

Grandview Mountain Cottages is a great destination to relax, unwind and get away

In October I took my family down to Grandview Mountain Cottages for a weekend and I cannot ever remember enjoying a weekend like we did that one. Despite being just 30 minutes from Crossville, the Mountain Cottages at Grandview provided us with such a relaxing mini-getaway. We stayed in the Honeysuckle Cottage, which sets high in a meadow bordered on three sides by woodlands.

The Cottage itself was the real attraction, even though the girls and I really enjoyed the lake where we caught a few bass and bluegill. We also built a fire in the fire pit, pitched horseshoes and basically, just "hung out" on the large deck and took several extended dips in the outside hot tub.

Back to the cottage. When we arrived, around 4 p.m. on a Friday, we were greeted with a "special" welcome basket that included a loaf of homemade wheat bread, huge homemade chocolate chip cookies, a jar of ground coffee, a little jug of sorghum and some wonderful chocolate, that Laura Li gobbled down before we knew we had it. I understand that every basket is different, but the coffee and chocolate chip cookies are a staple.

Later, around suppertime, Cottages owner Ilaeka delivered homemade pepperoni and sausage pizza to our door, keeping us from having to cook on the night we arrived. It was really great, thin-crust

pizza, my favorite. We used the pizza boxes to start our fire, which came in pretty handy as the temperature dipped into the 40's that night. The campfire felt good.

We had no itinerary, going strictly for the R&R. We simply lounged, looked over the books in the library. A voracious reader, I was afraid I would have nothing to read, so I took a book and a couple of newspapers, but that was certainly not the case as the cottage had plenty to read in its library.

Ilaeka and Papa Phil (her father and partner in the cottages), thought of everything, and I mean everything. From lanterns to flashlights, placed strategically to use when going outside, to bath robes, to wear in from the hot tub.

You know how it is when you go away for a stay, you always forget to bring items to assist you in your cooking. We were continually impressed by the endless array of utensils, skillets, toaster oven, crock pots, cooking gadgets, spices, olive oil, dishes, glasses, salt and pepper, paper towels, zip lock bags, garbage bags, kindling wood, and electronic fire starter. Basically, you would be unable to name something they had not placed in the cottages to make our stay more comfortable.

Other than the first night pizza, we did our own cooking, but if we had wanted it, we could have had a

gourmet breakfast served on the porch of the farmhouse. On a previous days visit, I learned about Ilaeka's organic garden and sampled her tomatoes. She also gave us pints of her homemade peach and strawberry preserves. The farmhouse, which is their home, serves as the office and headquarters for their operation.

Ilaeka lived in France for most of her life, where she operated a B&B. She has incorporated many of the European conveniences and features in her mountain cottages, including luxurious baths and the very best bedding, including memory foam mattresses.

We loved it and are planning a return trip this winter. By the way, Grandview is a little wide place in the road, between Crossville and Spring City on Highway 68. You can see just about everything at their website, www.grandviewmountaincottages.com.

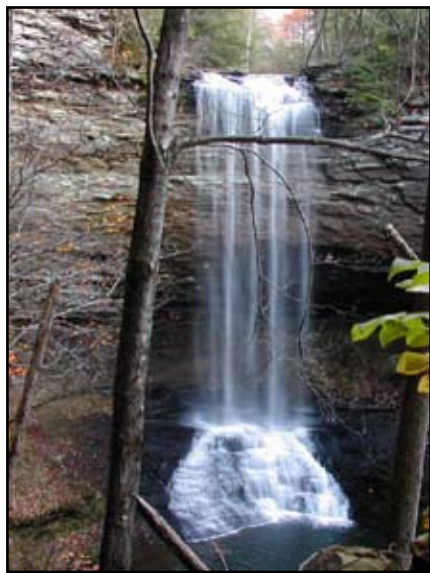
Special 3-Month Issue

The Crossville Life issue you're are now reading is a special one. We normally print every other month, but this issue will be in circulation for November and December of '09 and for January in '10. Our next issue will be February - March. We printed additional copies to make sure we have enough to last for 90 days, and this issue is 8 pages larger than our previous issue.

This issue has several special features, including our first Entertainment Calendars, bringing all the entertainment and musical events in the county, into one calendar. You will find the name of the event, the venue, showtime, ticket price and a phone number for info (when available). We think our readers will enjoy this service. It is in the middle of a 4-page section which includes reviews of DSquared's Rat Pack performance at the Palace and the Southern Symphonic Stars concert at the Conference Center at Fairfield



By DON NAPIER
PUBLISHER



One of the primary attractions for cottage guests is Piney Falls Natural Area, located in on Firetower Road in Grandview. Access to the trail head is about three miles from Grandview Cottages. There are two trails, one to the top and one to the bottom of the 40 foot falls. The trail to the upper falls is said to be an easy 2-mile hike. The trail down to the bottom of the falls is a bit more difficult and dangerous, as it follows the edge of the gorge, offers hikers beautiful views and a trail filled with interesting rock formations.

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Glade. Enjoy!

A new choice

If you operate a business in Crossville, you most likely already know about this, but Cumberland County will have a new phone directory in 2010, compliments of Choice Directories. One of Choice Directory's owners is Crossville native Jeff Dyer, who has been in the directory business in Knoxville and the East Tennessee region for several years. While other directory companies are cutting the white pages out of their directories, Choice Directory is enhancing their white pages by adding more feature pages on destinations, golf, entertainment, etc. Their print is larger, and easier to read. They mail a free directory to every home in the county. If you need to contact them, Linda Bennett is their local contact. Call her at 931-260-2265.

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