

A Publication of the West Virginia Humanities Council



## Billy Edd Wheeler Opens Little Lectures

This year's Little Lecture series opens with the award-winning author, poet, songwriter, humorist and playwright Billy Edd Wheeler. His talk, "Writing Things Appalachian," will be given Sunday, March 28, at 2:00 p.m. at the MacFarland-Hubbard House in Charleston. He will share the story of his writing, how his West Virginia upbringing has informed it, and read from his work.

Wheeler was born and raised in the Boone County community of Whitesville. He has authored more than a dozen plays, including "Hatfields and McCoy's" which is performed annually as an outdoor drama by Theatre West Virginia in Beckley. His songs include such classics as "Coal Tattoo," "The Reverend Mister Black," and "Ode to the Little Brown Shack Out Back," and huge country hits such as "Jackson" and "Coward of the County." The long list of artists who have recorded Wheeler's songs includes Elvis, the Kingston Trio, Nancy Sinatra, Kenny Rogers and Johnny Cash.

His writing credits range from books of poetry such as *Song of a Woods Colt* to books of humor

like *Laughter in Appalachia*, coauthored with Loyal Jones and now in its 13th printing. *Appalachian Heritage* magazine featured him in its 2008 winter issue.

Billy Edd Wheeler is in the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame, and he has received distinguished alumnus awards from Warren Wilson College and Berea College.

The Sunday afternoon Little Lectures are offered monthly through the spring and early summer each year. West Virginia Wesleyan professor Robert Rupp will follow the Wheeler lecture on April 25 with "Kennedy, Charisma and Catholicism: The 1960 West Virginia Primary" in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the presidential primary. Additional lectures will be presented on May 23 and June 27. Refreshments follow each lecture, and the series will move outdoors to the pergola as soon as weather permits. Contact Mark Payne at (304)346-8500 or [payne@wvhumanities.org](mailto:payne@wvhumanities.org) for more information.

**An Old Man** "Before missionaries came  
And Federal planners  
And men who organized  
Under selfish banners  
Their own gravy trains  
And took us a ride,  
I saw in mountain men  
A little pride.

by Billy Edd  
Wheeler

"I'd rather be poor and dumb  
Than see a line  
Of neighbors taking free food  
And licking the behind  
Of politicians. God,  
It can't be right  
If it makes me have to lock  
My barns at night."

from  
*Song of a Woods Colt*  
(Droke House, 1969)  
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## Grant Categories & Guidelines

**Major Grants** support humanities events: symposiums, conferences, exhibits, lectures.  
Maximum award: \$20,000.  
**Due:** \* Feb. 1, Sept. 1

**Minigrants** have a budget of \$1,500 or less and support small projects, single events, or planning/consultation.  
**Due:** \* Feb. 1, April 1, June 1, Aug. 1, Oct. 1, Dec. 1

**Fellowships** of \$2,500 support research and writing projects for humanities faculty and independent scholars.  
**Due:** \* Feb. 1

**Media Grants** support the production of electronic or film materials, or a newspaper series.  
Maximum award: \$20,000.  
**Due:** Sept. 1

**Publication Grants** are available to nonprofit presses and recognized academic presses, and support *only* the production phase of a completed manuscript.  
Maximum award: \$20,000.  
**Due:** Sept. 1

**Teacher Institute Grants** are available to colleges and universities and support summer seminars for secondary teachers.  
Maximum award: \$25,000.  
**Due:** Sept. 1

### \* Approaching Deadlines!

Visit [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org) for applications and guidelines, email [saunders@wvhumanities.org](mailto:saunders@wvhumanities.org), or call (304)346-8500.



Visitors enjoy the New Harmonies exhibit in Grafton.

## Traveling Exhibits

Two Humanities Council traveling exhibits continue to crisscross the Mountain State, as one wraps up its tour and another extends its run. *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music* is closing a ten-month West Virginia tour as part of a collaborative program of the Smithsonian Institution and the Humanities Council. *New Harmonies* closes at the Landes Arts Center in Petersburg on January 24.

The exhibit previously visited Berkeley Springs, Grafton, Elkins, Williamson, and Beckley. With funding from the Humanities Council, local partners at each site presented programs including concerts, lectures, and other special events. Companion exhibits celebrated local musicians and their heritage, from the blues to community bands.

Another Council exhibit, *John Henry: The Steel Drivin' Man*, has visited 14 West Virginia communities since it began traveling in the summer of 2008. It will be on display in Logan at the Appalachian Center for Equality, February 8-28, for Black History Month. The Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College will bring the exhibit to its Boone, Lincoln, and Wyoming county campuses in following months. To host *John Henry* contact (304)346-8500 or [payne@wvhumanities.org](mailto:payne@wvhumanities.org). The Humanities Council thanks Verizon for its sponsorship of both exhibits.

