



Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

October 2015

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

www.supportappalachia.org and

www.ourappalachia.org info@supportappalachia.org

Halloween In Appalachia

By J.C. Schweingrouber

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Fall is officially here and the holidays will be upon us before we know it! However, one thing for sure in Appalachia is that we aren't lacking for strange myths and legends. For most of us, Halloween is a fun time of year as kids dress up and go in search of candy while adults find entertainment with Halloween parties, haunted corn mazes, and seeking out the occasional "haunted house."

There are countless festivities, festivals, and fairs still going all around Appalachia made for the season. Off the top of my head I can think of the Historic General Lewis Inn (Lewisburg, WV), the haunted tour through historic Abingdon, VA, the infamous Mothman Museum in Point Pleasant, WV, the Major Graham Mansion (featured on Ghost Hunters), and the old spooky St. Albans Sanatorium sitting on top of the hill in Radford, VA.

As for me, I think I'll stay away from those places and just stay home on Halloween night. If last year is any indication, I'll have my hands full giving away candy to over 300 kids dressed as their favorite super hero or ghoul.

*"Our beautiful mountains
are a unique attraction."*

Enjoy the holiday and thanks for your support!

Jenkins-Pound Rail Tunnel

There is growing interest along the Kentucky-Virginia border to reopen the old Chesapeake and Ohio railroad tunnel through the mountain that connects Jenkins, KY and Pound, VA. "Our beautiful mountains are a unique attraction," says James Hibbitts, Director of Foundation For Appalachian Advancement and resident of Pound, VA. "Upgrading our local hiking trails on both sides of the border should be a priority."

Local officials and citizens as part of a grassroots effort are working to make the old rail tunnel and local trails a unique destination for hikers and tourists. However, more citizens on the Virginia side are needed in the grassroots effort to keep interest going to help ensure additional funding for the project. To be a part of the grassroots effort, contact James Hibbitts at james.hibbitts@hotmail.com.

Our First Full Year in Operation

We received our 501(c)(3) tax exempt status in late August of 2014. The Foundation initially had four original board members and we got together in Wise, VA to discuss programs that we wanted to see successful at some point in the future. Although we had some pretty lofty goals, we remained reasonable as to what we could achieve in time. We settled on an initial list of programs that you can find by visiting our website at www.supportappalachia.org. Actually making all of those programs work will be more of a focus going forward.

Making programs such as the Coalfield Assistance Program, the Appalachian Scholarship Fund, and Appalachia Streaming work takes significant funding. However, we wanted to spend a good portion of our first year in operation discussing how we wanted to make a difference in our communities instead of immediately knocking on doors and asking for donations. We felt it necessary to introduce ourselves first and build trust. Only with that can we build a long lasting organization that can truly make a difference.

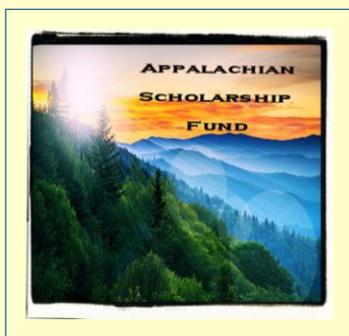
As a new organization we applied for a few grants. We knew the odds of receiving a large grant (a \$600,000 request for Appalachia Streaming) was unlikely since we had no track record, but we gave it a shot anyway. In the meantime we sent out hundreds of brochures to small businesses throughout the VA/KY Appalachian region along with a letter of introduction. We received a few donations from this approach, but we understand it takes time to build trust. We will be putting a larger focus on fund raising in the coming year and hope that you'll share the word about our goals and mission so that we can make a difference in your community!

Also, during this year we broadened our reach in Appalachia by registering in Kentucky, North Carolina, and Ohio. That puts us now officially in four states (having originally founded in Virginia). Over the next couple of years we plan on being registered to operate in all 13 states of Appalachia!

We look forward to the next year and what we can achieve by promoting our people and our culture. Thank you for your support. None of this works without you.

2016 Calendar Coming Soon!

Help support the
Appalachian Scholarship
Fund with your purchase
of the 2016 FAA
Calendar. For
information email:
info@supportappalachia.org



Make your tax deductible donation
today!

October 2015 Artist of the Month— Nancy Richmond

Nancy Richmond is an award winning author from Lewisburg, WV. However, to call her just a writer would be an understatement. Nancy has been writing for over thirty years, has been a newspaper and magazine columnist, is a certified genealogist and is a historian. She specializes in writing about Appalachia, more specifically about the folklore of our region that includes popular ghost stories and myths! Nancy is the author of *Coalminers and Moonshiners*, *Saving Susie*, and *Appalachian Folklore* just to name a few. You can find her books on Amazon or by visiting her website, www.nancyrichmondbooks.com.

Nancy began her writing as a child. “I was inspired by anything that caught my imagination, especially ghostly tales I heard from my parents as I was growing up, or anything that had to do with history,” she explains.

Born and raised in a small coal mining camp in the mountains of West Virginia, Nancy was exposed to the many signs, omens and superstitions that the people there lived by. “As I got older I began to question those superstitions, and that led to my research of them.” Eventually it sparked her interest in regional history and in family history. Her passion for that led her to becoming a certified genealogist. She is a descendant of the pioneer McClung family who settled the borders of the Virginia Colony in the 1700’s and fought in the Revolutionary War. You can learn more about this in her latest book, *Thomas McClung at the Battle of Point Pleasant*.

Nancy is a member of the Greenbrier Historical Society and the West Virginia Writers, Inc. We are honored to have her as our October Artist of the Month. You can purchase signed copies by contacting her through her website.



Author and historian Nancy Richmond

“I find the events that took place in the early years of our country fascinating. The lives of those early frontiersmen have shaped the present in so many ways.”

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement current Board of Directors/Officers:

J.C. Schweingrouber President/Director (Richlands, VA)

Dr. Gary Stratton Vice-President/Director (Wise, VA)

Dr. Ernie Benko Director (Norton, VA)

Melinda Elswick Treasurer/Director (Richlands, VA)

James Hibbitts Secretary/Director (Pound, VA)

Mission Statement

The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement serves for the progress and enhancement of the Appalachian region through education, economic development of families and communities, and for the advancement of regional arts and culture.

The Spirit of Giving

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

As we come closer to the end of a great 2015, most of us consider donations to our favorite charities. 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.

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

P.O. Box 397
Richlands, VA 24641

Or

P.O. Box 709
Jenkins, KY 41537

E-mail:

info@supportappalachia.org