

**Contact:**

Nancy Williams, Marketing Director  
Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center  
P. O. Box 268, Townsend, TN 37882  
865-448-0044

[gsmhcevents@yahoo.com](mailto:gsmhcevents@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.gsmheritagecenter.org](http://www.gsmheritagecenter.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **QUILTERS ROAD SHOW TO RETURN FOR FIFTH YEAR**

Townsend, TN – The popular Quilters Road Show, sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and presented by Smoky Mountain Quilters, will return to Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center for the fifth year on Saturday, January 8, 2011, from 10 AM to 5 PM. There is no admission charge for the event.

The Quilters Road Show provides quilters and quilt lovers the opportunity to see quilts in the making, to have quilts evaluated by quilt history professionals, to learn quilting techniques, to have their quilts photographed, and to exchange stories and ideas with other quilters.

“Smoky Mountain Quilters is delighted to be partnering again with Foothills Quilters and the Heritage Center to present this annual event,” Kathy Dittmaier, event co-chairperson said this week. “The Quilters Road Show celebrates the best of quilting and provides opportunities for all quilters to learn something new, whatever their skill level.”

Returning for their fifth year are Merikay Waldvogel of Knoxville, and Becky Harriss of Walland, who will evaluate quilts on the Center’s auditorium stage. They will also offer preservation tips and discuss quilt age and patterns.

A bed turning is scheduled for 3:00 pm, also in the auditorium.

Waldvogel is a nationally known quilt authority, an author, curator and lecturer on quilts and the lives of women who make quilts. Her books include **Quilts of Tennessee: Images of Domestic Life Prior to 1930** with Bets Ramsey, based

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on their statewide quilt search; **Soft Covers for Hard Times: Quiltmaking and the Great Depression**; **Patchwork Souvenirs of the 1933 Chicago World's Fair**; and **Southern Quilts: Surviving Relics of the Civil War**.

Quilters of all skill levels are invited to help make quilts during the day for the Ronald McDonald House in Knoxville. Fabric is provided, but quilters who want to help with the project should bring their own basic sewing supplies.

Visitors will also enjoy display quilts provided by the Foothills Quilters of Blount County.

2011 quilting demonstrations will feature: "Hand Applique," Jane Dunham; "Hand Piecing," Cindy Blackberg; "Needle Punch," Darlene Bakos; and "Hand Quilting and Trapunto," Linda Roy.

New in 2011: Cades Cove Heritage Tours will host a 1:00 PM guided bus tour of Cades Cove for spouses and family members (and quilters, too!) for just \$10.00 per person. The tour is limited to 19 people, and reservations are recommended by calling 865-448-0044 and asking for "tour reservations."

Also for the first time, Mary Grace of Townsend will be on site throughout the day to take photographs of quilts (with or without their quilters). Grace will be located upstairs in the Center's library. Photos will be ready the same day, and quilters will have the opportunity to see a proof before their photo is printed. Cost is \$11.00 for one 8" x 10", unmatted; \$22.00 for one 11" x 14", matted; and \$25 for a CD with the photos. She will accept personal checks or cash (sorry, no credit cards.)

The Heritage Center is located between the Townsend traffic light and the national park entrance, on Scenic Highway 73.

For more information or schedule updates, call 865-448-0044 or visit [www.gsmheritagecenter.org](http://www.gsmheritagecenter.org)

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