upstream point-source pollution, but due to the large amounts of air borne acid and mercury being deposited, and leaching out of soils, many of the Park’s high elevation streams are too acidic to support brook trout. This project supports a long-term UT study that will help correlate changes (reductions) in acid being deposited with changes in water quality at a site on Noland Divide.

**Hog Control and Elk Management ..... \$ 15,744**

Funding provided FLIR thermal imaging units to monitor and manage wildlife, particularly at night or early in the morning. FLIR units can be used to 1) monitor for Indiana bats or northern flying squirrels, 2) locate newborn elk calves in tall grass, 3) conduct deer population counts at night, 4) locate exotic wild hogs along trails in the backcountry at night for removal and 5) locate animals when darting at night. This new technology improved the overall efficiency and effectiveness of wildlife monitoring and management activities and is vital in making short and long-term management decisions.

**Bear Research ..... \$ 13,600**

Funding supported one seasonal wildlife biologist to assist with the Park’s black bear management program by conducting research to determine the location of garbage and other attractants on private lands and its influence on black bear movements and nuisance behavior in the Park and in developed areas around the Park.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION - RESOURCE EDUCATION**

**Experience Your Smokies (NC) ..... \$ 1,062**

The Experience Your Smokies program provides a unique opportunity for local residents to get to know the Park and its employees in a whole new way. The program is designed for local residents, business, community and educational leaders to get a behind the scenes look into the national park, while networking with others from western North Carolina.

# 2015 Park Needs Fulfilled

**Reaching Inner City & Underserved Students with STEM Initiatives..... \$ 17,391**

The program included three Teacher Ranger Teach positions along with 2 teacher workshops (60 total teachers) that were taught in the spring and summer of 2015, with the teachers agreeing to use Park education materials back in their classrooms and to bring their students to the Park for field trips during the 2015-2016 school year.

**Expand Educational Outreach..... \$ 17,010**

Additional funding for environmental education to expand Parks as Classrooms as well as the Junior Ranger program and the Not-So-Junior Ranger program. The expansion also included conducting teacher workshops and hiring high school interns.

**Support Parks as Classrooms programs..... \$ 99,211**

Approximately 18,000 students every year in Tennessee and North Carolina receive curriculum-based environmental education opportunities through the Parks as Classroom program. These hands-on, ranger-led lessons utilizing the Park as an enormous outdoor classroom help foster a love for nature and inform the next generation of park supporters.

**Park Liaison with Cherokee School..... \$ 50,014**

Funding for a coordinator for an educational partnership between the Park and Cherokee Middle School. The coordinator developed, implemented, and evaluated a planned curriculum to educate children as to the cultural and natural resources of the Smokies.

**MYLES Summer Education Program..... \$ 1,400**

Partnership with Montreat College to provide education programs. Funds were used for supplies for education programs.

**PARKWIDE VOLUNTEERS-IN-PARK PROGRAM**

**VIP Recognition Awards Program ..... \$ 2,018**

Each year almost 3,000 individuals contribute over 160,000 hours of volunteer service with VIP's supporting virtually all phases of Park operations. These funds allow us the opportunity to provide recognition in to our year-round volunteers in the form of awards such as plaques, belt buckles, and certificates.

**Artist in Residence Program..... \$ 5,140**

Artists have played important part in the formation and establishment of our park. Early writers, photographers, painters, and musicians drew inspiration from these mountains and helped translate their purpose as a place of pleasure and preservation. An Artist-in-Residence supports the opportunity for an artist to live in the Park and produce original works of art. In exchange, the artist agrees to donate a piece of work to the Park.

**Parkwide Volunteer Program ..... \$ 1,516**

PROTECT HISTORIC PLACES - FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Visitor Amenities

Funding from Friends of the Smokies maintained vault toilets in these popular areas for visitor convenience.

