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Mountain Maryland

Gateway to the West

Heritage Area

Newsletter

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FALL 2013

Dear Sarah,

The Heritage Area has been immersed in festivals, commemorations and events since our last newsletter! We celebrated the bicentennial of the Casselman River Bridge during September and for the first time the Heritage Area joined with the Greater Oakland Business Association (GOBA) to present the Maryland State Banjo, Fiddle & Mandolin Championships in October during Autumn Glory. Our two new driving tours were enjoyed by many and received recognition by the Travel Channel. Keep on reading to find out about all of

Contact Information

15 Visitors Center Drive
McHenry, MD 21541
301-387-2050 Office
240-321-1146 Cell
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This project has been financed in part with State Funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority



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[MHAA](#)

The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area is a program of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce



Quick Links

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the new events and happenings coming up for you to enjoy as well.

Announcements & Awards

AFHA National Heritage Area Bill Introduced!

Senators Ben Cardin and Barbara Mikulski along with West Virginia Senators Jay Rockefeller and Joe Manchin co-sponsored a Senate bill that was introduced to designate the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area, Senate Bill 1641 West Virginia National Heritage Area Act of 2013. National Heritage Area designation will bring national recognition and helpful tools and support to benefit and improve our rural communities. All of Garrett And Allegany Counties are included in the boundaries. Stakeholders are encouraged to add your support through a new or renewed support letter from you as an individual or from your business or organization. Support letters are crucial in getting a companion bill introduced in the House and encouraging passage of the bills. You can send your letter to AFHA or directly to your Senators.

Appalachian Forest Heritage Area
P.O. Box 1206
Elkins, WV 26241
www.appalachianforest.us
Email:
afha@appalachianforest.us



I-68 Welcome Center sees 12, 548 visitors in four months!

The Youghiogheny Overlook Welcome Center along I-68 east of Friendsville has seen 12, 548 travelers between May when it re-opened and September according to Nicole Christian, president and CEO of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce. Visitors came from many states the top five being: Ohio, Maryland, Kentucky, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The National Road is of particular interest to visitors and one of the

most requested brochures.

Travel Channel's Best Fall Foliage Road Trips 2013

Deep Creek Lake, MD was nominated as one of the Travel Channel's top ten Fall Foliage Road Trips of 2013 in America! The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area designs Fall Foliage Driving Tours each year as part of the Autumn Glory Festival. These were featured on the Travel Channel's website.

Maryland State Banjo, Fiddle & Mandolin Championships

Thank you to all of our contestants who participated in the 46th annual Maryland State Banjo, Fiddle, and Mandolin Championships! We had the pleasure of listening to some amazing performers! Another big thank you to our sponsors for this years Championships for making the Championships possible: GCC Technologies, Inc.; Rob Michael, State Farm Insurance; Garrett Container; and Blue Moon Rising. Congratulations to the all the winners!

Clawhammer:

Mitchell Hall

Banjo (State Champions):

1. Gregg Welty, 2. N. Gregg Stump, 3. Joe Faidley

Banjo (Seniors):

1. Radford Vance, 2. Bob Phillips, 3. Robert "Hoot" McCann

Mandolin (State Championships):

1. Scott Pearson, 2. Cathy Pearson

Mandolin(Seniors):

1. Donald L. Kessler Sr., 2. Joe Faidley

Mandolin (Juniors):

1. Silas Powell, 2. Luke Faidley, 3. Aubrey Pearson

Fiddle (State Champions):

1. Michele Birkby-Vance, 2. Walker Magrath, 3. Cathy Pearson

Fiddle (Seniors):

1. Donald Kessler Sr., 2. Joe Faidley, 3. Ellinor Benedict

Fiddle (Juniors):

1. Hanna Livingston, 2. Luke Faidley, 3. Aubrey Pearson



Jim & Shirley Bailey present Michele Birkby-Vance her award as the Maryland Fiddle State Champion.

Heritage Area Mini-Grants Awarded!

Congratulations to the four organizations that were awarded Mini-grants from the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area!

- Garrett County, Dept. of Economic Development: Historic Recreation signage
- Oakland Heritage Community Foundation: Seasonal banners and sound system
- Music at Penn Alps: Music for Mountain Maryland and Beyond
- Friend Family Association of America: Youghiogheny River Documentary Study

Champion!

This beautiful tree, located on the property of Reflecting Heaven Stables, New Germany Road, was named the OFFICIAL CHAMPION Northern Red Oak in Garrett County by the MD Forestry Service on Tuesday. Ranked #17 in the state, the tree has a circumference of 17.5 feet and is estimated to be 200 years old.



Grant & Volunteer Opportunities



Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to non-profit organizations and governments for capital and non-capital projects located within a Maryland Certified Heritage Area (CHA). Grants can support projects involving historical, cultural, or natural resources, sites, events, or facilities. Eligible projects must have a heritage tourism component, for example the project involves a visitor destination such as a museum, visitor center, or nature center; helps to provide facilities and services that support heritage tourism, such as rehabilitating a historic building as a Bed & Breakfast, restaurant, or other tourism related retail use or is an event that will help to create a long-term increase in visitation to the Heritage Area. Awards are up to \$100,000.

A Workshops training will be held here in Garrett County, January 17 at Garrett College. A simple intent to apply form will be due January 29th with full applications not due until March. More information will be coming soon. If you have any questions about the program, please contact:

Dawn Hein
301-387-4386
dawn@garrettchamber.com

Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area
The Heritage Area has opportunities for volunteers and partner organizations to work together to develop and enhance programming throughout the county.

