



TROUT CAPITAL NEWS

Cotter, Arkansas

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Cotter Trout Festival 2009



Cotter Band and Choir

Photo by Theresa Mosley



ROTC Honor Guard

Photo by Lynn Baker

The weather threatened from start to finish but it appears the festival was successful. We appreciate the many vendors, volunteers and the people who came out to take part. We also thank the County for bringing the prisoners to set up the large tents borrowed from Ranger Boats to be used as a shelter for the artists. These young men were hard working, courteous, and polite. They worked hard for a good Nima's Pizza.

The festival started with an official Opening Ceremony. Reverend Steve Rushe gave the invocation. The Cotter High School Band and Choir played and sang the National Anthem. Chamber President, Mo Mosley made a very short speech and introduced Mike Armstrong, the Chief of Fisheries for Arkansas Game and Fish. Mr. Armstrong made some flattering comments about Cotter and the surrounding area. He said Cotter is indeed Trout Capital USA. Before he spoke I heard someone say to him, as they pointed to the river, "There are real fish to be caught right out there." Mr. Armstrong's reply was "I certainly hope so." He also had good comments about local fishermen. Mr. Don Sharp, our Superintendent of Schools, spoke of his admiration for Cotter Students in general and he was especially proud of the band and choir.

This was the first year to have the individual artists working in various locations around the park. Their work was amazing. Please read the separate article inside the paper.



Photo by Lynn Baker



Photo by Debbie Gamble



The second day of the Festival started with a parade. I think it must have been the best parade in “modern day” Cotter. Present were Bands, Fire Trucks, Floats, kids walking, Police, American Flags and an Outstanding Honor Guard from the ROTC at ASU Mountain Home. The parade theme was “Over the Rainbow”. The floats displayed varied talent and creativity. The Girls Scouts dressed as characters from Wizard of Oz complete with flying monkey. Their costumes were excellent. Other groups incorporated boats and rainbows in their designs tying into the Rainbow Bridge connection to Trout Capital USA.

The 2009 Trout Festival was filled with kid’s activities. Debbie Gamble of the Cotter Trout Dock along with her recruited help and the Rod & Reel Club once again made the “Fishin’ Hole” a happening place on Saturday. There were many trout caught and prizes for all the participants.

Once again Jolene McWilliams and her co-workers from First National Bank took advantage of Lowes’ offer to furnish wood projects for the children. The clatter of small hammers filled the air as children made flower boxes and Tic-Tac-Toe games. The volunteers from First National Bank helped the children with assembly.

The Beauty Pageant was held on Saturday afternoon at the Youth Center. There was a bevy of beautiful young ladies. Any town would be privileged to be represented by any of them, Cotter is lucky to have such great young people and to have pretty ones to boot, “it don’t get better than that.” The winner was Miss Kaleigh Hammack, 1st runner up was Miss Vickie Hyde and 2nd runner up was Miss Stephanie Bell. Congratulations to the winners. We hope to see these young ladies in our parade at next year’s Trout Festival.

Unfortunately, the rain did come and at the worst time, right before the annual fish fry. It only showered for a short period but just long enough to convince some diners to stay at home. The volunteers worked hard to make this weekend enjoyable for everyone and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Gary Flippin who really made it happen.

Support the Box Top Program for Cotter Schools

Cotter Schools can earn thousands of dollars for classroom supplies and playground equipment with collected box tops and labels. You can help by depositing yours in the yellow M&M guy near the door at Sun Fest in Gassville. You’ll also find a list there of appropriate items.



City Council Meeting Notes

By Mo Mosley

The Cotter City Council met on Thursday April 23, 2009. The following topics were discussed and action taken as indicated.

1. The Mayor stated that the loan the Cotter Volunteer Fire Department had arranged with 1st Security Bank could only be taken for five years according to State statutes when dealing with a Second Class City. He was looking for approval for the CVFD to take a loan of \$100,000 as a construction loan for a period of five years at an interest rate of 4.25%. Bob Ashlott representing the CVFD stated that expectations were that the firehouse could be finished by the end of summer with this loan. Bob was filling in for Chief Jim Whittington, who was in Ohio being inducted into the Ohio High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame. Councilman Burkhart and Dunderdale were absent from the meeting and the remaining four voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.
2. Discussion of implementation of new City Ordinance dealing with up keep and maintenance of property in Cotter. A committee chaired by Mr. Jimmy Thrasher, City Clerk Peggy Hammack, and Councilman George Peters are working with the City Council and the City Attorney Roger Morgan to have a smooth implementation when the Ordinance goes into effect. George Peters had a range of questions for Mr. Morgan, it appeared all was settled. The city wants to be sure they can get property cleaned up when the new rules take over.
3. New rules to prevent Identity Theft when dealing with City documentation - discussion of the topic seemed to be limited to the Recorder and the Mayor. At any rate there will be more paper work and tighter control to prevent identity theft from City Files.