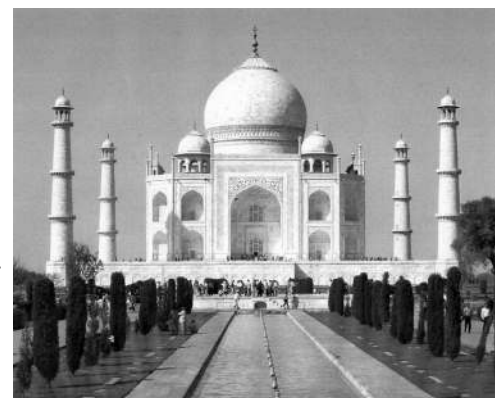


**Civil War Trails Program:** The West Virginia Division of Tourism is installing 150 Civil War trails interpretive markers in commemoration of the Civil War sesquicentennial. The Civil War Trails program encompasses over 1,000 Civil War sites in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee and North Carolina, with driving tour maps available at [civilwartrails.com](http://civilwartrails.com). To find out how a Civil War site in your community can become part of the Civil War Trails program contact Justin Gaul with the Division of Tourism at (304)558-2200 or [Justin.M.Gaull@wv.gov](mailto:Justin.M.Gaull@wv.gov).

## 2010 Teacher Institutes

Each year, summer teacher institutes funded by the West Virginia Humanities Council offer secondary schoolteachers the opportunity for intensive study in a particular humanities subject. Hosted by colleges and universities, the institutes enhance classroom teaching and offer graduate and continuing education credits. This summer, WVU's "Art: Objects, Meanings, and the Humanities" (June 20-26) will explore artistic traditions across cultures and disciplines. Contact Joyce Ice, (304)293-4841 or [Joyce.ice@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Joyce.ice@mail.wvu.edu), by February 1 to apply. The "Davis & Elkins College India Institute" (June 18 - 20 at D&E, July 16 - 23 in India) will study the ancient and modern culture of India. Contact Chandana Chakrabarti, (304)637-1293 or [Chandanachak@gmail.com](mailto:Chandanachak@gmail.com), by January 25. Room, board, and books are provided. Teachers provide a portion of travel expenses, and any fees for graduate and continuing education credits.

West Virginia teachers will visit the Taj Mahal.



**“History Alive” presenter Becky Park as Colonel Ruby G. Bradley, World War II Army nurse.** Park’s presentation at Alderson-Broadus College earned high praise from Nursing Professor Joan Propst: “Your attention to detail – beginning with your uniform and moving from the slides shown on a vintage projector to the tea cup you used when you needed a drink of water – added to the authenticity of your presentation. You have brought to life the collective stories of the experiences of the nurses captured during the fall of Manila.”

The “History Alive” program features first-person portrayals of historic figures by presenters who have thoroughly researched the figures they portray. Approximately 200 “History Alive” presentations are delivered each year at schools, libraries, parks, museums, and civic groups.

We are now adding new figures to the “History Alive” roster in response to a call for characters related to the Civil War or West Virginia statehood. Those chosen for further consideration will audition this summer and join the “History Alive” program in November 2010.



## Program Committee Election

Please help us choose citizen members for the Humanities Council program committee. Your vote gives the public a voice in our grants and program decisions.

You may vote for four of the candidates below:

— **Barbara Brandau**, Wayne County, is a long-time educator and a graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College, Marshall University, and Salem International University. She is an administrator with the Wayne County Board of Education.

— **Elizabeth (Beth) Campbell**, Kanawha County, is a folklorist and writer. She teaches for the Marshall University graduate humanities program and is working on a Ph.D. in English composition.

— **David H. Corcoran Sr.**, Gilmer County, is publisher-editor of the *Glenville Democrat and Pathfinder*. He holds a Ph.D. in American history from the University of Kentucky.

— **William A. O’Brien**, Raleigh County, is director of Concord University’s Beckley center. He holds a Ph.D. in American history and political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

— **Larry Springer**, Morgan County, is director of the Morgan County Public Library and a member of the Morgan Arts Council. He earned a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music from the Peabody Conservatory.

— **Sarah Sullivan**, Kanawha County, holds a JD from WVU and an MFA from Vermont College. The author of four children’s books, she writes and conducts workshops in schools and libraries throughout the country.

Return your ballot to the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd., E., Charleston, WV 25301 or email [saunders@wvhumanities.org](mailto:saunders@wvhumanities.org) by March 15.

## Fort Excavations

Humanities Council grants support the archeological research of Kim and Stephen McBride, experts on West Virginia frontier defense. This year the McBrides will conduct archeological and historical investigations at two frontier fort sites – Warwick’s in Pocahontas County and Henckel’s in Pendleton.

Archeologist Stephen McBride at work.

Previous excavations at Warwick’s Fort (built 1774) at Green Bank unearthed one bastion, short stretches of stockade walls and a powder magazine. New research will focus on the design and structure of the militia-built fort.

