

STORYTELLING

COOK CHAPEL (Lower Level of Frost Hall, up the steps from the Quad)

1:30 PM- 3:30 PM

1:30 PM Adam Booth

Born and raised in the hills of West Virginia, Adam Booth tells stories that blend and share generations of Appalachian and Jewish heritage with life lessons and a little bit of mischief. He is a four-time champion of the WV Liars' Contest and winner of storytelling contests in three other states. Booth is recipient of the 2011 J.J. Reneaux Mentorship Grant to work with Dovie Thomason and appeared at the Exchange Place Stage at the 2011 National Storytelling Festival. He was a featured panelist at the 2012 National Storytelling Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. His first recording, *The Mingo Black*, received honors from the 2013 Storytelling World Awards. A trained musician, Adam occasionally weaves traditional music and balladry around his stories and is a sought-after teacher of story and music.



1:54 PM Jo Ann Dadisman

Share an energetic, interactive storytelling session with Jo Ann Dadisman of West Virginia. Dadisman will entertain the young and young-at-heart as she weaves stories and lore from her beloved Appalachian hills. She has traveled throughout West Virginia and the surrounding states for over 15 years, sharing stories and conducting workshops at state parks, schools, universities, festivals, libraries and art centers.

2:18 PM Katie and Otto Ross

In 1993, Katie Ross and her husband Otto formed a storytelling duo called Stories by the Score. Katie tells the stories and Otto plays music. Katie and Otto won first place at the Autumn Glory Tall Tales Contest in Oakland, Md., in 1997 and 1999. Later, Katie went on to be the first runner-up in the 2004 National Storyteller of the Year Contest sponsored by the Creative Arts Institute in Blacklick, Ohio. Katie and Otto have performed for the last three years in FSU's Appalachian Festival. The two have a love of Appalachian culture with its stories and its music. In this year's festival, Katie will tell a couple of tales with Appalachian themes and Otto will strum his banjo from time to time. Audience members will be invited to keep time with down-home instruments such as the washboard and the spoons.



2:42 PM Bill Hairston

Bill is best known as a singer/storyteller. Among his many endeavors is his work as the Music Coordinator at the Stonewall Jackson Jubilee for the 35 years until it ended in 2008. His stories and songs embody the rich Appalachian culture that he was exposed to as a child along the Coal River. Within his interpretations, he frequently weaves the contributions of African Americans to Appalachian history and culture. He has performed in schools, libraries and other venues throughout the region and internationally. Bill is credited as the person in West Virginia who developed the elementary school program, *"We Are One."* The program examines the similarities in the Appalachian and African American cultures. He has released one recording titled *"Nobody Knows."*



3:06 PM Rich Knoblich

Rich Knoblich is the author of *Talking 'Bout the Relatives*. His original tall-tale book was inspired by his visits to his family's old homestead on the mountain. However, things often go haywire as he relates the shenanigans of rustic characters in modern times. Many stories incorporate family members along with friends he has made over the years. Stories take place at actual rural surroundings in West Virginia and are often based on reality, but they're loaded with plenty of embellishment!

