GRAYSON • OLIVE HILL

Fall 2017

QUARTERLY

Preserving The Harvest
Sumac's Sour Charm
Wolfpen Woods
Dining At KCU
Family Horse Park Adventure

Editor's Note

With a whirlwind summer behind us, we turn our attentions to autumn, harvesting the rewards of our spring and summer sowing and even time away from home with our families.

For our fall magazine, Carter County natives Chris and Rose Whitt visited old friends to learn more about traditional preservation methods for goods from the family garden, as well as a weekend adventure to Wolfpen Woods Pioneer Village for historical insights as well as a celebrity encounter with local native Chuck Woolery!

Journal-Times Staff Writer Jeremy D. Wells hit the fields and roadsides to gather sumac berries, an often overlooked resource which is likely to be growing in or near your own back yard.

Writer/photographer Michelle Brand and family also recorded details of their recent visit to Kentucky Horse Park.

If you have suggestions for our winter edition of Grayson-Olive Hill Quarterly, get in touch at tpreston@journal-times.com or call (606) 474-5101.

Tim Preston
Editor

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On The Cover

A young girl in pioneer clothing used a well-aged fiddle to convey the spirit of a bygone era during the most recent annual event at Wolfpen Woods Pioneer Village. (Photo by Chris and Rose Whitt)

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A place out of time-

By CHRIS and ROSE WHITT

Does such a place still exist?

A place that has yet to be infiltrated by cell phones, computers, and Wi-Fi. Can we somehow magically be transported back to a time where we can see the world as our ancestors did?

After visiting Wolfpen Woods, a pioneer village hidden off route 773 in Rush, Kentucky we found that that it is indeed possible.

Strolling down a gravel road, we were greeted at a welcome table with smiles and a warm hello. Entry is a bargain at only five dollars, with children 5 and under entering for free. We visited with Laura Burns, whose father Dr. Roland Burns owns Wolfpen Woods, upon our arrival.

Ms. Burns informed us the buildings that we would see were rescued from areas within the local community. We could hear the passion in her voice as she explained to us their goals. The main goal is to teach about our area of Kentucky, and authenticity is at the forefront. Wolfpen Woods Pioneer Village is the 2nd stop on the Harvest Heritage Tour, and is in its 17th year of operation.

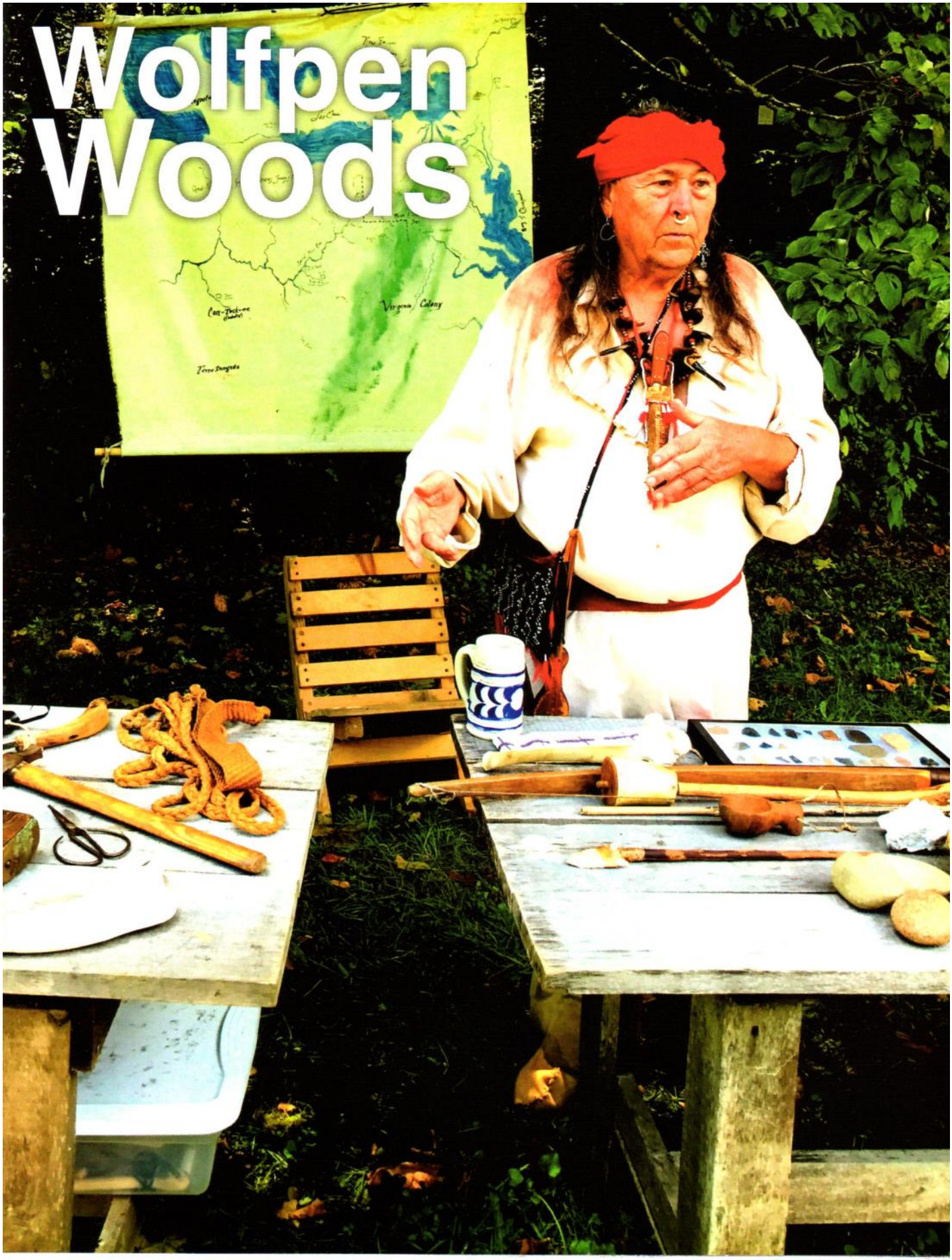
As we entered the pioneer village, we immediately noticed the old buildings that lined the dirt path in which other visitors were exploring. We felt a warm welcome, unlike any you would get at an amusement park. For this is not an amusement park. Wolfpen Woods is a living history book where you can immerse yourself in a functioning pioneer society.

