

Walasi-Yi Center – (pronounced Wa La See Yee), a Cherokee word for Frog Town, is a historical stone structure built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This building was started in 1934 and completed in 1937, the same year as the completion of the Appalachian Trail. The trail itself passes through the Walasi-Yi Center marking the only covered portion of the Appalachian Trail's 2100 plus miles. The Walasi-Yi Center is located in the Blood Mountain Archaeological area, site of Cherokee and Creek Indian Battle before the arrival of the white man. For your convenience, there is a Visitor Information Center and outdoor outfitter located in the building.

Appalachian Trail – a wilderness footpath that winds over 2,100 miles along the crest of the Appalachian mountains runs through fourteen states. The Appalachian Trail in Georgia extends some 80 miles through the most rugged areas of the Chattahoochee National Forest. Although rising at times to elevations of over 4,400 feet, the trail is mostly along ridges at elevations around 3,000 feet. The trail offers unlimited hiking adventures of exceptional challenge and variety. Ascents and descents are sometimes steep but are often rewarded by scenic vistas from rocky outcrops and open summits. The trail may be accessed at several points within the county which makes it attractive for day hikers as well as those hiking from Maine to Georgia.

Misty Mountain Model Railroad – America's largest 0-gauge train display is a 3,400 square foot layout with 14 0-gauge Lionel trains traveling on a mile of track over 12 bridges and 4 trestles and through 15 tunnels. Open Saturdays February-April and May through November Wed, Fri, and Sat. This model railroad is sure to delight both young and young at heart.



Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games

The Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games spotlight the heritage of the area. Many long-time residents can trace their roots back to the British Isles, especially the Scottish Highlands. The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce hosts the Scottish Festival and Highland Games during the second week in June. Held at Meeks Park, along scenic Butternut Creek, this event draws people from as far away as Canada.

This three day event kicks off with the annual Ceilidh Dinner featuring foods from Scotland, including the famous Scottish delicacy, Haggis, heralded in by piper, poetic address and toast. There is also a Kilted Golf Classic, kilts optional.

Opening Ceremonies highlight the Massed Bands and Parade of Tartans, consisting of several bagpipe bands parading across the athletic field. Athletes compete in a variety of events including Sheaf Toss, Manhood Stones, Turning the Caber, Hammer Throw and The Clachheart Stone of Strength. Other activities include Border Collie and Falconry demonstrations, the Kilted Mile run and a children's activity tent. Be sure to attend the Bonniest (Best) and Boneiest knees contest, visit the clan tents, check into your roots at the Heritage tent, visit the souvenir shops, and enjoy food with a Scottish flair. Music and dancing demonstrations followed by a concert by the Canadian Celtic group, Hunting McLeod will have you dancing the Highland Fling.

Clann Nan Con, a re-enactor group will give you the opportunity to see how the early Scottish settlers of Georgia looked with their historically accurate traditional clothing and weapons.

On Sunday there is a Worship Service conducted in English and Gaelic and features the Kirkin' o' the Tartans, a Celtic processional.

Native American Names

Appalachian - In Creek, Apalachee means "people on the other side" or "highland farmer"

Arkaquah - Cherokee for crooked creek, pertaining to the long winding creek that flows through Union County. It is also the name of an Indian, and can be spelled Akaguah or Arkaqua.

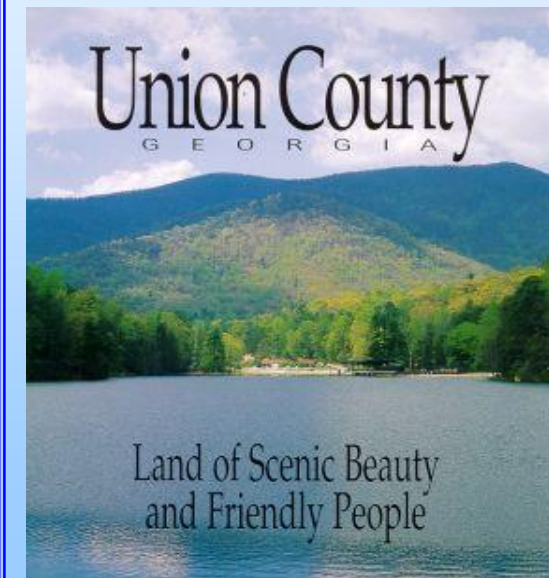
Brasstown Bald - Georgia's highest mountain (4,784 feet) is named for a Cherokee town on the Hiwassee River in Towns County. The actual Cherokee name for the town was "It-se-yi" or "New Green Place" or green valley, but the white settlers confused this with "unt-sa-yi" or "place of brass". The whites applied this name to the mountain.

Choestoe - It is probably from the Cherokee word "Tsistu-yi" meaning "land of the dancing rabbits" or "the rabbit place". This is the name of the southernmost district in present day Union County. Until 1845, it had been part of Lumpkin County.

Coosa - Cherokee word for creek meaning "cane break".

The word Walasi-Yi is Cherokee and stands for "place of the frogs" In Cherokee lore the story speaks of a medicine man who had been captured by a group of Creeks and was being lead through the Gap. When they arrived, a monstrous-sized frog appeared on the Mountain. It frightened the Creek warriors so badly that they ran out of the Gap and retreated home leaving the medicine man behind laughing at the scene that unfolded in front of him.

