

ATP Final Report

**Scrolling through history: A moving panorama as interpretative model for
The Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center in Rabun County, GA**

**University of North Georgia
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January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

May 29, 2017

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Final Report Narrative

Title of Project: *Scrolling through history: A moving panorama as interpretative model for The Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center in Rabun County, GA*

Grant Period: January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Grantee Name: Appalachian Studies Center at University of North Georgia (UNG)

Project Directors: Rosann Kent, Director, Appalachian Studies and
Dr. Chris Dockery, Dept. of Visual Arts

Description of Project:

The purpose of the project was to help The Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center increase its capacity to reach a new generation, both in Rabun County, Georgia and beyond by contributing to its new digital interpretive initiative. In Year 1, students from the Appalachian Studies Center at the University of North Georgia created a moving panoramic shadow box theater based on archival transcripts from 1967. The “crankie” featured a narrative about planting by the signs, an agricultural tradition that considers the moon’s phase as well its position in the zodiac. In Year 2, students will digitize the crankie by partnering with the Cottrell Digital Studio at the Northeast Georgia History Center in Gainesville to produce a documentary digital film that will be available in a download on demand format to Georgia classrooms.

Activities:

This year’s project involved more direct participation with the partner than all previous projects. For three semesters, 15 students in three classes and six community volunteers, immersed themselves in Foxfire. In addition to the presentation at the Appalachian Teaching Project conference, activities included three public performances of the crankie in Dahlenega, Blue Ridge and Mountain City, Georgia, one poster presentation at the Appalachian Studies Association in Blacksburg, Virginia, and one conference session at the *Mildred Haun Conference: A celebration of Appalachian Literature* in Morristown, TN. Students and volunteers also participated in Foxfire’s 50th anniversary celebration and its 30th anniversary to Foxfire Approach to Teaching and Learning. They performed “Every Seed Has a Story,” at the Rabun Gap Theater as part of a Georgia Humanities Grant and co-faculty mentor served as the scholar of record. They attended four programs with the partners’ partners: “Foxfire: 50 years of Cultural Journalism Documenting folk Life in the North Georgia Mountains” at the University of Georgia in Athens and “Foxfire, Weaving a Visual History” at the Hambidge Center, a non-profit whose founder had links to Foxfire in Rabun County.

a. Activities with community partners (See also attached file, UNG Minutes and Correspondence with Partner.)

- April & May 2016.

The two faculty mentors – Rosann Kent and Dr. Chris Dockery --emailed formal partnership request to Barry Styles, Interim Director. Held phone meeting. Kent and Dockery also held phone meeting with xxx, chairman of the board. Styles recommended Appalachian Studies to Foxfire Board to perform as part of its 30th Teaching Anniversary Teaching Conference. Many emails and conversations were held to work out performance details. Dockery served as scholar of record.

- June and July 2016. Research plan is developed. Archival field trips to Foxfire begin.

- August 2016. Archival Field trips continue.

- September 2016. Field trips to Foxfire are concluded.

- October 2016. Discussions with partner to review script as well as PowerPoint. Corrections made. Invitations for Foxfire board discusses.

- November Dress rehearsal. Three representatives from Foxfire attended the community dress rehearsal held on UNG campus: Barry Styles, Interim Director and Curator; John Erbele, Foxfire Board and Director of Operations, North Georgia Mountains Authority, Georgia Department of Natural Resources; Barbara Taylor Woodall, author and Foxfire Alum.

- February 2017. Started heirloom tomatoes for Foxfire's historic garden.

March 2017

- March 3. Contacted new director, T.J. Smith, for meeting time to introduce ourselves and discuss final performance of crankie.

- March 22. Took students and drove to Foxfire to meet new director and to plan for final performance, plus garden planting. Selected a fertile day to plant: April 29

April 2017

Emails discussing garden planting to Meagan Connolly, who maintains Foxfire's garden.

- April 29. Four students and one Foxfire alumni presented final project to Foxfire

- May 2017. Foxfire presents Appalachian Studies Center with a 12-set volume of Foxfire books!

b. Required presentations of student research to community groups other than the primary partner.

Students and faculty made six presentations about the ATP project at the following events:

1. June 25, 2016. "Every Seed Has a Story." This event kicked off our 2016-2017 project. Dockery will serve as the GA Humanities Scholar and Rosann Kent will lead the Reader Theater for the ATP Alumni production of "Every Seed Has a Story" on June 25 for The Foxfire 50th/30th Anniversary Education Conference. Four students and one faculty mentor performed a reader's theater created for past ATP. Dr. Dockery, the co-faculty mentor served as scholar of record. Previous ATP art was also displayed. Plans for upcoming ATP crankie were announced. See program at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/every-seed-has-a-story-presented-by-the-appalachian-studies-center-at-the-university-of-north-tickets-25833633092#>

2. Nov 2016. ATP "Dress Rehearsal" for partner in Dhlonega

See Facebook album 2016-2017 Appalachian Teaching Project

https://www.facebook.com/events/1203552163065711/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%2223%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22null%22%7D

3. Feb 2017 Mildred Haun: A Conference of Appalachian Literature, "When the Signs are in the Feet" at Walter State College in Morristown, TN

3. Feb. 2017. Planting by the Signs, UNG Blue Ridge Campus. See flyer at

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=UNG-Blue%20Ridge%20Campus%20planting%20by%20signs>

4. Mar. 2017: Appalachian Studies Association at Virginia Tech, Poster Session

5. Apr. 2017. Planting by the Signs. Blog by Foxfire director, T.J. Smith

<https://www.foxfire.org/planting-by-the-signs/>

c. Links to any videos or social media that show the students interacting with their community partner(s)

The following social media links are listed in chronological order.

1. June 2016. "Every Seed Has a Story." <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/every-seed-has-a-story-presented-by-the-appalachian-studies-center-at-the-university-of-north-tickets-25833633092#>

2. Nov 2016. UNG students preserve Appalachian culture through art <https://ung.edu/news/articles/2016/11/ung-students-preserve-appalachian-culture-through-art-.php>. Also see

https://www.facebook.com/events/1203552163065711/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%2223%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22null%22%7D

3. February 2017. [Appalachian Studies News](#). Published in The College of Education Graduate Programs.

4. March 2017. UNG partners with Fannin High for outdoor learning <https://ung.edu/news/articles/2017/03/ung-partners-with-fannin-high-for-outdoor-learning.php>

5. April 2017. Planting By the Signs. <https://www.foxfire.org/planting-by-the-signs/> and Facebook event created by partner <https://www.facebook.com/events/1325782310846073/>

6. For complete project photos of these and other activities, see Saving Appalachian Gardens and Stories' Facebook Album: "2016 ATP Crankie"

Other social media include

<http://explorerabun.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Planting.pdf>

<http://uzip.co/p/BTek6TKFwBy/>

<http://explorerabun.com/event/planting-signs-foxfire/>

<http://www.thehomesteadatl.com/upcoming-workshops-all/planting-by-the-signs-rabun-co-free>

Project Outcomes

The following table shows the status of the goals, objectives, and impacts in the original proposal.

Original goal, outcomes & impacts	Met	Partially Met	Not Met	Notes
All students will serve on at least one leadership team, which is student-selected and governed.	x			Teams & team leaders included Research (Chris Cato), Marketing & Publicity (Lauren Toebe), Art (Harlie McCurlie), Script (Sommer Coen)
The ATP Master Planning Document will guide and coordinate all work.	x			Previous Master Planning Document was updated and used.

Students will replace the term class with "staff meetings" to emphasize the real-life, accountability of this project.		x		Early in the semester, this strategy worked well. But towards the end of the semester, in the rush to complete the project, it did not work well.
Using qualitative methodologies students will mine archives, photographs, and records during at least one field research trip a month.	x			This expectation was exceeded. Six field trips were made in four months.
They will learn how to construct a research plan with primary documents, keep research logs and communicate their progress and findings to the curator.	x			See attached sample Research Log. The Research Team Leader communicated these findings to curator and to the rest of the team.
Using narrative analysis, they must mine the oral histories for themes as a way to understand how Appalachians used planting folklore to make meaning in their lives.	x			Although students' feedback noted the research was graduate level, faculty mentors felt it was appropriate for the primary research question.
As cultural journalists, they must immerse themselves in learning the partners' story in order to tell it responsibly. They will attend community events at The Foxfire Museum in June, July, Sept and October.	x			Students attended five events, in addition to the field trips: two 50 th anniversary celebrations in Rabun Gap, two celebrations University of Georgia in Athens, and one visiting lecture at a colleague's class. See ATP Facebook album, 2016-17 Appalachian Teaching Project at https://www.facebook.com/pg/seedsandstories/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1270988292991553

They will meet the alumni who created the books and magazines as well as current high school students who are conducting interviews with living people.	x s			Students reported that meeting Barbara Taylor Woodall was the highlight of the experience! She attended the dress rehearsal in November and the following, April, performed with them in their final presentation to Foxfire.
They will design and create a crankie by identifying visual metaphors, writing a script, cutting images from paper and gluing them to a scroll that is then backlit.	x			This was graduate level work and proved very difficult – but they did it!
They will offer live performances for other community groups, pending travel budget and prior commitments.	x			The crankie was performed at two conferences, dress rehearsal, community workshop, and final presentation for partner.
Student research will focus on Rabun county, GA	x			
In collaboration with an ATP colleague, students will tour the American Folk life Center at the Library of Congress.		x		ATP colleague was ill; mentor followed up on subsequent visit to Library of Congress to arrange for next year.
Two students will be selected to submit a proposal to ASA.		x		One student attended conference; one withdrew.
Faculty co-mentors will pursue a Memorandum of Understanding between UNG and The Foxfire Museum.		x		Models of MOUs gathered and reviewed. New director of Foxfire was appointed after project was completed. This will be explored in 2017-2018 project.
Faculty co-mentors will serve as resources for the staff of The Foxfire	x			Dr. Dockery served as the GA Humanities Scholar and Rosann Kent lead the Reader Theater for the ATP

Museum and board of The Foxfire Fund, Inc.				Alumni production of "Every Seed Has a Story" on June 25 for The Foxfire 50th/30th Anniversary Education Conference. Rosann Kent wrote a letter of support to Hunter Moorman, board chair for Foxfire.
The digital content for the interpretive program for the partner will be increased.			x	The crankie's mechanical problems were diagnosed and fixed too late in the spring semester for filming to begin. The filming is proposed for 2017-2017 ATP.
Students will increase their understanding of the challenges facing cultural non-profits. They will learn to be "high functioning volunteers" and practice good organizational and communication skills such as planning meetings, follow up documents, confirmation emails and thank you notes.	x			Students worked extensively with this partner to a greater extent than previous partners. For example, they sent 75 handwritten invitations to all board members as well as UNG administrators. See UNG Minutes and Correspondence with Partner.
Extended partner discussions between students and curator may lead to other opportunities such as an alternative spring break where college students repair cabins, clear land, or plant gardens for The Foxfire Museum.	x			Students returned -- after graduating -- in spring to Foxfire to participate in Planting by the Signs Day. In addition to performing the crankie, they selected a "fertile" day, grew tomato seedlings and packaged seeds.

