

## 2007 Brown Mountain Lights Festival Schedule

The Brown Mountain Lights. What are they? What could they be doing here? Where can I see them? Are they **real**?

These and other questions will be drawing hundreds of visitors to the village of Linville Falls, NC during the weekend of September 14-16 for the second annual festival held in celebration of these mysterious colored lights that have appeared for centuries upon a nearby ridge top. As in last year's fest, mountain music will be an eminent feature joining a lecture series on Saturday to celebrate what is perhaps the most famous of North Carolina's natural mysteries. Regional fine arts and crafts will be exhibited and offered for sale on Saturday. Distinctive Brown Mountain Lights T-shirts and sweatshirts will also be for sale.

Sponsored by the Linville Falls Village Association and Jonas Ridge Fire and Rescue the festival will again converge in Linville Falls, near its junction with highways 221 and 183. For more information, visit the village's web site at [www.linvillefallsvillage.com](http://www.linvillefallsvillage.com) or call Cindy Peters, Parkview Lodge, at 828-765-4787.

FRIDAY, September 14, 2007:

Festivities begin at 7:00 p.m.

- Crossnore Music Jam comes to Linville Falls. Bring your favorite musical instrument and join local musicians in celebrating western North Carolina's rich musical heritage.
- Open Mike Session. Listen to local residents share their experiences of viewing the mysterious Brown Mountain Lights. Enjoy Elizabeth Hardy, renowned local storyteller, while she weaves her stories of a simple country life in North Carolina's majestic mountains.

SATURDAY, September 15, 2007:

Festivities begin at 10:00 a.m.

Beginning at 10:00 a.m., four different venues feature exciting entertainment, including music, speakers, demonstrations, exhibits and fine arts and crafts. Opening ceremonies -- presentation of the flag, singing of the National Anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance -- begin at 11:00 a.m. Jonas Ridge Fire and Rescue will provide food and drinks all day Saturday.

(1) **Center Stage:** Mountain music and bluegrass dominate Center Stage. Popular musical individuals and groups such as Ten Broeke, Lawrence and Larry Wiseman, the Hit or Miss Band, Terry McKinney and Friends, Clearwater Connection and many others promise hand-clapping and foot-stomping entertainment throughout the day.

(2) **Dance Floor:** A wooden dance floor awaits dancers of all ages. Special demonstrations will be made by the Barn Burner Cloggers and the Avery County Smooth Dancers.

(3) **Exhibition Hall:** Featured in the Exhibition Hall are numerous displays highlighting the *Legends of the Brown Mountain Lights*. Every hour, beginning at 10:00 a.m., different speakers will present informative lectures on the history and mystery of the Brown Mountain Lights. Presentations include: “Who Are the Lights,” “Legends of the Lights,” “Sacred Sites of Western North Carolina,” and other interesting explanations and stories about these mysterious lights.

(4) **Exhibit Tents:** Fine regional arts and crafts will be for sale throughout the day, including pottery, jewelry, hand-woven items, handmade wood furniture, and numerous other hand painted and crafted items. Watch for soap making, painting and gemstone cutting demonstrations.

Other exhibitors include local authors selling regional books, and the Avery County Historical Society and Museum selling local heritage publications and music. Holding their first family reunion are descendants of SWINFIELD HILL — during the late 1700's to early 1800's this pioneering family settled in old Burke County, which later became Mitchell County, around the area of present day Buladean — look for the Hill Family Reunion Tent.

7:00 p.m. *Saturday Night: Tours to Wiseman's View to Seek the Lights*

Drive yourself or take a shuttle bus to nearby Wiseman's View to seek the Brown Mountain Lights. Terry McKinney and friends will provide musical entertainment at Wiseman's View. Bring your own chairs and blankets.

*SUNDAY, September 16, 2007: Church Services begin at 10:30 a.m.*

Close out the festivities by joining Dr. Bond for an interdenominational church service at Wiseman's View. Listen to favorite hymns played by local artists echo across the wide expanse of Linville Gorge. Bring your own chairs and blankets.