

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting March 19, 2012**

Present: Rhonda Walls, Moe & Harvey Thompson, Shirley Sloan-Babb, Doug & Donna Niemi, Marci

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of February 20, 2012 \$7665.17

<u>Credits</u>		<u>Debits</u>	
Membership	220.00	Wal-Mart, Dollar General	89.03
		(Halloween Supplies)	
Hunt Sales	181.00	Amazon (Weather Station)	369.00
Donations	60.04	John Canfield	250.00
Donations	52.67	(Web Master 2011 & 2012)	
(Halloween smores)			
Aluminum recycled	120.00	VA Association for Parks	20.00
Metal recycled	81.00	Oriental Trading Co.	112.99
Total Credits	714.71	Total Debits	841.02

Approved as presented

Old Business

- Kevin not here today due to illness. No further information on the SteriPen
- Moe had Outstanding Contributor names added to plaque

Park Manager Time

- There was a freeze on hiring of wage employees, but this has been lifted
- 1st Day Hike held at Grayson had 68 participants.
- After hunt review held – waiting for approval of DPOP (Deer Population Reduction Program): DPOP is a site-specific deer management tool that allows public and private landowners experiencing deer damage to use recreational deer hunters to kill extra antlerless deer outside of traditional seasons.
- Harvey submitted yearly report for Friends to Gaston – Rhonda signed
- Kevin attended the Advanced Skills Interpretive Visitor Experience Training in January
- Marceia attended Leadership management Workshop in Wheeling, WV in January
- Shirley is upgrading the information manuals for visitors & stocking brochure racks
- Senate Bill (SB571) opposition was shared with Friends' group & information placed on Friends' website.
- The park contract with Rooftop has ended. Jurying for craft vendors through the park is now underway. Teresa sent 100 letters of interest to craft vendors & received a 95% response.
- Figures for 2011 registered backpackers indicate a 16% decrease (4,865 in 2011 versus 5,784 in 2010)
- Marceia attended the in-service LE supervisor training at Douthat in January.
- Harvey met with Becky Barlow, Nutrient Management Specialist, regarding stable area manure disposition.
- Prescribed burn plan was held. Only 2 of the 4 areas were burnt due to rain. Plan to complete if weather cooperates. Eight persons participated in the burn.

- Roof repairs to the interpreter's cabin were completed in January.
- Mid-February a Golden Eagle was trapped, fitted with a monitor & released by the Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries in the park. Marceia & Amy Atwood posted a blog on this.
- P-3 & 1500 hour employees participated in 1st Aid, Adult CPR, & Blood borne Pathogen training. P-3 also participated in Professional Rescuer & Healthcare Provider training, AED & Adult/Child CPR.
- Grayson Highlands State Park is listed third as "great places for winter hiking" on Yahoo Sports contributor Network.
- Aaron Parlier has been selected as the park's AmeriCorps candidate for this year.
- A pre-bid conference for vendors interested in improvements to the horse trail was held the week of February 26th.
- The visitor's center was stained and rock wall mortar was repaired at the left of the entrance to the VC.
- Quote for repair of interior of 25,000 gallon water tank in regular campground was submitted the week of March 4th.
- Kevin attended LE training in March.
- Friends' video webcam has been upgraded to view a larger picture.
- Jeb Wilkerson (Duty Director of DCR) & Dave Collett visited the park the first week of March. The purpose was to talk with staff & discuss issues such as having the blanket 2012 wage authorization form approved ASAP.
- Marceia was trained on the Flickr process.
- John Omstead, Troop 1 Eagle Scout candidate, installed an information kiosk at the crossover from GH into the MRNRA along the AT.
- Harvey & Marceia met with VDOT & Army Corp of Engineers to view Quebec Branch crossing. A bridge is needed for crossing the creek without disturbing the ecosystem.
- An alternative Spring Break group from NY visited the park to hike to the summit of Mt. Rogers. The weather did not cooperated, but they did purchase over \$175 in merchandise during their visit.
- The park is working with Amy Atwood to promote weddings at Grayson Highlands State Park.
- Kaye Henderson has completed the mural in the Visitors' Center.

New Business

- Kevin, Kaye & Roy are working on an interactive room in the Visitor Center. Friends' voted to provide an initial startup fund of \$2000 to begin the project.
- The camp host site in the Horse Campground needs to be upgraded to 50 amps. The Friends' voted to provide funding up to \$400 for this project.
- Moe will send thank you notes to the Lawsons & Scott Paisley who contribute rebar and made an arbor for the Visitor Center.
- John Canfield sent Moe an email to let the Friends' group know he would like to update/refresh the website banner this coming winter. We will plan to provide him any necessary photos and information closer to this time.
- Kids in Parks Trak Trails will be held in May for children ages 5-10. Saturday, May 19th at 1:00 a dedication will be held in the Amphitheater in conjunction with BR Pkwy, Nat'l

Park Service and BCBS of NC. Friends of Grayson will decide on refreshments at next meeting.

- The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 7th at the park.
- Rhonda Walls has volunteered to represent FOGH at the VAFP meeting to be held at Kiptopeke State Park April 26, 27 & 28.
- Donna will order more plant signs and prairie grass.
- F OGH will purchase a book for use in the Interpreter's library in honor of the wedding of Kevin & Deana.
- Staff is investigating the possibility of establishing a quail habitat in the park.
- Smyth/Bland Regional Library in Marion is working with GHSP staff to provide a short-term temporary parking pass to be checked out for Hungry Mother & Grayson Highlands State Parks. This is an experimental endeavor and if successful may be implemented statewide.

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The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2012 7:00 p.m. at the park office.