



Volume 3,  
Issue 2  
September  
2006



# The Mercantile Times

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# The Mercantile Times

PERIODIC E-NEWSLETTER FROM FRED'S GENERAL MERCANTILE BEECH MTN, NORTH CAROLINA

## Summer is Winding Down

Wow! What a great summer it has been on the mountain. For the most part, wonderful weather prevailed. Our warmest day was July 19 at 76° and our coolest day was on July 7 at 47°.

The mountain flowers have never looked better. The town's trails have seen an increase in hiking activity with B.J. Hughes returning to maintain trails and lead our monthly hikes.

Cyclists climbing Beech from Banner Elk (the Lance Armstrong route from the Tour Du Pont days) have increased dramatically! Gil Adams (our local biking guru) mapped out 51.2 miles of bike routes and helped place our bike route signs all over the mountain. He also helped design a Biker Guide to Beech Mountain, available at the Chamber of Commerce.

While late August often sees a decline in activities, there's still a lot left to do between now and the Woolly Worm Festival on October 21 and 22. The Annual Kite Festival over Labor Day weekend, with two days of activities including a Street Dance on September 2, and Autumn at Oz, which takes over the mountain on October 7 and 8, are just two of the upcoming events we are all looking forward to.

Soon the color of fall will add beauty to our mountain, as well as the surrounding countryside. Color changes usually begin the last week of September and continue throughout October with the peak season being mid-October. Always remember the leaf changing season can vary and it is always best to stay in touch with us or the Chamber of Commerce for details.

If all of the above is not enough, fill in your spare time with a visit to the new Robert and Miriam Hayes Theater in Blowing Rock. The theater is featuring a fall schedule of wonderful productions. Bob Inman's two stage production—August 29 – September 10 and October 11– 22—promise to be special events and are not to be missed.

If mountain music is your forté, be sure to include one of the Mountain Home Music's popular shows in Blowing Rock. Joe Shannon, the wizard behind preserving mountain music and the always great show played at our Gazebo on August 17, along with his Mountain Home All-Stars Band, will be one of the featured artists.

By-the-way, all six Sunday Gazebo Concerts went off with beautiful mountain weather, as did the 25th Annual Crafts on the Green on August 5.

As you can see, and maybe were a part of, this summer at Beech was a good time for all.

## Buckeye Recreation Center Opens

If you haven't been to Buckeye you need to go soon. It's great and offers something for everyone! The brand new facility offers many activities including Tai Chi, quilting, spin classes, indoor tennis, martial arts, soft play for kids, basketball, a fitness room, Friday movie nights for kids and computer access to check your e-mail.



There's something for everyone at reasonable rates. An annual family pass for mountain residents and property owners is only \$150.

We have a great staff under the direction of Craig Colistra, Director and Abby Lindsay, Assistant Director. Along with Jess Gallagher and mountain resident, Mark Kornreich, they are ready to help you with all your recreation needs.

Open daily, call 387-3003 for information, schedules and upcoming special events.

Spread the word and good recreating to all.

## Ray's Weather Site Has a New Look

For Beech Mountain's own weather info 24/7, you can check out Ray's forecast, history, area photos and Brenda's Wildflower updates.

From the home page of our website you can go directly to the high country's best weather info. The instant data comes directly from Fred's weather instruments. After you plug-in [www.fredsgeneral.com](http://www.fredsgeneral.com) you're just a click from everything you need to know about Beech's weather. Check it out today!



## B.J. is Back

B.J. Hughes has returned to Beech after a two year absence. He is once again heading up the trail maintenance program for the town. In just a few short weeks many improvements and needed maintenance have been accomplished.

He has been assisted by Charlie Frisbee, a summertime town employee.

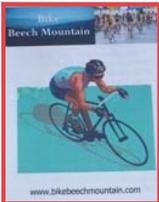
B.J. will lead the town hikes on September 5 and October 3. Welcome back B.J!



## The Flowers of Beech

Thanks to everyone who helped beautify the mountain with flowers. One can cast an eye anywhere on the mountain and see that beauty abounds. Roadside barrels, mountain businesses and front and back yards all over are looking great.

Take a look at the mountain flowers as observed one bright day in early August.



## Bike Routes Completed

Thanks to Gil Adams, Beech can boast of 51.2 miles of bike trails set up especially for road bikes.

An information board at the Visitors Center, where all trails begin, introduces you to cycling on Beech. A handy pocket-size guide lists all routes and can be obtained at the Visitors Center and other locations on the mountain, where water can also be obtained.

Come up to Beech with your bike and enjoy cycling where Lance Armstrong won two stages of the Tour Du Pont. For additional information call the Chamber of Commerce at 828-387-9283 or Fred's at 828-387-4838.

Good Biking!



## New Book Is A Must Have

*Compact Guide to North Carolina Birds* is a great new book by local bird expert Curtis Smalling. It's easy to use with great pictures and geared toward folks who want to identify what they see in their backyard.

We have them available in our bird shop, along with other great new selections. Check it out.

## Store Updates

While this e-newsletter started as a way to let you know more about our store, it has progressed on to giving you info about the town, the High Country and important events such as the Woolly Worm Festival on October 21 and 22.

All I can say about Fred's is that things are great inside and out. Our summer has been the busiest in 27 years. We're still always looking for interesting things to carry for you, your family and friends. From groceries, great wines, sensible outdoor clothing, wild bird supplies, hardware and our Deli, Fred's is ready for you 7 days a week from early to late. Hope to see you soon!