

## 2016 Misty Mountain Trip Report

Filling in for Sid this month.

On Thursday Jim and Pat, Bob and Hatti, Joe and Mary with guests Mark and Marie and their children Maya and Mishu, joined Bob S. at Misty Mountain. The weather for the drive was hot but the trips were uneventful.

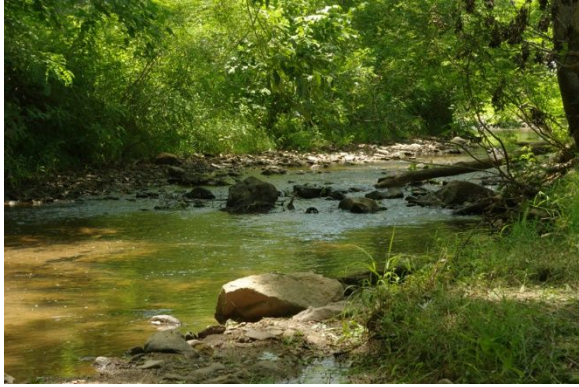


Friday morning under a clear blue sky Joe and Mark took the kids fishing at the campground pond. The catch and release pond has plenty of Bluegill to catch along with some Large Mouth Bass, turtles and frogs. The trees around the pond are decorated with assorted bobbers and fishing lures; small tokens of not so accurate casting.

The campground has many flower gardens scattered about which attracted many butterflies, hummingbirds and even Hummingbird Moths. Seen in the picture below is such a moth. It earns its name due to the resemblance to a hummingbird both in appearance and the constant hovering flight as it drinks nectar from the throats of flowers. If you listen closely to



one of them in flight, the faint sound is also reminiscent of a hummingbird in flight.



Running through the campground is the Stockton Creek and branching from the creek on the eastern side of the campground is Stony Run. In the cool, peaceful shade of the creeks you can relax and watch all sorts of wildlife come down for a drink, including butterflies that line the gravel shore to get a cool drink of water.



While some have murmured, “The’s chunks o’ gold n’ silver in that thar’ crick!” no one has ever staked a claim. But if you look closely in the gravel of the campsites, you might just get lucky!



Late Friday afternoon Jim and Pat fired up their big pot and began making their Low Country Boil. Soon the aroma of Old Bay seasoning, vegetables and seafood began to waft through the campsites. As the members and guests of the Blue Crabs sat cracking crab legs and savoring shrimp, members of the Potomac Dogwoods, meeting across the street, shot envious glances.

After the fantastic meal at Jim and Pat's site, our hosts broke out ice cream and Root Beer and made everyone delicious Root Beer Floats for dessert.



Once all the dishes were done following dinner the group gathered to welcome Larry and Paula just arriving for the weekend. As Larry and Paula set up their rig we moved our chairs to Joe and Mary's site for a night of storytelling around the campfire and s'mores. Joe showed us his plan for the campfire, a single, short log that he promised would surprise us all.

This special log had slots cut through the center from end to end in the shape of an asterisk. At one end in the center of the cuts was a teaspoon size blob of wax and sawdust, which Joe insisted was all that was needed to start the fire.



True to his word within a few minutes we had a campfire from that amazing smokeless, burns-from-the-middle fire log! Also called a Finnish Stove, Swedish Stove, Canada Candle and Log Rocket Stove it produced a steady flame providing plenty of light and heat to quickly cook marshmallows.

As the day gave way to night Joe's laser decorative light illuminated his campsite tree with what looked like hundreds of fireflies.



Saturday morning we gathered again at Joe and Mary's site for a potluck pancake breakfast. As Bob the Pancake King created a stack of pancakes, Joe was making his special hash browns with eggs and cheese. For the kids, the Pancake King made special flapjacks in the likeness of Mickey Mouse.



After breakfast nearly everyone went peach pickin' at Chiles Peach Orchard. As the temperature climbed on Saturday the shade under the orchard canopy was delightfully cool. But all agreed that the lunch of fresh peach soft serve ice cream was nothing short of awesome!

After picking peaches and filling up on peach ice cream, a majority of the group headed to the campground pool for fun and frolic. Opinions were mixed as to whether the 80 degree water was wonderfully warm or refreshingly cool.



Late Saturday afternoon, as we prepared our side dishes for the campground's Hog Roast, a few passing showers just before dinner brought cooler, dryer air. Sponsored by the campground, there was no shortage of delicious food and desserts at the Hog Roast. In fact it was such good food we were all too busy eating to take any pictures!

After the Hog Roast we all slowly ambled back to Joe and Mary's site for another campfire with more Root Beer Floats provided by our hosts, Jim and Pat, and interesting tales of adventures.

Sunday morning donuts and coffee were on the campground. And so, like the swallows returning to Capistrano, the Blue Crabs returned to the banquet room.

