

A request for your support from Discover Life in America



"Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction." E. O. Wilson

Every summer in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as the evening shadows settle on the mountains and the mist rises in the coves, fireflies twinkle with cool yellow-green light, blinking their messages to each other and delighting us with mysterious beauty. Anyone who has witnessed the spectacular displays of "synchronous fireflies"

in the Smokies comes away enthralled with the light show, and curious about the interesting lives of these little beetles. **We want to learn more!**

One group is leading the way in revealing nature's diversity and wonder. Through the amazing project known as the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), they are surveying all life forms in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. They have already found thousands of creatures that science knows very little about, yet, thousands of living things remain undiscovered. **We want to learn more!**

Picture an evening in the Smokies with the fireflies sparkling, the gentle breeze blowing, and the creatures of the forest hidden in the darkness. Now think about those creatures. What are they? Where are they? Are they rare or abundant? What is their role in nature? How do they fit together to make the ecosystems work? These questions remain largely unanswered, but we must find the answers in order to maintain and restore our natural world and the many values that nature provides – from clean water to abundant wildlife to medical breakthroughs in cancer or Alzheimer's research. **We want to learn more!**

We must learn more!



Who are the Partners?

We need a team of partners and a lot of hard work to find the answers.

Discover Life in America (DLIA) is the non-profit organization coordinating the ATBI with Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Hundreds of researchers from around the world, plus citizen scientist volunteers, teachers, and students all donate thousands of hours to the discovery and documentation of life in the Park and to education about this rich heritage. Currently, DLIA receives financial support from Friends of the Smokies, Great Smoky Mountains Association, National Park Service, individual donors and grants.

Accomplishments:

- As of January 2008, DLIA and its partners have discovered 874 species brand new to science, plus an additional 5,207 species not previously known in the Park.
- We have trained over 350 volunteers to assist the ATBI.
- We have granted over \$450,000 to over 100 scientists and educators to support their efforts to discover the biological riches of the Great Smoky Mountains.
- We have sponsored dozens of "Bio-Quests," such as Beetle

Blitzes, Fern Forays, Lepidoptera Quests, and other intensive field surveys have been sponsored.

- Our education programs provided young people with the chance to learn biology from some of the world's foremost authorities.

- We have created a database and website to gather and share valuable information and communicate the excitement of discovery to scientists, Park managers, and the world.

- The Smokies ATBI has become the model for future ATBI's around the world, with similar efforts now blossoming at Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas, Yellowstone National Park, Tennessee State Parks, and more than a dozen other locations.

We need you! Help us to learn – for conservation – for science – for medical breakthroughs

We are in a race against time to complete this survey of the tremendous natural diversity of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. As threats, like air pollution,



invasive plants, exotic insects and diseases, and the pressures from development along Park borders gain speed, we are losing the race to find and understand what nature has and how to keep it together.. To keep the ATBI venture (and adventure!) growing, Discover Life in America calls upon you to lend your financial support.