

MOUNTAIN ECHOES

Connecting with the spirit and history of Townsend, Cades Cove, and the Great Smoky Mountains.



■ THE FALL SEASON & HOLIDAYS

We're Just Getting Started!

High Fidelity performs at the Heritage Center on September 22 at 7:00 pm.

Continued on Page 4

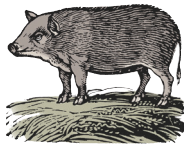


■ SEPTEMBER 30 | 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Blue Ribbon Country Fair

Don't miss our fall celebration in the tradition of old-time county fairs. We will celebrate all that is good about an old-fashioned country fair with activities that include living history demonstrations of **open hearth cooking, spinning, weaving, wood turning, blacksmithing** and there will be livestock with cows, chickens, and goats. Popular activities include historical games like **Farmer in the Cove** and the **Ladies Skillet Throw**.

BLUE RIBBON COUNTRY FAIR



■ OCTOBER 28 | 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Tuckaleechee Pottery Festival

Featuring some of the **nation's finest potters**, the festival offers a chance to see and purchase unique pottery and other handmade goods. Connoisseurs and novices alike will enjoy interacting and learning from experts. This is a perfect time to **learn from expert potters**. Whether it's for decoration or function, this festival will have something for everyone at a wide range of price.

TUCKALEECHEE
POTTERY FESTIVAL

■ NOVEMBER 11 | 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Holiday Handcrafters Festival

Join us at the Heritage Center for our annual **Holiday Handcrafters Festival**. This holiday tradition is the perfect way to kick off the Christmas shopping season! This year's Handcrafters Fair features

Holiday =
HANDCRAFTERS
= *Festival*
NOVEMBER 2023

over **30 vendors** from in and around the Smoky Mountain Region, and all goods are **handmade or handcrafted**. There is no admission cost for the Fair, however, we encourage you to bring plenty of shopping money!



MUSEUM STAFF

- Brent Lambert**, Executive Director
- Logan Hull**, Director of Operations
- Jenn Bowen**, Education Curator
- Jill Cable**, Administrative Assistant
- Trevor Lanier**, Curator
- Lorna Keathley**, Associate Curator
- Sarah Pirkle**, Music Educator, JAM
- Zee Johnston**, Sales Associate
- Tamri Cutlip**, Sales Associate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

- Melody Silverberg** | Chair
- Mike Crawford** | Vice Chair
- Carmen Simpher** | Secretary
- Chris Soro** | Treasurer
- Brent Lambert | Executive Director

MEMBERS

- Chuck Alexander**
- Leslee Alexander**
- Jenny Boyd**
- Carolyn Forster**
- Elvira Grant**
- Virginia Hardwick**
- Michael Headrick**
- Jennifer Hicks**
- Kathy Johnson**
- Katie Branham Kerr**
- Carl Koella III**
- Fred Lawson**
- Emily Mantooth**
- Justin Marcus**
- Tom McCroskey**
- Mark Oldham**
- Jim Proffitt**
- Christy McDonald Slavick**
- John Trotter**
- Bryan White**

EX-OFFICIO

- Frank Akers**
- Kreis Beall**
- Brad Bowers**
- Linda Gullufsen**
- Alison Hicks**
- Jeff Jopling**
- Barbara Polak**
- Baird Todd**
- Russell Townsend**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It was with great sadness that we learned of former Governor Don Sundquist's passing on Sunday, August 27, 2023. Gov. Sundquist was an accomplished businessman and public servant, and of course, a friend to many across the state of Tennessee.

I could speak at length about his 12 years in Congress or his two terms as Tennessee Governor; however, that alone would not do justice to the man or his legacy. Rather, Gov. Sundquist will be remembered by the Heritage Center as a devoted husband, father, and friend above all else.

Although I did not have the opportunity to spend as much time with the Governor as I had hoped after my arrival at the end of 2019, it wasn't difficult to see and understand the impact he had on the Heritage Center. It was under Gov. Sundquist's leadership that the Townsend Archaeological Project occurred, and without his involvement, it's doubtful that the Heritage Center concept would ever have become more than just a concept.



