



## Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

MAY 2015

*"I think, being from east Tennessee, you're kinda born with a little lonesome in your soul, in your blood. You know you've got that Appalachian soul."- Ashley Monroe, country music singer, songwriter*

### *In this issue*

1. *Latest News*
2. *Virginia Coal Heritage Trail*
3. *Artist of the Month*

## Latest News

### Will your business sponsor the Appalachian Scholarship Fund?

We are seeking about 50 or so businesses in Southwest Virginia and in Eastern Kentucky to sponsor the 2016 Appalachian calendar which will be sold to raise money to provide scholarships for graduating seniors next Spring. We are capping the maximum donation at \$250 and the minimum at \$100. For sponsoring we would like to include your business name and logo in the calendar to thank you for your support of local students. We hope to have enough sponsors to begin developing the calendars in early July to make them available at Fall festivals across the region.

If you are an individual that would like to donate to the Scholarship Fund, you can mail your check to Foundation For Appalachian Advancement, P.O. Box 397, Richlands, VA 24641. We are hoping to provide 15-20 scholarships. Donations are tax deductible. We appreciate your support, and I'm sure the students that receive the scholarships will as well!

**Appalachian Scholarship Fund Committee:** The Appalachian Scholarship Fund will be available for graduating high school seniors within the area of operation of the FAA. Scholarship awards will be decided by committee based on criteria set by the committee and based on available funds. We are seeking volunteers to form a selection committee to help determine scholarship awards. If you are interested in helping us out and helping with the fundraising for this project please contact us at [info@supportappalachia.org](mailto:info@supportappalachia.org) or the program administrator, Melinda Elswick, at [melinda.elswick@supportappalachia.org](mailto:melinda.elswick@supportappalachia.org).

### **S.O.A.R.(Shaping Our Appalachian Region) Summit, 2015—Pikeville, KY**

Two of our Directors (Dr. Gary Stratton and Dr. Ernie Benko) made the trip to this years' meeting in Pikeville (May 11) to be a part of the breakout group sessions to discuss the long term future and development of Eastern Kentucky and to archive the event with video footage. It was a great opportunity to network and discuss our mission and goals with regional and state leaders. "We are finding a lot of interest and support for our mission and proposed projects in Eastern Kentucky," says Dr. Stratton. "There is a lot of opportunity out there for us to work within the region and compliment the goals and ambitions of those at this years' Summit and the stated goals of the Kentucky Promise Zone."

**A BIGGER STEP INTO EASTERN KENTUCKY:** Our directors have been working with officials in eastern Kentucky over the past few weeks. Thanks to those efforts and the encouragement of the folks in Jenkins, Kentucky, we have an office in Jenkins. We are located with ARC TV at 9409 Highway 805, Jenkins, KY, 41537 and can be reached at (606)832-0222.

**Foundation For  
Appalachian  
Advancement**

**P.O. Box 397**

**Richlands, VA  
24641**

**Email us:**

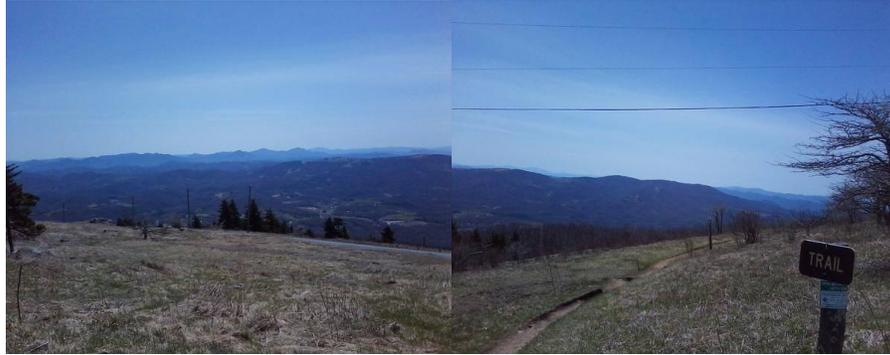
[info@supportappalachia.org](mailto:info@supportappalachia.org)

**We're on the Web!**

[www.supportappalachia.org](http://www.supportappalachia.org)

[www.facebook.com/supportappalachia](https://www.facebook.com/supportappalachia)

We recently made our way into Smith and Grayson Counties in Virginia to introduce the Foundation and its mission. While there we made a quick stop in Mount Rodgers National Forest and spent some time atop Whitetop Mountain (the second tallest peak in Virginia) and on the Appalachian Trail. Here are a few photos from that trip.



