

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting September 23, 2013**

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Donna & Doug Niemi, Rhonda Walls, Shirley Sloan-Babb, Julie Slater, Marceia Holland

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of September 23, 2013 \$5829.21

| Credits | | Debits | |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Membership | 20.00 | Doug Ogle (book for resource library) | 25.00 |
| Donations | 59.00 | A&B Printing | 26.33 |
| T-shirt sales | 60.00 | | |
| Dog Show | 30.00 | | |
| Blue Ridge Relay | 530.00 | | |
| Total Credits | \$699.00 | Total Debits | \$51.33 |

Treasurer Report Presented and Approved

Old Business

- Julie will send some good high resolution pony pictures to John. Once he has all the photos, he can then begin his work.
- A&B printing will soon be finished with the Trail Guide. Will check back later in the week.
- Blue Ridge Relay (BRR) donated \$530 to the Friends' group for volunteering to assist with the race registration...
- Julie says she plans to order the MP3 player for the bird call program.
- Tom Walls had some shots in his knee to help alleviate the pain. He is doing fine for now.
- The raffle tickets for the stuffed pony are available for sale (1/\$2 or 3/\$5). Drawing will be during the Fall Festival. The Friends' will sell the tickets at the Friends' table during the festival. So far about \$80 has been raised.
- Smelly Cat productions will *not* be continuing their project of videoing the park for advertising purposes. It is hoped that another group will complete the project.
- Doug Ogle liked what he saw in the Sullivan Swamp area. Would like more protection in that area.
- The book, Meadow Mountain by Doug Ogle, was purchased and is now in the resource room.
- The banjo case was purchased by the park and Larry Thomas, camp host, plans to build a viewing case for the instruments when he returns next year.
- VA Association For Parks will hold their Fall meeting at Hungry Mother State Park September 25 – 29. Rhonda Walls plans to attend Thursday & Friday, Marceia will attend Thursday evening and Harvey & Moe will attend Friday night.
- The October Hayride is set for Saturday, October 12th. Volunteers are still needed. Roald & Ellie Kirby will play music. There will be square dancing with a caller for the band. Two trailers will be available for the hayride. Moe will help with the popcorn, Donna, Doug & Rhoda will also help with refreshments. The Rugby Rescue squad will sell hot dogs & drinks.
- The Friends' contributed \$250 towards the cost of the tourism book to highlight parks in Southwest Virginia. It is being combined with donations from all SWVA Friends groups to match a grant for this purpose. FOGH stressed that all donors should be recognized.

Park Manager Time

The staff is preparing for the Fall Festival, leaf color will probably peak the first week in October. The port-a-potties have been delivered, the grounds are drying and gravel placed at the Weaver cabin. The Wilburn Pony Association is here. Staff have been returning to college and by mid November, we will have limited staff. The YCC (Your Comments Count Cards) are currently 47 less than the goal at present. Richmond office staff, Gary Flemming & Karen Patterson, have located rare Roan Mountain Bluet plants here at Grayson Highlands, again bringing uniqueness to our special park.

New Business

- Shirley shared a local woman has contacted her about landscaping the rock wall area of the Visitor Center. More information is needed. It was advised that she contact Donna Niemi to determine if this is something that we should pursue.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2013, 6:30 p.m. at the park office.

*****All FOGH volunteers are asked to please be sure to post volunteer hours. *****