Gov. Sundquist and his wife of 64 years, Martha, became heavily involved with the Heritage Center not long after leaving the Governor's mansion. He served on the Board of Directors at GSMHC from July of 2003 through December of 2012, and the couple became full-time residents of Townsend during this time. Martha and he continued to participate in Heritage Center events for several more years, including the last Heritage Happening Gala in 2021.

On behalf of the Heritage Center family, I would like to extend our sincerest condolences to Martha as well as the Governor's children and grandchildren. He certainly will be missed, and we look forward to honoring Gov. Sundquist's legacy in the days ahead.

— BRENT LAMBERT



It was under Governor Sundquist's leadership that the Townsend Archaeological Project occurred, and without his involvement, it's doubtful that the Heritage Center would ever have become more than just a concept.

DECEMBER 2023

Christmas in the Village Will Shine Again in 2023



Join us for the **4th Annual Christmas in the Village**. If you'd like a taste of Appalachian Christmas traditions, complete with living history demonstrations, evening tours of our historic village, and warm refreshments, don't pass up an opportunity to visit us this holiday season!

Fall Calendar of Events:

Sept 22	High Fidelity Concert
Sept 23	Dean Dillon Concert
Sep 30	Blue Ribbon Country Fair
Oct 6	Appalachian Roadshow Concert
Oct 28	Tuckaleechee Pottery Festival
Nov 11	Holiday Handcrafters Festival
Dec 1-2	Christmas in the Village
Dec 8-9	Christmas in the Village
Dec 15-16	Christmas in the Village
Dec 22-23	Christmas in the Village

CALLING ALL TEACHERS IN 2023-2024

GSMHC FIELD TRIPS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR SCHOOL GROUPS

Living History Demonstrators at GSMHC will provide an immersive experience into the lives of early settlers.

A Field Trip to GSMHC is comprised of a group visit to four on-campus venues where students receive a custom designed curriculum at each location from our Living History Demonstrators:

- NATIVE AMERICAN GALLERY
- HISTORIC VILLAGE
- CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES
- AMPHITHEATER

Field Trip Admission Fees

Blount County Schools FREE

Schools Outside Blount County \$8.00

Chaperones are \$10.00 | \$9.00 if prepaid

A Typical Schedule for a group of 20 includes:

9:15 - 9:30 Welcome: Orientation & Instruction

9:30 - 11:00 Group visits 1st & 2nd venue

11:00 - 11:30 Lunch

11:30 - 12:40 Group visits 3rd & 4th venue

12:45 - 1:00 Wrap Up

• Approximately 15-20 students = 1 group

• Maximum of 4 groups = 80 students

TO LEARN MORE CALL:

865-448-0044 or e-mail:

Jenn Bowen | Education Curator

JBowen@GSMHeritageCenter.org



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 | 7:00 PM

High Fidelity

The name alone says it all: **HIGH FIDELITY**. How many record albums from the '50s and '60s bear those words? Therein lies the heart of what this group of young performers is all about...

The power and soul of the great bluegrass records from the '50s and '60s has won the hearts of people across the globe. Few bands have come along in recent years that directly draw their influence from that classic era. High Fidelity's love and devotion to that music is unsurpassed.

Formed in early 2014, the group received a first place win in the International Band Championship at the 40th Annual Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America. In 2019, they were nominated for **International Bluegrass Music Association New Artist of the Year**.



High Fidelity draws much of their inspiration from bands like Don Reno & Red Smiley, The Stanley Brothers, The Lowvin Brothers, Jim & Jesse, and a host of lesser known regional artists from the same era. Many have described them as the new Johnson Mountain Boys,

interpreting classic era bluegrass through the fresh, young perspective of today's generation. Maybe it is this quality that makes High Fidelity so warmly received and widely loved by every audience they perform for – from grandparents to grandchildren.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 | 7:00 PM

Appalachian Road Show

Join us at the **Heritage Center** as we welcome the reigning International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) New Artist of the Year and Instrumental Group of the Year, **Appalachian Road Show**.



Often described as a "supergroup" with multiple GRAMMY-award-winning members, **Appalachian Road Show** is a visionary acoustic ensemble offering new generation interpretations of Americana, Bluegrass, and folk songs as well as innovative original music. If you love the sound of traditional American music, you will not want to miss this show!



