



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY  
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## For Immediate Release

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April 29, 2014

### *The Forgotten Basket of the Mountain* A Brown Bag Lecture by Bill Alexander

**PROGRAM:** *The Forgotten Basket of the Mountain*  
a Brown Bag Lecture by Bill Alexander

**DATE:** Noon, Wednesday, May 14, 2014

**LOCATION:** East Tennessee History Center  
601 South Gay Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902

**ADMISSION:** FREE | Attendees are encouraged to bring a  
“brown bag” lunch



Huckleberry pickers Jesse Laws, Mona and Harmon Roberts, and Tom Faulkner, pictured with their berry baskets. Greene County, 1941. Courtesy of the Tennessee State Library & Archives.

(Knoxville, TN) Anyone who knows Bill Alexander knows of his twin passions for poetry and for the “mountain berry basket”--a handy little basket that could be made on the spot to hold berries. In a Brown Bag Lecture on May 14 “Berry Basket” Bill will talk about his research, the baskets he has collected, and the baskets he has made, as well as share some of his poetry. The mountain berry basket was selected as the design for the 2011 Museum of Appalachia Fall Homecoming pin. An authority on the baskets, Alexander is the author of *Mountain Berry Baskets and Mountain Poetry*.

The lecture is in conjunction with the new feature exhibit, *Woven of Wood: East Tennessee Baskets, 1880-1940*, on display at the Museum of East Tennessee History until June 1, 2014. The exhibit features a bark basket from Bill Alexander’s collection made by Rev. Jesse Laws (pictured) of Greene County. Those attending the lecture will receive complimentary admission to the basket exhibit that day.

The program is sponsored by the Harriet Z. Albers Memorial Fund and is free and open to the public. The lecture will begin at noon at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville. Guests are invited to bring a “Brown Bag” lunch and enjoy the lecture. Soft drinks will be available for purchase. For more information on the lecture, exhibitions, or museum hours, call 865-215-8824 or visit the website at [www.EastTNHistory.org](http://www.EastTNHistory.org).

**End Release**