



WMS Elective 2014

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*"Gato", the Barn Cat
adopted by students on
their Saturday night off,
camping by the Smoky's*

Update from Puja

February 11, 2014

Saturday Jan 8th began with lectures from Dr. Otten on Space exploration, the last wilderness – needless to say, his experience on this subject and wilderness survival provided us with some very amusing stories. One such example is his strategy on winning in survivor: kill everyone else and hang them up in trees to provide food for the following months! Following that lecture, Dr. Otten spoke about what should be included in a wilderness medical kit and then about venomous animal injuries. After these lectures, Dr. Brown spoke to the group about hydration/homeostasis and American Indian health care.

Overall, the lectures were very interesting and worth waking up early on a Saturday morning, bleary eyed to attend. That evening, the group split up with some people going into Maryville for a relaxing evening, others heading to go climb and others to their secret destinations.

Sunday came before we knew it and a week passed since the arrival to camp. That morning, a group of people (the ones that stayed at camp for the weekend) headed off to find Ranger Chuck and hike up to the cascades in the Great Smoky Mountains. The other group of us stayed in Nickel Lodge and enjoyed a peaceful slumber for our one morning off. That afternoon, the majority of us met Anna at Tipton Lodge to head to a cave for some exploring! We loaded up in cars and made our way to Eblen cave, about 1 hr away, for spelunking. As a first time spelunker, the experience was fantastic! There were many small holes in the cave that we squirmed through in order to reach the depths.

The most memorable, however, had to be the 15-foot (in length) belly crawl space that led to a giant football field size room. The space was so small in height that when shimmying through, our bellies were flat against the ground as our backs touched the roof. We had to turn our

head sideways simply in order to fit! Emerging from the cave with our muddy clothes and a grin on our faces, we headed back to the camp with a brief stop at Bimbos gas station where we ate some fried chicken. With a nightcap of the movie "Pitch Perfect" and some laughs, the weekend finished.

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