



Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

April 2016

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement, P.O. Box 397, Richlands, VA
24641

www.supportappalachia.org Email: info@supportappalachia.org

Appalachia Streaming

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The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement recently took steps to begin the long process of bringing a long planned project, Appalachia Streaming, to fruition.

Appalachia Streaming is a planned project that will use video and digital media in the effort to promote the best of the Appalachian region, to promote our culture, history, tourism and economic development. Our goal is to develop this platform at www.appalachiastreaming.com to be the *go-to* site to find out where to vacation in the region, where there is economic opportunity for small business development or business relocation, where to find the best festivals, learn about the history of the region, and discover the rich culture we have to offer. There are literally countless uses for such a broad and user friendly service to the communities of Appalachia and beyond.

We are currently in the developmental stage of this program. The website is currently active, but under development. We are seeking feedback from you. If you'd like to share some thoughts and suggestions as to what you'd like to see on this website you can email us at info@supportappalachia.org. It will help us in the coming weeks and months as we implement a more permanent design and information.

*The best way to predict
the future is to create it.*

Website Changes-www.supportappalachia.org

We recently made the decision to integrate website www.ourappalachia.org into the Artist's Corner on www.supportappalachia.org. Those updates and changes will begin soon, as we are committed to promoting and highlighting artists of all kinds all across Appalachia. The decision was made in order to avoid confusion as to which site would represent artists in the region. Both were intended to, so sticking with our main page should help to avoid any confusion going forward. It was increasingly more convenient for those that support us to only visit one website.

Hillbilly Days—Pikeville, KY

Hillbilly Days, one of the largest festivals in Central Appalachia, will take place in Pikeville, KY on April 21st-23rd. Hillbilly Days hosts over 100,000 each year during the three days of celebration and each year the crowd seems to get a little bit larger. In fact, it hosts visitors for all over the United States and Canada.

**Visit Us Online
at**

www.supportappalachia.org.

**Will you make
an online
donation today?**

Hillbilly Days was started in 1977 by a group of Shriners trying to raise money for the Shriners Hospital. The festival is still used for this purpose today and raises thousands of dollars each year for the children's hospital.

If you are new to the festival and in the region it is definitely an experience worth checking out. Vendors line the streets, there is a carnival for kids to enjoy, live music at various locations and it also showcases arts and crafts as well as a large parade. Along with the festivities you will also find the relics and path of the Hatfield-McCoy Feud. The festival is three days of family fun that you're sure to enjoy.

The Appalachian Trail

Is your adventure waiting for you?

As the weather changes for the better many across our region will flock to the numerous parks, lakes and trails that are found throughout all of Appalachia. After all, our natural beauty is one of our biggest assets. As you head to the great outdoors for some fun and exercise, don't forget about the adventures that can be found along the infamous Appalachian Trail.

Whether you are looking for a long hike lasting days or weeks, or just looking for short and easy hikes to do with family, friends, or your church group, you can find all of those on the Appalachian Trail. From the very difficult hike, to something short and easy you can find it all on the trail along with some of the friendliest folks around. For more information on hiking the A.T. close to your area visit The Appalachian Trail Conservancy online at www.appalachiantrail.org.



Pikeville, KY

Artist of the Month—Fred Powers, the Coal Miner Storyteller

There isn't much that storyteller Fred Powers hasn't done during his years here on Earth. He's a former school teacher, a budding author, a former coach for the Special Olympics, girls softball and basketball, grant writer, and field trip coordinator for several schools. This McDowell County, WV native has traveled an interesting road here in Appalachia and now spends his time telling the story of the Appalachian coal miner.

Powers has won awards from the Appalachian Writer's Guild for his short stories Coal Camp Football and Buried Alive. He also placed second with the West Virginia Writers for his story Strike as well as several honorable mentions.

Fred is currently working with Concord University on a grant to finalize his first two writing projects: "Powerhouse: A Coal Miner's Story" (a memoir of growing up in a coal camp and stories of working underground for over 20 years) and "Powerhouse Meets the Tommy Knockers" (a science fiction graphic novel set in McDowell County). He is hoping to have these projects completed in 2016.

Powers puts on storytelling events at many regional festivals throughout Central Appalachia and beyond. You will even find him at small town festivals in Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky in the coming weeks and months.

You can follow Fred Powers' work and schedule at www.powerhousepowers.com.

I am a retired miner and middle school teacher who continues to teach about our Appalachian culture to dispel negative myths about our proud people.

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The Spirit of Giving

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

Thanks to those that have supported us this year with donations and through word of mouth. There are many great charities out there to support and like most of us, we tend to support things that have a special meaning to us or charities that are close to home. We Appalachians are a hard working people and a very generous people. Friends helping friends. Neighbors helping neighbors.

Many of us will choose to support cancer research, children's hospitals, or local animal shelters. As you consider your donations this time of year, we ask that you consider a small donation to the Foundation For Appalachian Advancement. Whether it is for the Appalachian Scholarship Fund, promoting economic diversification, or promoting our arts and culture, we care about

every donor and every penny given in good spirit. We strive to be good stewards of your generosity and use the donations as efficiently as possible. Those of us that are involved are all volunteers. No Director or Officer is salaried. That gives us the flexibility to make sure that your donations are spent wisely and effectively to support the programs that you believe in.

We appreciate your support and ask that you consider our mission statement and our goals throughout Appalachia to help those in need and promote our culture to the best of our ability.

Thank you.

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Advancement**

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