

Brushy Mountain Apple Festival

Saturday, October 4 · 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

1st Saturday in October Downtown North Wilkesboro, North Carolina





Lots of Food, Crafts, Shopping, Music and Fun at the Festival.

See the schedule for all the music, singing, dancing and special events on the next to last page of this Souvenir Program and Guide!

23rd Annual Apple Jam

Friday, October 3, 6 - 9 p.m. on the Park Stage at 10th and Main Featuring Sassafras Bring a lawn chair to downtown North Wilkesboro

and enjoy the music!

Fellowship,
Goodwill
and
Community
Service



www.applefestival.net phone 336-984-3499

Sponsored by the Brushy Mountain Ruritan Club

Welcome to the 46th annual Brushy Mountain Apple Festival

WELCOME!
...have an apple



Bob Bogue, original artist for this Brushy Mountain Apple Festival Souvenir Program & Guide, drew the two images we have on this page. The themes were always about Welcome, Thanksgiving and promotion of local Economy and History. Gretchen and I moved here thirty years ago. I have been editor of this Program for 28 years and try to maintain those themes, always with her help.

We are thankful to live in such a beautiful part of the world and are very happy to share it with all of our visitors on the first Saturday in October from 8 AM to 5 PM. Thanks to the Town of North Wilkesboro, who opened the town for the occasion, and to the apple growers for their toil in the fields. So many local organizations have joined together to make this a great experience for everyone. Our many thanks go to the vendors, bands, dancers, the Town and its Police Department for entertaining us and keeping us safe. This souvenir program lists numerous sponsors and advertisers without whom we couldn't highlight and celebrate the many arts, music, fun, food and fellowship we have come to know as part of this County.

The Ruritan Club is thankful for the opportunity to put on such a great festival.

A special thank you goes to our Grand Marshals Bryan and Janet Estep. Greet them at Wilkes Towers on Main Street. Also, see the painting by Bob Bogue used for the cover of this Souvenir Program & Guide.

On Friday evening, October 3, from 6:00-9:00 PM, we kick off the festivities with our 23rd "Apple Jam" and reunion for all Apple Festival friends at the Brushy Mountain Apple Festival Park on 10th and Main. Entertainment will include the band Sassafras.

We're glad you're here to celebrate our 46th annual Apple Festival. Help us celebrate mountain life and the fruit that has kept that way of life going for hundreds of years. An apple a day and an Apple Festival a year keeps us healthy and energized.

So, again, WELCOME. Tap your foot to the music, enjoy the exhibits, savor the food and pick up a bag or two of Brushy Mountain apples before you go. Most of all, have a great time. Opening ceremonies begin 9:00 AM at the Apple Festival Park Stage on the corner of 10th and Main.



The 2025 Brushy Mountain Ruritan Club Welcomes You!

Shown left to right: Dillon Bullard, Gary Hayes, Austin Shoemaker, Timothy Shoemaker, Ray Stone, Mark Stone, Makayla Bullard, Wade McInnis, Debi Davis, Gretchen Barelski, Sandra Lowe, Jennifer Jones, Autumn Johnson, David Curry and Paul Barelski.

Other members: Tim Curry, Mike Jones, Janice Martinek, Ann and Wes Tuttle and Gillian and Glenn Tuttle.

Committees

Welcome To

THE FESTIVAL!

Club President...... Debi Davis Apple Festival Chairperson . Debi Davis

Advertising/Publicity...... Paul Barelski, Dillon and Makayla Bullard

Ambassadors...... Ann Tuttle and Cassie Stone

Apple Jam..... Debi Davis and Wes Tuttle

Artist for Program Cover..... Bob Bogue

Arts and Crafts...... Ray and Cassie Stone

Entertainment...... Gretchen Barelski

Exhibits...... Debi Davis and Wade McInnis

Face Book Page Dillon and Makayla Bullard

Food Concessions...... Gary Hayes and Sandra Lowe

Grand Marshal Quilt Maker. Audrey Smithey

Information Booth..... Sandra Lowe and Ray Stone

InterviewsJule Hubbard, Wilkes Journal-Patriot

Photo Contest Dillon Bullard

Program and Guide..... Paul Barelski

Safety and Facilities..... Gary Hayes, Dillon Bullard, Mark Stone

Support Staff...... Tim Curry, Autum Johnson, Jennifer and

Mike Jones, Janice Martinek, and

Gillian and Glenn Tuttle

Transportation......Wade McInnis

Park Stage / Wilkes Towers...Debi Davis and Mara Lynn Tugman Web-Site Sandra Lowe and Matt Van Buskirk

