

BEREA COLLEGE APPALACHIAN CENTER

NEWSLETTER

A new look, an expanded focus

We've been busy here in the Appalachian Center. As you may have noticed, this issue of the *Appalachian Center Newsletter* is wearing a new look. We all thought it was time for updating, and so we've developed what we

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

hope will be an even better source of information for you. We've also redesigned the Center's website, making it more accessible for the varieties of groups—students, faculty and staff, community and regional citizens—who use it. It is available at www.berea.edu/ac. Beginning with the December 2006 screening of the new film *Black Diamonds: Mountaintop Removal and the Fight for Coalfield Justice*, the site lists campus events sponsored by the

Appalachian Center. From December until May, we'll be putting on a series of events related to mountaintop removal in Appalachia, so you'll want to check in at the website and see the entire list of events as it develops. We're also designing a logo for the Center, and we hope to unveil it in the next issue.

We're also supplementing the region-wide news content that editor Thomas Parrish has provided so capably for more than three decades. We thought it important to describe and explain some of the activities within the Appalachian Center as well as continue to provide information about events and issues across Appalachia. So with this issue, we want to take time to introduce to readers various components of the Center, as well as to include an

turn to page 2



The Center's new website, which has also undergone a makeover.

FALL 2006

VOLUME 35 • NUMBER 4

Chad Berry, Director
Thomas Parrish, Editor
Andrew McKinney, Designer

The Berea College Appalachian Center embodies Berea's commitment to serve the Appalachian Region primarily through education but also by other appropriate services.

OUR MISSION

To give concentrated leadership to Berea's Appalachian activities, to stimulate student and scholarly interest, to bring together existing outreach programs and to guide the creation of new services, to relate Berea College's efforts to those of other Appalachian institutions and to serve the nation as a source of information about the Appalachian Region.

Please address all correspondence to:

Appalachian Center
Berea College
CPO 2166
Berea, Kentucky 40404

859.985.3140
www.berea.edu/ac

A new look

continued from page 1

article about CELTS—the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service—an important initiative from Berea College with which the Appalachian Center works quite closely. In future issues of the *Newsletter*, we'll feature in more detail the programs of the Center, one at a time.

Finally, we've attempted to expand our network of readers from around the Appalachian Region and

beyond. So if this is the first time you've received the *Newsletter*, we hope you find it a welcome item in your mailbox. And we hope all of our recipients—both new and long-time—will find these changes helpful. We welcome your comments; please write me at chad_berry@berea.edu or phone at 859-985-3727. If you are in Berea, please stop by; we are located on North Main Street in the Bruce-Trades Building, which is pictured in the logo on the front page.

Chad Berry

Director, Appalachian Center

Economic development spending

What would you do?

In a recent critique of Kentucky's current economic-development practices, Justin Maxson, director of the Berea-based Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED), posed three questions that interested persons anywhere might think about:

- ◆ What are the important elements defining the quality of life in your county?
- ◆ If you were given \$100 million for economic development, what would you do with it?
- ◆ Specifically, what businesses would you try to build in the community or bring to it?

Basing his comments on a new MACED report called "Accounting for Impact: Economic Development Spending in Kentucky," Maxson criticized the state's current \$808 million program as too narrow in focus (attracting outside companies with subsidies), fragmented and not adequately evaluated. MACED's report also notes the lack of public scrutiny; much of the spending, it says, "happened under the radar through business tax breaks and subsidies buried in state tax law."

Not surprisingly, MACED calls on the state to establish an overall development strategy, with appropriate budget.

For its part, MACED is working in partnership with Kentuckians For The Commonwealth to develop a coalition of organizations and businesses interested in creating a new economic-development approach in the state.

As the staff works on the project, they presumably will keep Maxson's three questions in mind.



Artifacts and Exhibits Studio gives students practical experience

As its name suggests, artifacts play a central role in the work of the Appalachian Center's Artifacts & Exhibits (A&E) Studio. The Appalachian artifacts collection has more than 3,300 objects documenting regional life, history and culture; most of these date from the period 1870 to 1940. These objects best document daily life in the mountain cabin, which, though not the experience of everybody in Appalachia, certainly makes up an important part of the regional story. This facet of the collection is also strong in documenting regional handicraft traditions. The oldest objects may date from around 1800, but many are of relatively recent origin. The word "artifact" does not, after all, mean that an object is old; something quite new can tell us about the people associated with it.