4. The young man who bought the Sharp's property directly across from City Hall came to report a theft from his house and that everyone else on that block except the old hotel had prowler problems recently. The young man was well satisfied with the work of the police department. Chief Thrasher was present and stated they were working on the problem, The theft from the young man had been the couple's wedding rings. They plan to be married next month.
5. Sharon Peters voiced her concerns about lack of communications between the present administration and residents of Cotter.

Most voters in Cotter do not contact their representatives to inquire about what is happening. As citizens of this town or any town it is our Constitutional Right and Duty to attend public meetings and ask questions any time we are in doubt, and make our views known.

We invite all of you to send organization news, articles, pictures, ideas, and/or suggestions to:

Trout Capital News
P.O. Box 238
Cotter, AR 72626

or e-mail

TroutCapitalNews@yahoo.com



Photo by Pearl Baker

Cotter Trout Festival Quick Draw Winners

We are pleased to announce and congratulate the following winners in our First Annual Quick Draw Contest held at Big Spring Park in Cotter on April 18, 2009:

Best of Show "Grand Slam Award" to Delores Bauer, Springfield, Missouri;
 1st Place "Brown Trout Award" to Margaret Pollock, Mountain Home, Arkansas;
 2nd Place "Rainbow Trout Award" to Leslie Stretch, St. Joe, Arkansas;
 3rd Place "Brook Trout Award" to Duane Hada, Cotter, Arkansas
 4th Place "Cutthroat Trout Award" to Bill Garrison, Russellville, Arkansas.

Our gracious thanks to our three judges, Roger King, Helen Phillips and Paul Port.

Two special student awards went to Allison Backus and Heather Ivens. Purchase Awards ranging from \$500 to \$100 went to the following for their Quick Draw entries: Virginia Haines, Allison Backus, Duane Hada, Bill Garrison, Margaret Pollock, and Jack Gilliland.

Special drawings were won by Kayleigh Baker and Jeanne Roth. Silent auction winners were Gloria Garrison and Gladys Fournier. "Roger's Table" a watercolor donated by Roger King for silent auction was won by Margi Beaver. Many thanks to our sponsors who made this event possible.

CACC

By Mo Mosley

The Cotter Area Chamber of Commerce worked long and hard on the Trout Festival. The regular meeting was held April 21, 2009 at the Brass Door restaurant. There was a lot of talk about the Trout Festival. The director of local Red Cross Blood drive attended the meeting. She is looking for someplace local to have a Blood Drive on as regular basis.

Now that the Chamber has leased the Spring House from the City, the officers and board announced they are working hard on getting rules in place to start renting the spring house to other parties.

It was announced that we have need for a person to lead for our "3rd Saturday Street Sales in Cotter". Tim Malaney agreed to take that position. The officers and board will be ready to help and we need volunteers to see if we can make this idea work. It appears to be a win- win situation for vendors and hopefully local merchants. We want to sell brats and hot dogs in the park on Saturdays including the 3rd Saturday of the month. We need to get as much going as we can. I know no one is going to give up all their Saturdays but for a few Saturdays this summer I hope some CACC Members will.

The business after hours has gone very well. Thanks to Jolene Mc Williams for getting it started and for continual leadership. The second "After Hours" was held at George and Sharon Peters Lodge. I was unable to attend but understand the crowd was large and a good time by all.

As we continue to make plans on how to charge for the use of the Spring House, we want clubs, girl and boy scouts not to worry we don't intend to charge this type organization for use. If we have a chance to rent the building you may have to change your schedule. We intend to charge for use from everyone except those just mentioned.



LOCAL GUIDE FEATURED IN KC PAPER

Local White River Guide **Donald Cranor** was recently accompanied on a fishing trip by Brent Frazee the Outdoors Editor for the Kansas City Star. Mr. Frazee gave me permission to use material from his article that was published on Sunday, March 3, 2009, for this story.