Local business owners are 2025 marshals

BY JULE HUBBARD

WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT STAFF

Grand marshals for this year's Brushy Mountain Apple Festival, which is Saturday, Oct. 4, in downtown North Wilkesboro, are co-founders and co-owners of a growing family business in the Brushy Mountain community.

Bryan and Janet Owens Estep began Brushy Mountain Custom Woodworks Inc. in 1999, and operate it with their children, Matthew Estep and Makayla Estep Bullard, near their homes on Brushy Mountain Road on the "backside" of the Brushies close to the Wilkes-Alexander county line.

The company primarily produces custom retail displays, with Winston-Salem-based Lowes Foods Inc. by far the largest customer. Bryan said work is done for individuals on a limited basis. He cited the company's emphasis on quality.

Janet said Brushy Mountain Custom Woodworks manufactures about eight to 10 tractor-trailer loads of displays for produce, baked goods and other products in Lowes Foods Inc. supermarkets across the Southeast each year.

After Brushy Mountain Custom Woodworks receives shipments of raw and reclaimed lumber, employees saw, sand, glue, nail, stain and lacquer it, plus sometimes attach metal pieces or other extras, to produce custom displays or other items.

Bryan and Janet are both Wilkes natives. Bryan was raised on the Brushies, where his roots go back generations in the Estep, Baker and other families. Janet was raised in North Wilkesboro.

Bryan is the son of Charles "FC" Estep, who died in late 2023, and Joyce Brookshire Estep. Janet is the daughter of the late Charlie and Judie Hall Owens.



GRAND MARSHALS for this year's Brushy Mountain Apple Festival are Bryan and Janet Estep, co-founders and co-owners of Brushy Mountain Custom Woodworks Inc. in the Brushy Mountain community.

were Bryan's great-grandparents, bought a 60-acre parcel that is part of acreage he currently owns, from a Brock family for \$60 in the early 1800s. Bryan said it took 12 years for them to pay off the debt.

Bryan and Janet, graduates of Wilkes Central High School, started dating in their early 20s and were married in 1992. He was manager of a local Lowes Foods store and Janet worked for Ithaca Industries in Wilkesboro then.

They set up housekeeping in a mobile home on part of his family's original 60 acres on the Brushies. Janet left Ithaca after Matthew was born about a year after they were married.

Gardner Glass Products in North the late 1960s. Wilkesboro and was employed there 21 years, most of that time newly married and with a baby on

Custom Woodworks before retiring and going to work at the family business fulltime.

Bryan took a summer job with Lowes at its Midtown Plaza supermarket in North Wilkesboro at age 16 in 1985, and still is employed fulltime by Lowe's in maintenance. He works on Lowes stores in a large area of North Carolina. Over the years, Bryan developed a variety of technical skills while maintaining Lowes stores.

Bryan said he learned basic carpentry skills and a "can-do" work attitude from his father, who lost three fingers on his right hand in an accident with dynamite while clearing rock to build a private road Janet later went to work for on his property on the Brushies in

He said FC Estep, in his early 20s,

Noah and Susan Baker, who also working at Brushy Mountain the way when injured, "went right on and didn't let it slow him down through life Handicapped he wasn't. He still made tools work and built houses, cut wood, drove a truck.... He was right-handed and had to learn to write with his left hand."

He added, "What impresses me is that these days, somebody (with an injury) like that would be on disability the rest of their life."

Bryan started building the wooden portions of clocks while in his 20s. He gradually acquired carpentry and woodworking tools and built a 16-foot-by-16-foot shed for a workshop near his home.

