

newground

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



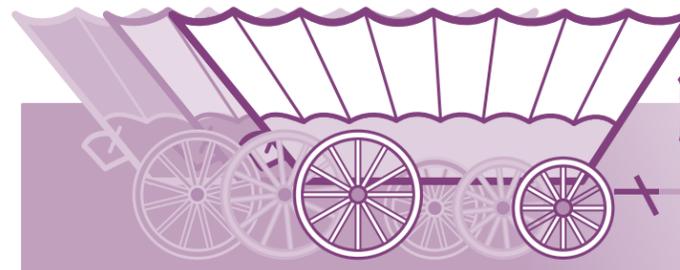
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Vol. XII, No. 2 Fall 2006

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

Designed to supplement the teaching of North Carolina history, science and math.

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

A Day in the Life—
Pioneer life in southern Appalachian

Reading a Quilt—
The diversity and history of quilts

Traveling Programs

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

A Visit From *NEW* A Civil War Soldier

A close look at life in the 1860s.



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.

SCOTT PHILYAW NAMED TO LEAD MUSEUM

A historian who rummaged through Appalachian Mountain artifacts and archives as an undergraduate student at Western Carolina University has been tapped to lead the museum where he once toiled as an intern. Scott Philyaw, WCU associate professor of history, is the new director of the Mountain Heritage Center, the university's regional museum that studies, documents and interprets the culture and history of Southern Appalachia. The appointment was effective April 3.

"We have searched far and wide for the right person to move our Mountain Heritage Center forward, and we are delighted that someone who grew up in these very mountains is coming on board to ensure that the fine work of this important cultural resource continues," said Clifton Metcalf, associate vice chancellor for advancement and external affairs. "Dr. Philyaw is no stranger to the Mountain Heritage Center and, in fact, played a key role in developing the center's inaugural exhibit when he was an undergraduate student at WCU."

Philyaw, who earned his bachelor's degree in history from WCU in 1983, traveled to Northern Ireland during his senior year to conduct research and arrange for loans of artifacts for the center's inaugural exhibition on the migration of the Scotch-Irish people. That display,



Photo by Mark Hasket

The Mountain Heritage Center was honored as Grand Marshall at this year's "Greening Up the Mountains" parade in Sylva. Here Peter Koch and new MHC director Scott Philyaw carry the banner at the head of the parade.

which chronicles the arrival of settlers from Scotland and Ireland in the mountains of Western North Carolina, has evolved to become the museum's permanent exhibit.

After graduating from WCU in 1983, Philyaw went to earn his master's degree in history from the College of William and Mary and his doctorate in history from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. A member of WCU's history faculty since 1996, Philyaw has assisted the Mountain Heritage Center with several exhibits. Working with WCU students, he co-authored two pamphlets for the Blue Ridge Parkway, including "The Natural Diversity of Linville Falls," which won the 2002 Excellence in Interpretation Award for Trail Guides from the National Park Service Cooperating Association.

Although he'll be directing a museum that focuses on traditions of the past, Philyaw has plans to take its activities into the future. "The Mountain Heritage Center already has a successful record, and one of my goals for the center is to build on its successful outreach efforts by doing more community programming and educational programs for the public schools, from kindergarten through the 12th grade," he said. "I also wish to continue the outreach work the center has done with other regional museums and historic societies."

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

EXHIBITS—2006/2007

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>

•After the War

•Horace Kephart

•Southern Appalachian Quilts

•Watts in the Mountains: Rural Electrification in Western North Carolina

Gallery B

Cherokee Baskets in the Twentieth Century – Part II

November 7 – January 26

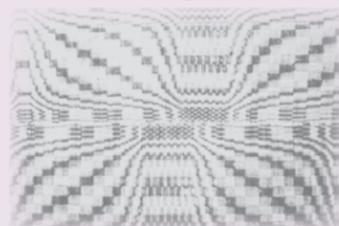
(A Mountain Heritage Center Exhibit)



Airing of the Coverlets: A Closer Look

February 7 – April 30

(A Mountain Heritage Center Exhibit)