Growing up in a town that proclaims itself "The Trout Capital USA" Donald could see his life headed in only one direction. When I was a kid he said no matter what direction I headed when I left home or if I went out the front or the back door I was headed toward the river. Before I even had a driver's license, my dad would let me load up our old aluminum boat and drive down to the access to go fishing. That's the only place I could go, he only let me float a 3 1/2 mile stretch. But that was enough, we caught all kinds of trout doing that and I just became obsessed with fishing.

Today not too much has changed for Donald now 42, still living in Cotter, still obsessed with trout fishing and he makes his living doing what he loves. A guide since he was 15 he now takes people fishing more than 200 days a year. When he was growing up he hung around the older guides and says he learned a lot. Now that guiding is his job he thinks he is very fortunate to be doing it.

Cranor says the water rising from the release at Bull Shoals Dam, means the Brown's will be stirring into action soon. He says it is not the spot that counts. It's being at the spot at the right time that is the key. I use a controlled drift; you don't just toss your bait and drift. I'm looking for anything that breaks the current. I like to fish behind structure, whether it is an island, a point that comes out, a rock or whatever.

These brown trout will lay along an edge waiting for something to drift by the n dart out and get it and return to their hidey-hole. Cranor and Brent Frazee caught a lot of browns the day they fished in March. Donald Cranor loves to catch fish

almost daily and Brent Frazee like the rest of us likes to catch fish any time he has a chance. Call Donald Cranor at 866-789-6271 to schedule a trip.

When you use our great river loaded with beautiful fish remember whose responsibility it is to keep this river as beautiful as it is.



Photo by Mo Mosley

NEW FIRE HOUSE

Have you noticed the new Cotter Firehouse going up on 62B Between College and Summit? Most all of the iron is hung and soon the outside skin will be going on. When the outside covering is up the work will move to the inside. The CVFD members will be doing most of the inside work. They have promises of free materials and reduced price materials and the whole project is a blessing to Cotter. This group of people stands ready at a moment's notice to lay their life on the line for any of us. We owe them a lot and their new Fire House is a great thing for them and all of our community. There will be a radio repeater on a tower near the new facility. Plans are to have a warning siren on the same tower. Grants are being applied for to pay for these needs. Don't forget to mention to your City, County, State and U.S. representatives that we need this equipment to make our new firehouse the best it can be. The CFVD Team has worked hard on this firehouse and it is time some of our tax money goes into the final part of the facility.



Photo by Mo Mosley

609 HARDING BOULEVARD

The above address is the home of Sue Horn and the property has some interesting Cotter history. The property is part of a 252 acre parcel that was given to Lapel Kent by the 23rd President of the United States, Benjamin Harrison. The very most northern part of the property was in Cotter Heights and the rest, was down the hill and in Cotter proper.

This property was chosen by the Saturday Club to be eligible for one of the brass plaques placed on historical buildings a few years ago. The Marker has the name Hiram Lonon on it. Mr. Lonon was the mayor of Cotter at one time and owned a furniture store in the Building on McLean St. that houses Annie's Book Store. Wanda Fielding recounts that when she and her husband were married, Mr. Lonon took them to Little Rock and they bought a house-full of furniture. The Lonon's owned the home until 1986. Ms. Horn bought the property in 1990. There is one more connection in this story, Mr. Lonon owned a furniture store, Sue Horn sold a furniture store in Little Rock and bought the home in Cotter.

It is a beautiful old house. Ms. Horn has maintained the special features of the older home while keeping it modern. She has a beautiful view of the White River Valley out the back of the house. A comfortable home with many more years of life ahead of it.

Coming Events

Chamber of Commerce Meeting

3rd Tuesday each month
8 a.m. at Brass Door Restaurant

Regular City Council Meeting

4th Thursday each month
6 p.m. at City Hall (Verify time at City Hall)

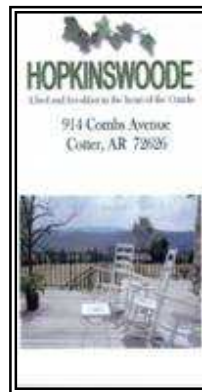
Cotter All City Garage Sale

Saturday, May 2

Cotter Large Item Pickup

Monday, May 4.

Friday, May 15th: Submission Deadline for Park Entrance Archway Design.



Thank you Friends of TCN
Tod & Beth Harmon;
Tim Malaney; Marilyn Morris;
Ellen & Anne Ramey; and
Sonny & Judi Sharp

