

Catch the Spirit of Appalachia, Inc.

Stories of Mountain Folk Interviewers

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Amy Ammons Garza

Born in Western North Carolina, Amy is co-founder of Catch the Spirit of Appalachia, Inc. She has worked as a visiting artist and storyteller for thirty-five years, and was an editor and feature writer for *Fun Things to do in the Mountains* for 21 years. Currently, she is book editor/publisher for Ammons Communications (Imprint: Catch the Spirit of Appalachia), which has published 145 books by local writers. To date, Amy has written 11 books and 4 plays. Her books can be found online at www.csabooks.com



Doreyl Ammons Cain

Doreyl is a native of Western North Carolina. Achieving a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Arts degree, Doreyl illustrates book covers and children's picture books. She spontaneously paints murals for the backdrop of her sister Amy Ammons Garza's storytelling. Her art is available in museum quality Giclee limited edition pastel prints and art cards. She is the co-founder of Catch the Spirit of Appalachia. Her artwork can be found online at www.doreylart.yurtstudio.com

An artist who is deeply aware of the need to leave a soft imprint on the earth, her art speaks of the preciousness of life itself. Every art piece she creates reflects the awareness and concern for the culture of its people and the impact of the changing times. Her cultural public murals have led to the founding of the Appalachian Mural Trail at muraltrail.com.



Judy Rhodes

Teaches award winning pianists in advanced literature, composer, lead ensemble vocal groups and bands in the Asheville area. Judy's driving passion is to be actively involved in preserving Appalachian heritage through music and stories. She is available as an entertainer singing Appalachian ballads and telling mountain tales. She has toured with Sheila Kay Adams, and teaches others to be performers. She has a BM in Piano Performance from Converse College and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from ETSU, main focus Appalachian studies with a special emphasis in ballad singing. "I would also very much like to be a part of influencing the Asheville Area in the preservation of mountain culture," she says.



Shawn Crowe

is an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee. He works in the broadcasting industry as a voice talent, producer and engineer. He has been the color analyst for 570 WWNC's Buncombe County Game of the Week which is produced in Asheville, and the media instructor for the Cherokee Youth Center Boys and Girls Club's Cherokee Youth in Media program which has produced many projects such as the radio play *Why Possums Tail is Bare*, *Bullfrog Lover*, *Cherokee One Feather News*, and *Thirteen Moons* an audio book which was recorded in Cherokee by Myrtle Driver Johnson. Shawn is very active in helping to preserve the Cherokee language. He is proud to be Cherokee and is trying to help break the stereotype of Native People by sharing the true history and culture of the Cherokee People.

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Neal Hearn

Neal has been a Radio Broadcaster: Producer, Voice & Record Commercials He is a Mixed Media Craftsman: Glass Boxes, gemstones, copper and fused glass Although Neal is trained in electrical engineering, business and computer science, his love is in the creative arts. Neal is the secret behind the professionalism of Stories of mountain Folk. His ability to hear each segment as it should be makes the fabric of our show seamless. To check out his glass boxes go to boxesbyneal.com.



Joe Parker Rhinehart

Joe was born in Webster, and has gone to Webster School, Pfeiffer University, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and the University of Oregon. He has worked as a school teacher for 30 years in Gaithersburg, Maryland: English, history, journalism, drama, creative writing, etc. He retired to Webster where he built his house on the property of the original Jackson County Courthouse. He and his wife, Flossie Stephens, also have a home in Georgetown, Kentucky. For many years he has been involved with the Webster and Jackson County historical associations and the Jackson County Museum.



Mary Sue Casey

Mary Sue taught mathematics at Sun Valley and coached cheerleading for twenty-four years. During that time she received the state superintendent's award of excellence for establishing the Union County Math Meet. The faculty named her teacher of the year in 1983. Returning to Sylva in 1998, Mary Sue reestablished her membership at Liberty Baptist Church. At Liberty, she is assistant treasurer, Women's Day chairperson, and a member of the Budget Committee. She has been chairperson of the Waynesville Missionary Baptist Association Banquet Committee since its inception in 2001. Mary Sue's community involvement includes membership in the Order of the Eastern Star- Sylva Chapter 416B, serving as President of Bridges to Community and serving on the Boards of Directors for the North Carolina Cheerleading Coaches Association, One Dozen Who Care, Inc., and Samaritan Health Clinics. Mary Sue taught math at Smoky Mountain High in Sylva, NC where she was elected Teacher of the Year in 2000.



