



## Press Release

August 10, 2007

### **Local Artisan Group Rallies For Support Of Davidson's Fort Rebuilding Efforts**

***The Davidson's Fort, a replica 1700's Stockade Fort to be built through donations, fundraisers and volunteers.***

Old Fort, NC August 10, 2007 --The Appalachian Artisan Society (TAAS) Gallery, a Pinwilz™ Company located in Old Fort NC, has orchestrated a fundraiser to assist with the important project of rebuilding the Davidson's Fort. TAASG has donated the grand prize and are selling tickets where 100% of the ticket sales go toward the project.

Davidson's Fort will become a popular tourism destination, provide positive economic growth the area needs and provide important cultural preservation. The fort itself will interpret living conditions and daily life during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

There is evidence that in 1566, a Spanish adventurer named Juan Pardo was accompanied by thirty men, built a log blockhouse at the headwaters of the Catawba River. Around 1770, Samuel Davidson purchased the land which included the present site of Old Fort. A stockade was raised and the settlement around the stockade was the westernmost outpost of colonial civilization at that time. Long since then, the structure has been lost along with its significant landmark importance. Once completed the historic site will be home to:

- The Fort complex
- An Indian Village
- A Civil War tower battery
- An outdoor concert and events stage
- A visitor center with Indian and settlers information
- An Indian artifacts museum
- Public picnic area with field access



TAAS-Gallery is a product of the Pinwilz Company  
48 East Main Street, POB 2242, Old Fort, NC 28762  
828-668-1070 [www.pinwilz.com](http://www.pinwilz.com)



The organization was founded by Mark Hall & Gary Jones in March 2006. They have recently been granted non profit 501(c)3 status and are now in the process of raising the money to finish buying the eighteen acres of land inside the Old Fort city limits.

“The TAAS-Gallery fundraiser intends to raise awareness of the important project and speed its progress,” says Dru Heldman, Co-owner of TAAS-Gallery and chairman for the Old Fort Revitalization Steering Committee. The grand prize is a limited edition Giclee framed print of America’s icon, the Bald Eagle. The image was painted by Bob Travers, an internally recognized wildlife artist who resides in Fairview NC and is a TAAS-Gallery member.

The winner for the grand prize will be drawn on August 25<sup>th</sup> at around 3:00 pm during the grand opening of the new Fine Art Gallery. Everyone is welcome as they will be celebrating the artisan craftsmanship of today, along with the participation in preserving local history in the Appalachian mountains of WNC.

**Event Details:**

- The Fundraiser drawing will be held at 3:00 PM, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 48 East Main Street in the Appalachian Artisan Society (TAAS) Gallery.
- Throughout the day there will be TAAS-Gallery Artisan demonstrations in wood working, painting, weaving and more.
- Local band, “*Rewind*” will be performing throughout the day.



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- A special ribbon cutting ceremony is planned with the McDowell County Chamber of commerce at 2:30 to officially commemorate the new expanded Fine Art Gallery edition to the TAAS-Gallery.
- The public is encouraged to attend and support the Davidson's Fort project by buying a raffle ticket. Tickets are just \$5.00.

To make direct tax deductible donations to Davidson's Fort, visit their website at

[www.davidsonsfort.com](http://www.davidsonsfort.com).

Tickets for the drawing may be purchased now right up until the drawing on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

For additional information on the news that is the subject of this release, contact Dru Heldman or visit [www.taasg.com](http://www.taasg.com).

About The Appalachian Artisan Society (TAAS) Gallery:

TAAS-Gallery is a privately owned retail gallery dedicated to the development of its members who are made up of approved artisans that live in the Appalachian region. The gallery currently has 66 members and actively seeks new members who make authentic handmade products, art or home décor items.

Contact:

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828-668-1070  
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