Dear Potential Participant:

I’m writing to invite you to participate in Frostburg State University’s Appalachian Festival on Saturday, September 17. Now in its sixth year, the festival has developed a strong reputation of celebrating the finest artistic and musical traditions of Western Maryland and the surrounding mountainous region, as well as providing solid programs on Appalachian history, culture, and the environment. I am pleased to announce that this year’s capstone performers will be Buffalo in the Castle, an Ireland based group exploring the connections between Traditional American String Band Music and Irish Traditional Music.

Our 2010 attendance was the best yet and we expect our numbers to grow again this year. It’s your participation that provides for such a special and well respected event. The Festival’s Programming Committee appreciates greatly your willingness to celebrate and perpetuate regional traditions.

We’re busy spreading the word about the festival and lining up participants. We approach the Appalachian Festival as a community service and use it as an opportunity to provide engagement with and education on regional traditions; we’re not charging a vendor’s fee, nor are we asking for a percentage of sales. We would, however, like each of our participants to demonstrate their artistic form or provide hands-on activities, whenever possible.

To guarantee participants their ideal space, we encourage you to provide your own tent and tables. However, we will have tent space and tables available for those who need it.

Festival registration must be returned by July 1st. Space will be assigned as we receive your responses. To be included in the Published Festival Program, we must have a positive response no later than July 15. In order to guarantee that we have a full roster of participants, the sooner you can let us know about your availability, the better. The Festival will take place on Frostburg State University’s Upper Quad (a map is enclosed).

A festival from a participant’s perspective often looks different than a festival from a programmer’s perspective. Please let us know if you have special requests. We can’t guarantee that we’ll meet every desire, but we can certainly do our best to make you happy.

Enclosed is a Participant Form for you to complete. You may mail it back to us, or contact us via email with your responses. I hope to see you in September if not before.

Carolyn Groves is handling space assignments. Please submit your forms directly to her at mdtatter@jamescgroves.com or mail to: Carolyn Groves, 11425 Upper Georges Creek Road, Frostburg, MD 21532.

Sincerely,
Kara Rogers Thomas

PS For additional festival inquires contact “Kara” at: 301-687-3124 (w) 301-689-6979 (h) 240-522-7635 (cell) krogerthomas@frostburg.edu
Directions: Take I-68 Exit 33 toward FSU on Braddock Road. Access site from Center St. or University Drive. X marks Upper Quad-Appalachian Festival Site. Set up begins at 8 am. All vehicles must be off Festival Site by no later than 9:45 am. Pack up can begin at 5:30 pm, (no vehicles permitted on the quad until 6 pm).

1. We are currently seeking Festival Volunteers. If you know anyone interested in volunteering, please ask them to contact us.

2. Driving on the Upper Quadrangle for set-up and take-down must occur before 9:45 am and after 6:00 pm. We have noticed that we do get a second wave of attendees in the late afternoon. That being the case, we expect you to stay for the duration unless prior arrangements are made.

3. Electrical access is available to the craft participant area to power smaller machines.

4. Participants with concerns about a light breeze are advised to bring a tent with sides.

5. Participants will be provided with folding tables and folding chairs. Volunteers will be on site to assist in setting up and taking down tables and chairs. (Our chairs are not comfortable for all day use—please consider bringing your own).

6. Tired of hearing the same questions all day long? Consider creating a poster of “Commonly Asked Questions” providing your responses.

7. Please consider providing photographs of your work in progress—particularly those aspects you can’t show at the Festival so attendees can understand the process behind your art form.
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Carolyn Groves
11425 Upper Georges Creek Road
Frostburg, MD 21532.

Saturday, September 17, 2010
10 am – 6 pm

Vendor Registration (returned form required in order to participate)

Name of Vendor:______________________________________________

Address:_____________________________________________________

Phone:______________________ Email:____________________________

I will provide my own shelter (tent) __________

I wish to be located in the larger crafter’s tent ________________

Spaces will be assigned prior to festival day. Please check in with the vendor coordinator before setting up.

Space Requirement or preference: _______________

1 space = Most tables are 8’. (You may request up to two spaces per artist. If you are bringing additional artists, you may request additional space for those artists.) _________________________

Number of Tables: _____ I will provide my own tables _____________

Number of Chairs: _____ I will provide my own chairs ______________

Do you Need Power:   Yes_____ No___ Special Power requirements___________

Would you like to offer a scheduled presentation or workshop? Please provide short description.

Please provide a bio and description of your art/craft form—100 to 250 words (this information will be used in the program and may be edited for style).