

BETWEEN FRIENDS

**A Publication of the Friends of Hungry Mother State Park
November, 2010**

It has been a busy summer!

The campgrounds have been full almost every weekend. Visitors have been hiking, biking, picnicking, swimming, and participating in many of the interpretive programs offered. Of course, folks always enjoy the good food at The Restaurant. Maintenance and housekeeping staffs have kept everything in the Park in “tip-top” shape. Many visitors have commented on the helpfulness of the entire staff. Thanks go to everyone on the Park staff for their hard work. Good job everyone!

Many staff changes have been made at Hungry Mother State Park.

Just in case you are unaware of staffing changes at the Park, here is a brief run-down. As you know, Jim Kelly and Glenn Moorner retired in January. Dave Collett is the new District Manager, taking Jim Kelly's place. Geoff Hall has taken over many of Glenn Moorner's former duties while still managing his own duties. Gwen Kirby has taken over Candace Edward's former position as Park Interpreter so she and Geoff are “holding down the fort” in the Park Interpretive Program, which was a very demanding job this summer with all our visitors. Scott Bowen is now our new Hungry Mother State Park Manager. (Attached to this newsletter is an update from Scott on future activities.)

The Friends of Hungry Mother State Park have also been busy.

As always the Friends contribute many volunteer hours in support of Park staff. During the Hungry Mother State Park Arts and Crafts Festival, which is co-sponsored by the Park and the Marion Art League, 27 Friends provided 104 hours of assistance to staff, visitors, and vendors. The Marion Art League contributes funds from this event for scholarships and for Park projects. This year benches were built to be placed around the festival area for the comfort of visitors attending the event.

Through the summer Carrie Sparks, Malinda Cleary, Kaye Berry, and Judy Taminger guided visitors through the Park for the weekly Heritage Trail Walk. Carrie Sparks also led Interpretive Programs such as the “Critter Crawl”, campfire cooking, and nature walks.

The Friends also provided financial assistance for Park projects and programs such as “Music in the Park”. Community sponsors supported various musical groups in addition to the four groups funded by the Friends.

To help coordinate these activities and to provide information to the many Friends, there is also a phone committee comprised of Frances Hester, Jean Stacy, Katherine & Grover Russell, Billie Cummings, Joyce Mills, Helen Burkett, and Joan Tucker. “Construction” workers, who help with various projects throughout the year, are: Buddy Cummings, Ron McCord, William Hester, John Styron, Clyde Hoots, Russ Hauver, Jim Kelly, Baynard Barton, and John Taminger. Anna Johnston and Jim Sparks still keep the smelly fish feeders full and collect the money.

A new wireless system will be installed at Camp Burson.

Several years ago the Friends purchased a wireless system for the use of Hungry Mother campers. This service is provided free of charge. Campers have expressed their appreciation many times. Lately the system has been experiencing problems, so the Friends voted to upgrade it. This upgrade will include two antennas to give campers more complete coverage.

Hikers take note!

At the Friends' August meeting, Park Ranger Geoff Hall, who is responsible for development of trails, explained the location of the newly proposed Clyborne Hollow Trail. This trail starts on Park property across from Camp Burson, then connects with the Stone Lick Trail, and comes back out at the old horse stable area on State Route 16N. This loop trail will be about 5.7 miles long and will greatly increase the inventory of trails within the Park. The Park has received grants in the amount of \$100,000 to work toward completing this trail.

Fall Fear Bike Race held Oct. 23, 2010.

Twenty-six bikers turned out for the annual Fall Fear Bike Race on Oct. 23. Jason Carrico from Abingdon again coordinated the race. This race is co-sponsored by Hungry Mother State Park and the Friends of the Park. The race had three divisions for men and women, which were: Beginner, Sport, and Expert.

Have your picture taken in the giant picture frame at Hungry Mother State Park.

While touring overseas this fall, John and Judy Taminger saw a large picture frame in a park with tourists stepping into the frame and having their pictures taken. John thought this was a great idea for our Park so he and his faithful band of volunteers are working on constructing and placing the frame near the canoe storage area with a view of the bridge and the island behind it. Betty Campbell is helping them with the finish work.

Your dues support Park projects.

Check with Treasurer Anna Johnston if you cannot remember paying your dues. These dues are used to finance Hungry Mother State Park projects as state funding is limited. You can pay Anna at a meeting, or dues may be mailed to Friends of Hungry Mother State Park, P.O. Box 362, Marion, VA 24354. Please provide your address, phone number, and e-mail (if you wish).

Mark your calendars!

Next meeting is Nov. 18 at The Restaurant. No meetings in December or January. See you in February, 2011—weather permitting.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!

Editor: Judy Taminger