

TROUT CAPITAL NEWS

Cotter, Arkansas

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White River Flood Recovery 2011

by Mo Mosley

As July draws to an end, the folks who live and operate businesses along the White River from Bull Shoals dam to Cotter have once again survived the damage and destruction caused by the beautiful river getting out of its banks. I personally don't recall seeing the numbers of people in the Big Spring Park as have visited it this summer. This observation is since we moved here in the spring of 1998. The Swimming Hole is full all day long as it is a sure fire relief spot from this summer's agonizing heat. The amount of river gravel washed into the swimming hole was unbelievable. A large amount of this gravel was removed from the swim area and the popular place is regaining its normal look and depth. One reason so many people are using the park is the fact that Bull Shoals Lake is still thirty feet above normal depth and access to popular swim spots are not yet available on the lake.

The high water caused tremendous erosion in the Cotter Trout Dock parking lot and many loads of rock were required to rebuild the parking area. It took rocks of all kinds from shot rock to road base to redo the lot. And it will require more before it is all done. The foot bridge across the creek was pushed of its footings and required a lot of effort by Cotter workers to get it back in place.

The **Saturday Club of Cotter**, a local women's club spent time, effort, and money putting in a Butterfly Garden along the creek bank that was heavily damaged by the roaring water. I have not spoken to the club members, even though I live with one of them, but realizing the mind set of this group, it is imaginable that they will try again. A little water surely will not stop a woman's club that has been in existence for more than 100 years. This fact alone makes the **Saturday Club** an admirable group.

In this article I am attempting to follow the recovery from damage caused by the events of May 24, 2011. Please keep in mind we did not get reports on everything that occurred, so if we did not get your part of the story, make us aware and we will give it a try.

RECOVERY

Cotter Trout Dock

As a start the Trout Dock lost its parking lot as deep holes especially out near the launch parking lot were left after the days of strong currents ravaged the area. There was a hole several feet deep and several feet in diameter left and gravel was moved everywhere.

Several truck loads of all different size rock was required to just fill holes, it will be awhile before they have a firm level parking area. The building was damaged severely and was rebuilt from the inside out. All interior framing, walls and flooring was replaced along with windows and doors. The new interior wall surfaces are all cedar planks making a very attractive space and presenting an aroma that only cedar can provide. Storage space was provided and the kitchen now has a dishwasher and shelving along with new sinks. You should be able to put out lunches and camp trips for a long time, Debbie.

One of the good things that occurred at the Cotter Trout Dock was no damage was done to the boat dock. It floated and stayed intact which was a blessing in itself.

This space representing the efforts of the Gamble family in the recovery from this flood seem very small but represents the tremendous amount of hard work and expense required to put Cotter Trout Dock back on its feet. Ron and Debbie cannot say enough good about the effort of the Calico Rock Prisoners. Good job Ron, Debbie and Dylan.

Roundhouse Shoals Fly Fishing

George Peter's owner of Roundhouse found the damage at the dock and building to be so severe that the only solution was to completely demolish the building and boat dock. All facilities were torn down and hauled away.

There are rumors about what is to come of this property but we have no facts so we won't go into it. Anyway the property is cleaned up and vacant

White River Campground

The damage to the campground was limited to some power boxes and flooding of the Bath House. The boxes were replaced, the Bath House cleaned and repainted. The campground is back in business and looking forward to the remainder of the camping season.



Blue Heron Campgrounds

Terry and Marilyn Doran had damaged paneling, electrical equipment and general clean up when the flood water exited their building. Terry made the repairs required on the electrical portion and then replaced the paneling. All the work in the shower room was completed. They took down the sand bags and they were ready to go again. This is a beautiful resort and they work hard to keep it that way. They are open and going full bore ready for customers. Terry says the work of the Calico Rock Prisoners was outstanding and he would still be moving sandbags were it not for them.

River Homes

The Harmon's replaced the wet insulation, damaged sheet rock and damaged carpet. Cleaned the interior of the house and made the home livable again. The hardest part was the

insulation replacement that was under the house.

Bill and Annett Petitt had to remove all the heat and cooling duct work from the house, dry and clean it and then reinstall the ducting. They had some parts of the system that failed and had to be replaced. Their heating and cooling system is geo-thermal and was located under the house. Once again Todd and Beth, and Bill and Annett can sit on their front porches enjoying the cool breeze off that beautiful river as it flows by.

