



↘ *Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers, Inc.* ↙



# Outing Information

**Cherokee, NC**  
**May 16-20, 2012**

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## ***Group Leader***

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## ***Outings Committee Chair***

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## ***River Information***

Whether you are fly fishing for native brook trout in a cold mountain stream, smallmouth or largemouth bass in beautiful Fontana Lake or rainbow or brown trout in one of the many stocked streams, Swain County hosts one of the most diverse fishing habitats in the world.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Nantahala National Forest offer hundreds of miles of spectacularly clear streams. Just a few minutes from Bryson City, the sparkling waters of Deep Creek are ripe for fly fishing, and many anglers enjoy the Nantahala River just west of town, particularly the section above the powerhouse on Wayah Road.

The Cherokee Indian Reservation also offers a variety of fishing opportunities for the trout fisherman with regularly stocked streams, trophy waters and three trout ponds.

## ***Fishing Species***

Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout and Brook Trout

## ***Campground Location***

### ***River Valley RV Park and Campground***

PO Box 471 (*Located at 2987 Big Cove Road*)

Cherokee, NC 28719

Campground: (828) 497-3540; Store: (828) 497-6510

*Open Late March through October*

[www.cherokeesmokies.com/rvcampground](http://www.cherokeesmokies.com/rvcampground), or [www.mountainshops.com/rvc.html](http://www.mountainshops.com/rvc.html)

## ***Campground***

River Valley Campground offers a wide variety of campsites for you to choose from, including river front, quiet area, and shady spots. Each campsite offers full hookups. Tubing and swimming are always a favorite! The fishing is spectacular, as the river stocked with brown, rainbow and brook trout. There are hiking trails as well as a waterfall nearby. Our camp store has a full line of fishing and camping supplies. We invite you to bring your bicycles, scooters, fishing poles and your walking shoes!

### ***Driving Directions***

Directions to RIVER VALLEY CAMPGROUND from NASHVILLE - 242 mi (4 hrs 45 min) [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) (avoiding Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge area)

I-40 E from NASHVILLE toward KNOXVILLE, TN – 156.7 mi

Take the I-140 E/TN-162 N exit, EXIT 376, toward OAK RIDGE/MARYVILLE - 0.3 mi

Merge onto I-140 E via EXIT 376B toward MARYVILLE - 10.9 mi

Merge onto ALCOA HWY/US-129 S/TN-115 S via EXIT 11A toward ALCOA - 3.6 mi

Merge onto TN-35 S via the ramp on the LEFT toward US-411 N/MARYVILLE/US-321 N/TOWNSEND/SMOKY MTS - 2.8 mi

Stay STRAIGHT to go onto S WASHINGTON ST - 0.2 mi

Stay STRAIGHT to go onto E LAMAR ALEXANDER PKWY/US-321/TN-73/WALLAND HWY. Continue to follow US-321 N/TN-73 E - 17.3 mi

Turn LEFT onto WEARS VALLEY RD/US-321/TN-73 - 5.8 mi

Turn RIGHT onto LYON SPINGS RD - 1.5 mi

LYON SPINGS RD becomes LITTLE GREENBRIER RD (Portions may be closed seasonally) - 1.2 mi

Turn LEFT onto LITTLE RIVER RD/OLD TN-73 – 9.2 mi

Turn RIGHT onto US-441 - 12.9 mi

Turn LEFT onto NATIONAL PARK RD (Crossing into NORTH CAROLINA) – 2.3 mi

Turn LEFT onto US-441 - 10.6 mi

Turn LEFT - 0.7 mi

Turn LEFT onto BIG COVE RD/BIA-1410 and follow the signs – 3.0 mi

Turn RIGHT - Welcome to RIVER VALLEY CAMPGROUND

Directions to RIVER VALLEY CAMPGROUND from NASHVILLE – 247.6 mi (4 hours 41 min) [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) (if you choose not to avoid Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge area)

I-40 E from NASHVILLE toward KNOXVILLE, TN - 165.7 mi

Merge onto I-640 E via EXIT 385 toward LEXINGTON/ASHEVILLE - 10.8 mi

Merge onto I-40 E via the exit on the LEFT toward ASHEVILLE - 14.5 mi

Merge onto I-40 E via the exit on the LEFT toward ASHEVILLE - 14.5 mi

Take the TN-66 exit, EXIT 407, toward GATLINBURG/SEVIERVILLE/PIGEON FORGE - 0.3 mi

