



# Geocachers of West Tennessee

The GOWT Newsletter is published monthly for the enjoyment of the members.

Volume I, Issue VII

October 2007

## Message From the President

At the end of September, GOWT co-hosted an Intro to Geocaching event that went very well and was a good example of how events can be used to educate folks about the joys of Geocaching.

We are also pleased to present our latest cacher of the month: PharmD93 of Martin, TN.

As always, enjoy the newsletter and remember – if there is anything you would like to see in future newsletters or if you would like to contribute a story, send an e-mail to:

[newsletter@gowt.org](mailto:newsletter@gowt.org).

Sincerely,

Hoot Owl

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## Intro to Geocaching at Big Cypress Park

This event was hosted by Titansfan and salamander60 on Saturday, September 29 and took place at 330-acre Big Cypress Tree State Park located five miles east of Greenfield, Tennessee. This event coincided with the annual Big Cypress Fall Festival and thanks to extensive promotion of the event in the area, many visitors to the Fall Festival were also interested to learn about Geocaching.



[ Sherlock121 at the GOWT booth ]

At 10 am, after an introduction by salamander60 (who serves as the President of the Friends of the Big Cypress Park) Titansfan gave a presentation on Geocaching that included some of the history behind it. The history included the early uses of Global Positioning Satellites (GPS) by the military and various types of handheld GPS receivers.

After the presentation, veteran cachers led interested muggles on a tour of local caches in the park. Several of the caches were placed just before the event and one cache had been there since 2004.



[ leavearock and PharmD93 talk caching ]

There were a number of other activities going on in the park. Cachers were able to witness a Bird of Prey presentation by Reelfoot State Park employees as well as a Civil War re-enactment.



The log for the event shows that at least 30 cachers from all over the GOWT area and beyond were there. The hosts reported that everyone at the event enjoyed themselves. More narrative and pictures can be found on the event page. [editor's note: Special thanks to Titansfan for providing an account of the event.]

## Cacher Profile of the Month: PharmD93

My name is Jason Batchelor. I am from Martin, TN. I started caching after my wife Heidi and my daughter Dinah attended a geocaching event as part of a Girl Scout weekend at Big Cypress Tree Park outside of Greenfield, TN. Titansfan and his daughters Minnie Mouse and Cachestalker94 helped them to learn how to use a hand-held gps to find a cache. They came home and told me about it, soon I was going after my first cache. It was Yellow Fever Cemetery (GCRV8K) by Titansfan. I then went and found the Big Cypress Cache (GCJKA3) at Big Cypress Tree State Park. At this point I was hooked.



[Jason and wife Heidi]

I started caching later that fall with my father-in-law effbaumann in the LBL area of Kentucky. My son Ethan, (Sherlock121) started going caching with me and his cousin Drew (Drewbdoo). They love the ammo cans with lots of loot! Later that winter, I got my sister-in-law mshields hooked on caching. She received a grant to purchase ten gps units for her middle school students in Louisville, KY. She taught geocaching to her students in the spring and summer school sessions.



[Jason (PharmD93) and son Ethan (Sherlock121)]

I have made a lot of friends and seen a lot of beautiful places since I've been caching.

I have been a member of Geocachers of West Tennessee, River Valley Geocachers, and the Kentucky Tennessee Area Geocachers.



[PharmD3 and Titansfan at RVG CITO, April 2007]

My wife caches with me occasionally and my daughter lets me go find a few when we're out. She doesn't enjoy getting dirty.



[Jason and daughter Dinah]

## October Milestones

The following milestones were reached in October:

G-T-Martin - 200 (10/10)  
Jonkusfamily—200 (10/08)  
tinksdad01 - 100 (10/11)

Congratulations to everyone who hit a milestone this month!

The following milestones were reached at the end of September:

chibongo - 2200 (9/29)  
prontopup - 1200 (9/30)  
tiger130 - 600 (9/30)  
abiectio - 600 (9/29)

## Old Liberty Hill Haunted Adventure

Since we have some extra space in this month's newsletter, we thought we'd report on a terrific event that several members of GOWT attended near Oxford, MS. On October 20, lacey38655 and SniperChicken hosted their first annual haunted campout eat-and-greet!



Guests met and talked around a bonfire, enjoyed some food, and got a guided tour of a haunted maze that had some truly scary moments!

Many people stuck around for some night caching that including a short night cache in some rough terrain and a cache in an old cemetery that was very spooky.



Chibongo brought two new cachers along (Miss Seeker and Kedron)



There are a lot more stories and pictures on the event page (GC15HEC) Thanks again to Scott and Lacey for putting on another extraordinary event!

## In Next Month's Newsletter

GOWT currently has no events planned for November, but several members in the Memphis-area will be participating in a Flash Mob event that is being hosted by bitbrain in Collierville. The GC number for this event is GC 16WDF. This event is part of a coordinated effort to get up to 5000 cachers to attend simultaneous events hosted all over the world.

This Flash Mob Gathering of Geocachers will be only 15 minutes long. You **MUST** be present and sign the log sheet **DURING** this time to claim this event. After 15 minutes...it's over! There are at least three of these events being hosted in Tennessee.

# About Geocachers of West Tennessee

Welcome to Geocachers of West Tennessee!

Our members are helping something that will benefit our great hobby, its devoted participants, and the land owners and managers we work with to make our hobby better. Our goal is to promote responsible geocaching, both by hunters and hidiers. We will work with local authorities and land owners to ensure access to as much public land as possible.

We also participated in the development of the "Geocacher's Creed," which emphasizes environmental responsibility and helps show skeptics that our hobby can be enjoyed, not only without damaging the environment, but actually benefiting it by promoting efforts like CITO.

The Executive Committee for 2007 is:

President: Hoot Owl

Secretary: cgeek

Treasurer: chibongo

The newsletter is edited by: Mackheath

If there is anything you would like to contribute to an edition of the newsletter, perhaps you would like to provide a review of an event you attended or would like to write a geocaching article, please send an e-mail to: [newsletter@gowt.org](mailto:newsletter@gowt.org)

This newsletter is published monthly when possible and will hopefully be of interest to everyone.

Also, please visit our website at [www.gowt.org](http://www.gowt.org)