This project addressed goals 4 and 5 of the ARC strategic plan in the following manner:

Goal 4: Natural and Cultural Assets Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the Region's natural and cultural heritage assets.

The Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center has been a leader in preserving Southern Appalachian culture since its bestselling book in 1972; however, without a digital interpretive component it stands to lose audiences in the current generation, which will ultimately affect earned income for the non-profit. By creating one of the first innovative models for digital interpretation created by and appealing to young people, this ATP better positions Foxfire for its future in community and economic development.

Goal 5: Leadership and Community Capacity Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.

Students in this ATP learned and practiced high-level team building skills required for effective next generations leaders: group decision and negotiation, role definition, clear communication among members and handling negative feedback. Learning to trust this process was not easy for undergraduates, but this particular project with its advanced research methodology demanded it. As these students graduate and begin their internships and careers, they report that ATP was by far the most relevant to the workplace.

Problems Encountered

The major problem was the crankie performance was not converted to digital format due to time constraints. In their ATP PowerPoint, students identified these four factors that contributed to their time management challenge: Graduate-level research methodology, crankie structure, growing as a team, and, most of all, learning about a complex folk belief system. In retrospect, the faculty co-mentors agree that archival research, script writing, and crankie making was a high expectation and filming the production in three semesters was unrealistic. However, the crankie will be digitized as part of the upcoming ATP (pending approval).

Program Continuation and Sustainability

1. Sustainability of crankie in community. The partnership with Foxfire will continue for another year. The crankie will be digitized in Year 2. Virtual visitors will be able to access the performance via Foxfire's website and the performance will be available for visitors at The Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center. Plexiglas has been added to protect the crankie mechanism so that visitors can scroll the crankie and listen to the performance via a tablet. In Year 2, pre-service teachers from the College of Education will join the project to create a webisode that can be broadcast on demand into classrooms in Appalachian Georgia. Thus, the expectations for

sustainability is high. In addition to the current partner, a third partner will be added: Northeast Georgia History Center. This non-profit recently received a grant for a digital production studio to create social studies on-demand programming and is in need of content.

2. Sustainability of ATP at this institution.

The Appalachian Teaching Project stands as the signature project at the Appalachian Studies Center. The College of Education is exploring additional pathways to increase the footprint of its engagement efforts and it is expected that ATP will continue as part of that regional initiative.

Conclusions and Recommendations

What changes did you hope would occur in the community as a result of the project?

When we began the project, our hopes as follows: First, we wanted to reinvigorate the Foxfire glow among younger students. (Foxfire was named after a glowing fungus; Foxfire tradition says students catch the glow, the excitement of talking with elders and recording their stories.) In Southern Appalachia to those of a certain generation, the word Foxfire means stories. It is the star in the cultural preservation world. But we wanted those in the digital generation to be as excited as we were growing up with Foxfire; moreover, we wanted them to become ambassadors for Foxfire. In this we have succeeded. (See attached sample blog post written by a student after the first two visits.)

Our timing could not have been better. Foxfire was celebrating its 50th year as a literary non-profit as well as 30 years of the Foxfire Approach to Teaching and Learning. There were three festivals, a teacher conference, and the release of a 50th anniversary book, the production of an original play as well as our ATP Alumni Theater, and a University of Georgia Library exhibit of new acquired artifacts from Foxfire collections

By attending – or performing and presenting – at several of these events, students were immersed in Foxfire. For example, students attended two events at the University of Georgia Richard B. Russell Library and met the lead archivist for oral history research who talked with them about the promises and perils of archival research. Together with students from the Appalachian weaving class, they visited a related non-profit, the Hambidge Center, for an exhibit, “Foxfire: Weaving a Visual History.” See <http://www.hambidge.org/the-gallery.html>

Secondly, we wanted to establish a true, reciprocal partnership that would last beyond the ATP year. Students put in many hours, both in the Foxfire archives and

later as they analyzed scripts and selected imagery. This effort, along with the participation in the 50th anniversary events, laid the ground work for a relationship that did not exist prior to ATP. Foxfire

Finally, we wanted the people of Rabun County to know that their traditions were valued and being passed on. Watching the students interact and build friendships with Foxfire alumni was an unanticipated outcome! They met Alumni Barbara Taylor Woodall as she guest lectured in a colleague's classroom, corresponded with her via email, read her book, *Not My Mountain Anymore*. In fact, her comments on the changing nature of Rabun County was the major contribution to their understanding of contemporary Appalachia. They wrote Barbara into the script and invited her to perform with them in the final presentation, Ms. Woodall, a social media gatekeeper, wrote this on Facebook:

It was an honor to attend the dress rehearsal given by students of the Appalachian Studies Center at North Georgia College. They worked in the archives at the Foxfire Museum creating a beautiful panoramic picture story—Planting By The Signs. Their presentation was authentic, informative, and very well done. Hey! they are taking the glow to Washington DC in December!! Without history, culture and heritage, none of us would be here. I'm tickled as a hen caught in an electric fence!!"

Attachments (in PDF format)

1. Digital copy or photographs of the poster presentation

See poster in far left of photo.

<https://www.facebook.com/seedsandstories/photos/a.1270988292991553.1073741853.461801257243598/1323440047746377/?type=3&theater>

2. Minutes of meetings with community partners. (See attached file, UNG Minutes and Correspondence with Partner.)

3. Flyers, text for PSA announcements, etc.

Flyer Foxfire created by partner for April 29, Final Partner Performance

<https://www.facebook.com/seedsandstories/photos/a.1270988292991553.1073741853.461801257243598/1329253983831650/?type=3&theater>

*** Photographs showing students in action.** See ATP Facebook album, 2016-17 Appalachian Teaching Project at https://www.facebook.com/pg/seedsandstories/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1270988292991553

*** Publicity such as newspaper articles, documentation of TV and radio spots, etc.**

- *UNG Students Preserve Appalachian Culture*. Article by UNG University Relations.

<https://ung.edu/news/articles/2016/11/ung-students-preserve-appalachian-culture-through-art-.php>

- *UNG Partners with Fannin*. Article by UNG University Relations.

<https://ung.edu/news/articles/2017/03/ung-partners-with-fannin-high-for-outdoor-learning.php>

- *Appalachian Studies Program students get "crankie" with new project*. See attached article by Sharon Hall in the Dahlonega Nugget.

*** Correspondence with community partners.** (See attached file, UNG Minutes and Correspondence with Partner.)

UNG ATP 2016-2017 Partner Documentation

April 18, 2016 Official request RE ATP partnership and permission for archival research to Barry Stiles, Foxfire Interim

 Reply  Reply All  Forward



Mon 4/18/2016 1:50 PM

Rosann Kent

Archive request for committee, reader's theater, project background, etc.

To Barry Stiles

Cc Chris Dockery

 You forwarded this message on 3/5/2017 5:29 PM.

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, [click here to view it in a web browser.](#)

 Message  Snakes_and_seeds_and_bears_--_oh_my!.pdf (154 KB)

Hi Barry, thanks for talking with me about the possibility of using Foxfire's archives to locate and copy transcripts from interviews related to planting and gardening lore from the first volume. We would like to use these transcripts to create a [Crankie](#) based on folklore, planting by the signs. A Crankie is a 19th century medium that is making a come back, especially in Appalachian performance realms. It is a panoramic scene, rolled up inside a box, then hand-cranked so that it scrolls across a viewing screen. The Crankie performance will be offered at venues in north Georgia as well as at the Appalachian Studies Association in 2017 at Virginia and the Appalachian Teaching Project in 2016 in Washington, DC.

Here's more background about the larger project called Saving Appalachian Gardens and Stories. I've also attached the readers theater we discussed. Thanks for passing on the request and let's talk again soon about how we might partner on this! Thanks,
Rosann

The Southern Appalachians have a rich and diverse agricultural heritage, yet heirloom seeds and the elders who save them are rapidly disappearing. For eight years, students and faculty at the University of North Georgia's Appalachian Studies Center have been collecting heirloom seeds and related ethnocultural memories as part of the Center's signature research initiative, Saving Appalachian Gardens and Stories, or SAGAS. To preserve this agro-biodiversity and cultural tradition heirlooms seeds – those grown before 1950, passed down through families and communities and never bought or sold – are collected, grown, banked, and shared. Related stories about the seed's history and related foodways are also collected. From this "memory banking," students create visual and performance art based on the stories of the seed keepers, thus blurring the edges of science and art. Without such a storied approach, says Virginia Nazarea, a professor of anthropology from the University of Georgia, biodiversity may be preserved, but cultural memory is ignored.

Director

April 18, 2016 Official request RE ATP partnership and permission for archival research to Barry Stiles, Foxfire Interim Director Part 2.

Reply Reply All Forward

Mon 4/18/2016 1:50 PM

 Rosann Kent

Archive request for committee, reader's theater, project background, etc.

