

Northeast Georgia Mountain Newsletter



August/September 2009
Published by Cavender Creek Cabins
Paul Hanson, Publisher
phanson@cavendercreek.com
Jill Putnam, Editor
jcputn5349@gmail.com

Cavender Creek *Cool Midweek Deal*
Upcoming Events
Southern Living "Idea House" at Achasta
Suggested Itinerary: Girls' Weekend
Readers' Corner
From the Hansons

200 Beaver Dam Road
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533
www.cavendercreek.com

Phone: (706) 864-7221 Toll Free (866) 373-6307

Cool Beauty

Surround yourself in scenic mountains. Pristine woods and cool streams await you when you step outside of your Cavender Creek Cabin. Walk the Cavender Creek trail or fish at Cavender Creek's lake. Plan your wedding, family reunion, or corporate event in natural beauty. Late summer is the perfect time.



Calm Interiors

During the long hot dog-days of August and September...

**Pay for Two Week Nights at Cavender
Creek Cabins and Get the Third Night Free!**

Visit

www.cavendercreek.com

For virtual tours of cabins and
to request cabin availability
or Call

Paul and Mary Hanson at
(706) 864-7221

The Cool Midweek Deal is good from Sunday through Thursday and excludes special events and holidays.

- Eight cabins and a Community Lodge
- Five minutes from NE Georgia's Dahlonega Square
- Forty-five minutes from Atlanta off Hwy 400

Cool down at Cavender Creek Cabins

Achasta's Southern Living "Idea House" is open for visitor tours

You still have time to visit the *Southern Living* Idea House at Achasta's community through October 18th. Almost 7,000 visitors have toured the house since it opened in early June. Achasta is an upscale community in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, just a few minutes from Cavender Creek Cabins. *Southern Living* magazine will feature the Idea House in their August 2009 edition.

Guests touring the *Southern Living* Idea House will receive a visitors pass at the community's security gate along with a coupon for \$5 off at the "Grille at Achasta," an onsite restaurant. The drive from the gate to the Idea House is approximately one mile through the luxury neighborhood. Visitors can catch a glimpse of the beautiful homes in the neighborhood framed by natural surroundings and coifed lawns. You can park across the street from the Idea House. (Details about the interior of the Idea House on page 3.)

Cavender Creek



Historic Dahlonega Town Square

Upcoming Events

Convention & Visitors Bureau. 13 South Park Street, Dahlonega, GA 30533. 706-864-3513. www.dahlonega.org



Appalachian Jam on the Square

North Georgia's Mountain music pickers and singers flock to the Dahlonega Gold Museum every Saturday from 2 to 6 PM through November 7th. Listeners and musicians alike enjoy the acoustic bluegrass and old time string music on the Public Square.

As the name implies, the Appalachian Jam gives traditional mountain music players the chance to get together and celebrate the kind of music that has been performed in the Appalachian Mountains for generations.

Musicians are invited to bring their instruments and jam with the scheduled musicians. Everyone is invited to come on down and clap, dance, or just relax under the shade trees. Bring a chair and stay awhile.

16th Annual Fall Art Show & Sale

On September 19 through November 15, from 11:00 AM - 05:00 PM every weekend, the Dahlonega Arts Council (DAC) will host an art show and sale at the Olde Cannery Arts Center. The center is located at 61 Enota St, just two blocks off the square and next to the Historic Jail House.

The DAC displays works from local artists in a variety of media: oil painting, pottery, woodworking, stain glass, jewelry, and photography. Both professional and beginning artists submit their work. The DAC hosts art shows throughout the year. The Holiday Show and Sale begins November 21st.

Left: The Old Lumpkin County Courthouse was built in Dahlonega in 1836. The building replaced a small log structure that had been used since the establishment of Lumpkin County in 1832. From these steps M.F. Stephenson, an ore and mineral assayer, made a well-known speech in 1849. He urged excited miners to stay in Dahlonega after the California gold rush had begun. His oration gave rise to the sayings: "Thar's millions in it," and [""]Thar's gold in them thar hills." (<http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu>).

Six Gap Century & Three Gap Fifty

The Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the 20th Annual Six Gap Century & Three Gap Fifty Bike Rides coming on September 27th.

The Six Gap Century

This ultra challenging route takes you up and down six of the steepest climbs in the North Georgia Mountains. Test your stamina with more than 10,700 feet of vertical climbing over the 100 mile course. The toughest climb, Hogpen Gap, will test even the strongest riders, averaging a 7% grade for seven miles, with sections as steep as 15%.