There are several stations along the way, in which you can visit with the pioneers explaining their crafts and specialties. We were mesmerized as we learned preservation techniques of the period. A functioning smokehouse was an excellent visual as to how meat was preserved.

The scent of freshly baked bread lured us around a corner, where we could see a baker tending to the oven. A jovial lady invited us to try a sampling fresh from the oven. We were more than happy to oblige her. It was delicious, and left us wondering why this practice still wasn't in place today.

As we made our way past the oven, we noticed the dreaded stockade and whipping posts. It was here that we met the Judge of Wolfpen Woods, Marc Rosen, who was also a judge by occupation.

He explained how pioneer justice was utilized during this time. We asked Judge Rosen why he took part in the reenactments. We found his


Wolfpen
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answers to be charming and thoughtful. His love for kids, the education for all, and the lack of modern day conveniences were at the forefront.

Our three-year old son Seth, even spent some time in the stockade. Judge Rosen will also hold mock pioneer trials, and admitted to having about 60 people in the stockades during the reenactments.

He informed us that his time volunteering was a treat. On our visit, we also watched blacksmith demonstrations, shopped in a trading post, and visited with Dan Cutler. Cutler had a table, and took special care in showing us the items that the Native Americans would use for trade. Weapons and tools were forged with rocks, sticks, and animal parts.

We crossed a small creek, and found a cabin with animal skins drying and hanging about. This would be the cabin of "THE" Daniel Boone.

Boone was extremely immersed in his character. He spoke of the things that he would have to go through, and how his pioneer ways shaped his life. In fact, he was so immersed in the persona of Daniel Boone, the other reenactors would only refer to him by that name. This was just another example of the authenticity that Wolfpen Woods featured.

We were also fortunate enough to see a reenactment of a prisoner exchange between the pioneers and the natives. Once again, authenticity reigned when a small gun battle erupted.

When we finally made our way to the man responsible for this village, we found that he was visiting with television personality, and Ashland native Chuck Woolery. We later found that the two were lifelong friends.

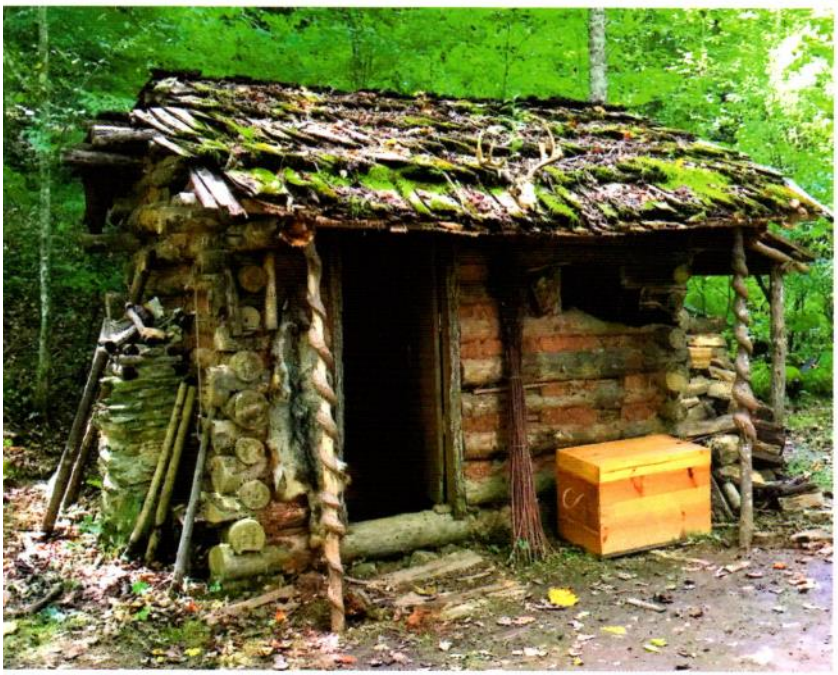
In speaking with Dr. Burns, we began inquiring as to how this pioneer village

began. It didn't take long to see where the heart of this project came from.

"We survived, I don't know, I guess about 2500 school kids Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday," Burns said.

"In 17 years, that makes us right at 35,000," he estimated. We asked if he did this just to preserve history.

"We do that for the kids to know something about who they are," Burns stated.

"This is educators for education," he added. "The original buildings, they're just old buildings. They're our buildings, you know our ancestors built them," Burns said. Burns summed it up to us very elegantly, "It's a labor of love." Burns emphatically explained that he was going to do this as long as he physically could. By seeing his passion, and resolve for Wolfpen Woods Pioneer Village, we certainly believe him.

For more information on Wolfpen Woods, please visit them online at www.wolfpenwoods.com, or on Facebook. More information on the Heritage Harvest Tour can also be found at www.heritageharvesttourky.com, or on Facebook.