Currently the studio is collecting objects in three categories: those that embody the "hillbilly" stereotype of Appalachian people, those that present a more diverse picture of the Appalachian experience, and those that document a dynamic and changing region.

The A&E Studio also maintains an Appalachian Studies teaching collection, which is open to students and faculty for use in teaching and scholarship. All the activities described here support the Appalachian Center's mandates to educate the Berea College community and its visitors about Appalachia and to encourage the integration of Appalachian Studies into the College curriculum. We do these things through a set of integrated activities.

The studio, which also teaches the tools, known as Material Culture Theory, for ferreting information from artifacts, is described by the curator, Chris Miller, as "in essence, a 3-D archives, both of Appalachian Studies material and of Berea College historical material. In fact our collections are best used in parallel with the Southern Appalachian Archives, held in Hutchins Library Special Collections. We work closely with the College Archivist to help teachers and researchers find the information they seek."

As the A&E Studio's name suggests, exhibitions make up an important part of the program. The studio produces shows in a variety of locations; each may be large or small and may last a few days or a few years. The entire set of exhibitions gives exposure to topics and issues in Appalachian Studies. In particular, the shows in the Appalachian Center Gallery, found in the Bruce-Trades building on campus, focus on providing an introduction to Appalachian Studies: where is Appalachia, what role does culture play in defining Appalachia, and how does Appalachia's experience fit within American history?



Abbie Tanyhill, '03, assists Curator Christopher Miller in the Appalachian Artifacts Collection storage room.



Mountaintop removal

a faith-based approach

“God gave us a garden,” Reverend John Rausch, an Eastern Kentucky Catholic priest observed recently, “and we’re screwing it up.”

Just about a year ago, we reported in the *Appalachian Center Newsletter* (Fall 2005) on some of the doings of Father Rausch, who is affiliated with the Catholic Committee of Appalachia. Under the aegis of the committee, Rausch made sure last fall that a UN poverty investigator included Appalachia on his tour. He wanted the visitor to get straight talk from a variety of people, he declared: “I don’t want to hear any glossy nonsense.”

Rausch also leads tours of coal-mining sites, an activity given fresh impetus in the last few years by the spread of mountaintop removal. “My job is to take people who have no understanding of [mountaintop removal] and have my friends tell them how they are powerless when a coal company fills their streams or their tap water comes out orange.”

In recent months this faith-based defense of the mountains has taken on an ecumenical tone. Mennonites have begun giving their own tours of mountaintop removal sites, reports the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, and a new West Virginia organization called Christians for the Mountains (CFTM) has taken up what its founder, Rev. Allen Johnson, calls a “moral issue for churches.” The members are Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant, and, they say, “labels like “conservative or liberal, Republican or Democrat, right wing or left wing, are not going to divide us.” His greatest challenge, Johnson says, is to convince fellow Christians that his group is not what one observer called “New Age wing nuts.”

Wing nuts or no, it ought to provide Johnson some comfort that his group is hardly alone in its fight against the decapitation of Appalachian mountains.

If you’d like to know more about CFTM, you can get a DVD—The Mountain Morning Collection—from www.patchworkfilms.com.

**“God gave us
a garden, and
we’re screwing
it up.”**

John Rausch on the results
of mountaintop removal

LOOKING FORWARD

January 7-26: Throughout the year the John C. Campbell Folk School offers week-long and weekend classes in a bewildering array of craft subjects, but for January the classes are particularly designed for persons with advanced skills. During the first full week of January, for instance, you can build on your experience in crafts from basketry and blacksmithing to surface design (using natural dye extracts) and woodcarving (hollow turning, chip carving). In other weeks, willing learners have access to just as wide a range of possibilities. You can get details of all these activities from the school at One Folk School Road, Brasstown, N.C. 28902; phone, 800-FOLKSCH; www.folkschool.org.

January 8-Feb. 7: Images from the Mountains touring art exhibit returns to Pikeville College for the month. This exhibit represents a cross section of artists, young and old, schooled, and self-taught. For more information contact Mia Frederick at Appalshop (606) 633-0108, mia@appalshop.org.

