

Circle of Friends

Dear Friends of the Museum:

This beautiful spring, we are so excited to share some great news with you! Not only have our Heritage Programs, Living History Days, and Children's Heritage Days been hugely successful, but we have also expanded our collection of artifacts this past year through a careful selection process, adding contributions from eight donors to the core collection gathered by our students over the last four decades. These recent acquisitions include over 45 farm implements (horse-drawn harrows, plows, planters, a wagon, tools, and more), a country store meat safe, a wooden cradle with rope bed, an apple press, a woven throw, a wrought iron wood heater and a cook stove, a split-oak basket, and hand-crafted wooden wash tubs. We are so grateful that families continue to view our Museum as a safe repository for their heirlooms, to see that they are preserved and can be shared with generations to come. In recent weeks, we were endowed with a four-pen, crossed-hall log barn from the Sam Beck family. The barn has been standing on the Beck's Rabun County property since the 1800s. We are so very fortunate to be the recipient of such historical treasures, but we need your help, more than ever, to continue preserving these wonderful gifts. As we disassemble the barn and move it to the Museum for reconstruction, we need your financial assistance to relocate it, as well as to help us continue our various Heritage Programs for learners of all ages. Thank you for your past support, and please support us again today, as we plan for another thriving year with your support as a member of our Circle of Friends!



Car clubs that aren't afraid of gravel roads occasionally make The Foxfire Museum a destination on their trips.

Ann Moore

Our deepest appreciation goes out to last year's Circle of Friends members, whose contributions are vital to our 2010 operations and programs.

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| John Barton | Sallie Gentry | Richard G. McGuire | Bill Setzer |
| Ed & Cheryl Blanton | Sarah Gordon | F. Burton McKaig | Pat Shamrock |
| Kenneth Blaylock | Myra Grady | Fran Miller | Deede Sharpe & John Parker |
| Carl M. & Jane Carter | David & Kim Hale | Barbara Land Moncrief | Robbie Shreves |
| Roland & Pam Clemmons | Sarah Hardy | Mary Ann Morgareidge | A. L. & Sandra B. Simons |
| Nita Cofer | Mrs. N. V. Hendricks III | Jerry D. Mumford | Wayne & Ann Sims |
| Lt. Col. Mary L. Cole | Melissa Hincer | H. Bailey Mundy, P.E. | Bruce & Doris Smith |
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| Connie Flowers | Deron & Nicole McFarland | Beth & Garnell Rogers | Mr. & Mrs. James Wood |
| Glenn E. Forrest | Ben McGehee | Barbara & Skip Russell | Charles & Marilyn Wright |
| Edwin & Tracy Fuqua | | Kay Sauer-Coleman & family | Ronnie Yarbrough |
| | | Mr. & Mrs. Terrance Schmidt | |
| | | Rev. Kyle Segars | |



At the Museum – Improvement and Involvement

In spite of the ailing economy, 2009 was a banner year for the Museum, with attendance reaching a new high—over 12,000 people braved our mountain roads (they're not *that* bad, really) to experience Southern Appalachia at the only heritage facility built largely by high school students. Over 600 people took their interest a step further, arranging or participating in 36 guided tours of the Museum, looking a little deeper into the past with help from curator Barry Stiles and others. Barry also presented 5 off-site heritage programs to almost 400 more people, bringing the year's total to over 13,000 people learning more about this unique region of America.



Underneath its rough tin skin, the Beck Barn is an impressive four-pen, crossed-hall log structure with a massive overhead loft. The barn was donated to Foxfire this spring, and will be taken apart, moved to the Museum, and reconstructed, hopefully to become display space for older and recently-acquired farm equipment.



Artists-in-residence Sharon Grist and Carole Morse both continue to demonstrate their trades (weaving and broom-making, respectively) for

Museum visitors. Around the Museum grounds, only a few things have changed. The Moore House had to have some serious repairs after one of this winter's ice storms dropped a sizable poplar trunk onto the porch roof, shattering about a dozen rafters (*picture at left*). An automatic security gate was added to Foxfire Lane, for convenience, after-hours safety, and ease-of-access when the facility is being used for teacher-training classes and other programs. This year, Tallulah Falls School teachers Bob Loder and Killeen Jensen brought both sixth- and eighth-graders to the

Museum to help with various work projects, including removing some rather unauthentic outdoor

carpeting, carpet padding, and subflooring from The Chapel—revealing the aged wooden floor planks underneath (*below*).



