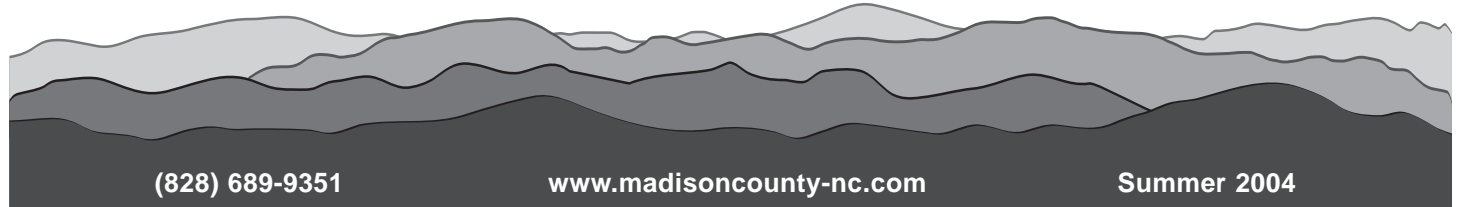


Madison County News Bulletin

Chamber of Commerce



(828) 689-9351

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Summer 2004



Welcome New Board

Well, my year as President of the Chamber is up and I want to tell you what a privilege it has been. I learned a lot in this year and I hope I have made a difference in some small way. I will still be serving you as treasurer and will do my best in that position.

Thanks to all the folks who helped me this year, especially Claudia and Simone. Thanks for all your hard work. I now pass on the baton to O'Neal Shelton and wish him a prosperous year.

*Jennifer Hott, President
Madison County Chamber of Commerce*

Chamber Board of Directors 2004-2005

(Six slots, 3 year terms)

Frank Fisher	Incumbent
Jerry Plemmons	Incumbent
Tammy Williams	Incumbent
Dinah Carver	Incumbent
Betty Hurst	New
Loretta Shelton	New

2004-2005 Chamber Officers

O'Neal Shelton	President
Tammy Williams	Vice-President
Jennifer Hott	Treasurer
Simone Bouyer	Secretary

I-26 Welcome Center Stats

April	25,692 Visitors
May.	30,684 Visitors

Chamber Board Meeting Highlights

- June 2004 -

- Jennifer Hott and Claudia Reavis have delivered copies of the Chamber Business Directory to several Hot Springs locations, including the bank, the ice cream shop, Huck Finn, Bluff Mtn, and the Forest Service. Cases of the directories are available for those wishing to assist with distribution from the Visitor's Center or AB Tech in Marshall.
- The "In Our Own Way" booklet will be updated and distributed to students in Madison County and at the Visitors Center. The booklet contains information about the county, its townships and history. The chamber will be listed in the booklet as a sponsor.

- May 2004 -

- Christy Thomas has been selected as the recipient of the 2004 Chamber Scholarship fund. Five applications were received, 3 were eligible. A banquet was held on Tuesday, May 11 at 8am at the Mars Hill Cafeteria in honor of our Madison High Scholars. The many people and companies that contributed to the fund are recognized inside in an article by Phyllis Stiles.
- The Blue Ridge Mountain Host meets the first Tuesday of every month at 2pm. More participants from Madison County are sought. The Chamber is looking for a representative to attend the meetings.

- April 2004 -

- June Trevor, Coordinator of Madison Child Care partners, part of the Smart Start program spoke on the need to develop resources for local, affordable child care. The program focuses on preparing children to enter school, as

well as educating parents, teachers and the community about the importance of quality child care. The program operates in both Madison and Buncombe county and provides free information and answers for local business owners. Training sessions are also available on a regular basis. Topics include what to look for in a child care provider, and questions to ask providers. There are currently 12 programs and 80 workers participating in the program. Additional information and flyers are available at AB Tech and the library in Marshall.

- Betty Hurst, from Handmade in America, spoke about the program's use of grant funds for rural communities engaged in traditional agricultural or crafts projects. The program is completing a 3 year project which involved local organizations including the Madison County Extension office, the Arts Council and Hot Springs Health Program. Organizations were given assistance with marketing products and crafts, building programs and setting up the new Madison Farms organization.

• A database and directory is being compiled which includes about 150 local small businesses, and "Madison Farms" labels have been made for local farms to use. Marketing workshops are held regularly, with weekly marketing meetings held every Monday from 6 to 8pm. Profiles of local farms and crafters will be submitted to local papers and publications and a new website has been created to promote local farms and businesses at www.madisonfarms.org.

- This year the second annual Arts Festival is planned for September 25 in downtown Marshall.

A Haven for Herbalists, Naturalists, and Seekers of Agri-Tourism

by Andi Brockman

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains bordering the Pisgah National Forest in Marshall, NC, lays a haven for herbalists, naturalists, and seekers of agri-tourism excellence. The **Eagle Feather Organic Farm**, owned and operated by Robert Eidus is home to the **North Carolina Ginseng and Goldenseal Co.**

Among their many acclamations, the Eagle Feather farm has been designated as a Native Botanical Sanctuary by United Plant Savers, and is also a designated North Carolina Nursery by the NC Department of Agriculture.

