

Spring Is Finally Here!

With the change in the weather, there begins almost a renewal in these majestic mountains. Hiking, camping, ATV riding, fishing...we seem to wake up from the cold winter months and embrace our natural wonders and hit the great outdoors for fun and adventure. Some of us will spend a lot of time on our lakes, rivers and mountain streams camping and fishing. Some will hit the trails and hike in search of beauty or seeking some exercise and inner peace or perspective. These mountains are certainly perfect for that. Whatever your pleasure as you hit the outdoors in the coming months, we invite you to share your stories and adventures with us by sharing your photos, blogs or videos. You can send those to info@supportappalachia.org and we can share those on our Facebook page and other social media.

40 Miles at the Breaks!

Often called the Grand Canyon of the South, the Breaks Interstate Park offers family fun and entertainment and all the outdoor adventure you can handle. From rafting and fishing to trail racing (a new event scheduled for later this year), this incredible park stretches across state lines into both Virginia and Kentucky.

Daniel Boone is credited with being the first person of European descent to discover this gorge in 1767. Now, this park serves as a refuge for outdoor

family vacations for people coming from all over the country.



The Breaks 40 Miler is a trail race that the park is introducing later this year. This isn't for your average hiker or runner. This event is billed as an extreme challenge! This 43 mile race has a cut off time of 16 hours, and will surely challenge the best of the best as they cross the state border inside the park several times across rugged terrain. For those interested, you still have time to train. The race starts at 6 am on Saturday September 8th. For more information on the park or this event you can visit them online at <http://www.breakspark.com/>.

Hillbilly Days 2018

The 42nd annual Hillbilly Days in Pikeville, Kentucky will be held on April 19th through the 21st in downtown Pikeville. For those of you familiar with this event, it is a great opportunity for family fun and the proceeds from the event go for a great cause, helping kids through the Shriners Hospital. The event was

founded by local Shriners in 1977 and features a carnival, parade and three days of live music and events.



You can find all the information you need about the event at <https://www.hillbillydays.com/>.

Foundation News

The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement held its most recent meeting of the board of directors on February 24th at the offices of ARC TV in Norton, VA.

We will be working with the folks at ARC TV to record regular interviews and updates about the work being done by the Foundation, our long term goals, and highlighting areas and issues that we are passionate about. These interviews will be available for viewing on ARC Television across

Central Appalachia and on their YouTube channel.

Appalachia Streaming

Our team is gearing up to begin more filming in communities across Appalachia in the coming months as part of the effort to provide much more content on the Appalachia Streaming website. We'd like to add focus to the history of the region and the unique culture and artists that call these mountains home. Of course, this effort will take some funding and we hope to receive private donations as well as smaller donations from counties and localities to help pay for the costs of this effort. At this point we are volunteering our time toward this project, but do have some needed expenditures such as video equipment and web expenses, as well as some travel expenses.

Our goal is to work with the folks at ARC TV to edit our material into short run documentary style footage that can be seen by all at www.appalachiastreaming.com. Also, we will plan to have a YouTube page set up in the coming months to share footage and information about this program. In the long term we anticipate that this program will be self sufficient and no longer need donations.

Appalachian Scholarship Fund

We are entering our third year offering assistance to local high school graduates in the form of the Appalachian Scholarship Fund. Our

yearly goal is to be able to have \$5,000 available to provide for students who truly have a need for the extra help. However, this program is only as successful as the communities around the region want it to be because it is completely driven by private donations. Last year, despite well over 100 letters sent to churches and businesses in the area, we raised less than \$500 dollars to go toward this effort. That was a huge disappointment and a learning opportunity for us. As a newer organization we are left to our own to feel out the community and find the best ways possible to make the program known to the public. We have used social media to spread the project, and passed it along through word of mouth and letters mailed directly to potential supporters.

We do need your help in order to make this program the success that it needs to be. Share word about this program with your friends and family. Share with your churches. Share with your co-workers. There are a lot of kids (and adults) across the region that could use this help.

Donations are tax deductible and 100% of your donation goes to the program. You can support this program by donating online at our website www.supportappalachia.org or the old fashioned way of sending us a check made payable to Appalachian Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 397, Richlands, VA 24641. We thank you for your help with this!

Artists Corner

Lost History of Kentucky

The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement has been working with award winning documentarian Tim Farmer and Tim Farmer Productions to bring a new series to KET in Kentucky called Lost History of Kentucky. Currently there is a pilot episode being planned, working with author Robert Prather, to document the legend of the Swift Silver Mine. Dr. Gary Stratton, one our founders and Vice President, is leading the effort to find corporate sponsors for this program. We are excited to be a part of this effort and will provide more information and details as fundraising continues.

Appalachian Authors Guild

The Appalachia Authors Guild will be hosting a guest speaker, Dr. Grace Toney Edwards from Radford University on Tuesday March 13th in the conference room of Shoney's in Abingdon, VA. She served as senior editor of *A Handbook to Appalachia: An Introduction to the Region*, co-editor of the literature section of the Encyclopedia of Appalachia, and author of *The Common Lot and Other Stories*.

The Appalachian Authors Guild serves to promote the work and art of all Appalachian writers and offers workshops to help new writers, and those looking to write their first book or self publish. If you would like to be

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FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN ADVANCEMENT
THE APPALACHIAN

a part of this active organization of creative artists, please touch base with them through their website at <http://appalachianauthors.com/>.

About Us

Our mission is simple. The **Foundation For Appalachian Advancement** (FAA) strives to promote educational opportunities, economic development, and the advancement of our culture, history and heritage through the arts.

We need your help to support this great region! The FAA is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and your donations are completely tax deductible. Absolutely 100% will go towards the FAA expenses. Operational expenses only include web site maintenance and the annual P.O. Box fee which have always been paid out of pocket. All directors/officers are volunteers, no one is salaried.

Programs we sponsor include the Appalachian Scholarship Fund and Appalachia Streaming. In addition, we are hoping to have funding available going forward to sponsor several events promoting artists throughout our region.

We can accept Credit Card and electronic donations through the PayPal button on our website or the "Old Fashioned" way by personal check. If writing a check you can mail it to P.O. Box 397, Richlands, Virginia, 24641. Any amount is greatly appreciated!

Thanks for your support and generous donation! We greatly appreciate it!

Make
generosity
part of your
growth strategy



Visit us online:

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