



Saturday March 20th Bus @ 8:30 AM

52nd Annual Highland Maple Festival McDowell, Virginia

Take a step back in time to Highland County, "Virginia's Switzerland." Travel back roads and mountain byways to the annual Highland Maple Festival. Held on the 2nd and 3rd weekends of March, the Maple Festival has been an annual event in Highland County, Virginia, since 1958. Each year, thousands of visitors are drawn to this unspoiled, rural region of Virginia to celebrate the "opening" of the trees and observe the process of maple syrup-making. Sugar camp tours provide a unique and educational experience that portrays a rapidly vanishing way of American life.

When we arrive in McDowell, we will stop for Lunch. You can choose:

Stonewall Ruritan Building – which features Homemade Pancakes, Plain & Buckwheat with plenty of Maple Syrup, sausage links etc.

Or directly across the Street:

McDowell Volunteer Fire Department House - Trout, Chicken, and Ham Dinners, their Trout is local as is the chicken and ham. Most of us ate there last year, it was delicious! Lunch should cost you between \$8 - \$11 .

After your meal spend about half an hour to browse through the selection of baked goods and country crafts on the grounds of the Ruritan building .

Then, we'll get back on the bus and for a quick run over to:

Sugar Tree Country Store & Sugar House - Located near the center of McDowell, this operation employs a modern reverse osmosis concentrator and oil-fired evaporator. Antique maple producing tools are on display. Enjoy a selection of country store merchandise, pottery, maple products, and jams. Brunswick Stew, maple doughnuts, other foods and Guided Tours will be available during Maple Festival.

After our Sugar House visit of about 45 minutes we head on home.

Open to all residents, their family and guests.

Bus (includes breakfast snack pak) \$25

Sign up sheet at Front Desk.

See reverse side for additional information

Facts on Maple Syrup Country in Virginia

Highland County is in the Allegheny Mountains on the western upland side of the famed Shenandoah Valley.

The region's higher elevations contribute to a late-winter and early-spring weather pattern of warm, sunny afternoons and crisp, freezing nights-a perfect combination for maple sugar production! The process begins with tapping maple trees to collect the clear, almost tasteless sugar water. Gathered in buckets or by plastic tubing, the sap is boiled in kettles, pans, or evaporators until a barrel is finally reduced to a gallon of pure maple syrup.

In 1847, 416 square miles of spectacular mountain terrain were formed into Highland County out of portions of Bath and Pendleton counties.

The county received its name from its prevailing high altitude; it has one of the highest mean elevations of any county east of the Mississippi River.

The county has a rich historical tradition. During the Civil War, the Battle of McDowell, a significant battle in Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign, was waged in Highland County. The Town of Monterey was established in 1848. Originally named Highland, the town was renamed in honor of the Mexican town where General Zachary Taylor defeated the Mexican Army during the Spanish-American War.

Highland County was built around the richness of its natural resources. Wool remains one of Highland's major agricultural commodities. In 1990, the county ranked third in the state in the number of sheep.

The county is typically one of the largest wool-producing counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Questions? Call Fred #3712

A resident suggested trip - Thank you Harry Patch !!

See reverse side for additional information