Reverend Victoria A. Casey McDonald (Deceased)

In her late twenties, Victoria began her college education at Western Carolina University and received her BA degree in History in 1973. Five years later, through the 11th Cycle of Teacher Corps at WCU, she obtained her teaching degree and MA in Education. After beginning her teaching career at Log Cabin School, she moved to Smokey Mountain Elementary when Log Cabin and Qualla Elementary consolidated. After 28 years of teaching and coaching on the elementary level, Rev. Casey McDonald retired. Victoria is a published author of 4 books. "I became interested in our heritage in the late 1900's when our family began to do reunions," she says. "I would ask questions, and was unable to get many answers. This only encouraged me to dig more into our history here in the mountains, and what I found was mind blowing! Stories of Mountain Folk helps me save our oral heritage."

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Robert Jumper

Robert Jumper, an EBCI tribal member is the EBCI Destination Marketing interim director and Cherokee One Feather editor. He served as the Jackson County TDA (Tourism Development Authority) board chairman for many year. The holder of many jobs for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Robert has a deep love for the heritage and history of his people. “I believe Stories of Mountain Folk is one of the most ‘telling’ programs in the region,” says Robert Jumper, Travel and Tourism Manager of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. “Like a good home-cooked meal, you get to experience the flavor of Western North Carolina in a one-hour audio format instead of on a plate. Stories of Mountain Folk touches a chord with anyone who listens, whether it is a outlander passing through, catching the program for the first time, or actual mountain folk listening in fond remembrance of bygone days. The producers’ devotion to accurately capturing the memories of both the Cherokee and Appalachian peoples is why I participate in Stories of Mountain Folk.”



Nicole Jarosinski, Intern for CSA

Nicole grew up in Wisconsin, moved to Charlotte in middle school, and enrolled at Western Carolina University for college. She loved the scenery and culture in the mountains; it was so different from what she had experienced in Charlotte that she didn’t want to leave when school was over. So, after graduation she stayed in Cullowhee and tried to make a life here. Eventually, she went back to school for a Master’s Degree in English composition and rhetoric. She came to Catch the Spirit of Appalachia as an interviewer, and became a full member of the nonprofit.

Show title: *Apple Butter*: Interviewing young, talented, intelligent, educated, passionate people who call Western North Carolina home.



Krista Robb, Intern for CSA

A southern girl passionate about the outdoors and community. Krista enjoys camping, mountain biking, growing food, and dancing to some good ole’ mountain music. She lives and farms in Bryson City, raising vegetables, rabbits, quail, chickens, bees, and cultivate mushrooms, all of this is sold at local restaurants and farmers markets. By night she played roller derby for the Smoky Mountain Roller Girls under the name Butternut SQUASH! “It is my pleasure to be a part of Catch the Spirit of Appalachia in preserving our heritage forever!” she says.

Show title: *Apple Butter*: Interviewing young, talented, intelligent, educated, passionate people who call Western North Carolina home.



Sean Botzenhart, Intern for CSA

Here is an senior WCU intern who was in the school of film making. He attended our board meetings, worked with us on Stories of Mountain Folk assisting in interviews--his Senior project was a documentary film on CSA, with the focus on community.

Show title: *Coming Around the Mountains*

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“Storytelling has always been important to me,” says Amy Ammons Garza, co-founder of CSA, originator of the program. “Growing up in Tuckasegee, I learned first hand about the wisdom and pioneering strength of the mountain people through the stories Grandpa told me—stories passed down and reinforced by other members of our family and the community. Now, as I interview each community member for the radio show, I once more hear the stories I love..first hand stories of the lives of mountain people...told with such wisdom and insight into our past!

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