



Mountain High Hikers Newsflash December 12, 2009



Figure 1: Great Smoky Mts.

New Officers Elected for 2010

The annual holiday party ushered in new officers for Mountain High Hikers:

President – Sue Sorice
Vice President – Tom Shope
Secretary – Sandra Key
Treasurer – Janet Faist

Please give these individuals your support for the coming year, after all, it takes many hands to run a smooth organization!

Recap of 2009

By Bob LeHoullier

The year 2009 has had many significant moments for Mountain High Hikers. Starting from the first of the year, some of the highlights:

Over 50 members attended Wildlife Wilderness Week.

New apparel line with colored club logo instituted

Newsflash published over 36 times

Newspaper publicity obtained in various publications and weekly hiking notices

Flyers redone and placed in numerous locations

Conservation issues addressed

Trail Maintenance – over 2800 hours, a new high for MHH

Joint Maintenance with 5 hiking clubs for clearing a trail that had all but disappeared

Website updated

Social Events, including Moon Walks, Club Picnics, Snorkeling/Hiking/Biking trips

Hikes – over 100 this year

New Hike Criteria established for: Hike Leaders, Members/Guests, and Planner Guidelines

New Member packages instituted and name tags sent to each new member

New waiver and renewal forms

By-laws revision

All was accomplished in addition to the normal day to day functioning of MHH. A whole lot of work went into all jobs from planning and leading hikes to handling the monies and membership of MHH.

Special thanks to 2009 elected Officers: Richard Sullivan - Vice President, Sandra Key - Secretary, Janet Faist – Treasurer. Also thanks to Board Members: John Quinlan – Trail Maintenance, George Jurand – Hike Planner, John Orr – Membership, Pam Sullivan – Social, Phyllis Loman – Conservation, Bobbi LeHoullier – Publicity. Also, a thank you to Tom Shope – Equipment Manager and Jim Reynolds – Hours/Reporting Coordinator. Thanks also to all who led hikes for MHH and to those who participated in trail maintenance. It takes a team to keep a club progressing. Without your participation, many of the above events would not have taken place. Keep up the good work and continue to make MHH a club that lives up to its Mission Statement!

Welcome New Members

Merle Flandermeyer

Bill and Melissa Sykes

Joann Burger

Lynn Haber

David and Victoria Kelsey

Total Members 182

Wildlife Wilderness Week – January 9 – 16th 2010

Don't forget WWW held in Pigeon Forge, TN. Last year MHH had over 50 members in attendance. The fun includes hikes, tours, classes and seminars. Excellent accommodations are available at reasonable prices and most MHHers stay at either the Music Road Inn or Music Road Hotel. Both are adjacent to the convention center, the hub of activities. Pigeon Forge sports an abundance of restaurants offering everything from modest fare to fine dining! Come join your MHH family in this fun fest.

If you are attending Wildlife Wilderness Week, January 9-16th, and are interested participating in dinners as a group, please let Pam know your name, email address, cell phone #, lodging and dates of stay so we can keep you "in the loop". These dinners will be after the 6pm hike sign-ups and we will meet in the Music Road Inn lobby.

In case of large turnouts and to facilitate dining, we may need to break up into smaller groups.

Pam Sullivan

pams24@tds.net

(c) 478-361-1369

Music Road Inn



Figure 2: View from Mt. LeConte - GSMNP

Trail Maintenance Report and Notice of Next Week's Maintenance

By: John Quinlan

"On a cold and windy day, five very hardy and dedicated volunteers met at the old Maryann's restaurant (now called "The Bread of Life") and even though there were five of us we split into two teams.

Richard Sullivan and Dave Richardson, both chain saw qualified, went to Miller Trek to eliminate several reportedly down trees that were blocking the trail. They covered the entire federal loop and part of the state trail, and took out 2 large trees across the trail and > 12 smaller trees, as well as a moderate amount of lopping and removing dropped limbs from the trail. This trail was in excellent shape by the end of the trip. For having just two people they accomplished a tremendous amount of work

The second team (Tom Shope, Bob Stone, and John Quinlan) went to the Raven Cliff Falls for the purpose of assessing the condition of the trail (MHH recently assumed maintenance responsibility for this trail) and while they were there did some hand sawing (note: this is a Wilderness designated area-meaning no powered equipment) several low hanging tree limbs and one or two small fallen trees as well doing a fair amount of lopping. There is one deteriorated bridge that needs some creative lumber replacement and there are a few places where large stepping stones need to be placed to allow for dry (vice muddy and wet) passage. Dave and Bob saw this trail for the first time; and they were not disappointed!

It was a beautiful day to be out in the woods and the tremendous noisy water flow at Raven Cliffs was just great. For a day that started out so cold these two teams accomplished a great deal; once again a tribute to their dedication and hard work. These folks work so great together and the friendships that have developed are to be treasured.

If you are reading this please note that next Thursday, the 17th, there is going to be a special project on the High Shoals Falls Trail at which time Dave Kuykendall of the Blue Ridge Ranger District will join us. Please do plan on joining us at 0845 in Young Harris"



Figure 3: Chatuge Dam tree

May the spirit of Christmas be in your heart for this season and the coming New Year!