

**US Forest Service – Southern Region  
Cherokee National Forest Service  
East Tennessee**

***Weekly Fall Foliage Color Report***



**October 12, 2012**

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/cherokee>  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/fallcolors/2012/index.shtml>

**Southern Region  
Cherokee National Forest - Tennessee  
Weekly Fall Color Report – October 12, 2012**

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**Color (or Expectation):**



Unaka Ranger District

October 4, 2012

More colors continue to appear on the hillsides and mountain tops. Approximately 60-70% of the leaves have changed color at elevations above 3,500'. Colors at lower elevations are at about 30-35% overall. *These percentages may vary from area to area.*

Currently, color along the upper portion of the Cherokee Skyway (Tellico Ranger District) and at elevations above 3,500' in the Watauga Ranger District is good. The peak period is expected to occur within the next week to ten days in these areas.

Wind and rain have caused some leaves to fall early throughout the Forest. This is not uncommon and there are still color viewing opportunities to enjoy.

**Recommended Viewing Routes:**

[www.fs.usda.gov/activity/cherokee/recreation/scenicdrivinginfo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/cherokee/recreation/scenicdrivinginfo)



Holston Mtn.

October 2, 2012

**Northeast Tennessee Scenic Drives:**

**Brush Creek Mountain Loop** – Unaka RD, Cocke County, TN - Latitude: 35.964287 - Longitude: -82.943475

Travel along TN 107, Forest Road 209 (some portions are gravel) and US 25/70. FR 209 meanders through a narrow canyon with rhododendron-covered bluffs.

**Paint Creek Corridor** – Unaka RD, Greene County, TN  
Latitude: 35.977583 - Longitude: -82.843763

Meander along 5-mile Paint Creek Corridor to historic Paint Rock. Picnicking and other recreation opportunities are available in Paint Creek Corridor.

**Unaka Mountain Scenic Drive** – Unaka RD, Unicoi County, TN - Latitude: 36.117632 - Longitude: -82.333151

From Erwin, this drive makes a circle connecting TN 395, graveled Forest Road 230 and TN 107, a state scenic parkway, past Limestone Cove. The route winds from the valley floor in Unicoi County, TN to high-elevation spruce forests atop Unaka Mountain.

**TN State Route 143 to Carver's Gap** – Watauga RD, Carter County, TN - Latitude: 36.106911 - Longitude: -82.111158

This scenic route climbs through Roan Mountain State Park to Carvers Gap, with numerous long-distance mountain vistas and picnic spots.



Ocoee Ranger District

October 3, 2012



Ocoee Scenic Byway

November 2, 2011



Hiwassee River

October 9, 2011



Cherochala Skyway

October 9, 2011

**Southeast Tennessee Scenic Drives:**

**Ocoee Scenic Byway** – Ocoee RD, Polk County TN  
Latitude: 35.102244 - Longitude: -84.557121

The first designated national forest scenic byway in the nation includes 26 miles of US 64 and Forest Road 77. The two-lane route winds past Parksville Lake, through the scenic rocky bluffs of Ocoee River Gorge and past the Ocoee Whitewater Center. Take a side trip up the 7-mile Chilhowee Scenic Spur, Forest Road 77, to Chilhowee Recreation Area.

**Hiwassee River Road** – Ocoee RD, Polk County, TN  
Latitude: 35.198842 - Longitude: -84.473566

State Route 30 follows Hiwassee State Scenic River to the historic community of Reliance. Cross the bridge and turn east to Forest Road 108. Climb the mountain to Big Bend and Apalachia Powerhouse. Enjoy the views from Hood Mountain overlook and other spectacular sites along the corridor.

**Tellico River Road** – Tellico RD, Monroe County, TN  
Latitude: 35.323117  
Longitude: -84.175768

Take State Route 165 from Tellico Plains to Forest Road 210. The route follows Tellico River past Bald River Falls, where you can pull off to view the magnificent falls. A few miles farther, stop to view pools of teeming trout at historic Pheasant Fields Fish Rearing Pools.

**Cherochala Skyway** – Tellico RD, Monroe County, TN  
Latitude: 35.324505 - Longitude: -84.177268

View some of the best mountain scenery in the world from this 43-mile National Scenic Byway through the Cherokee and Nantahala national forests. Drive along the sparkling rush of the Tellico River, stop at overlooks to take in expansive views of the Tennessee Valley and waves of mountain peaks, hike to high elevation mountain balds or nearby Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. Stop for a picnic at Indian Boundary Recreation Area.

**Estimated Peak Period:**

*Peak viewing periods may vary from year to year & area to area.*

*Northern Ranger Districts (Watauga & Unaka) - Third & fourth weeks of October overall – higher elevations usually peak earlier.*



Ocoee Whitewater Center

October 5, 2012

*Southern Ranger Districts* (Tellico & Ocoee) – Last week of October and first week of November overall – higher elevations usually peak earlier.

This year the upper portion of the Cherohala Skyway (Tellico Ranger District) and elevations above 3,500' in the Watauga Ranger District are expected to peak within the next week to ten days.

Don't forget to look at the forest floor. There are several species of wildflowers that offer color in the fall.

**Weather:**



October 2, 2012

Gay Ippolito

**Weather**

[Current weather conditions from the National](#)

[Weather Service](#) are updated continually. Weather information is derived from National Weather Service data.

[Chattanooga](#) [Knoxville](#) [Johnson City](#)

**Remarks:**



Watauga Ranger District

October 3, 2011

Fall is the perfect time to visit many special places in the Cherokee National Forest.

A leisurely drive across the Cherohala Skyway is a great way to see some breath taking mountain views. (Tellico Ranger District)

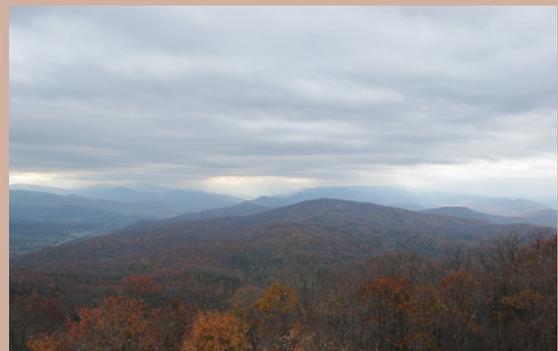
You might consider a visit to the Ocoee Whitewater Center if you like to mountain bike, hike or just stroll along an "Olympic River"– the Ocoee. (Ocoee Ranger District)

If a vigorous hike appeals to you try a visit to Pinnacle fire tower. A popular way to access the tower is from the Pinnacle Tower Trail that begins from I-26, Exit 32 near Unicoi and Erwin, TN. The tower offers splendid 360 degree mountain and valley views. (Unaka Ranger District)

The Osborne Farm off State Route 91 near Shady Valley offers easy access to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and scenic mountain views. (Watauga Ranger District)

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View from Pinnacle Tower

2011 File Photo

*Click on the photo below to view a 2:10 min. slide show:*

## **Cherokee National Forest**

Cherokee National Forest covers 650,000 acres in ten east Tennessee counties. The fall of the year is a great time to visit your national forest. Following are some snapshots of the Forest during the annual east Tennessee fall foliage color show.



FS 2011//2012 file photos

**Visit Your  
Cherokee National Forest**