The biggest change to the Museum this year, however, is apparent as soon as you round the turn into the Gift Shop parking lot. Starting last fall, the TFS students transplanted dozens of native ferns from the bank along the upper edge of the parking lot (*left*). Later, equipment was brought in to dig out that upper bank, making room for a second row of parking in the lot (*left-below*). Extremely wet winter weather and more than one wet-weather spring head were contended with to nearly double the size of the parking lot. The extra capacity was helpful (but still not quite enough) in accommodating the record crowds during this year's Living History Days (*left-bottom*). The enlargement of the parking



lot necessitated a new end to the self-guided tour trail (*below*), which now has a new staircase and handrail to bring visitors the last few feet back down to their cars.



**Very Special Thanks To
Tallulah Falls School:**
Killeen Jensen & Bob Loder
Olivia Agber, Sean Antosiak, Kemi Ashekun, Missy Barbone, Rachel Barbone, Madison Black, Hunter Braham, Kevin Brooks, Tori Burton, Conner Clarke, Kaitlin Collins, Kaitlyn Crosby, James Davis, Kayla Duarte, Simone Duckett, Jacob Fortenberry, John Luke Gallagher, Camille Guzzaetta, Cameron Hale, Trenton Hale, Sidney Hicks, Ryan Hughes, Seung Hun Jung, Narah Landress, Marissa Lastra, Soleil LeBlanc, Vanessa Lewis, Kyndra Marchman, Juan Navarrete, Daryl Oldham, Amelia Provine, Ashley Reese, Emily Reynolds, Keeli Sewell, Alyssa Sgro, Cayla Simmons, Haley Stein, Elizabeth Tench, Cody Thomas, Maci Watts, Justin Watts

Good Times for The Younger Crowd



Children's Heritage Days is a new program at the Museum, kicked off last summer with two scheduled Saturday workshop programs for ages 8-12, and an additional date added due to demand. Each Children's Heritage Day featured several varying mini-workshops, allowing the kids to make items to keep while trying their hands at various traditional skills. The children experienced woodworking through using a draw knife and shaving horse to make their own hiking sticks. Each participant spent some time in the blacksmith's forge, hammering a large nail into a simple decorative wall hook. Weaving, candle-making, pottery-making, and broom-making were also included in last year's events—along with some time out for playing traditional games and making a simple toy to take home.

Building on last year's offerings, the Museum is offering four Children's Heritage Days this year, arranged for specific age groups. Children's Heritage Days run from 9am–3pm, and the cost is \$40 per child, with a \$5 discount for additional siblings. Attendance is limited to 12 children per event, pre-registration is required, and parents are encouraged to stay and observe or assist (no additional cost). Please visit www.foxfire.org for details (as they become available) on specific activities scheduled for each of the four events: June 17 (ages 8-11), June 29 (ages 4-7), July 9 (ages 8-11), and July 30 (ages 12-18).

By the time you read this newsletter, Rabun County's fourth-grade students will have been to the Museum for their annual tour—but this year, they'll leave with more than just memories of their visit. Thanks to donations made in memory of Robert Murray and Annual Appeal donations for this project, we have gathered a collection of unique items for the students to take home—a special Foxfire tote bag packed with a simple 1800s toy, a "writin' stick" (an actual twig with pencil lead in the end), and our new Museum Activity Book. The Activity Book contains puzzles, a maze made from the Museum grounds, a quick question-and-answer section to help the kids start preserving their own heritage, and more—all featuring bits of Southern Appalachia showcased during the tour of the Museum. We hope to expand the contents of this collection and extend it to other grade levels in the future, as funding allows. Enjoy trying out the blacksmithing word-find puzzle!



Strike While The Iron's Hot

Remember the orange glow of the heated iron as it came out of the forge? Iron has to be at the correct temperature for the smith to work it. "Strike while the iron's hot" means to do the job at the right time—when it can be done in the easiest and best way possible. Once the iron cools down, it's really hard for the hammer to change the iron's shape.

B C V B F S W L I V N A
 S O S M E B E N M H T C
 E A I T S L F B M I S H
 I L I P U A L R R N E O
 K M E B C C T O G L T L
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| BLACKSMITH | HAMMER |
| SMITE | TONGS |
| IRON | VICE |
| COAL | ANVIL |
| FORGE | HORN |
| BELLOWS | FACE |



Living History Days

Now in its third year, the Museum's fun and unique spring heritage program once again brought the 1800s to life for visitors of all ages. Over the event's two days, Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10, just over 800 people visited the Museum (a 60% increase over last year's attendance) and followed the tour trail around the grounds, enjoying this year's array of demonstrations, entertainment, and hands-on activities. The major skills and activities of yesteryear were represented—various woodworking styles, clay pottery-making, blacksmithing, spinning and dyeing yarn, quilting, fireplace cooking, soapmaking, short church services and school lessons, stilt walking and other fun and games, and all the rest. These traditional Appalachian staples were accompanied by several new and different glimpses of the past, like hand-washing laundry in wooden tubs, timber frame construction, and flint knapping (making arrowheads from flint rock). Longtime friend of Foxfire and renowned chair maker Max Woody donated one of his entirely hand-made wooden rocking chairs to be raffled off on the second day of the event—congratulations to winner Barbara Deason of Sylvania, GA.