Turn RIGHT onto WINFIELD DUNN PKWY/TN-66 S - 8.5 mi

WINFIELD DUNN PKWY/TN-66 S becomes FORKS OF THE RIVER PKWY/US-441/TN-71/CHAPMAN HWY SE - 0.6 mi

Turn RIGHT onto PARKWAY/US-441 S/TN-71 S/CHAPMAN HWY SE. Continue to follow US-441 S/TN-71 S - 28.2 mi

Turn LEFT onto NATIONAL PARK RD (Crossing into NORTH CAROLINA) - 2.3 mi

Turn LEFT onto US-441 - 10.6 mi

Turn LEFT - 0.7 mi

Turn LEFT onto BIG COVE RD/BIA-1410 - 3.0 mi

Turn RIGHT - Welcome to RIVER VALLEY CAMPGROUND

### ***Cherokee, NC Fishing Locations***

#### **Oconoluftee River**

The nearby Oconoluftee River flows out of the Smoky Mountains National Park through beautiful historic Cherokee N.C. home to the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. The Oconoluftee River is a freestone river that begins life high up in the Smoky Mountains National Park. Many small feeder streams make up this beautiful river, to form one of the largest rivers that flows inside park boundaries. Once outside the park, the “Luftee” as us locals refer to it, flows inside the Qualla Boundary where its waters are stocked with numerous healthy Rainbow, Brook, and Brown Trout. The Cherokee Indians are long known for taking care of their natural resources, and the Oconoluftee is no exception. The Tribe stocks the Oconoluftee River and other streams located on the Qualla Boundary twice a week, so there is no shortage on trout in the waters of the Oconoluftee. The Tribe does offer fishing permits, and the daily creel limit is 10 fish with no size restriction. The previous North Carolina State Record Brown Trout came from the waters of the Luftee weighing in at 15 lbs 9oz! (*Smoky Mountain Fly Fishing Outfitters, Cherokee, NC*)

#### **Raven Fork of the Oconoluftee River**

Roughly 2 miles of the Raven Fork within the Cherokee Indian Reservation (in Western North Carolina) is now open to FLY FISHING ONLY, CATCH AND RELEASE angling. This is an absolutely beautiful, crystal clear river which flows out of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Anglers must possess a valid Cherokee Indian Reservation Enterprise Waters Fishing Permit (\$7.00) and the additional Special Use Permit (\$20.00 annually) associated with Cherokee Trophy Trout, Catch and Release Waters.

#### **Nantahala River (Bryson, NC)**

The Nantahala River is known the world over for its great white water action, and is a place that truly exemplifies a great trout river. The Nantahala is listed as one of the

nation's top 100 by Trout Unlimited. It has also been featured in Eastern Fly Fishing Magazine, North Carolina Sportsman, Trout Magazine, and countless others. The Nantahala River is the most diverse fishery in all of the state. It is arguably one of the finest rivers in the South Eastern United States. Nowhere else can you fish so many different types of water in the same river system! From tight Mountain Laurel choked headwaters, laden with Brook Trout, to a very impressive tailwater supporting some of the baddest Brown Trout in the state, the Nantahala has something for every taste. The Nantahala River above the power house is designated Delayed Harvest, this is a favorite among anglers because of the great action year round, and high fish counts. One can catch numerous stocked trout as well as wild trout; the excitement in this particular section is endless. Below the power house the river changes faces once again to an impressive tailwater fishery. This is the section of the river where the world class white water rafting and kayaking take place. The fishing is great year round in this section too, even during the summer months when the rafting is going on. The Nantahala here features many deep pools, numerous runs and riffles that hold truly large trout. Matter of fact the North Carolina State Record Brown Trout came from this portion of the Nantahala, weighing in over 24lbs 10oz! Talk about putting a smile on your face! The Nantahala River is truly a place worth visiting while in Western North Carolina. *(Smoky Mountain Fly Fishing Outfitters, Cherokee, NC)*

#### Deep Creek (Bryson, NC)

Deep Creek is best known as a first rate brown trout stream near Bryson City, NC. However, brookies are still common in the headwaters. In fact, the Smoky Mountain grand slam of brook, rainbow, and brown trout may be caught from the same run in the high elevations. It is a steep hike in from Highway 441 near Newfound Gap. *(R&R Fly Fishing)*

