

## Clinch/Powell & Appalachian RC&Ds - Clothesline of Quilts in Appalachia



In a classic example of three states' Resource Conservation and Development initiatives, representatives from two Ohio RC&D's, four Kentucky RC&D's and two Tennessee RC&D's attended a "Clothesline of Quilts in Appalachia" meeting at the Kentucky Artisan Center, Berea, Kentucky on July 13, 2004. This meeting, led by Ohio's Donna Sue Groves representing the Ohio Arts Council, and Lindy Turner and Candy Barbee from Tennessee's Clinch-Powell RC&D, featured presentations of completed sections of the Ohio trail, the Clinch-Powell RC&D's trail and the Appalachian RC&D's trail.

The topic of this lively discussion was inter-locking the Adams County Ohio quilt trail with the Clinch Powell/Appalachian quilt trails in TN by crossing the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Each section would be a loop in itself but would connect with others to build a continuous "clothesline" across the states.

These quilt blocks are painted on plywood or barnwood canvases and then hung on barns and buildings throughout the region. The blocks which are at least 8'x8' are painted in vivid colors that stand out against their backdrops. The blocks are "pinned" to the quilt trail as they are completed.



The purpose of this unique quilt trail is to draw tourists off the interstates and into our beautiful rural areas. Not only do these small towns and farm lands have beautiful vistas and excellent outdoor recreation venues, they also have hometown eateries, handmade crafts and fine arts, farm produce stands and a genuine desire to show-off their rural brand of hospitality while gaining tourism dollars that will boost the economy.

This celebration of National Resource, Conservation, and Development Week focused on both economic development and preservation of Appalachia's culture and quilting heritage through the "Clothesline of Quilts in Appalachia".