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Cataloochee Visitor Amenities .....  | \$ 16,300 |
| Roaring Fork Visitor Amenities ..... | \$ 13,300 |
| Townsend Wye Visitor Amenities ..... | \$ 3,700  |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Support Operations for the Appalachian Highlands Center..... | \$ 11,800 |
|--|-----------|

Support to cover interior custodial services, utilities, road maintenance, and mowing of the meadows.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Trails Forever Rehabilitation of Alum Cave Trail (Phase 1) ..... | \$ 222,638 |
|--|------------|

These funds supported the continuation of trail rehabilitation along one of the most heavily-travelled in the Smokies to resolve safety issues and make the trail more enjoyable to hike.

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Avent Cabin Repairs..... | \$ 2,000 |
|--------------------------|----------|

This funding corrected drainage issues at the rear kitchen door, repaired the floor boards, corrected the front door sagging, re-glazed the kitchen windows, repaired back door jamb, and applied preservative to the log end dovetail joints.

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Hikers Club Cabin Repair ..... | \$ 2,500 |
|--------------------------------|----------|

This funding allowed the Park to correct drainage issues at the front and rear of the cabin, repair the floor boards that are buckled, and apply wood preservative to soft spots in the exterior logs.

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Ephraim Bales Cabin Repairs ..... | \$ 6,700 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|

This funding provided for several repairs on this cabin. Recent inspections showed the need to replace several floor puncheons, replace the rear steps, repair the fence, and to repair sagging logs by the chimney.

IMPROVE VISITOR EXPERIENCE - RESOURCE & VISITOR PROTECTION

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Equestrian Leave No Trace (ELNT) Training Program ..... | \$ 500 |
|---|--------|

In 2012, local horsemen and park employees were trained as Equestrian Leave No Trace Master Educators with funding support from Friends of the Smokies. Since that time, these individuals have formed the Smokies Master Educator's Alliance (SMEA) to support Leave No Trace (LNT) awareness and training efforts in local communities surrounding the Park and have held courses annually. These funds covered the cost of another ELNT Trainer course. By offering this course every year, the Park hopes to continue to foster positive relationships with local horsemen and help alleviate horse-related issues in the backcountry.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Provide Support for Volunteer Cades Cove Bicycle Patrol..... | \$ 900 |
|--|--------|

Volunteer-in-Park Bike Patrollers help Resource & Visitor Protection staff manage bike traffic, provide safety information, and assist in managing accident scenes.





# 2015 Park Needs Fulfilled

**Support for the All-Volunteer Elk Bugle Corps..... \$ 6,700**

During the peak visitation periods for elk-viewing in the Cataloochee area of the Park, a team of dedicated volunteers provides interpretive and safety information to park visitors to enhance their viewing experience while helping to preserve the natural behavior patterns of the elk herd.

**Reduce Ginseng Poaching through Marking Ginseng Roots.....\$ 4,092**

These funds supported an annual ginseng marking blitz. Thousands of ginseng roots have been marked through this program over the years. Market demands place heavy pressure on this resource from illegal harvesters who poach for profit. 2012 was record year for marking roots within the Park at nearly 3,000. This is a very cost-effective way to assist in the deterrence and detection of commercial poaching of this resource at risk.

**Support for the Volunteer Roadside Assistance Program ..... \$ 11,740**

The Smokies recruits a series of retired law enforcement officers and their spouses to patrol Newfound Gap Road and Cades Cove, providing directions and visitor information, responding to disabled vehicles and lock-outs, and assisting with motor vehicle accidents and bear-related traffic jams. Their presence has substantially freed up the commissioned law enforcement rangers in the Park, enabling them to respond more quickly to more serious law enforcement incidents.

**Support Appalachian Trail Ridgerunner Program .....\$ 29,837**

Each year the Park recruits a series of individuals who provide a presence on the Appalachian Trail from March through October. They provide visitor information, do trail maintenance, pack out litter, keep up composting privies, report on the condition of the trail and the shelters, report emergencies and advise hikers on food storage and other regulations, and relay real-time information regarding possible problem bears. Their presence on the AT for over 15 years has made a huge difference in the Park’s ability to manage the AT.

