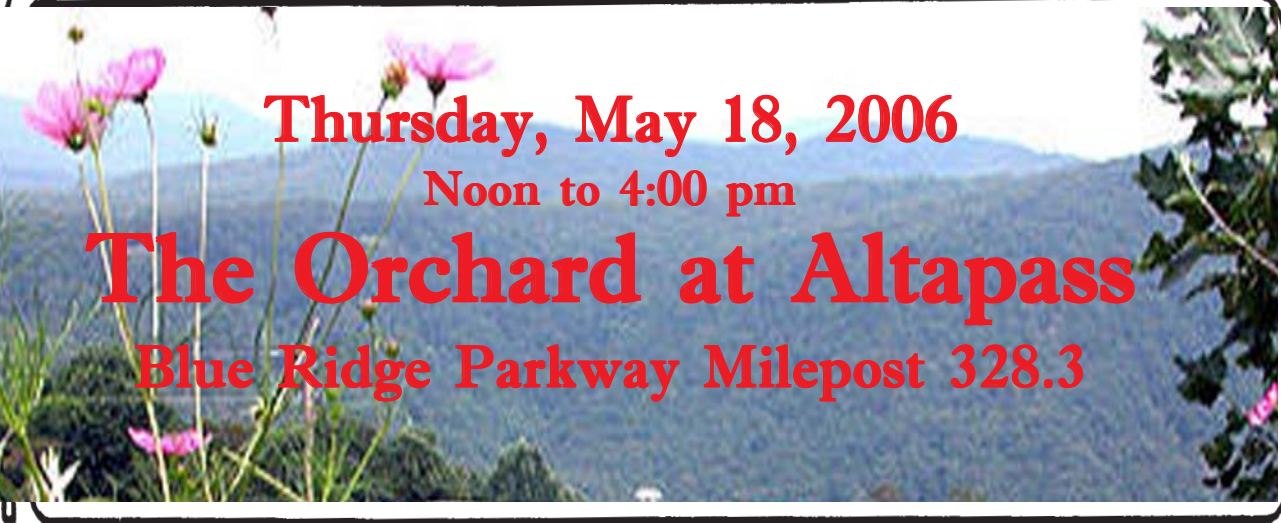


Museums in Partnership

A program of *Friends of Mountain History*

May 2006.



Thursday, May 18, 2006
Noon to 4:00 pm
The Orchard at Altapass
Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 328.3

Our May meeting will be from Noon until 4:00 pm at The Orchard at Altapass, located at Milepost 328.3 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Spruce Pine, NC. The phone is 828-765-9531.

The program for this meeting will be "Living History"; how this unique historic site interprets in a lively

manner the history of the orchard and the intriguing events that have taken place here. We will be treated to a storytelling hayride with Orchard historian Bill Carson, walk the Knob where Charlie McKinney is buried, stand on the Continental Divide, see the Clinchfield Loops, visit one of the railroad graveyards with the markers inbedded in the tree bases. OH, and there will be the Orchard's now famous chocolate chip cookies for all who go on the hayride! In addition, we'll have the opportunity to sample their homemade fudge and all of their jarred jams and relishes etc...they have local crafts and an extensive book department also. You may want to pack a lunch, or they have a snack wagon with hot dogs, sausage, soup, beans and cornbread. They are hoping their traveling exhibit that we got a preview of last winter will be complete, but the designer recently passed away so it might not be quite finished.

Directions to the Orchard:

Take I 40 to exit 86. Travel 226N/221N approx 15 miles, turn left onto 226N at the 5th (?) light where the two roads split. You will take a right turn in about a mile to stay on 226N, (if you pass the fish hatchery you have gone too far.) After a mile or so you will climb the mountain. At the top at the "T" make a right under the stone bridge and another quick right onto the Parkway access road. Make a left at the T and go North 3 miles to Orchard Road. You will pass 2 overlooks before getting to the correct Orchard Road at Parkway mile post 328.3. You will see the red building from the Parkway.

