

CLINGMAN-JONES 88TH FAMILY REUNION

July 3 - 5, 2009

Jones Valley • Caddo Gap, Arkansas

Dear Kinfolk,

Yes, it is that time of year again when we are shaking off winter, hopefully enjoying the beauty of springtime, and making plans for summer – which I certainly hope include you making the pilgrimage to our annual Family Reunion. Don't worry about the weather; we have placed an early order for mid-80's, sunny, and low humidity – you know, typical Arkansas summer. So put that care behind you, with any others that might be weighing on your mind, and start getting ready to head on down to Jones Valley, your own private family retreat. We plan on seeing you there!


◆ Reunion Schedule* ◆ (all meals [in bold] in the Grace Jones Palmer Dining Hall)

Thursday, July 2nd	Early Arrivals – 6pm Hamburgers/Hotdogs from the grill.
Friday, July 3rd	8am – Country Breakfast Get settled in and check out what changed and what's not. Noon – Sandwich Lunch Explore the Valley a little, get into volleyball/horseshoes, catch up with the kinfolk, do a personal test of the old swimming hole. 6pm – Evening Meal Kick back, reminisce a little, listen or make music, and do some Family visiting (NO fireworks during music). 8pm – Board games in the Dining Hall.
Saturday, July 4th	8am – Country Breakfast 11am – Family Business Meeting – BE THERE. Noon – Home-cooked Meal 1:30pm – Executive Board Meeting. 2:30pm – 2 nd International Inner Tube Olympics – jump in! 6pm – Evening Meal More music and sitting out enjoying campfires and reminiscing (something for the young folks to gain some skills in doing).
Sunday, July 5th	8am – Continental Breakfast (maybe a little more) 10am – Gospel Sing and Remembrance

* As always (our trademarked disclaimer), **except for meeting times**, this schedule is just a plan, and plans are always subject to change, especially after you add your ideas for making it a special weekend.


◆ Reunion 2008 Recap ◆

The Clingman-Jones 2008 Reunion was another fine celebration, highlighted by the Valley looking especially nice, good weather, a new fun event that was held, a camp-in surge, cabin construction nearing completion, and renovation plans being made, as well as plenty



of visiting and music making – all made possible by our ancestors' vision and commitment and today's family volunteers and donations.

- Cathy and Gary Kornegay's fine new cabin, that greets you as you enter the main area, was near enough to completion for some to take an inside look-see. Also the Executive Board was able to use the wrap-around porch for their meeting. It's a quality addition to the Valley.
- Thanks to Johnny Cameron, the 1st Jones Valley International Inner Tube Olympics was a splashing success. With such events as the Inner Tube Relay, Tube Toss, Ball in Tube Toss, and Flop with Style, it was reported that Team Short People beat Team TT's, but there were lots of others also having a great time. If you'd like to view a very primitive (but mercifully short) video of this fun new event, then check this out: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZg-QM52I2M>.
- A surge in camping trailers for Reunion lodging was noted in 2008. In addition to the fold-up (popup) type brought by Johnny and Judy Cameron, as well as Gil and Jennifer Jones, last year both Milton Cameron and the Shane Nichols family set up nice travel trailers in the camping area and hung out in style. Shane and Jewel, who live in Atlanta, picked up their travel trailer in Little Rock, saving a lot of Interstate pulling time. Maybe Hot Springs this year?
- In addition to Johnny getting the Inner Tube event kicked off, Jeff Cameron set up and got the volleyball games going. And I believe that board games provided some nighttime entertainment, not to mention the music, of course, which we always enjoy. Unfortunately the horseshoes did not get a-flyin' – a definite opportunity here for a "community organizer."
- 2008 Family Business Meeting: Family members were recognized for their on-going contributions, especially Larry Braswell's year-round efforts to keep improving the Valley and the Reunion. Several ideas for fundraising were offered, a suggestion that washer/dryer facilities be made available was offered, and plans to renovate the Cubage Cabin were discussed. The status of Uncle Isaac's (Jim Williams') abandoned cabin was reviewed and the intention was to award Beth Augustine and her immediate family rights to it, given significant improvement is made within two years, was proposed. There were no objections; family members were only pleased with Beth's initiative and interest.
- 2008 Executive Board Meeting: Michael Gregory, Arkansas Forestry Commission, presented in detail a Forest Management Plan. Kelly Jobe, who has been managing this project for the Family, will be using this plan to develop the options for this year's Board Meeting to consider. Shane Nichols is continuing to guide the process that should result in the Family's incorporation, and other related matters in order to meet current legal standards. The Board approved President Larry Braswell's recommendation that Jim Williams (Uncle Isaac's) cabin be transferred to Beth Augustine and her immediate family with the condition that significant improvements be made within a reasonable period of time. Gil Jones' and Kelly Jobe's requests to