A Guide To



BLAIRSVILLE-UNION COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

385 Welcome Center Lane
P O Box 789
Blairsville, GA 30514
706-745-5789
877-745-5789

www.VisitBlairvilleGA.com
info@blairvillechamber.com

Union County **Georgia's Best Kept Secret**

Union County - known for Blue Ridge Mountain beauty and its world-famous sorghum syrup. It is one of the three northeast Georgia counties situated completely within the Chattahoochee National Forest. Of the 204,736 acres of land in Union county, 97,843 is Chattahoochee National Forest. Union County, located 112 miles north of Atlanta, is easily accessed by well-developed highways and an airport. The area provides plenty of recreation and entertaining events for all ages and interests: festivals, concerts, parades, and civic organizations.



Old Historic Courthouse – located on the square in downtown Blairsville is a Romanesque style brick and granite structure built in 1899. Unique in its Appalachian Georgia setting, the Old Courthouse was recently restored, adding a new bell tower and clock that chimes each day, replicating the look and charm of the original building. The courthouse now serves as a local history museum and cultural center. On Friday nights during summer and fall the beautifully restored courtroom on the second floor serves as a concert hall, filled with the sounds of local bluegrass, country and gospel music.

Blue Star Memorial By-Way – first conceived in 1946 to honor veterans of World War II. The name was taken from the Blue Star in the Service Flag. The bronze marker, dedicated June 6, 1999 is located at Heritage Walk on the grounds of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.



Brasstown Bald – delights with a 360 degree vista of four states atop Georgia's highest elevation of 4,784 feet. The Museum offers a film about the Bald and the area. Hiking trails and picnicking areas are available. The observation tower at the summit has panoramic daytime views and nighttime vistas that delight astronomers. The Visitor Center is open May through October, parking year-round, weather permitting.

Butternut Creek Golf Course is part of the Union County Recreation Department. Operated by the County, the golf course includes a clubhouse, Pro Shop, large picnic pavilion and 18 challenging holes. This mountainous course has been renovated from 9 holes to 18 holes with a putting green/practice area.

Meeks Park, a recreation complex, includes picnic areas, children's playgrounds, baseball/softball fields, a soccer field, tennis courts and pool. A paved scenic walking trail bordering Butternut Creek complete the complex. Meeks Park is home to the Butternut Creek Festival, Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Fourth of July fireworks, and many other community activities.

Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center – a branch of the University of Georgia established in 1930 to provide a program in agricultural research and demonstrations of fruits, vegetables, field and forage crops as well as ornamentals and beef-cattle winter feeding trials. Monthly Adult Outreach Seminars on a variety of topics are available to the public. Tours are available by prior arrangement.



Helton Creek Falls – just beyond the entrance to Vogel State Park is a beautiful double falls set in deep hardwood forest. The total vertical drop of the falls is more than 100 feet. A 300 yard trail leads to the falls. Tucked away on a forest service road, Helton Creek Falls is sure to delight everyone who visits.

Lake Nottely – situated near the town of Blairsville is a 4,180 acre lake with 106 miles of shoreline. Originally built by the Tennessee Valley Authority, for the purpose of flood control and power generation, Lake Nottely serves numerous purposes. Recreation areas provide opportunities for boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking, and camping. For your convenience, there are two marinas and several public boat ramps along the lake.

Poteete Creek Park & Campground – a 95 acre facility located on the shores of Lake Nottely. Beautiful Hardwood trees, fishing, swimming hiking and picnicking make this 59 site campground located 13 miles north of Blairsville a cool haven in the summer. Operated by the Union County Recreation Department, the campground is open to the public from April 1 thru October 15th.

Trackrock Archeological Area – a 2 acre area with preserved petroglyphs of ancient Native origin. Carvings resemble animal and bird tracks, crosses, circles and human footprints. It consists of six table-sized soapstone boulders, containing hundreds of symbols, carved or pecked into the surfaces. Cherokee Indians have several explanations for the markings, including markings left by hunters, or Native American belief systems. Cherokees called it "Datsu-nalas-gun-yi" meaning "where there are tracks".

Suches and Lake Winfield Scott, - west off US 129, where GA 180 meets GA 60, the town "Above the Clouds" is home to Woody Gap School, Georgia's smallest school with a total enrollment of 115 students in 2006 for its grades K-12. Suches also hosts the Indian Summer Festival the first weekend in October. Nearby **Lake Winfield Scott** is part of the Chattahoochee National Forest. Here you will find the quiet 18 acre lake nestled in the mountains between Suches and Blairsville. The lake features a roped-off swimming area fronted by about a hundred yards of sandy beach. The swimming area has a free-standing pier about a hundred feet out. Kids love to swim out and look at the large fish that congregate under the pier to escape the heat of the sun and the fishermen's wiles. Fishing is popular, with an annual Youth Fishing Rodeo. If all the fish are hiding under the pier, stretch your legs by taking the Elizabeth Dee Lawson Morris trail: an easy 1.8 mile walk along the shore. About 30 camping spots stretch back through the woods and a pavilion is available near the lake for families and friends to meet and eat.



Vogel State Park - one of Georgia's oldest and most popular state parks. Vogel offers tent and trailer sites, rental cottages, a 20-acre lake, miniature golf, swimming beach, picnic shelters, pedal boats and 17 miles of hiking trails for the outdoor enthusiast. Annual special events include the Wildflower Program in April, the Mountain Music Festival in September and the Tree Lighting Ceremony in December.