Gallery C

After the War: Conflict and Domestic Change in the North Carolina Mountains

Through 2007

How world 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

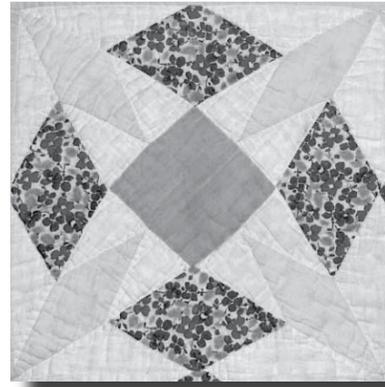
The Mountain Heritage Center is open to the public free of charge. Visiting hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center is also open on Sundays, 2 to 5 p.m., June through October. The Center does observe a university holiday schedule. Call 828-227-7129 or visit www.wcu.edu/mhc for more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

LUCKY STAR RETURNS HOME

When Andrea Chambers attended WCU in the mid-1970s, she likely never expected to discover a 'lucky star.' But that is exactly what happened.

As a student, Andrea made the acquaintance of a local lady who presented her with a quilt. While Andrea does not remember much about the circumstances of the gift, or the name of the individual who made the quilt, it became a treasured gift from her university days. The Western alum, who now lives in Connecticut, was glad to find that her alma mater maintained a museum dedicated to regional heritage. Ms. Chambers felt that the quilt should be returned to the Jackson County area and recently repositied it here.

The quilt pattern is called Lucky Star. The star has a yellow center, pink and printed fabric diamonds, and white triangles. The quilt is in good condition and measures approximately 78" long by 69" wide. We are pleased to add this wonderful donation to the Center's growing quilt collection.



Detail of Lucky Star quilt.

DEITZ FAMILY WINS WCU'S MOUNTAIN HERITAGE AWARD

The 2006 Mountain Heritage Award goes to a family whose roots run deep into the musical heritage of Western North Carolina - the Deitz Family of Jackson County's Tatham's Creek community.

Members of the family have been performing string band music across Western North Carolina for more than 30 years, keeping alive the traditional fiddle and banjo tunes passed down to them by a well-known Jackson County musician, the late Harry Cagle, who had learned the songs from Samantha Bumgarner, the legendary Jackson County performer who made some of the first recorded country music in the nation.

The Dietz Family band - including brothers Joe and Bill Deitz; Bill's wife, Delores; and the couple's daughter, Chrystal - shares a family lineage that dates back to some of the earliest settlers of Jackson County's Tatham's Creek area. Raised in a musical family, Joe and Bill



Deitz Family of Tatham's Creek perform at the Mountain Heritage Center.

Deitz grew up listening to their parents play music by the light of a kerosene lamp. In 1972, Bill Deitz joined Cagle in the reformation of a group called Harry Cagle and the Country Cousins.

From 1972 through 1990, Harry Cagle and the Country Cousins performed all across Western North Carolina. Over the years, the group grew as Joe, Delores and Chrystal Deitz joined Cagle, Bill Deitz and Phil Stovall on stage. The Deitz's have performed as a family since Harry Cagle's passing in 1990.

The family's relationship with Mountain Heritage Day goes back to the festival's origins. The university held a "Founders Day" celebration on the last Saturday in September in 1974, and one of the music groups performing at that event was a trio that included Harry Cagle and Bill Deitz. That event became Mountain Heritage Day the following year, and Harry Cagle and the Country Cousins, including members of the Deitz Family, performed at every edition of the festival from 1975 through 1990. The family has appeared at every Mountain Heritage Day since then.

The Deitz's also have taken the stage at the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival, Asheville's Shindig on the Green, and at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee. Many performances have been in the Jackson/Macon areas at benefits, family reunions, nursing homes and school festivals. Some of the family's work has been as a group and some has been as individuals or pairs. The Mountain Heritage Center, for example, has often hosted just Bill and Joe for youth programs that particularly need their educational skills, musical ability, and charm.

Ted Coyle, a member of WCU's anthropology faculty and editor of the North Carolina Folklore Journal, said this about today's honorees: "The Deitz Family makes mountain music in the best sense of the term. It is the music that gets us off of our couches and down to our church or community center, where we once again come face-to-face with the people who make this place special. The family's music is rooted in the good taste of generations of musicians who have been more interested in making the kinds of music that suited them than in sticking to one particular style or tradition."

