

# Exploring the Wilderness

## **American Hikes**

Guided hikes in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
828-488-6688  
www.hikethesmokys.com

## **Fontana Village Resort**

Fontana Hiking Club  
800-849-2258  
www.fontanavillage.com

## **Granger Outdoors**

Guided trout fishing trips in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
828-488-4170  
www.grangeroutdoors.com

## **Smoky Mountain Adventures**

Guided camping, hiking and fishing on the north shore  
828-736-7501  
www.steveclaxton.com

## **Smoky Mountain Jet Boats**

Thrilling rides on Fontana Lake or hiking/jet boat ride combination trips  
888-900-9091  
www.needmore.com

# Decoration Days

## **April - Fourth Sunday**

Branton and Lower Noland  
Noland Creek parking area, 10 a.m.

## **May - First Sunday**

Woody and Hoyle  
Wilderness Marina, 9:30 a.m.

## **May - Second Sunday**

Payne and Orr  
Cross Dam, Old 288, 10 a.m.

## **May - Third Sunday**

Cable  
Cable Cove, 9:30 a.m.

## **June - First Sunday**

Pilkey and Posey  
Cable Cove, 9:30 a.m.

## **June - Second Sunday**

Conner and Stiles  
Road to Nowhere, 2 p.m.

## **June - Fourth Sunday**

Bone Valley and Hall  
Cable Cove, 9:30 a.m.

## **July - First Sunday**

Proctor and Bradshaw  
Cable Cove, 9:30 a.m.

## **July - Third Sunday**

Fairview and Cook  
Cable Cove, 9:30 a.m.

## **August - First Sunday**

Cable Branch  
Cable Cove, 9:30 a.m.

## **August - Third Sunday**

Higdon and McCampbell Gap  
Cable Cove, 9:30 a.m.

## **September - First Sunday**

Welch and McClure  
Cable Cove, 9 a.m.

## **September - Fourth Saturday**

Mitchell  
Cable Cove, 9:30 a.m.

## **October - Second Sunday**

Walker, Wike and Calhoun  
Cable Cove, 9:30 a.m.

## **October - Fourth Sunday**

Wiggins  
Noland Creek parking area, 10 a.m.

## **For more information contact:**

Mrs. Helen C. Vance 828-586-4898  
Mrs. Mildred Johnson 828-321-4951  
Mrs. Verna Kirkland 828-488-6898

# The Road to Nowhere ...



# & the north shore of Fontana Lake

# History of the “Road to Nowhere”

In the 1930s and 1940s, Swain County gave up the majority of its private land to the Federal Government for the creation of Fontana Lake and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Hundreds of people were forced to leave the small Smoky Mountain communities that had been their homes for generations. With the creation of the Park, their homes were gone, and so was the road to those communities. Old Highway 288 was buried beneath the deep waters of Fontana Lake.

The Federal government promised to replace Highway 288 with a new road. Lakeview Drive was to have stretched along the north shore of Fontana Lake, from Bryson City to Fontana, 30 miles to the west. And, of special importance to those displaced residents, it was to have provided access to the old family cemeteries where generations of ancestors remained behind.

Lakeview Drive fell victim to an environmental issue and construction was stopped, with the road ending at a tunnel, about six miles into the park. Swain County's citizens gave the unfinished Lakeview Drive its popular, but unofficial name, **The Road To Nowhere**.

Over the years efforts have been made by some to hold the federal government to the original agreement while others have requested a cash settlement. After an environmental study in 2004, Congress made the decision not to build the road and to give Swain County an initial cash settlement of \$52 million.



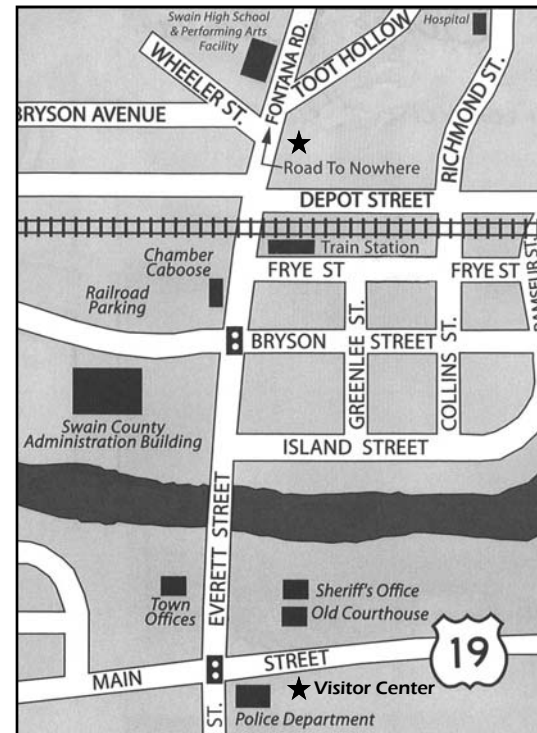
# Discovering the North Shore

There are several ways to enjoy the beautiful north shore of Fontana Lake. One way is to drive the six mile stretch of road that was completed. From Bryson City, continue up Everett Street and don't make any turns. The road will eventually enter the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. 3.1 miles from the Park entrance is a **scenic overlook** with panoramic views of the mountains and the lake. After enjoying the view at the overlook continue up the road to where it eventually ends at the tunnel.

Once you have completed the drive there are several trails for those who enjoy hiking. The first trail you will approach is the **Noland Creek Trail**. Park in the lot adjacent to the bridge over Noland Creek and take the 6 mile trail from there.

From the tunnel at the end of the road you can access the 3 mile **Goldmine Loop Trail** and the 42 mile **Lakeshore Trail**, which crosses Forney Creek, Hazel Creek and Eagle Creek on its way to Fontana Dam. On the far side of the tunnel there is a trail that leads down to **Forney Creek**.

From April through October, the National Park Service offers trips across the lake to the north shore for decoration days. These trips allow family members to visit the grave sites of their ancestors. They are a unique way to explore the beauty of this remote section of the National Park and learn about the history of the people who were forced to leave the area.



How to  
access the  
“Road to  
Nowhere”  
from  
Bryson City