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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE **Mountain Heritage Center**  
 WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY CULLOWHEE, NC  
 "A small gem of a museum" — Atlanta Journal-Constitution

**Programs That Come To You!**

**Traveling Trunks**

Portable trunks filled with books, touchable samples, and curriculum-based activities. Available for 2-4 week loan periods.

**The Appalachian Garden—**  
 Natural and cultural aspects of gardening  
 3rd Grade

**A Day in the Life—**  
 Pioneer life in southern Appalachia  
 4th Grade

**Reading a Quilt—**  
 The diversity and history of quilts  
 4th Grade

**Traveling Programs**

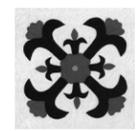
The one-hour programs include hands-on components, craft activities, and are adaptable for grades 2-8.



**Appalachian Pastimes**  
 How our ancestors passed the time on the back porch or out in the yard.

**Covering Up**

An introduction to the rich textile history of the southern Appalachian region.



**New Light on Old**



**Times**  
 An exploration of candles, lamps, and lanterns. Experience tallow, beeswax, oil, and electric forms of lighting.

**A Visit From A Civil War Soldier**  
 A close look at life in the 1860s.

**The Appalachian Garden**

**...A New Traveling Trunk**

The Mountain Heritage Center recently 'planted' a new traveling trunk program, designed for 3rd grade classes, that incorporates the natural and cultural aspects of gardening. *The Appalachian Garden* traveling trunk features curriculum-based activities, hands-on exercises, experiments, definitions, diagrams, worksheets, and crafts. Funding for the project came from the Smithsonian Community Grant program, funded by MetLife Foundation and administered by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES).

A main component of the traveling trunk is the "science" of gardening. Science activities included range in scope from understanding decomposition in the soil to the pollination of flowers. Special equipment for classroom use includes a microscope to look at soil, flower, and insect parts; a butterfly pavilion for pollinator observation; and insect nets.

Cultural activities are designed around Cherokee-utilized plants and traditional pioneer folklore activities based on planting by astrological signs. Participants also examine "mystery artifacts" used on the farm by early settlers.

*The Appalachian Garden* traveling trunk, designed for 3rd grade curriculum, is the latest addition to the Center's traveling trunk series.



Photo by Leslie Costa

The traveling trunk is equipped with a collection of children's books and teacher resource materials and also includes a DVD entitled *Plants and the Cherokee*.

Other trunks, designed for 4th grade curriculum, include *Reading a Quilt* and *A Day in the Life*. For information about reserving one of the Mountain Heritage Center trunks, call Peter Koch at 828.227.7129.

The Mountain Heritage Center website has a new look. Check it out at <http://www.wcu.edu/mhc/>

**EXHIBITS—2006**

**Gallery A**

**Migration of the Scotch-Irish People**  
 Traces this group of Appalachian settlers from Ulster to Pennsylvania, the Shenandoah Valley, and into Western North Carolina.  
 A permanent exhibit  
 (A Mountain Heritage Center Exhibit)

**On-Line Exhibits**

View these exhibits at <http://www.wcu.edu/mhc/exhibits>

- Watts in the Mountains: Rural Electrification in Western North Carolina
- Southern Appalachian Quilts
  - After the War
  - Horace Kephart

**Gallery B**

**Grandma's Attic**  
 Discover what's been stored for years!  
 (A Mountain Heritage Center Exhibit)  
 January 22 - June 30

**Transformations: Cherokee Baskets in the Twentieth Century**  
 How the processes, materials and styles have evolved during this time period.  
 (Organized by the Asheville Art Museum and guest curator Sarah H. Hill)  
 July 17 – December 20



**NEW**

**Gallery C**

**After the War: Conflict and Domestic Change in the North Carolina Mountains Through 2007**  
 How wars and their aftermath have shaped the lives of people and communities in Western North Carolina.  
 (A Mountain Heritage Center Exhibit with support from the North Carolina Humanities Council)

**FEES/ HOURS**  
 The Mountain Heritage Center is open to the public free of charge. Visiting hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center is also open on Sundays, 2 to 5 p.m., June through October. The Center does observe a university holiday schedule. Call 828-227-7129 or visit [www.wcu.edu/mhc](http://www.wcu.edu/mhc) for more information.