Other Collection Donors this year include:

Terry Ashe
Andrea Chambers
Martha Chapman
Donald and Wanda Hill
Conchita Kelly
Sara Madison
Elizabeth Reed
Geraldine Robinson
The Steele family

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 programs.

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.

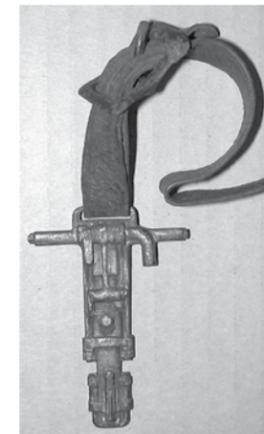
Our exhibits are always changing so people will have something new to see and learn each time they visit. Your tax-deductible contribution designated "exhibits" can help fund exhibit fees and transport, educational materials, consultants, researchers, duplication of photographic materials, and acquisition 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.

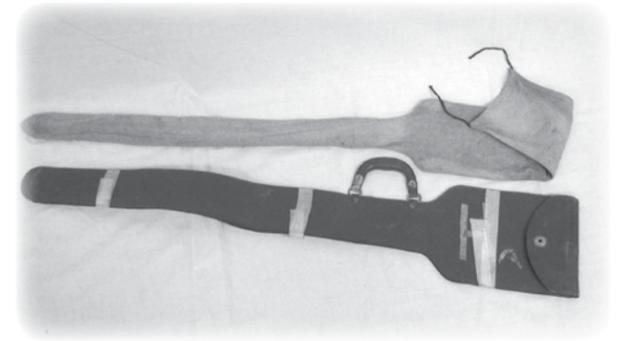
Interested in corporate sponsorship? Contact the Director at 828-227-7129.

Mystery Artifact...



This brass artifact measures 1 3/8 inches wide and 2 inches long. It is attached to a short leather strap that could hang off a belt. Can you identify this artifact?

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



Thanks to all the people who wrote to tell us about last issue's mystery artifact. It was correctly identified as a Masonic Knight's Templar sword carrying case.

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS who are helping accomplish this important work.

_____ \$15 Student
_____ \$25 Individual
_____ \$40 Family
_____ \$50+ Program support
_____ \$250+ Corporate/Exhibit support

I am enclosing \$_____ 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.

Meet Christie Fulcher...



Christie Fulcher working with Horace Kephart artifacts at the Mountain Heritage Center.

Sifting through hundred-year old maps with a local librarian was Christie Fulcher's introduction to original historical research. She was eight years old.

In the twenty-some-odd years since then, Christie earned a BA in history from Mills College in Oakland, California and worked in a small historical museum in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Currently, Christie is a history graduate student at Western Carolina University and is serving as a graduate assistant at the Mountain Heritage Center.

Having spent most of her life in mountain tourist towns, Christie has a deep and abiding interest in the history of mountain tourism and is working to continue to hone her skills as a historian and prepare for doctoral work.

Book A Traveling Trunk



The Appalachian Garden traveling trunk, designed for 3rd grade curriculum, is the latest addition to the Center's traveling trunk series. Other trunks, designed for 4th grade curriculum, include *Reading a Quilt* and *A Day in the Life*. For information about reserving one of the trunks, call Peter Koch at 828-227-7129.

Winter Gatherings Old Time & Bluegrass Music Returns to the Center

Add a little warmth to your winter evenings and join us December through March for our Old Time Music and Bluegrass gatherings. The first Thursday of the month features a concert from 7:00-8:00 p.m. by a regional band.

Following the concert there is an opportunity to "jam" with the featured band. Musicians of all ages and experience are welcome to join. Open jams are held the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. So come pick a bit or just sit and listen to the rich musical traditions of western North Carolina.

Mountain Heritage Center gets a new Mountain Heritage Day Coordinator

Michele Glover is the newest Center staff member filling the position of Mountain Heritage Day Coordinator previously held by Mary Lou Millwood. Michele has lived in Western North Carolina since 1993. She holds a masters degree in history from Western Carolina University and her research interests include oral history and Depression-era history of the region.

No stranger to Mountain Heritage Day, Michele volunteered at many past festival days. In addition to her duties at the Center, she is also a history instructor at Southwestern Community College.



Calendar of EVENTS

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

November—

SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT: "Coverlets: New Threads in Old Patterns."