Volunteers are an important part of the Heritage Area and will help make Garrett County a better place to live, visit and work.

For more information, please call or email
Dawn Hein - 301-387-4386

Around the County

Upcoming Events

Oakland B&O Museum: A Great Small Town Christmas

The Oakland B&O Museum will be part of A Great Small Town Christmas this year on Saturday, December 7th and 14th from 5:30-7:30pm. This is for children ages 4-8. The event is free, but donations are always appreciated. The children are invited to come in their pajamas. They will take part in a craft, milk and cookies, talk with Santa and much more! There is limited space for this event. Please call Terry Helbig 301-533-1050 for reservations. We also invite parents to tour the station and enjoy some treats for yourself while your children are in the classroom (North Pole!). This will be an experience your children will never forget!

Oakland B&O Museum: Photography Exhibit

The Oakland B&O Museum proudly presents a special photography exhibit by members of the Mt. Top Photography Club. Kellie Friend, Bill Nemith, Geoff Day, Merrily Clark, and Rusty O/Neal are among those displaying their railroad related photographs. Open until December 31, 2013. Friday and Saturday from 10:00 - 3:00 and Sunday from 12:00 - 3:00.

Oakland B&O Museum
117 E Liberty St
Oakland, MD 21550 ·
(301) 334-3204



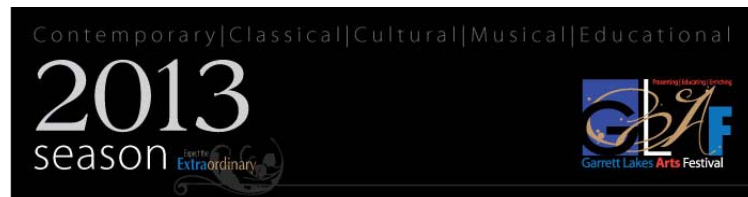
Garrett Lakes Art Festival: Pittsburgh Brass Holiday Concert

Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00 PM

The Pittsburgh Brass will be performing in concert at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$20.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Children, Under 5 is Free.

For more information visit:

[Garrett Lakes Arts Festival](#)



Sunnyside Wools: 10th Annual Open House

Christmas in the Barn and on the Farm

Friday & Saturday Nov 29 & 30 2013.

10am - 5pm each day

Join us for an exceptional & fun filled time! Find unique items made from wool grown and processed on the farm including our distinct line of wool products. Visit the animals and farmer Santa! Light refreshments will be served.

159 Sunnyside Road
Oakland, MD
301-334-9398



Educational Opportunities

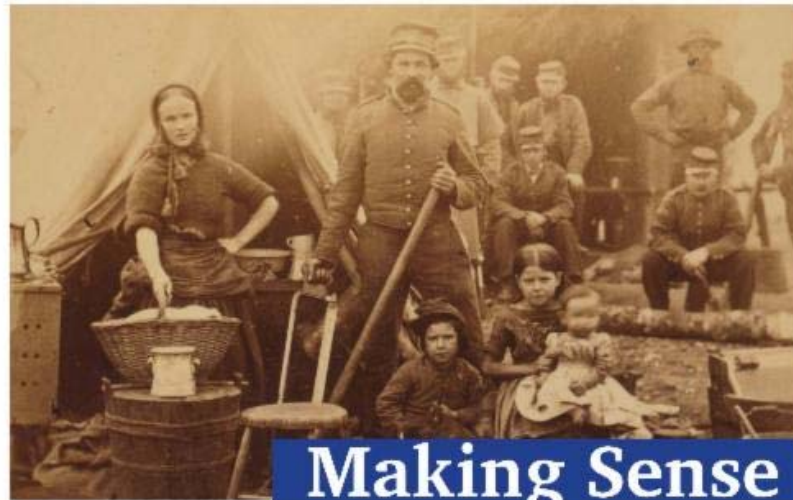
Making Sense of the Civil War Reading & Discussion Series

Garrett County was selected by the Maryland Humanities Council as one of the 4 locations in Maryland to host the "Making Sense of the Civil War" discussion group. Led by local Civil War Historian John Rathgeb, the series is a reading and discussion group for public audiences. Garrett Lakes Arts Festival and your heritage area have been busy organizing the series which will be held at Garrett College January through April of 2014. Sign up to join and get your free copies of the books!

Call Mary at the GLAF office 301-387-3082

or visit

www.artsandentertainment.org



Making Sense of the American Civil War

A reading and discussion series in America's libraries

March by Gertrude Brooks | Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam by James M. McPherson
America's War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation on their 150th Anniversaries edited by Edward L. Ayers

"Making Sense of the American Civil War" is being organized as a series of five "conversations" that are meant to be considered together. Each conversation is itself arranged as an unfolding story, moving forward in time.

The discussion groups will be facilitated by Dr. John Brinkley, Civil War historian. The discussion groups will be held at Sacred Heart's Marygrove Campus January through April 2014. The discussion groups are free and open to the public. The Garrett Lakes Arts Festival has 25 copies of the books for the discussion group March by Gertrude Brooks, Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam by James M. McPherson, America's War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation on their 150th Anniversaries and are available on a first come first serve basis for loan from the Maryland Humanities Council.

Contact the MAA office: 410-367-9402 to reserve your spot and a free copy of the reader's guide supplies list.
Reservations will be accepted through November 21, 2013.



Presented by the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES and the AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Sincerely,

Dawn Hein, Director
Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area

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