

Activities: Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association, Roadside Theater Residency

2012

June 17–22 Wilderness Trail Summer Institute for Teachers

This week-long institute, a partnership among the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association, Natural Tunnel State Park, and Mountain Empire Community College, involved planning with superintendents and other administrators from Scott, Lee, Wise, Dickenson, Washington, Russell counties and the City of Norton in Virginia as well as Sullivan County and Kingsport City Schools in Tennessee. The Institute was held at Natural Tunnel State Park in Scott Co., VA. Three college hours of teacher re-certification credit were awarded to eight (8) teacher/participants for creating SOL compliant lesson plans in their specific curriculum areas involving some aspect of the history of the Wilderness Trail.

June 21 Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association Meeting

This meeting included a planning session to discuss NEA grant monies and the educational role of the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association. Cove Ridge Center, Natural Tunnel State Park
30 participants.

July 24 Nature Trek Outdoor Classroom for Middle School Students

Presentation included Cherokee as well as pioneer stories from the 18th Century Frontier. Blockhouse Historical Area, Natural Tunnel State Park 100 5th grade participants

July 25-26 Travel Through Time (local history workshop for Scott County, VA teachers)

Teachers traveled to various historical sites along the Wilderness Trail and were provided with a curriculum resource notebook to assist them in writing SOL compliant lesson plans which include European, African, and Cherokee stories from the Wilderness Trail. Natural Tunnel State Park
25 teacher/participants

August 2 DBWTA Events Committee Meeting

Planning meeting for Harvest Festival at the Blockhouse. Blockhouse Interpretive Center.
6 participants.

August 14 Travel to Quallah Reservation, Cherokee, NC

Met with Micah Swimmer, Language Teacher for the Cherokee School System, and other family members, to plan for Cherokee language and dance workshops at Cove Ridge Center, Natural Tunnel State Park. 6 participants.

Sept. 10 Tales from the Wilderness Trail presentation to visiting college students from Ohio. Natural Tunnel State Park. 21 participants.

Sept. 13 DBWTA Events Committee meeting

Planning meeting for Harvest Festival at the Blockhouse. Natural Tunnel State Park. 8 participants.

Sept. 14 Regional Economic Development workshop in Historical Tourism with LEAD Virginia UVa College at Wise. 75 participants.

Sept. 21 Fall Festival Cumberland Gap National Historic Park

18th Century music, stories, and demonstrations for 350 school children from Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. (travel)

Sept. 22 Blockhouse, Natural Tunnel State Park
Demonstrations, music, and stories from the 18th Century Wilderness Trail for PBS Dinosaur Train. 200 participants.

Sept. 23 Fall Festival Cumberland Gap State Park
18th Century demonstrations, stories, and music from the Wilderness Trail for approximately 200 children and adult participants (travel)

Oct. 23 Fall Harvest Festival at Blockhouse, Natural Tunnel State Park
Cherokee educational workshop by actor portraying 18th century Cherokee War Chief Oconostoga
250 visitors

Nov. 2 Rye Cove, VA Middle School Heritage Day
Presentation of stories and music of Native, European, and African people who traveled the Wilderness Trail 350 children involved

Nov. 16 DBWTA Association meeting
Planning and business meeting. 25 participants

2013

Jan. 5 Old Christmas Celebration at the Blockhouse
Music, stories, and customs of the celebration of "Old Christmas" on the Frontier. Natural Tunnel State Park. 90 participants, including several families from the Mennonite Community in neighboring Lee County, VA.

Jan. 6 Russell County, Virginia Historical Courthouse
European origins of the celebration of Old Christmas on the Frontier at the Russell County Historical Courthouse. 75 participants (travel)

Jan. 15 Events Committee meeting
Planning meeting for the Cherokee language and dance workshops. 6 participants

Jan. 16 History of the Wilderness Trail Class
College of Older Adults, Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, Va. 52 students. (travel)

Jan. 23 History of the Wilderness Trail Class
College of Older Adults, Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, Va. 52 students. (travel)

Jan. 30 History of the Wilderness Trail Class
College of Older Adults, Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, Va. 52 students. (travel)

(Note: Nine actors portraying various historical characters who traveled the Wilderness Trail during the 18th century participated in the teaching of the classes mentioned on Jan. 16, 23, and 30)

Feb. 12 Events Committee meeting
Finalize plans for Cherokee language and dance workshops scheduled for Feb. 23. Blockhouse Interpretive Center. 6 participants.

