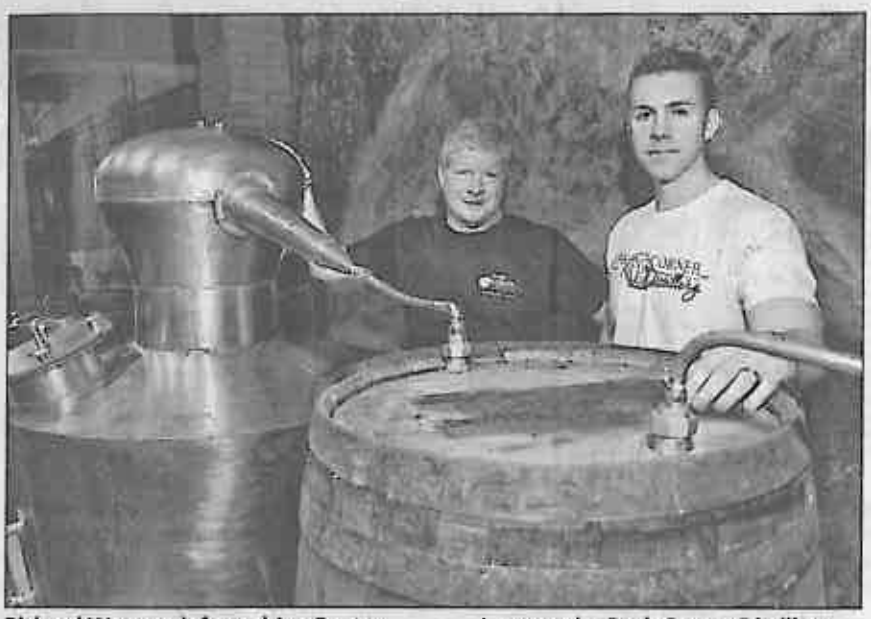
Moonshine goes downtown



Richard Wenger, left, and Joe Fenten prepare to open the Dark Corner Distillery today. PATRICK COLALRD/STAFF

Crews 'can't make it fast enough'

Distillery opens on Main today

By Mike Foley
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Legal moonshine sounds like an oxymoron. But starting today, moonshine will flow on Main Street in Greenville as the Dark Corner Distillery opens its doors.

The distillery is South Carolina's third, but one of those is a contract distiller, which only makes spirits for bars, restaurants and hotels. The other, which makes the Firefly brand, is on Wadamalaw Island near Charleston. Despite its reference to the furthest reach of Greenville and Spartanburg counties, Dark Corner is right on Greenville's Main Street.

Co-owner Joe Fenten said the intent was to bring the region's history — both famous and infamous — into the light.

DARK CORNER DEBUTS

Dark Corner Distillery is at 241-B N. Main St., Greenville.
Call: 864-356-2746 or visit: www.darkcornerdistillery.com

Even before the grand opening, the business seems poised for success.

The first batch of legal moonshine was 200 bottles. Those fifths, hand-numbered, signed and decorated with a medallion, sold for $50 each and sold out within two days.

Batch No. 2 was being made Thursday afternoon. It will be on the shelf Saturday and sell for $38 a bottle.

"We're working around the clock now," Fenten said. "That's our problem. We can't make it fast enough."

According to the laws of supply and demand, that's a good problem to have.

But the Dark Corner Distillery is more than a liquor store. It also boasts a tasting bar and wide windows where you can see moonshiners at work. And the front section of the storefront is a gift shop filled with regional goods, arts, crafts and products laced with moonshine.

You can buy Dark Corner T-shirts, hats, flasks and glassware, as well as peach jam, salsa and other products infused with moonshine. There are also moonshine cookbooks, books on the history of the Dark Corner and more.

"Everything is produced within 20 miles of where we're standing," Fenten said. "This is an opportunity for people to take home some Upcountry history."

Today's grand opening runs from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Door prizes will be offered through the day, and Rocky Bottom Bluegrass will play, too.