

Doing Nothing at Grandview, and Loving Every Minute of It

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Crossville Life Publisher

This story is for people who are happy doing nothing . . .

The Napier family spent a weekend at Grandview Cottages last month, our third overall trip there, and our second wonderful stay at the Honeysuckle location. While most stories about vacations or getaways, include what there is to “do,” this is about doing nothing.

Our little getaway required very little planning, except what we would eat while gone. I did the prep work at home and took the ingredients for a Chuck Roast, potatoes, onions and carrots for our big crock pot. This would be our Saturday night supper. For breakfast on Saturday, we had country ham, eggs, biscuits and apple jelly (the girls’ favorite flavor).

Even when you plan for a trip like this, it is so easy to forget something. How many of us has been on a camping trip or picnic and left the salt and pepper at home? Right! It’s a common blunder.

At Grandview Cottages, this is not a problem. Proprietors Papa Phil Bourne and his daughter Ilaeka have seen to that. Once you see the kitchen and pantry at the Honeysuckle, you get a new appreciation for the term, “attention to detail.” Whatever you think you might need, trust me, it’s already there, whether it be the salt and pepper, a bay leaf or seasoning salt. I

found an orange juicer, iced mugs in the freezer, every kind of kitchen appliance you can imagine, even one of those boat motor blenders.

And at every turn, you find detailed preparation. When we went to start a fire in the fireplace on Friday night, the fireplace was filled with kindling, paper, larger wood and logs, stacked perfectly and ready for the match. They even had “Fatwood,” resin-soaked, 100% natural fire starter sticks. One match does the trick, every time.

At the kitchen sink was a second faucet for drinking water. Both cottages have Reverse Osmosis and Carbon Filter Purification Systems providing 99.9% pure drinking water, chlorine-free. Even the hot tub on the porch uses Ozonator filtration to provide a high-level of purification with minimal chlorine use.

Upon closer examination, you see a spice rack in the pantry along with olive oils, apple and red wine vinegar, a dozen different varieties of organic teas, a two-pot portion of Grandview Mountain Blend coffee and you can purchase roasted coffee beans at the farmhouse (where the owners live) for

their cost.

I took a weekend stay on a houseboat once and discovered it had one skillet--that was it, the only cooking pot on the boat. Grandview offers a literal dozen skillets, plus sauce pans, mixing bowls, cookie sheets, casserole dishes, beautiful eating dishes and utensils and every known spatula, wooden spoon and even a meat tenderizer. We used the small, toaster-oven to bake biscuits without using the big oven,

The unique old-fashioned, deep kitchen sink is odd the first time you see it, because of the handle which is used to turn the water on and off and even increase the temperature, all at the touch of your right knee. (You’ll just have to see it for yourself).

On the outside of the cottage, the attention to detail continues. The

paper, cling plus, cheese graders, soup ladles, potato peeler and a cork screw.

I guess you might wonder what it is that is so attractive about two cottages out in the boonies, 18 miles from Crossville? I really can’t explain it. There is just something really relaxing about going there. It offers such a calm, unhurried couple of days and it is comforting, knowing that we can be at home in less than 30 minutes. I have enjoyed trips to Florida, the Carolinas, Smokies, etc., where I got the same kind of rest, but always dreaded the long drive home.

At Grandview, once our stay is over --I can get home during half time of the Titans game on a Sunday if needed, in time to see the second half.

As Tennesseans, we are familiar with the views but they are still spectacular. While other visitors might be looking for “somewhere to go or something to do,” -- I am not. I am perfectly happy doing nothing. My daughters are both 13 now, and they love to lay up and watch movies and I am perfectly happy with a hand of solitaire, a book, a newspaper, or simply watching the submarine races.

I can see my brother or some of my golf friends being totally happy here with a weekend with their grandchildren. If you are happy doing nothing, this is the place for you. Being between Crossville and Dayton, there are a lot of things to do, but I am just not interested.

With the DirecTV on music channel 802 (Malt Shop Oldies), front and side door open for cross ventilation, I am all set. Your cell phones don’t work very well and there is no internet access. What a blessing!

The submarine races are about to begin!



Honeysuckle Cottage in the winter

rock firepit and Adirondack chairs, horseshoe pit, deck furniture are all exceptional. A wall of books and reading material even includes a copy of Crossville Life Magazine. While looking in a kitchen drawer for a replacement garbage bag, I found electronic fire starters, kitchen matches, wooden and metal skewers, meat cleavers, all sorts of knives, aluminum foil, wax