



↘ Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers, Inc. ↙



# Outing Information

**GSMNP – Elkmont**  
**April 18-22, 2012**

---

## ***Group Leader***

Joel Dean  
(615) 776-3706  
[j.dean@mtff.org](mailto:j.dean@mtff.org)

## ***Outings Committee Chair***

David Hudnall  
(903) 520-2229  
[david.hudnall@mtff.org](mailto:david.hudnall@mtff.org)

## ***Park Information***

Great Smoky Mountains National Park has about 2,115 miles of streams within its boundaries, and protects one of the last wild trout habitats in the eastern United States. The park offers a wide variety of angling experiences from remote, headwater trout streams to large, cool water smallmouth bass streams. Most streams remain at or near their carrying capacity of fish and offer a great opportunity to catch these species throughout the year.

## ***Fishing Species***

Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout and Brook Trout

## ***Campground Location***

***Elkmont Campground***  
434 Elkmont Road  
Gatlinburg TN 37738

*If you want to take your own trip sometime, you can make your own reservation online:*  
[www.recreation.gov/camping/Elkmont\\_Campground\\_Tn/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=70968&topTabIndex=CampingSpot](http://www.recreation.gov/camping/Elkmont_Campground_Tn/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=70968&topTabIndex=CampingSpot)

## ***Elkmont Group Campground***

*Check with the outing leaders, they may make a reservation for the group campground:*  
[www.recreation.gov/tn/Elkmont\\_Group\\_Sites/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=70914&pstate=TN](http://www.recreation.gov/tn/Elkmont_Group_Sites/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=70914&pstate=TN)

## ***Campground***

Elkmont Campground is the largest campground in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is the closest campground to Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The beautiful Little River runs directly through the center of the campground and is just a short distance from the group sites.

There are several great hiking trails within minutes of the campground, including the popular Laurel Falls Trail. Little River is also an excellent trout fishing stream. Elkmont

is known for its historical and cultural significance as a former logging community and summer resort getaway.

The camp store offers limited supplies but virtually all amenities, including a medical clinic (see *Emergency/Medical Information* below), can be found in Gatlinburg, 8 miles away.

Elkmont Campground is open from the second week of March until December 1st. Campsites are available during the off season on a first come, first served basis at reduced rates.

### ***Driving Directions***

Directions to ELKMONT CAMPGROUND from NASHVILLE – 209.7 mi (3 hrs 46 min) [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)

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 - *4.8 mi*

Turn RIGHT onto ELKMONT RD - *2.0 mi*

ELKMONT RD becomes LITTLE RIVER TRAIL RD

Welcome to ELKMONT CAMPGROUND

## ***Fishing Location and Directions***

<b>Water System</b>	<b>Stream</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Pressure</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>Access</b>
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
Little Pigeon West River System	Spruce Flats	Small	Moderate	Fair	Hike
	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
Little Pigeon Middle River System	LeConte Creek	Small	Moderate	Fair	Hike
	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

### Chapman Prong

Chapman Prong is in one of the more remote sections of the Smokys. The streams mouth is located 1.6 miles upstream from the terminus of the Ramsey Road Trail.

### Dudley Creek

Auto access to Dudley Creek is possible via TN 73. The upstream passes out of the park approximately 1.8 miles east of Gatlinburg and flows alongside the highway. There are no maintained trails inside the Park, but an old National Park Service fire road provides excellent access to the stream for a short distance.

### Jakes Creek

Elkmont Campground

### LeConte Creek

Auto access to LeConte is provided by the Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail, which follows alongside the stream. Trail access is provided by the Rainbow Falls Trail, which begins off the Cherokee Orchard Road at 4.3 miles, and follows the stream 2 miles to Rainbow Falls. The fishing quality upstream from the falls is poor.

### Little Pigeon Middle Prong

Flows under TN 73, 6 miles east of Gatlinburg Entrance to the Park is possible by turning onto Greenbriar Road at the concrete bridge. Further access to the mainstream is possible via the Ramsey Prong Road Trail, which begins at the end of the road. It generally follows the stream, ending at the junction of Ramsey Prong (1.7 miles). There is no other access the upstream.

### Little Pigeon West Prong

Auto access upstream from the streams junctions with the East Prong via Cades Cove Road. It travels alongside the stream 2 miles. Laurel Creek, a tributary of the West Prong, continues along route an additional 4 miles. Backcountry access is provided by the West Prong Trail (the trailhead is located at the Tremont Center), which crosses a ridge and 2.7 miles reaches the banks of the West Prong, where the West Prong backcountry campsite(N.P.S #18, capacity 8) is located. This is the only contact with the West Prong.

### Little River

Elkmont Campground. Auto access available along the entire length of the stream throughout the Park.

