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2008

News  
Letter

Happy Easter



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# Black Bear Cabin Rentals

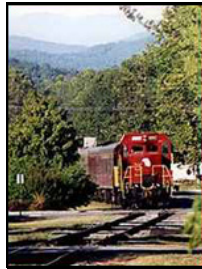
## All Aboard! Blue Ridge Scenic Railroad

As you make plans to come to the North Georgia Mountains and reserve your cabin with Black Bear Cabin Rentals, you can call Blue Ridge Scenic Railway to make a reservation for a unique experience—a relaxing ride aboard the bygone era train. The Blue Ridge Scenic Railway resumes operation for its 11th season as the 2008 schedule begins on March 1.

Train-riders can make the four hour, 26-mile round trip along the beautiful Toccoa River in a choice of a climate controlled or an open air vintage railcar.

You can even put on your engineer's cap, bib overalls, and red bandana and see the picturesque route from an entirely different perspective—the engine! Rides in the engine can be one way with coach for the return, or roundtrip.

The train ride starts at the historic depot, originally the L & N Railroad Depot, built in 1905 in downtown Blue Ridge, then stops for a Copper Basin layover. There visitors have a two hour stay, offering time aplenty for lunch, shopping for unique crafts and antiques, or the opportunity to explore the sister towns of McCaysville, GA and Copperhill, TN.



## Getaway Gift Certificate is ideal gift

Few experiences could be more treasured than a relaxing stay in the North Georgia mountains. The thoughtfulness of creating a lasting memory for an anniversary or birthday celebration is one that will always be appreciated.

Perhaps someone special in your life needs a respite from everyday cares and stresses, the opportunity to escape the hurried pace of the world and unwind with a few days of rest and relaxation. You can give your special someone(s) the perfect gift: time away in the North Georgia mountains.

Black Bear Cabin Rentals offers gift certificate purchases for the full amount of a reservation for a selected cabin, or in any amount ranging from \$50.00 to \$1500.00. Call us today for details; our toll-free number is 888-902-2246. You may also visit our website at [www.blackbearcabinrentals.com](http://www.blackbearcabinrentals.com), or email us at [blackbear@tds.net](mailto:blackbear@tds.net). We will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

A Black Bear Cabin Rentals Gift Certificate is a truly wonderful way to show someone how very much you care.

*"The air is like a butterfly with frail blue wings. The happy earth looks at the sky  
And sings."*

~ Joyce Kilmer, Spring

## DIDJA-KNOW?

*St. Patrick's Day, (Monday, March 17, 2008), was first celebrated in America in Boston, Massachusetts in 1737, and is now celebrated nationwide as an opportunity to wear green, hold parades, and consume Irish food and green libations. The celebration in Ireland is more of a religious matter, whereas in the U.S., it's a festive occasion. The wearing o' the green is a symbol of Ireland's lush green farmlands.*



## AND...DIDJA-KNOW?

*Motion sensors can be a good way to keep lights turned off when they're not needed, and dimmers can give you just the right amount of light, and timers can be set to turn things on and off when needed. And it doesn't make sense to have lights on when no one's around. Turn out lights in rooms or parts of the house where no one is. Teach your family and friends about it too and it will become second nature.*



## What's Happening?

### March Calendar of Events In the North Georgia Mountains

**1-31 – Blue Ridge Scenic Railroad** excursion train begins the 2008 season, running Friday, Saturday, Sunday (except Easter) and Monday March schedule. Call 800-934-1898 or 706-632-9833, or visit [www.brscenic.com](http://www.brscenic.com) for reservations.

**1-2, 7-9, 14-16 – Blue Ridge Community Theater** presents *Lend Me A Tenor*, Friday & Saturday, 7:30pm; Sunday matinee, 2pm; Hampton Square, 11 Mountain Street, Blue Ridge, GA, (Email at [info@blueridgecommunitytheater.com](mailto:info@blueridgecommunitytheater.com)) visit [www.blueridgecommunitytheater.com](http://www.blueridgecommunitytheater.com), or call 706-632-9223.)

**1-2, 7-9, 14-16, 21-23, 28-30 – Swan Drive-In Theater**, Summit Street, Blue Ridge; one of few drive-ins still operating, presents first run movies and snack bar on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. (706-632-5235, 888-469-1955 for movie features and schedule).

**4 – Youth Art Month Opening Reception**, Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association, BRMAA Center, 420 West Main St., downtown Blue Ridge. (706-632-2144)

**4, 11, 18, 25 – Blue Mountain Jam**, 6:30pm, Tuesday night live jamming music event at the Kiwanis Fairgrounds building, Blue Ridge, GA (Donations accepted at the door.)