The families of the Rabun Christian Home Educators once again joined other Foxfire friends and craftspeople, donning their 1800s-style clothing and showcasing the affairs of daily Southern Appalachian life from centuries past. Many of the home-school children involved in Living History Days have gotten proficient enough with various skills that they are taking their turns at giving some of the demonstrations, highlighting the fact that, in the early days of mountain settlement, children were productively involved in the survival of the family—helping to fulfill basic needs almost from the time they were old enough to walk.

Again, our appreciation goes out to everyone who took part in or visited Living History Days, and especially to the Foxfire students whose hard work and decisions led to the creation of the Museum facility, and also to our steadfast supporters (YOU), whose contributions help us maintain the Museum and allow us to continue sharing our unique heritage with so many people each year. Thank you, one and all!

(left) Cranking the late-1800s mechanical bellows to feed fresh air into the forge is one of the many ways folks are invited to take part in demonstrations. (middle) Potter Steve Turpin brought his home-built kick wheel to use when showing how lumps of clay become his beautiful creations. (right) Noah and Nicolas Taylor (wearing the hats) showed folks how twine can be twisted into useful rope.



Living History Days visitors are given the chance to participate in short school sessions, representative of the basic "readin', writin', and 'rithmetic" lessons given to multi-grade-level students in a common classroom—the type of lessons that were often the sum total of schooling most children received.



Thank You! to everyone who helped produce this year's Living History Days: **FAMILIES:** Perry, Michelle, Paul, Grey, & Joel Bourlet; Claud & Eula Connell; Sandy & Justin Davis; Matt, Coral, Corbin, Luke, Mia, & Rebecca Heyl; Ben, Beth, Ella, & Abe Loveland; Keith & Ginny Loveland; Jusy & Ashley O'Shields; Lewis, Dolleta, & Lewis (Rooster) Reeves; T.J., Jenny, Andrew, Jon Tom, Briar, & Moses Stevens; Teresa, Nathan, Noah, & Nicolas Taylor; Doug & Jan Volk; Charlie, Fran, Brianna, & Chloe Webb; Aimee & Andrew Whittle; Joe & Samuel Williams; James, Christy, Katy, & Lincoln Wright; **FRIENDS:** Michaela Allen, Scott Beck, Casi Best, Kyle Bryner, Kaye Collins, Stephanie Dunlap, Gloria Dunn, Jim Enloe, Danny Flory, Samantha Fountain, Johnnie Grist, Sharon Grist, Ramey Henslee, Brad Jordan, Lindsey Lampros, Lisa McCall, Carole Morse, Alex Owens, Clay Patton, Sharon Rice, Donald Samples, Justin Shook, Juanita Shope, Shanda Speed, Justin Spillers, Cathy Stiles, Ivy Stiles, Steve Turpin, Max Woody. **MUSICIANS:** Ben & Beth Loveland; Keith & Ginny Loveland; Hank Belew & Jim Nixon; Rhonda Williams & Blue Ridge Music students. **SPONSORS:** Duwall Ford



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Foxfire Museum

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From the small family home represented by the Savannah House, just above the gift shop, to the lofty Chapel at the peak of the Museum grounds, Foxfire students arrayed many facets of early Appalachian life on this mountainside in an attempt to remember the ways of old and preserve the feel of a small pioneer community. Any small community depends on the contributions of each and every one of its members in order to survive and thrive. Through your interest in Foxfire and visits to the Museum, you have established yourself as a member of the Foxfire “community.” As often happens, though, sometimes a community needs a little more, and asks folks for additional help—as Foxfire does with this donation campaign. It is always understood that not everyone in the community



has the same amount of time or resources to offer, but by simply being a part of our community, you have already contributed your goodwill—the most important gift of all. However, if you would like to contribute something extra to help maintain the Museum, the “center” of our community, please consider joining our Circle of Friends. Our membership classes reflect the spirit of community, following the Museum’s tour trail up the mountain and highlighting different facets of Appalachian life—and accepting, without question, that no matter what level of contribution you are able to make, you *belong* to the Foxfire community, and we offer our heartfelt thanks for your support of our students and their efforts to preserve this unique American culture for the generations to come.



