

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARION, VA MOONSHINER BRINGS HOME THE GOLD - AGAIN!

"Best in Class". That's Marion's own Virginia Sweetwater "Shiner's Gold" Moonshine.

In the heart of Marion's historic downtown, Scott Schumaker is smiling. His trophy case inside his unique Main Street distillery is a bit heavier. And his whisky and moonshine bottles are filling up with patriotic ribbons and shiny medals!

Schumaker has been doing a lot of traveling of late. In February, he was in Austin, Texas, for the American Craft Spirits Association annual conference. The competition is stiff, well-funded, and experienced, bringing together the best craft distilleries in the United States. And Schumaker's creations brought home two of the medals.

Appalachian Mountain Spirits "War Horn Whisky" competed in the biggest class to date - 155 whiskys in his class alone - and Marion's own brought home the bronze. "We competed against whiskys from all corners of the country, and came home in the top three in the nation," said Schumaker.

More recently, Schumaker returned from Louisville, KY, with the "Best In Class" award for his Virginia Sweetwater "Shiner's Gold" Moonshine. "My customers tell me I make the best tasting corn liquor," said Schumaker, "and now the industry concurs. We have some of the lowest tech equipment in the industry, but it's specifically made for making old school whisky. That, and a little mountain know-how, and we've got an award-winning 'shine."

"We're proud of Scott and his team," said Ken Heath, Marion's director of Community and Economic Development. "Appalachian Mountain Spirits and their Main Street Mercantile are great for the town, the region, and with these awards, I know Scott is geared up for a great season."

"My mission is to honor the skills of Appalachia Whisky makers, who have been makin' shine for 200 years, right here in Virginia," said Schumaker. "We also have a world class Bourbon aging and the nation's only single Malt Corn Whisky, I'm taking corn to a new level, and having a blast doing so."

Appalachian Mountain Spirits Distillery and Mercantile is one part of a vibrant, resurgence of Marion's Main Street night life. Fridays and Saturdays. Open 7 days a week, Schumaker and his wife Dana welcome customers with their warm smiles and unique shop. "We're always here, regardless of the weather," says Schumaker. "We're always shining!"

Appalachian Mountain Spirits is home of two award-winning spirits, War Horn Whisky and Virginia Sweetwater Moonshine. Other products, including the exclusive "Back of the Dragon" moonshine, flavorings, and a storeful of local and regional crafts, food goodies, and collectibles are available for sale at the downtown Mercantile store. Visitors can also schedule a "Still Night", where Schumaker takes them to the original stillhouse, teaches the craft of moonshining, and provides a special dinner.

The Mercantile is located on 112 East Main Street in downtown Marion, VA. Open 10am-7pm Monday thru Thursday, 10am-9pm Friday & Saturday, and Sunday 1-6. Phone (276) 782-0932

For additional information about the Appalachian Spirits Distillery and Mercantile, War Horn Whisky and Virginia Sweetwater Moonshine, or tasting and "Still Night" opportunities, please contact Scott Schumaker at (276) 782-0932 or email appmtnsprits@yahoo.com.

For information on activities and business opportunities in Marion, contact Ken Heath at (276) 378-5026 or email kheath@marionva.org.

