

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting August 18, 2008**

Present: Kevin Kelley, Doug & Donna Niemi, Harvey & Moe Thompson

Minutes of last meeting approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of July 21, 2008 \$3,723.77

Credits:	Memberships \$620	
	Donations \$150	
	Aluminum Can Recycling \$20.05	Total Credits: \$790.05
Debits:	VA Parks Association \$20.00	
	Annuals for park entrance \$25.14	
	Canoe Program \$215.91	
	Wildflower/Butterfly garden \$330.00	Total Debits: \$591.05

Approved as presented (NO MEETING FOR JULY)

Balance as of August 18, 2008 \$3189.19

Credits:	Memberships \$140.00	
	Donation (Blue Ridge Endurance Bike Race) \$150.00	
		Total Credits: \$290.00
Debits:	Adventure Rangers (Creeper Bike Rental) \$285.60	
	Adventure Rangers (Food City) \$55.00	
	Gateway Motherboard \$69.90	
	Weather Station Computer Box \$80.00	
	Friends Decals \$117.90	
	Stamps for mailing \$42.50	
	Secretarial Supplies \$26.68	
	Pat Tilson (YCC graduation food) \$122.00	
	Treasurer of VA (State Corp. Registration) \$25.00	
		Total Debits: \$824.58

Approved as presented

Annual Budget Report Fiscal Year 2007 – 2008 presented and approved

Proposed Budget Fiscal Year July 2008 – 2009 presented and approved

Old Business

- Doug is putting storage shelves in the Friends' trailer. Lumber being purchased at Larry's.
- Donna is looking into signs for identifying plants in the butterfly garden. Many people have positive comments about it and stop to take photos. Kevin will check with the sign shop at the distribution center.
 - The YCC helped with the wildflower garden at the Visitor Center.
 - Cows are knocking the boards of fence down by the garden. A request to place a barbed wire fence was made.

- An elevated bridge and two benches are needed improvements for the butterfly garden. The friends group would like to see if an Eagle Scout is interested in pursuing this project (both financially and physically).
- Moe will contact Rick Morgan to see if he can help with the Blue Ridge Relay Race. The organizer is requesting more help this time.
- The weather station is now working with the new motherboard.
- VA Parks Association membership has been renewed.
- The Friends provided the graduation meal for the YCC. We need to look for other members to help with this next year.
- A request for a Friends T-Shirt was again brought forward. Doug may look into this.

Park Manager's Time

The water table is extremely low again this year. It places the fish in the creeks at risk. Visitors to the park are using up reserves. Approximately 7,000 gallons a day is being used. The staff has cut the hot water heaters off to help reduce shower use. No more than 3,000 gallons a day can be pumped. The budget this year is currently being cut 20% from last year's budget. The sewer tanks have been pumped. Harvey is trying to get important/critical items completed. Hourly wage employees will have to be cut. Due to the low water levels, several water samples have been tested with negative results. Signs must be posted regarding the bad samples due to coliform, sediment, etc. A pipe is being laid for an alternate water source from the shop hydrant to the cow watering trough. Merchandise for resale is increased 3%. Some of the programs the park has offered are Astronomy, All About Bears, and a Sunset Hike to the Little Pinnacle. There will be two types of Hayrides (one non-scary and one scary) offered in October.

New Business

A lifetime membership fee was discussed after an individual inquiry. The Friends will not offer a "lifetime" membership, but continues to accept yearly memberships and donations. Donna is completing an application for our butterfly garden to be designated as a "Monarch Waystation." Visit www.MonarchWatch.org/ws for more information. Certain criteria must be met in order to be considered by Monarch Watch.

Next meeting September 15, 2008, 7 p.m. at the Park Office