City Council Meeting Notes

By Mo Mosley



The July 28th meeting called to order at 6:30 PM. As is the regular practice, the meeting started with an Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of last meeting were approved. The Business Agenda was as follows:

1. Action regarding Mr. Paul Stone lot donation. Mr. Paul Stone, who presently lives in Texas, wants to donate two city lots to Cotter. Along with the lots he wants to give \$10,000 for upkeep on the property. Action: The Mayor will have further discussion with Mr. Stone and bring final proposal back to council next meeting,

2. Sue Whittington report on Grant request. The Fire Department wants to apply for a grant to purchase new rescue equipment. The grant application requires a letter from the Mayor. It is a 50/50 Grant for which the FD is requesting the approval and the letter. Sue has applied for six grants for the FD and received four of them (pretty good record I'd say). The request was granted by unanimous vote. Good Luck Sue and CVFD.

3. Wilbur Spradlin--Park Rentals

Mr. Spradlin was not present so the topic was not discussed.

4. Planning and Zoning Presentation of new Architectural District.

Schuyler Brower made power point presentation proposing guidelines to apply to specific streets of the old Cotter business district which will preserve the unique architectural flavor in the development of new projects and in renovation of existing buildings in downtown Cotter. There will be more discussion and a decision may be made by next meeting.

5. Consider a new bookkeeping computer program. City Bookkeeper Melissa Baskin presented a proposal to replace the antiquated program now being used. The company that designed the old program no longer provides support. The program is ten years old and with the speed of technology change in today's world it is a compliment to her that she is able to function in today's technological environment. Cost of the new program is \$5530. Request was approved.

6. Consider donation of 60 feet of street right away by Steve Stinnett. Discussion led to the decision to table until next meeting.

7. Consider approval of vicious dogs and animals definitions in Cotter. An amendment to existing ordinance 2002-05 failed on vote.

8. Amendment to Ordinance 99-10 setting rules and regulations for use of Big Spring Park Passed on vote.

9. Approved Mayor's request to take bids on 2002 Crown Vic Police Car. This vehicle will be sold to highest bidder. Make bid at City Hall.

Other Items

A seat is open on the planning and zoning board.



ARKANSAS GRAVESTONES.ORG

Submitted by Lynn Baker

Have you ever wondered where your grandparents or great grandparents are buried. If they died in Baxter County there is a good chance their final resting spot is recorded at a web site called Arkansas Gravestones Project.

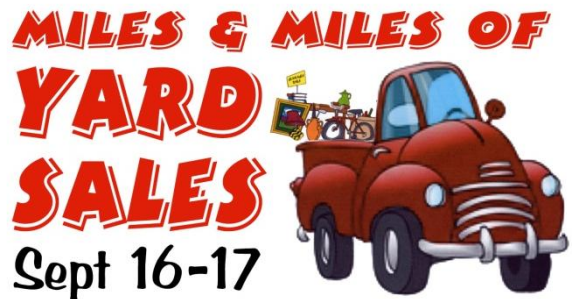
Arkansas Gravestones Project (AGP) is a three year old project that was started by one lady that had a desire to digitally record every gravestone, in every cemetery, in every County, in the state of Arkansas. That mission, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, is slowly becoming a reality. AGP has recorded over 540,000 gravestones in Arkansas and has completed Baxter County known cemeteries which consists of over 21,000 gravestones.

In Cotter, Walnut Hill Cemetery has over 1,000 gravestones recorded and Gassville has over 800 gravestones featured on AGP's web site.

We are very fortunate in Baxter County to have the assistance of the Sheriff's Inmate Assistance Program in the area of maintaining and restoration of abandoned cemeteries. Over a dozen abandoned cemeteries this last year were cleaned, some stones repaired by Monuments & More, and cedar signs made by the inmates to recognize this once forgotten resting place of Baxter Counties past residence.

Now that the basic information from the gravestones in Baxter County has been recorded it is now the goal of AGP to add genealogical information to these gravestone entries to help future generations find their roots. If your ancestors are from Baxter County and you would be interested in finding out more about your family history please contact Lynn. Baker, Baxter County Coordinator at WhiteRiverWoodturning@yahoo.com . This is a free service extended to the descendants of Baxter County.

Visit Arkansas Gravestones Project web site and see if your families gravestones have been recorded www.arkansasgravestones.org .



Multi-City Yard Sale

Submitted by Tina Berry

Bull Shoals Chamber, Flippin Chamber and Cotter Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a giant yard sale on Sept. 16 & 17. Originally called "Drive the Loop", it will be along Hwy. 178 through Bull Shoals, then go through Flippin on Hwy. 62, through Cotter on 62B and back up to Gassville on 62. The final loop will be Hwy 126 back to 178 and Lakeview (see attached poster). Posters will be available. Contact me if you would like a poster or if you need a place to setup. The Youth Center is also taking donations of items for this event. They are in need of some repairs.

