

Welcome

A Day in the Life of West Virginia

For the last several years, *Wonderful West Virginia* has been anticipating our state's upcoming 150th birthday with a number of articles on the people, places, and events that contributed to West Virginia becoming a state in June 1863. Early last year, the staff began to brainstorm about how the magazine might culminate the statehood series and truly celebrate our state's sesquicentennial in June 2013. We thought, how about an issue totally devoted to photographs (a magazine hallmark since its inception) taken in the state on one special day?

The idea was not new. Longtime readers may remember the November 1987 issue, which, under the guidance of then editor Arnout Hyde Jr., featured only photographs taken on West Virginia Day that year.

Last summer, we put out the call to citizen photographers across the state: take pictures from sunup to sundown on Saturday, September 15, 2012. The only criteria: capture a moment of West Virginia life on this day.

Our request was well received, to say the least. When the submission deadline passed, we found ourselves with a monumental task: more than 5,000 photographs to view from 984 photographers!

As we began to look at the photographs, we were awed by their beauty and breadth. Some photographers captured the ordinary goings-on of hometown life. For others, it seemed our request had become a personal quest, as they traveled the state from one end to the other in search of special images. Some state natives who live outside our borders came home to glimpse and record places that hold fond memories.

It took us three and a half months to consider all of the photographs. In the end, there were far more outstanding ones than we had room for in this issue. Deciding which ones to publish was very difficult.

We also had trouble deciding which image should grace the cover. So we narrowed it down to four excellent ones and asked West Virginians to pick their favorite. When all the votes were counted, citizens favored Parkersburg resident Roger Davis's delightful image of his grandchildren, Drew and Lyla, enjoying an outing at the Butcher Family Farm. We're pleased to also feature the other cover finalists on page 3.

From festival and flea market goers to farmers in their fields, and from a dramatic Dolly Sods sunrise to fireworks bursting above Wheeling, the collection of images in this issue tells a visual story of one day of West Virginia life. It is a testament to the values we hold dear and a tribute to the land we love and cherish. Looking through it, I found a renewed sense of spirit seeing my beloved state through the fresh eyes of so many.

We would like to thank all of the photographers who submitted images and gave their time and talent for this special sesquicentennial issue. Each moment they captured is precious. Their photographs help define who we are. Above all, they express what it means to live here in our home, our sanctuary, our West Virginia.

If this issue whets your appetite for West Virginia images, please come visit and "like" *Wonderful West Virginia* on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wonderfulwestvirginiamagazine. You'll find reader comments and photos, and even some promotions and giveaways. Happy 150th birthday, West Virginia!



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Cover Finalists

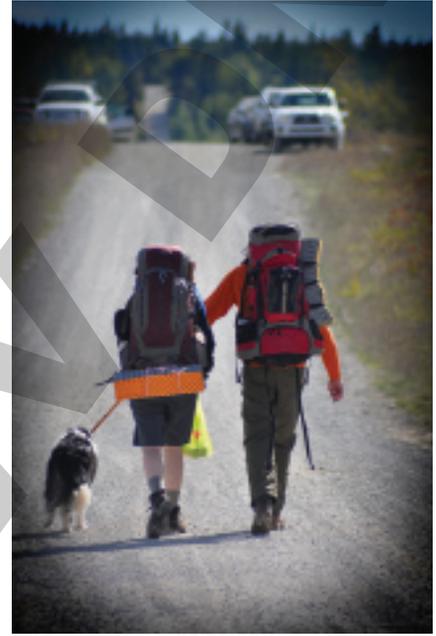
We're pleased to present the three other finalists selected for the cover of this issue. Kudos and many thanks to these photographers for their fine submissions.



Chickens on a farm in Albright,
Preston County
6:10 PM
Brandee Bush



Colorful gourds at the Butcher Family Farm
in Washington, Wood County
2:00 PM
Andrea Perine



Two backpackers and a friend head for the
Bear Rocks Trail in the Dolly Sods
Wilderness Area.
3:55 PM
David Vance

Then ...

In 1987, *Wonderful West Virginia* invited readers to take photographs on West Virginia Day and submit them for a special issue, which was published in November of that year. The magazine assembled a team of esteemed photographers to help process the entries. Pictured with envelopes containing some of the thousands of entries

received by mail are (left to right) Steve Shaluta, David Fattaleh, *Wonderful West Virginia* Editor Arnout "Sonny" Hyde Jr., Gerald Ratliff, Jay Wildt, and Ron Snow. To view this all-photo issue, go to www.wonderfulwv.com and select Magazine Archives, then View Old Issues. Select 1987 and scroll down to the November issue.



... and Now



Though the method of submission changed dramatically since 1987, the *Wonderful West Virginia* staff still had thousands of photographs to consider for the June 2013 sesquicentennial issue. Pictured left to right are Editor

Sheila McEntee, Art Director Jeff Pierson, Graphic Designer Erin Murphy, Photography Editor Clayton Spangler, and Production Manager Teresa Hyde. Not pictured: Associate Editor Nora Shalaway Carpenter.