- 1 Appalachian Cultural Lunchtime Series. George & Elizabeth Ellison *Blue Ridge Nature Journal*. 12:15 – 1:00 p.m. MHC Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Ron Rash, Parris Professor of Appalachian Studies.
- 5 Arti-Facts! "Cornshuck Crafts." 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 14 Appalachian Folklife Series. "Telling Mountain Stories." *The Madison County Documentary Project*. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. MHC Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Ethnography Laboratory, Anthropology and Sociology and the Sequoyah Professor of Cherokee Studies.
- 19 Nature's Tracks. "The Traveling Planetarium." 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Reservations required.

23&24 Closed.

February—

SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT: "Mountain Trout."

- 1 Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam Series. Concert with *Cullowhee Creek*. 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Jam following for all musicians of any playing level. MHC Auditorium. 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 4 Arti-Facts! "Party Foods: 1950s Style." 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 15 Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam Series. For all musicians of any playing level. MHC Auditorium. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 18 Nature's Tracks "Fine Feathered Friends." 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 20 Appalachian Folklife Series: "Telling Mountain Stories." *The Queen Family and Neal Hutchinson*. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. MHC Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Ethnography Laboratory, Anthropology and Sociology and the Sequoyah Professor of Cherokee Studies.
- 21 Appalachian Cultural Lunchtime Series. Anne Mitchell Whisnant *Super-Scenic Motorway: A Blue Ridge Parkway History*. 12:15 – 1:00 p.m. MHC Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Ron Rash, Parris Professor of Appalachian Studies.

December—

SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT: "Irons in the Fire."

- 3 Arti-Facts! "Potato Stamp Holiday Cards." 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 5 Appalachian Folklife Series: "Telling Mountain Stories." *Rank Strangers – The Story of Mrs. Hyatt's Oprahouse*. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. MHC Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Ethnography Laboratory, Anthropology and Sociology and the Sequoyah Professor of Cherokee Studies.
- 7 Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam Series. Concert with *Whitewater Bluegrass*. 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Jam following for all musicians of any playing level. MHC Auditorium. 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 21 Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam Series. For all musicians of any playing level. MHC Auditorium. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

25-31 Closed.

March—

SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT: "Coverlets: New Threads in Old Patterns."

- 1 Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam Series. Concert with *Stoney Creek Boys*. 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Jam following for all musicians of any playing level. MHC Auditorium. 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 4 Arti-Facts! "Weaving." 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 11 Nature's Tracks "Gauging the Weather." 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 13 Appalachian Folklife Series: "Telling Mountain Stories." *Cherokee Stories with Tom Hill*. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. MHC Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Ethnography Laboratory, Anthropology and Sociology and the Sequoyah Professor of Cherokee Studies.
- 15 Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam Series. For all musicians of any playing level. MHC Auditorium. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 21 Appalachian Cultural Lunchtime Series. 12:15-1:00 p.m. TBA. MHC Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Ron Rash, Parris Professor of Appalachian Studies.

January—

SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT: "Stream of Life."

- 1 Closed.
- 4 Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam Series. Concert TBA. 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Jam following for all musicians of any playing level. MHC Auditorium. 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 15 Closed.
- 18 Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam Series. For all musicians of any playing level. MHC Auditorium. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 23 Appalachian Folklife Series: "Telling Mountain Stories." *Cherokee Stories with Davy Arch*. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. MHC Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Ethnography Laboratory, Anthropology and Sociology and the Sequoyah Professor of Cherokee Studies.
- 24 Appalachian Cultural Lunchtime Series. Darnell Arnoult *What Travels With Us*. 12:15 – 1:00 p.m. MHC Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Ron Rash, Parris Professor of Appalachian Studies.

April(sneak peak)—

SLIDESHOW SPOTLIGHT: "Islands in the Clouds."

- 1 Arti-Facts! "Toys & Games." 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- 4 Appalachian Folklife Series: "Telling Mountain Stories." *Cherokee Stories with Nannie Taylor*. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. MHC Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Ethnography Laboratory, Anthropology and Sociology and the Sequoyah Professor of Cherokee Studies.
- 15 Nature's Tracks "Wildflower Walk." 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Reservations required.

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.

Nature's Tracks is a natural history program series for children and adults.

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 December through March on the first and third Thursdays in the Mountain Heritage Center Auditorium.