### Little River Middle Prong

Auto access from its mouth (located .2 mile from the Townsend "Y") by the Tremont Road for a distance of 5.4 miles. Gravel road open to traffic during the fishing season.

### Little River East Prong

Auto access downstream from Elkmont Campground to the park boundary (13 miles) via the Little River Road (formerly TN73); all other access limited to trail use.

### Porter's Creek

Auto access using the Porter's Creek Road, which begins at the junction of Greenbriar Creek and Porter's Creek (Porter's Creek flows from the right). This gravel road follows upstream 1 mile to a large parking area. The Porter's Creek Trail, which starts at the parking area, follows alongside the stream to its headwaters.

### Ramsey Prong

The Ramsey Cascades Trail provides access up to the cascades (2.5 miles). There are no maintained trails upstream.

### Road Prong

The confluence of Road Prong and Walker Camp Prong is 8.7 miles south of the Sugarlands Center, on the Newfound Gap Road. There is no further auto access to the stream. The Road Prong Trail offers access to the creek farther upstream. It follows alongside the stream for 3.1 miles to its headwaters.

### Roaring Fork

Access from Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail, a one-way road. It is popular to park at the end of this road and walk in to fish, thus avoiding the drive around the loop. Trillium Gap Trail offers further access to the stream. It begins at the Grotto Fales parking area. At 1.5 miles it crosses the stream and at 4.4 miles arrives at the headwaters of Surry Branch, a tributary of Roaring Fork.

### Rough Creek

Little River Truck Road

### Spruce Flats

Tremont gravel road

### Thunderhead Prong

Defeat Ridge Trail

## Walker Camp

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.

### ***Local 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 Smoky Mountain

Angler

466 Brookside Village

Way

Gatlinburg, TN 37738

(865) 436-8746

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

Little River Outfitters is one of the best Southern fly shops. It has all locally-tied flies and sells regional patterns such as the Thunderhead (a Smoky Mountains Wulff fly) and the soft-hackle Tellico Nymphs.

### ***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***

*Contact the 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.
- A GOOD PAIR OF WADING SHOES OR BOOTS IS A MUST. Many of these mountain streams require one to have good felt soled boots or shoes, or with the newer specialized rubber soles. The rocks in and out of the water can be very slick.

## Recommended Flies

### April Hatch

Dry Fly		Nymph	
Primary Hatch	Hook Size		Hook Size
Black Caddis	14, 16, 18	March Brown	10, 12, 14, 16
March Brown	12, 14, 16	Golden Stone	10, 12, 14
Blue Wing Olive	14, 16, 18	Dark Stone	10, 12, 14
Quill Gordon	12, 14, 16	Hare's Ear Bead Head	10, 12, 14, 16
Red Quill	12, 14, 16	Pheasant Tail Bead Head	10, 12, 14, 16
Dark Hendickson	12, 14, 16	Wooly Buggers	8, 10, 12
<b>Suggested Patterns</b>		Zonkers	8, 10
		Muddler Minnow	8, 10
		George's Nymph	10, 12, 14, 16
Coachman Trude	12, 14, 16	Stick Bait	10, 12
Royal Coachman	12, 14, 16	Secret Weapon	10, 12, 14
Borcher Special	12, 14, 16	Helgremite	8, 10
Deer Hair	12, 14	Wood Duck Nymph	8, 10
Olive Elk Hair Caddis	12, 14, 16	Crow Fly	8, 10, 12
Olive Stimulator	12, 14, 16	Squirrel Hair	10, 12, 14, 16
Yellow Palmer	12, 14, 16	Rubber Leg Prince	10, 12, 14, 16
Gray Fox	12, 14		
Beaver Tan	12, 14		
Male Adams	12, 14, 16		
<b>Best Time</b>	Mid-day to Afternoon	<b>Best Time</b>	Mid-day to Afternoon
<b>Notes:</b>			
The middle of the month brings a good Black Caddis hatch, Mid-afternoons, this can be some good fishing as your fly hatches become more active.			

## Recommended Resources

### Books

*Tennessee Trout Waters* by Ian Rutter

*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

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

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

*Tennessee Atlas & Gazetteer* by Delorme

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

*USGS Maps* (several to choose from)

[www.dlia.org/atbi/science/park\\_quad\\_maps.shtml](http://www.dlia.org/atbi/science/park_quad_maps.shtml)

See the GSMNP Outing Resources page.

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

### Hospitals:

#### ***Fort Sanders Sevier Medical Center***

709 Middle Creek Road

Sevierville, TN 37862

(865) 429-6100

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

### 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)

### Ranger Station:

#### ***Elkmont Ranger Station – Elkmont Campground***

434 Elkmont Road

Gatlinburg TN 37738

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