

Spring 5-1-2010

Appalink

Appalachian Studies Association

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Calling all ASA (Potential) Leaders: ASA Needs You

Kristin Kant-Byers and Roger Guy

In this space usually reserved for the President's message, Kristin Kant-Byers and Roger Guy consider leadership roles for the Appalachian Studies Association. Their purpose is both to inform and invite. Some ASA members are aware of opportunities to get involved. All of us are encouraged to think about how we can fully participate.

The ASA Steering Committee attended its summer retreat in Abingdon, Virginia, in early July. Eleven Steering Committee (SC) members traveled from as far as north Georgia and western New York for a day and a half of thinking, brainstorming, and planning. We met to focus on the tasks set by the Long Range Planning Committee regarding ASA leadership and membership. This meeting enabled the SC members to consider ways to invite more participation from the membership.

The retreat centered on a few questions regarding ASA leadership: Who are ASA leaders (formal and informal)? Why do these folks join and remain in the ASA and why do they leave? How might new members become new leaders?

In describing ASA's past and present leaders, we noticed a distinction between formal leadership roles and informal leadership roles. Formal positions, carried out by Directors of Appalachian Centers, Appalachian Programs, and Community Agencies (like Appalshop and the Highlander Center), as well as publishing scholars, ASA's office staff and the Steering Committee, more publically shape ASA's direction and concerns. Informal leadership roles, carried out by volunteers, young scholars, and individual mentors nurture commitment and community within ASA. Many of ASA's noticeable leaders are those who hold formal positions within the organization, but many more are informal leaders who welcome, support, and guide newer members of ASA. During this retreat session, we each identified at least one person who acted as an informal leader by being a mentor to us when we ourselves were new members.

In the next brainstorming session of the retreat, SC members generated a portrait of an ideal ASA leader based on the qualities and characteristics of past and present leaders. According to this portrait, an ideal ASA leader has an understanding of the Appalachian region, possesses organizational skills, can be resourceful and creative as well as enthusiastic and willing to participate, and is positioned amidst the social and economic networks in and beyond the region.

In addition to establishing a portrait of leadership traits, the SC members discussed the reasons members join, remain, and leave the ASA. Joining the ASA provides personal, professional, and/or political connections advantageous to a member's interests and goals. Members remain part of the ASA because they value the interdisciplinary discussions about social justice, environmental justice, regional experiences, and other regional issues. The ASA Conference acts as a reunion of networks that offers support, empowerment, and a healthy tension of varying perspectives. Members might leave ASA because of their own disinterest or burn-out, or because they feel ASA does not serve their needs. Also personal, family, and career demands influence one's departure.

In a final session, the SC retreaters discussed how new members might become new leaders. As we each shared our stories of getting involved, it became remarkably clear to us that the best way to involve folks was to simply ask them to join in. Personal invitations to serve in a specific capacity (like on committees, and in research and activism activities) that connects to one's interest seem to work best. As a result of this recognition, the SC, with the help of the Communications and Membership Committees, is committed to reaching ASA members through a variety of ways to let them know of the opportunities and needs for participation. The SC recognized the importance of following up with volunteers so that they feel welcomed and not pressured into participating. There are jobs to do within the ASA. Assigning these positions and following-up with support, mentoring, and praise will cultivate new ASA leaders.

(continued on Page 2)

The SC retreaters decided that it was important to illuminate the qualities that are characteristic of leaders and the processes through which leaders emerge—not to exclude any member from considering taking on a leadership role, but rather to show how accessible leadership roles within the ASA can be. Indeed, the SC places a call to all ASA members to become involved. Many of us are not aware of the potential we possess for ASA. As a generation of ASA activity passes along, it is time for current ASA members to recognize our potential to assume leadership in ASA. In some way, the torch is passing, and new members of ASA need to increase their participation.

