

# Townsend Two Thousand Eight

No. 1, April, 2008

## HIGHLAND MANOR INN & CONFERENCE CENTER TO HOST 132nd CONVENTION



The 132nd convention of the National Amateur Press Association will be held at the Highland Manor Inn & Conference Center, 7766 E. Lamar Alexander Pkwy., Townsend, Tennessee, Tuesday through Thursday, July 15, 16 and 17, 2008. A July 18th post-convention picnic will be held at the home and press of Bill & Ruth Boys in Knoxville.

A card about Highland Manor is enclosed in this bundle, and their website, [www.highlandmanor.com](http://www.highlandmanor.com), provides further information.

Our convention room rate is \$79.50 per night plus 4% tax. Reservations can be made by calling 800-213-9462 toll free, or 865-448-2211. Mention that you are booking for the NAPA Convention. The deadline for getting this rate is June 15th.

### **Bring the family, no extra charge**

Another of the benefits which Highland Manor Inn is extending to NAPA is that there will be no extra charge for additional people in the room. So bring your whole family and let them enjoy a vacation with all that is available for tourists to do in this vacation area abutting on the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

### **One night's lodging free for first- and second-time attendees**

This is an offer unprecedented in our entire 132 year history. Thanks

to two donors, a \$1,000 fund has been created to boost convention attendance by making it more affordable for people that have never, or only once, come to a NAPA convention, and we hope you will take advantage of it if you qualify, so that you can meet and get to know in person some of the people whose journals you read in the bundles.

**Additional benefits may be added as well—  
coupon book enclosed**

We're hopeful that others may be motivated by this generous gesture to join the fun of making the convention easier and less expensive to attend. To that end, a "donation coupon book" is enclosed with this issue giving some suggestions about

gifts that could be made which would boost the convention. Even those who can't attend this year's convention can sponsor as much or as little as they wish, so that others can attend.

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park is just 2½ miles from the inn**

One of the attractions of Townsend is that it adjoins one of the main Tennessee entrances to the Park, and our convention inn is less than three miles from there, and even closer to the Smoky Mountains Heritage Center, which makes for a great introduction to the park, its history, and all that is available to see and do there.



The Park is the most popular in our entire national park system, with nine million visitors annually. It is over half a million acres in size, with over 800 miles of trails, including a good stretch of the Appalachian Trail, but also including many gentler “quiet walkways,” some of which are even wheelchair accessible.

In addition, one of the favorite sites in the Park is Cades Cove, the remnants of a pioneer mountain settlement, with its 11-mile one-way loop road, and scenic Appalachian Mountain vistas. One of the optional activities for our attendees will be a ranger-guided afternoon hayride through Cades Cove.

There are excellent visitor centers both near Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and just outside of the Cherokee

Indian Reservation in North Carolina. There is so much to see and do just in the Park alone – for a fuller description, check out the Park website at [www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm).

### **Townsend — “The quiet side of the Smokies”**

That’s how Townsend describes itself, as different from the commercialized tourist towns twenty-five miles to the northeast: Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and Sevierville. (Arnie Walker, the pastor of the Lutheran church in Gatlinburg, told me that he remembered chatting once with some tourists to Gatlinburg who were attracted solely by the shopping, entertainment and recreation and were surprised to learn there was a national park right at the edge of town!)

Townsend does offer a number of tourist attractions, but all on a smaller scale, so the atmosphere is indeed more laid back. Yet, like any small seasonal resort community (permanent population is less than 3,000), it offers plenty of services tailored for the tourism trade.

Highland Manor’s website has links to local activities and events.

Another useful Townsend link to local attractions and activities in the immediate Townsend vicinity is [www.smokymountains.org](http://www.smokymountains.org).

### **Places to eat abound**

NAPA conventioners like a choice of eating places, and we’ll have lots to choose from, including two that are right across Lamar Alexander Parkway from the Inn. There are twenty others within a



very short drive, or a nice stroll along Townsend's pedestrian and bicycle path. And since we are *not* meeting over the Independence Day holiday, and since summer is a busy season around the Park, *all* of the restaurants will be open during the period of our convention.

### **Special ajay-related events at this convention**

#### *A Panel Discussion on the Pros & Cons of Merging with the American Amateur Press Ass'n.*

Barry Schrader suggested the idea for such a panel, and it's an idea that has been discussed informally in one way or another in the last few years, whether or not it's an actual merger or simply greater cooperation. This will be the first time we'll hear several panelists offer their reasoned thoughts about the pros and cons.

#### *Recent Recruiting Successes in Seniors Writing Groups and eBay*

Jake Warner, Stan Oliner and I will talk about one of our perennial topics — recruiting new members. Each of us has had some positive results, so it seems like a good idea to share the news and hopefully encourage others to follow suit, thus strengthening the membership base of the organization and the hobby.

#### *Desktop Publishing Forum*

Desktop publishing (and even web publishing) has replaced letterpress printing for almost all amateur journals today, so one event

will be an illustrated forum I will lead on the different ways members use desktop publishing — the software and hardware they use, from the simple to the more complicated.

### **Special fun events**

#### *Ranger-guided afternoon hayride in Cades Cove*

As mentioned earlier, one of the recreational options this year will be a hayride through scenic Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, led by a National Park Service ranger.

#### *Wine Tasting (and other Tennessee products)*

Highland Manor Winery (no relation to our convention inn, although the names are similar) will put on a wine tasting of Tennessee wines for us, along with Tennessee cheeses and sausages.

Next issue we'll talk about the auction, the banquet, the banquet speaker, shuttle service to and from the Knoxville airport, and anything else about the convention arrangements that you'd like to know. Drop me a line with your questions or comments!

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