If you would like to be included on the map, please call the CACC (321-1243) or email your address to me.

It will be well advertised, so hope you will be able to participate.



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Gassville Office Manager

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or even as a "virtual" participant - Sleep in for Hope! You may even be a sponsor and let someone else Stand Up for Hope in your place. Each \$20 donation sponsors one participant.

Fire Department News

Submitted by Sue Whittington

The Food Bank of North Central Arkansas is sponsoring the Bridge Bash Saturday September 24th (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.) Big Springs Park - Cotter, AR to raise funds to provide meals in North Central Arkansas.

The goal is to get 2,000 people signed up to "Stand Up for Hope" on the Rainbow Bridge in Cotter! Each \$20 donation purchases 100 meals for folks here in north central Arkansas.

They will spend 1 day, gathering 2,000 people, raising \$40,000 and providing 200,000 meals!

Plus they have a great FREE festival lined up in the Big Springs Park following the Bridge Ceremony! Here's a quick look at what's happening at Bridge Bash...

9 a.m. Arrive at the Rainbow Bridge - Stand Up for Hope with 2,000 others to raise \$40,000!

9:30 a.m. Bridge Ceremony - Celebration and Raising Awareness for Hunger Relief in NC Arkansas.

Free Festival in the Big Springs Park includes 2 Music Stages, Car Shows, Motorcycle Show, Over 100 Vendors, Food, Kid's Korner, and entertainment from Rio, High Strung Band, Crossroads Praise Team, The Cowgill Family, Kim Richardson, Africa in the Ozarks Dance Troop, and more! Special Guests to be announced soon!

Please get involved in this worthy cause. Registration forms are available online at www.foodbanknca.org/NewsAndEvents.aspx You can register as an individual, with a team

The Cotter Volunteer Fire Department its Auxiliary and Cotter/Gassville Rural Fire District and its Auxiliary have been working hard throughout 2011 to be able to better serve our local area.

Cotter/Gassville RFD has just completed its very popular Illinois Corn Sale selling approximately 6500 ears of corn at \$4/dozen in two hours. The corn was delicious and many thanks to Dale and Sandy Goodbrake, Bob Ashlock and Jim Whittington who drove to Illinois on Thursday, picked corn early Friday morning and drove back to Arkansas to have fresh corn on Saturday morning. Thanks also for the continued support of our community. The profits from the corn sale; a new, whole barbeque pork butt sale for the 4th of July, and from the annual Pork Barbeque have enabled Cotter/Gassville RFD Auxiliary to donate \$10,000.00 to the district to help purchase a refurbished fire engine (pumper) costing \$55,000.00. Since its inception, Cotter/Gassville has used Cotter's old Engine 2. The new fire truck is ordered and should be in service at the Wildcat Shoals station in mid-August. This will greatly improve C/G's firefighting capabilities.

Cotter Volunteer Fire Department and its Auxiliary have also been busy with fundraisers in 2011. The annual Chili Supper and Auction held on the first Saturday in March was a great success. In addition to that, Cotter has served an all-you-can eat breakfast for the Great Trout Festival, concessions and meals for the Sowbug Round-Up, barbeque dinner for the White River Artist's Plein Air Paint-Out, funnel cake booths for the Trout Festival, Gassville's Homecoming, and Flippin Fireworks. Through

these efforts, Cotter's Auxiliary has been able to donate \$9,000 directly to the fire department, and in the end of July, they purchased a used 4 x 4 Ranger ATV for \$6,500.00. This will be converted into a rough terrain fire and rescue vehicle.

In addition to adding the ATV for rough terrain, Cotter VFD has also added a new mini-pumper to its firehouse. This 500 gallon, four wheel drive pump-and-go truck will be put into service as a dedicated brush fire unit. The 1975 International (with a much newer engine) was donated to Cotter from Kern County (CA) Fire Department. Many thanks to Ranger Boats for transporting it to Arkansas. The truck will be in service soon. It is currently white with a blue stripe. As time and money permits, it will be painted red.


Cotter VFD is currently writing a grant to be submitted to the Arkansas Rural Services Department in mid-August requesting funds to retrofit the ATV for firefighting and rescue operations with a Kimtek Firelite Skid unit, and to purchase a sked rescue system and rope rescue system to improve rough terrain rescue and wildlands firefighting capabilities. In addition, to purchase new hand-held radios which would meet the new narrowband standards required nationally in 2013 and replacement of helmets, gloves, 4" hose, stream lights, and goggles for general firefighting. Hopefully, the grant which is a 50/50 match will be awarded.