The excavation at Henckel’s Fort (about 1760-62) near Riverton will verify the fort’s location and layout, as well as important details on construction methods, changes over time, and material culture. A local family’s personal documents, including muster roles and descriptions of daily life at the fort, will provide a unique perspective on how settlers defended themselves.

The McBrides’ archeology work will be presented to the public through lectures, exhibits and other events. Pocahontas County High School maintains a website that will be updated during the field excavations. Visit [boe.poca.k12.wv.us/pchs/warwick’s\\_fort](http://boe.poca.k12.wv.us/pchs/warwick's_fort).

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The West Virginia Humanities Council gratefully acknowledges support from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Office of the West Virginia Secretary of Education and the Arts; and foundations, corporations, and individuals throughout the Mountain State and beyond.

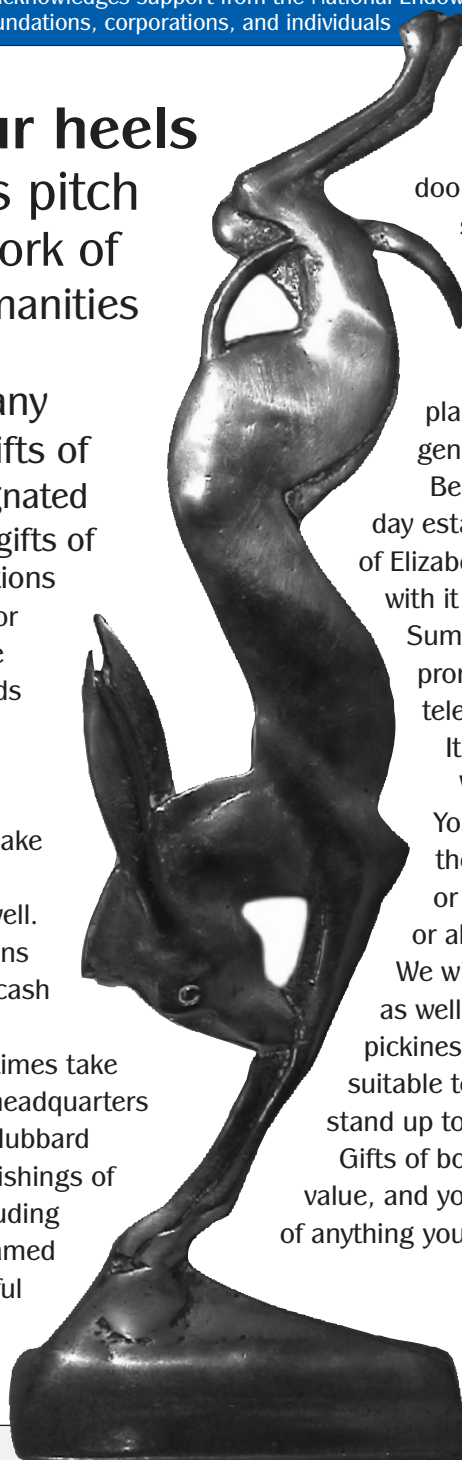
## We kick up our heels every time friends pitch in to support the work of the West Virginia Humanities Council.

The support takes many forms. Most often it is gifts of cash, including gifts designated to particular programs and gifts of general support. The contributions range from gifts of a few dollars or a few hundred, of which there are many, to gifts of tens of thousands of dollars, which are few and far between.

Donations of every size are appreciated, and together they make up a sizable part of our income.

We receive non-cash gifts, as well. These include occasional donations of stock, which are converted to cash under Council policy.

And non-cash donations sometimes take the form of tangible gifts to our headquarters property, the 1836 MacFarland-Hubbard House. Most often these are furnishings of one sort or another, thus far including antique chests, chairs, tables, framed art and mirrors, and two wonderful clocks nearly as old as the



house itself.

A recent favorite is the brass donkey doorstop shown here. This little kicker stands 15.5 inches high and belongs to a special category of gifts with a history in the house. It once belonged to the Hubbard family, the last residential owners of this place, and has returned home through the generosity of Beulah Summers.

Beulah bought our donkey at the three-day estate sale following the 1997 death of Elizabeth Hubbard, and she surprised me with it at a recent speaking engagement in Summersville. I rushed it back, and we promptly installed it in an old-fashioned telephone niche at the head of the stairs.

It is just too nice to stop doors.

We welcome your support, as well. You may direct cash contributions to the stewardship of this historic house or to any of several Council programs, or allow us to apply the funds as needed. We will be glad to consider tangible gifts as well, though our gift policy calls for a little pickiness. Basically, we must look for items suitable to the period and tough enough to stand up to public use in a busy working property. Gifts of both kinds are tax-deductible at full value, and you may count on us to make good use of anything you care to kick in.

– Ken Sullivan

*People & Mountains* is published quarterly by the West Virginia Humanities Council. We welcome reader letters, freelance manuscripts, and financial contributions. Please address correspondence to West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Boulevard, E., Charleston, WV 25301 or email [sonis@wvhumanities.org](mailto:sonis@wvhumanities.org).