

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park  
Minutes of Meeting April 19, 2010**

Present: Ronda Walls, JoAnn Severt, Joan Collins, Doug & Donna Niemi, Harvey & Moe Thompson, Kevin Kelley

**Minutes of last meeting** Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance as of April 19, 2010 \$5483.35

**Credits**

Membership      10.00

**Total Credits**      10.00

**Debits**

Wal Mart              84.25  
(Easter Egg Hunt)

**Total Debits**      84.25

Approved as presented

**Old Business**

- The park now has three rain barrels with fittings and we hope to have them in working order by May. Doug and Donna Niemi were able to purchase two for \$10 each at a recent workshop they attended.
- Moe provided information from John Canfield and Bob Giesler regarding the logistics of placing a web cam at Massie Gap. A phone line would be needed for this and the cost of a monthly internet service provider. Due to the cost and logistics, the Friends decided not to pursue this endeavor.
- Kevin reported the River Race will take a lot of time to plan. He will look into it as a possibility for next year and report back when ready.
- Donna added pictures from the Easter Egg Hunt to the Friends Photo Gallery.

**Park Manager Time**

The water systems are being placed back online with many repairs required due to the severe weather this winter. Pipes, urinals and drain valves have damage. Full service camping begins May 1<sup>st</sup>. The prescribed burn at Sugarlands Overlook has been postponed until the fall due to all the downed brush and high fire hazard. The park now has eighty head of cattle in conjunction with the grazing contract. David Collett is the new District Park Manager. Jim Kelly's park residence burnt down on March 18<sup>th</sup>. AEP has restored power to areas in the park. Marcia is number one in her class of sixteen. There are at least 12 dead ponies on the park property and approximately the same number dead on the federal property. The pony association may not auction ponies this year due to the large number lost due to the hard winter. The sign for Massie Gap is back up. Merchandise for sales has not changed much, currently \$87,500. Interviews for Park Interpreter will be conducted this Friday. There will be sixteen P14s including Joey, Juanita and Shirley from last year.

**New Business**

- Donna presented preliminary budget worksheets.
- Donna has requested a tool box with supplied tools for her use in the butterfly garden. A possible location would be behind the office.
- The Friends will support the Odwalla project. Funds of \$400 have been designated for Grayson Highlands State Park through this program. The money must be spent by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The park will purchase trees from Low Gap Nursery and Odwalla will reimburse the \$400 purchase. This program is run in support of Earth Day.

Next meeting May 17 at 7 p.m.