## Western North Carolina Craft Revival

The Mountain Heritage Center is one of four partners working on an exciting new grant project.

The Western North Carolina Craft Revival project will create a web-based history of a movement that took place in Western North Carolina from 1895 to 1945. Known as the Craft Revival, its aim was to revitalize skills and traditions and provide much-needed income to mountain artisans. To tell the story of the Craft Revival, the project will bring together a wealth of documents, letters, photographs, oral histories, and objects that are scattered throughout the region mostly in the smaller archival repositories of craft schools, museums, and local historical societies. The final web site will be utilized by anyone interested in learning about the history and process of handcraft, tourism and economic development, the aesthetics of form, and western North Carolina history.

Leading the project is visiting associate professor Anna Fariello. Participating partners include the John C. Campbell Folk School, Penland School of Crafts, and Hunter Library's Special Collections section.

The Western North Carolina Craft Revival grant is funded in part by a grant of \$85,000, renewable for three years for a potential total of \$250,000, from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, through the North Carolina State Library. Western Carolina University received the only Heritage Partners Grant awarded by the State Library in 2005.

## PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

Peter Koch and Suzanne McDowell, Mountain Heritage Center, along with George Frizzell, Special Collections, Hunter Library, presented a program "The Enigma Revealed" at the annual North Carolina Museums Council conference on March 2 in Winston-Salem. The program described the development and implementation of the Horace Kephart website that debuted in 2005. For more information on the website that features artifacts and documents describing Kephart's significance to western North Carolina go to <http://www.wcu.edu/library/digitalcoll/kephart/index.htm>

Also at the NCMC conference, the museum and the Design Branch of the Office of Public Relations at WCU were awarded the 2006 Publications Award for **Best Educational Guide/Limited Color** for the Mountain Heritage Center's Educational Program Guide. The guide describes the variety and breadth of programs available to regional adult and youth groups. You may request a copy by calling 828.227.7129.

## Friends Friends of the Mountain Heritage Center

Encourage your friends and family to help support one of the special programming opportunities below.

**1-Support Family Programming**  
"Spring Into Summer" and "Arti-Facts!" are family-oriented programs that offer fun, educational, hands-on learning. Your tax-deductible contribution designated "family programming" can help us acquire the talented people and materials necessary to continue these events.

When 5 people donate \$25 each it covers the cost of a monthly "Arti-Facts!" program for children.

Names of all program sponsors will be published, as desired, for the duration of the programs.

### 2-Support an Exhibit

Our exhibits are always changing so people will have something new to see and learn each time they visit. Your tax-deductible contribution design-

nated "exhibits" can help fund exhibit fees and transport, educational materials, consultants, researchers, duplication of photographic materials, and acquisition of artifacts.

### 3-Support a Public Program

The Center remains committed to offering our programming free of charge. However, the speakers, musicians, and craftspeople that bring special skills and talents to programming are paid. Your tax-deductible contribution designated "public programs" can help fund these programs as well as special festivals, such as Mountain Heritage Day, that showcase a

Interested businesses, please contact the Terri McDermot for details on opportunities for corporate sponsorship at (828) 227-3052.

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS who are helping accomplish this important work.

I am enclosing a regular membership (tax-deductible) contribution of \$25.

I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ tax-deductible gift in support of the \_\_\_\_\_ designated Center program.

I would like to know about volunteer opportunities.

I have a new address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: University Foundation, designating the Mountain Heritage Center. Return to Mountain Heritage Center, 150 HFR Bldg, WCU, Cullowhee, NC 28723. Contributions are tax deductible as prescribed by law.

## Winter Gatherings Continue

Western Carolina University decided to add a little warmth to the cold winter nights back in January by sponsoring a series of informal old-time and bluegrass music jam sessions. The events are open to pickers and singers of all ages and experience levels, but also to those who just want to watch and listen.