Appalachian Road Show invites you to come and sit a spell as the band shares its dynamic musicianship through songs and stories emanating from the mountains and hollers of North Carolina and Virginia, to the coal mines of West Virginia and Kentucky.

■ SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Cades Cove Heritage Tours Continue this Fall

OUR 14-PASSENGER **GUIDED BUS TOURS** ARE OFFERED ON MOST **TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS** UNTIL OCTOBER 26.

Take a seat with a seasoned driver-guide who will offer historical tidbits on the history of Cades Cove and the families that lived there. You may see bears, deer, and other wildlife on the tour. Tours begin at 9:00 am and return between 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

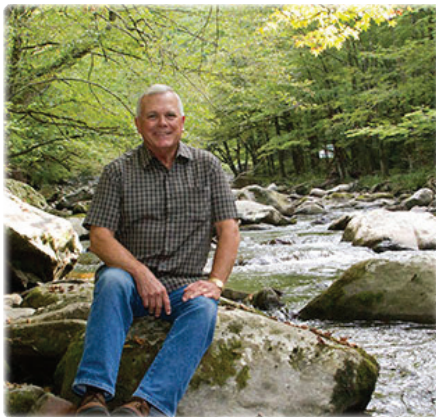
CUSTOM TOURS AVAILABLE

➤ A **Behind-the-Scenes** tour with a **retired park ranger** is perfect for the Cades Cove aficionado. You will visit places like Gregory's Cave, the CCC camp, the WWII Memorial Tree, and learn how the Park Service manages wildlife. This all-day tour is set for Saturday, October 28, 2023 for \$75 per person.

➤ **Private Bus Tours** are also available for just you and your family or group to visit Cades Cove. Your guide can customize your tour to fit your schedule and interests. Call for private tour pricing.



➤ Join us for a **Monarch Butterfly** tagging bus tour in Cades Cove on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 from 9:30-3:00. **Wanda DeWaard** will lead a hands-on session on monarch butterflies and why tagging is important. You may walk as little or as much as you want in search of monarch butterflies to tag. Call for more information or to sign up for any of these tours, visit: gsmheritagecenter.org/events-tickets. Tickets are \$75 per person.



➤ **Sam Venable**, noted humorist, naturalist and writer, will lead a fall tour to **Newfound Gap, Sugarlands, and Elkmont** on **October 20, 2023**.

You will experience the history and magnificent fall foliage of the Smokies. These tours are \$75 per person. The tour lasts from 9:30 am until about 2:00 pm.

Standard Tour Fees

- \$42 PER PERSON
- \$29 PER CHILD AGES 4-12
- FREE FOR KIDS 3 AND UNDER



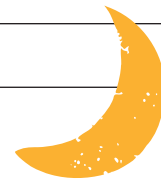
- All buses are ADA accessible.
- All trips depart from the GSMHC at 123 Cromwell Drive, Townsend, TN 37882.
- All trips include admission to the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center.

Notes from the Membership Team

THE PERFECT GIFT: A membership to the Heritage Center is the perfect gift for the holidays and is a unique way to provide friends and loved ones a compelling opportunity to learn about the history and Appalachian culture of the Great Smoky Mountains.

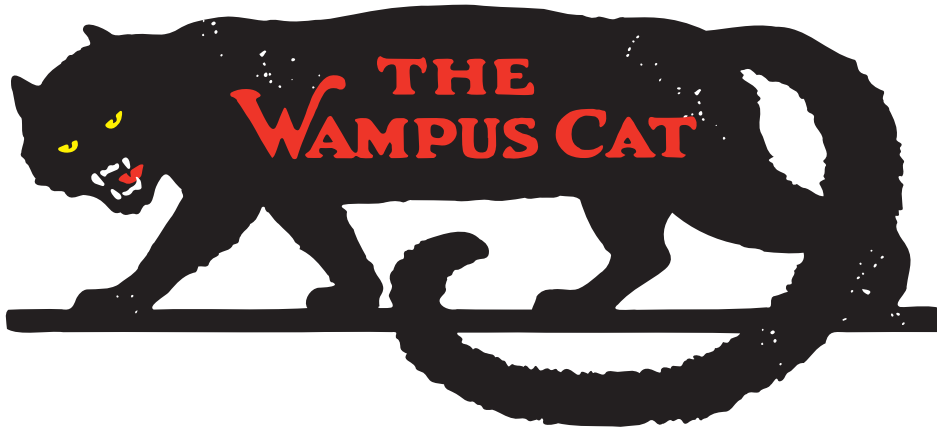
STAY INFORMED: We have entertaining and educational programs, events, festivals and concerts throughout the year. One of the best ways to stay informed is to be updated on our email list; call to confirm your status. Of course you can visit gsmheritagecenter.org anytime to keep up to date with Facebook and our events calendar.

