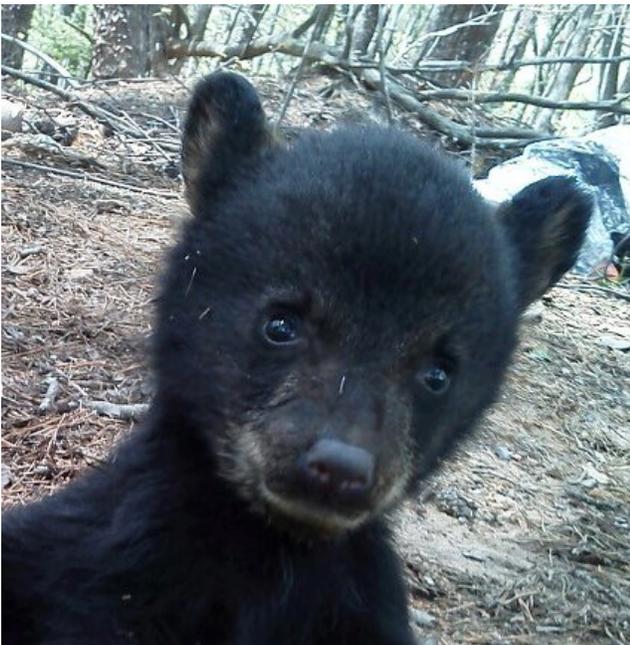




RESCUED BEAR CUB EXPECTED TO MAKE FULL RECOVERY
BY MELISSA RADZIEWICZ

The injured black bear cub rescued by park staff at Chimney Rock State Park in April is healthy and expected to make a full recovery, according to Park Superintendent James Ledgerwood. The male cub, which was found after being abandoned by its mother, Ledgerwood said, is being cared for at a private rehabilitation center. After a full recovery, the bear will be released into a bear sanctuary within the same region from which it was found.



Park visitors reported finding the cub on the Rumbling Bald Trail near the base of a cliff, the superintendent stated. Weighing less than eight pounds, the cub was malnourished, according to Ledgerwood. “It was conscious and alert, but its breathing seemed shallow. It responded to noises and could see me, but was unable to move off of the trail as I examined it. Either by a fall or a birth defect, its left leg was injured,” he alleged. “It tried to stand up but collapsed down to the ground.”

After wrapping the injured cub in an emergency blanket, the superintendent hiked a half-mile to the trailhead with the cub in his arms. Ledgerwood found a shady place to rest and gave the cub some water. “It immediately began lapping up the water and purring. It drank for 10 minutes,” he said.

Following its rescue, the cub was transported to a North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission rehabi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

UPCOMING RANGER PROGRAMS

Catch a roving ranger for random programs on Saturdays and Sundays! Look for our green and gray uniforms— we could be on the Great Woodland Adventure Trail, next to Vista Rock, or ANYWHERE in Chimney Rock State Park.

IN THIS ISSUE

Ranger’s Report — Page 2

New Superintendent— Page 3

Wild Flowers — Page 5

Naturally Wonderful —Page 7

RANGER'S REPORT

Summertime is here at Chimney Rock State Park. The park received many inches of rain during the early spring months, which, on one hand, is good for the water table, but, on the other hand, bad for land erosion and mudslides. Back in late 2012 we experienced a landslide on the Hickory Nut Falls Trail, causing the trail to be shut down, and in early spring 2013 we have seen a lot of rain, causing flooding and a part of the park road to fail.



The good news is that the park is still open and improvements are underway to fix the park's roads and trails. In 2013 many improvements will be implemented at Chimney Rock State Park for visitors to enjoy for years to come. The staff here at Chimney Rock State Park is constantly working hard to improve the park lands for visitors to enjoy. There will be volunteer opportunities at different locations of the park in 2013, so if you would like to be part of developing a world class state park, please contact us.

RESCUED BEAR CUB: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

litation center for further examination. The wildlife biologist tended to the cub its first night at the center. By the next day, it was eating well and walking around, although continuing to favor its left leg, according to Ledgerwood.

Bears are very common in the mountain and coastal regions of North Carolina; however, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission says the black bear is a very shy, nonaggressive animal that avoids human beings in most cases. Ledgerwood suggests hikers pay attention to their surroundings and take precautions whenever outdoors.

Any time you see a bear:

1. Do not approach a bear – they are dangerous. If it changes its natural behavior (feeding, foraging, or movement) because of your presence, you are too close.
2. Never surround or corner a bear.
3. Never feed the bear.
4. Never run from a bear.
5. Back away slowly.
6. Make lots of noise. Attempt to scare the animal away by yelling and waving your arms.
7. If it charges you, stand your ground.
8. Except in rare cases, playing dead is not appropriate.
9. In the extreme cases that you are attacked by a black bear, try to fight back using any object available.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that unless you inspect the Dandelion closely, you may think the bloom is just a mass of yellow petals or “rays”? Each of the 100 to 200 rays is actually a tiny tube-shaped flower. Thus, one flower is actually a “composite” of many little ones. This is why one flower head can produce so many seeds. The flowers usually bloom close to the ground. After the blooming period is completed, however, the flower head folds up for several days,



grows an additional 12 to 18 inches tall, and then reopens with an array of “fuzzies” ready to catch the wind.

