

Appalachia is a region unique and special, with a heritage and culture stretching back centuries and steeped in traditions that we attempt valiantly to maintain, and yet we are also a people and a region changing as rapidly as the technology that connects us across this land. The "voices" of Appalachians are diverse and spread far and wide, and they originate not just from the geographic region alone. We represent groups that are divergent yet common, whether we call ourselves Affrilachians, Appalachians, or Southern Mountaineers. The 2016 ASA Conference will focus on the changing face of the region, the diverse groups that constitute who we are, the educational and community institutions that either accommodate or react to the challenges that face us and call for our best selves, and our efforts to protect the very mountains that are the principal source of our commonality and identity. To become a member of ASA and attend all conference sessions, as well as receive Appalink and ASA journal, go to [www.appalachianstudies.org/annualconference](http://www.appalachianstudies.org/annualconference).

## Highlights of the Conference

### Escape from Negro Mountain: Writing History, Righting Wrongs

Frank X Walker, past Kentucky Poet Laureate, writer, and cultural activist, will deliver the keynote conference address.

### Cherokee Blessing

Lloyd Arneach, Cherokee storyteller, will open the conference with a traditional Cherokee blessing and share stories from Appalachia's indigenous peoples, the first Appalachians.

### "Coal Black Voices"

Affrilachian Poets Ricardo Nazario y Colón, Kelly Norman Ellis, and Bianca Spriggs will share their poetry, exploring those that just a few years ago brought a new dimension to Appalachian literature and to Appalachia.

### "Lessons from Goldenseal: Reflections on Preservation of History and Folklife"

Writer, editor, folklorist, and performer John Lilly will share the "Lessons from Goldenseal!"

### "Appalachian Percussive Dance Traditions in Historical and Cultural Context: Researching The Meaning of Buck Dance and 'Reel 'Em Boys, Reel 'Em'."

Dance scholars Matthew Olwell, Emily Oleson, and Becky Hill will explore the cultural and multicultural ethnographic intersections of Appalachian clogging and African-American dance.

### Special Environmental Plenary

John Amos and David Manthos from SkyTruth will share the environmental work of this extraordinary organization serving today as a world-wide watchdog for the environment.

### Appalachian Photography Exhibit

Presented by Builder Levy, the award-winning photographer, whose books, "Images of Appalachian Coalfields," "Builder Levy, Photographer," and "Appalachia USA," have revolutionized our understanding of the region.

### Storytelling in Appalachia, with Adam Booth

Award-winning master storyteller Adam Booth will enthrall us with stories of the region.

*NOTE: This project is presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily represent those of the West Virginia Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities. Front Cover/Inside photo: West Branch Susquehanna River by Nicholas A. Tonelli.*

Appalachian Studies Program  
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"I WANTED TO TELL HER / THAT THE WORD AFFRILACHIA / WAS NOT INTENDED . . . TO DIVIDE COMMUNITIES / THAT IT EXISTED TO MAKE VISIBLE / TO CREATE A SENSE OF PLACE" — "AFFRILACHIA" BY FRANK X WALKER

Appalachian Studies Association (ASA)  
Conference Highlights

# Voices from the Misty Mountains: Diversity and Unity, a New Appalachia

Shepherd University  
Shepherdstown  
West Virginia  
March 17-20, 2016



Shepherd  
UNIVERSITY

## RECREATION AND RESEARCH EVENTS

### Thursday, March 17

9 a.m.-5 p.m., March 17-19

#### **George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War**

136 W. German Street

Research Facilities Available.

[www.shepherd.edu/civilwar](http://www.shepherd.edu/civilwar)

9 a.m.-5 p.m., March 17-19

#### **Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education (Byrd CLS)**

213 N. King Street

Research Facilities Available.

[www.byrdcenter.org](http://www.byrdcenter.org)

9 a.m.-7 p.m., March 17-20

#### **Shepherdstown Self-guided Tour**

Maps available at Shepherdstown Visitor's Center, 129 E. German Street.

[shepherdstown.info](http://shepherdstown.info)

9 a.m.-5 p.m., March 17-20

#### **Biking on the C&O Canal**

Across the Potomac Bridge

[www.nps.gov/choh/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/choh/index.htm)

1-4 p.m.

#### **Storer College Tour**

Harpers Ferry

Departure from Erma Ora Byrd Hall steps. Reservations required, contact Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt at [sshurbut@shepherd.edu](mailto:sshurbut@shepherd.edu).

[www.nps.gov/hafe/learn/historyculture/storer-college.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hafe/learn/historyculture/storer-college.htm)

7 p.m.

#### **Celtic/Appalachian Music Jam Session**

O'Hurley's General Store, 205 E. Washington Street

[www.ohurley.com](http://www.ohurley.com)

## CONFERENCE PLENARIES, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

### Friday, March 18

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### **Exhibit Hall and Silent Auction**

Student Center, Ram's Den

9-10 a.m.

#### **Shepherdstown Historic Walking Tour with Jim Surkamp**

Departure from Shepherdstown Visitor's Center, 129 E. German Street

[shepherdstown.info](http://shepherdstown.info)

9 a.m.-noon

#### **Tour of Antietam Battlefield**

Departure from Erma Ora Byrd Hall steps

Guided by Dr. James Broomall, director of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of Civil War. Reservations required, contact Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt at [sshurbut@shepherd.edu](mailto:sshurbut@shepherd.edu).