DON'T FORGET: Ask your friends and family members to join up! Individuals are \$45/year, two people (dual) living in the same household are \$80/year and 4 people (family) living in the same household are \$90/year. For charitable givers we have the Heirloom Membership at \$250, the Little River Membership at \$500 and the Tuckaleechee Membership at \$1000.



■ LEGENDS AND FOLKLORE

Watch out for the Wampus Cat



CHEROKEE FOLKLORE IS FILLED WITH TALES OF EVIL SPIRITS LURKING IN THE DEEP, DARK FORESTS THAT SURROUNDED THEIR VILLAGES. AT THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS HERITAGE CENTER, ONE OF OUR FAVORITES IS THE **TALE OF THE WAMPUS CAT**.

An evil demon called Ew'ah, the Spirit of Madness, had been terrorizing the village of Etowah (or Chota, depending on the version you hear) in what is today North Carolina. The village shamans and war chiefs called for a meeting. The wise shamans told the warchiefs that sending the braves to hunt and kill the Ew'ah was surely going to be the end of the tribe, for the Ew'ah had the terrible power to drive men mad with a glance. The warchiefs argued that the Ew'ah could no longer feast on the dreams of the Cherokee children, and that something must be done. Together they agreed that their strongest brave would go alone, and bring great honor to his family and tribe by killing the mad demon.

Standing Bear (or Great Fellow, depending on the story version) was the

strongest, fastest, sneakiest, smartest, and most respected brave in all the Cherokee nation, and he was chosen to do battle with the demon. As he walked from his village, the shamans blessed him, and the warchiefs gave him many fine weapons with which to slay the beast, and on the edge of town, his wife, Running Deer, bid him a final farewell. She would never see him the same way again.

Weeks went by, and there was no word from Standing Bear. Suddenly, late one night, the stricken brave came running back into camp, screaming, and clawing at his eyes. One look, and Running Deer knew. Her husband was no more. With time, he would be able to pick berries and work in the fields with the young girls and the unmarried widows, but he would never be any good

In Missouri they call it a Gallywampus; in Arkansas it's the Whistling Wampus; in Appalachia it's the just a plain old **Wampus Cat**. A half-dog, half-cat creature that can run erect or on all fours, it's rumored to be seen just after dark or right before dawn all throughout the Appalachians. But that's about all everyone agrees on. In non-Native American cultures **it's a howling, evil creature, with yellow eyes** that can supposedly pierce the hearts and souls of those unfortunate enough to cross its path, driving them to the edge of sanity.



From Cherokee monsters to Smoky Mountain legends like Black Bill Walker, the tale of the Wampus Cat is one of many stories the GSM Heritage Center hopes to celebrate with our new "Legends and Folklore of the Smokies" initiative. We have plans to produce a Wampus Cat tee shirt this Fall, just in time for Halloween.



Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

as a husband again, and by Cherokee law, that meant he was dead. Standing Bear's name was never again mentioned, but Running Deer had loved her husband, and she wanted revenge.

Running Deer went to the shamans, and they gave her a booger mask, a bobcat's face, and they told her that the spirit of the mountain cat could stand against the Ew'ah, but she must be the one to surprise the demon. The warchiefs gave her a special black paste, which when rubbed on her body, would hide her scent as well as her body. She kissed her former husband on the forehead, his blank eyes staring, and headed off to seek her revenge.

