

On the Trail Again to Rogersville, Alabama Aug 2006 - Mar 2010

It's quite difficult to write an objective "On the Trail Again" article about [Rogersville, Alabama](#) because I know and love many of the people there! Shortly before and after I retired/quit working, I lived on Wheeler Lake/Tennessee River which is near Rogersville.



When I started promoting the website [Wheelerlake.info](#), I did not know one person in Rogersville. I was asking perfect strangers to buy advertisement on a website that had no traffic! Amazingly enough, Rogersville merchants had faith in me and my product enough to advertise and NOW, five years later, when one looks up Wheeler Lake, there is so much internet traffic to our site that Wheelerlake.info comes up first on most search engines!

All that is to say, that Rogersville has some of the most caring, genuine, and hardworking people I have ever met.

But possibly more important to you, Rogersville has interesting gift shops as well as **antique shops**.

You may wish to plan your trip on the **First Saturday** of the month for their special events or during the annual **Blue Grass Festival, July 16 - 18, 2010**. (My mom loves the Blue Grass Festival; she says that it is truly like the original Blue Grass that she listened to as a child. She also liked the fried apple pies.) Information on these events may be found at RogersvilleAlabama.com. You also may wish to plan your visit to Rogersville when the library hosts people like local TVA Diver Chris Hutt who will shares his experience in the dark underworld of the Tennessee River. Find the schedule of events at WheelerLake.info Calendar of Events.



I recommend that you hit the trail with Rogersville as a destination for at least one day and night and maybe two.

The first place that I usually stop is [Café Savannah](#) for some of Barbara's homemade bread and chicken salad. Of course, I can't leave without one of her homemade desserts of the day. My favorite is the bread pudding. By the way, Barbara's husband is **the** most devoted University of Alabama fan; he legally changed his name to Bama! That's Barbara in the middle. Her chicken salad is listed in the top 100 dishes to eat in Alabama before you die!



The next stop I make is in the Lemon Tree below which has lots of gifts and some antiques. The store itself is a wonderful historical building that can't be missed!



Next I usually go to Elk River Home & Trading Company (wonderful rustic, lake furniture, accessories, and custom lake signs), Sugar Creek Soap and Candles (the candles are made in the back of the shop – a great authentic “made in Alabama” gift), Village Interiors (a class act – perfect gift for anyone – Susan Patterson is the owner and buyer.), and then spend the rest of my time in [Rogersville Antique Mall](#). Rogersville Antique Mall has been in business 17 years; Peggy knows the antique business! (I found one of my favorite blue juicers there! I had to share it with you – see picture below.)



I suggest that you go to [Joe Wheeler State Park](#) and have dinner overlooking the lake in the [Lodge Restaurant](#). Often in the winter, there will be a huge fire to greet you as you enter the Lodge. Take a walk before dark or rent a boat. You may see Eagles near Joe Wheeler State Park; you will most likely see deer in the park! There is a solid white deer there! If you sail, you may ask when the Wheeler Lake Yacht Club is having a race; it's exciting to watch or participate! Of course, there's the great fishing – I have a bass on my wall from the lake – no I didn't catch it! I have hooked big ones, but they got away! There are many fishing tournaments on the lake; see [Wheelerlake.info](#) for a calendar of events. Boaters who travel the Great Loop stay here during the Hurricane season. Great place to overnight! There's also a golf course and camping.



If you choose to spend the night in or near Rogersville, one of my favorite options is a **Joe Wheeler Cottage**. They are really small rustic houses that were built within the last two years and are priced like hotel rooms. Specifically request the “new” cottages near the lodge. We observed them being built and dreamed that one of them was ours. They have wonderful views of the lake, small docks, and fireplaces! (We usually stay in our small sail boat that is in the picture above.)

My other recommendation is [Longing for Home Bed & Breakfast](#) which is a charming period home. The owners will pamper you and serve you a wonderful southern breakfast. [Twin Rivers Landscaping](#) provided



the excellent landscaping at the B&B.

After breakfast, I suggest you drive west about 8 miles - 10 minutes toward Florence and stop in Elgin (Rogersville address) and spend the morning at the [Elgin Glass Shed Antiques](#).



If you return home via Highway 72, there are shops on your way in either direction you choose that will keep you busy the rest of the day! Check out the [NorthAlabamaAntiqueTrail.com](#) map for details.

Happy Trails...

Marcia