



**The West Virginia Folklife Program Presents
Virtual Forest Farming and Old-Time Banjo & Fiddle Apprenticeship Showcases**

**For Immediate Release
August 25, 2021**

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Charleston—On two weekdays in September, The West Virginia Folklife Program, a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council, will present two virtual showcases, featuring participants in its 2020-2021 Folklife Apprenticeship Program.

On Wednesday, September 22 at noon, forest farmers Ed & Carole Daniels of Randolph County and apprentice Clara Haizlett of Brooke County will hold their virtual showcase event, discussing their apprenticeship in sustainable cultivation of American ginseng and other forest botanicals and hosting a Q&A.

On Thursday, September 23 at noon, old-time fiddler Joe Herrmann and apprentice Dakota Karper, both of Hampshire County, and old-time banjo player Kim Johnson and apprentice Cody Jordan, both of Kanawha County, will hold their virtual showcase, presenting a concert and hosting a Q&A. Both events are free and open to the public, but attendees should register at wvfolklife.org.

As part of the 2020-2021 West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program, Ed Daniels of Mill Creek is leading an apprenticeship in agroforestry/forest farming with [Clara Haizlett](#) of Wellsburg. A ginseng digger and cultivator since he was young, Daniels and his wife Carole own and operate [Shady Grove Farm](#) in Randolph County where they grow [ginseng](#), goldenseal, ramps, cohosh, and industrial hemp, among other plants. Haizlett, who was an intern in The Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage's "[American Ginseng: Local Knowledge, Global Roots](#)" project, plans to start a forest farm on her family's land in Brooke County. Learn more about their apprenticeship [here](#).

Joe Herrmann of Paw Paw led an apprenticeship in old-time fiddle with [Dakota Karper](#) of Capon Bridge. Herrmann is a founding member of the [Critton Hollow String Band](#) and has taught old-time fiddle to many private students and at the Augusta Heritage Center. Dakota Karper, a Hampshire County native, has been playing old-time fiddle for 20 years and runs The Cat and the Fiddle Music School. Herrmann and Karper apprenticed together previously in 2004 (when Karper was 11) through [Augusta Heritage Center's](#) former Apprenticeship Program. Learn more about their apprenticeship [here](#).

Kim Johnson of South Charleston led an apprenticeship in banjo traditions of central West Virginia with apprentice Cody Jordan of Charleston. Johnson began playing with fiddler Wilson Douglas in 1979 and has played with and learned from many acclaimed West Virginia old-time musicians including [Frank George](#) and [Lester McCumbers](#). She has taught both locally and nationally, at [Augusta Heritage Center](#), [Allegheny Echoes](#), The Festival of American Fiddle Tunes, and the Berkeley Old-time Music Convention. Jordan plays guitar in [The Modock Rounders](#) with Johnson, touring across the state and region, and is looking forward to expanding his knowledge of central West Virginia old-time banjo traditions. Learn more about their apprenticeship [here](#).

[The West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program](#) offers a stipend to West Virginia master traditional artists or tradition bearers working with qualified apprentices on a year-long in-depth apprenticeship in their cultural expression or traditional art form. These apprenticeships aim to facilitate the transmission of techniques and artistry of the forms, as well as their histories and traditions. This marks the second year of the biennial Folklife Apprenticeship Program.

The West Virginia Folklife Program is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council and is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Folk & Traditional Arts Program. West Virginia Folklife is dedicated to the documentation, preservation, presentation, and support of West Virginia's vibrant cultural heritage and living traditions.

For more information on the event and West Virginia Folklife Program, visit <http://wvhumanities.org/programs/west-virginia-folklife-program/> and wvfolklife.org or contact Emily Hilliard at hilliard@wvhumanities.org or (304)346-8500.

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The West Virginia Humanities Council is a nonprofit corporation governed by a board of directors whose members are drawn from all parts of West Virginia. It is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and contributions from the private sector. The purposes of the West Virginia Humanities Council are educational, and its mission is to support a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.