

newground

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE CENTER
WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
CULLOWHEE, NC 28723
828-227-7129



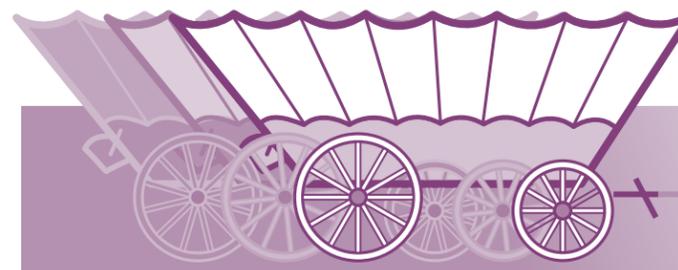
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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE Mountain Heritage Center

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY CULLOWHEE, NC

"A small gem of a museum" —Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Vol. XI, No. 2 Fall 2005

Summer Intern Is A Big Hit!

The Mountain Heritage Center was fortunate to have Christian Dwight join the staff this summer as an intern. The competitive internship was funded through the Cherokee Studies Program at WCU.



Photo courtesy of Ashley Evans

Christian, a History graduate student in the area of public history, is from Ellerbe, NC, a small, rural community about one hour from Southern Pines. After obtaining her undergraduate degree from UNC-Charlotte, she came to WCU last fall looking for a school with a small student /professor ratio. Besides assisting with summer camps, Christian worked on exhibits design and installation, collections management, and other educational programs.

Summer Fun

Camps were again an attraction of the summer Mountain Heritage Center activities. *Eco-Adventures*, or "Bug Camp" as many of the participants refer to it, provided opportunities to check out insects, trees, and quite a few snakes! *Mountain Mysteries*, or Crafts-Archaeology-Music-Heritage camp as the staff refer to it, offered children an opportunity to learn historic skills, crafts, and hear some traditional music. Special camp guests were weaver Susan Leveille and musician Henry Queen.



Gourd art at Mountain Mysteries camp.

The Mountain Heritage Center also added a new camp to its already popular lineup. A *Mini-Camp for Middle Schoolers* gave rising 6th and 7th graders the chance to work in small groups to create their own exhibits. These exhibits, on historic lighting, weaving, and toys, are on display in the Lobby cases at the Mountain Heritage Center through December. Mini-Camp participants represented Cullowhee Valley School, Fairview Elementary, Scotts Creek Elementary, Mountain Discovery Charter School, and area homeschoolers. Turn the page for a look at what participants in the Mini-Camp for Middle Schoolers created.

Listening to the woods and Fisher Creek.



(L to R) Caroline Gillanders, Tiffany Stack, and Addison Costa examine the newest "find" at Eco-Adventure Camp.

Summer camps were supported in part by individual donations and the Jackson County Arts Council.



Leslie Costa introduces a ringneck snake to hikers.

Visit our Web Site at www.wcu.edu/mhc

EXHIBITS—2005 & 2006

Gallery A

Permanent Exhibit

Migration of the Scotch-Irish People
Traces this group of Appalachian settlers from Ulster to Pennsylvania, the Shenandoah Valley, and into western North Carolina. The permanent exhibit includes text panels, illustrations, artifacts, and vibrant murals.
(A Mountain Heritage Center Exhibit)

Gallery B

Rotating Exhibits

Vanishing Pollinators
September 10 - November 6
The miniature world of moths, bees, and other pollinators and their symbiotic relationships with the plant kingdom. (Smithsonian Travel Exhibits, SITES, Washington, DC)

Grandma's Attic and Grandpa's Barn
January - April 2006
A whimsical collection of artifacts 'discovered' in attics and barns.
(A Mountain Heritage Center Exhibit)

NEW

Gallery C

Rotating Exhibits

**After the War:
Conflict and Domestic Change in the
North Carolina Mountains.**
Through November 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)



On-Line Exhibits

Horace Kephart: Revealing an Enigma NEW! NEW! NEW!
www.wcu.edu/library/digitalcoll/kephart

Southern Appalachian Quilts
www.wcu.edu/mhc/southernquilts.html

Watts in the Mountains: Rural Electrification in Western North Carolina
www.wcu.edu/mhc/npl/main.htm

FEEES/
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 for more information.

Middle Schoolers at Mini-Camp

focused on artifact interpretation and exhibit design.



Tanner Johnson and Olivia Collins invite you to see "From Fire to Electricity."



Rebecca Metz, Courtney Clapper, and Melissa Franks enjoyed setting up "Toys in the Mountain Past."



