

**DLIA**  
Discover Life in America

CELEBRATING **15** YEARS!

Discover Life in America

## ATBI Quarterly

**Just a few tickets remain!**



### **THE SYNCHRONOUS FIREFLIES at NORTON CREEK**

What do Great Smoky Mountain National Park and Malaysian jungles have in common? Haven't a twinkling of an idea? It's the presence of synchronous fireflies! During the first weeks of June, an annual lightshow,

Donate Today

DLIA is funded entirely by donations and grants. Your support today will help keep discovery alive.

**DONATE NOW**

**923** *Species New to  
Science*

**7,636** *New Species  
for the Park*

put on by Mother Nature's night-lights, illuminate areas of GSMNP. This year the non-profit organization Discover Life in America is holding a number of events for the public to experience this natural wonder and learn more about the mystery behind the synchronous fireflies.

"We know of 19 species of fireflies (actually they're a unique group of beetles) currently inhabiting the Park," states former park curator Adriean Mayor. "There are 12 species that "flash" and 7 species with no "flash"." This "flashing" phenomenon is caused by a chemical reaction in the fireflies' lower abdominal organs called bioluminescence.

Now you might be wondering: Why don't the fireflies in my backyard synchronize? What makes the fireflies in the park so special? All of your question and more will be answered by attending any of the following events:

On May 31 and June 1st, starting at 7:30 pm and ending at 11:00 pm, DLIA is holding a fund-raising event at Norton Creek Sanctuary near Gatlinburg, TN. With exclusive access to the property and a firefly expert on site, you will be able to learn the answers to your questions while enjoying the amazing display first hand. Food (heavy hors d'oeuvres) and drink (beer and wine) will be provided, so come out and enjoy this nighttime picnic with the fireflies! There will be a short walk to the site and be prepared for possible inclement weather. (Reservations required – space is very limited. Call 865.430.4756 for tickets! The cost is \$75 per person.)

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## BIODIVERSITY DAYS IN THE SMOKIES

**Celebrate Biodiversity Days in Great Smoky Mountains National Park beginning on June 20 - 22, 2013 with walk, seminars, demonstrations, scientist-led field trips, and other fun events both on the Tennessee side and North Carolina side of the Park. All in celebration of the amazing diversity of GSMNP. Learn more about the biodiversity of GSMNP and the on-going All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) throughout the**

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## DLIA 2013 Interns

We've had some fantastic interns throughout the years, and this year is no different. Thanks to the generosity of Kevin Fitzpatrick and the Mary Fitzpatrick Internship we are able to host a Photography and Biology intern each summer. We are also so lucky to have a Duke Stanback Intern each summer thanks to Fred Stanback and his long-term dedication to non-profits and conservation. Our interns this year are, Ginny Isava (Stanback intern from Duke), Alex Hughes (Indiana University) and Laine Lyles (University of Montana) represent the Mary Fitzpatrick internships.

Welcome DLIA interns!

## DLIA STAFF AND BOARD

[Science Advisory](#)

website [www.dlia.org](http://www.dlia.org) (see below for schedule of events). Space will be limited; make your reservations early.

### **What is Biodiversity?**

Biodiversity is the variation of species in a given ecosystem, including all types of life forms from plants to animals. Here in the Smoky Mountains, estimates have been as high as 100,000 for how many unique species reside here. The variety of species in an ecosystem has become important to scientists since population and consumption of resources by society have been growing.

### **Why is biodiversity important?**

The level of biodiversity in an ecosystem is a measure of how healthy that ecosystem is. Humans are affected by biodiversity in their everyday lives, with services such as clean air, fertile soil, and water purification all stemming from the ecosystem and its biodiversity. Thus diversity in ecosystems enriches human life through methods not easily seen, and we need biodiversity to support ourselves and all other life we share this planet with.

### **What are biodiversity days?**

Biodiversity days is an event provided by Discover Life in America where workshops, presentations, and hikes are given to raise awareness for the importance of variation of life throughout the planet. Obscure species are also discussed to provide visitors with a fresh outlook on life forms.