February 4-24: Winter session, New Opportunity School for Women. Successful applicants (up to 14 per session) to this popular program for low-income women aged 30-55 spend three weeks learning about jobs and how to get them, and also about themselves and what they can do. “If you are a woman in a period of transition in your life, or if you wish to clarify your personal strengths and aspirations,” says Kim Short, the school’s director, NOSW may be for you—or, we suggest, for someone you know. The school, which recently produced its 487th graduate, offers career counseling throughout the year and also puts on a number of workshops open to anybody. For full information, write to Kim Short, New Opportunity School, 204 Chestnut Street, Berea, Ky. 40403, or phone 859-985-7200; e-mail: kshort@nosw.org.

February 17-18: 4th Annual Appalachian Culture Fest, Cincinnati co-sponsored by the Appalachian Community Development Association and the Cincinnati Museum Center: crafts, music, storytelling, dance and traditional arts. This event will take place in

Brushy Fork Institute develops leaders, organizations and communities



Two years ago, the Brushy Fork Institute took a fresh and thorough look at the work it had been carrying on since it was established in 1988. During these 17 years the institute had worked to develop strong leadership in Appalachian communities in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Ohio. Besides leadership training, the Institute had conducted organizational development workshops and

provided technical assistance to persons working for the betterment of their communities. Activities in communities had included county fairs, beautification projects, educational programs and the creation of county brochures. Nearly 1,000 citizens from 87 counties throughout central Appalachia had taken part in this program.

While recognizing that the award-winning original program had

turn to page 12

Vaughn Grisham, third from right, led a track on Community Economic Development for Brushy Fork's 2006 Annual Institute.



BRUSHY FORK INSTITUTE OF BEREA COLLEGE
developing leaders, organizations and communities

the Union Terminal, 1301 Western Avenue, a building whose Art Deco splendors make it richly worth visiting even when it's not housing a culture festival. To participate or find out more, call 800-733-2077 or 513-251-3378, or write the sponsoring association at P.O. Box 141099, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250.

March 3-4: "Kentucky Crafted: The Market," which this year celebrates its 25th birthday, has come a long way during this quarter-century from its beginning as a handcrafted show open only to the trade. Now this wholesale-retail show, which welcomes the general public as well as trade buyers, features more than 300 exhibitors of traditional, folk and contemporary crafts, two-dimensional visual art, musical recordings, books, videos and food products, along with live entertainment and craft activities for children 4-12. A special attraction this year is a "walk through the Market history," with archival photos. The show takes place at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center (South Wing B), hard by Louisville International Airport. Sponsored by the Kentucky Craft

Marketing Program, a state agency, the market serves as a major sales outlet for Kentucky businesses, generating \$2 million to \$3 million in annual sales. 888-592-7238; web: www.kycraft.ky.gov.

March 23-25: 30th annual Appalachian Studies Conference, Maryville College, Maryville, Tenn. For this retrospective anniversary gathering, the organizers are inviting participants to help "piece the Appalachian experience" by creating panels, displays, papers and other contributions to the proceedings, and thus to join in "celebrating an organization and a region." For full details, contact Mary K. Thomas at Marshall University: 304-696-2904; e-mail: mthomas@marshall.edu. You can also check out asa@maryvillecollege.edu/asa.

If you know of an upcoming event that you feel may be of interest, please contact the editor at the mailing address listed on page 2, or phone 859-985-3140.

The *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*, edited by Rudy Abramson and Jean Haskell (University of Tennessee Press). It's very big—it weighs as much as a gallon of your favorite liquid—and the count of people who worked on it, editing and writing, exceeds the population figure for many a mountain county seat. It is, of course, the long-awaited *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*.

It's not only big, it's complex, arranged in thematic divisions, each of them book-length in itself: the landscape, the people, work and the economy, cultural traditions and institutions. "Landscape," for example, by no means refers to scenery; the division opens with technical and thorough discussion of the geology of the region, followed by comparable-level information and analysis concerning Appalachian ecology and a third section on ecology.

The editors suggest that in locating articles, readers consult the index as well as the table of contents. At least one reader adds emphasis to that point: the index is really the clearinghouse of the book (it's 72 pages itself) and use of it is absolutely essential.

