

April 2024

Issue 99

The PISGAH PATHFINDER

Newsletter of Historic Crab Orchard Museum
Tazewell, Virginia





A Note from the Director, Cynthia Farmer

Dear museum family,

We are busy as bees preparing for our spring and summer events, programs, camps, and educational tours. We're ready to welcome many school children this spring and we even have a few summer school programs on the calendar. Our staff, board of directors, and a strong contingent of loyal volunteers are actively planning for event favorites including: the Living History Encampment, Independence Day Celebration, Tazewell County Fiddlers' Convention, Little Pioneer Camp, and Pioneer Apprentice Camp. In addition, our Pioneer Park continues to be a popular location for spring, summer, and fall weddings, reunions, and other gatherings. Our calendar is filling up with many special events at Historic Crab Orchard Museum & Pioneer Park.

We have also embarked upon some necessary renovations and maintenance projects in preparation for our very full schedule. Upon evaluation of our picnic shelter area it became apparent that its needs went far beyond simple repairs. Therefore, with the assistance of grant funding, the decision was made to dismantle the unsafe structure and replace it with a new structure. This new picnic shelter will be complete and ready for visitors and events by mid-May. Additionally, the exterior of the Frog Level Service Station was due for some much-needed repairs to the siding, along with new windows and fresh paint. With the foresight of the Tazewell Rotary and The Ratcliffe Foundation, a fund was established to provide earnings that could be used to ensure the building's preservation. So, now the repairs are well underway and the Frog Level Service Station repairs and renovations will be completed in the coming weeks.

Other exciting news revolves around the children of our Tazewell County community. We have opened our doors and, specifically our changing gallery, to become a temporary home for the Youth Services division of the Tazewell County Public Library. While final repairs are underway to complete the renovations at the library's Tazewell Building, children will be able to come to this "pop up" location to enjoy many programs that the Youth Services staff provides. We continue to enjoy a great partnership

with the Tazewell County Public Library and welcome these families into our doors. I think this collaboration speaks highly of our heritage, of neighbors helping neighbors. Heritage that also includes joining together with a common goal: fostering the development of our children, which is truly where our future lies.

As we continue to preserve and promote our heritage, whether it be in the form of physical structures or future generations, I am honored to be of service to the cause. I am proud of the staff and board of directors that remain steadfast in our mission. I hope that our museum will continue to be a special place, enjoyed and shared by many. So, thank you, museum family, for honoring our past and our traditions. Now let's enjoy that legacy as we gather to enjoy memories, music, dance, camps, tours, and many other activities that embrace and promote our history.

Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, April 28 at 2 pm
in the Museum Center

Please join us as we take a look back at the past year and plan our path forward for 2024.

We'll visit with friends, thank outgoing board members, welcome new additions, and approve the slate of officers for the next year.

Please note - we've moved up the time of the meeting as the SWCC Festival of the Arts Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestra concert begins at 4 pm at the college. We hope this will allow sufficient time for everyone to attend both events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WWW.CRABORCHARDMUSEUM.COM

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH [AT] 2 PM

LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND
JUNE 7TH - 9TH

LITTLE PIONEERS CAMP
JUNE 18TH - 20TH

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
THURSDAY, JULY 4TH

SPRING CRAFT WORKSHOPS



Make a tote bag, journal cover, or art to frame!



Each workshop is \$15.00 per participant and advanced registration is required.

To register, please visit www.craborchardmuseum.com, call 276-988-6755, or email lmallory@craborchardmuseum.com.

New workshops are added to the schedule frequently. Visit our website or facebook page for updates!

A little Repair & Renovation

Now that winter is behind us, we're getting the museum and Pioneer Park ready for our upcoming spring and summer events!



The Frog Level Service Station is putting its best face forward as we install new windows and give it a fresh coat of paint.

The picnic shelter in the Pioneer Park is getting a new look! We've shored up the structure, stained, painted, and will remove the section closest to the Red Barn.



Big News!

THE LIBRARY IS COMING TO THE MUSEUM!

While the Tazewell branch library moves toward re-opening, we've partnered with Tazewell County Public Library to convert the museum changing gallery into a temporary children's library. We're thrilled to be able to offer this space to our friends at the library, who have always been wonderful supporters of the museum, and give them a home while we all eagerly await the completion of their building repairs.

Beginning on Tuesday, April 30th,
the temporary children's library will be open to the public on
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 am - 5 pm.

Patrons will not be charged museum admission to visit the temporary library.



Please note:

The "Letting the Cat Out of the Bag" Exhibition will be installed at a future date!

LIVING HISTORY IN THE PIONEER PARK

JUNE 7-9, 2024



History comes alive in the Pioneer Park June 7 - 9th!

Visit with costumed demonstrators and interpreters and discover the joys and challenges of life on the Appalachian frontier during the 1800s. Demonstrations may include archery, black powder shooting, woodworking, hearth cooking, blacksmithing, and more. *(Demonstrations subject to change due to volunteer availability.)*

Don't miss this chance to step into the past and find out if you have what it takes to be a pioneer!

