

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Living Heritage Museum's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wiffle Ball Tournament breaks records**

ATHENS, Tenn. (August 5, 2010)—Despite scorching weekend temperatures, the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wiffle Ball Tournament drew record crowds of participants and spectators alike.

In conjunction with the City of Athens Department of Parks and Recreation, the Museum welcomed eighteen teams to the Athens Regional Park at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 31. Players took to the narrow, V-shaped fields with yellow regulation bats in hand. Similar to baseball, waffle ball players hit a perforated ball tossed by a pitcher, but do not run bases.

The tournament concluded on Saturday evening after a record-breaking 12 hours of play when team New Timers defeated former champions The Old Timers. The New Timers, made up of Dylan Coleman, J.D. Cowart, Corey King, and Mark Rayburn scored 17 runs to the Old Timer's seven in the final elimination round. The New Timers' team name will be engraved on the tournament's Mullany Cup, named after Wiffle Ball creator David N. Mullany. Additionally, each team member received an individual medal.

Mike Frank, Casey Mason, and Heath Mason of the Old Timers, who won the tournament in 2007, 2008, and 2009, were awarded second place. The KeKumbas, made up of Adam Powers, Jonathan Reed, Andrew Smith, Ethan Starr, and Trevor Wade secured third place.

"Wiffle Ball is fun, because anybody can play it," said New Timer's team captain Mark Rayburn, a rising sophomore at Columbia State Community College in Maury County. "Having players of all different ages was great. This experience was mostly about having fun. We didn't take it too seriously."

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Golden Wiffle balls were presented to Tyler Carpenter, Logan Fowler, Roman Lockmiller, and Jeremiah Simms of team Wiffle Heads, who were deemed “Best Dressed Team,” and to Scott Moses, Matt Pippin, and Brackton Smith of team Two White Guys and a Mexican, who earned “Best Team Name.”

“The annual Wiffle Ball tournament is a wonderful way to bring the community together for a fun, family-friendly experience, which is something the Museum strives for every day,” said Diane Hutsell, Living Heritage Museum executive director. “This is just one of the many unique and exciting programs we offer for people of all ages.”

Founded in 1982, the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum is a private, nonprofit organization housing more than 7,000 artifacts in 30 permanent exhibits that represent the culture and history of Southeast Tennessee from the 1700s to 1940s. The Museum also offers several changing exhibits as well as numerous special events and programs throughout the year and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.livingheritagemuseum.com](http://www.livingheritagemuseum.com).

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