#### Tuckasegee River (Dillsboro, NC)

The Tuckasegee River is another amazing trout fishery. It was recently featured on Trout Unlimited TV hosted by Outdoor Life Network. It begins life high in the mountains as many small tributaries that converge to form an East and West Fork, both which are dammed in their upper portions, finally converging to producing one very cold tailwater fishery that contains some of the most impressive Fly fishing waters in the eastern half of the country. The Tuckasegee boasts a nice long Delayed Harvest section that is very popular among fly fishers for its high fish counts, willing and very large trout. Rainbow, Brown and Brook trout are all part of the stocking program, and it's not uncommon to catch a Rainbow or Brook over 20 inches. This section makes the Tuckasegee River arguably the hottest river in the Southeast. The "Tuck" as it is referred to, has probably as many trout per mile as any of the western rivers of Montana and Idaho. The Tuck is very user friendly; access is great along the Delayed Harvest section with the water remaining wadable most of the time. The Tuck is also a great river to fish from a drift boat. We have a stable of Hyde Drift Boats, and Star Wonder Bugs for just that purpose. If you really want the ultimate experience in fly fishing this watershed, then a float trip is definitely the best bet! *(Smoky Mountain Fly Fishing Outfitters, Cherokee, NC)*

#### Cullasaja River

The Cullasaja is a hatchery supported stream near Highlands N.C., and because it receives little fishing pressure it contains lots of wild trout. Access is great along the road, and it remains wadable year round. The Cullasaja River is probably one of the most scenic rivers in Western North Carolina; it boasts many large waterfalls, including Cullasaja Falls which is the largest waterfall in the area. Be sure to bring your camera

along with you on this trip because the scenery is literally breathtaking, and the fishing isn't bad either. (*Smoky Mountain Fly Fishing Outfitters, Cherokee, NC*)

Hazel Creek (located on the North Shore of Fontana Lake)

The creek rises in Swain County at the southwestern slope of Silers Bald and flows for more than 15 miles to Fontana, fed by numerous creeklets and creeks, including Bone Valley Creek, Sugar Fork, Procter Creek, and Walkers Creek. Hazel Creek is to be the best close location for Cherokee fly-fishing. If you are ready to drive out of town and into the mountains, Hazel Creek is the best bet for finding multitudes of fish. This river has all of the needed qualifications to rightfully claim being one of the finest spots for trout fishing near Cherokee. Be sure to check out this awesome fly-fisher's paradise.

The abundant insect life in this beautiful river is one of the secrets of this stream's superior fishing capacity. Caddis flies dominate the waters, although you will find that plentiful hatches of *Stenonema* Mayflies attract the trout during the summer. These insects promise the best Cherokee fly-fishing.

In the lower section, where the creek is wide as a two-lane highway and pools are big enough to swim in, are the browns: big browns, some 8 to 10 pounds but more common in the 2- to 4-pound range. The big browns aren't easy to catch, but people who often fish the stream say browns respond best to terrestrial imitations, particularly grasshopper patterns.

Rainbows, the most numerous species, are found throughout the stream and can be caught with seasonal dry flies and nymphs.

Brook trout are in the upper reaches of the stream, near the headwaters. A few hardy souls make the long hike to Hazel Creek from Fontana Village, Clingmans Dome, or Noland Creek, but most take the easy route — across Fontana Lake by boat.

(by Robert Satterwhite, [www.northcarolinasportsman.com](http://www.northcarolinasportsman.com))

***GSMNP Fishing Location and Directions***

Water System	Stream	Size	Pressure	Quality	Access
Little River System	Little River	Large	Heavy	Good	Auto
	Little River Middle Prong	Medium	Moderately Heavy	Very Good	Auto
	Little River West Prong	Medium	Moderately Light	Good	Auto
	Rough Creek	Small	Moderate	Good	Auto
	Thunderhead Prong	Small	Fair	Fair to Good	Hike
	Jakes Creek	Small	Moderate to Light	Fair	Hike
	Spruce Flats	Small	Moderate	Fair	Hike
Little Pigeon West River System	Little Pigeon West Prong	Large to Medium	Moderate to Light	Very Good to Excellent	Auto
	Walker Camp Prong	Small to Medium	Moderate	Poor	Auto
	Roaring Fork	Small	Light to Moderate	Excellent	Hike
	Road Prong	Small	Moderate	Excellent	Auto
	Dudley Creek	Small	Light	Good to Excellent	Auto
	LeConte Creek	Small	Moderate	Fair	Hike
Little Pigeon Middle River System	Little Pigeon Middle Prong	Large to Small	Heavy	Fair	Auto
	Porter's Creek	Medium	Moderate	Good	Auto
	Chapman Prong	Small	Moderately Light	Fairly Good	Hike
	Ramsey Prong	Small	Moderately Light	Fair	Hike