have certain sites dedicated for the development of camping or cabins were approved by the Board. Gil is currently camping in the location behind the Diffie cabin, and Kelly in the area where her parent's old trailer was located, in front of the Diffie cabin (the Diffies are very popular).

- In years past we have thanked, in the newsletter, all those making donations that provide the funds necessary to support the Reunion and our beautiful Jones Valley. If the donation was made at the time of the Reunion, we always try to thank all contributors at that time as well. After the 2008 Reunion, because this recognition is so important, almost all donors were sent a letter of gratitude. However, because one or two donations were in cash, and the donor was not identified at the time, those individuals did not receive a letter. Our sincere gratitude is now given for those donations; they are certainly equal to all the rest, and we will try not to let that one happen again.

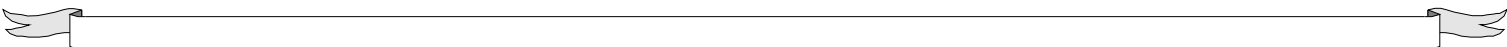
◆ Jones Valley This 'n' That ◆


Usage – I think it can be accurately stated that “the Valley is not just for Reunion time anymore.” This past year has been another where more Family members are enjoying Jones Valley in all of the four seasons. Exploring the woods, fishing, kayaking the Caddo, and just spending some quality cabin time – and hey! if you get tired of your own cooking, Ron's very good bar-b-q is just about a mile away. Also, I think I finally figured out why those going fishing do “catch and release” – the Fishnet in Glenwood does such a great job!

Camping Site – Cousin Gil Jones has continued to develop his site behind the Diffie Cabin for his camper. His latest improvements have been permanent electricity hookups and water access. Having this base camp definitely had something to do with Gil's and Larry Braswell's fall kayak fishing adventure on the Caddo River. (Take a look for yourself at: <http://jonesvalley.us/drupal/node/176>) In addition, Gil's (and ours too, of course) cousin, Amy Fortenberry, and her family dropped by in January and enjoyed a little Valley camping as well.

Special Contributions – Cathy and Gary Kornegay and family have long been active supporters of Jones Valley, helping in many areas, including Dining Hall and bathroom clean-up; however, some might be unaware of recent significant contributions. While they were having their cabin's septic system installed, they included a sanitary waste dump for campers. Gil enhanced this facility with a little cement work. Also, to help with Valley security, they funded a gate on the road leading up the Valley to limit access of non-Family members and they have helped tackle the cleanup of the really big tree that went down in the swimming hole last fall.

Storage and City Water – We have had a city water line installed on the property which also resulted in extra clearing around the main entrance gate to the cabin and dining hall area. Using timbers and tin from the Cubage Cabin restoration, a sturdy storage shed has been built near the rear of the large open field. This shed will be used to securely store





any Family equipment and other miscellaneous items. Up to now there has been nowhere to store anything, including maintenance items, except in individual cabins.

◆ Thank You Volunteers ◆

Your Clingman-Jones Family Reunion and Jones Valley depend on volunteers and voluntary donations (not the kind squeezed out of you at the office and other places). The volunteer effort is led by our president Larry Braswell, who not only guides the administrative chores, but actively steps up to see that the Valley is mowed, swimming hole cleaned and ready to go, and maintenance issues are responded to in a timely manner, and where possible, doing these things himself. The Founder's Monument, which is such a valuable addition to our campground, is another of these accomplishments. He and Paula have also made many operational improvements such as locating and transporting a grill to the Dining Hall which we are making good use of.