To Barry Stiles

Cc Chris Dockery

 You forwarded this message on 3/5/2017 5:29 PM.
If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

 Message  Snakes_and_seeds_and_bears_--_oh_my!.pdf (154 KB)

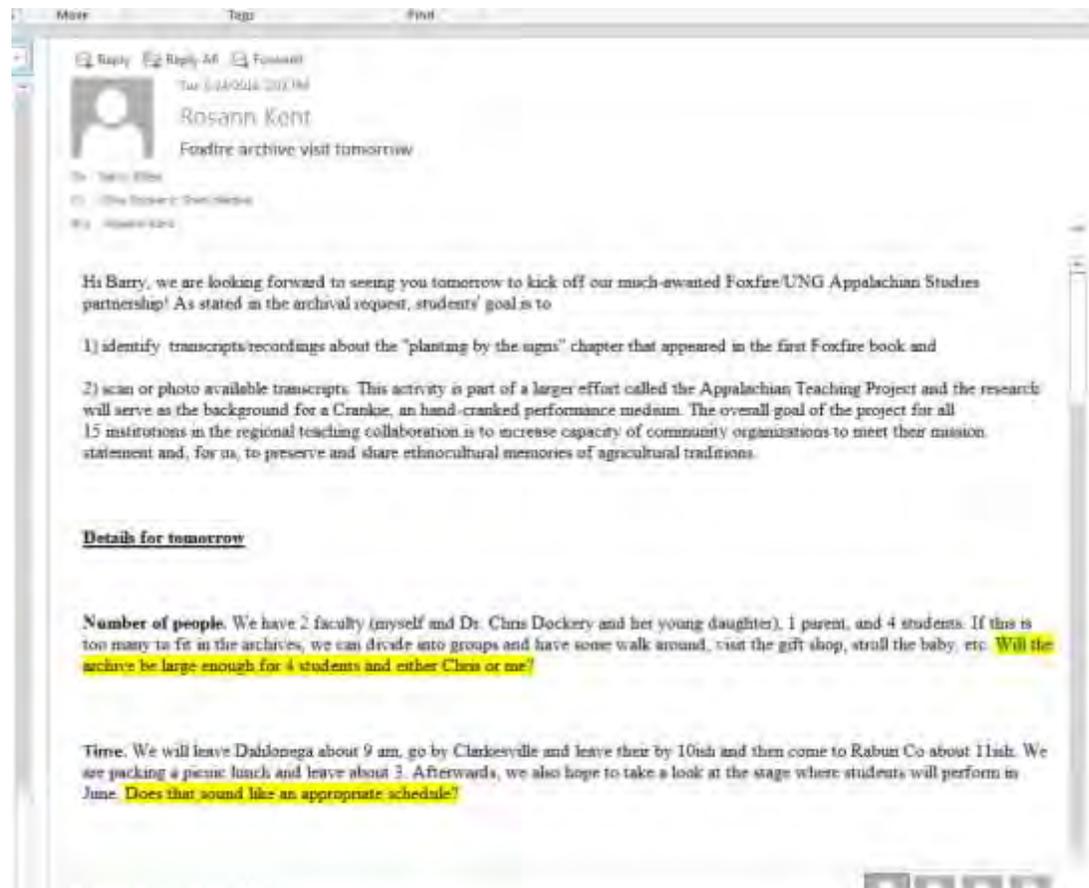
Although SAGAS has collected many stories about seeds, there are not many stories about planting by the signs, a folk method of agricultural forecasting. According to this practice, cycles of the moon affect plant growth. Students are often directed by the seedkeepers to plant or not to plant on a certain day but they are not familiar with the folklore behind the planting advice. To understand a culture, one must understand its folklore and foodways.

This oral history, and its resulting publications and presentations, will add to the body of literature on this little studied topic. Two chapters on planting and weather lore in the first Foxfire Book, originally published 50 years ago by a high school English teacher in a nearby Georgia county is still considered by many to be the most complete documents. However, those chapters are summaries of more than 30 interviews written at the inception of the Foxfire student-produced publication in 1966.

Students will review the original interviews and use the stories to create a [Crankie](#) based on folklore, planting by the signs. (A Crankie is a 19th century medium that is making a come back, especially in Appalachian performance realms. It is a panoramic scene, rolled up inside a box, then hand-cranked so that it scrolls across a viewing screen.) The Crankie performance will be offered at venues in north Georgia as well as at the Appalachian Studies Association in 2017 at Virginia and the Appalachian Teaching Project in 2016 in Washington, DC.

Rosann Kent
Director, Appalachian Studies
University of North Georgia
706-864-1540

May 24, 2016



The image is a screenshot of an email interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'More', 'Tags', and 'Print'. Below these are icons for 'Reply', 'Reply All', and 'Forward'. The sender's information includes a profile picture of a person, the name 'Rosann Keht', and the subject 'Foxfire archive visit tomorrow'. The recipient is 'Barry Elber'. The email body contains a message about a Foxfire/UNG Appalachian Studies partnership, a list of two tasks, a section titled 'Details for tomorrow', and paragraphs about the number of people and the schedule for the visit.

More Tags Print

Reply Reply All Forward

Tue 5:14 PM EDT 2016

Rosann Keht
Foxfire archive visit tomorrow

To: Barry Elber

From: Rosann Keht <rosann@foxfire.org>

Hi Barry, we are looking forward to seeing you tomorrow to kick off our much-awated Foxfire/UNG Appalachian Studies partnership! As stated in the archival request, students' goal is to

- 1) identify transcripts/recordings about the "planting by the signs" chapter that appeared in the first Foxfire book and
- 2) scan or photo available transcripts. This activity is part of a larger effort called the Appalachian Teaching Project and the research will serve as the background for a Crankie, an hand-cranked performance medium. The overall goal of the project for all 15 institutions in the regional teaching collaboration is to increase capacity of community organizations to meet their mission statement and, for us, to preserve and share ethnocultural memories of agricultural traditions.

Details for tomorrow

Number of people. We have 2 faculty (myself and Dr. Chris Dockery and her young daughter), 1 parent, and 4 students. If this is too many to fit in the archives, we can divide into groups and have some walk around, visit the gift shop, stroll the baby, etc. **Will the archive be large enough for 4 students and either Chris or me?**

Time. We will leave Dahlonega about 9 am, go by Clarksville and leave there by 10ish and then come to Rabun Co about 11ish. We are packing a picnic lunch and leave about 3. Afterwards, we also hope to take a look at the stage where students will perform in June. **Does that sound like an appropriate schedule?**

Reply All | Unsend



Wed, May 23, 2018 2:30 PM

Barry Stiles <curator@foxfire.org>

Re: Foxfire archive visit tomorrow

To: [Barry Stiles](#)

CC: [Chris Deakery](#); [Jared Harber](#)

You replied to this message on 5/24/2018 2:25 PM.

Hi Rosann!

Yes, it sounds like a good schedule and there is room in the Archive - we will make it work. It's still pretty old school as in card index. I will be glad to give everyone an overview of Foxfire and use of the archive. I think we will be mostly limited to transcripts for now. I expect some will be hand written, just so you know. I might be able to pull the audio files up in the future if needed.

I don't think you'll need anything else. We do have a copy machine in it if you need to use one.

I'm going to leave it to the students to find the material, although I might give a clue or two...

See you tomorrow!

Barry

From: [Rosann Keef](#)

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2018 2:02 PM

To: [Barry Stiles](#)

CC: [Chris Deakery](#); [Jared Harber](#)

Subject: Foxfire archive visit tomorrow

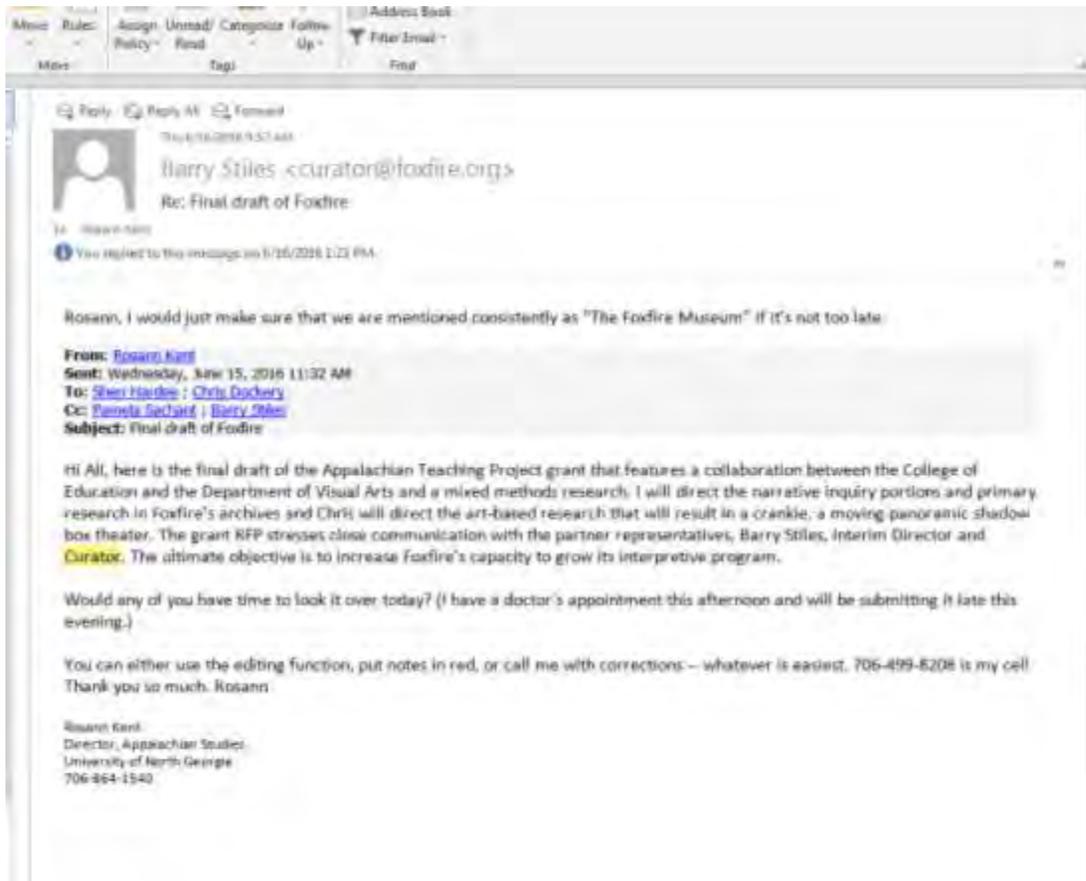
Hi Barry, we are looking forward to seeing you tomorrow to kick off our much-awaited Foxfire-UNG Appalachian Studies partnership! As stated in the archival request, students' goal is to

- 1) identify transcripts/recordings about the "planting by the signs" chapter that appeared in the first Foxfire book and
- 2) scan or photo available transcripts. This activity is part of a larger effort called the Appalachian Teaching Project and the research will serve as the background for a Crankie, an hand-cranked performance medium. The overall goal of the project for all 15 institutions in the regional teaching collaboration is to increase capacity of community organizations to meet their mission statement and, for us, to preserve and share ethnocultural memories of agricultural traditions.

