



When Mountain Empire Community College opened its doors in southwest Virginia in 1972, it served one of the richest areas in the nation for traditional music and crafts.

From the beginning, the College recognized the richness of traditional life in the community. On the faculty the first year were two folklorists, Roddy Moore and George Reynolds, who with their students visited musicians and artists throughout southwest Virginia and learned about their music, arts, and mountain life skills. They invited the folks they met to come to the campus for a celebration of Appalachian culture called Home Craft Days. That first festival in 1972 was one of the finest gatherings of traditional artists and mountain musicians in memory. There was never any doubt that it should continue, or that it should be part of the College's work in the community.

For over thirty-eight years musicians and crafts people from southwest Virginia, east Tennessee, and eastern Kentucky have come to Mountain Empire Community College each October for a celebration they have now made their own.

Crafts and demonstrations include weaving, pottery making, grist milling, wood crafting, basket weaving, broom making, quilting, tatting, and more.

An apple press is used to make cider, and apple butter is made in a brass kettle and poured hot into the canning jars.

Ethnic foods are plentiful. Ham biscuits, soup beans and corn bread, homemade soup, chicken and dumplings, goat cheese, funnel cakes, caramel apples, molasses, homemade

pastries and bread, stack cakes, and fried pies are available.

Traditional mountain music, bluegrass, and gospel music is played throughout the festival.

Storytellers often gather at Home Craft Days to tell their tales and teach their wholesome traditional lessons.

Home Craft Days is held each year on the third Saturday and Sunday in October. This year's celebration will begin with the Friday night concert October 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Goodloe Center. Join us for more music and crafts on October 16 and 17, from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

For more information about Home Craft Days, contact the Workforce Development Center at Mountain Empire Community College: sboatright@me.vccs.edu, check out our website at www.homecraftdays.org, or call 276-523-7489 and 276-523-7464, *Virginia Relay users dial 711*.

Shuttle bus service is available from the parking lots of Powell Valley High School, Comfort Inn, Country Inn, Food City, Powell Valley High School and behind the Post Office.





Mountain Empire Community College
Home Craft Days
 Workforce Development Center
 3441 Mountain Empire Road
 Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219



Mountain Empire Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, veteran status, political affiliation, disability, or age in its programs and activities.



39th Annual

Home Craft days Festival



BIG STONE GAP, VIRGINIA
 OCTOBER 15-17

2010

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

www.homecraftdays.org