**15 – Gallery 4463 Art Exhibit**, BRMAA arts center in the historic Fannin County courthouse, 420 West Main St., downtown Blue Ridge. (706-632-2144)

**17 – St. PeTricks Day Parade**, 11am pet parade with contests to follow, downtown Ellijay, GA. Call 706-273-2100 for more information.

**22 – Easter Egg-spress**, Blue Ridge Scenic Railway. Call 706-632-9833 for schedule.

**23 – Easter Sunday**

**28-29 – 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Writers Conference** with keynote speaker bestselling novelist Joshilyn Jackson at North Georgia Technical College, Blairsville, GA, sponsored by BRMAA. (706-632-2144)

**28-30 – Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**, Sunny D Children's Theater, Friday & Saturday, 7:30pm; Sunday matinee, 2pm; BRCT/Hampton Square, 11 Mountain Street, Blue Ridge, GA. (706-838-4783)

Visit our website, [www.blackbearcabinrentals.com](http://www.blackbearcabinrentals.com) and click on "Area Attractions" for more extensive information about things to do and see in the Blue Ridge and North Georgia mountain areas.

## Meringue Kisses



Meringue kisses are a favorite Easter cookie—delicious, easy to prepare and perfect for the calorie conscious because of low fat content.

### Ingredients:

- 2 Egg whites; at room temperature
- 1/4 teaspoon Cream of tartar
- Pinch Salt
- 1/2 cup Granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon Vanilla extract
- 4 oz Semisweet chocolate chips

### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375 ° F.
- Line baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Beat egg whites at medium speed until frothy.
- Add cream of tartar and salt.
- Beat in sugar, a tablespoon at a time until stiff.
- Add Vanilla extract and fold in semisweet chocolate chips.
- Drop batter by heaping teaspoon onto baking sheet.
- Place in oven and turn oven off; leave cookies in oven 5 hours.

Yield: 12 Servings

*Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"*

*~ Robin Williams*

*"March! March! March! They are coming in troops to the tune of the wind.  
 Redheaded woodpeckers drumming, gold-crested thrushes behind;  
 Sparrows in brown jackets, hopping past every gateway and door;  
 Finches, with crimson caps, stopping just where they stopped before.  
 March! March! March! They are slipping into their places at last. . .  
 Literature white lily buds, dripping under the showers that fall fast;  
 Buttercups, violets, roses; snowdrop and bluebell and pink,  
 Throng upon throng of sweet posies, bending the dewdrops to drink.  
 March! March! March! They will hurry forth at the wild bugle sound,  
 Blossoms and birds in a flurry, fluttering all over the ground.  
 Shake out your flags, birch and willow! Shake out your red tassels, larch!  
 Grass blades, up from your earth-pillow. Hear who is calling you. . . March."*

*~ Lucy Larcom, March*

## The Spotlight Shines on... Black Bear's Featured Cabins



### Appalachian View

Guests have described **Appalachian View** as "absolutely gorgeous," and it's easy to see why.

This roomy, upscale cabin has three baths and three bedrooms--two of them master suites. In addition, there's a fully equipped kitchen, a loft sitting area, and spectacular views of the Appalachian Mountains from the huge porches.

The second floor master suite features a Jacuzzi tub and separate shower, while the private master suite in the finished basement also includes its own adjacent sitting area and TV.

Other especially inviting areas at Appalachian View include the cozy fireplace on the first floor, the hot tub on the lower porch, wicker rockers on the open first floor porch, and the coffee porch off the second floor.

For fun, the amenities include a foosball table, board games and puzzles, multiple satellite TVs, VCR, DVD and CD players, plus wireless DSL internet access.

You can bring your best friend with you when your stay is at Appalachian View, because this cabin is canine-friendly!



### Creek Talk

"Peaceful and serene" and "heaven on earth" are among the words guests have used to describe **Creek Talk**. With three bedrooms and two baths, the cabin sleeps six and offers plenty of space for a family getaway or a gathering of friends. A furry friend is welcome, too!

Creek Talk features both a screened and an open porch where guests can while away their cares to the soothing sounds of the babbling creek, plus there's the opportunity to relax in the hot tub on the open deck, or unwind in front of the woodburning fire.

The cabin boasts a fully equipped kitchen with a breakfast bar and stools, and creekside dining is also an option, cooked on the grill on the deck at the creek.

For entertainment at Creek Talk, guests may fish in the stream or play along the creek banks, watch multiple

satellite TVs, play VCR movies, listen to music on the stereo/CD player. Dial-up internet access is available at this spacious cabin.



## Daylight Saving 2008 begins March 9

On Sunday, March 9—the second Sunday in March, at 2 a.m., Daylight Saving Time begins in the US. DST is four weeks longer due to the passage of the Energy Policy Act in 2005 which extends it by four weeks from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November.