Bryan said he was still employed by Lowes and had just returned from working on a house for his grandfather, the Rev. Nay Brookshire, in Hiddenite while on

SEE MARSHAL/PAGE D5

MARSHAL

FROM PAGE D4

vacation when God inspired him to expand his shop by enclosing a porch. He soon hired a couple of men looking for jobs to help with his growing, part-time woodworking business.

A turning point for Bryan came when a Lowes Foods representative asked if he could build a specific wooden display for tropical nut candy in one supermarket.

Bryan said Lowes officials liked the display he built "and asked can you do this, and then this and so on. I realized pretty quick that I was going to need to get some help" fulfilling these requests for displays in Lowes supermarkets. He said he also realized he needed better and more consolidated facilities.

Bryan hired John Poole of Taylorsville, with a wife and young children, on a part-time basis and later full-time. Most of Saturdays.

"The blessing of this whole thing is that everyone of these guys (working at Brushy Mountain Custom Woodworks) has a story" about how they ended up there. "I believe it's awesome that the Lord has given us an opportunity" to help people in and outside of the community while also addressing the growing company's workforce needs, he said.

Janet said many young people acquired skills working at Brushy Custom Woodworks and went on to start their own companies, including one who became a large contractor in Colorado. She recalled how he cried on his last day at the company before leaving for college.

Christian men here and I like that influence on them. They see it all day long," she added.

Bryan said, "Boodles of young'uns

the production initially was on have come through here who were wanting to get into farming after available when we needed them. We try to treat them right and teach them something and most have gone on to be successful in other stuff."

> With about 12,000 square feet under roof (manufacturing and warehousing) and a wood dust collection system, the business currently employs eight people fulltime (not counting the four family members) and more in summer months when school is out.

> Bryan is president of the company, Janet and Makayla are office managers and Matthew is operations manager, but Janet said they all pitch in to help wherever needed.

family's commercial endeavors were diversified recently with the addition of farm animals. which so far include 24 goats, "They're around good, stable four donkeys, two cows, many chickens and three barns on the same property as Brushy Mountain Custom Woodworks.

This resulted from Makayla

she and her husband, Dillon "Bull" Bullard, returned to Wilkes following Dillon's stint in the U.S. Navy. The Bullards are active members of the Brushy Mountain Ruritan Club, which puts on the Brushy Mountain Apple Festival.

So far, eggs are being sold and cheese and goat's milk is produced for the family.

The family is active in Bethany Baptist Church in the Brushy Mountain community, where Bryan is a deacon and teaches children's church. Matthew operates the sound system and Makayla is youth director. Makayla and Dillon worked with Bible school this summer.

Bryan also has been an active supporter of Wilkes Central High School athletics, including by providing volunteer help with construction of a new field house at the school's Wes Steele Stadium several years ago.



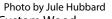




Photo by Jule Hubbard BRYAN AND JANET ESTEP when they and their children, Matthew Estep and Makayla Estep Bullard, were a young family.

DALTON BULLARD works on retail displays being made at Brushy Mountain Custom Woodworks Inc. He is the brother of Dillon Bullard, husband of Makayla Estep Bullard.



Mark Stone, Gretchen Barelski, April Chatman and Cassie Stone smiling and selling offical North Wilkesboro Speedway mechandise during the Nascar All-Star Race.



Sandra Lowe and Gretchen Barelski getting ready to sell peach pies at the Brushy Mountain Peach and Heritage Festival in Downtown Wilkesboro.

Brushy Mountain Ruritan Club Activities

Our Club consists of members who strive to improve their community on the Brushies and Wilkes County through many activities. This year we gave gift cards to veterans, awarded scholarships, operated the pool, had a great 4th of July working with the Community Center and Fire Department, continued Life-Line services, helped with the dictionary project for Wilkes 3rd graders, had two Chicken-ques at Memorial Park, worked at the North Wilkesboro Speedway concessions for Nascar races, sold peach pies and helped many in need.

We are thankful for the opportunities.

Club meetings are held every 3rd Monday, 7:00 PM at the Brushy Mountain Community Center, 7960 Brushy Mtn. Road. Call 336-984-3499 or go to: www.brushymountainruritans.org for more information.