Since 1993, the NC Ginseng and Goldenseal Company has been growing organic medicinal herbs such as ginseng, goldenseal, and a variety of other woodland botanicals in a natural hardwoods cove.

Madison County is home to some of the most potent and high quality ginseng in the world, and the Eagle Feather Organic Farm has a reputation for excellence. Here they distribute everything from roots, seeds, and rhizomes to tinctures and capsules, all the while practicing

sustainable agriculture. The Eagle Feather Farm has books, a video, classes, apprenticeships, and tours that further teach and address the natural ways of growing such beneficial herbs as ginseng, goldenseal, black cohosh, wild yam, and Echinacea, while maintaining a sustainable environment. As the plants are grown in their own habitat, the use of tractors and many other such cash crop farming methods are not necessary.

In 2001 the price for wild chemical free ginseng was \$350-\$380 per pound where as chemically sprayed ginseng, and that grown in artificial environments went for \$18 dollars per pound. Robert Eidus and the Eagle Feather Farm have a lot to share about the wealth of sustainable resources to be found here in our own community.

The Southern Appalachian School for Growing Medicinal Plants holds a series of workshops seasonally, 13 classes in all, at the Eagle Feather Farm. These

classes teach all aspects of organic farming in the woods with forest crops. This herbal growing school offers instructors who are experts in their fields, and an environment like no other. At the completion of the course a Certificate of Merit is likewise awarded.

Robert Eidus, owner, holds farm tours

The world has the habit of making room for the man whose words and actions show that he knows where he is going.

- Napoleon Hill

as the interest in this form of agriculture is growing, and agri-tourism has added it's name to the list of reasons for folks to come on out to this beautiful county.

You can find out more about the North Carolina Ginseng & Goldenseal Co. by contacting Robert Eidus at 300 Indigo Bunting Lane in Marshall, NC 28753, or on the web at www.ncgoldenseal.com.

Volunteers Needed

You can help make important contributions to the vitality of Madison County. Meet and greet folks while you promote local businesses as a volunteer at the local farmers market and other area events. Contact us today! We have everything you need! 689-9351

Chamber Board Meetings

Madison County Chamber of Commerce Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 8am at the Mashburn Medical Center in Marshall. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, August 3, 2004

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Tuesday, November 2, 2004

Chamber Officers 2004-2005

O'Neal Shelton - President

Tammy Williams - Vice President

Jennifer Hott - Treasurer

Simone Bouyer - Secretary

A Special Part of a Special Place

by Pete Orthmann

I have traveled in twenty-seven states and can say without question that the most genuinely nice people live here in Madison County. This beautiful area is also saturated with an abundance of unique cultural history and time-tested values. All of these elements come to the surface and are generally shared at the **Madison County Farmers and Artisans Market** (MCF&A).

On Saturday mornings over twenty vendors congregate in Mars Hill to offer a delightful cross section of the Madison County experience. Farmers, crafters, visual artists and musicians are as much a part of these hills as the tress, flowers and rushing streams. Because the MCF&A Market brings all these together and does it in the tradition of a friendly, good neighbor atmosphere, it truly reflects the special character of the county.

There is no question that most of the world lives with the mind set of 'what's in it for me?' Yet, in this corner of North Carolina you are more likely to hear

"What can I do for you?"

The MCF&A Market invites local musicians to play for at least two hours, and yet all have asked if they can play longer! Each week, vendors lend a hand in helping each other set up and take down tents. Hugs often take the place of handshakes and dogs are considered part of the family.

Lifelong resident Tom Merrill has sung and played guitar for us, Lori Helms brought a collection of "woolly" animals for shearing, spinning, and knitting demonstrations, and in the weeks to come, chef Margret Hodge will be offering cooking demonstrations.

If you are planning a garden, be sure to come and check out a broad selection of locally grown seedlings. Also, you'll find the freshest eggs, breads, cakes, honey and home made goat cheese available.

Join us at the Madison Country Farmers and Artisans Market because it is the place to be on Saturday mornings. We are still located across from the Mars Hill College tennis courts on Hwy. 213.

Chamber Holds Annual NC Scholars Breakfast and Awards Chamber Scholarship

On May 11, the Madison County Chamber of Commerce held its annual NC Scholars Breakfast on the campus of Mars Hill College to honor Madison High's 47 North Carolina Scholars and their families. These young people have pursued a rigorous college preparatory course of study and maintained at least a B average over the course of all four years of high school.

Representatives of the Madison County Schools administration and school board as well as many local government officials were also in attendance.

Challenging students to pursue their goals and live their lives with excellence, Nicholas McDevitt, former MHS student and now assistant basketball coach at UNC-Asheville, delivered the keynote address.

The Chamber also awarded its annual \$500 scholarship. This year's recipient is Christy Thomas, daughter of Larry and Shirley Thomas. Christy will be attending UNC-

Chapel Hill this fall. Scholarship recipients: must have been a Madison County resident for at least one year prior to seeking this scholarship; will be enrolled full-time (12 or more credit hours) for the period covered by the proposed scholarship; and, must have a most recent GPA of 2.5 or more. The Selection Committee favors students who intend to come back to Madison County to live and work after graduation.