Walker Camp Prong

Walker Camp Prong is a lovely stream for Cherokee fly-fishing. It closely follows the highway between Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and Cherokee and is just upstream from the popular Chimneys trailhead. Many rainbow trout await the hooks of the smart fly fisher

who takes a side trip to or from Cherokee to experience some of the most exciting North Carolina trout fishing to be found. ([www.cherokee\\_nc.com](http://www.cherokee_nc.com))

Walker Camp Prong begins 8.7 miles south of the Sugarland Center on Newfound Gap Road. This road offers excellent access to the stream to approximately 4500 feet. Alum Cave Creek flows into the mainstream 1.3 miles upstream from the confluence of Walker Camp Prong and Road Prong. Further access is possible via the Alum Creek Trail, which begins at the mouth of the stream. (*Joel Dean*)

### ***Local Fly Shops***

#### Smoky Mountain Fly Fishing

P.O. Box 1169  
626 Tsali Blvd  
Cherokee, NC 28719  
(828) 497-1555

[www.smokymountainflyfishing.net](http://www.smokymountainflyfishing.net)

#### Hookers Fly Shop & Guide Service

546 West Main Street  
Sylva, NC 28779  
Phone: 828-587-HOOK  
Fax: (865) 774-4163

[www.hookersflyshop.com](http://www.hookersflyshop.com)

### ***Area Fly Shops***

#### Little River Outfitters

106 Town Square Dr  
P.O. Box 505  
Townsend, TN 37882  
1-877-448-3474

[www.littleriveroutfitters.com](http://www.littleriveroutfitters.com)

#### The Apple Barn – Orvis Retail Store

136 Apple Valley Road  
Sevierville, TN 37862  
Phone: (865) 774-4162  
Fax: (865) 774-4163

[www.orvis.com/sevierville](http://www.orvis.com/sevierville)

### ***Nashville Fly Shops***

#### Cumberland Transit

2807 West End Ave.  
Nashville, TN 37203  
(615) 321-4069

[www.cumberlandtransit.com](http://www.cumberlandtransit.com)

#### Fly South

1514 Demonbreun St.  
Nashville, TN 37203  
(615) 251-6199

[www.flysouth.net](http://www.flysouth.net)

#### Game Fair Ltd.

5703 Old Harding Rd.  
Nashville, TN 37205  
(615) 353-0602

[www.gamefairltd.com](http://www.gamefairltd.com)

### ***Local Guides***

*See your local fly shops.*

### ***Gear***

- For casting nymphs or dry flies, an angler should consider 6 to 7 ½ ft; 2 to 4 WT medium action rods; all rods should be equipped with floating line.
- For the larger waters, consider a 4-5 WT medium to fast action rod

## ***Recommended Flies***

### **May Hatch Chart North Carolina Smoky Mountains**

<b>FLY HATCH CHART</b>		
<b>MAY</b>		
<b>INSECTS</b>	<b>EMERGENCE</b>	<b>PATTERN</b>
Mottled Brown/Gray Caddis	All Day	16 Brown or Gray Soft Hackle, 16 Brown Elk Hair Caddis
Hendrickson Ephemerella Subvaria	All Day; Female Spinner has Yellow Egg Sac	14 Hendrickson, 14 Red Quill, 14 Female Adams
March Brown Stenonema Vicarium	Mid-May All Day Sporadically	12 March Brown, Wet & Dry
Light Cahill Stenonema Ithaca	Afternoon - Evening	16 - 18 Light Cahill
Yellow Midge Diptera	Early May	20 Yellow Midge
Gray Fox Stenonema Fuscum	Sparse Hatch	14 Gray Fox, 14 Ginger Quill, 14 Gray Fox Variant
Sulphurs Ephemerella Dorothea	Early May Late Afternoon and Evening	16 - 18 Sulphurs, 16 - 18 Light Cahill
Black Caddis	Early May All Day	18 Black Soft Hackle, 18 Black Fluttering Caddis
Cream Midge	Mid-May All Day	20 - 22 Cream Midge
Blue Winged Olive Baetis	Mid-May Early Afternoon	20 -22 Blue Winged Olive, 20 - 22 Adams
Green Drake Ephemera Guttulata	Late May Evening	10 Paradrake, 8 10 White Wulff
Giant Stone Fly Pteronarcys	Early May Early Morning	4 - 8 Stone Fly Nymph