An amusing use of the index is simply to look up odd facts—things you may have wondered about in idle moments. You can find out, for instance, not only the origins of salt-rising (also salt-risen) bread but why it's called that. (And it's not because the bread contains salt.)

You can spot the regrettably named Himlerville and find out where and what kind of place it was. Also, of course, you have to check out "bawdy and scatological humor."

And, as is the case with any reference book, you can quibble. The editors tell us, carefully and correctly, that no work of such scope and complexity can be all-inclusive, but if you're a conscientious reviewer, you'll realize nevertheless that you're supposed to quibble. The quibble here is perhaps better called a regret—that the fires of the '60s have faded enough so that, for example, "community action" as a concept has no entry, nor does the Council of the Southern Mountains, which in those days, despite a few later rumors, was one of the top players in town.

William Ferris, who knows a thing or two about reference books (he was coeditor of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*) sums up *Appalachia* nicely. The editors, he says, "did their work well, creating an essential resource about a people and a place that are at the heart of the American experience."

In Appalachian Heritage...

From editor George Brosi: the Winter 2007 issue of *Appalachian Heritage* features the work of last year's Weatherford Award winner in fiction, Darnell Arnoult, along with poems from both newcomers and established talents including Robert Morgan, Crystal Wilkinson and David Huddle. Words and music to three songs from the emerging social movement opposing mountaintop removal coal mining are found here as well as a fascinating essay on mountain language and Sidney Saylor Farr's recipes and recollections of moonshine. Three powerful short stories, including a Christmas story from Fred Chappell, enliven the pages. Lots of important regular features and striking images from featured photographer Dean Hill of Morgan County, Kentucky, complete the package.

Entrepreneurship Public Good: cr

What is entrepreneurship? What is "entrepreneurship for the public good"? How do entrepreneurs create value, not only for themselves and the enterprises they lead but also for the communities they live and work in and for society as a whole?

The Entrepreneurship for the Public Good (EPG) program explores these and other questions during a two-summer program in which students learn about entrepreneurship, leadership and community development in the context of Appalachian communities. Put very simply, the program aims at helping students use their skills and talents to create a better future for Appalachia and beyond. It's open to all Berea College students who can commit to a two-summer experience—but that commitment is vital.

The program starts with the eight-week summer institute, which meets daily and also includes several overnight trips. During the second summer, EPG Fellows complete a 10-week entrepreneurial internship with either a nonprofit or for-profit business.

Through the program, students learn how small businesses and nonprofit ventures are employing socially and environmentally responsible practices to provide jobs and build healthy communities. The goal is for every student to:

- ◆ understand what entrepreneurship for the public good means;
- ◆ develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills;
- ◆ engage in meaningful work;
- ◆ create value for small businesses and nonprofits in the region;
- ◆ explore career options.



in for the eating value

The EPG internship program allows EPG fellows to make practical use of what they learned during the previous summer. The goal of the program is to create value for the host organization and host community, while at the same time deepening a student's knowledge and experience of the principles of entrepreneurship and leadership.

The EPG program maintains a listing of businesses and nonprofits in the Appalachian region that are potential internship sponsors and assists students in finding an organization and project that meets both their goals and those of the program.

Each internship is designed to meet the standard criteria for academic credit either within the department of the student's major or in the General Studies program. Each student has two faculty sponsors during the internship. Students keep an electronic journal to reflect upon the relationship between their course preparation and the practical experience. At the conclusion of the internship, students present highlights of their experience to an audience that includes community partner organizations, fellow EPG interns, faculty members and others.