Sandra Lowe receives the Tom Downing Fellow award from Ruritan Zone Director and past Club president Gary Hayes.



Gary Hayes flipping burgers for the Independence Day celebration at the Brushy mountain Community Center.

2025 Brushy Mountain Ruritan Scholarships

The Brushy Mountain Ruritan Club is pleased to announce four scholarship recipients.

Elizabeth Baity plans to go to Wilkes Community College, and then continue as a chemistry major to become a pharmacist.

Avery Robinson will major in Biology and Exercise Science at UNC Chapel Hill and would like to be a pediatric dentist.

Austin Shoemaker will go to WCC, study Electrical Systems and be an electrican.

Naomi Webster will also attend UNC Chapel Hill, and major in Business Marketing and her goal is to become a wedding and event planer.

Our Ruritan Scholarship is good for up to four years if the student maintains good academic standing. We currently have seven students receiving continuing scholarships.

Best Wishes to All!

Over the years, the Brushy Mountain Ruritan Club has provided more than \$220,000 in scholarships. The Club also has an endowment with the North Carolina Community Foundation that enables us to make significant and lasting gifts for the benefit of the community.

For more information about our Ruritan Club and the Brushy Mountain Apple Festival go to: www.brushymountainruritans.org and www.applefestival.net



Elizabeth Baity, Naomi Webster and Avery Robinson



Gretchen Barelski presents a Certificate of Scholarship to Austin Shoemaker as grandparents Gary and Debbie Hayes and Club president Debi Davis look on.

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Remembering the Brushy Mountain Apple Festival Grand Marshals

1978	Roy and Bertha Lowe	2002
1979	Charlotte Robinson	2003
1980	Mamie Hall	2004
1981	Ed and Zenna Hendren	2005
1982	Miss Ellen Robinson	2006
1983	Zella Hendren	2007
1984	John T. and Eunice Wayland	2008
1985	John and Stella Costner	2009
1986	Dot and Walt Marlowe	2010
1987	Emma Gentle	2011
1988	Sam Cabe	2012
1989	Charlie and Cordie Pool	2013
1990	Lonnie and Ada Webster	2014
1991	Marion Hayes Tevepaugh	2015
1992	Jonah and Helen Baity Parker	2016
1993	Edwin and Ruth Canter	2017
1994	Bob and Lynn Bogue	2018
1995	Daniel and Thieda Tedder	2019
1996	Byrd Barnette Moore	2020
1997	Jerry and Betty Smithey	2021
1998	Max and Elrea Hendren	2022
1999	Steve and Sandy Forrest	2023
2000	Lowell and Sue Hendren	2024

Connie and Linda Robinson

Joe and Lillian Kokora Ray and Cassie Stone Worth and Linda Bentley Bill and Fay Joines Donald and Rhoda Hendren Terry and Ann Garwood Dave and Phyllis Moulton Paul and Gretchen Barelski Wade and Victoria McInnis Carroll and Sandra Lowe Robert and Sue Rizoti Gary and Debbie Hayes Armit and Tammy Tevepaugh Greg and Annette Hendron Kenneth and Colleen Taylor Debi Davis Carolina Finley Howard and Shirley Tevepaugh

Jule and Dr Laura Hubbard Andrew and Gale Parker Audrey Smithey Bryan and Janet Estep



2025

ROY AND BERTHA LOWE



The '81 Grand Marshals and "Best Friend of Charleston."

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The Ruritan Club Information Booth, on the right, where all your Festival questions will be answered. North Wilkesboro Town Hall on the left, and thanks for their help with the Festival.



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Recipes

Not pictured: Makayla Estep Bullard - Vice President, Office Manager Matthew Estep – Vice President, Operations Manager













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Golden delicious apples, craft vendors and shoppers abound on a glorious day of the Apple Festival.



Wood working the old time way set up in front of the Wilkes Art Gallery. Look for all the Festival Special Event Locations on the back inside page of this Program & Guide.