June 6. UNG letter of committment to Hunter Moorman, chair, Foxfire Board, re digital collaboration



June. Review of proposal by partner



The screenshot shows an email client interface. At the top, there are menu options: 'Move', 'Rules', 'Assign, Unassign', 'Categorize', 'Follow Up', 'Address Book', 'Filter In Mail', 'Move', 'Tag', and 'Find'. Below the menu, there are icons for 'Reply', 'Reply All', and 'Forward'. The email header shows a profile picture of a person, the name 'Barry Stiles', and the email address '<curator@foxfire.org>'. The subject line is 'Re: Final draft of Foxfire'. Below the header, there is a notification: 'You replied to this message on 6/16/2016 1:22 PM'. The main body of the email contains the following text:

Rosann, I would just make sure that we are mentioned consistently as "The Foxfire Museum" if it's not too late:

From: [Rosann Kerr](#)
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:32 AM
To: [Steve Hardie](#); [Chris Dochery](#)
Cc: [Pamela Seelye](#); [Barry Stiles](#)
Subject: Final draft of Foxfire

Hi All, here is the final draft of the Appalachian Teaching Project grant that features a collaboration between the College of Education and the Department of Visual Arts and a mixed methods research. I will direct the narrative inquiry portions and primary research in Foxfire's archives and Chris will direct the art-based research that will result in a crankle, a moving panoramic shadow box theater. The grant RFP stresses close communication with the partner representatives, Barry Stiles, Interim Director and **Curator**. The ultimate objective is to increase Foxfire's capacity to grow its interpretive program.

Would any of you have time to look it over today? (I have a doctor's appointment this afternoon and will be submitting it late this evening.)

You can either use the editing function, put notes in red, or call me with corrections -- whatever is easiest. 706-499-8208 is my cell. Thank you so much. Rosann

Rosann Kerr
Director, Appalachian Studies
University of North Georgia
706-864-1540

Review of proposal by Foxfire board chair

Reply Reply All Forward
Thu, Jun 16, 2016 2:25 PM

 Hunter Moormani <huntermoormani@gmail.com>
Re: Fox. Final draft of Foxfire

To: Barry Stiles
Cc: Rosann Kent

You replied to this message on 6/15/2016 3:48 PM

Message  UMG 47P Proposal 2016-2017 (1) rev 499A.docx (61 KB)

Barry,

I'm attaching a few comments for Rosann, in case she's able to take them into account. I think this is a wonderful idea and should both benefit her students and provide a good experience at Foxfire.

Our thanks to Rosann and to you for partnering with her.

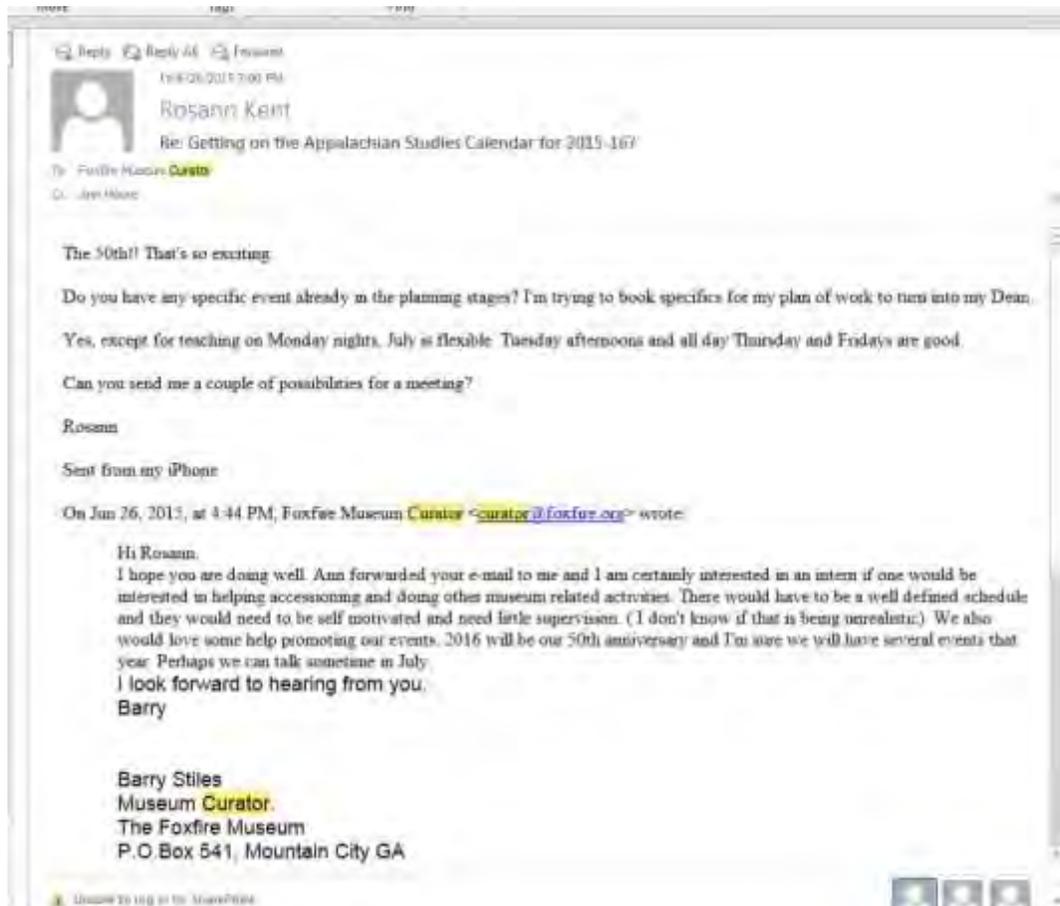
Hunter

On Thu, Jun 16, 2016 at 8:16 AM, Barry Stiles <barstiles@foxfire.org> wrote:
Hunter,
This is what Rosann Kent is working on with her students. They are seeking a tiny grant, which I think is \$2,000, and is primarily travel money to go to D.C.

From: [Rosann Kent](#)
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:32 AM
To: [Shari Hardie](#); [Chris Dockery](#)
Cc: [Famela Saricant](#); [Barry Stiles](#)
Subject: Final draft of Foxfire

Hi All, here is the final draft of the Appalachian Teaching Project grant that features a collaboration between the College of

June 26, 2016 email from Barry Stiles, Foxfire Interim director re participation in 50th anniversary



July 2016 EMAIL TO BOARD RE EVALUATION

The screenshot shows an email client window titled "Re: evaluation - Message (HTML)". The interface includes a menu bar with "FILE" and "MESSAGE", a toolbar with various actions like Ignore, Delete, Reply, Forward, Meeting, etc., and a ribbon with categories like Quick Steps, Move, Tags, and Editing. The email content is as follows:

Wed 7/6/2016 7:13 PM
Leslie Graitcer <lesliegraitcer@me.com>
Re: evaluation

To: Rosann Kent
Cc: Foxfire Museum Curator; Ann Moore; Christine Wootfield; Miles Hutchins; Blake Hunter; Melissa Spind; Rebecca

[Action Items](#)

Thank you Rosann. Good feedback. We are glad you were as pleased as we were. I will be happy to report your feedback back to the GA Humanities Council and I know that this will please them too.

I am delighted to learn about the new ongoing collaboration between your program and Foxfire and about the "cranky" project, the first of many more, we hope!!

Keep in touch! And thank you again.

Leslie Graitcer
lesliegraitcer@me.com

On Jul 6, 2016, at 6:56 PM, Rosann Kent <Rosann.Kent@ung.edu> wrote:

Hi Leslie, here is the feedback you requested.

- What was YOUR assessment of the evening? How did you feel it went based on your experience with other venues where you have performed?
We were very pleased with the evening. We have performed this Reader Theater formally and informally, and with this venue, it was a pleasure to perform in a professional setting with an attentive audience. Technically, the microphones worked well and stools were provided.
- Is there anything that Foxfire could have done to improve the evening?
No.
- How might you say that this performance might have had an "impact on the community"?
The audience not only learned about arts-based research and Reader Theater as a pedagogy but also about how to preserve ethnocultural memories and seed-saving. Based on their questions and feedback, a similar initiative in Rabun county is possible.
- Are there any future collaborations that you would like to see happen between your project and Foxfire?
Yes, the College of Education at the University of North Georgia and its Appalachian Studies Center would like to participate in the Foxfire Collaborative. In addition, the Center has received a grant from the Appalachian Teaching Project to help Foxfire expand its interpretive program by creating a Crenkie, a portable shadowbox theater. (See attached proposal).

Rosann Kent
Director, Appalachian Studies
University of North Georgia
706-864-1540

AUGUST 2016 Email to Barry Stiles, Interim director re project progress – Part 1

Reply Reply All Forward



Mon 8/29/2016 2:18 PM

Rosann Kent

Research follow-up

To Barry Stiles

Cc Christopher Cato (CLCATO2842)

Bcc Rosann Kent

Message Foxfire transcripts for analysis.docx (32 KB)

Hi Barry, pardon the long email but I wanted to catch you up on our progress as we just finished with our first week of class and we have 9 capstone students that are fired up about The Foxfire Museum!

Team leader

We also created teams and team leaders. Chris Cato, the non-traditional student whom you've met, will be our Research Team Leader and will be the point of contact for you. Of course, you may call or contact at any time, but part of the goal is to model for students an effective team. With Chris' military experience, this is a good opportunity for the other students to experience planning and delegation.

Chris Cato
678-897-1916 (cell)
Clcato2842@ung.edu

Transcription and analysis

We have also transcribed the transcripts and are analyzing them for narrative and visual patterns to use in the crankie. (See attached). We need to make a couple more trips to the archive in order to have plenty of original material to work with.

Would Friday, Sept 2 and Friday, Sept 9 be good days? We thought we would split the class in half, giving priority to those who have not been before.