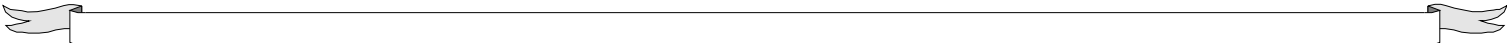
Gil Jones' initiative and on-going support of first the Family email list, and then the website, have made a significant contribution towards our communication capability and ability to share info, stories, and pictures of past and present. In addition, Gil's technical know-how and facilities has made it possible for the Executive Board to have telephone conference meetings between Reunions. And last, but not least, Gil even got into a little cement pouring!

There are many others, such as Johnny Cameron, who knows what needs to be done at Reunion time and just jumps in and does it, not to mention organizing the fun inner tube event. A lot of these tasks, like the Cameron family cleaning up and readying the Dining Hall and kitchen, or Randy and Brooklyn Braswell getting after the restrooms/showers, are not exactly the things people usually highlight on their resumes. And sometimes, unfortunately, a good deed gets punished – for example Brooklyn ran into an unfriendly wasp! She took it in stride, however, and bounced back.

Not the least, among our regular volunteers is Karen Atkinson, who manages the kitchen and meals, as well as enduring Executive Board Meetings as the Arthur line representative. And thanks need to go out to all of those that just help pick up a piece of trash every now and then that somehow didn't make it by itself to the waste can. If you are thinking "How can I help out and enjoy the Valley more?" why not plan to come on down to Jones Valley on Memorial Day weekend and get with Larry for a few hours? It will be fun and help a lot.

◆ Memorial Day Weekend – Getaway and Cleanup/Reunion Prep ◆

Here it is – the chance you've been waiting for to lend a hand in maintaining the Valley. Memorial Day weekend is May 23 - 25 (Saturday through Monday) this year. So if you would like a Reunion warm-up, this could be just the thing. Don't worry, if heavy lifting is not your thing, there are plenty of other clean-up and maintenance chores that always need tending to. Larry Braswell will be coordinating things, but I am sure there will be plenty of just the obvious to get after. You can contact Larry at (903) 671-2697 or paula3@windstream.net. A trip to the Valley and Caddo Gap area is always fun, and if



golfing is your pleasure, why not check out the Glenwood Country Club. This very well regarded golf course is open to the public, and also offers reasonable lodging.

◆ Family “Family News” ◆

How about:

- Hannah Bowman, Karl and Jennifer’s daughter, being accepted at the University of Texas –Austin. It is understood this is an honor in some parts!
- Gil Jones was re-elected in November to a 4th term as Judge of the 33rd Judicial District of Texas. Gil ran unopposed, which was the same for Judge Roy Bean.
- Travis and Danna Bowman went international, moving to Costa Rica. Let’s see how far the reach of the IRS really is!
- Ken and Susan Ellis’s daughter, Jennifer, and her husband, Jay, are expecting their first child in September.
- Carsyn Olivia Cameron was born August 11, 2008, a beautiful new addition to Nelson and Micah Cameron’s family.
- Joe and Floss Diffie’s grandson, Riley, and his wife, Sara Morris, are expecting their first child in November.
- Joe Diffie is working on a new bluegrass album that will be released this summer – maybe in time for the Reunion.

Congratulations to all – yes cousins, there is good news out there.

◆ Reunion 2009 Fun ‘n’ Games ◆

The 2nd Jones Valley International Inner Tube Olympics leads off our list of ‘Fun ‘n’ Games’ for 2009. It was great last year, should be better this year. In Johnny Cameron’s own words, “Don’t forget to bring your tube for the 2nd Jones Valley International Inner Tube Olympics! Your tube needs to fit so you can be active in it. The contest will include big splash diving, relay race, inner tube ball, tube stacking, tube throwing, and other ridiculous acts of inner tube mania. Last year we had from 6 to 60 [ages] participants – see you there!” – John Cameron.

In addition, it is fairly safe to say that there will be volleyball games for those needing something bordering on real exercise, and board games in the Dining Hall for evening challenges. And of course there will be music making whenever it happens and a campfire or two, so be sure and bring those instruments of choice.

