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The North Carolina Arboretum Celebrates Heritage Crafts Day

ASHEVILLE, NC – Traditions of the Southern Appalachians will be celebrated as The North Carolina Arboretum hosts Heritage Crafts Day on Saturday, September 24 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The event, now in its sixth year, features artists and crafters whose work reflects the heritage of Western North Carolina. Vital to the region's craft heritage is the close relationship between the crafts and plants used in their production. Much of the artistic expression of mountain crafts originates from the character and nature of plants.

Fine crafts made from local and natural materials will be highlighted, as will art created from recycled and sustainable sources. Past shows have featured woodcarving, basket making, weaving, and spinning, as well as native and medicinal plant sales, music and garden education classes.

Because the region is known for an abundance of high quality art and craft, Heritage Crafts Day is a juried crafts event. All art and craft represented is original and handcrafted by the exhibitors. The North Carolina Arboretum is now accepting applications for artists and crafters. Interested parties may download an application online at <http://www.ncarboretum.org/education/heritage-crafts-weekend-2/>.

Visitors to the Heritage Crafts Day are encouraged to explore the Arboretum's Heritage Garden. The garden showcases plants used in the multi-million-dollar craft industry of Western North Carolina, including those used for handmade paper and brooms, baskets and dyes. Visitors can discover the many plants that support crafts and understand how they are grown, prepared, and used in the industry.

Heritage Crafts Day is one of many popular events hosted by The North Carolina Arboretum. Each year more than 376,000 visitors experience the Arboretum's gardens, trails, exhibits, shows and expos, educational programs, demonstrations and lectures. The Arboretum's ability to meet its mission and enrich the visitor experience is made possible by a community of supporters—from members, volunteers and staff to state and local funds, tribute gifts, grants, and community partners.

The event is free for Arboretum Society members or with the standard parking fee (\$8 per personal vehicle). For information, call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org. The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institution of the 17-campus University of North Carolina system, is to cultivate connections between people and plants.

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The NC Arboretum is located next to the Blue Ridge Parkway entrance at Milepost 393. From I-26, take Exit 33 and follow Blue Ridge Parkway signs for two miles to the entrance ramp. Visit www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit for parking fees, property hours and building hours. For general information call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org.