Follow up research

- 1) Listen to recordings for files that have missing transcripts
- 2) Expand our research beyond the first 10 years (Vol 11, for example)

Here are the files with missing transcripts. Which of these are considered Foxfire icons and/or would you like to have included?

- Richard Norton 67-4....you indicated you found a Lester Norton 67-5 that had a mention of planting by the signs...is this the same as Richard, Margaret's husband?
- Walter Shelnut 71-56(research notes indicated this tape is available)

Unable to log in to: SharePoint.



AUGUST 2016 Email to Barry Stiles, Interim director re project progress – Part 2

 Reply  Reply All  Forward



Mon 8/29/2016 2:18 PM

Rosann Kent

Research follow-up

To Barry Stiles

Cc Christopher Cato (CLCATO2842)

Bcc Rosann Kent

 Message  Foxfire transcripts for analysis.docx (32 KB)

- Aunt Arie 70-5 (research notes indicated this tape is available)
- Blanch Bradley 73-30 (research notes indicated this tape is available)

Crankie content

Our next steps are to 1) select the best subjects or material 2) create the storyline for the crankie. My understanding is that the crankie as interpretation would need to be faithful to the transcripts as opposed to taking too much of artistic license (telling the story from the point of the seed, for example). **Please confirm that approach.**

Thank you so much for considering those archival dates and I'm looking forward to seeing you soon. Rosann

From: Barry Stiles [<mailto:curator@foxfire.org>]

Sent: Friday, August 05, 2016 11:10 AM

To: Rosann Kent <Rosann.Kent@ung.edu>

Subject: 67-5

Hi Rosann,

I finally remembered to look for the audio of the 67-5 interview of Lester Norton and there is some discussion of planting by the signs. You're in luck!

Barry

Barry Stiles

AUGUST 2016 Email to Barry Stiles, Interim director re project progress – Part 3

 Reply  Reply All  Forward



Mon 8/29/2016 3:28 PM

Rosann Kent

RE: Research follow-up

To: Barry Stiles

Cc: Christopher Cato (CLCAT02842)

 First  Previous

Thanks, Barry. I can come both times. Would you prefer that we be there at 9:30 or 10:30 this Friday?

Yes, we ran across some of that content and did not transcribe it.

Thanks again! Rosann

From: Barry Stiles [<mailto:curator@foxfire.org>]

Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 3:18 PM

To: Rosann Kent <Rosann.Kent@ung.edu>

Subject: Re: Research follow-up

Hi Rosann,

I am leaving by noon on the second and will be out of town until the 11th. If your students want to come on this Friday before I need to leave that would be fine. If you are able to be with them on the 9th it would be fine for them to come as well. I have found the audio you are interested in. Lester Norton is different from Richard. There is some content that some may find objectionable and would need to be left out of any transcript, as in racist types of remarks. The Nortons and Aunt Arie are certainly Foxfire Icons, I'm not familiar with the other two you mention but they may have amazing interviews - won't know until you listen to them.

I don't want to deter any creativity you and the students might have just as long as it is respectful of the source and people as I am sure you would do anyway.

Barry

From: Rosann Kent

Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 2:17 PM

To: Barry Stiles

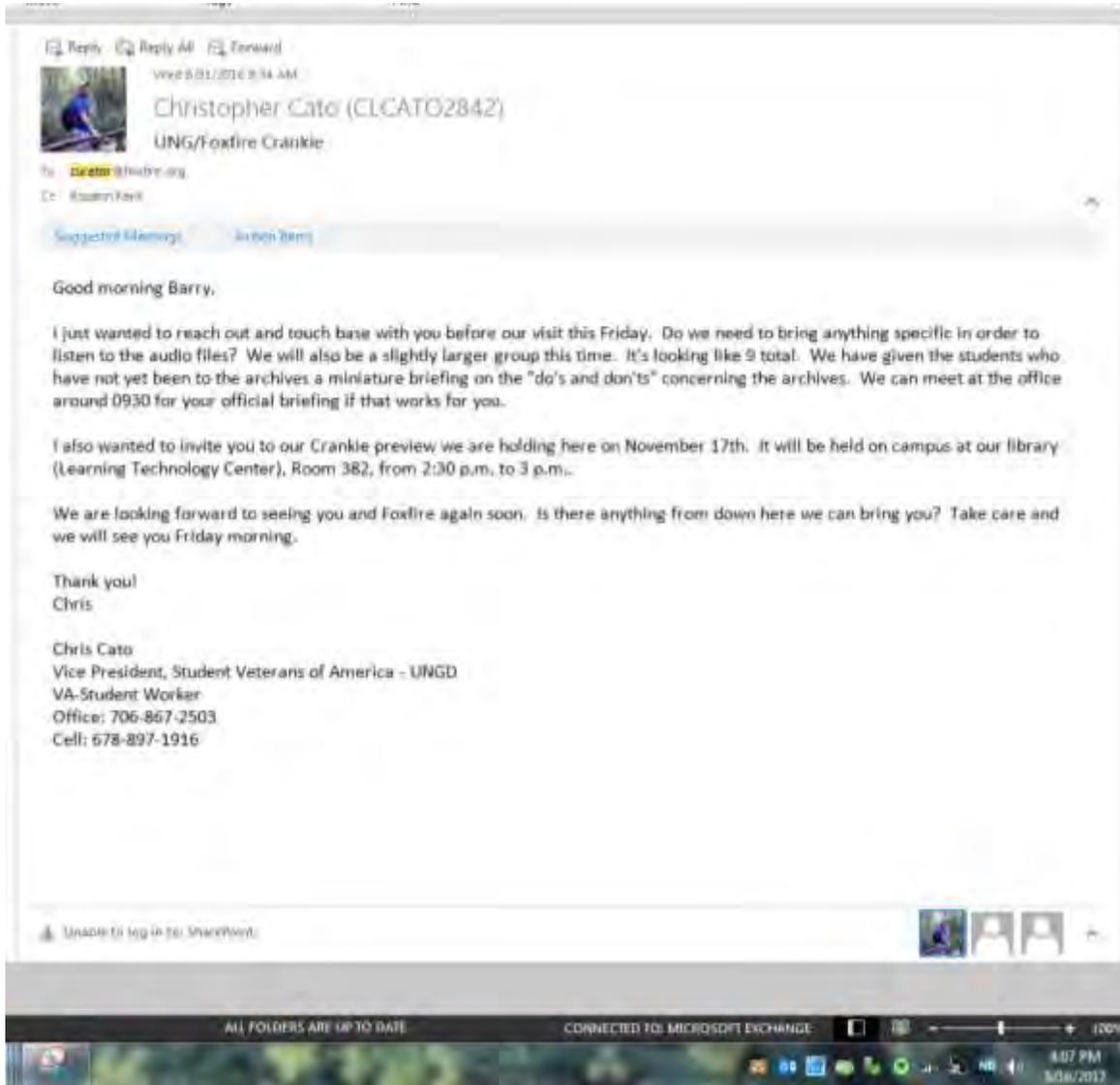
Cc: Christopher Cato (CLCAT02842)

Subject: Research follow-up

 Unable to log in to SharePoint.

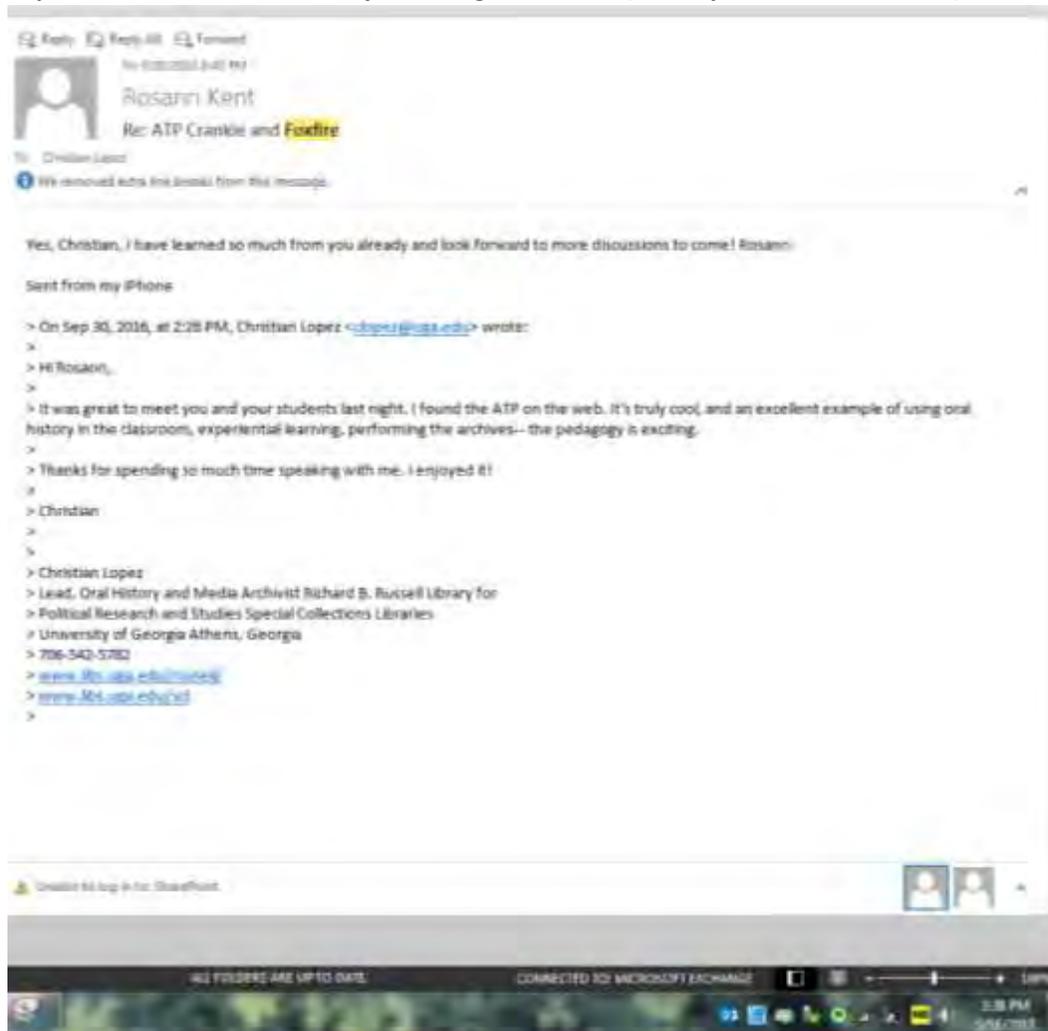


August 2016 email to Barry



August 2016 Email to Dr. Sanchant, art professor RE participation with partner event

September email re University of Georgia archivist (also a partner with Foxfire)





November 2016 to Barry Stiles, Interim Director re invitations to dress rehearsal part 1

Microsoft Outlook interface showing an email thread. The window title is "Sent Items - Rosann.Kent@ung.edu - Outlook".