◆ What to Bring ◆

- Bug spray – chigger control
- Lawn chairs
- Camera
- Inner tube (auto or truck)
- Water survival gear
- Those bringing children as guests should have a document authorizing emergency medical care if needed
- And finally, leave that big city suburban stress behind!

Oh, and don't worry about bringing a dog, the Valley already has one. She is friendly, obeys basic commands, doesn't bark, and comes by any name (Caddo, Lady, Dog, etc.) – what more you could ask for? Also, don't worry about the snakes, St. Patrick passed through back in February and they were all moved to Pike County.

◆ Places to Stay ◆

It is best to put in a reservation early if you are planning on staying at one of the following establishments – they book up early around the July 4th holiday. Use area code 870.

Lux	356-3151	Caddo River Ranch Cabins	334-2598
Ouachita Mtn Inn	356-3737	Riverwood Inn	356-4567
Caddo River Motel	356-3688	Veronika's Cabins	356-4864
Glenwood Country Club	800-833-3110		

◆ Side Trips ◆

If you need a little excursion other than floating on the Caddo, there are many things close by to take in, from the tradition of Buttermilk Springs to the “tourista” heaven of Hot Springs. From visiting the town square up at Mt. Ida, to trying on the Possum Queen Throne, checking out Little Missouri Falls, looking over the crystal shops or even digging for diamonds, there's never a dull moment! Plus, there's some fine golfing over in Glenwood.

◆ Fireworks ◆

Locations for fireworks are ONLY: in the field behind the Cubage House, above Uncle Claude's Cabins, and up near the Hillbilly Cabin (Bowmans are known to be hard of hearing anyway). NO fireworks: by the creek, during music, or after 11pm. This is a “you do it, you're responsible” deal – ALL litter must be picked up afterward. And above all, STAY SAFE. Last year a child sustained a minor, but hurtful experience – we don't want a repeat.

◆ Remembrance ◆

Last year Paul and Jane Bowman suffered both the loss of their son, Paul David Bowman, Jr. from a criminal act, and an automobile accident claimed the life of their granddaughter, Melody Jackson. All the Clingman-Jones family was shocked and deeply saddened by these events, where two vibrant, wonderful peoples' lives were cut tragically short, with so much of life yet to experience, share, and enjoy.

Last November, Nettie Sue White DaPra, Paul White's widow, passed away. For 64 years after Paul's early passing, Nettie Sue remained committed to the spirit of the Reunion and our ancestors' vision for Jones Valley. She faithfully attended every Reunion except one for the last 22 years and provided much support. Nettie Sue said she knew every one of the founders and that they were all exceptional people, and she had many delightful memories of the Valley.

◆ The Annual Plea ◆

The Biblical statement that “it is better to give than receive” certainly stands up in our case, for by giving we do receive. The fact is, by all of us providing donations to support the Reunion and Jones Valley, we will both fulfill our ancestors’ vision of Family unity and make it possible for our descendents to share in this very special endeavor. Otherwise, the best we could hope for is a weekend at an overpriced theme park motel – which might be fun at the moment, but just how special and lasting would it be?

The times we live in are without question full of economic uncertainty – with collapsed financial markets and unemployment affecting everyone. However, preserving family traditions and virtues will carry us through these hard times; it worked for our ancestors, and it will work for us.

For those who like receiving the Newsletter and the idea of our endeavor, but have perhaps not been able to attend a Reunion or visit Jones Valley, please raise your priority of this request to at least the level of a meal at a franchise restaurant to avoid cooking at home, or a magazine subscription to something you just flip through and throw away.

Hey cousins, sorry, this has once again gone on way too long – all donations are, as always, much appreciated.

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Yes, I can help support the Valley. Enclosed is my contribution, a check for \$ _____. (make out to Clingman-Jones Family)

Comments _____

From _____

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(Send it in today!)

All checks and change of mailing or email addresses should be sent to Mike White, our Secretary/Treasurer:

Mike White
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McLean, VA 22101
Mike.Lynn7@Verizon.net