Hannah Liddle (pictured), Mary Allison Shell, and Connor Davis created "The Patterns of Weaving."

After the War

The "After the War" exhibit, funded in part by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, took four years and multiple people-hours to come to fruition. Now on display in Gallery C, with pictures and panels on the walls and encased artifacts, work continues as we produce other component parts. A multi-media show is scheduled to premier in the Center's auditorium on November 11, Veteran's Day. Several public presentations are being arranged for this fall and in 2006 based around the themes of changes to mountain society after World War I and World War II. Another exciting addition to the



Visit the new veteran's display to find out the relationship between Sammy Beck and this trumpet.

exhibit will be a changing lobby case that highlights veterans and their experiences. Featured now is Sammy Beck of Macon County, a veteran of the 3rd Marine Division who served during World War II and returned to graduate from Western Carolina University.

Center staff are excited to be sharing the exhibit with university groups, middle-and high school classes, and other visitors.

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 programs.

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 designated "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 must be 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 host of talented individuals.

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

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

Volunteer to help on Mountain Heritage Day! Call 828.227.7129

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 _____

State/Zip _____

Phone(area code) _____

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.

Smithsonian/MetLife Funds New Travel Trunk

The Mountain Heritage Center recently received a \$4,565 grant from the Smithsonian Community Grant program. This competitive grant was awarded to assist in the development and implementation of a traveling trunk program for 3rd grade classes entitled The Appalachian Garden. The traveling trunk will tie the history of regional gardens-, both Cherokee and European-influenced, with regional biodiversity emphasizing the essential link between gardening and the natural world. In addition to supplementing the Vanishing Pollinators SITES exhibit, on display this fall at the Mountain Heritage Center, The Appalachian Garden traveling trunk will become an effective outreach program available to 3rd grade classes for the future.

Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jams

"Gathering in the Galleries"

Musicians, young and old, new and experienced, are gathering in the galleries at the Center to share tunes and techniques. Come pull up a chair and pick a bit or just sit back and listen to some good music. The Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jams continue this fall at the Center and are a great opportunity for local musicians and dancers to meet and enjoy music and dance. The jams and dances are held on select Thursdays from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. See the "Calendar of Events" on the web site for the fall schedule.

Once a month an experienced "caller" and band turn the gathering into a dance held on the 3rd floor of the AK Hinds University Center. No dancing experience is necessary to participate.

The jam sessions and dances are sponsored by the Mountain Heritage Center and Western Carolina University's A.K. Hinds University Center.

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.**

Our thanks to the following who have recently contributed and renewed their support of the Mountain Heritage Center.

Arti-Facts! Programming
 Ms. Marcella Epperson

Friends of the Center
 Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Brooks
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Weiss
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kimzey

Volunteers
 Janet and Howard Papke

Public Programs
 Alan Whisman
 Dr. & Mrs. Mac Callaham
 Friends of Buncombe Libraries, Inc.

Summer Camp Programs
 Mrs. Carole Shell

Calendar of EVENTS

September—

SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT

“Coverlets: New Threads in Old Patterns.”
The story of the handicraft revival in southern Appalachia.

4-5 Closed in observance of Labor Day

8 **Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam**
7-9 p.m.

11 **Crafts At the Center**
Ted Alexander - Preservation NC
2-4 p.m.

14 **Exhibit Opening**
Vanishing Pollinators - Gallery B

14 **Appalachian Cultural Lunchtime Series**
Thomas Rain Crowe. 12:15-1:00 p.m.

14 **Appalachian Folklife Series**
Dr. Michael Abrams. 7-8 p.m.

15 **Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam & Dance**
For all musicians and dancers! 7-9 p.m.
3rd Floor, Hinds University Center

18 **Crafts At the Center**
Bernie Rowell - Art Quilts. 2-4 p.m.

22 **Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam**
7-9 p.m.

24 **Mountain Heritage Day**
All day outdoor festival celebration of folk music and traditions of the mountain region.

28 **Appalachian Folklife Series**
Dr. Vera Guise. 7-8 p.m.

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

October—

SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT

“Stream of Life.” The natural and cultural history of Hazel Creek, an Appalachian watershed.

2 **Crafts At the Center**
Johnnie Ruth and Nancy Maney - Cherokee crafts. 2-4 p.m.

4 **Cherokee Culture Series**
WCU interns projects. 7-8 p.m.

5 **Appalachian Cultural Lunchtime Series**
Sheila Kay Adams. 12:15-1:00 p.m.