After all, we (ASA) are an organization of volunteers committed to the principles of democracy, social justice, and civic participation. We are also extremely unique because our activist, artist, and academic members possess a vast array of talent and skill. As a collective membership, our social, economic, and human capital is immense and provides a necessary resource for ASA. We have a cadre of youth that have yet to emerge in the ranks of our leaders. This cadre is ASA's next generation. As members, we should each continue to help refresh the face of ASA leadership so that the vast energy of our current leaders is not depleted. All you need to do is ask the ASA office staff or any Steering Committee member how to help. So please, consider how ASA leads you. And then, consider how you can lead ASA.

www.appalachianstudies.org



APPALINK

APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
 Appalink is published twice a year. We welcome submissions or announcements and news. Subjects may include upcoming conferences, lectures, meetings, fellowships, award nominations, or other events of interest to the memberships of the ASA. Submissions should be sent by e-mail or regular mail to Mary Thomas at asa@marshall.edu. Space is limited, and all submissions are subject to editing. Paid advertisements will be considered for inclusion. Contact the managing editor for rates. Deadline for Fall 2010 edition is 8/1/10.
 Editor—Mary Jo Graham;
 Managing editor—Mary Thomas

Ham and Eggs –

**A day's work for a chicken;
 A lifetime commitment for a pig.
 Are you ready to commit to the ASA En" Sow" ment?**

Appalachian Studies Association has established an endowment. The purpose of the endowment is to assure the continuation of ASA's mission especially through lean times. While we are in lean times, the fund is in its earliest stages and needs the support of all members so that the initial investment can be made.

Giving any amount of donation will build the fund for an initial investment. The Steering Committee members have committed to 100% participation. You have an opportunity to give to the endowment when you register for the conference. While you are at the conference, look for the large pink pig! In addition, you may send donations to Mary Thomas, ASA Executive Director, at Marshall University, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755. Make checks payable to Appalachian Studies Association.

Where in the world? – Dahlonega?

Did you know? *Dahlonega* (Duh-LAWN-a-ga) is Cherokee for "yellow money." And, North Georgia campus is the former site of a U.S. mint. Just a few miles north of Dahlonega, Springer Mountain marks the beginning of the Appalachian Trail. Dahlonega is the home of the first major gold rush in the United States. It has five premium wineries located in its vicinity, numerous waterfalls, and two beautiful rivers running through it. The North Georgia College & State University campus was the first Georgia college to admit women (1873). It has a strong liberal arts tradition and was recently named by Kiplinger as a "best value" among all U.S. campuses. The campus houses the Georgia Appalachian Center, the state's official center for study of Appalachia as designated by the Georgia Legislature. With a focus on the Appalachian culture and art, history, music, and nature, its projects include an Appalachian Community Studies Certificate program, an annual heirloom garden, and the Georgia Pick and Bow traditional music school.



COME ONE! COME ALL!

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES
Appalachian Studies Association Conference

March 19 – 21, 2010

**Green the Conference—
Reduce, Repurpose, Recycle!**

- ✓ Repurpose your gently used conference bags by adding them to our collection—drop clean, unstained bags off in the designated area near Registration. Bags should be at least 10 inches x 13 inches. In partnership with this effort, the Georgia Appalachian Studies Center has collected over 200 used conference bags, all in great condition.
- ✓ Use your biodegradable water bottle to reduce trash production. Bottles will be available in the Registration area and are compliments of the Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority.
- ✓ Use recycle-bins found throughout the conference site.
- ✓ Recycle your conference name tags; on your way out of the conference, drop your name tag in the designated boxes found throughout the conference site.
- ✓ Purchase tickets to conference meals. They will be served on reusable dishes and with flatware.
- ✓ Collect email addresses of session attendees and email your conference papers.
- ✓ Attend the conference session on greening the conference and give your input for future efforts!

Conference Hospitality Volunteers

Are your new shoes giving you a blister? Need a chocolate boost? How about a map or friendly smile? Look for Conference Hospitality Volunteers with “Ask Me” badges to offer you a piece of candy, share a map of downtown, give you a band-aid for your boo-boo, or point you in the right direction. They are ready to help!

Notable Conference Activities and Events

Learn more about Appalachian Georgia! A whole host of activities and exhibits on campus and in the community are planned to inform and entertain. Rain or shine, there will be more than talking at the conference. Come dance, taste, visit, and explore. Check the final conference program or while at the conference, visit the Dahlonega or ASA Conference information tables for details.