HEARTH FAMILY

gifts of \$25 - \$49 _____

WOODSHOP HANDS

gifts of \$50 - \$99 _____

WAGON DRIVERS

gifts of \$100 - \$199 _____

SMITHY COUNCIL

gifts of \$200 - \$299 _____

GRISTMILL PATRONS

gifts of \$300 - \$499 _____

CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP

gifts of \$500 or more _____

Please enroll me at the level indicated:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

I do not wish to join at this time, but please send me information about:

_____ Workshops/Demonstrations _____ Special Events

You may also visit the Shop at www.foxfire.org and make a contribution.

Please make check or money order payable to: The Foxfire Museum, PO Box 541, Mountain City, GA 30562-0541

HEARTH FAMILY – \$25 - \$49

Family always gathers around the hearth for warmth—the physical warmth of the fire, the sustaining warmth of a good meal, and the emotional warmth of being together with those closest to you.

Appreciation Gift—You will receive a Foxfire leather bookmark—a thin piece of leather laser-etched with the Foxfire gristmill logo by a fellow in Alabama.

WOODSHOP HANDS – \$50 - \$99

Almost everything within the home came from nature's wood and the family's hands—from the youngsters' earliest whittling of forks and spoons to the father's masterpiece bed frame or rocking chair.

Appreciation Gift—You will receive a Foxfire leather bookmark and a copy of *North Georgia Mountains Pocket Companion*, an outdoor guide highlighting over 70 natural attractions (parks, recreation areas, trails, waterfalls, and more) in our beautiful mountain home, written by local author Brian Boyd.

WAGON DRIVERS – \$100 - \$199

Traveling through the mountains took patience and skill in handling the wagon and the team over tricky terrain—and also took the hardiness to climb down from the driver's seat and help with both the loading and the unloading.

Appreciation Gift—You will receive a Foxfire leather bookmark and a copy of *Medicinal Plants of the Southern Appalachians*, a detailed guide to historical and current medicinal uses of 45 native plant species, written by local herbalist Patricia Howell, who occasionally holds herbal classes here at the Museum.

SMITHY COUNCIL – \$200 - \$299

Almost everyone had reason to deal with the blacksmith, from Mama's cracked cookpot to Papa's dulled axe—it's natural that the smithy was the unofficial center of information exchange and discussion in the community.

Appreciation Gift—You will receive a Foxfire leather bookmark and FOUR decorative hand-forged "S" hooks, hammered and twisted right here in the Museum's coal-fired forge. Great for hanging potted plants and more.

GRISTMILL PATRONS – \$300 - \$499

As a community grows, more residents specialize in trades, easing everyday tasks for others—the miller personifies this, as his trade simplifies the production of a vital food staple for everyone in the community, while his "toll" provides food and bartering goods for his own family's needs.

Appreciation Gift—You will receive a Foxfire leather bookmark and a snugly woven plaid throw, great for settling in on the couch and reading your favorite Foxfire book on a cool evening. These throws, made in South Carolina, are primarily cranberry, with green, blue, and white striping.

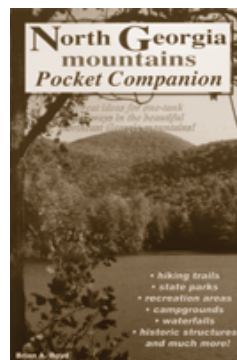
CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP – \$500 or more

Faith is a strong foundation for every aspect of life—a chapel was the first building a group of people raised together as a community, and was usually where folks gathered to find out about and see to the needs of their neighbors and friends.

Appreciation Gift—You will receive a Foxfire leather bookmark and a set of FOUR brown-and-blue coffee mugs, hand-made by north Georgia potter Steve Turpin, a talented traditional potter featured in *Foxfire 12*, showcasing his talent for creating unique face jugs.



Foxfire's custom leather bookmark is appx. 4.5" in length, and is great for keeping your place in your favorite Foxfire book, or any other.



The *Pocket Companion* is filled with great places to visit the next time you're in the North Georgia mountains. If you live in the area, there's likely a few places in this book that you haven't seen yet!

Many of Appalachia's native medicinal plants have been the templates for modern medicines.

Patricia Howell is a registered herbalist, and offers classes to instruct participants in the proper preparation and use of these plants.



These 9" (average) "S" hooks are made of 1/4"-round steel rod and sealed with beeswax while still hot to prevent rust.

The "power looms" that weave these throws are an earlier generation of textile industry equipment, and they make good-looking, comfortable throws.



These durable hand-made pottery mugs from Steve Turpin have a varying two-tone glaze, half dark blue, half a warm tan color.