



Mountain High Hikers Newsflash January 25, 2010

Mountain High Hikers Storm into Pigeon Forge

48 MHH members attended Wilderness Wildlife Week. It would have been even more if the weather hadn't confined folks to their neighborhoods. This is always a popular event for hikers and non-hikers with free educational programs, exhibits, live music, hiking in the Smokies, outlet mall shopping, great dining and socializing with a great group of people.

This year we did a MHH Meet and Greet in the breakfast room of the Inn. Bert showed up with his accordion and members contributed appetizers and drinks. Shortly after setting up, we were moved to the back of the kitchen after a burst pipe caused WWW officials to move the hike sign-up to our breakfast room. The party continued in the midst of mops, trash bins and refrigerators, spilling out into the hotel corridor. The music played, the group laughed to Bert's rendition of "I Don't Look Good Naked Anymore" and one couple even found room to dance. It was fun! Wes Clonts joked the next party would be held in the boiler room.

The Bolands showed off their WWW vests for hiking 100 miles - congratulations! George Owen led official WWW hikes, which were wildly popular and quickly snapped up by the hikers. Nancy Shofner stepped up for MHH and led hikes for those who were unable to get on official hikes. She had to plan these hikes at the last minute because of all the road closings and tailored them to suit the needs of all the hikers who showed up in the lobby. We gave her one of the Old Mill's fabulous pecan pies in appreciation for her hard work.

More notes of appreciation go out to our designated drivers who toted us to our dinners (kudos to Gordon Rothenay and his luxury vehicle), local mountain folks who taught Dorothy Thompson and I how to clog (Regina Clonts made sure we got the best instructor) and a big thanks to everyone who sent in WWW photos now posted on our web site.

See the fun on youtube. A slide show has been posted - turn up the sound and enjoy (click onto the link or copy and paste):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LnC2dFS4Bk>

New Hike Leader Mentoring Program

We are grooming the next generation of hike leaders. Anyone wanting to lead hikes but are not confident in their skills will be able to buddy up with an experienced hiker. We have several who have volunteered to do this - is this a great team or what?! There are also plans to reward the hike leaders who frequently lead hikes at our membership meetings with caps or bandannas, similar to our successful trail maintenance program. We feel this will 'mark' our resource people for the new members.

Quarterly Membership Meetings – Your Opinions

The board would like to ask the members when they would like to have the membership meetings. Two meetings will be outdoor picnics and will be on a Thursday and a Friday. **The other two will be church meetings and can be scheduled whenever is most popular. We can keep it on Tuesday after the weekly hike at 5:30 pm or choose another day/ time. Please email Pam at pams11@tds.net.**

2010 MHH Activities Calendar

Look at the website for the 2010 activities. Lots of fun trips and outings are planned this year so keep watching. Save the dates and watch for activities requiring reservations (Roan Mountain State Park and the SEFTC Conference at Monteagle). And we encourage members to plan and post activities, too.

A club trip to Roan Mountain State Park on the border of NC and TN is on the new activities calendar. This is a very popular area in fall with extremely gorgeous hikes. We are looking at the week of Oct. 25-29 (arriving Monday, leaving Friday). This may be slightly past peak (which is always a guessing game anyway) but there are several two bedroom (one is a loft)/ 1 bath fully-equipped cabins available for \$83/ night during this period. These are going VERY quickly so book ASAP if you are even thinking of coming. The number to book is: 423-772-0190 and the link for more information is: <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/RoanMtn/>. Camping is also available.

The lodging for the ***VA Creeper trip*** is posted on the Activities section on the MHH website. Interested people should book rooms ASAP for the best selection.

Local Cultural Opportunities

Jan 25 – Tonight

Young Harris College Department of Music presents the Faculty Recital:

Jeffrey Bauman

Alan Denmon

Leigh Miller

Karen Calloway

Benny Ferguson

Laura Stooksbury

E.Sandy Calloway

Mary Ann Fox

Ted Wade

Cynthia DeFoor

William Fox

Keith DeFoor

Richard Knepp

Music by Franz Schubert, Claude Bolling, Scott Joplin, George Gershwin, George Frídéric Handel, John Williams and others.

Monday, 25 January 7:00 p.m.

Hilda D. Glenn Auditorium

Feb 7

Moscow Nights and Golden Gates will be performing at the ***Peacock Playhouse in Hayesville on Feb 7th at 2:30 pm.*** This is a very popular and probably a sell out event, which includes Russian singing and dance. Look for ads in the local newspapers as to ticket availability.