Lewis Fork Baptist Church

395 Lewis Fork Church Road • Purlear, NC 28665 (336) 973-3102



Service Times

Sunday School • 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship • 10:55 am
Wednesday Evening Bible Study
and Prayer Meeting • 7 pm

Romans Road to Salvation

"As it is written, 'There is none righteous, no, not one." (Ron

(Romans 3:10)

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

(Romans 3:23)

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

(Romans 6:23)

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

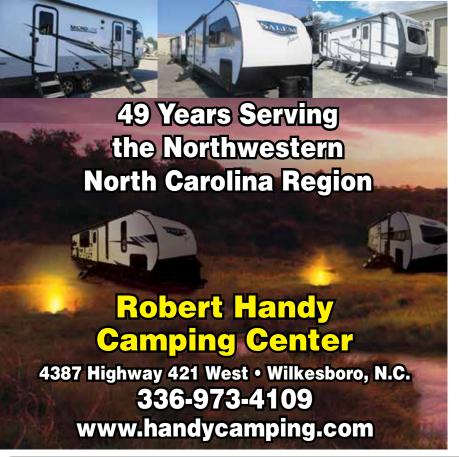
(Romans 5:8)

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

(Romans 10:13)

Pastor Dwayne Andrews

The Difference is Worth the Distance







Visit Us At Apple Festival

Corner of Main and 10th Streets

Apples • Apple Cider Doughnuts • Apple Pies

Cold and Hot Cider by the Cup

Pasteurized Apple Cider

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Dried Apples

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Available Middle Oct.

Pasteurized Apple Cider

Dried Apples • Honey • Jellies

Apple Cider Doughnuts • Apple Pies

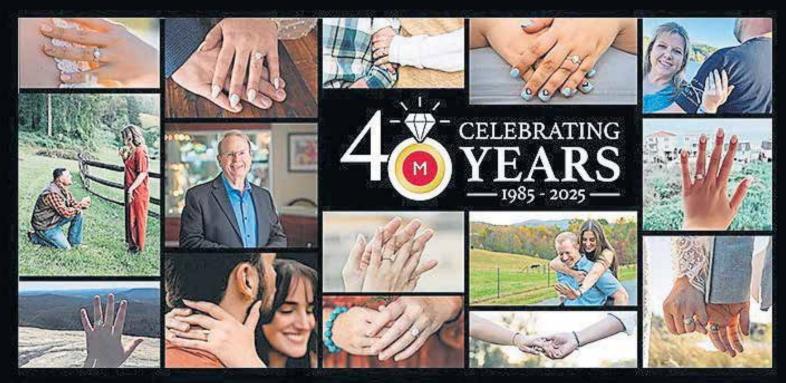
Gift Items And More!

U-Pick Apples Fridays 1pm-5pm

CRCHARDS



Festival map showing the location of Concessions booth space and section numbers. The red arrows show the traffic flow and the **Entrances** and Exits for vendors entering and setting up for the Festival.





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Apple Festival services and facilities



Knowing what services and facilities are available can go a long way toward making your festival day relaxing. So, we hope you'll keep the following information in mind.

INFORMATION BOOTH

The Brushy Mountain Ruritan Club's information booth is located in the Main and Ninth Street intersection and is open from 6 A.M. to late Saturday afternoon. We'll be happy to answer your questions, give out copies of this festival souvenir and program guide, or help you with any problems. Ruritans in the booth can telephone the police station and other agencies and can radio club members stationed around the festival. The Ruritans are the good guys in the white hats.

LOST CHILDREN

Losing a child can not only be frustrating but also frightening. We hope we've solved that problem by having all police and Ruritans on the alert to spot lost young'uns. They'll be taken to the Police Station on Main Street on the second floor until you can come get them. They'll probably be calmer than you are.

REST ROOMS

As you'll see on the map on the inside of the back page of this program, rest rooms are located in the alley off of 9th Street, in the alley by C and 10th Streets, by C Street and the CBD Loop and in the new Yadkin Valley Marketplace.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

The Wilkes Rescue Squad parks its ambulance on 9th Street, down the hill from the information booth. In an emergency, have someone contact the police, a roving Ruritan Club member or the information booth. In most cases, stay where you are – the Rescue Squad with its motorized sled and many years of festival experience can get to you faster than you can get to them.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from the Festival area will be provided from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Parking locations for the shuttle will be at West Park on Highway 421.

