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Quilt Trail comes to Pickens County

Pickens and Anderson Counties Invited to be part of the Upcountry Quilt Trail

There is great news today on the expansion of the Oconee Quilt Trail project into Pickens and Anderson County. Oconee County will have 13 quilts installed by May of this year, so let's continue that success into this area. With the inclusion of Pickens and Anderson with Oconee the project will now become the Upcountry SC Quilt Trail.

The Quilt Trail began in 2001 in Ohio when Donna Sue Groves installed a painted, wooden, quilt design on her barn in honor of her mother, a fifth generation quilter. From that simple act, the project has spread to more than 2,000 colorfully painted quilt designs on barns and other structures in 25 states.

These Quilt Trails bring an economic benefit to communities by attracting tourists to the countryside and includes historical sites along the route. Businesses that are part of the trail have experienced increased traffic and interest.

This Upcountry SC Quilt Trail will be promoted in brochures and on tourism websites. Each quilt installed will have a page of documentation containing background information and photos. When this project is complete, these pages will become an Upcountry SC Quilt Trail book.

The Pickens County Museum of Art and History (PCM) is pleased to partner with Oconee County's Blue Ridge Arts Council (BRAC) to help in expanding this successful Tourism effort into Pickens County

Residents of Pickens County are invited to get involved. These wooden quilts range in size from 2' x 2' to 8' x 8' and in a range of \$125 to \$500. Do you have a barn, business, church, or historic home where you would like a quilt? Would a group you are with like to sponsor a quilt for a certain location? Would you like to help on the Steering Committee? Are you an Artist who would like to volunteer to paint? Are you a Quilter who would like to help research or select historic quilt patterns? If the answer to any of these questions is 'YES', then please join in this project.

Cindy Blair, of Pickens County, who has been working with the Oconee group has agreed to coordinate this project for Pickens County. She may be reached at (864) 868-2878 or by email at linenmaven@bellsouth.net.

Thanks to all who are helping to spread this beautiful tourism project throughout the Upcountry. For more information on the success of the quilt trail in Oconee County please visit their website at www.oconeeheritagequilttrail.com.