## **FYI**

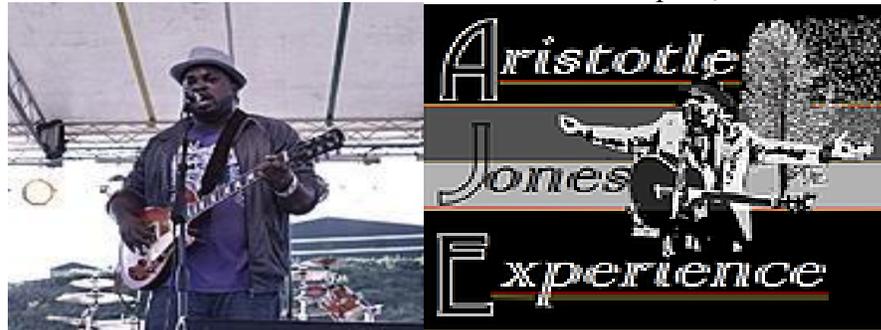
### **VIRGINIA COAL HERITAGE TRAIL**

As the coal industry continues to go through economic changes and hardship, one thing remains strong throughout the coal producing regions in Appalachia. That is the long and storied history and proud tradition of hard work and perseverance and how coal mining has shaped the way of life in countless communities. Virginia's Coal Trail starts in the small community of Pocahontas in Tazewell County. It was the site of the first and largest coal mining town in Virginia and is home to the Pocahontas Exhibition Mine for locals and tourists. From Pocahontas, to the Coal Miners' Memorial in Richlands, to the old Jewel Ridge Coal Camp, this walk down memory lane is worth a couple of hours of your time when you visit Tazewell County. [www.virginia.org/coalheritagetrail](http://www.virginia.org/coalheritagetrail)

## Artist's Corner

### Artist of the Month—Aristotle Jones, Morgantown, WV

Our May Artist of the Month, Aristotle Jones, comes out of Morgantown, WV's vibrant music scene. Dubbed "The Groove Philosopher," Aristotle describes his



music as Appalachian Soul. "Growing up in West Virginia is a unique Appalachian experience. There are so many different mixtures of styles, and subcultures that can quickly emerge from town to town," he explains. That led to Jones having numerous and varied influences on his own artistic development. Influenced by soul legends like Bill Withers and Otis Redding, along with growing up in the 90's and being influenced by the R&B sound of groups like Boys II Men, his style of music began to take form.

"Because of availability and proximity I found myself being drawn to the harmonies and song writing of country music and artists like Garth Brooks. The Judds would perform in my Hometown of Huntington, WV at Camden Park (our local Amusement Park)."

His artistic journey continued when he attended Berea College in Kentucky where he met people from all corners of Appalachia and explored what kind of musical style was important to the many regions of Appalachia. "What I learned was that no matter of our backgrounds, and no matter of what we were currently listening to we all appreciated various styles of music. We share our stories through the songs we grew up listening to. I went on a musical journey through the history of recorded music and I saw a linear progression from Gospel, to Blue Grass, to Blues, to Soul, to Rock To Country to even Hip Hop. It was a connection that was an undeniable moment of sitting on a porch making music to communicate hardships and triumphs, Love and loss, Heaven Hell and all stops in between."

Jones defines Appalachian soul as a blend of traditional roots music (bluegrass and gospel) with a contemporary filter. Soul music is a tradition of the region with Appalachia being home to musical greats like Johnny Johnson, Otis Redding, Bill Withers, and many others.

"Like Blues, Soul is music of the people. But while blues speaks of the hardship, Soul tells about the deeper longing for the optimistic and romantic elements of the region."

The Aristotle Jones Experience is currently in the planning stages of recording a new album. You can listen online and follow his touring schedule by visiting [www.AristotleJones.com](http://www.AristotleJones.com), [www.facebook.com/theAJExperience](https://www.facebook.com/theAJExperience) or search for

Aristotle Jones on Spotify and iTunes.

“Appalachian soul is more than just a Genre. It is a movement. And the purpose of this movement is purely to create an awareness of the beauty and diversity of this wonderful region, and to elevate and motivate others to let their light shine. So until we meet again.... Keep your Groove Going, your Love Growing and your Light Showing!”

## Writing a Book?

### **Appalachian Authors Guild**

Writers of nearly every genre find it important to belong to a writer’s association that they are comfortable with. There are countless organizations out there, but we would like to draw attention to the Appalachian Authors Guild. Joining a writers group is helpful for meeting fellow writers and sharing best practices when it comes to starting and completing your book. This is especially true for newer writers. You can visit the AAG online at [www.appalachianauthors.com](http://www.appalachianauthors.com).

### **Thoughts or Suggestions**

If you have any thoughts or suggestions on how we can best be effective in your community please touch base with us. You can email us at [info@supportappalachia.org](mailto:info@supportappalachia.org) or by visiting us online and sharing your comments through our Contact page.

### **Online**

Please take some time to visit us online at [www.supportappalachia.org](http://www.supportappalachia.org) and share the link with friends and family. Doing so can go a long way in helping us get our message out into your community to let people know we are here. You can also visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/supportappalachia](http://www.facebook.com/supportappalachia). You can also follow us online at [www.twitter.com/SuprtAppalachia](http://www.twitter.com/SuprtAppalachia).

### **Donate Today**

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt public charity. Donations are tax deductible. Can we count of you to help with our mission? Checks can be made payable to Foundation For Appalachian Advancement and mailed to:

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

Or

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement, P.O. Box 565, Jenkins, KY 41537

Thank you!

*Our Mission: The Foundation for Appalachian Advancement serves for the progress and enhancement of the Appalachian region through education, economic development of families and communities, assistance to communities and community service organizations, the advancement of Appalachian culture and arts, and the encouragement of healthy living and lifestyles.*