

The Gravy Infusion

News, activities, and doings from the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center



Photograph by Heather Dent

Main Sharing

Front Porch Reflections from the LJAC Staff



Chris Green

A Spring Haiku

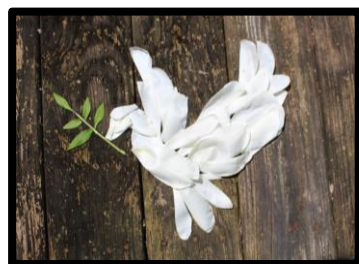
Forsythias' thousand bright flags. Out walking, neighbors wave and shout hello.



Rick Childers

Front Porch or Back Porch?

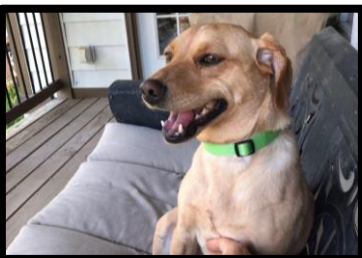
Rick wants to know which you prefer? Let us know your answer by filling out the survey [here!](#)



Heather Dent

Nature Art

My back porch is my favorite place to create nature art. Sitting there with the sun on my back as I arrange leaves and petals is one of my favorite things to do.



Chris Miller

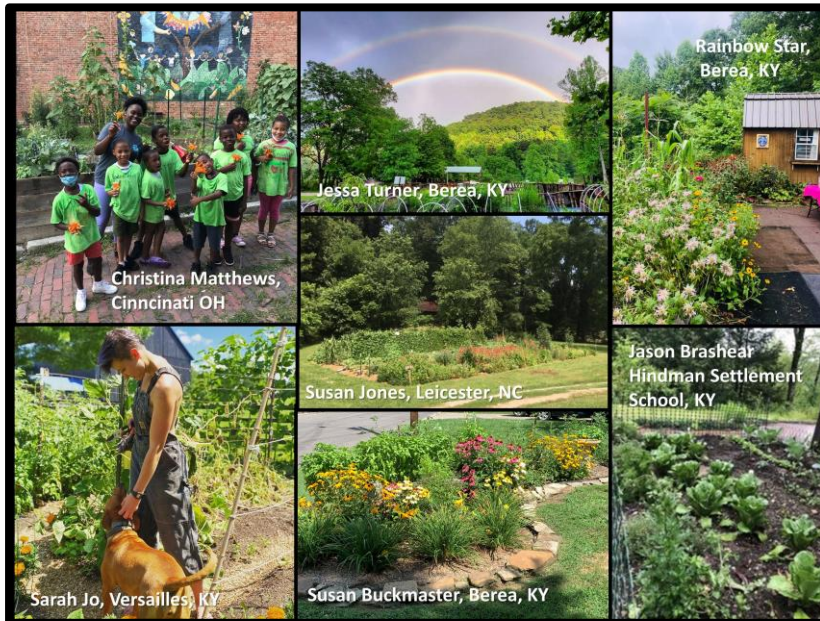
Dogs and Humans

Since we got Amber, I've learned the porch is a place where dogs and people are happy together.

“I love to porch sit, always and forever. It is my second career and one I am very serious about.”

~Sam Cole

Your Summer Gardens



We received some stunning garden photo submissions over the past couple of weeks ranging from Cincinnati, OH, Leicester, NC, to the heart of Eastern Kentucky. A heartfelt thanks to all of you who were willing to share and helped us celebrate the beauty of gardens across Appalachia.

A Note from the Appalachian Curator



Sitting on the porch calls chairs to my mind. This mule-ear chair belonged to Lydia Whaley of the Great Smoky Mountains, made ca. 1870. Mule-ear chairs were named for the perky points on top of the chair back. In Appalachia, these chairs are traditionally made of green wood, using great skill, such that as the wood dried the joints tightened up without metal fasteners. Seats were often woven of hickory bark or cane although this one has white oak strips. Using such chairs, the mountain cabin porch became a workplace, kitchen, concert hall, and “parlor.”

“No greater compliment could be paid a mountain family than that they were ‘clever’, that is that they were hospitable, quick to invite you in and generous with the food. My father told of eating at a neighbor’s home where the only food they had was corn bread and sorghum, but the host said hospitality, ‘Just reach and get anything you want.’”

~Loyal Jones, *Appalachian Values*