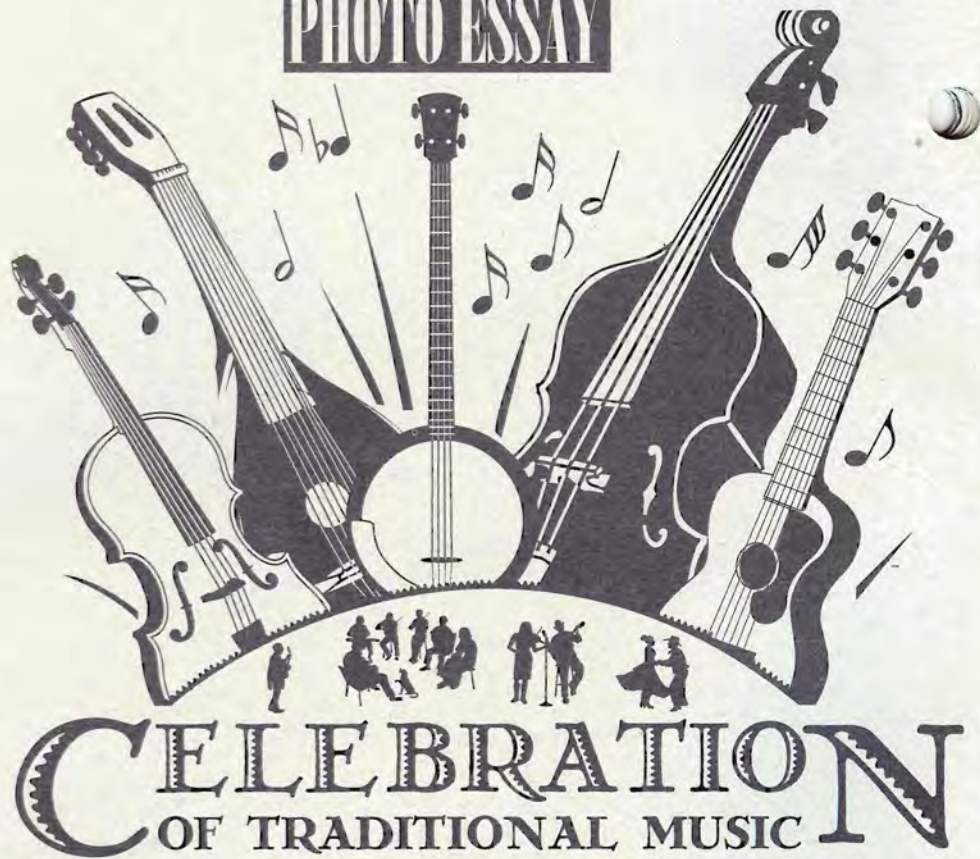
For more information, visit the EPG website at www.berea.edu/epg.



TOP: The 2006-2007 EPG Fellows during the business plan feasibility competition.
ABOVE: Nina, Zach and Givenson share one of many times of friendship.
LEFT: The Community Partner team at Foothills Academy got all dressed up with entrepreneurs in training.



PHOTO ESSAY



CELEBRATION OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

The 32nd annual Celebration was held October 26-29, 2006. Master musicians, scholars and callers shared histories, knowledge, tunes, songs, and techniques through instrument playing and dance workshops, jam session, symposium, concerts and hymn singing. Mariachi Mi Mexico showcased the traditions of some of our newest Appalachian residents, including a spirited cross-cultural version of "Rocky Top," mariachi-style.

Photos by Chad Berry, Beth Bissmeyer, Tyler Castells, Kit Cottrell and Alice Ledford

LOOKING FORWARD

April 14-15: Spring fair, Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen, Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Covington. Something definitely new this time: after years near and then in Berea, the fair is going metropolitan, and it's also moving indoors—the ultimate answer to the show's "weather curse." Some 120 guild members will display their work, which will be available for purchase. Featured guests will be members of the Kentucky Storytelling Association. You can get more information from the guild office: 859-986-3192; info@kyguild.org.

April 22-27: Spring Dulcimer Week, Augusta Heritage Center, Davis and Elkins College. For years now, nothing has marked the flowering of spring more than the sound of dulcimers at Davis and Elkins. This year's line-up of instructors includes John Hollandsworth (autoharp); Jody Marshall, Guy George, Patty Looman and Steve Eulberg (hammered dulcimer); Bill Collins, Molly McCormack and Aaron O'Rourke (mountain dulcimer). Guy George will also give you tutelage on the pennywhistle, and you can receive lessons on the bowed

psaltery from Greg and Tish Westman, who build these unique instruments as well as teaching you how to play them. (You don't have to bring your own; these and all other instruments are available for rent or loan.) Unusual afternoon entertainment will be provided this year by Bamboo Breeze, a duo offering Chinese contemporary and folk music. For full information, write the Augusta Heritage Center, 100 Campus Drive, Elkins, W.Va. 26241, or phone 304-637-1209; www.augustaheritage.com.; e-mail: augusta@augustaheritage.com.