The Three Gap Fifty

This alternative route offers half the gaps and half the distance, but is nevertheless a demanding and challenging course.



Heritage Days Festival

Dahlonega, Georgia, home of the first American Gold Rush, is preparing for its 175th birthday celebration on September 19th and 20th. Festivities will include a farmers market, period costumes, event re-enactments, gold mining demonstrations, and a birthday party in Hancock Park.

First Friday Concert Series

Hancock Park at 5:30 to 10 PM

The Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority/Better Hometown Program sponsors free concerts in Hancock Park at the corner of North Park Street and Warwick Street. The concerts will run through October 2nd this year. Russo and Noe will entertain you on September 4th. Swing with the songs of Sinatra and the Rat Pack, Las Vegas style. Take a picnic dinner and blanket.

Gold Rush Days

Gold Rush Days fall on October 17th and 18th this year. Thousands come to this festival to see the fall colors peaking and to celebrate Dahlonega's 1828 discovery of gold. Over three-hundred art and craft exhibitors gather around the Public Square. Included in the two day celebration is a parade, fashion show, gold panning contest, wheelbarrow race, hog calling contest, buck dancing, wrist wrestling, gospel singing, coronation of a king and queen-- and, last but not least, spectacular dining fare. The Southeast Tourism Society named the gala one of the Top Twenty Events in the southeast.

Appalachian Jam in Dahlonega

(Photograph from Gainesville Times, 6 May 2009, <http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/article/18486>).



Suggested Itinerary

Stay at Cavender Creek Cabins for a Girls Weekend in Northeast Georgia

Whether you are seeking a traditional Girls' Weekend of wine, dining, and concerts, or looking for a new adventure--canoeing down the Chestatee River--**Cavender Creek Cabins** can assist you in planning an itinerary with these tips.

Caruso's Italian Restaurant offers 15% off per-table when you present a coupon you can download from their website at www.diningindahlonga.org --Other restaurants in Dahlonega offer Italian, Mexican, Asian, Vegetarian, Southern, and classic American dishes--from fresh salmon and rib eyes to scrumptious chicken salad. Five area wineries regularly host wine festivals and sit-down meal events. Reserve a table for an elegant dinner, visit the grounds for an old-fashioned picnic, or plan a cozy meal in your cabin. J&J Grocery Store and Super Wal-Mart are minutes away from Cavender Creek Cabins. Hancock Park in downtown Dahlonega sponsors a Farmer's Market every Saturday, as well. You can look for more meal ideas and coupons at the Dahlonega Lumpkin County Visitor and Convention Bureau's website at www.dahlonga.org. Click "Where to Dine" for an A-Z directory.

You can always taste wine or beer in town at four tasting rooms located in the square. The Dahlonega Wine Tasting Room, Naturally Georgia, and Upstairs Downstairs offer wine. Caruso's Italian Restaurant brews their own beer.

You can plan your meals around live entertainment. The Crimson Moon Café, touted as "artistic cuisine," excels at vegetarian and new southern cooking. They also promote excellent homegrown music groups. Visit their website at www.thecrimsonmoon.com for a

complete schedule. Most tickets run \$12 in advance and \$14 at the door per person. If you like the sound of "free," pack a dinner picnic and a blanket and head for Hancock Park for The First Friday [of the month] Concert Series. Shows start at 6:30 PM and are scheduled through October 2nd. If you prefer indoor music, attend the Holly Theatre's next big event, *The Mountain Music and Medicine Show*, on September 5th at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$15 per person. The show won three Gabby Awards from the Georgia Association of Broadcasters. You can buy advanced tickets at www.hollytheatre.com.

Appalachian Outfitters at www.canoegeorgia.com inspires adventure on the Chestatee River. Float in a tube down a lazy river, swim popular water holes, or ride challenging rapids in a canoe. A thirty-minute tube ride is \$6 per person. A two-and-a-half-hour canoe trip for three is only \$48.

You could include an entire day of shopping with sixty-two area shops, arts and craft stores, and boutiques. Visit the Fudge Factory, Paul Thomas Chocolates, or The Humble Candle. Check out Gloria's for jewelry, purses, and scarves. They offer a 10% discount for North Georgia College & State University students and faculty. Browse the art galleries on the square, or visit The Olde Cannery Arts Center.

These are just a few ideas to get you started. You will find a complete directory of all stores, restaurants, vineyards, and entertainment venues at the Convention Bureau's website or contact The Hansons at 706-864-7221 or 866-373-6307.

Southern Living (cont'd)



Robin Fender manages the Idea House Tours.