[www.nps.gov/anti/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/anti/index.htm)

10-11:15 a.m.

#### **Plenary I: Welcome and Blessing**

Erma Ora Byrd Hall Auditorium

Special welcome from Shepherd President Mary J.C. Hendrix and presentation by Lloyd Arneach, Cherokee blessing, and stories from the original Appalachian storytellers.

1-2:15 p.m.

#### **Plenary II: Special Environmental Plenary, "SkyTruth, An Environmental Watchdog for the World"**

Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education Auditorium (Byrd CLS)

Presented by John Amos, SkyTruth President, and David Manthos, SkyTruth Communications Director.

2:15-3 p.m.

#### **Plenary III: Builder Levy Photography Exhibit**

Scarborough Library, Reading Room

5:30-6:30 p.m.

#### **Plenary IV: Keynote**

Frank Center Theater

Frank X Walker, "Escape from Negro Mountain: Writing History, Righting Wrongs."

9 p.m.

#### **Old Time Appalachian Square Dance**

Town Run Brewing Company, 202 E. Washington Street

9 p.m.

#### **Shepherdstown Mysteries Walk**

Departure from front steps of McMurran Hall

Cost: \$10 per person.

[www.shepherdstownmysterieswalk.com](http://www.shepherdstownmysterieswalk.com)

### Saturday, March 19

9-10 a.m.

#### **Shepherdstown Historic Walking Tour with Jim Surkamp**

Departure from Shepherdstown Visitor's Center, 129 E. German Street

[shepherdstown.info](http://shepherdstown.info)

9 a.m.-noon

#### **Historic Martinsburg Trolley Tour: Civil War Settings**

Round House, Martinsburg

Departure from Erma Ora Byrd Hall steps. For reservations, contact Sylvia Bailly Shurbutt at [sshurbut@shepherd.edu](mailto:sshurbut@shepherd.edu).

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### **Exhibit Hall and Silent Auction**

Student Center, Ram's Den, 202 N. King Street

10-11:15 a.m.

#### **Plenary V: Appalachian Percussive Dance Traditions in Historical and Cultural Context, "Researching the Meaning of Buck Dance and 'Reel 'Em Boys, Reel 'Em'"**

Reynolds Hall

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

#### **Tour of Little House**

Princess Street

[www.shepherd.edu/libweb/shwebsite/historic\\_tour/littlehousebarn\\_campus.html](http://www.shepherd.edu/libweb/shwebsite/historic_tour/littlehousebarn_campus.html)

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

#### **Plenary VI: Storytelling in Appalachia with Adam Booth**

Erma Ora Byrd Hall Auditorium

2:30-3:45 p.m.

#### **Plenary VII: Builder Levy and the Face of Appalachia**

Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education Auditorium (Byrd CLS)

A Conversation with the Artist, Builder Levy, Jack Spadaro, and Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt.

4-5:15 p.m.

#### **Plenary VIII: Lessons from Goldenseal, "Reflections on Preservation of History and Folklife"**

Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education Auditorium (Byrd CLS)

John Lilly, folklorist and long-time editor of West Virginia's Goldenseal magazine explores the past, present, and future of how history and culture are documented.

5:30-6:45 p.m.

#### **Special Plenary IX: Afrilachian Voices, Readings by the Afrilachian Poets, in Celebration of Twenty-Five Years**

Erma Ora Byrd Hall Auditorium

Presenters: Frank X Walker, Kelly Norman Ellis, Ricardo Nazario y Colón, and Bianca Spriggs.

8 p.m.

#### **Voices from the Misty Mountains Showcase Concert**

Frank Center Theater

Hosted by Adam Booth featuring Blue Yonder, storyteller Lloyd Arneach, and Good Foot Dance Company. Tickets are available at the Shepherd University Bookstore by calling 304-876-5219 or visiting [www.shepherdbook.com](http://www.shepherdbook.com). For more information, contact Rachael Meads at [rmeads@shepherd.edu](mailto:rmeads@shepherd.edu).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All Applachian Studies Association Conference (ASA) plenary and special sessions listed above are supported by the West Virginia Humanities Council and are free and open to the public, with the exception of the Saturday concert and the Mysteries Walk. Parking at Shepherd University is free and all lots are open. See [www.shepherd.edu/wordpress-1/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/University-Parking-Map-Website.pdf](http://www.shepherd.edu/wordpress-1/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/University-Parking-Map-Website.pdf). Conference Events: East Campus lots A, B, C, and K; Keynote/Awards/Concert Events: West Campus Lot G.

#### **Conference Highlights Open to the Public and Supported by:**

West Virginia Humanities Council  
Shepherd University

#### **West Virginia Humanities Council**

Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Shepherd University, Conference Chair  
Rachael Meads, Shepherd University, Program Chair  
David O. Hoffman, Program Committee/Local Arrangements Coordinator

Monica Lingenfelter, Shepherd University Foundation

#### **Local Arrangements Committee**

Adam Booth, Aida Blanco, Cecelia Mason, Nancy Cowherd, Ann Henriksson, Marianne Davis, Karen Rice, James Broomall, Ben Bankhurst, Larry Dowdy, Carla Hunter, Don Roehl, Karen Rice, Shannon Holliday, Jack Shaw, Kristin Stover, Teresa Smith, Rachael Meads, and Monica Lingenfelter.