Navigation Pane (Left):

- Favorites:
 - Inbox (2/0)
 - UNG Food pantry
- Rosann.kent@ung.edu
 - Address List
 - Inbox (2/0)
 - Drafts (1/1)
 - Sent Items
 - Deleted Items (5/8)
 - All Mail (1)
 - Archive
 - Clutter
 - Conversation History
 - Outbox (1)
 - RSS Subscriptions
 - UNG Food pantry
 - Link Email (1)
 - Volleyball Home docume...
 - Search Folders
- Food Pantry Dashboard
 - Inbox (1)
 - Drafts
 - Sent Items
 - Deleted Items
 - Archive
 - Link Email
 - Outbox
- Georgia Appalachian Studies...
 - Inbox (2)
 - Drafts
 - Sent Items
 - Deleted Items
 - Archive

Folder List (Top): foxfire (Current Folder)

Message List (Middle):

From	Date
Barry Stiles	11/2/2016
curator@foxfire.org	11/1/2016
Lauren Toebe (LLTOEB4028)	11/1/2016
abbey.anderson@ws.edu	10/31/2016
Sommer Coen (SCCOEN6351); Mary Lipold (MFL1)	10/30/2016
Sheri Hardie	10/30/2016
Callie Cantrell (CBCANT3726); Harlie Mccartley (H...)	10/28/2016
Sarah Wintersgill (SEWINT3414); Hunter Moorme...	10/28/2016
Sarah Wintersgill (SEWINT3414)	10/28/2016
Chris Dockery; Christopher Cato (CLCATO2842)	10/27/2016
Kimberly Groves	10/27/2016
Jon McIntire (JRMCI6072)	10/27/2016

Selected Email (Right):

Reply Reply All Forward
Tue 11/1/2016 2:27 PM
Rosann Kent
Fw: Invitations for the Crankie Dress Rehearsal to the Living Relatives of Contacts
To: curator@foxfire.org

Hi Barry, one of the students whom you've met, Sommer Coen, had a good idea about inviting living relatives of the contacts.

Margaret Norton
Eva Vinson
Daisey Justice
Lon Dover
The Yorks (this is on A-67-4, when Wig is talking to Margaret and Richard Norton. Wig actually tell the story about "his and her" gardens, but no first names were mentioned.

What do you think? Rosann

Good Afternoon Mr. Barry Stiles,
My name is Sommer Coen. I'm a part of the UNG student group from the Appalachian Studies Program that is creating the *Scrolling Through History* Crankie. It occurred to us in today's class discussion that the living relatives of our selected **Foxfire** contacts may want to view the crankie at the Dress Rehearsal on November the 17th. We would like to hand write and personally mail invitations to relatives, if that is at all possible.
Our selected contacts are:
Margaret Norton
Lon Dover
Daisy Justice
Mr. & Mrs. Dowelle
Mr. & Mrs. York (There are several Yorks but we heard of this couple with a divided garden from a Norton interview.)
Do you know if **Foxfire** has kept a list of relatives for the contacts? If so, We would appreciate their information. If not that is alright as well, we don't want to make **Foxfire** do any extra work.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing back soon,
Sommer Coen
scco6351@ung.edu

Unable to log in to: SharePoint

Bottom Bar: Mail Calendar People Tasks ...

Status Bar: ITEMS 250 | REMINDERS 7 | ALL FOLDERS ARE UP TO DATE | CONNECTED TO: MICROSOFT EXCHANGE | 3:40 PM 5/16/2017

November 2016 to Barry Stiles, Interim Director re invitations to dress rehearsal part 1

Reply Reply All Forward
11/2/2016 1:04 PM
Rosann Kent
Re: Invitations for the Crankie Dress Rehearsal to the Living Relatives of Contacts
To: Barry Stiles

I'll let them decide if they want to give it a shot. They met Barbara Taylor Woodall last week and we'll make sure she gets an invite. A student is sending a packet of invitations for your board and community board to send out as you would like. She's on her way to post office now and is using two day delivery. Thanks for your help!

Rosann Kent
Director, Appalachian Studies
University of North Georgia
705-864-1540

From: Barry Stiles <curator@foxfire.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2016 10:58:05 AM
To: Rosann Kent
Subject: Re: Invitations for the Crankie Dress Rehearsal to the Living Relatives of Contacts

That sounds like a good idea. We don't have readily available records on any surviving relatives though, so I guess the students could dig through the phone book and track down people. Both Margaret Norton and Daisy Justice lived on Bettys Creek Road in Dillard.

From: Rosann Kent
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2016 3:26 PM
To: curator@foxfire.org
Subject: Fw: Invitations for the Crankie Dress Rehearsal to the Living Relatives of Contacts

Hi Barry, one of the students whom you've met, Sommer Coen, had a good idea about inviting living relatives of the contacts.

Margaret Norton
Eva Vinson
Daisey Justice
Lon Dover
The Yorks (this is on A-67-4, when Wig is talking to Margaret and Richard Norton. Wig actually tell the story about "his and her" grandsons. Is it his first names were mentioned)

Unread in this folder. Unread.

ALL FOLDERS ARE UP TO DATE. CONNECTED TO: MICROSOFT EXCHANGE 100%
3:41 PM 5/28/2017

November, 2016 Follow up RE ATP dress rehearsal to Barry Stiles, Foxfire Interim Director.

Reply Reply All Forward

Thu 11/17/2016 9:59 AM

 Rosann Kent

Directions to UNG for Dress rehearsal today at 2:30 pm

To Barry Stiles

Hi Barry,

I can't remember if I sent you directions to get to the campus library for the dress rehearsal. The building is called Library Technology Center and the parking is better if you park in back of the library. When you come across the mountains from Cleveland, you will reach your first readlight as you come into Dahlonega. Turn left. Continue forward until you come to the next major intersection, Morrison Moore Parkway and South Chestatee. (There are other small intersections but this is the main artery coming up from Gainesville). Turn right onto South Chestatee, or Hwy 60.

Then, you will see a Dairy Queen on your right. Immediately, before the DQ, is a road to the left. Turn left into that road. The first building is the military science building, marked 17 on the map. The next little road to left will take you to the library parking lot. The library is marked 109 on the map.

You will be entering the library from the back. Walk straight through to the front. The elevator is to the right or take the stairs to the left. The event is on the 3rd, floor room 382. It is the largest room on that floor. We will have music so perhaps you can hear us.

My cell is 706-499-8208. Call if you get lost.

<https://ung.edu/campuses/uploads/files/Dahlonega-3DCampusMap.pdf>

rosann

Feb 1, 2017 Congratulations on evaluations

Reply Reply All Forward



Wed 2/1/2017 9:02 AM

Barry Stiles <curator@foxfire.org>

Re: Appalachian Teaching Project (ATP) earns top evals for arts-based research

To Rosann Kent

Bing Maps Action Items

Rosann, this is really impressive. Please congratulate everyone for me. I know they all worked very hard.
Barry

From: Rosann Kent

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:53 PM

To: Susan Ayres ; Christopher Jespersen ; Pamela Sachant ; Sheri Hardee ; Andrew Pearl

Cc: Chris Dockery ; Barry Whittemore ; Esther Morgan-Ellis ; curator@foxfire.org

Subject: Appalachian Teaching Project (ATP) earns top evals for arts-based research

Hello all,

This just in from community volunteer Steve Bordanaro who serves as public speaking coach for the ATP team. Not bad for the smallest program and newest Appalachian Studies Center in the regional teaching collaboration. Thank you, Dr. Chris Dockery, for your leadership. This arts-based research outperformed two graduate research projects! This year's project focused on helping the Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center increase their digital interpretive capacity. You can watch the presentation to the Appalachian Regional Commission here.

<http://www.etsu.edu/cas/cass/projects/ngcsu/default.php> I've also attached the evals; see pages 13/14.

"Drum Roll...PLEASE.....check out the statistical rankings based upon evaluation scores for 2016-2017 Appalachian Teaching Project (First Place to Last)"

1. UNG = 811

2. U of Tenn = 763

3. Radford = 761

March 2017 email to Barry Stiles RE permission to publish

 Reply  Reply All  Forward



Wed 3/22/2017 9:00 AM

Rosann Kent

Permission to publish conference proceeding featuring **Foxfire**

To curator@foxfire.org

Hi Barry, good to talk to you last week and thanks for fixing the crankie! We are looking forward to coming back on Sat. April 29 to perform it in conjunction with planting the garden and seed sharing.

Meanwhile, I presented the crankie at The Mildred Haun Literature Conference called Foodways: The Intersection of Food in Appalachian Literature, Culture, Traditions, and History" at Walters State College in Morristown, TN. The session description is below. I have been invited to include it in the conference proceedings. Do I need to permission to publish from archival committee? This is not the script that Sommer will be seeking permission to publish. It is an article written about the process and will contain quotes from the archival transcripts. Thanks for your advice.

Once I hear from you, I will touch base with T.J. regarding citation formatting.

