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For immediate release

## Museum of Appalachia to host Annual Barn Dance

NORRIS, TN: The Museum of Appalachia, a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, will host its third annual Barn Dance on Friday, May 22, 2015. The evening will feature horse drawn wagon rides, a sumptuous southern buffet dinner, fabulous musical entertainment, traditional Appalachian square dancing and a magnificent silent and live auction.

Exceptional auction items feature vacation get-a-ways, including tickets and accommodations to the Forecastle Festival in Louisville, Kentucky; a one week Destin Vacation in Florida, including a golf package and dinner at the famous Marlin Grill; a weekend stay at "The Lodge at Buckberry Creek"; and many fine Southern Arts & Crafts and East Tennessee Antiques.

Also up for auction is a most unusual item, a six foot sapling, nurtured from a cutting of the Andrew Jackson Magnolia Tree. In 1829, President Jackson planted a seedling at the Whitehouse, in memory of his wife, from a magnolia sprout from his home in Nashville, Tennessee. This sprout became a magnificent tree, and over time became a favorite place for presidents and foreign dignitaries to 'sit a spell'. The late Senator Howard Baker, long time Board Member and friend, donated two cuttings to the Museum of Appalachia, which have since matured, and now majestically decorate the front lawn of the Hall of Fame.

The Barn Dance is being organized by a committee dedicated to the success and growth of the Museum of Appalachia. "The Barn Dance is one of our most popular events held at the Museum. It is unique and fits in with the feel of this Museum. Most of all it provides people a fun way to support the important work the Museum does in preserving the life ways we cherish in Southern Appalachia", says committee co-chair and Museum Board Member, Lindsey Meyer Gallaher.

Featured entertainment, *The Hogslop String Band*, is one of the most sought after old time string bands of the Tennessee Valley area. Comprised of five young musicians, this Nashville based, square dance band is known for their rollicking repertoire and high energy show, and their undeniable charm is entertaining to both young and old alike. "One of the finest square-dance bands on the planet." *Jack Silverman (Nashville Scene)*

Sam Venable, master of ceremonies, noted author and retired columnist for the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, will lead the evening's entertainment. Musical festivities throughout the affair will include the Museum of Appalachia Band, Ruth and Morgan Simmons, The Teno Family, and Riverdale playing the Hurdy Gurdy; and dinner will be accompanied by Rick Long on the bowed psaltry.

For additional information or to make reservations please contact the Museum of Appalachia, 865-494-7680 or [museum@museumofappalachia.org](mailto:museum@museumofappalachia.org)

As a non-profit, Smithsonian Affiliate museum, the Museum's mission is to preserve the artifacts and culture of an earlier time; and to instill in the community – regionally, nationally, and internationally- a greater knowledge of and appreciation for the Appalachian heritage. Memberships are available, providing a year of visits, admission to special museum events, including the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration and The Days of the Pioneer Antique Show, as well as membership in the Smithsonian Institution. The Museum is located 16 miles north of Knoxville at I-75, Exit, 122, one mile east.

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