Running Deer knew the woods as well as she knew the village, and she ate sweet berries to keep up her strength over the many days, but still she came across no sign of the Ew'ah. Then, late one night, she heard a creature stalking down by the stream. As she crept slowly towards the



creek, she heard a twig snap behind her. She spun, and just as suddenly realized how quickly it could have been the end of her. Behind her a wily fox darted across the pathway. "If that had been Ew'ah, I would be mad now..." the widowed Cherokee woman thought to herself, as she continued towards the creek.

At the edge of the creek, she saw footprints which did not belong there, and her former husband's breastplate lay at the edge of the water. As she followed the prints upstream, she saw the demon. Its hulking form lurched hideously over the water, drinking from the pristine mountain

spring. The Ew'ah hadn't seen her! Running Deer crept ever closer, and just as she felt she could bring herself no closer, she sprang!

The Ew'ah spun, and saw the Cat-Spirit-Mask, and began to tear at itself as the spirit of the mountain cat turned its powerful magic back on itself. The Ew'ah tumbled backwards into the pool, and Running Deer immediately turned on her heel and ran as fast as she could back to the village, never once looking back.

When she arrived home, she sang a song to herself—a quiet song, of grief for her husband, but also of joy for the demon's banishment. The shamans and warchiefs declared Running Deer the Spirit-Talker and Home-Protector.

Some say that the spirit of Running Deer inhabits the Wampus cat, and that she continues her eternal mission of watching her tribe's lands to protect them and their peoples from the demons that hide in the dark and lost places of Tanasi.

Story acquired from appalachianhistory.net

■ HISTORY ON DISPLAY

Membership has its benefits...

EVENTS & TICKETS
CHECK NOW!



OL' DEATH



Black Bill Walker's powder measure is just one of the artifacts donated to the Heritage Center in April 2023. The horn is only 3 inches long and bears the initials of its owner.



■ Exclusive Viewing of Black Bill Artifacts

On **Saturday, November 4** the Heritage Center will present an exclusive sneak peek of the famous Ol' Death rifle and other artifacts that belonged to Black Bill Walker (William Walker). Viewing will be from 10:00 am to noon for Walker Family descendants and 1:00pm to 2:00 pm for Heritage Center members only.

■ New Annual Learning Opportunity

Heritage Center Members can receive a guided tour of the National Park Service (NPS) **Collections Preservation Center** (next door to the Heritage Center) on **Dec. 15, 2023** at 1 pm. The **NPS Collections Preservation Center** contains unique artifacts from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and 5 additional U.S. National Parks. This state-of-the-art facility houses over a million items. The tour is limited to 15 members and will last about an hour. **Visit our website for details or call us at 865-448-0044.**

Great Smoky Mountains
HERITAGE CENTER

GSMHERITAGECENTER.ORG

PO Box 268, Townsend, TN 37882

Connect with the spirit and history of Townsend, Cades Cove, and the Great Smoky Mountains. Our museum offers something for everyone, from hands-on activities to tours of original 19th-century buildings and our Native American collection.

Call Today: 865-448-0044

The GSMHC would like to recognize our partners in the arts without whom many of our programs would not be sustainable.



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
KNOXVILLE, TN
PERMIT NO. 1

DON'T MISS: FALL 2023 AT GSMHC

VISIT
TOWNSEND
TENNESSEE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 | 7:00 PM

Hall of Famer Dean Dillon

There are songwriters and then there are poet-artists who magically weave melodies and words into three minute masterpieces that outshine the paint-by-numbers songs that often clog up the airwaves. Dean Dillon is the latter.

If you have followed country music at any point over the last 40 years, then you are familiar with Dean Dillon's work. Those who have recorded Dean's songs read like a "who's who" of country music. Names like David Allan Coe, George Jones, Jim Ed Brown, Toby Keith, Kenny Chesney, and of course, "King George" Strait have all scored hit singles with Dean's songs.

Dean has written some of the most iconic songs in country music history, such as "Tennessee Whiskey," which was a hit for David Allan Coe, George Jones, and most recently, Chris Stapleton. His song "Unwound" helped launch the career of George Strait.

EVENTS & TICKETS
CHECK NOW!



Stay informed and experience ease of use for events and ticket purchasing.



MORE EVENT INFO INSIDE