

Peaks of Otter

Tuesday, July 1, through Friday, June 31, 2009

♪ ♪ **FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND ACTIVITIES!** ♪

>>>>>Annual Walk up Sharp Top to View Fireworks!!!<<<<<

7:00 PM Saturday, July 4

Meet Park Rangers at the Nature Center to walk the 3-mile bus road to the summit of Sharp Top Mountain to enjoy fireworks from a bird's-eye view. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and a flashlight for this moderately strenuous 6-mile round trip hike. Plan to be back at vehicles around 11:30 PM. **This event is weather permitting.**

Fourth of July Weekend Music Program

3:00-5:00 PM Saturday, July 4

“Virginia Carolina”

The Blue Ridge Parkway is pleased to present a musical performance in the **Peaks of Otter Amphitheater** featuring the old-time Appalachian band, Virginia Carolina. The band's music is rooted in traditional bluegrass and gospel music. Meet for a toe-tappin', foot-stompin' good time.

Programs at the Peaks of Otter Amphitheater (located behind the Visitor Center)

EVENING PROGRAMS

8:00 PM Saturday, July 11: Survival in Appalachia: Join National Park Ranger Lucy Overstreet as she discusses how the residents of the Southern Appalachian Mountains lived before modern conveniences.

Saturday, July 18: Just Bear Facts: Learn how to avoid a negative encounter with a black bear. Park Ranger David Meyer discusses some of the myths and legends about black bears and lets you know what to do if you meet one.

Night Hike: Following each Saturday evening program, join a National Park Service Ranger for an evening of nighttime exploration. **Bring a flashlight and wear sturdy shoes.**

Folk Tales from the Southern Appalachians:

Saturday, July 25

Come and listen as master storyteller **Dr. Gwynn W. Ramsey** spins some of the traditional “tall tales” of the Southern Appalachians. Dressed in his bib-overalls, chambray shirt, and coonskin cap, Dr. Ramsey uses the jargon of a mountaineer to bring these local folk tales to life. Bring the whole family for a night of good old-fashioned story-telling fun.

At Johnson Farm

Daily 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Hike the trail to the farm to discuss with Park Rangers and volunteers mountain living and to discover how a Blue Ridge Mountain family lived, worked, and played. Join in some of the games and activities! Living history demonstrations available on weekends.

Programs at the Nature Center—at the foot of Sharp Top Mountain

Daily 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Stop by our newest facility to talk with National Park Service Rangers or volunteers about the natural history of the Peaks of Otter area. Parkway staff will be available to answer questions and to present programs and demonstrations from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Kids Fishing at Abbott Lake Dam

Saturdays 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Kids ages 3 to 14 are invited to participate in the weekly Kids Fishing program at the Abbott Lake dam. We provide bait and tackle, or you may bring your own pole for luck.

Demonstrations of Appalachian Culture at the Visitor Center and Peaks of Otter Lodge

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

National Park Service Rangers and/or volunteers present demonstrations of the cultural history of the Southern Appalachians. Come by to visit and to talk. Demonstrations may include Appalachian dolls, natural plant dyes, edible plants, woodworking, or soapmaking. Contact the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center for specific times and locations of the demonstrations.

All programs unless otherwise noted are free and open to the public. The above schedule is subject to changes and/or cancellations. For further information, contact the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center at (540) 586-4496. The Visitor Center, at milepost 86, is open daily from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Funding for interpretive programs provided in part through the generous donations of Peaks of Otter Lodge and Eastern National.



In case of an emergency call: 1-800-PARKWATCH