She greets visitors at the door and answers their questions. She estimates that 1,700 people visited in just one weekend recently. Many people come from all over the south, she said, "from Georgia, Texas, Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee." Ms. Fender explained that "a lot of people regularly tour Idea Houses.

They are big fans." Traffic has been heavy because *Southern Living* opened only two Idea Houses this year--one in Texas and other one in Dahlonega, Georgia.

A major feature of the Achasta house in Georgia is the multiple outdoor spaces fitted with deep cushioned chairs and couches.

Outdoor tables are laid with lovely place settings, ready to receive Guests. You can see mountains for miles from this lot. A steady breeze floats in through a raised glass wall that opens the kitchen to an outdoor deck with a monster-sized grill on it.

Off the kitchen is an efficient laundry room that combines a craft center and computer area. The architect designed the house to be a well-functioning home for a busy family. The house has three bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths, and plenty of organized closet and storage space.

Tours are opened through Sunday October 18. Hours are from 11 AM - 5 PM on Wednesday through Saturday and 1 PM - 5 PM on Sunday. A \$5 entry fee benefits the local United Way of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County. Visit the house online at www.achasta.com ~

Readers' Recipes

I grew up in the 1970's in DeKalb County Georgia when it was still countryside. Television went off the air at midnight. Cords tethered phones--and their users--to the wall. Friends and family gathered on a summer night to talk face-to-face and play board games. One of my favorite snacks for these gatherings was "Shrimp Aspic." I do not know where it came from originally, but it has been in my Mother's recipe notebook, in her youthful handwriting, for decades. This recipe takes me back to simpler days and the wonderful people who shared them with me:

Shrimp Aspic (Serves 8-10)

1 can tomato soup

Heat, then add one large package of cream cheese.

1 cup mayonnaise

2 packages un-flavored gelatine dissolved in 1/3 cup hot water

1/2 cup chopped celery

1/2 chopped onion

1-1/2 lbs cooked, cut up shrimp

Add together, put in greased mold, refrigerate.

Serve with crackers or Melba toast for card parties, cocktails, and luncheons.

Jill Putnam
Cleveland, GA



Readers, share your recipes and the memories that go with them. Email to Jill at jcputn5349@gmail.com. Type "Recipe" in the Subject. We're interested in your memories of Dahlonega and Cavender Creek Cabins, too. Email us your favorite digital photograph of your visit for publication in *The Northeast Georgia Mountain Newsletter*, Paul Hanson's Face Book page, and Cavender Creek Cabin's website at www.cavendercreek.com. Send photographs to Jill's email address. Type "Photo" in the Subject. Share a story or caption with your submission.



The Hansons

Dear Friends,

We are committed to making your stay comfortable and fun for everybody in your party.

Cavender Creek Cabins is family owned and operated. We started construction on Cavender Creek in 1995 and have continued to maintain its beauty. I designed the cabins with "rustic luxury" in mind. My son Brian supervised construction and handcrafted distinctive trim throughout the eight cabins and community lodge. Mary designed the interiors. She used beautiful colors with exciting details--like the crocheted lace that hangs from canopies in the master bedrooms. We created comfortable and scenic spaces indoors and out. Some of our cabins overlook a tranquil lake where romantic couples make their wedding vows under the gazebo. We spared no expense in offering Visitors an experience that they will long remember. That's one reason so many of our Guests return, again and again.

Dahlonega's hospitality draws visitors, too. Dahlonega was once a frontier town on a wagon trail going west. Some pioneers came here and stayed for the gold rush. Today, Dahlonega is a regular stop for annual bike-riding and wine-tasting tours. The town welcomes large and small groups. With the Holly Theatre, art galleries, museums, fine dining, wine tasting, an astronomical observatory, walking trails, deep mountain streams, the Chestatee River, and Cavender Creek Cabins in the woods, Dahlonega has become the cultural center of northeast Georgia.

We are looking forward to your visit.
Sincerely,

Paul Hanson

Directions from Atlanta to Cavender Creek Cabins:

From Atlanta, take State 400 North. Continue on State 400/US 19 North. Turn left at South Chestatee--Hwy 60-/US 19. Take a right onto Morrison Moore Parkway. Drive straight under the first red light. Morrison Moore merges into GA-52 at the second red light in front of Wal-Mart. Drive .3 miles and take a sharp right at the third red light to stay on GA-52. Continue on GA-52 for 1 mile. Turn left on Rock House Road. Follow the signs. Drive 1 mile and turn right on Rocktree Rd. Drive .3 miles and turn left to stay on Rocktree Rd. Drive .7 miles and turn left on Beaver Dam Road. The office is on the right.