TELEPHONES

Pay phones are located in Park Place on Main Street.

AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE (ATM)

Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) is located at the Mid-Town Plaza.

REST AREA and DIAPER CHANGING STATIONS

A free diaper changing station will be at the Millers Creek Baptist booth along the CBD Loop and also in the restrooms at the Yadkin Valley Market Place.

DOGS

All dogs must have a collar and be under control by the owner at all times.



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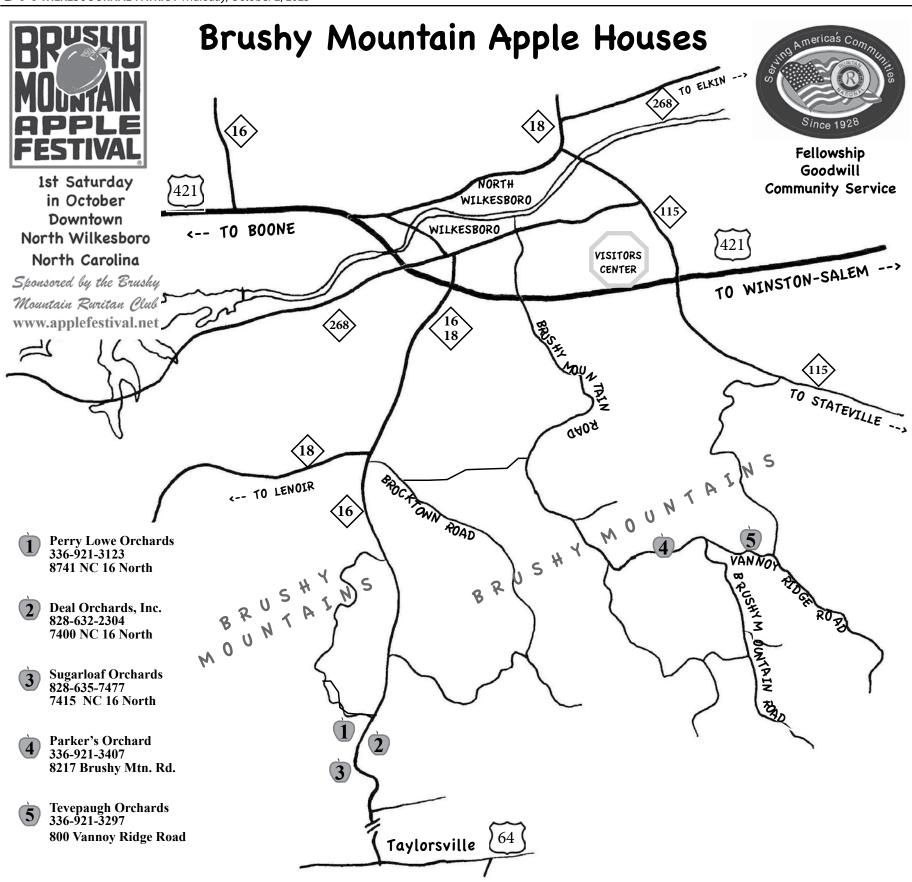


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Winner from the 2025 Photo Contest Shannon Truskowski





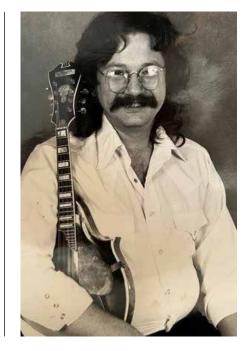
~ In Memorium ~

These beloved members of our Apple Festival family have passed away since our last Festival and will be missed.



