**EVENT:** Prater’s Mill Country Fair Fundraising Event

**EVENT DATE:** Saturday and Sunday, October 8 & 9, 2022

**CONTACT: Mikey Sims** — Fair Director

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**FAIR INFO:** pratersmill.org/fair/

**DALTON, GA —** Northwest Georgia’s signature event, the Prater’s Mill Country Fair, is planned for Saturday and Sunday, October 8th and 9th , 2022. It is held at historic Prater’s Mill, 5845 Highway 2, Dalton, GA.

“Now that the fair has passed the 50 year milestone, we are grateful to all who helped us grow from an old flour mill in need of tender loving care to an 80 - acre prehistoric site complemented by a 19th century integrated mill complex,” said Mikey Sims, fair director and board member of the Prater’s Mill Foundation, sponsor of the event.

The fundraising event is a North Georgia tradition of Appalachian culture. The fair features the work of talented artists and craftsmen, live entertainment, and the best Southern food this side of heaven. The Fair is centered around its namesake, the restored and functioning 1855 Mill built by John Pitner and inherited by his son-in-law, Benjamin Franklin Prater. The mill still operates during the Fair and is powered by a Poole and Hunt turbine in the Coahulla Creek.   Prater’s Store, other historic buildings and educational exhibits complete the setting of an old-fashioned country fair.

Prater’s Mill Country Fair prides itself in strict regulation of items sold. Crafts must be handmade of natural materials, and art must be original artists’ work. Food must be Appalachian style. Each year invited exhibitors include around 25 with food, 30 new and 145 returning artists & craftsmen.

Now held annually on the second full weekend in October, the Country Fair is the primary fundraising event for the Prater’s Mill Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit

(501C3) volunteer based organization. All proceeds from the event fund the Foundations’ mission to Protect, Preserve, Present the Heritage of the Prater’s Mill Site for Future Generations.

At the fair, visitors can see the operating grist mill. Across the street from the mill, the 1898 Prater’s Store showcases items sold in an old-time country store. Church members serve authentic Southern chicken and dumplings, black-eyed pees and cornbread cooked on a wood-burning stove.

Throughout the fair are all sorts of home-style foods – everything you can barbecue, fry and drink. Each food booth houses its own unique selections. The only duplicates are breakfast, coffee, tea (mostly southern sweet), limeade, lemonade, and Coke® products.

Family activities include pony rides, petting zoo, face painting, and “Little Texas” kids’ train ride. Educational exhibits include working antique tractors, cars, plows, and “Peacock Alley,” a clothesline display of hand-tufted bedspreads.  On stage continuous entertainment features Appalachian-style cloggers, country, and bluegrass artists.

Fair dates are October 8th and 9th , 2022. Fair hours are 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission for adults is $10 cash only. Admission is free for children 12 and under and military with ID. Parking and shuttle are also free. ATM available before gate.  Small wheel strollers won’t roll on gravel. Casual dress and comfortable shoes are strongly urged!

Prater’s Mill is located at 5845 Highway 2, 10 miles northeast of Dalton, 30 miles south of Chattanooga, TN. Take I-75 to the Tunnel Hill-Varnell Exit #341, drive north 4.5 miles to the intersection with GA Highway 2 at Varnell, turn right at Dollar General. Follow the signs and continue straight 2.6 miles to the mill.

For parking directions, details, or to inquire about exhibiting, sponsorship, and/or volunteer

opportunities, call 706-694-MILL (6455) or visit pratersmill.org/fair/.

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