Feb. 23 Cherokee Language and Dance Workshops

Workshops open to the general public at the Cove Ridge Center, Natural Tunnel State Park. Conducted by Micah Swimmer, language teacher for the Cherokee Public School System, his wife Carrah, and their two children, Tah-Tah-Yeh and O-ga-na. 160 total participants. (travel & stipend)

March 5 **Events Committee meeting**
Plan for and assign responsibilities for Frontier Muster and Trade Faire. Blockhouse Interpretive Center, Natural Tunnel State Park. 7 participants.

March 15 **DBWTA Association meeting**
Planning session and business meeting. Cove Ridge Center, Natural Tunnel State Park. 25 attendees.

April 2 **Events Committee meeting**
Planning session for Frontier Muster and Trade Faire. 6 participants.

April 8 **Seamstress meeting**
Design and creation of costumes for slave and pioneer actors for Frontier Muster and Trade Faire. 4 participants. (Reimbursement.)

April 10 **Events Committee meeting**
Planning session for Frontier Muster and Trade Faire on April 20 and 21. 8 participants. Blockhouse Interpretive Center, Natural Tunnel State Park.

April 12 **Meeting with Goode Wives Society**
Plan and organize food and cooking workshops for the Frontier Muster and Trade Faire. 4 participants. Blockhouse open pit cooking site. Natural Tunnel State Park. (Reimbursement)

April 15 **Events Committee meeting**
Finalize schedule and workshop plans for Frontier Muster and Trade Faire. Blockhouse Interpretive Center, Natural Tunnel State Park. 8 participants.

(Note: February 15 – April 15: Meeting with and contracting individual actors to represent characters along the Wilderness Trail at the Frontier Muster and Trade Faire. Research, develop, and create scripts for these actors. Ron Short)

April 18 **Set-up for Frontier Muster and Trade Faire**
Shelters and tarps erected, Blockhouse cleaned, blacksmith shop cleaned and reassembled, fire pits dug, salt and soap making sites made safe, accommodations prepared for visitors. Cove Ridge Center and Blockhouse site. 20 participants

April 19 **Meet with actors and other visitors as they check into site**
Set up demonstration sites, supply water and wood, inspect weapons by black powder supervisor, show visitors accommodation sites; planning meetings to develop action and narrative outlines from script with principal participants Charlie Brown, Chad Bogart, Billy Heck, Micah Swimmer, Robert Rambo, Mark and Sherry Finchum, and Pam Eddy. 25 participants.

April 19 **DBWTA Board of Directors Meeting**
Finalize and approve expenditures for Frontier Muster and Trade Faire. Visit Trade Faire site. 12 participants.

April 20 **Frontier Muster and Trade Faire**
Celebration and educational workshops surrounding the story of the Wilderness Trail. 180 participants.

Educational Workshops:

Cherokee Language Workshop, Micah Swimmer; 27 participants

Cherokee Women and the Role of Food in Cherokee Culture, Sherry Finchum, 30 participants

Narrative of African Slave on the Frontier, Lynette Stuart, 50 participants'

18th Century Cherokee Peace Chief AttaKullaKulla, dramatic presentation by actor Robert Rambo, 33 participants

Cherokee Dance workshop and evening performance by Micah Swimmer, Carrah Swimmer, Tah-Tah-Yeh Swimmer, O-ga-na Swimmer, Sherry Finchum, Mark Finchum, and Robert Rambo 85 participants

April 21 **Frontier Muster & Trade Faire**
Community event with educational workshops; Multi-faith church service included meditations by Chad Bogart (European pioneer actor), Lynette Stuart (African slave actor), and Mark Finchum (Cherokee actor). Hymns from the European, African, and Cherokee cultures were sung. 50 multi-racial attendees.

May 6 **Events Committee meeting**
Debriefing of Muster and Trade Faire including notes about plans for upcoming events. Blockhouse Interpretive Center, Natural Tunnel State Park. 8 participants.

May 17 **DBWTA Association meeting**
Program with photos and financial report on Frontier Muster and Trade Faire. Cove Ridge Center, Natural Tunnel State Park. 18 participants.

May 27 **We continue to develop classes, programs, and educational events centered on the Wilderness Trail and the people—European, Cherokee, and African—whose individual stories make up the larger story of the Westward Movement in our nation's history.**

Sept. 6 **DBWTA membership participate in Historical and Cultural Day at Rye Cove Middle School: spinning, flax preparation, storytelling, and music. 300 attendees**

Oct. 26 **DBWTA Fall Harvest Festival – One day Festival of historical workshops and demonstrations including a Cherokee Language and Culture workshop, 50 attendees; Cherokee Cooking Workshop, 60 attendees, Slavery on the Appalachian Frontier, 30 attendees**