Jams occur on the first and third Thursday of each month, January through April, in the Mountain Heritage Center Auditorium. Music sessions at the beginning of the month open with a regional band. In addition to the Deitz Family band (pictured right), other performers included The Fiddling Dills Sisters with the Cullowhee Valley Boys, and the Bailey Mountain Trio. The Blue Ridge Rounders will be featured on April 6.



Deitz Family of Tathams Creek perform at the Mountain Heritage Center.

Photo by Leslie Costa

## MYSTERY ARTIFACT

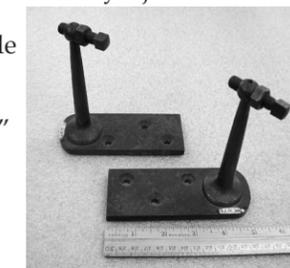
Can you help us identify this artifact and what might have gone in it? The leather case is 38" long (closed), 7" wide on one end and 3" wide at the other. The case has a flap with a snap closure, a carrying handle, and removable cloth lining.



Send information about mystery objects on a postcard or email "mcdowell@email.wcu.edu"

Your contributions in support of Mountain Heritage Center programs are fully tax-deductible. Not to be overlooked, however, is YOUR participation at our events. Come visit often and bring your friends. The Center is committed to continuing its educational mission to promote public awareness of the rich traditions of the mountains through exhibitions, publications, educational programs and demonstrations.

Last issue's mystery artifact is still unidentified. Possibly a jeweler's tool or a vise stand? Made of metal parts, each measures 5" L x 5" H x 1.78" W. From the George Satter Collection from Buncombe County, NC.



# Airing of the Quilts



Suzanne McDowell, Peter Koch, and Leslie Costa prepare quilts for their winter airing.

When quiltmakers Mary Marcella Howard McClure and Martha Ann McClure Killian completed their “Kentucky Rose” pattern quilt sometime between 1850 and 1875, they must have been proud of their fine handiwork. But they probably did not expect that their quilt would one day be part of a museum display.

During the winter months, the “Kentucky Rose” was one of over forty quilts on display throughout the galleries and lobby of the Mountain Heritage Center. The “Airing of the Quilts” exhibit was comprised of donated quilts to the Mountain Heritage Center that span a twenty-five year period of collecting.



Merikay Waldvogel examines one of the quilts brought in on Quilt Discovery Day.

A number of public presentations and activities took place at the museum during the exhibit including:

- *Quilt Discovery Day* hosted by nationally-known quilt authority Merikay Waldvogel who viewed clues in family quilts.

- *Presentation and Book Signing* by folklorist Laurel Horton, author of *Mary Black's Family Quilts: Memory and Meaning in Everyday Life*. Listen to Laurel's presentation at <http://digitalheritage.org>

- *Quilting Demonstration* by the Carolina Quilters.

- *How to Preserve and Store Your Family Quilts* a how-to of storage methods by the Mountain Heritage Center staff.



Carolina Quilters work on finishing the quilting on the Mountain Heritage Day commemorative quilt.

- *Hard Times In The Mill: Working Lives Past and Present* a presentation by Roxanne Newton on the state's rich textile heritage as told through the stories, songs, and people who worked in the mills. Listen to Roxanne's presentation at <http://digitalheritage.org>

- *The Great American Quilt Revival* a new DVD co-produced by Bonesteel Films and quilt teacher and author Georgia Bonesteel. The film previews and documents the people and events that propelled quilting from a folk craft to a mainstream art form.

## Calendar of EVENTS

For the latest information about Mountain Heritage Center exhibits and programs, call (828) 227-7129 or visit [www.wcu.edu/mhc](http://www.wcu.edu/mhc)

**April—**  
SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT:  
“Working the Land.” The role of farming in the past, present, and future of western North Carolina.

