

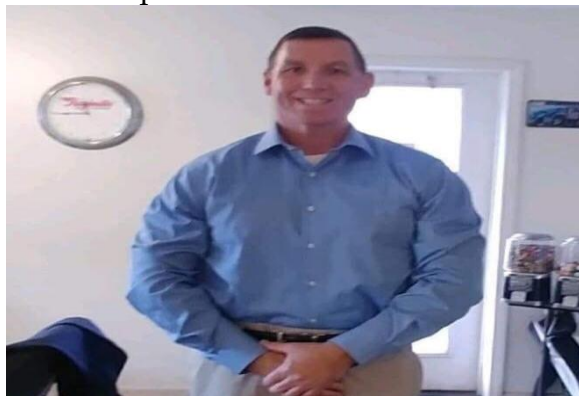
Heavy Hearts

(The passing of James Hibbitts, one of our founders and Directors)

Our friend and colleague passed away on May 19th, one day after his 53rd birthday.

James Hibbitts was a man of dreams and vision. He had a true passion to see the future of Appalachia be a brighter future full of opportunities for everyone. He took great pride in his efforts with this foundation and in sculpting a vision in Eastern Kentucky to see a new economy and growing business and cultural opportunities with his own dream of seeing Raven Rock Entertainment come to fruition overlooking the town of Jenkins, Kentucky.

James was a dreamer. He shared those dreams and visions with anyone that shared his goals. One thing is clear. The world needs more dreamers. Appalachia needs more dreamers. It was an honor for all of us here at the foundation to work alongside James in our shared goals and dreams. It was an honor to call him a friend. He was a selfless man. His enthusiasm and friendship will be missed.



FAA Hosting FREE Art Event in Lebanon, VA June 22nd.

10am to 4pm

Mark your calendars and joins us in Lebanon, VA on Saturday June 22nd for **A Celebration of Appalachian Arts!** This event is **FREE** for the public to attend and we are honored to feature over two dozen local artist that are coming out to showcase their work and help support the Appalachian Scholarship Fund.

The event will be held at the Russell County Convention Center at 139 Highland Drive in Lebanon. You'll find this located behind Wendy's as you drive through town. We are honored to have several local businesses as sponsors. Any additional sponsors after the sending of this newsletter will be made available through our social media outlets and on our website. We welcome all the local support we can get!

Event Sponsors:

David Mullins Wealth Management
Lebanon Insurance Agency
Stone Mountain Distilling
Mountain Heritage, Inc. & the Law
Office of Frank Kilgore in St. Paul
The Appalachian Authors Guild
In-Kind Donation made by **GPM Investments** (Road Runner Convenience Stores)
WXLZ 107.3
Eagles Landing Insurance Services

There will also be a raffle to raise money for the Appalachian Scholarship Fund. All donations for

the fund and event are greatly appreciated. If you'd like to help with the Appalachian Scholarship Fund you can mail a check made payable to Appalachian Scholarship Fund and send to FAA, P.O. Box 397, Richlands, VA 24641. You can also donate online at our website using Visa or MasterCard at www.supportappalachia.org.

Time to Hit the Outdoors!

Now that warm weather is here to stay for a while many of us around the region make our summer plans to enjoy the mountains. It's the season for hiking, camping, fishing, cookout's and family reunions. Appalachians will hit the outdoors and thousands will come from around the world to visit one of our most amazing natural attractions, the Appalachian Trail.

Fun Facts about the AT



- *It is nearly 2,200 miles long.*
- *It is the longest "hiking only" footpath in the entire world.*
- *The trail goes through 14 different states.*

**It is the largest and longest running volunteer conservation project in the world.*

**Every May the small town of Damascus, Virginia holds the famous Appalachian Trail Days Festival.*

**Skyline Drive follows the original path of the Appalachian Trail.*

**Most of the original Appalachian Trail has either been rebuilt or moved.*

What's Happening Around Appalachia?

Pikeville, KY: Be on the lookout for some great live music all summer long at Pikeville's **Main Street Live** events. Hillbilly Days is just the beginning of a long season of things to do in Pikeville and visitors come from all around for events such as the Eastern Kentucky Stampede, zip line and rafting adventures, fishing along the Tug River, as well as countless events at the Appalachian Center for the Arts. For a full list of events for 2019 you can visit <https://www.tourpikecounty.com/>.

On the other side of the border in Virginia the summer is just heating up and the streets are already getting busy in countless towns and cities such as Richlands, which will be having its first annual Craft & Vendor Show on June 7th and 8th. In Bristol, you can always find something to do such as visiting the Paramount Theatre or the Museum of Country Music. Drive a little deeper into the mountains of Southwest Virginia and you can enjoy hidden gems such as the Jettie Baker Center in Clintwood or

the June Tolliver Playhouse in Wise County.

<https://www.myswva.org/swva/see-and-do/festivals>.

Wherever you go in Appalachia you'll find amazing and unique adventures. What are you waiting for?



What's New With the FAA?

This summer our team will begin work on a podcast. ARC TV of Norton will sponsor a regular podcast and we greatly appreciate their invitation to work with them on this effort. It will provide us with a larger platform to address the regional issues and concerns that brought us together to form the Foundation back in 2014.

We will be looking for potential guests from around the region to discuss topics that include our history and culture, featuring various artists, discussing issues of economic development and tourism with public officials and to toss our two cents in regarding the future of Appalachia. We are excited about this opportunity and will be outlining topics for potential podcast recordings. More information to come on this will be posted on our social media pages and in email updates to our email subscribers.



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

FAA to Host Appalachian Art Event

We are looking forward to the June 22nd event in Lebanon to promote and support some amazing regional artists. Among those artists to be at the event are:

Fred "Powerhouse" Powers
Misty Walkup
Kristie Arnold
Jo Karen Williams
Victoria Fletcher
Brenda Musick
Dan Swanson
Gary Kwapisz

Alfred Patrick
Adda Leah Davis
Spiral Publishing
Jerry Rice
Chuck Summers
Jack Russell Rose
Carol Jackson
Willie Dalton
Justin Trout
Greg Horn
Gayle Trent
Damean Matthews
Katrina VanDyke-Pollack
Linda Hoagland
Kathy Shearer
Lana Arnold
Donna Couch/Faithful Traditions

For more information about the artists please visit our Facebook page for links to their work. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

We accept Visa and Mastercard on our website or you can donate the "Old

Fashioned" way by personal check. Make checks made payable to Foundation For Appalachian Advancement and mail 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:

www.supportappalachia.org

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

<https://twitter.com/SuprtAppalachia>

Directors:

Melinda Elswick, Tazewell County, VA

Dr. Gary R. Stratton, Frankfort, KY

James Hibbitts, Wise County, VA

Dr. Ernie Benko, Norton, VA

J.C. Schweingrouber, Tazewell County, VA

Roy Bentley, Jenkins, KY

Checks can be mailed to:
Foundation For Appalachian
Advancement
P.O. Box 397
Richlands, VA 24641