- Mountain Old time Music Jams (taking place during Exhibit Hall hours)
- Guest Performance of the Acclaimed Community Play, *Higher Ground**
- Local Quilt Display
- First Annual ASA Seed Swap
- Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit
- North Georgia Art Teacher Exhibit
- Gold Panning Demonstration*
- Winery Tours, Gold Museum Tour, Historic Downtown Tour
- Gold History Talks
- Gallery and Art Walks
- Mountain Square Dance with the Alabama band, Red Mountain
- Mountain Music and Medicine Show, a radio show in the historic Holly Theatre, featuring the Georgia Skillet Lickers and the Georgia Mudcats*
- Bear on the Square Mountain Gospel Jam at the Sunday Brunch

**May request a donation or require a modest fee*

**Mountain Top Removal Flash Mob Protest
at 2010 ASA Conference**

Registered conference attendees are invited to assemble in the Exhibit Hall at 3:45 PM on March 19th. At the signal, commence your protest of mountain top removal by whistling and ringing bells for 60 seconds. Whistle with your fingers, blow tiny whistles or ring small bells; let the noise do the talking. With a signal to stop, the protest will conclude at 3:46 PM.

Howard Dorgan Silent Auction: A Continuing Success

Unless you have been hiding under a rock, you know that this country had a financial crisis and is recovering very slowly. Those of us in the public sector are experiencing cuts in budgets and other reductions. Groups that are dependent on fees or donations to survive, know that everyone is cutting back on their personal spending, too. Therefore, the scholarship requests to attend the Appalachian Studies Association continue to grow. I know a reminder of the need is not necessary.

Last year the recession/depression did not affect the amount that we took in with the Silent Auction and Raffle. You donated a record number of items to the auction and went home with new stuff. So, again I am asking you to rally to the cause.

Appalachia has a long tradition of helping others. We know that past auctions have supported many students, community activists, artists, and others interested in Appalachia to come to our conference. So, please continue to donate books, recycle gifts and surplus items, and share creative endeavors with the Silent Auction.

Will you resolve to sort through some stuff and bring treasures with you to the conference? Or, if you prefer, will you get things to me beforehand?

**Philis Alvic, Co-Chair,
Howard Dorgan Silent Auction Committee**
2815 Phoenix Road
Lexington, Kentucky 40503
philis@philisalvic.info

Announcements

ARC Donates Scholarships

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), recognizing that economic hard times are impacting the budgets of colleges and universities across the Appalachian region, has granted \$10,000 in scholarship money to the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA), doubling the amount typically awarded. Conference registration funds will assist students and scholars who seek to further their Appalachian studies by attending the 2010 ASA Conference in Dahlonega, Georgia in March. Seventy-five percent of the award will be available for student registrations, while the remainder is set aside for retired or active scholars.

The scholarship application deadline is February 19. To apply for a conference registration scholarship, visit the ASA webpage.

Harry Caudill Award

Penny Loeb received an award of \$2000 honoring Harry Caudill. The award is provided by Jim Presgraves of Bookworm & Silverfish in Wytheville, VA. It is made every two years to recognize investigative journalism in the Appalachian Region. Penny Loeb's documentary gives an account of "Trish Bragg's battle against the dark side of the coal industry in the coalfields of southern West Virginia". Congratulations!

First Annual Seed Swap

The ASA will host its first Seed Swap. Share and trade seeds from your community. Stop by the Seed Swap table with your

favorite bean, tomato, squash, cucumber, pepper, okra, beet, carrot, herb, or flower seeds, sweet potato slips, or young plant starts. Small envelopes will be available for carrying home your certain bounty. Over the course of the year, grow out your new seeds, share them in your community, and bring them to share at the 2011 ASA Conference in Kentucky. If you would like to volunteer, donate seeds, or for more information contact Randal Pfleger, rpfleger@pinemountainsettlementschool.com

Oral History & Symposium : LGBT Population

Faculty from Appalachian State University have received funding to host a symposium and collect the histories of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) population living in the Appalachian region. The symposium is scheduled for June 12. The oral history project will include interviews of members of the LGBT community, members of organizations that support that community, as well as community members and others with a story of how mountain life affects the LGBT experience. Individuals interested in participating in the project or those seeking more information, should contact Kathy Staley in Belk Library at staleyk11971@yahoo.com or 828-262-6724, or Michael Howell from the Department of Social Work at howellml@appstate.edu or 828-262-7682.