INTERN ARCHIVIST

For the second year in a row, Chimney Rock State Park will host an intern this summer to help organize the park’s historical archives. Selected from current college students through the NC State Government Internship Program, these interns are given the daunting but fascinating task of sorting and preserving over 100 years of Chimney Rock Park memories.

If you have a piece of history— be it a photograph, memento, or story— to share with the intern archivist, please contact us to be part of this exciting project.

STATE PARK WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT

On February 13, James Ledgerwood, former Park Ranger at Chimney Rock and Gorges state parks, was promoted to Superintendent over Chimney Rock State Park. Having served several terms as the park’s Acting Superintendent, Superintendent Ledgerwood brings much knowledge and experience to the job.

When asked his thoughts on his new assignment, the new superintendent had this to say. “Chimney Rock State Park is more than just a park, it is part of a community of caring individuals who through the years have shared the inspiration of this beautiful place with people worldwide. This community’s vision continues to grow, focusing on conserving the natural beauty of the gorge and providing safe and healthy recreational opportunities. I am glad to have the chance to serve the public and this community with such a worthy cause.”

We at Chimney Rock State Park welcome James to this position of leadership and look forward to working with him in the future.



Superintendent Ledgerwood ready to slash some invasive plant species.

FOSTERING LEADERSHIP
BY KAREN JOHNSON, OFFICE ASSISTANT



Ranger Tyson Phillips presents information on the park's master plan to participants in the Leadership Rutherford program.



A multi-generational team from the Carolina Mountain Club works together to extend the new Rumbling Bald hiking trail.

For Chimney Rock State Park staff, the first four months of 2013 have been agreeably punctuated with opportunities to educate and provide experience for up-and-coming community leaders. The park's beautiful setting is a natural choice for holding training sessions and carrying out volunteer projects.

The chance to use the outdoors as a classroom has appealed to a variety of organizations. For instance, the 2013 Park Ranger Institute held several workshops in the park in January and increased the interpretive skills of attending rangers. Leadership Rutherford likewise brought this year's class to the park in April, but they focused on how the county's top tourist destination is run and will improve.

Similarly, groups of volunteers also received useful training through the coordination of several work day series by both seasoned and new leaders. Volunteers with the Carolina Mountain Club and the Weed Action Coalition of the Hickory Nut Gorge gained field experience this winter while working in the park, and both will carry this into their larger summer projects outside the park's borders.

As 2013 continues, more opportunities to grow and gain experience will be available to community members, and Chimney Rock Park staff will be on hand facilitate the learning process. We hope to meet and share ideas with you!

IN KEEPING WITH OUR DIVISION'S MISSION OF CONSERVATION, THIS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER WILL ONLY BE DISTRIBUTED ELECTRONICALLY.

WILD FLOWERS

BY KRISTEN TODD AND JOHNNY MANUEL, PARK TECHNICIANS

“Just living is not enough. One must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.”

Hans Christian Andersen

Summer is here! The temperature is rising, the landscape is getting greener, and the wildflowers are blooming. Avid and novice hikers alike were greeted in the spring by the large white petals of Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), the dramatic red petals of Sweet Betsy Trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*) and the small, purplish blooms of the invasive exotic Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*). In the coming weeks countless others bloomed, including Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra eximia*), Common Bluet (*Houstonia caerulea*) and Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). Western North Carolina is home to a multitude of wildflower species, many of which are abundant. Even so, many others are of special concern to scientists, the state of NC and the federal government due to their degree of sensitivity and rarity.



The Endangered Species Act of 1973 recognized that endangered and threatened species of plants and animals “are of aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, and scientific value to the Nation and its people.” In North Carolina there are hundreds of rare plant species, many of which are found in the Mountain region. These species can often be overlooked by the typical person or be a rewarding discovery to the nature enthusiast. Threats to rare species include trampling due to recreation, over-collection, forest management practices, overall habitat degradation related to development, and competition with exotic invasive species.



Among the most rare and protected wildflowers in the Chimney Rock area are White Irisette, Small Whorled Pogonia, Granite Dome Goldenrod, Sweet Pinesap, and Sweet White Trillium.

