

June 2020

The Appalachian

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

NEW PODCAST Appalachian Shine

Supporting The Region—Vacation
Close to Home this year
Tweetsie Railroad

Earlier this year the Foundation launched its official podcast, Appalachian Shine. We're about a dozen or so episodes into the series and are excited to use this platform to meet new people, explore the history of our towns and counties, discuss issues of culture and economic progress in the region, and shine a light on the best of what Appalachia has to offer.



There are so many adventures and opportunities waiting to be found right here in Appalachia and we will do our best to use this program to spotlight that, to promote the area for tourism and economic development, to highlight the artists and amazing history of this place we call home.

You can find Appalachian Shine online at <https://appalachianshine.podbean.com/> or on your Apple iPhone. You can download to listen for free on iTunes. We appreciate all of you for tuning in, and we ask that you tell others about us. Don't forget to leave us a ranking and a comment!

There are countless adventures here in Appalachia and most of them within a reasonable drive from home. Given the events of this year resulting from COVID-19 and the lockdown from coast to coast, it is more important now more than ever to support our local businesses and the centers of entertainment and vacation here in our own backyard.

If you're reading this newsletter from anywhere in Central Appalachia you've probably heard of Tweetsie Railroad. If you haven't, wow you really missed out on a gem right here in Appalachia.



Tweetsie Railroad is a Wild West themed amusement park located between Boone and Blowing Rock, North Carolina. The park opened up in 1957 with the signature 3 mile train ride using the coal fired steam locomotive #12, the only surviving narrow-gauge engine of the old East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad, often referred to as ET&WNC. The steam engine is something from a bygone era of American ingenuity that was built in 1917. The name "Tweetsie" came from the locals and refers to the *tweet, tweet* sound of the train whistle.

June 2020

The Appalachian

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

In normal times the park would be open from April through October, but is currently not opened due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, the park is planning on opening up this summer when they get the all clear from North Carolina officials and are hoping to see the park filled with visitors enjoying the history of the place and the many events and adventures waiting to be had.

Other than the popular and historic train ride, you can also feed the animals in Deer Park Zoo, enjoy the rides in the County Fair, and spend some time panning for gold. For more information you can visit them online at www.tweetsie.com or call them at 800-526-5740 to find out when the park will reopen.

Annual Board Meeting Held on May 17th: Results of Meeting

Our board of directors held its annual meeting on Sunday May 17th this year in Norton, Virginia at the offices of ARC TV. Our meeting was originally scheduled for April but due to the pandemic and concerns around that we rescheduled for the later date.

We are pleased to welcome to our team and board of directors Ray Ratliff from Letcher County, Kentucky. Ray brings a real passion for the future economic and cultural development of our region and we look forward to working with him toward the mission and vision of the organization.

One of our goals going forward to use our platform to showcase historical locations and help bring our rich history back in focus for everyone to rediscover, and hopefully begin their own research and exploration into the history of their own towns and

counties. As the old saying goes, those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. I don't know how true that is, but Appalachia holds so much history, not just for our own region, but history that impacted how our nation grew and developed. We're excited to put a new focus on this and we welcome any input you may have in how we do so.

Follow Us on Facebook

Do you use Facebook to keep in touch with family and friends? It is estimated that 190 million Americans use Facebook, so it is a good bet that if you are reading this either you, or someone you know, uses that social media platform.

You can find us on Facebook, too. We often update the page with interesting stories and videos about Appalachia. Sometimes those stories and articles are pertinent on a regional basis, sometimes we focus on stories and videos from individual counties or towns. We try to share things that we think our followers and supporters would enjoy seeing, and we welcome others to share their stories as well. Come visit us at www.facebook.com/supportappalachia.

How You Can Support Our Mission

During these unusual times, we know that it is difficult to donate to your favorite charities. County budgets have gone from being stretched thin to being millions in the red throughout much of the country. People have been idled for two months or longer without work or a steady paycheck. However, there are ways that you can still support our foundation.

June 2020

The Appalachian

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

Most of us have had to resort to online shopping during these times and Amazon has certainly been there to deliver the things we've needed. Amazon has a specific program called Amazon Smile where they will donate a percentage of your purchases to a charity that you pick. It's easy to do this. Simply go to www.smile.amazon.com. From there you can pick what charity you want to support. The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement is registered there and we encourage you to pick us. Every dollar counts. When you are online shopping and you're ready to order, just simply go back to the website above and your cart will contain your items. It's still the same Amazon, only this will send a percentage of your purchase as a donation to our organization.

Because of this program, last year the Nature Conservancy took in over \$3 million in donations...from Amazon Smile. So, please tell your friends about this program and choose us as your charity. We greatly appreciate it!

Also, from time to time on our Facebook page we will have a donate button where you can donate directly online without writing a check and mailing it or going to our website. ****We have over 800 followers.** If everyone donated one dollar a month that would be \$9,600 a year. See, a dollar does go a long way!

To Donate By Check

Make checks payable to: **Foundation For Appalachian Advancement** and mail to
Foundation For Appalachian Advancement
P.O. Box 397
Richlands, Virginia 24641

To Donate Online

Go to: www.supportappalachia.org. There is a donate button that you can click to make debit and credit card donations.

*****The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible.***



Our Board of Directors

J.C. Schweingrouber
Dr. Gary R. Stratton
Melinda Elswick
Dr. Ernie Benko
Ray Ratliff

www.supportappalachia.org
www.facebook.com/supportappalachia