Learn pioneer
life skills &
have fun!

JULY 22 - 26, 2024

PIONEER APPRENTICE CAMP

A summer highlight for
children ages 8 - 14



FOR MORE INFO OR
TO REGISTER YOUR CAMPER:

WWW.CRABORCHARDMUSEUM.COM



Space is very limited!
REGISTER NOW!





HAVE YOU HEARD?

THE TAZEWELL COUNTY OLD TIME & BLUEGRASS FIDDLERS' CONVENTION HAS BEEN NAMED ONE OF THE TOP 12 FIDDLERS' CONVENTIONS IN THE SOUTHEAST U.S.!

Now in its 21st year, the Fiddlers' Convention is a summer highlight featuring mountain music at its finest. Competition, performance, and casual jam sessions anchor this event that's fun for all ages! Join us to play, dance, sing, or just listen and enjoy.

Join us on Friday, July 12th & Saturday, July 13th!

For more information, including admission prices and the event schedule, please visit our website or facebook page.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, July 4, 2024
10 am - 4 pm

COSTUMED INTERPRETERS & DEMONSTRATORS
KIDS' CRAFT TRAIL * LIVE MUSIC * GAMES
GREAT FOOD * & MORE!

Be sure to stop by the Museum Center to cool off, do a little shopping in the Gift Shop, and learn about local history by checking out the gallery exhibits!



**FREE
ADMISSION**

Summer dates are filling up at The Cottage. Make your reservations soon to ensure availability!

THE COTTAGE AT CRAB ORCHARD

On-site accommodations for four guests at Historic Crab Orchard Museum



15% discount for Museum members (\$60+ levels), government, & non-profit organizations

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| living room | washer & dryer |
| queen bedroom | full kitchen |
| twin bedroom | smart tv (no cable)
<small>*NEW*</small> |
| full bathroom | wifi included |

RATES

Based on Double Occupancy

Single Night Rental: \$150 + tax
Weekend Rental (Fri-Sun): \$275 + tax
Full Week Rental: \$750 + tax

rental includes admission to the museum & pioneer park during regular hours

The Legacy Society

Established in 2020 as a reflection of the need to support Historic Crab Orchard Museum & Pioneer Park as it was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Legacy Society recognizes individuals who value the museum's mission to serve as a bridge across past and future generations, connecting us to our roots and reminding us who we are. Through a one-time gift of \$5,000, either in their own name or as a gift in honor of a loved one, Legacy Society members honor the pioneering spirit the museum seeks to remember and share with all who enter our site. Additionally, the creation of the society replaces the Lifetime option for museum membership, and all Lifetime Members are now members of the Legacy Society.

The museum staff and Board of Directors thank you, our most devoted and determined supporters, for remembering the museum and its mission to preserve the past for the future, and for taking on the challenges we face with the boldness and bravery consistent with our Appalachian heritage.

Mary Gillespie Adams

A gift from her children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren

Grace Barnes

Mike and Donna Bell

Anne Bishop

A gift from her son, Charles W. Bishop

Joe and Gizele Bowen

Nancy Brooks

Frances Carlson

Ronnie and Kelli Cruey

Rod Cury

Rick Fisher

Gordon and Copey Hanes

Billy and Lee Hunter

Gene and Martha Hurst

Dr. Charles King

In memory of his wife, Mary L. King

Mary W. Lawson

Thad and Eleanor Lewis

Bob and Anita McGraw

Joe and Cindy Nicholson

David and Nancy Peery Olson

Catherine C. Payne

On behalf of the Stelio & Betty Tracy Corte Charitable Foundation

William H. Royall, Jr.

Lynda Stuart

Herman Watts

Mary Sue Whitt

Sandra Whitt

In memory of Rev. Dr. Kathy Spitzer

Charlotte G. Whitted

Dr. Tommy Wright

*Held in perpetuity by the Office of the President,
Southwest Virginia Community College*

For information about becoming a Legacy Society member, please contact Cynthia Farmer by phone at 276-988-6755, or via email at cfarmer@craborchardmuseum.com.

Virginia Association of Museums
Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce
Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce
Round the Mountain:
Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network

MEMBER

www.craborchardmuseum.com
info@craborchardmuseum.com
(276) 988-6755

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Historic Crab Orchard Museum
& Pioneer Park
3663 Crab Orchard Road
Tazewell, Virginia 24651
Newsletter of the
April 2024

The Pisgah Pathfinder



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rod Moore, *Chairman*
Nancy Brooks, *Vice Chairman*
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MUSEUM STAFF

Cynthia Farmer
Executive Director

Cindy Ringstaff
Administrative Coordinator

Laura Mallory
Education Director

Elisabeth Hemsworth
Curator

PART TIME STAFF

Brittany Davis, Bethany Estoll,
Amy Whitt, Jenny Woodward

Mission Statement

The Historic Crab Orchard Museum is an educational institution whose mission is to identify, collect, preserve, interpret, and promote the diverse Appalachian cultural heritage of Southwest Virginia and the surrounding region.