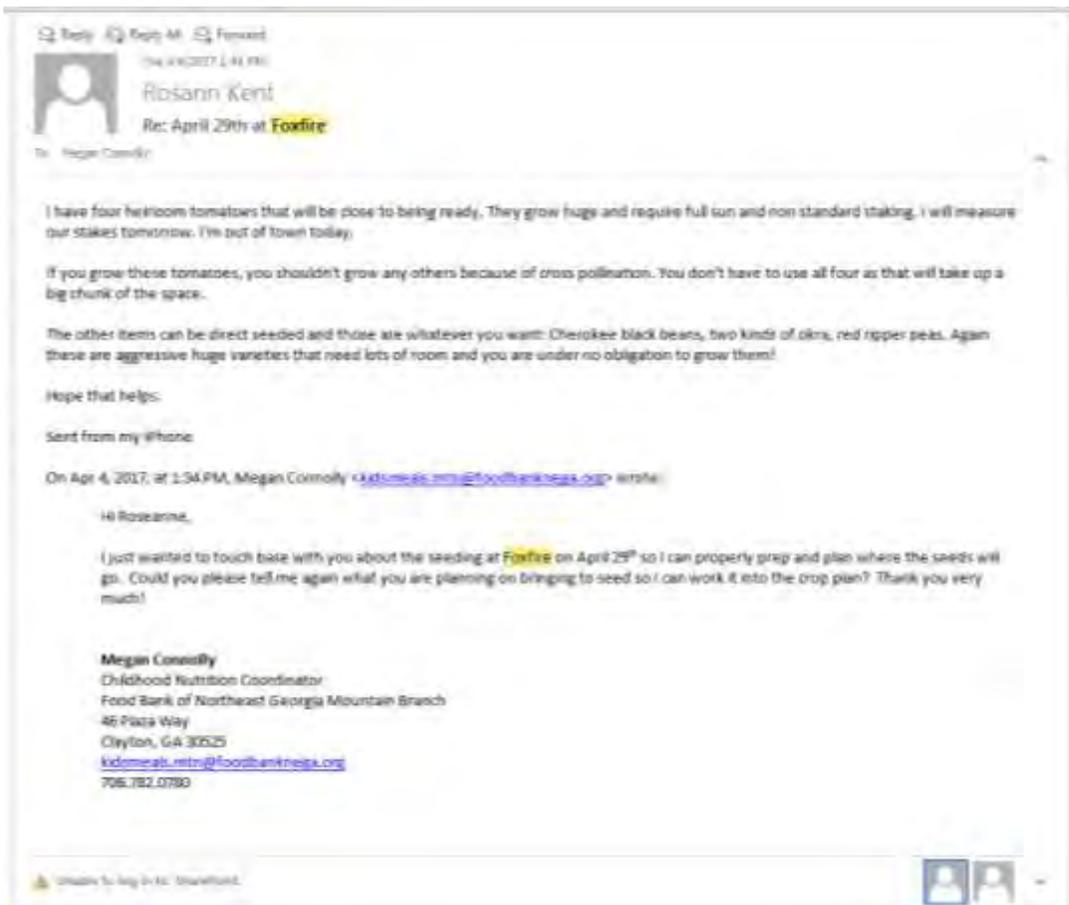
"When the signs are in the feet: Exploring foodways and almanacs from **Foxfire's** Appalachia"

For the 2016 Appalachian Teaching Project (ATP), students in the Appalachian Studies Minor at the University of North Georgia wanted to help The **Foxfire** Museum to increase its interpretive capacity to reach a new generation, both in Rabun County, Georgia and beyond. As the central focus, students located transcripts from early **Foxfire's** interviews about agricultural traditions, e.g. planting by the signs. Then, after analyzing the field texts, they wrote a script and created crankie – a moving panoramic shadow box theater. This 19th century entertainment medium, which is making a comeback in Appalachian performance realms, features a long illustrated scroll wound onto two spools that are loaded into a box with a viewing screen. The crankie is backlit and the scroll is hand-cranked while the stories are told. The crankie serves as an innovative model that others can use to present many of the other subject headings in The **Foxfire**

 Unable to log in to: SharePoint.



April 24, 2016 email to Megan Connolly, mutual partner of Foxfire RE Final Crankie performance at Foxfire



 Reply  Reply All  Forward



Fri 4/28/2017 10:51 AM

Rosann Kent

Re: where is performance tomorrow?

To: Tyrie Smith

From: Tyrie Smith <director@foxfire.org>

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 10:46:11 AM

To: Rosann Kent

Subject: Re: where is performance tomorrow?

Weather permitting, we are going to do it outside at the picnic area. If the rains come, we will move hold it inside the Long House :)

TJ Smith, Ph.D.
Executive Director
The **Foxfire** Fund, Inc.
PO Box 541
Mountain City, GA 30562
director@foxfire.org
706.746.5828

On Apr 28, 2017, at 10:44 AM, Rosann Kent <Rosann.Kent@ung.edu> wrote:

I'd like to tell students and also Barbara Taylor Woodall where to meet us. Looking forward to this! Rosann

<OutlookEmoji-1485557580275_smallApp-Studies-LUH-2C.png.png>

Rosann Kent
Director, Appalachian Studies
Manager, UNG Food Pantry
Historic Vickery House, Room 202
University of North Georgia
82 College Drive
Dahlonega, GA 30597
706-864-1540 (office)
706-499-8208 (cell)
<https://www.facebook.com/seedsandstories/>

 Unable to log in for SharePoint.



April 2017 FB Message to Barbara Woodall, Foxfire alumni

Barbara Taylor Woodall

Active on Facebook

APR 28TH, 10:22AM

Hey Barbara! Students are coming tomorrow to foxfire to perform the crankie. Any chance you'd show up and perform from your book -- quote from Wig? "Our text books are not in here, but out there. Your grandparents are leaving our lives daily. When they are gone, so are magnificent hunting tales, ghost stories, tricks of self-sufficiency, suffering and sharing and building and healing, planting by the signs of the moon, plus so much more. This information will be lost forever if we do not collect and save it now."

What time?

It starts at 1 and goes until 4, but my understanding is that we go first followed by a talk from a farmer, and ending up with planting the garden.

K. Sure. I just got an appointment 2-30ish

Where does this happen up there? Office??

I'm not sure about that part...it will be too big for office...I will be there at noon to find out. There are other groups that will be visiting and it might be raining. TJ said something about the long house? Do you know what that is?

I can also ask TJ and get back to you.

Yes, I know the Long house. ok.. let me know.

Final edit crankie script April 27.docx

Barbara, here is the script. I will do a basic introduction and explain academic context of project and then the students -- and I hope you -- will take it from there! If you see any ways we can improve, we will be happy to take your suggestions! Thank you! Rosann

May email re continuing partnership for 2017-2018

Move | Tags | Find

 Reply  Reply All  Forward

 Tue 5/2/2017 1:08 PM
Rosann Kent
partnership

To: Glen Kyle; director@foxfire.org
Cc: Sheri Hardee; Linda Reece

 This is the most recent version, but you made changes to another copy. [Click here to see the other versions.](#)

Hi Glen, T.J. and Linda,

I've talked with each of you individually about a collaborative between our three organizations -- The **Foxfire** Museum & Heritage Center, The Northeast Georgia History Center NEGHC and the Appalachian Studies Center/College of Education -- to create a webisode on agricultural traditions for classrooms in north Georgia via the NEGHC Cottrell Digital Studio. Here's a suggested title and abstract that I'd like to send on to the ARC for preliminary approval as well as be in the internal process at UNG. Let me know what you think...it's purposefully vague as we will fill in the blanks together.

Meanwhile, I will send a doodle poll out for a phone conference. I'm looking forward to working with you both! Rosann

Scrolling through History: Using digital storytelling to deliver social studies content to classrooms in Appalachian Georgia

In partnership with The **Foxfire** Museum & Heritage Center in Rabun County, GA and the Cottrell Digital Studio at the Northeast Georgia History Center in Gainesville, Ga, students in the 2017-2018 the UNG Appalachian Teaching Project will produce an on-demand webisode on agricultural traditions in Southern Appalachia. The webisode will feature the "planting by the signs crankie," a long illustrated scroll that is cranked while the story is told that was created in the first year of this project and include pre and post activities aligned with Georgia Performance Standards.

<http://www.negahc.org/pages/78/cottrell-digital-studio>

LOCAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENT

Appalachian Studies Program students get 'crankie' with new project

By Sharon Hall
The Nugget

If you don't know what a "crankie" is or you've never heard of planting by the signs, you have the chance to learn about both Thursday, Nov. 17. Students from the Georgia Appalachian Studies Program (ASP) will be presenting a project featuring both at the University of North Georgia Library Technology Center, Room 382 before taking it on the road to the Appalachian Teaching Project (ATP) national conference in Washington D.C. in December.

A crankie is a moving panoramic, a shadow box theater. It is a form of entertainment from the 1800s.

The subject of the crankie is about planting by the signs—using the moon and signs of the zodiac to garden. It is something that's been done for hundreds of years. It is still a way of life for many Appalachian gardeners today.

The contraption is this year's ATP project. Each year students in the ASP take on a project that has the ability to teach others about Appalachia and answers the question: How can we build a sustainable future for Appalachian communities?

There are 14 colleges and universities in the Appala-

chian region that are part of the Consortium of Appalachian Centers. Students from the consortium gather in D.C. annually to share projects that answer that question.

"All the answers are different," said Rosann Kent, ASC Director and instructor. "We say, saving Appalachian seeds and stories—collecting, saving and banking heirloom seeds and the stories that go with them."

An additional requirement is a partnership with the community. Past projects include sharing seeds and stories at the local Farmers Market, involving high school art students in producing seed packets for the heirloom seeds from the ASC garden (located at the program's home, the historic Vickery House) and creating a "map" of gardens with heirloom seeds and collecting the stories of those who plant them.

This year's project involves both the university's visual arts department, a collaborative partner with the ASP, and The Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center's Foxfire Fund, Inc.

The fund supports the work of Foxfire in preserving and interpreting the folk life of Southern Appalachian and fostering an appreciation for its people and traditions.

It is also a method of teaching and learning, promoting a sense of place and



Sharon Hall/The Nugget

appreciation of local people, community and culture as essential educational tools. That's how Foxfire started, as

a way to teach writing skills to students in Rabun County through collecting oral histories of students' relatives and neighbors.

The project led to a magazine, and later a series of books that are still being published. The center is chock-full of primary source oral histories gathered over 50 years by the local students. Some are on tape, but many more reside in old boxes and files, cataloged using the antiquated Dewey Decimal System libraries used before becoming digitized.

Realizing the need to reach a younger generation who live in the digital world, Foxfire was looking for partners to design a program to make its collection interactive as well as to reach remote visitors with a better online presence.

Kent came up with the subject—planting by the signs. Dr. Chris Dockery, associate professor in the visual arts department and Appalachian Teaching Fellow, came up with the idea of a crankie, Kent said.