### **Panel**

Dr. Sylvia Earle,  
National Geographic  
Dr. Dan Janzen,  
University of  
Pennsylvania  
Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, The  
Heinz Center  
Dr. Ron Pulliam,  
University of Georgia  
Dr. Peter Raven,  
Missouri Botanical  
Garden  
Dr. Edward O. Wilson,  
Harvard University

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TN

Kristen Austin, The  
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Greenville, SC



### **Schedule of Events:**

June 20- 9 am - 3 pm-Twin Creeks Science Center-**A Fungus Among Us!**

**Smoky Mountain Mushrooms with Larry Williams**-Call to register

June 20-7 pm – 9 pm- Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont -

**Crayfish of the Smokies with Zach Loughman** - call to register

June 21 8:30 am - Noon- Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont -

**Crayfish of the Smokies with Zach Loughman** - call to register

June 22-All day- TBD- **Fern Foray with Pat Cox**– call to register and for more information

**For more information call 865-430-4757 or visit our website at**

[www.dlia.org](http://www.dlia.org)

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## **Biodiversity Hike and Overnight to LeConte Lodge**

Steve Bohleber, Bohleber  
Law, Evansville, IN

Clay Bolt, Meet Your  
Neighbors, Easley, SC

Pat Cox, TVA, Knoxville,  
TN

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Hospitality Management  
Solutions, Gatlinburg,  
TN

J. Ralph Jordan, Norris,  
TN

Sara Kuebbing,  
University of TN,  
Knoxville, TN

Keith Langdon, Retired  
NPS, Sevierville, TN

Don Linzey, Wytheville  
CC, VA

Dan Lipe, Dan Lipe  
Design, Knoxville, TN

Laura Mahan, The  
Compleat Naturalist,  
Asheville, NC

Bruce Minkin, Carolina  
Hand and Sports  
Medicine, Asheville, NC

J. Dan Pittillo, Sylva, NC

Lee Poston, World  
Wildlife Fund,

Washington, DC

Moria Robinson, UC  
Davis, Davis, CA

JJ Rochelle, Pro-2 Serve,  
Oak Ridge, TN

Charles Smith, Cornell  
University, Ithaca, NY

### **Staff:**



Please join us for our annual trek and overnight to Leconte Lodge. Ever wonder what it would be like to stay overnight at the highest inn in the Eastern United States? How about doing so with a guided hike up one of Mount Le Conte's most scenic trails? Join Discover Life in America for all this and more on our annual Biodiversity Hike to Mt. Le Conte, August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Discover Life in America (DLIA) works with scientists and volunteers from around the world to coordinate the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) for Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). The ATBI is one of the world's most ambitious efforts to document and understand every living species in GSMNP, and it is through events like our annual hike to Mt. Le Conte that we hope to educate anybody interested in the importance of biodiversity to both this great park and the greater humankind.

Todd P. Witcher,  
Executive Director  
Chuck Cooper, Database  
Technician  
Heather MacCulloch,  
Volunteer Coordinator

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## Tree Teams



Our Tree Teams Sorting at Twin Creeks Science and Education Center has started again this year and will occur the third Thursday of each month. This is our long-term project to determine the arthropods associated with some of the declining tree species in the Park. Please call to register and to read more about Tree Teams visit our website [www.dlia.org](http://www.dlia.org)

The trip begins with a guided hike up Alum Cave Bluff Trail with an experienced guide giving the natural history, local human history, biodiversity lessons and much more along the way. We'll be having a picnic lunch on the way up, an evening sunset program on the ATBI at Clifftops, and a chance to meet some new friends while learning a thing or two. You'll be provided with handmade note cards from DLIA, and lodging with dinner and breakfast. All this for the price of \$275 per person, and you will be supporting both DLIA and the Smokies ATBI program.

Reserve your spot now while spots are still open! For reservations or more information, e-mail Todd at [todd@dlia.org](mailto:todd@dlia.org) or call (865) 430-4757. Sleeping arrangements will be shared, so bring a friend or get ready to make a new one!

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## Coming in July Nematodes of the Smokies

Please mark your calendar for a one-of-a-kind workshop on those incredible creatures we call Nematodes!

July 12 and 13, 2013



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