6 **Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam**
7-9 p.m.

17 **Vanishing Pollinators** - Dr. Gabriela Chavarria, Defenders of Wildlife. 7-8 p.m.

19 **Appalachian Folklife Series**
Mr. Peter Givens. 7-8 p.m.

20 **Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam**
7-9 p.m.

26 **Appalachian Folklife Series**
Dr. Alan Jabbour. 7-8 p.m.

27 **Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam & Dance**
For all musicians and dancers! 7-9 p.m.
3rd Floor, Hinds University Center

30 **Cherokee Heritage** - A Walking Tour led by Jane Eastman. 2-4 p.m.

November—

SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT:

“After the War.” How Appalachian communities and people are changed by war.

6 **Exhibit Closing**
Vanishing Pollinators - Gallery B

8 **Cherokee Culture Series**
Lynne Harlan. 7-8 p.m.

9 **Appalachian Cultural Lunchtime Series**
12:15-1 p.m.

10 **Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam & Dance**
For all musicians and dancers! 7-9 p.m.
3rd Floor, Hinds University Center

17 **Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam**
7-9 p.m.

24-25 Closed in observance of Thanksgiving Holiday

December—

SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT

“Mountain Trout.” Tells the 10,000-year-old story of people, trout, and flowing water in the southern mountains.

1 **Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam**
7-9 p.m.

4 **Arti-Facts!**
2:30-3:30 p.m.

6 **Cherokee Culture Series**
David Cozzo. 7-8 p.m.

8 **Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam & Dance**
For all musicians and dancers! 7-9 p.m.
3rd Floor, Hinds University Center

15 **Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam** - 7-9 p.m.

26-30 Closed in observance of Christmas Holiday.



Behind the Scenes



Recent Donations to Collections

The Center received several donations in 2005 to help build the museum's regional collection. Included in the recent acquisitions are textiles, logging equipment, and furniture, as well as other items of significance to the western North Carolina region.

A donation of textiles, including ten quilts, was given by Jann West Ramsey and Virginia West Nobles. Featured left is the pieced Basket Pattern quilt with appliquéd handles made by Minnie Hyatt West of West's Mill, Macon County, NC. Other family quilts in the collection were made by Emma Lee Owensby Ramsey, Kings Mountain NC and Ada Cannon Shope Hyatt, Otto, NC. These beautiful quilts add immensely to the interpretive history of the region and enhance our growing quilt collection.

Thad and Katheryn Styles, Candler, NC contributed a number of interesting artifacts including a trail-grab, a bark spud (in the photo below), chestnut rails, and a forge blower.

Others who donated items are:

John H. Frazer
Debbie Jefferies Koch
Thomas W. Lewis III
Stephen R. Lott

Town of Dillsboro-Edith and Edna Monteith Collection



The Center is dependent on the generosity of its donors as we do not have funds to purchase artifacts. These contributions help preserve the history and heritage of our mountain region for all to enjoy and appreciate.

Mystery Artifact

Can you help us identify the artifacts pictured to the right? Made of metal parts, they measure 5" L x 5" H x 1.78" W.
From the George Satter Collection from Buncombe County, NC.



Send information about the use of this mystery object on a postcard to the Mountain Heritage Center or email "mcdowell@email.wcu.edu"

(Left) The last *newground* mystery artifact was correctly identified as a Boring machine used to drill holes in wood. Correctly identified by Don Stevenson, Matt Liddle, and Janet and Howard Papke.



A brief description of program offerings...

Programs are held at the Mountain Heritage Center unless otherwise indicated in the Calendar above.

Appalachian Cultural Lunchtime Series
~ 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.

Appalachian Folklife Series ~ Fall and spring semesters. Public presentations emphasize Appalachian themes of people and places. Co-sponsored by **Dr. Ted Coyle**, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, College of Arts & Sciences.

Arti-Facts! ~ A cultural arts program for kids that link old-time traditions of the past to the present. Once a month on Sundays during the school year.

Cherokee Culture Series ~ Fall and spring semesters. Public presentations emphasize Cherokee themes. Co-sponsored by **Dr. Tom Hatley**, Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies.

Crafts At the Center ~ A series of demonstrations and hands-on activities by regional artists.

Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jams & Dance ~ Monthly get-togethers of musicians and dancers who share tunes and toe tapping steps. Jams are held at the Mountain Heritage Center; dances in the Grand Room at Hinds University Center. Co-sponsored by the **A.K. Hinds University Center**.