April 26-29: 20th annual MerleFest, Wilkes Community College, Wilkesboro, N.C. This popular acoustic jamboree features the Doc Watson guitar championship and the Merle Watson bluegrass banjo and mandolin contests, along with numerous other star-studded events. The list of this year's performers includes Tony Rice with Aliso Krauss and Union Station; Elvis Costello, Bela Fleck, Pam Tillis and a array of other notables, among them, to be sure, Doc Watson himself. For details, phone 800-343-7857; website: www.merlefest.org.



From upper left: The College's Bluegrass Ensemble, dancing with music by Jake Krack and the Whoop & Holler String Band, Mariachi Mi Mexico, Ray Bowman with Nat Reese, inspirational singing at Union Church and John McCutcheon with Malcolm Dalglish.

May 3-5: 17th annual Boxcar Pinion Memorial Bluegrass Festival, Raccoon Mountain Campground (just off I-24), Chattanooga, Tenn. Since this is a campground, you might want to bring your sleeping bag and get in the spirit of the occasion. Festival musicians will perform all three days from midday to ten or eleven o'clock; the lineup includes Curtis Hicks and the Old Time String Band, the Country Gentlemen, Cherryholmes, Illrd Tyme Out, the Lone Mountain Band and other notables; the memorable Dismembered Tennesseans will of course pull themselves together and be on hand, just as they always manage to do. This festival is in part a benefit for the American Cancer Society; you can get full details from Cindy Pinion or Frances Pinion at 706-820-2228; or you may visit their website at www.boxcarforeverbluegrass.com.

11-13: 38th annual Appalachian Festival, Coney Island, Cincinnati, sponsored by the Appalachian Community Development Association. There's a small admission fee: \$8. There's music,

dancing, drawings, jewelry and the presentation of the annual Heritage Awards. For contact information, please see listing for Feb. 17-18 on page 4.

May 25-27: Old-Time Fiddlers and Bluegrass Festival, Fiddler's Grove Campground, Union Grove, N.C. Held every year during Memorial Day weekend, the festival, which dates back to the 1920s, is the oldest event of the kind in North America. It will be a colossal affair, bringing together some 80 old-time and bluegrass bands. The competitions involve more than 50 old-time bands, and in the grand finale, artists will vie for the title "Fiddler of the Festival." If you show up a day early, you'll find jam sessions already going on. Information: 828-478-3735; Website: www.fiddlersgrove.com; fiddlersgrove@yadtel.net.

June 3-23: The summer session of the New Opportunity School for Women gets under way. Application deadline is April 15. For further information, please see listing for Feb. 4-24 on page 4.

Brushy Fork

continued from page 5

indeed enjoyed a great deal of success, staff members in conducting their review identified areas that showed great potential to increase the scope and impact of the program. From this review came plans for two new programs.

The first, the **Brushy Fork Annual Institute**, creates an open training venue to build the capacity of nonprofits and community-based organizations in the region. It offers plenary sessions by nationally-known community and organizational development experts; participants engage in intensive workshop tracks on topics such as nonprofit management, community development, communications, leadership development and finance. The Annual Institute is offered in mid-September on the Berea College campus.

The second new program began in 2006 and reframes the original leadership development program to

focus on one community at a time, for a longer time frame. We call this second program the **Community Transformation Program**. This ambitious title is intended to express the belief that the citizens of Appalachian communities have the wisdom, the vision and the commitment to guide the development of their own communities and achieve dramatic, measurable results. Big Stone Gap, Virginia, is the first community to partner with Brushy Fork in the community transformation program. Leaders in the community have dubbed their program "Bridging the Gap."

The Brushy Fork Institute has four full-time staff: Peter Hille, director; Donna Morgan, associate director; Jane Higgins, program associate; Beth Curlin Weber, administrative assistant.



Jan Pearce, computer science professor at Berea College, works with Ethan Hamblin of Buckhorn, Kentucky, to build a new website for Buckhorn as part of Brushy Fork's 2006 Annual Institute.



**BEREA
COLLEGE**

Appalachian Center
CPO 2166
Berea, Kentucky 40404

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1
LEXINGTON, KY