**ADDITIONAL FUNDING SUPPORT FOR  
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK**

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Purchase Radio Tracking Collars for Bear Research .....</b>                    | <b>\$ 10,742</b> |
| <b>Purchase Search &amp; Rescue Jackets for Law Enforcement Rangers .....</b>     | <b>\$ 2,514</b>  |
| <b>Refurbish Exhibits at Sugarlands Visitors Center.....</b>                      | <b>\$ 395</b>    |
| <b>Superintendent’s Discretionary Fund .....</b>                                  | <b>\$ 6,240</b>  |
| <b>Memorial Gifts Designated for Tremont.....</b>                                 | <b>\$ 3,255</b>  |
| <b>Cornerstone Foundation Grant Designated for Tremont .....</b>                  | <b>\$ 10,000</b> |
| <b>Sponsorship of Discover Life in America Salamander Ball.....</b>               | <b>\$ 2,500</b>  |
| <b>Maples Scholarship Distribution for Employee &amp; Alumni Association.....</b> | <b>\$ 3,000</b>  |
| <b>Glaxo SmithKline North Carolina Education Grant.....</b>                       | <b>\$ 168</b>    |
| <b>Sponsorship of National Trails Day .....</b>                                   | <b>\$ 7,800</b>  |
| <b>North Carolina License Plate Pass Thru Purchase .....</b>                      | <b>\$ 30</b>     |

**Total FY2015 Park Support requested from Friends of the Smokies..... \$ 846,429**

# Special Thank You to Our Volunteers

The staff of Friends of the Smokies is deeply appreciative to our volunteers for giving their time and talents to help us accomplish our mission and making the reach of our donors' dollars go farther and work harder.

## **The Friends of the Smokies Board of Directors**

### **Tennessee Office Volunteers-**

Ellie Burbank, Lenore Collyer, Don & Ann Luckett, Doc & Susan Morrow, Ray Sellers, Marita Vornehm, Eileen Wilson

### **North Carolina Office & Event Volunteers-**

Vickey Watson, Gracia Slater, Pat Koonts, Marcia Goldstein, Larry Roberts, Judy Winchester, Jolene Tomaro, Carol Kashmer, Lois Todd, Larry Stewart, Pat Maier, Bo Prevost, Ann Clayton, Esther Blakely, Hellen Kreller, Rob Howard, Emma Zanetti, Doug Miller, Cynthia Barrager, Dane Barrager, Mark Cobb, Billie Green, Frank Queen, Joe Grady, Glenn Taylor, Bruce Berry, David Huff, Deidre Duffy, Michael Kohnle

### **2015 Classic Hikes of the Smokies Volunteers-** Danny Bernstein

### **2015 Get on the Trail with Friends & Missy Volunteers-**

Jim Burbank, Ken Bailey, Thomas & Janie Barnard, John Clayton, Joy Cook, Geoff Greene, Missy Kane, Regina Kinton, Steve Reynolds, Carrie Roller, Ray Sellers, Kathy Sharrand, Keith Slayton, Josie Stanga, Deb Troutman, Mike Wetzell, Julie Whitted

### **2015 Evergreen Ball Committee-**

Clay Aalders, Victor Agreda, Hester Beecher, Wendy Bennett, Tim Chandler, Jody Curtis, Sam Curtis, Nancy Daves, Amy Encarnacion, Pam Harmon, Christine Hoyer, John Iacovino, Jo Iacovino, Dale Keasling, Ginger Kielarowski, Leigh Krieps, Meredith Kuester, Kathy May, Cindy Mayfield, Ariana Moore, Doug Moore, Meredith Moore, Andrea Reyes, Butch Robertson, Rebekah Robertson, Nanci Travis

### **2015 Evergreen Ball Trailblazers**

### **2015 Friends Across the Mountains Volunteers-**

Carol Agee, Gretchen Alcorn, Jay Aldrich, Sandra Aldrich, Gwen Boyles, Brad Buckshorn, Sue Callaway, Vonda Cash, Tase' Cash, Robert Claytor, Debbie Dossett, Evelyn Faller, Mary Grace Friar, Tom Friar, Cathy Guarnacci, Alicia Griego, Karen Hancock, Debbie Harless, Linda Haun, Phyllis Henry, Melinda Humphrey, Emily Jones, Missy Kane, Will Karnes, Cheryl Light, Bruce McCamish, Lisa McMahan, Caroline Noblin, Melissa Patrick, Lisa Radmore, Leslie Reeves, Debra Smith, Dana Soehn, Garrett Soehn, Trish Turner, Marita Vornehm, Crystal Watson, Amy Williams

