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|  | **West Virginia Division of Natural Resources** [**www.wvdnr.gov**](http://www.wvdnr.gov)**Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor Frank Jezioro, Director****News Release: Aug. 26, 2013**Facebook: [WV Commerce - State Parks](http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/wvstateparks?sk=info)**Hoy Murphy, Public Information Officer 304-957-9365** **hoy.r.murphy@wv.gov****Contact: Paulita Cousin or Lois Reed,** **blackwaterfallssp@wv.gov** **304-259-5216** |

# SeptemberFest at Blackwater Falls – A Terra-good Adventure Sept. 17-20, 2013

 DAVIS, W.Va. - SeptemberFest at [Blackwater Falls State Park](http://www.blackwaterfalls.com/special.htm) is four days and three nights of activities, good food and entertainment. “It has elements of a cruise without the ocean, a sort of ‘terra-cruise,’” said Paulita Cousin, activities coordinator.

 SeptemberFest, scheduled for Sept. 17-20 this year, is an annual event for individuals age 50 and older. “It’s great fun in a place that I consider the greatest event setting, Blackwater Falls in early autumn,” said Cousin. The entertainment schedule features all West Virginians: magician Dave Powers of Clarksburg, singer Dustin McCray of Ireland, and storyteller Granny Sue of Sandyville. “Each artist brings talent and energy to a different evening of SeptemberFest,” Cousin said.

 The four-day, three-night package includes nine full meals, refreshments, access to all planned activities and events, crafts and door prizes. Transportation is provided to off-site tours. Preregistration is required. The package rate varies based on room occupancy.

 To learn more about Blackwater Falls State Park, visit [www.blackwaterfalls.com](http://www.blackwaterfalls.com) or call 304-259-5216 for information or to [make reservations](http://www.blackwaterfalls.com/SeptemberFest%202013.pdf).

**SeptemberFest Schedule**

 SeptemberFest begins Tuesday, Sept. 17, with Dave Powers, “The Magician.” Powers is a Clarksburg native and is an illusionist as well as a ventriloquist and escape artist.

 Activities for Wednesday, Sept. 18, include a tour of the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum at Weston, with lunch at Aladdin’s Restaurant/Wesleyan College Campus. Crafts and activities are planned at Blackwater Falls for those not taking the Weston tour option. Wednesday evening entertainment is by folk and rock singer and guitarist Dustin McCray.

 Crafts, personal interest, or outdoor activities options are planned for Thursday, Sept. 19. The Three Rivers Avian Center’s Birds of Prey program, hikes, crafts, Canaan Valley Scenic Chairlift Ride, and fly-tying workshop are some of the choices available. Granny Sue: Storyteller and Balladeer will be the evening entertainment at 7:30 p.m.

 SeptemberFest activities conclude Friday, Sept. 20, with a Lindy Point hike at 9 a.m., a photography must at Blackwater Falls. The one-mile walk should reveal early fall colors of the deciduous forest at this Tucker County destination. Activities and BINGO precede a farewell lunch, the last of nine meals that are included in the SeptemberFest package.

 Blackwater Falls State Park is located in Tucker County. It is open year-round and features a lodge, 39-vacation cabins, campground, hiking trails, fishing, nature center and programs. The lodge indoor pool and fitness facilities are popular. The gorge view at the lodge, as well as the namesake Blackwater Falls and other overlooks, are iconic treasures of the Mountain State of West Virginia.

**About Dave Powers - “The Magician”**

 Born in Clarksburg, once home to famed magician Duke Stern, Dave Powers started his magical career at age 7 with the gift of a magic set from his uncle. Thirty years later, Dave has become one of the most sought-after magical comedy family entertainers in the tri-state area. He has been part of projects for Paramount Movie Studios and has performed thousands of shows across the U.S. Dave particularly takes pride in his “Summer Reading Program” shows where he encourages children’s reading and learning through the summer vacation months. Powers is also an accomplished ventriloquist, escape artist and live interactive entertainment producer. His many clients include theme park designs for Kings Dominion.

**About Dustin McCray – Singer/Guitarist**

 Dustin McCray of Ireland, W.Va., is a solo acoustic singer/guitarist who’s been a working musician for more than 15 years. His folk/rock style performance features a blend of music from some of the finest of America’s songbooks. He’s performed across the country from large outdoor environments to the cosiest of living rooms.

**About Granny Sue - Storyteller**

 A published writer, Granny Sue is a frequent presenter of programs and workshops at conferences, festivals, schools and libraries. She obtained her BS (Education summa cum laude) in 1991 from WV State College and Master of Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina in 1995.

 Granny Sue writes a daily online journal, “Granny Sue’s News and Reviews”*,* the poetry blog “Mountain Poet,”and a monthly column for the central West Virginia publication “Two Lane Livin’.” Her work has appeared in two anthologies of stories about Appalachian women as well as in other print and online journals. She is the mother of five sons, grandmother of 14, and great-grandmother of one. When not writing or telling stories, she enjoys gardening, canning and life on her small farm in Jackson County.

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