ELREA MARLOW HENDREN July 14, 1934 - December 19, 2024

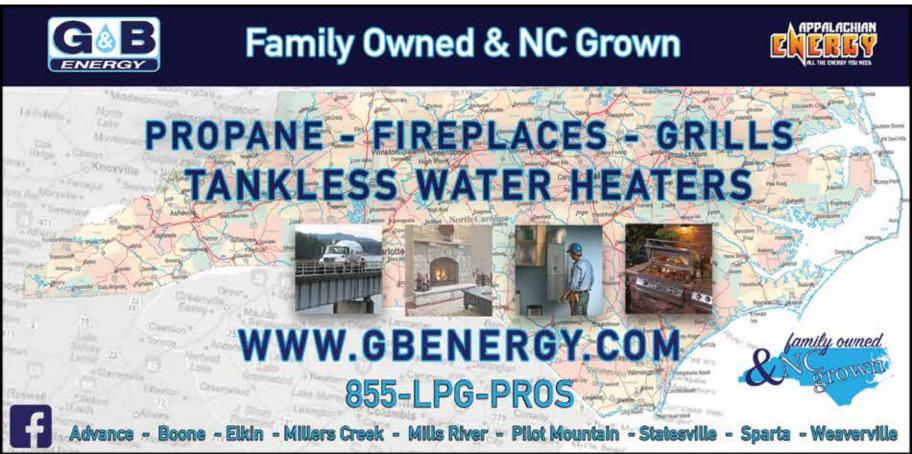
Elrea and husband Max were active members of the Brushy Mountain Ruritan Club since its begining in 1978. They were Apple Festival Grand Marshals in 1998. For her dedication to the Club, Elrea was honored as a Tom Downing Fellow, Ruritan's highest distinction.



JOHN GRANT AKIN April 11, 1954 - March 24, 2025

John was a Club member for ten years and served as Club president in 2000.

John was a talented bluegrass musician, and he organized the Apple Festival music stages and his band, "The Local Boys" played there for many years. John was born in Dallas, Texas, but lived here a good while.



Dancing and Clogging at the Yadkin Valley Marketplace Stage

See the schedule of all the dancing, music and special events on the inside back cover of this Program.



Wilkes County Line Dancers Seated: Wanda Love, Dave DeGruchy, Freda DeGruchy and Martha Hawkins. Standing: Pauline Brown, Terry Brewer, Joyce Holbrook and Ann Craighead.



The Foothill Cloggers Sue Blackburn, Gracie Blackburn, Amber Anthony, Tracy Hale and Christina Johnson.



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Farm Market Hours:

Monday -Thursday 8:30 - 5:00 Friday & Sat 8:00 - 5:00 Closed on Sunday







336.973.3103 myriverstreet.net



Schedule of Music, Singing, and Dancing

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 2025

(Subject to change)



PROVALUS (The Masthead) Americana/Gospel

Stage Manager - Doug Davis 9:00 Brian Burchfield

10:00 Deliverance

11:00 Doug Davis & Friends

12:00 Lovette Family

1:00 Doug Davis & Friends

2:00 Gospel Melody

3:00 Damascus Road

PARK STAGE Blue Grass in the Park

Stage Manager-Eric Ellis 10:00 Sons Of The South 11:00 Wood Family Tradition 12:00 Caldwell Line 1:00 Sons Of The South 2:00 Wood Family Tradition 3:00 Caldwell line

YADKIN VALLEY **MARKETPLACE STAGE Dancing and Clogging**

Stage Manager – Jeff Wilmoth

9:00 Tanya's Academy of Dance

9:30 Wilkes County Line Dancers

10:00 Foothill Cloggers

10:30 Studio 68

11:00 Foothill Cloggers

11:30 Carolina Clogging Connection

12:00 Faith School of Dance

12:30 Carolina Clogging Connection

1:00 Central Wilkes Falcon Cheer

1:30 Yadkin Valley Dancers

2:30 Matt Bizzell



23rd Annual **Apple Jam**

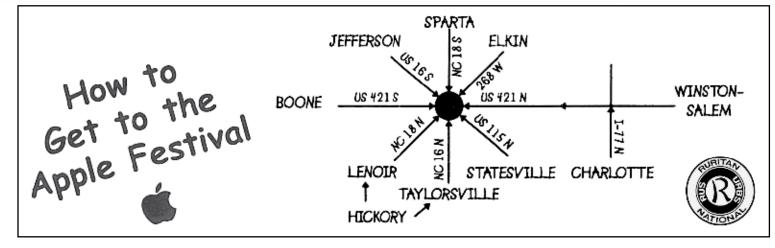
Friday, October 3

6:00-9:00 p.m. On the Park Stage at 10th and Main

Featuring

Sassafras

Bring a lawn chair to downtown North Wilkesboro and enjoy the music! Food concessions available