### **2015 Greenbrier Barn Party Volunteers**

### **2015 Neighbors in the Foothills Host Committee-**

Sara & John Berry, Marty Callaway, Chelly & Kevin Clayton, Donna & Bill Cobble, Sue & Joe Dawson, Cindy & Joe Emert, Carolyn Forster, Rachel & Gerald Gibson, Phyllis & Herb Handly, Virginia & Doug Hardwick, Ed Harmon, Denia & Bob Lash, Sharon & Fred Lawson, Kimberly & Kevin Proffitt, Martha & Don Sundquist, Becky & Joe Swann, Nan & Tom Taylor, Debbie & Richard Way, Mary Beth & Charles West, Ruth & Steve West, Kahren & Andy White



# We Appreciate Our Sponsors

Special events raise funds to help preserve and protect Great Smoky Mountains National Park. They also help us reach new audiences and utilize volunteers. Our sponsors are key to the success of our fundraising events, and we are so thankful for their support.

## 2015 EVERGREEN BALL BENEFACTORS

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### **Hemlock Friends**

Travel Channel – A Scripps Networks Interactive Company

### **Balsam Friends**

Anderson Companies, Boyd's Jig & Reel, Citizens National Bank, Clayton Homes, Haslam Family Foundation, Dee and Jimmy Haslam, Jim and Natalie Haslam, Home Federal Bank, Pilot Travel Centers, SmartBank

### **Laurel Friends**

Alcoa, Inc., Charles Blalock & Sons, Inc., Denark Construction, Dollywood, Knoxville News-Sentinel, Martin & Company, Nisus Corporation, Phillips & Jordan, Regal Entertainment Group, The William B. Stokely, Jr. Foundation, 21st Mortgage

### **Event Underwriters**

Sugarland Cellars – Wine Auction; The Trust Company – Silent Auction; Lawler Wood Housing Partners - Valet Parking

## 2015 GET ON THE TRAIL WITH FRIENDS & MISSY HIKING SERIES SPONSORS

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Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, East Tennessee PBS, Farm Bureau Insurance, Gatlinburg Falls, Home Federal Bank, LeConte Medical Center

## 2015 FRIENDS WEEKEND AT THE SWAG BENEFACTORS

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Cathy Ackermann & Tommy Walker, Kevin & Irene Anton, Randy & Jenny Boyd, Kay Clayton, Mike & Mary Crawford, Pete & Cindi DeBusk, Dwight & Julie Elliott, Darren Haiman, Jim & Natalie Haslam, Home Federal Bank, Ted & Avis Phillips, Joe & Sharon Pryse, Bill & Kay Stokely, Gary & Sandy Wade, Mark & Kristin Williams, Geoff & Pat Wolpert, Brenda Wood, Earl & Margit Worsham, Jim and Jennifer Hart, Robert & Mary John Tino, John & Dee Mason, Laura Webb & Dr. John Hoskins, Heath & Nikol Shuler, Meridith Elliott Powell & Dr. Rob Powell

## 2015 GREENBRIER BARN PARTY SPONSORS

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**Presenting Sponsors** Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, Sugarland Cellars

**Silver Sponsors** Barnes Insurance Agency, Bearskin Lodge on the River, Charles Blalock & Sons, Inc., Citizens National Bank, Davy Crockett's Tennessee Whiskey, Holston's Kitchen, Home Federal Bank, Nantahala Outdoor Center, Parkside Cabin Rentals, Riverside Tower, SmartBank

## 2015 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY SPONSORS

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Cash Hardware, Food City, TVA, Xerox Corporation

