

Festivals and Fun Around Appalachia *Groovin' in the Grove*

Summertime in these hills we call home can be filled with fun times and incredible adventure. One staple you will find all across our region is a flurry of festivals scheduled throughout the summer and fall that draw people from all around, including from outside of Appalachia.

Groovin' in the Grove is a great annual festival hosted by one of the most high energy Appalachian rock/jam bands that the region has to offer, Fletcher's Grove. This West Virginia band has toured throughout Appalachia at a tireless pace, playing over a hundred shows and festivals per year. You may have seen this band at any number of venues including the West Virginia State Fair.

This year they host the annual Groovin' in the Grove Festival at **King Knob Motorsports Park in Philippi, WV** from June 29th - July 1st.



This year's lineup features 24 bands including the Rumpke Mountain Boys, Dillon & The Dead Set, Culture Thief and Moonshine Crossing. The venue offers family fun that also includes hiking and ATV trails, a dirt bike park, ponds, and terrain to satisfy any off roader. For ticket information go to:

<http://www.groovinwiththegrove.com/>

Virginia Highlands Festival

The annual Virginia Highlands Festival in Abingdon, Virginia runs from July 28th – August 6th. This festival is a celebration of regional arts and crafts, history, and culture. Vendors of all kinds line the streets for this family friendly event that includes plenty of events to keep your kids entertained for hours!

Several live musical acts will be performing in the Abingdon Market Pavilion including Carson Peters & Iron Mountain, Virginia Ground, Phantom, as well as Music From the Crooked Road.

On July 20th and 30th there will be the Abingdon Civil War Weekend held at the Muster Grounds. This event is free and is a must see!



You will also find the very popular Abingdon Spirits Tour where Haint Mistress Donnamarie Emmert shows you the area's haunted locations and shares local history and ghost stories.

Along with the festivities in town, there are numerous events for the adventurer looking for a hike or to ride the along the Virginia Creeper Trail as well as a workshop to teach kids about our local wildlife and ecology.

Although the festival is free, some events do require a ticket. For more information you can visit the festival website at: www.vahighlandsfestival.org.

Is there a local festival you would like to share with us? info@supportappalachia.org

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement to Sponsor Meet the Artist Events

FAA board of directors approved a program to promote artists throughout the region called Meet the Artist. The goal is to hold regular events throughout the year that will feature our local artists to introduce their art and work to a wider audience. Our hope is that it will be a venue that will allow the artists to engage the public and provide Q&A sessions about their work. If you would like to be a part of this effort (or want to recommend an artist to us) please contact us at info@supportappalachia.org.

We will be reaching out to our previous artists of the month as well as others to help spread their work throughout Central Appalachia and beyond.



This program will be headed up by directors/officers James Hibbits of Wise County, VA and J.C. Schweingrouber of Tazewell County, VA.

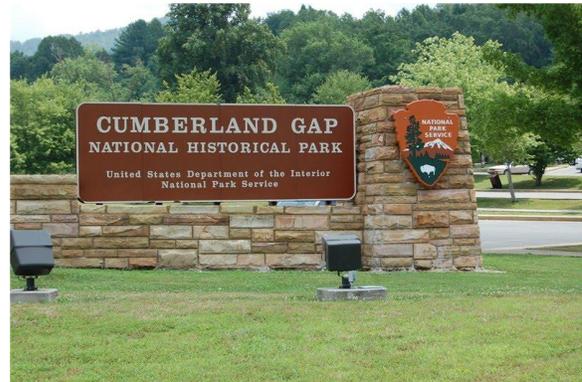
Future events will be publicized on our website and on our Facebook page.

www.supportappalachia.org

<https://www.facebook.com/supportappalachia/>

Vacation Destinations in Appalachia

One of the more popular destinations for long weekends and short vacations in Appalachia is the Cumberland Gap in Eastern Kentucky.



Near the borders of Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee, this historic location offers plenty of adventure as only one of many locations across Appalachia that is perfect for a mountain vacation.

Hiking, camping, fishing, ATV trails and all the history of the place begins at the visitor center with a short movie about Daniel Boone and the great American expansion westward.

For more information on this location and the many other great sites across our region visit www.visitappalachia.com and find an adventure for you and your family today!



*Angel's Rest-Appalachian Trail

ARTIST'S CORNER

Since we began the Foundation For Appalachian Advancement, we have taken great pride in promoting Appalachian artists of all kinds. From novelists and poets, to storytellers, painters and actors.

In this edition of our newsletter we'd like to update you on some of the new work by artists we've highlighted in the past.

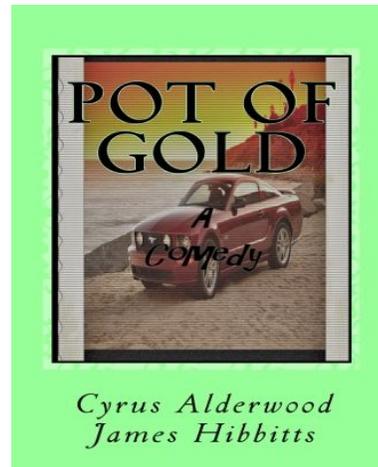
Jo Allison (Linda Dobkins) has published the fourth book in her Julia Nye Mystery Series, set in 1911 St. Louis. In *Bread and Roses*, Julia Nye tries to balance her



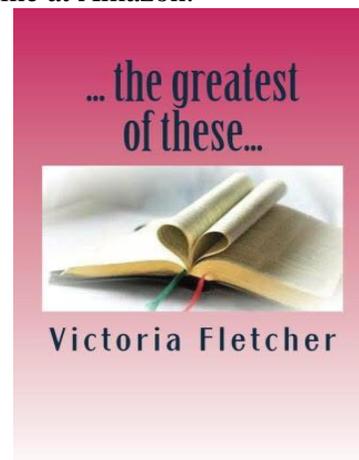
marriage and her career in the face of a new Chief of Detectives who is looking for an excuse to fire the only woman in the police department—and the only one who is likely to solve the murder of her friend, a women's union activist. A fuller description of the book, along with the three other books in the series, is available on the Old Underwood Publishing Company website, oldunderwoodpublish.com.

Cyrus Alderwood, who previously teamed up with author James Hibbitts to publish the comedy *Pot of Gold*, has a new book coming out in a few weeks. *Tales From the*

Sunset Pub is a multi-genre collection of short stories that revolves around a group of friends and their sometimes hilarious adventures. It will be available on Amazon, along with his other works.



Victoria Fletcher, president of the Appalachian Authors Guild and author of Christian literature, has been very busy the past few months. She has three new works out. *Behind the Veil: Women of the Bible*, *Teacher! Teacher!* and *...the greatest of these...* are all available through her website and online at Amazon.



Make sure to visit our Facebook page often for more updates about other regional artists. We appreciate the hard work and effort they put into their art and being a powerful voice for our culture and region.