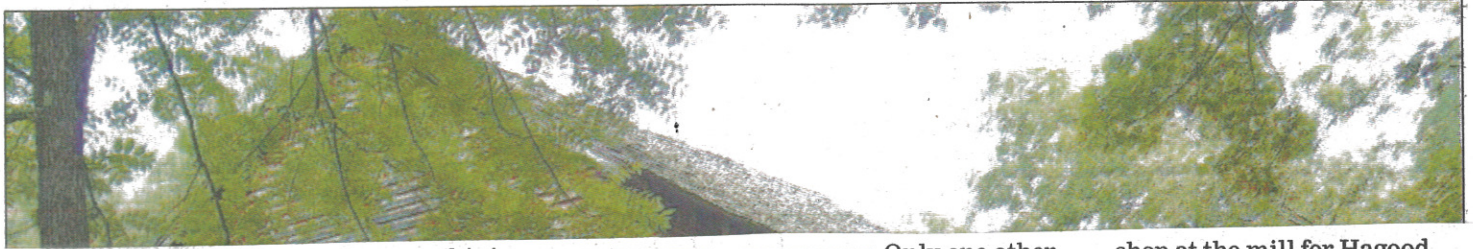


Hagood Mill to ring in New Year Saturday

Pickens mill site to host concert, demonstrations



BY JASON EVANS
THE JOURNAL

PICKENS — Music lovers have one more chance to ring in the New Year. The Hagood Mill Historic Site will host a New Year “shindig” Saturday morning.

The festivities will kick off at 11 a.m. and run until 3 p.m. at the mill, which is located 3 miles north of Pickens off U.S. Highway 178 or 5.5 miles south of Cherokee Foothills Scenic Highway 11, just off U.S. Highway 178 at 138 Hagood Mill Road.

Admission is free to the Hagood Mill Site and the Hagood Creek Petroglyph Site on Saturday, but there is a \$5 parking fee for the day. All proceeds from parking help offset costs at Hagood Mill.

North Carolina musicians Josh Carter and Owen Grooms are scheduled to provide the day’s old-time and blues music. The music the duo performs draws deeply from the North Carolina mountains they call home.

Carter switches between mandolin and octave mandolin. Grooms plays various types of banjos.

Step into the past while at the mill by taking in a variety of folk-life and traditional arts demonstrations. Demonstrations include blacksmithing, bowl-digging, flint knapping, chair-caning,

moonshining, broom-making, basket-making, pottery, quilting, spinning, knitting, weaving, bobbin lace, woodcarving, metalsmithing, beekeeping and leatherworking.

As they’re demonstrating their craft, artists will answer questions. Their crafts and wares will be available for purchase as well.

The once-precarious path to the moonshine shack at the mill site is a lot smoother, thanks to the efforts of a Liberty youth and his helpers. Tyler Benjamin, a member of Boy Scout Troop 51 in Pickens, decided to replace the stairway that leads up to the moonshine still for his Eagle Scout project.

Benjamin and his crew of helpers worked over several days to build the staircase, finishing shortly before the new year.

Step even further into the past by visiting the Petroglyph Site. In 1993, a volunteer with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology discovered several eroded figures carved into a large granite rock at the mill site.

Further excavation revealed 32 figures on the rock, including 18 human figures.



Grooms



Benjamin

Only one other petroglyph site in South Carolina features human figures.

An educational viewing center was built over the rock face, allowing visitors

to get a closer look at them while protecting them from the elements and further erosion.

A light show, narrated by retired SCIAA archaeologist Tommy Charles, author of “Discovering South Carolina’s Rock Art,” gives an overview of the petroglyphs, focusing on some of the most interesting ones.

Hagood Mill’s namesake is the water-powered 1845 gristmill. The mill is still being put to use, just as it has been for the past century and a half. Step inside to see it at work. Fresh, stone-ground cornmeal, grits and wheat flour will be available for purchase Saturday. The mill also produces rye flour, Basmati rice flour, oat flour, oatmeal, popping corn meal and grits, organic yellow cornmeal and grits as well as buckwheat flour. Those products may be available for purchase Saturday as well.

Bring an appetite — food trucks will be on hand during the event.

Be sure to stop by the gift

shop at the mill for Hagood Mill cookbooks and other items.

In addition to the monthly “Third Saturday” events, Hagood Mill hosts a variety of events throughout the year.

Site director Billy Crawford said the finishing touches are being put on the 2018 events schedule, but that it should be released soon.

Next month, Hagood Mill will be singing the blues.

“We’ll have our Deep Winter Blues event Feb. 17,” Crawford said.

The lineup is still developing, but blues fans won’t want to miss the concert.

“We’ll have some really good Piedmont Blues musicians here,” Crawford said.

March 17 is the annual Kids Fest at the mill.

“It’s very popular,” Crawford said. “We’ll have all sorts of old-time games for the kids to play.”

Deep Winter Blues and the Kids Fest will both be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hagood Mill Historic Site is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. year round.

For additional information, call Hagood Mill at (864) 898-2936 or visit their Facebook page.