Program Correction: The JAS Editorial board meeting has been moved to Saturday, March 20 at 7:30 a.m. *See final conference program for details.*

WEATHERFORD AWARD NOMINATIONS

The following books have been nominated by a committee of ASA and Berea College to honor published works that “best illuminate the challenges, personalities, and unique qualities of the Appalachian South.” Two awards are given, one in nonfiction and a second in fiction and poetry. The award honors Willis D. Weatherford Jr. and Sr. for their contributions to the region. The late Alfred Perrin began the award in 1970. The only requirement is that the subject matter of the books be Appalachian or that they be set in Appalachia.

2009 WEATHERFORD AWARD NOMINATIONS—NON-FICTION

Edited by Shirley Stewart Burns, Mari-Lynn Evans, and Silas House, *Coal Country: Rising Up Against Mountaintop Removal Mining*

Richard J. Callahan, *Work and Faith in the Kentucky Coal Fields*

Reuben Cox, *The Work of Joe Webb*

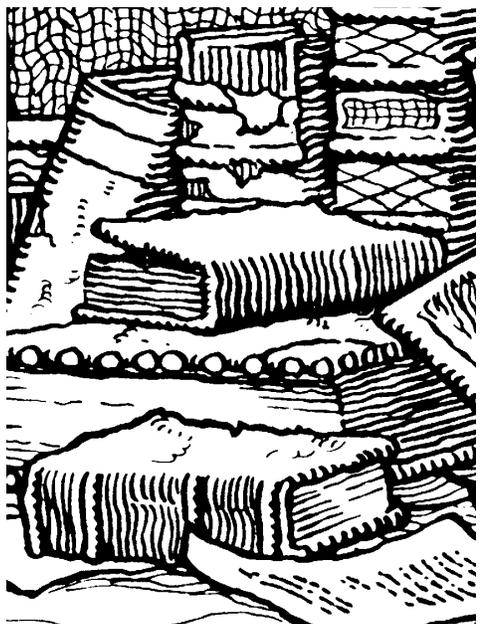
M. Anna Fariello, *Cherokee Basketry*

Chris Green, *The Social Life of Poetry*

Silas House and Jason Howard, *Something's Rising: Appalachians Fighting Mountaintop Removal*

Carol Mason, *Reading Appalachia from Left to Right*

Edited by Ted Olson, *James Still in Interviews, Oral Histories and Memoirs*



James D. Rice, *Nature and History in the Potomac Country: From Hunter-Gatherers to the Age of Jefferson*

Linda Tate, *Power in the Blood: A Family Narrative*

David E. Whisnant, *All That is Native & Fine*

Gregory S. Wilson, *Communities Left Behind*

2009 WEATHERFORD AWARD NOMINATIONS—FICTION AND POETRY

Kenneth Butcher, *The Middle of the Air*

Chris Holbrook, *Upheaval: Stories*

Silas House, *Eli the Good*

Jeff Daniel Marion, *Father*

Lee Maynard, *The Pale Light of Sunset*

Jayne Anne Phillips, *Lark & Termite*

R.T. Smith, *The Calaboose Epistles*

Jim Tomlinson, *Nothing Like An Ocean*

Josh Weil, *The New Valley*

Fred Chappell, *Shadow Box*

Fred Chappell, *Ancestors and Others*

Barbara Kingsolver, *The Lacuna*

C.E. Morgan, *All the Living*

Robert Morgan, *October Crossing*

Nikki Giovanni, *Bicycles*

Charles A. Swanson, *After the Garden*

Charles Wright, *Sestets*

Winners will be announced at the 2010 Appalachian Studies Conference at North Georgia College & State University, Friday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. following dinner.

Flash: You can see
The Last Forest project
in person at the ASA
meeting in North Georgia
– check out the workshop
at 1:45 p.m. Friday,
March 19.