- 2 Arti-Facts! Clocks and Sundials. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 4 Mountain People Folklife Series. Presentation and film by Marc Pruett “Albert Burnette.” 5:30 p.m. MHC Auditorium.
- 5 Appalachian Cultural Lunchtime Series. Mark Powell. Noon-1:00 p.m. MHC Auditorium.
- 6 Winter Gatherings at the Mountain Heritage Center. Old Time Music and Bluegrass Concert featuring Blue Ridge Rounders 7-8:00 p.m. followed by Jam 8-9:00 p.m.
- 14 CLOSED – Observance of Easter.
- 20 Old Time Music/Bluegrass Jam. 7-9:00p.m. MHC Auditorium..
- 22 Earth Day Concert with Whitewater Bluegrass. UC Lawn.
- 23 Spring Into Summer. Turtle Talks with Charles Green. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 27 Mountain People Folklife Series. Presentation by Lora Taylor and Mark Cantrell. 6:00p.m. MHC Auditorium.

**May—**  
SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT:  
“After The War.” How Appalachian communities and people are changed by war.

- 6 OPEN - Special Hours 10-noon.

- 7 Arti-Facts! 2:30-3:30 p.m. Jack Tales with Howard Allman. Reservations required.
- 21 Spring Into Summer. Nature's Bounty: Plants in Medicine and Craft. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Reservations required.

**June—**  
SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT:  
“Mountain Trout.” The 10,000-year-old story of people, trout, and flowing water in the southern mountains.

- 4 Arti-Facts! Rugmaking. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 11 Concert. After the War: Music of the 1940s. Bob Shaw and Janet Metzger. 3:00-4:00 p.m. MHC Auditorium.
- 19-23 Mountain Mysteries – A Summer Camp focusing on crafts, games, and work skills of our Southern Appalachian ancestors. For rising 4th and 5th graders. 8:30a.m. – noon.
- 25 Crafts At the Center. 2-4:00 p.m.
- 26-29 Mini Camp for Middle Schoolers –A Summer Camp focusing on Cherokee culture. For rising 6th and 7th graders. 8:30 a.m. – noon.

**July—**  
SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT:  
“Migration of the Scotch-Irish People.” Traces this group of Appalachian settlers from Ulster to Pennsylvania, the Shenandoah Valley, and into western North Carolina.

- 4 CLOSED – Independence Day
- 9 Crafts At the Center. 2-4:00 p.m.

- 10-14 Eco-Adventures – A Summer Camp focusing on the natural environment. For rising 2nd and 3rd graders. 8:30a.m. – noon.
- 16 Crafts At the Center. 2-4:00 p.m.

**August—**  
SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT:  
“Stream of Life.” The natural and cultural history of Hazel Creek, an Appalachian watershed, from prehistory to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

- 6 Arti-Facts! 2:30-3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 13 Crafts At the Center. 2-4:00 p.m.
- 20 Spring Into Summer. Stream exploration. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 27 Crafts At the Center. 2-4:00 p.m.

**Sneak peak at September—**  
SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT:  
“Bells in the Valley.” A centennial history of Western Carolina University.

- 3-4 CLOSED – Observance of Labor Day.
- 30 Mountain Heritage Day. All-day festival on the grounds of Western Carolina University.



### A brief description of program offerings...

**Arti-Facts!** is a cultural arts program for kids that link old-time traditions of the past to the present.

**Spring Into Summer** is a natural history program series for children and adults offered April - August.

For information about our **Summer Camps**, please visit the Center's web site at [www.wcu.edu/mhc](http://www.wcu.edu/mhc).

**Crafts At the Center** is a series of demonstrations and hands-on activities by regional artists.

**Appalachian Folklife Series** programs are offered during fall and spring semesters. Public presentations emphasize Appalachian themes of people and places. Co-sponsored by Dr. Ted Coyle, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, and Dr. Tom Hatley, Sequoyah Distinguished Professor in Cherokee Studies.

**Appalachian Cultural Lunchtime Series** programs are offered three times a semester at the noon hour. Bring your own lunch and enjoy a pleasant hour learning more about Appalachian people and places. Co-sponsored by Ron Rash, Parris Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Cultural Studies.

**Winter Gatherings** offer musicians and listeners an opportunity to get together to share tunes and toe tapping steps. Jams are held January through April on the first and third Thursdays in the Mountain Heritage Center Auditorium.