White Irisette (*Sisyrinchium dichotomum*) is found only in North and South Carolina. It is endangered in North Carolina and the United States overall. It has grass-like leaves and a winged stem that grows up to 16 inches tall. It is typically characterized as having at least 10 stems growing from a cluster of roots. This plant grows in regularly disturbed areas, such as woodland edges and roadsides in shallow soil and over rocky terrain. White Irisette flowers are white with 6 tepals and bloom



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WILD FLOWERS
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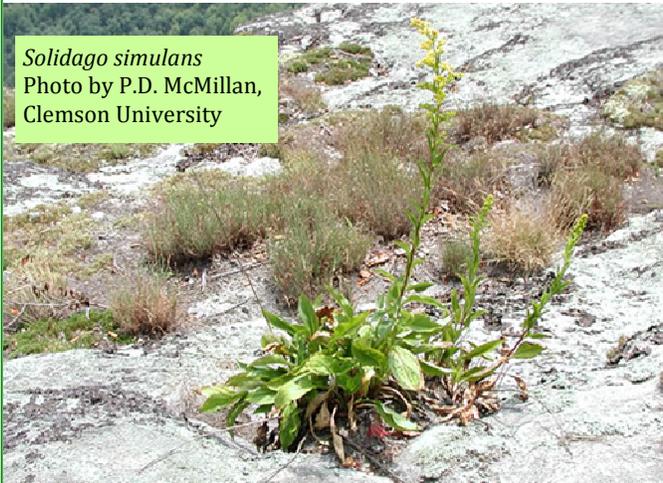
Isotria medeoloides
Photo by D. Horn, USFS

from May to July. It is threatened by human disturbances of its habitat and by the suppression of natural disturbances, such as wildfire.

Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) is listed as Endangered in North Carolina and Threatened in the United States. It can be found from Georgia to Maine. This orchid grows up to 10 inches tall with 4-6 whorled leaves near the top of the stem. It can have a resting period of several years between blooming. During the bloom year, it will produce 1 or 2 yellowish flowers with 3 green sepals from May-July. Small Whorled Pogonia grows in mixed second growth forests with somewhat acidic soils.

Granite Dome Goldenrod (*Solidago simulans*) is listed as Significantly Rare/Limited (20-50 populations in NC and less than 100 populations throughout its range) by the state of North Carolina and

as a Federal Species of Concern. It is found in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Granite Dome Goldenrod has leaves that are 4-12 inches long and about 2 inches wide with pointed tips. The reddish stem can reach up to 3 feet tall. Yellow flowers occur in clusters in late summer and early fall. This species can be found in rocky Granitic Dome plant communities.



Solidago simulans
Photo by P.D. McMillan,
Clemson University

Sweet Pinesap (*Monotropsis odorata*) is Significantly Rare/Throughout (less than 100 populations throughout its range) in North Carolina. It is also listed as a Federal Species of Concern. Sweet Pinesap is found in rich hardwood forests in the southeastern United States. This wildflower is a saprophyte, meaning it has no chlorophyll and derives its nutrients from soil fungi. Its stem grows up to 4 inches tall, fleshy and purplish brown with scale-like leaves. Pink or yellowish flower clusters with brown papery sepals bloom in mid to late spring.



Monotropsis odorata
Photo by D. Cook, DPR

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

WILD FLOWERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Sweet White Trillium (*Trillium simile*) is Significantly Rare/Limited by the state of North Carolina. It is found only in the rich cove forests of the Smoky Mountains to the southern edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Three leaves are whorled around a stem that can reach 1 foot in height. The flower is made up of 3 green sepals outside of 3 white petals with a dark purple center and yellow stamens. Sweet White Trillium blooms in late March to early May.

Definitions:

Sepal: Leaf-like part of a flower that encloses the flower bud. Usually sepals are green, but they sometimes can be difficult to distinguish from the petals.

Tepal: A term that is used to describe a segment of a flower when petals and sepals are not clearly differentiated. This is typical in lilies and tulips.

Stamen: The pollen bearing male organ of the flower. Consists of the anther and filament.



A NATURALLY WONDERFUL MOMENT BY RANGER STEPHEN TILLOTSON

I recently had some time to drive across this wide and diverse country of ours. While I was impressed with the snowcapped mountains of Lake Tahoe, Nevada, Bear Lake, Utah, and Colorado's Rockies, my thoughts wandered back home to how much more impressive the Hickory Nut Gorge really is.

Here you can dip your feet in the cool Rocky Broad River at an elevation of only 1,080 feet along the Riverwalk Trail. This river gets its name from the many large boulders that have eroded off the steep, exposed walls of the gorge. Within minutes you can comfortably ride in your car up Chimney Rock Park Road to a parking lot almost a thousand feet higher and instantly enjoy excellent views from just outside Cliff Dwellers Gifts. Next you can take an elevator up through the middle of a mountain and come out just a few steps from the Chimney, which gives us an amazing view from 2,280 feet. Finally one moderate, short hike up the Skyline Trail gets you up another 200 feet to nearly the top of Chimney Rock Mountain and the best view for miles at Exclamation Point!



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