The Last Forest: Tales of the Allegheny Woods – The Book, CD, Curriculum Guide
by G.D. McNeill

The Last Forest stories take the reader back to the Pocahontas County, West Virginia, forests of G.D. McNeill's boyhood in the 1890s and move forward through the heavy logging and devastating forest fires that changed the Allegheny Front forever. The book, published in 1940, had largely disappeared when it was rediscovered and recognized as a treasure that should be shared with new generations of readers. *The Last Forest* now is available as a book and audio CDs. A free curriculum guide available to educators includes five stories from the book, the audio CDs, and a CD-ROM with lesson plans and activities for fine arts, language arts, science, social studies, outdoor education, and Internet research. Order from Pocahontas Communications Cooperative at www.alleghenymountainradio.org.

*"We are delighted with our copy of
The Last Forest curriculum guide."*

Yvonne Powderly
Parkersburg Catholic
High School

*"The curriculum guide is perfect
for our interdisciplinary studies."*

Lisa Goode
Meadow Bridge
High School



By-Law Revisions

The following recommendations for By-Law revisions have been proposed by the Steering Committee for members' consideration at the Annual Meeting, 12:30, Saturday, March 20 following lunch during the conference in Dahlonega, Georgia. Changes are in bold with deletions in parentheses.

ARTICLE X, SECTION 4. **TREASURER.** The treasurer shall provide financial oversight of association funds, accounts, and policy through the administrative office. The administrative office shall have custody of all the funds of the association; shall keep full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures; and shall make disbursements in accordance with the budget adopted by the steering committee, and shall make no disbursements not included on or exceeding the line item in the relevant fiscal year's budget without the advice and consent of the treasurer. The administrative office shall provide the treasurer with an annual (**audit**) **review** and a full financial statement for association accounts at least annually. The treasurer shall present this statement and an assessment of the financial condition of the association at each annual meeting of the association and at other times when requested by the steering committee. The treasurer will examine the books and provide regular reports to the steering committee. The treasurer, working with the association's Executive Director and CPA, shall take particular care to file all forms required by the Internal Revenue Service in a timely and accurate fashion.

RATIONALE: Replace "audit" with "review" as this is not an audit. The term review is more accurate.

ARTICLE X, SECTION 12. **HISTORIAN.** The historian shall be a (**nonvoting**) **voting** member of the steering committee nominated by the nominating committee and appointed by the president. The historian shall be responsible for maintaining the association's timeline; cooperating with the archivist in gathering relevant materials and information; and communicating the history of the association to the membership at the association's annual conference, on its website, and in its newsletter and journal.

RATIONALE: Steering committee members believe that the Historian should be a voting member of the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE XI, SECTION 4, B. **DUTIES.** The website committee shall receive all suggestions from ASA members, deliberate and approve any changes to the website, and communicate such changes to the website overseer who will play an advisory role. **Strike: and will have veto power over all suggestions which simply are not technologically feasible.**

RATIONALE: Steering Committee believes that this statement is not necessary and is confusing about roles and responsibilities.

ARTICLE XIII: All resignations occurring during active terms of office shall be filled through appointments by the president, except that the vice-president/president elect shall assume the office of president should a vacancy occur. **In the event that a person must hold more than one voting position, he or she will only have one vote, reducing the quorum (Article 11, Section 1c) required for conducting business.**

RATIONALE: Appointments due to resignations may, at times, necessitate a person serving in two roles in order to complete business. This addition clarifies voting procedures in these circumstances.

Be A Friend of ASA: FACEBOOK!

Visit our Appalachian Studies Association Facebook page for association and conference information.

For example, check the discussion log for:



Room/ride sharing
First ASA Seed Swap
Greening the conference
Grant opportunities
Preserving history





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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Engaging Communities

**Thirty-Third Annual
Appalachian Studies Conference
March 19 – 21, 2010**

North Georgia College & State University
Dahlonega, Georgia

Alice Sampson, President
alice.sampson@northgeorgia.edu

Cassie Robinson, Program Chair
cassie.robinson@gmail.com

Donna Gessell, Local Arrangements Chair
dgessell@northgeorgia.edu

A River of Earth: Action, Scholarship, Reflection and Renewal

**Thirty-Fourth Annual
Appalachian Studies Conference
March 11 – 13, 2011**

Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, Kentucky

Alan Banks, President
alan.Banks@eku.edu

Ann Blakeney & Robert Weise
Program Co-Chairs
ann.blakeney@eku.edu • rob.weise@eku.edu