"The conceptual influence for the crankie is Anna Roberts-Gevalt and Elizabeth Laprelle, two ballad singers who have helped to bring back the crankie in Appalachian performance realms," Dockery said.

The two use a crankie to illustrate the stories they sing in their ballads. You can see an example of their work at www.annaandelizabeth.com.

"It's a moving panorama that can serve as a model for other folklore presentations at the Foxfire Museum, and builds on previous ATP projects," Kent said.

ASP students have produced documented cultural memories through the visual arts for previous ATP gatherings.

"For the art department," Dockery said, "and the university overall, students from all academic disciplines benefit from involvement with the ATP as it is authentic, interdisciplinary, place-based work in which they are authentically engaged with their community in meaningful ways, having conversations that make a difference."

Projects Dockery's students have participated in

Clockwise from left are Sarah Ewing, Chris Cato, Samantha Hefner and Harlie McCurley, students in the Appalachian Studies minor with art as their major, spent hours preparing a "crankie" depicting what they learned during research at the Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center about planting by the signs. It's a project they will share with the public Nov. 17, 2-30 p.m. at the UNG Library Technology Center, Room 382.

mantha Hefner, also a senior in the Appalachian Studies minor. "It was a hard but simple life."

"There were people who disputed the moon landing, and they didn't know who the Beatles were. Aunt Airy (one of the people interviewed by Rabun students) said she'd never heard of them. They were living in the sanctity of what Appalachia really is. It was extremely eye-opening to find out what I don't know about where I'm from."

Harley McCurley, an art major, got hooked on Appalachian Studies as a sophomore. It was the environmental aspect that caught her attention.

"I was a member of the Green Team on campus, and the ASP had a booth at our event," she said.

Then she went to work at the Vickery House through the Federal Work Study Program and "saw all the projects they were doing and was really interested, so I took the course."

The historic Vickery houses the Georgia Appalachian Studies Center and serves as a classroom for the program.

McCurley will be returning to ATP this year. It will be her second time as a presenter.

Instead of working with the archives, Candice Boyd-Menendez interviewed Foxfire's curator, Barry Stiles.

"His grandfather taught him about planting with the signs," she said.

Boyd-Menendez took the introduction to Appalachian Studies and decided to minor in the subject.

"I fell in love—with the people, the culture—everything," said the UNG junior. An education major, she said she wasn't sure what she would do after graduating, but "I know I want to teach about this region, to reach out and dispel the negative stereotypes."

While the ATP is not a competitive event—no trophies are won or ribbons awarded—Kent is competitive, and freely admits it.

Between 150 and 200 students from the consortium evaluate the presentations at the annual gathering.

"They look at two questions," Kent said, "how well the group engaged their community partner and how well they address the question of creating sustainability. We have placed in the top three evaluations for the last five years."

And she is hoping to do at least as well this year.

She is also hoping the experience has helped students better understand the challenges faced by cultural nonprofits, and perhaps encourage them to volunteer their time.

"Learning and community engagement are pillars of the university's mission. This is the most dynamic example of how this approach to learning benefits our students, faculty and our community," Dockery added.

But even more importantly, Kent said, is that the students now "see the value of listening to old people. That's the real lesson here. These students are now talking to their own grandparents, their neighbors. I've watched them come alive over this project, and so have others at Foxfire. Foxfire was named after a fungus that glows in the forests here. Barbara Taylor Woodall, a Foxfire alumna, told the kids, 'You've caught the glow.' And they did."

for ATP include a "communograph," a map of gardens growing heritage seeds; garden flags; broadsides printed on an antique printer; and a seed machine for dispensing heritage seeds.

"Such projects have positioned our students to produce innovative content for The Foxfire Museum for onsite as well as remote visitors," Kent said. "Students will film the crankie and put it on Foxfire's website."

Kent had a twofold reason for choosing to partner with Foxfire, she said.

"I wanted to help get Foxfire's message to a younger generation via the internet, but I also wanted students to know about the Foxfire books."

In order to put together the crankie, students had to learn about planting by the signs. They visited The Fox Fire Museum and Heritage Center to research the original interviews Rabun County high schoolers conducted around 50 years ago.

Finding answers from the original texts of the interviews does not allow the researcher to impose their own suppositions. For example, Kent said, "To us, the use of astrology seems to go against the strong conservative Protestant faith of Appalachian peoples. But to them (the people interviewed), planting by the signs is religious. They quoted Ecclesiastes, the Psalms. That's not even a question to them."

"One of the interviewees, Eva Vinson, was quoted in Fox Fire Volume II. Speaking of planting by the signs she said, 'That's God's work. ... the Bible says the moon's for signs and seasons. And that's the handiwork of God.'"

Ironically, though the students were taking information from archives to make something that would eventually appear on the web, one of the things that excited them the most was actually handling the old documents.

"Words wouldn't describe holding in my hands the written interviews," said senior Chris Cato. "It was fun looking back at the '60s."

"Reading them takes you back to the time of those interviewed and you imagine what it was like," said Sa-

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PLANTIN' by the SIGNS

Appalachian Gardening Traditions

February 25, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**University of
North Georgia's
Blue Ridge Campus**

When European settlers first came to these mountains, they brought with them traditions from the old world such as “planting by the signs,” a method of planting (and living) according to the moon’s phases and position in the zodiac. Only a few gardeners still plant by this method. Learn what UNG students discovered when they interviewed those gardeners from Rosann Kent, Director of Appalachian Studies Center. Listen to stories about these and other agricultural traditions from master storyteller, Keith Jones, whose family has lived in the area for generations.

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June 25, 7 p.m.
Rearden Theatre,
Rabun Gap
Nacoochee School
foxfire50th.org



PLANTING BY THE SIGNS

FREE SPECIAL EVENT

Foxfire, the University of North Georgia, Timpson Creek Farm, and Sustainable Mountain Living Communities have collaborated for a special presentation on planting by the signs. Join us **Saturday, April 29, 2017** from **1:00 pm – 4:00 pm** to learn how moon phases and the zodiac have influenced agriculture for thousands of years and continue to play a role in farming today.

“CRANKIE”
PRESENTATION
FROM UNG
STUDENTS

PLANTING BY THE
SIGNS TALK BY
DARBY WEAVER OF
TIMPSON CREEK
FARM

HANDS-ON
DEMONSTRATION IN
THE FOXFIRE
GARDEN BY SMLC

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CONTACT	First issue?	CONTACT #	NOTES	Crankie?	Intro transcribe?
RICKMAN, Luther	no	A-67-1	Talked abt a bank robbery, nothing scanned	no	
Harley CARPENTER	yes	A-67-3	Otto, NC Mulberry Community. Recheck no info	no	
NORTON, Richard & Margaret	yes	A-67-4	From Dilliard Control Sheet Front & back, photo of richard and mule, and newspaper clipping scanned. No transcript included. Note in control sheet: Primarily about signs. Find tape. Done. Transcribe Chris cato's notes. Done. This has anecdote about York couple	yes	Yes
WEBB, Andy		a-67-6	nothing about planting by signs, nothing scanned	no	
Harley CARPENTER	yes	a-67-7	Otto, NC Mulberry Community Recheck no info	no	
CARPENTER Aunt ARIE	No	A-70-5	Control Sheet front & back, scanned Transcript: scanned pages 1 to 7 of 8. Page 1 transcribed. Signs only mentioned on page one. Missing words and very vague. Listened, Decided not to use. Check book on Aunt Arie to see if she mentioned planting by signs in there. Check rest of Aunt Aries file None there, but found brief info in book and working file. Scanned, not uploaded yet to wedoist. Need to use, if possible as she is aunt arie. Harlie did extension research but there just isn't much on planting.	no	
GREEN, Hillard	yes	A-70-7	Control Sheet Front & back, Pages 1 to 3 scanned, 2 & 3 and transcribed. Minimal and vague mention of signs.	no	
ELLER, Johnny &					

Chris Cato

GASC3500

27 June 2016

Professor B. Brooksher

Class Blog

Foxfire. If you've never been to the Center or even read nor heard of the books/magazines, you are truly missing out on one of the most naturally grin producing pieces of Southern Appalachian history. During our short summer semester class for Agricultural Traditions for Contemporary Appalachia, I was blessed to be a part of two field trips to the Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center. Our purpose for these visits was to collect data from their archives which discussed gardening by the signs. This may sound simple enough, but I ensure you that it really wasn't.

The first obstacle to get past when going there to conduct academic research in their archives is the place itself. Sitting on over 100 acres of majestic mountain land are numerous cabins, barns and other outbuildings dating back to the 19th century. All of these American treasures are filled with artifacts, hand crafted items and if you're lucky, a person who specializes in those crafts will be present to demonstrate their construction. We were fortunate enough to have the curator, Barry Stiles, lead us along the winding path in and between these buildings. He took his time and gave us a brief history of each cabin and their contents. For that, we are forever grateful. Barry's knowledge is endless.

Secondly, both trips were on gorgeous June days. The first being a little cooler than the second honestly. Accompanying these glorious highland days comes the childhood urge to explore the unknown. So that's exactly what we did. After Barry's tour, we couldn't help but to continue on our own. With the warm summer sun darting through the tall hardwoods, we were on our way. Like carefree kids, we walked among the old homes looking in windows, doors, ringing the bell in the old chapel and walking on old timey stilts outside the Shooting Creek cabin. In my mind I could hear John Denver singing *Take Me Home, Country Roads*. It was nice to escape the hustle and bustle of adult life for those few moments.

The third and final obstacle I faced was encountered during the actual data mining itself. My words will never be strong enough to convey the feelings I felt while holding those precious hand written interviews from the late 60's and early 70's. Reading the words spoken by those long gone mountaineers who were born in the late 1800's, was mystifying to say the least. Reading their life stories written in old Appalachian dialect was such a treat. The knowledge these mountain folk possessed is awe inspiring. Some did just about everything "*by the signs*". The proof was in their existence. Without the ability to produce crops large enough to feed their families, sometimes neighbors, and seed the following season, they would have died off long ago. It was extremely easy and enjoyable to read totally off the research subject. I feel honored to be even a small part of this collection. It has given to me experiences I could only have dreamed of. Again, if you have never been to, or even heard of Foxfire, I highly suggest that you fix that.