Every spring we move our clocks one hour ahead and "lose" an hour of night, and each fall we turn clocks back one hour and "gain" an extra hour. The phrase "spring forward, fall back" helps us remember how DST affects our clocks. We set our clocks one hour ahead at 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March, and move the time back by one hour at the same time on the first Sunday in November.



The change to DST allows us to use less energy—some 10,000 barrels of oil less each day--for lighting our homes and businesses by taking full advantage of the longer and later daylight hours.

*"The sun was warm but the wind was chill.  
You know how it is with an April day  
When the sun is out and the wind is still,  
You're one month on in the middle of May.  
But if you so much as dare to speak,  
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,  
A wind comes off a frozen peak,  
And you're two months back in the middle of  
March."  
~ Robert Frost  
Two Tramps in Mud Time*

## Bring your buddy to North Georgia

Black Bear Cabin Rentals is proud to offer pet friendly cabins for our guests. Reserve one of our pet friendly cabins today, and bring your best friend with you to the North Georgia mountains!

You don't have to board or find someone to watch your furry buddy while you are away! BBCR staffers are animal lovers and look forward to meeting yours!

You may reserve your cabin online, email us at [blackbear@tds.net](mailto:blackbear@tds.net) or call us toll-free at 1-888-902-2246.



*"Springtime is the land awakening.  
The March winds are the morning yawn."  
~Lewis Grizzard, Kathy Sue Loudermilk, I Love You*

# Tuatha De Danaan

(Irish)

Stew

## Ingredients



- 1/4 lb butter
- 1 lb beef chuck steak, cut into 1/2 in. cubes
- 1 lg sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1 cup beef stock
- 1 pint stout beer
- 4 medium potatoes, peeled
- 2 large carrots, chopped
- 1/4 teas each of salt, pepper, thyme, sage, parsley, bay leaf

## Instructions

Heat butter in skillet; brown the beef in batches and set beef aside.

Cook onion for about 3 minutes to just softened, return meat to pan; add spices, salt, pepper, stock and stout and bring the mixture to a boil.

Cook stew uncovered in preheated 350 degree oven for about 1 hour.

Add potatoes and bake for approximately 45 minutes until tender.

Thicken sauce with butter and flour; add salt and pepper to taste.

Garnish with parsley.



BRCT's *Lend Me A Tenor* will, through March 16, continue to thoroughly entertain audiences, as one side-splitting adventure after another unfolds for this outrageous cast of characters (L-R) standing: Daniel Parrish, Denver Clark, Norma Bean, Wayne Roshaven, Beth Inman, Mike Lacy; and seated: Sophia Swain, Micah Stuart.

Coming soon, Black Bear Cabin Rentals will secure tickets, upon guest request, for our outstanding BRCT performances!

## BRCT's *Lend Me a Tenor* earns big audience approval

by Clair Dakota Underhill

Blue Ridge Community Theater earned a resounding, wildly enthusiastic standing ovation on opening night of the production of *Lend Me a Tenor*. And the audience's obvious appreciation of the local troupe's first play of the 2008 season on Feb. 22 was highly deserved.

Written by Ken Ludwig and directed by Sonia Smith, *Lend Me a Tenor* was thoroughly entertaining, and was, without a doubt, "Off, Off Broadway in Blue Ridge." The set was gorgeous and perfectly suited to the production, and the show's elaborate misunderstandings, innuendo, overblown stage Italian accents, doubletakes and pratfalls continually brought down the house.

Here's the plot: It's 1934 in a hotel suite in Cleveland, Ohio. Tito Merelli, the world's greatest tenor, comes from Italy to sing the lead in Verdi's *Otello*, as a gala fundraising production of the Cleveland Opera Company. The star's long-suffering wife leaves him a "Dear John" letter after mistaking an autograph-seeker hidden in the hotel room closet for her husband's secret lover.

A double dose of tranquilizers is accidentally given to the distraught Merelli, who is then assumed to be dead. It's the eve of the performance and the opera company manager, determined that the show go on (and save him from financial ruin), enlists his assistant to impersonate the renowned tenor.

The impersonator does quite well until Merelli wakes up and heads for the stage. One after another, the cast is darting in and out of doors, hiding in bathrooms and closets, and disappearing with split-second timing into the hall or next room,

The theater rocked with laughter as the two identically costumed Otellos in blackface and fright wig raced around the hotel suite and the city of Cleveland—being mistaken for each other.

The cast's consummately choreographed bows, complete with an "instant replay" of the entire plot in about a single minute of frantic activity, crowned the performance, earning a hand-blistering, standing ovation.

Performances continue through March 16 in the Hampton Square theater in downtown Blue Ridge.