

# Hemlock Hollow: Farm, Shoppe, and Cabins

## Greeneville, TN



“My other car is a pair of hiking boots” could easily be a bumper sticker found on one of Hattie, Fred, or Todd Kinsey’s vehicles. They operate Hemlock Hollow in Greeneville, Tennessee (Farm, Shoppe, and Cabins). One might say that the Appalachian Trail and the hospitality business are in their blood. Hattie and Fred grew up in the foothills and mountains at the northern end of the Appalachian Trail. Hattie’s godparents operated

a restaurant and her grandmother had an inn. They also have experience in business accounting, art, sewing, design, gourmet cooking, heating and air conditioning, welding, and farming. Their sons are into construction and cooking. They “git’er” all done!

Life detoured the Kinsey’s away from the Trail for a time but eventually brought them back again. While traveling from their home in sunny Florida to a class reunion the Trail and Tennessee began to call to them. *Wouldn’t it be nice to retire close to the Trail but in a better year round climate than up north?* Therefore, in 1993 the Kinsey’s began to look for an old farmhouse to remodel. Their preference was one near a running creek and that is exactly what they found in the mountains of Greene County, Tennessee, near the Appalachian Trail. To be more exact, Hemlock Hollow is located along Upper Paint Creek on Camp Creek Bald (also know as Viking Mountain) in the wild-life management area of the Cherokee National Forest.

After repairing the old house, they began to farm the land and to build a store for crafts, antiques, and needlework. Next gourmet coffees and teas were

added to the growing business, along with hosting craft festivals, music fests, and BBQ’s. Then the process of building cabins, a pavilion, washhouse, and campsites began. These were needed to house the guests attending the festivals. When friends and family came to visit, the extra sleeping space was an added blessing, as the farmhouse was much smaller than their home in Florida. The buildings, pavilion, and bridge were all built from timber cut from their property. With each added facility or service, business just kept on growing.

The buildings are rustic on the outside, to fit in with the mountain setting. The “themed” cabins are decorated accordingly. For example, the “Bear Den” is decorated with bears and hunting items. A theme common to all the cabins is a variety of quilts.

Plans include enlarging the store to be able to carry more items. Currently, the country store sells foods, gourmet coffees, outfitter supplies, quilting supplies, fabrics, antiques, shoes for horses, ice, firewood, and more. Enlarging the quilt shop to accommodate more fabrics and quilting classes is another item on the list of future plans.

Hemlock Hollow is open to tourists, hikers, hunters, anglers, and the local community. Many groups visit each year, including youth groups, scouts, churches, reunions, quilt retreats, and more. Visitors come from around the world to relax and enjoy the mountains (not to mention Hattie’s cooking). Groups receive special rates upon prior request. If all you need is the pavilion, it is available for rental, too. Hattie says, “You cook or we cook.” All listed rates include taxes.

Hemlock Hollow is the home of “Christmas on the Mountain.” This open house has been happening every year, for ten years. It always takes place on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Let the shopping begin!

Whether you arrive in hiking boots or with quilting needle and thread, you will be given a hearty welcome at Hemlock Hollow Farm, Shoppe, and Cabins. Hattie will be sure you have a copy of the latest Country Register and make certain your stay on the mountain is one you will not soon forget.

