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Midland Trail Scenic Highway

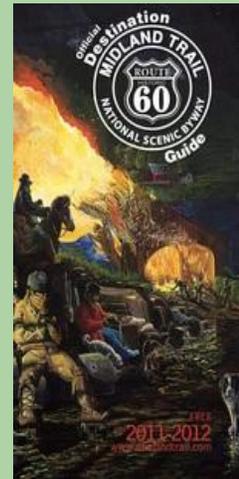
September 13, 2011

Midland Trail News

New Midland Trail Guide is Out

The 2011-2012 Midland Trail Destination Guide is hot off the presses! This year's cover features an illustration titled "Burning of the Bridge at Gauley" by artist William Gura. This piece was commissioned as a part of the Illustrated History of Midland Trail project by the Midland Trail Association and was chosen as our guide cover to commemorate the 150th anniversary of this Civil War event that took place on the Midland Trail in the town of Gauley Bridge. The illustration will also be featured in interpretive signage on the banks of the Gauley overlooking the piers of the original Gauley Bridge.

In addition to the striking illustration on the cover, the 128-page destination guide features a fold-out map of the Midland Trail through West Virginia and combines interesting historical tidbits with up-to-date travel information. For a free travel guide or to order guides in bulk to distribute at your location, contact the Midland Trail office at 304-343-6001.



Construction is Underway at Cedar Grove!



225 years ago, George Washington secured funding to build the Midland Trail west from the Atlantic Ocean to Cedar Grove as part of his vision of a mid-land route across America. Construction is underway once more at Cedar Grove as dozers move dirt at Virginia's Chapel for the building of the Midland Trail Cedar Grove Interpretive Wayside Exhibit. MTSHA Executive Director Alice Hypes (pictured left) said, "I'm so excited that the infrastructure of the site will be completed in a few short weeks; paths, parking lot, picnic areas. We are using some very innovative 'green' approaches, like pervious asphalt and concrete, here to transform this space into a special place for the traveling public and local citizens alike."

This project has been a long time in the planning, and it's exciting to see things beginning to take shape. Although we are still early in the construction process, it won't be long before the site boasts a gazebo, benches, and parking lot made from pervious asphalt donated by the WV Asphalt Association and WV Paving, as well as interpretive signage that highlight the rich history of the area.

Located adjacent to Virginia's Chapel, or the Old Brick Church, the site is of historical significance to the town of Cedar Grove, the first permanent settlement in the Kanawha Valley. The chapel was built in 1853 by William Tompkins, a wealthy salt manufacturer and prominent Cedar Grove citizen, for his daughter Virginia. Tompkins used mostly slave labor in the construction of the church and in addition to the cemetery beside the church which holds the remains of many of the pioneer citizens, a slave cemetery is located nearby where the workers who

built the church were laid to rest.

When the project is finished, it will be a place for travelers to rest and reflect as they learn about some of the events and early industry that helped to shape the land along Midland Trail and the town of Cedar Grove in particular.

Festivals This Weekend!

***Country Roads Festival Hawks Nest State Park, Ansted**

September 17-18

Sponsored by the Ansted Lions Club, this festival features food, vendors, local arts and crafts, apple-butter making, and live music. Free. Call Dr. Klenk at 304-658-5282 or 304-574-3504 for more information.

***Barboursville Fall Festival Barboursville**

September 14-17

Events include a carnival, parade, street dance, car show, animal parade, karaoke contest and more. Live music performed by The Avalons and Savannah Jack, 8:30 p.m. Friday; The McClymonts, 9:30 p.m. Saturday. Free. www.barboursville.org.
<http://news.herald-dispatch.com/calendar/index.php?eid=47367>

***ChiliFest WV**

Huntington

September 17

ChiliFest is the WV State Chili Championship sanctioned by the International Chili Society and sponsored by Chili Willies. Fee. www.chilifestwv.com

***Mothman Festival**

Point Pleasant (Rte 62 side trip)

September 16-18

The Mothman Festival is a celebration of Point Pleasant's own supernatural visitor, the Mothman, who made his appearance in the 1960's and has inspired books and film. Attractions include a 5K run, live music, a hayride, and a pageant. Free. www.mothmanfestival.com

Also in Point Pleasant: **Bend Area Annual Fall Catfish Tournament** at the Mason Park and Levy, September 17 at 8:00 am. Fee. Call 304-773-5680 for more information.

***Legacy of Mary Ingles Beech Fork State Park**

September 16-18

Journey back to 1755 with interactive presentations about the life and times of Mary Ingles Draper, including unique activities like spinning and weaving, salt making, edible and medicinal native plants, finger weaving, blacksmithing, candle making, tomahawk throwing, and so much more. Free. www.beechforksp.com

***20th Annual Grape Stomping Festival at Kirkwood Winery**

Summersville (Gateway US 19 N)

September 17-18

Since 1992, this family-friendly festival has featured tours, tasting, live music, grape stomping & eating competitions, wine tasting, food, car show, distillery tours, vineyard tours and wine making demonstrations. Fee. http://www.kirkwood-wine.com/index.php?main_page=page&id=9&chapter=1

***Gauley Bridge Town Festival Gauley Bridge**

September 23-25

Featuring a pageant, car show, inflatables, Taste of Gauley Bridge, and a parade, the Gauley Bridge Town Festival will be fun for the whole family. Free. "Like" Gauley Bridge Town Hall on Facebook for festival updates.

***St. George's Greek Festival Huntington**

September 23-25

The 29th Annual Greek Festival will be a fun-filled weekend featuring a wide variety of authentic food, music, and costumed dancers, all with the flavor of Greece.

Free. <http://www.stgeorgehvv.org/festival/>

Visit our website at www.midlandtrail.com for upcoming events. Midland Trail will be sending out two newsletters, one for our partners to keep you updated on news and projects, and one to travellers to share events and attractions along the Midland Trail. Please keep us updated with your events for content!

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