[www.flyfishingnc.com/fly-bugs/patterns/fly-hatch-chart-north-carolina-smoky-mountains](http://www.flyfishingnc.com/fly-bugs/patterns/fly-hatch-chart-north-carolina-smoky-mountains)

## ***Recommended Resources***

### **Books**

***Trout Streams of Southern Appalachia: Fly-Casting in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina & Tennessee (Trout Streams Guides)*** by Jimmy Jacobs

[www.countrymanpress.com/titles/TroutStreamsSAppalachia2.html](http://www.countrymanpress.com/titles/TroutStreamsSAppalachia2.html)

***The Southeast's Best Fly Fishing*** by James Buice

[littleriveroutfitters.com/store/product.php?productid=18521](http://littleriveroutfitters.com/store/product.php?productid=18521)

***Fly Fishing for Brook Trout in Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Advice from the Guides*** by Ian & Charity Rutter

***Great Smoky Mountains National Park Angler's Companion*** by Ian Rutter

[www.randrflyfishing.com/pages/store.shtml](http://www.randrflyfishing.com/pages/store.shtml)

***Fly Fishing in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park*** by Jim Casada

[littleriveroutfitters.com/store/product.php?productid=18520&cat=995&page=1](http://littleriveroutfitters.com/store/product.php?productid=18520&cat=995&page=1)

***The Fly Fisherman's Guide to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park*** by H. Lea Lawrence

[www.amazon.com/Fishermans-Guide-Great-Mountains-National/dp/1888952822#](http://www.amazon.com/Fishermans-Guide-Great-Mountains-National/dp/1888952822#)

## Maps

*North Carolina Atlas & Gazetteer* by Delorme

*Tennessee Atlas & Gazetteer* by Delorme

[shop.delorme.com/OA\\_HTML/DELibeCCtpSctDspRte.jsp?section=10096](http://shop.delorme.com/OA_HTML/DELibeCCtpSctDspRte.jsp?section=10096)

*Nantahala & Cullasaja Gorges Trail Map* by National Geographic

[shop.nationalgeographic.com/ngs/product/maps/travel-and-hiking-maps/trails-illustrated-hiking-and-recreation-maps/north-carolina/785-nantahala-%26-cullasaja-gorges-trail-map](http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/ngs/product/maps/travel-and-hiking-maps/trails-illustrated-hiking-and-recreation-maps/north-carolina/785-nantahala-%26-cullasaja-gorges-trail-map)

*Fontana & Hiwassee Lakes Trail Map* by National Geographic

[shop.nationalgeographic.com/ngs/product/maps/travel-and-hiking-maps/trails-illustrated-hiking-and-recreation-maps/north-carolina/784-fontana-%26-hiwassee-trail-map](http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/ngs/product/maps/travel-and-hiking-maps/trails-illustrated-hiking-and-recreation-maps/north-carolina/784-fontana-%26-hiwassee-trail-map)

*Wittier Quadrangle* by USGS

*Bryson City Quadrangle* by USGS

*Clingmans Dome Quadrangle* by USGS

*Smokemont Quadrangle* by USGS

*Bunches Bald Quadrangle* by USGS

*Silva North Quadrangle* by USGS

and several more at USGS

[www.usgs.gov/pubprod/maps.html](http://www.usgs.gov/pubprod/maps.html)

*Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fishing Map & Fishing Guide*

[www.randflyfishing.com/pages/store.shtml](http://www.randflyfishing.com/pages/store.shtml)

See the *Cherokee, NC Outing Resources* page.

## ***Emergency/Medical Information***

### Hospitals:

***Cherokee Indian Hospital***

188 Hospital Rd

Cherokee, NC 28719

(828) 497-9163

[usphs.gov](http://usphs.gov)

***Swain County Hospital***

45 Plateau St

Bryson, NC 28713

(828) 488-4060

[www.westcare.org/for-patients-and-visitors/swain-county-hospital](http://www.westcare.org/for-patients-and-visitors/swain-county-hospital)

### Medical Clinics:

***First Med Family Medical Center***

1015 E Parkway

Gatlinburg, TN 37738-5057

(865) 436-7267

***PM ER Location***

2534 McGill Street

Pigeon Forge, TN 37863

865-908-6402

[www.ampm-er.com](http://www.ampm-er.com)

Always remember to only call **911** if you have a life threatening emergency.