Also in 2011, Cotter VFD has welcomed four new volunteers to our department. Kenny McBride, LeeAnn Long, and Kirt Winnett have recently joined, and Stephanie Bell (Assistant Fire Chief John Bell's daughter) has become a new member after serving 3 years in the junior firefighting program. We also welcome Bob Ashlock serving as the new fire chief replacing Jim "Whit" Whittington after 7 ½ years of serving as chief. Whit will remain on the department. Bob has a very extensive background in firefighting and medical/rescue operations. He was a full time, paid firefighter in Rockford, Illinois and after serving in that capacity which included teaching EMT and Paramedic classes, he became a trauma nurse and spent many years working as a helicopter

flight trauma nurse for the Rockford Trauma Center. Scott Rust was elected to a Captain position to replace Bob Ashlock.

In addition to recent equipment acquisitions and new personnel in 2011, our Cotter volunteers along with the help of Cotter/Gassville Rural volunteers have worked hard toward completing the final stage of construction (the upstairs level) to our new fire station. We have installed interior metal siding in Bay 4, built a storage room, bunkhouses, a training "burn" house, second level railing, and a high-angle rescue training wall.

Once again, we thank you for your support of Cotter and Cotter/Gassville Rural's fund-raising efforts. The generous support of our community has enabled us to better serve you. If you would like to tour our new fire station, contact city hall or one of our volunteers. If you would like to read C/G Rural's e-newsletter, go to <http://pixilic.com/apps/newsletter/> .

RON AND DEBBIE GAMBLE 870-435-6525 • 800-447-7538	SINGLE DAY FISHING OVERNIGHT CAMP TRIPS GUIDE SERVICE
	
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A Message of Appreciation from Cotter Trout Dock

I think there's a song called "Everyday Heroes" but if there's not, I could write it. Look beside you at your neighbor and I'll bet you're seeing an undercover, undiscovered, unannounced hero.

All of us at Cotter Trout Dock are sincerely grateful for the many, many "everyday heroes" who came out to help before and after the Bull Shoals Dam flood water releases in May. From the day we sandbagged to the day we moved back into the renovated and repaired dock office, up until today, we have had help every step of the way. If ever I begin to feel sorry for myself, I remember all the folks who gave of their time and muscle, prayers, support and encouragement to get us back up and running and I can't feel anything but thankfulness.

I wish I could list all the names of our heroes, but even if there was enough space, I know I'd leave people out because I'm sure we received help from people we don't even know were out there helping. We are also acutely aware of the help that came from above; we know we've been blessed and God continues to send more blessings. He sent us the Cotter Volunteer Fire Department (at least twice!), some young, strong ball players from Cotter High School, Sunday School classmates, Baxter Bulletin newsmen, customers, guides, fellow White River outfitters and resort owners, Cotter Area

Chamber of Commerce people, Arkansas State prisoners, City of Cotter employees and city council members, Arkansas Game & Fish folks, friends of friends, prayer warriors all over the country, even Trout Capital News editors. See, I missed a bunch, didn't I?

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
Ron, Deb and Dylan Gamble

Youth Center to Re-open

Submitted by Carolyn Gill

Your Youth Center has been closed for the entire month of July. It was learned after the spring rains that the Center had lost a compressor, 2 blown circuit boards and a blower motor. It was the feeling of Montgomery Heating and Air that so much damage was due to an electrical strike. The city of Cotter, owner of the building, investigated their insurance only to learn that the deductible was \$5,000.00. The Center does not carry structural insurance. At present the Board of Directors of the Youth Center are awaiting word from FEMA if any help can be realized from them.

The Center was scheduled to re-open August 1, but under the extreme temperatures and the lack of air conditioning the opening has been re-scheduled for August 15th.

Despite this set back the Board is actively preparing for the Drive The Loop garage sale in September. We are accepting gently used items for resale. All donations are tax deductible since the Center is a 501c3. All donations (NO clothing) would be greatly appreciated. Please call Carolyn Gill 435-2207 to donate items, time or money to get up us and running again.

Carolyn Gill
(800) 326-6262 ext. 400

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
6:30 p.m. at City Hall (Verify time at City Hall)

Lions Club

2nd Monday each month
5 p.m. at White Sands Restaurant

Miles and Miles of Yard Sales

Saturday, Sept 16 - 17

Bridge Bash

Saturday, Sept 24th 9 am - 2 pm

We invite 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

Deadline for submissions is the Tuesday before the last full weekend of the month before the new issue.

Tubbie

The Rainbow Trout

By Ic
7/31/2011