Congratulations, 2006 NC Museum Council Professional Award Winners!

Presented at the Gray Auditorium, Old Salem, on Thursday, March 2, 2006.

Photo identifications: first row, left to right — Tamara Moore (N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, print awards), Joyce Knabb (Old Salem Museums & Gardens, print awards), Emily Walker (Mint Museum of Art, print awards), Erin Kelly (Student Memorial Award), Heidi Bleazey (Early Career Professional, 1897 Poe House), Jennifer Koach (Orange County Historical Museum, print award), and Rebecca Lewis (Mid-Career Professional, Reed Gold Mine);

second row, left to right — **Kaye Meyers (Volunteer Organization Award, Friends of Mountain History), Service Award for an Organization: Friends of Mountain History (25 counties in western N.C.), accepted by Kaye Meyers**, Jerry Heiser (Alderson Award, retired, N.C. Maritime Museum), **Peter Koch, Mountain Heritage Center, Education Guide, Limited Color (tie): Education Programs by the Mountain Heritage Center (Western Carolina University)**, Lisa Whitman-Grice (Professional Service Award, Onslow County Museum), Mike Geraffy (Volunteer Award, N.C. Transportation Museum), and Neil Fulghum (N.C. Collection Gallery, print awards).



Mountain Heritage Center's new Director wins Excellence in Teaching Award

Scott Philyaw, newly named director of the Mountain Heritage Center and associate professor of history at Western Carolina University, has been named one of the best teachers in the University of North Carolina system. Philyaw is among 16 recipients of the UNC Board of Governors Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

A faculty member at Western since 1996, Philyaw teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in U.S. history.

In addition to his teaching duties, Philyaw was appointed earlier this year to serve as director of the Mountain Heritage Center, Western's regional museum that studies, documents and interprets the culture and history of Southern Appalachia. In accepting the appointment, he returns to lead a museum where he once worked as an intern.

After graduating from WCU in 1983, Philyaw went on 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. While at William and Mary, he worked at Colonial Williamsburg and at an archaeological site at Yorktown Battlefield. At UNC, he worked with the Southern Historical Collection. Philyaw has served as scholar-in-residence at Old Salem's Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts and as an exhibit consultant with The Orchard at Altapass in McDowell County. 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.

Established by the Board of Governors in April 1994 to underscore the importance of teaching and to reward good teaching across the university, the awards are given annually to a tenured faculty member from each UNC campus. Winners must have taught at their present institutions at least seven years.

Notes from April Meeting

Many thanks to **Claude Sitton**, **Wayne Hitt** and the rest of the folks from the History Museum of Burke County for hosting our meeting, setting up the private tour of the newly renovated Morganton Railway Station, and to Wayne for providing an interesting and eye-opening presentation about photos and their preservation.

For those who could not attend, I tried to take notes on things that might help you with your photographs. Here are some of Wayne's high points:

- Older photos were on paper that was thinner and more fragile than 20th century photo paper. There was a paper base, with a coating to separate the paper from the image, and then more coatings to embed the photographs. The coatings were made of gelatin, which attracts insects, mold and rodents. They should be stored at 65 degrees, with 30-40% humidity. A rule of thumb: If you are comfortable in your air conditioning, so will your photos.

- Pictures often come to museums in poor shape.

Wayne suggested mounting them in order to save them, if necessary.

- The best way to protect photos is to store them in archival photos sleeves that can be purchased from suppliers such as Gaylord Bros, Light Impressions and Universal Products.

- It is difficult to safely exhibit old photos because they are so susceptible to light damage. Wayne suggested that the original be scanned for use in exhibits, and then properly stored for preservation. If you must exhibit them, the rule is "short time, very low light."

- A neat way to interpret an old photo is to have an actual artifact shown in the photo displayed alongside it. Wayne showed his mother's wedding photo, and had her actual wedding dress to show us.