Recognizing that our young people are the county's most important investment, the Chamber established the Madison County Chamber of Commerce Education Scholarship Endowment with the Madison County Community Foundation (an affiliate of the NC Community Foundation) in 2001. Dr. Connie Buckner, Director of A-B Tech's Madison Campus, chaired the Chamber committee to establish scholarship criteria and application procedures and solicit the initial funds.

Madison County Chamber of Commerce

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To date this fund has received contributions from 23 individuals and businesses:

- Dr. Robert M. Adams, D.D.S.
- Angel Ridge Farm
- Connie S. Buckner
- Sue Byers
- Mary Colvin
- CP & L Service Company
(now Progress Energy)
- Nancy Darrell
- Deringer Manufacturing
- Dynamic Systems
- Happy Hollow Ent.
- Bob Jackson, Environmental Assessor
- Madison Associated Contractors and Consulting (*Gary Banks*)
- Mars Hill Pharmacy
- Mars Hill Hardware
- Max Patch Services
- Microswitch (now Honeywell Sensing and Control)
- Richard Morgan and Associates, Business Consultants
- Mountain Cove Nursery
- Jerry & Lila Nikla
- Landon Roberts, Attorney

- Sandra Saxton
- Verizon Services Group
- Zink Outdoor Power Equipment

Thanks to good investing on the part of the Foundation, the endowment is now valued at nearly \$8000. However, the Chamber encourages the community to continue supporting the Scholarship Endowment to reach and exceed \$10,000. Contributions are tax-deductible.

By re-investing the endowment's annual growth, the Chamber will have funds to award scholarships of at least \$500/year indefinitely. Anyone can donate to this fund by sending a check to the Madison County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund at PO Box 1085, Mars Hill, NC 28754.

We can already see our investment paying off in our past scholarship recipients:

- 2000: Monica Robinson Ponder
- 2001: Lisa Gentry
- 2002: Kylie Fowler Sams
- 2003: Kelly Franklin

This year's Breakfast and Scholarship Committee was comprised of Phyllis Stiles, Larry Peek and Richard Rzeszotarski.

Support the Arts



Celebrating 30 years of
the Southern Appalachian
Repertory Theatre

July 21-Aug. 1

Woody Guthrie's American Song, conceived & adapted by Peter Glazer. An exuberant musical celebration, Woody Guthrie's American Song follows the legendary folk-singer across his beloved homeland, from the midwestern Dust Bowl to California and back east to New York City. Favorite & familiar songs from the itinerant folk hero include *This Land Is Your Land*, *So Long*, *It's Been Good to Know Yuh*, *Hard Travelin'*, and *Bound For Glory*.

July 23-Aug. 14

Charlotte's Web**, by E.B. White, adapted by Joseph Robinette. The Zuckerman farm is the setting for what the Children's Literature Association named "the best American children's book of the past two hundred years." Templeton, a gluttonous rat who can sometimes be persuaded to do something fine, and Fern, a young girl who can understand the animals, are desperate to save Wilbur from the butcher. They enlist Charlotte, an extraordinary spider, to spin the words "Some pig," thus launching their campaign. Charlotte and her authors weave a web of friendship, devotion, and irresistible humor and pathos in this magnificent adaptation of the children's classic.

Aug. 4-15

The Last Night of Ballyhoo, by Alfred Uhry. It's the world premiere of *Gone with the Wind*, and Jews worldwide are worried by Hitler's invasion of Poland. But Atlanta's elite Jewish community is more concerned with who should – and should not – attend Ballyhoo, the social event of the season. Issues of class, romance, and prejudice are woven through this Tony-winning comedy/drama.

**Children's play; SART season subscribers will be entitled to the first choice of seats for this single-ticket only production.

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phone (828) 689-1239
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828 689-5571
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Becki Janes, Executive Director
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Fax: 828 689-3246
e-mail: execdir@mountinhopes.org
www.mountinhopes.org
Therapeutic horseback riding for children and adults with physical, neurological, mental and emotional disabilities. A non-profit organization.

We apologize for any incorrect information listed in our 2004 business directory.

Welcome NEW Chamber Members

Areopagus Bistro

14 S. Main Street
PO Box 1888, Mars Hill, NC 28754
Dino Pappas 828 689-4665

Green Ridge Getaway

43 Green Ridge Rd.
Mr. & Mrs. James Jarrett 828 645-5447
email: jnjarrett@charter.net
www.greenridgegetaway.com
Log cabin rental, furnished with antique furniture. Rent daily, weekly, etc. 2 night minimum stay. Sleeps six. Under 12 free.

The Loft @ Lakota Lodge & Mountain View Massage

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Madison County Chamber of Commerce

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e-mail: firstbaptistmarshall@main.nc.us

Come join us for Sunday School at 10 am and Morning Worship at 11 am!

Madison County

Chamber of Commerce

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