

## 21st Annual Wilderness Wildlife Week January 8-15, 2011 – Pigeon Forge, TN

by Paula Gammell



*Come face-to-face with an American Bald Eagle at Wilderness Wildlife Week.*

East Tennessee is blessed with numerous events for those of us interested in history and genealogy. There's re-enactments to experience, shows to watch, historic homes to tour, workshops and lectures to attend...

But one deserves special mention!

Wilderness Wildlife Week sounds kind of...umm... wildernessy and wildlifey, doesn't it? And so it is.

Sure, you can enjoy the wilderness thru guided hikes throughout the Smokies – choose from short easy strolls to strenuous all-day treks. Is it too chilly for you outdoors in January? Then stay in! Listen to others talk about their hikes and learn what equipment you need to get started.

As for wildlife, sure! Learn how to attract wildlife into your habitat or how they live in theirs – everything from butterflies, bluebirds, and bats to opossums, panthers, snakes, owls, and – of course! – our black bears.

But there's so much more to Wilderness Wildlife Week! With three and sometimes four lectures, workshops, and demonstrations running simultaneously all day, every day, your biggest problem will be choosing what to do.

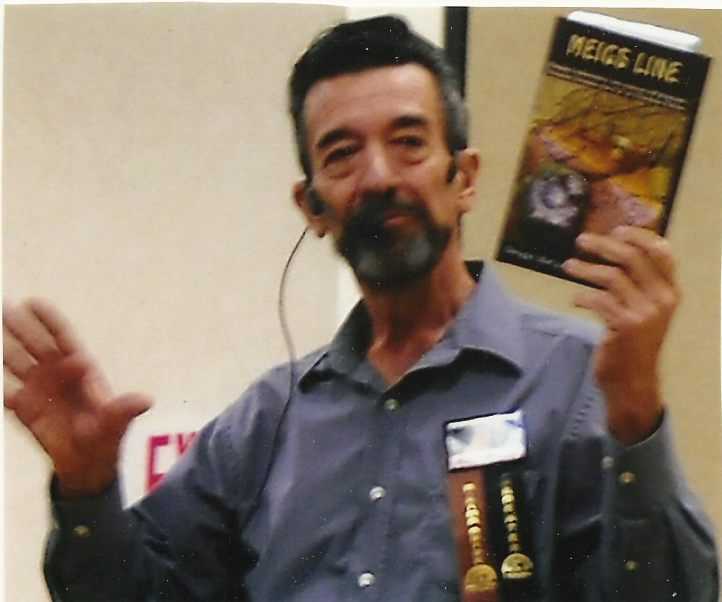
You'll especially like programs and demonstrations on what it was like in the past. Listen to stories about Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, and Sevierville, or contribute your own reminiscences to be videotaped. Hear about Elkmont's synchronous fireflies, logging in the mountains, and the Walker sisters of Little Greenbriar. Learn how to dowse, carve and whittle, make a quill pen, read weather signs, find and use wild food and medicinal plants, and keep from getting lost in the mountains.

There's also plenty of music. Sit and listen to old-time mountain music, folk songs, or bluegrass; participate in old-time harp singing; learn how to play the dulcimer, autoharp, banjo, harmonica, or washboard.

Oh, and let's not forget about the exhibit hall – you can spend several hours there and at the photography show.

And what do you think you'll pay for all this? Its free. Yes, I said free. Every seminar is free, every lecture is free, every demonstration is free, every hike is free. Even the parking is free. You just show up and enjoy it all.

Go to [www.mypigeonforge.com](http://www.mypigeonforge.com), click on 'Events' then click on 'Wilderness Wildlife Week.'



*Retired Park Rangers Dwight McCarter and Joe Kelley discuss their new book, Meigs Line, at 2010's Wilderness Wildlife Week.*