- A tintype can be scanned with Photoshop to lighten up dark images. (Also, John Beaver said we can call the Western Office of Archives & History, 828-2274-6789, and they will do it for our museums for a nominal charge to cover materials cost.) A tintype is an image on steel or iron. The finished print was what was in the camera; consequently the image is reversed left to right.

- Glass negatives, typical of pre-Civil War and Civil War eras, can also be scanned if you have equipment that will scan negatives & slides. Archives & History can also do this. Glass negatives should be stored in acid free envelopes in appropriate storage boxes.

- Ambrotypes and daguerotypes should also be displayed only in dim light and for a short time. An ambrotype needs a black background to show the image as a positive. Daguerotypes are copperplate sensitized with silver, usually in box frames with gold material. Turn them to see them go from positive to negative.

- Care and Identification of old photos: from Kodak, on eBay we might find a book called "19th Century Photographic Prints. Two books on dating family photos are available from Family Chronicle Books. The American Association of Museums (AAM) online bookstore has books on iconographic preservation, and the G&G Frame Shop in Morganton is a good resource for photo preservation.



Wayne Hitt discusses handling old photos

- Archiving digital photos is more difficult because technology keeps changing. Keep migrating it or understand metadata so that you can continue to have access to your digital images. You don't want to end up with 8-track tapes and no player!
- Don't assume CD ROMS are stable or indestructible. Store away from light, don't label except with approved archival markers. The current archival standard is on a 24-karat gold CD-R. The only approved company is Reco Tech. The group discussed the possibility of making a bulk purchase for MIP members through Friends of Mountain History.
- Black and white negatives properly developed and stored will last 100 years. Copy old photos with 35mm photography as well as scanning them for extra protection against losing the images.
- Color photos can be restored using Adobe Photoshop software.
- Handling photos: don't grasp by the edge, as it can break the corner. Hold it like a baby. Use gloves. If it is 16" x 20" or larger, needs to be handled by two people.

OTHER IMPORTANT BUSINESS

Projects for Teachers Needed

Polly Johnson urged us all to let her know if our museums have needs that could be done by teachers, something small that teachers could develop. Please write it up and send via email to pjohnson@mhc.edu. Her teachers are palid by the Teaching America History grant, which she administers. Call Polly at 828-689-1366 if you have questions. THIS IS A WONDERFUL FREE OPPORTUNITY FOR US!!! Thank you, Polly.

New Logo for MIP

Kaye Myers presented a beautiful logo that has been designed for MIP by Friends of Mountain History's ad agency. All present agreed that it would be an appropriate symbol for us to display on our museums and in our literature showing that we are part of a bigger whole. Kaye said the FOMH board would vote on the logo and museum guide at their board meeting in May. She also urged us to begin thinking about this year's themed exhibit, "Oh, Lord, Remember Me," which can be about memorials, death traditions, churches, etc. The guide is planned to be out by August, so let her know if you plan an exhibit and want your name on the list of those carrying a themed exhibit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The following were announced by attending members:

Tammy Walsh, Smith-McDowell House will have its annual Heritage Alive Festival on May 27-28.

Avery Co. Museum's Brown Mountain Lights Festival is the weekend of June 10 at Linville Falls and will honor the Wiseman family. There will be booths, family tents, banjo exhibits from App State, and Robert Morgan who has done a bio of Daniel Boone.

Jan Wyatt announced the Cashiers Historical Society's symposium of scholars this year will be about Wade Hampton III, Confederate General and later reconstruction Governor of South Carolina. The event will be held at the historic summer home of Wade Hampton, High Hampton Inn and Country Club. Ten scholarships will be awarded to students or educators to attend the presentations on Saturday, June 10, 2006. To apply e-mail to info@cashiershistoricalsociety.org your name, school and a paragraph telling why you would like to attend.

We welcomed new members from the **NC School for the Deaf** who will be participating in MIP to help them with their museum.

The NC Society of Historians gives awards in a museum category. <http://www.nchistorians.org/id18.html>
Deadline for entry is June 30.

John Wright, Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center announced the opening of a special exhibit in partnership with the Asheville Art Museum.