## 2015 GRANFONDO SPONSORS

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Asheville Dental Care, Asheville Radio Group, Beverly- Hanks, Biltmore Restorative Medicine, BorgWarner, Catawba Brewery, Dixon Hughes Goodman, Duke Energy, Fletcher Warehousing, The Glass Foundation, Publix, Roberts & Stevens PA, Smoky Mountain Living, Webb Investments

## 2015 FRIENDS ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS TELETHON SPONSORS

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Dollywood, Mast General Store, Pilot Flying J, Tennessee State Bank



# Financial Statements

The amounts presented here are derived from audited financial statements of Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park for years ending December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2015. 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.

| Statement of Financial Position                              |                      |                      |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Year Ended   | December 31, 2015    | December 31, 2014    |
| <b>Current Assets</b>  |                      |                      |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents                                      | \$ 5,973,667         | \$ 4,830,778         |
| Prepaid Expenses   | \$42,998             | \$ 37,540            |
| Pledges Receivable   | \$ 0                 | \$ 0                 |
| Accounts Receivable  | \$ 179,431           | \$ 192,958           |
| Current portion of long-term pledges receivable              | \$ 6,483             | \$ 0                 |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>                                  | <b>\$ 6,202,578</b>  | <b>\$ 5,061,277</b>  |
| Investments  | \$ 4,781,584         | \$ 5,057,681         |
| Long Term Pledges Receivable,<br>net of current portion      | \$ 6,784             | \$ 0                 |
| Equipment Net of Depreciation                                | \$ 67,554            | \$ 71,993            |
| <b>Other Assets</b>  |                      |                      |
| Beneficial interest in assets<br>held by others              | \$ 208,638           | \$ 216,890           |
| Cash surrender value of life insurance                       | \$ 6,534             | \$ 0                 |
| Deposits   | \$ 275               | \$ 275               |
| <b>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</b>                                    | <b>\$ 215,447</b>    | <b>\$ 217,165</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>  | <b>\$ 11,273,946</b> | <b>\$ 10,408,115</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>                            |                      |                      |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>                                   |                      |                      |
| Accounts Payable   | \$ 9,455             | \$ 25,820            |
| Deferred Revenue   | \$ 213,925           | \$ 189,451           |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>                             | <b>\$ 223,380</b>    | <b>\$ 215,271</b>    |
| Net Assets   |                      |                      |
| Unrestricted   | \$ 2,481,300         | \$ 1,982,021         |
| Temporarily restricted                                       | \$ 3,697,643         | \$ 3,603,782         |
| Permanently restricted                                       | \$ 4,871,623         | \$ 4,607,040         |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>                             | <b>\$ 11,050,566</b> | <b>\$ 10,192,844</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>                    | <b>\$ 11,273,946</b> | <b>\$ 10,408,115</b> |
| <b>Statement of Activities</b>                               |                      |                      |
| <b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>                                 |                      |                      |
| Contributions & grants                                       | \$ 1,423,326         | \$ 1,308,885         |
| Less amounts designated by donors<br>for other organizations | (\$ 11,000)          | (\$ 13,600)          |
| Tennessee license plate revenue                              | \$ 358,912           | \$ 368,853           |
| North Carolina license plate revenue                         | \$ 433,600           | \$ 425,680           |
| Special events<br>(net of direct expenses)                   | \$ 376,600           | \$ 351,062           |
| In-kind contributions  | \$ 49,069            | \$ 74,415            |
| Investment income net of expenses                            | \$ 12,128            | \$ 343,518           |
| <b>TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUE AND OTHER</b>                      | <b>\$ 2,642,635</b>  | <b>\$ 2,858,614</b>  |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>  |                      |                      |
| Expenses<br>(park projects and related support)              | \$ 1,044,667         | \$ 2,967,621         |
| Management & general   | \$ 303,680           | \$ 291,854           |
| Fundraising  | \$ 436,566           | \$ 460,485           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>  | <b>\$ 1,784,913</b>  | <b>\$ 3,719,960</b>  |



**FRIENDS OF GREAT SMOKY  
MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK**  
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Kodak, Tennessee 37764-7660



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