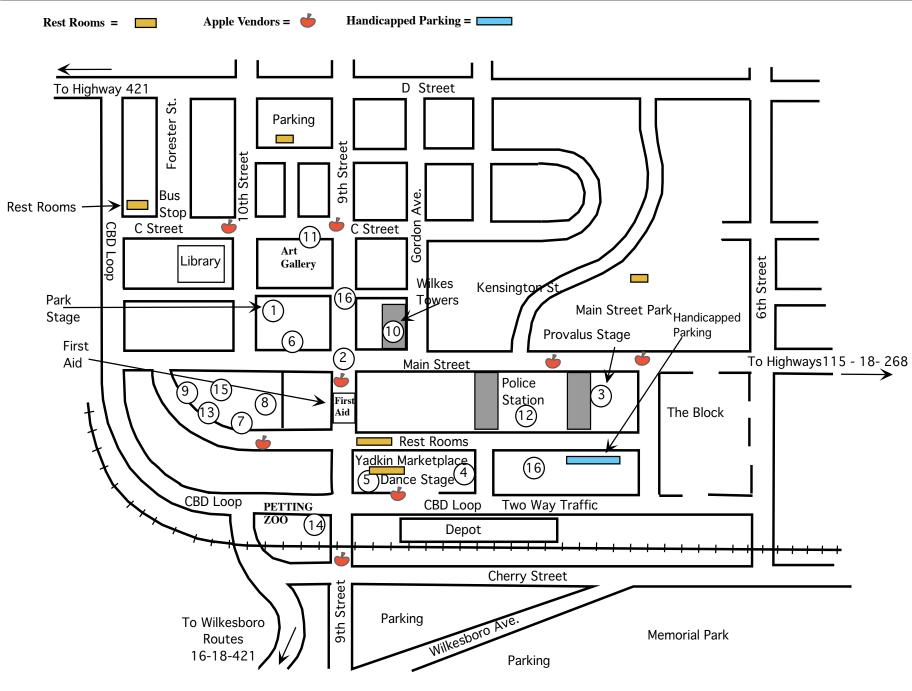


Transportation

Shuttle transportation to and from the festival area will be provided from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. by Wilkes Boy Scouts. Parking for the shuttle will be at West

Park on D Street (next to the grassy area in the center of the parking lot by the flagpole). Parking will also be at the Wilkes County Courthouse. The

shuttle will pick up and deliver passengers at the Shuttle Bus Stop located at C Street and Forester Avenue. No charge. Donations Accepted.



Location Of Special Events For The Day

- 1. Park Stage Blue Grass 10th and Main
- 2. Information Booth 9th and Main: Brushy Mtn. Ruritan Club
- 3. Provalus Stage: Americana and Gospel Music
- 4. Yadkin Valley Marketplace: Dancing and Clogging
- 5. Diaper Changing Station at the Yadkin Valley Marketplace

- 6. Heritage Apple Exhibit / Bee Exhibit Brushy Mountain Apple Festival Park
- 7. Apple Butter Making
- 8. Knife Making
- 9. Hit and Miss Engines
- 10. Wilkes Towers Lobby
 Grand Marshal: Bryan and Janet Estep
 and her quilt Apple Festival Art Work
- 11. Pottery and Chair Canning Demonstrations in front of the Art Gallery
- 12. Lost Children: North Wilkesboro Police Dept.
- 13. Molasses Mill
- 14. Petting Zoo (between CBD loop and R.R. tracks) Camel, Llamas, Ponies
- 15. Friends of the Blue Ridge
- 16. Wilkes County Quilters Guild



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