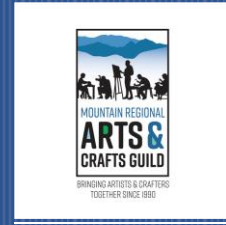


Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild

Newsletter

Fall 2025



Mistletoe Market update



As you can see from our new banner, the location of this year's Mistletoe Market has changed along with the days of the event – instead of the usual Saturday and Sunday, we will be open on Friday and Saturday. We will be holding this year's event at the First United Methodist Church of Union County in Blairsville, 938 GA-515 W, Blairsville, GA 30512. Show Chair, Lisa Burd has informed us that the show is full and that we even have a waitlist!!! There will not be a Sugar Plum Café but we will have two food trucks - Cat Daddy and his affiliated BBQ truck have agreed to be there Friday and Saturday. We will still have a snack/coffee table and are looking for members to bake items and bag them for \$1 sale price. Please note if your baked goods contain nuts. We have secured the advertising for the Allison electronic signs in both Blairsville and Hiawassee. They will be running Saturday November 8 thru Saturday, November 22, 2025. This is a full two weeks. The one in Blairsville will be facing Aldi for those coming into Blairsville. And the one in Hiawassee will be facing those going toward Blairsville.

Message from our President

NEW IDEAS – The neighbor that mows my yard and I agreed recently that the mowing season was over for this year. There had not been any rain for several days and the days were cooler. But then, there was a series of days when it rained every day. I did notice that the grass was growing again and my neighbor said that we would probably need to mow one more time. In addition to the new growth of grass, I noticed some new flowers. I had not seen these flowers during the summer; they were blooming near the pond in front of my house. I thought about how incredible nature was to bring newness into the world when we were thinking that winter “brownness” was about to take over.

Last week I went into my workshop and looked around at supplies, wood stocks, tools, the fact that I needed to sweep the floor (sawdust from previous work). None of the projects still there were appealing. I felt the need to do something new. My imaginative juices were not flowing and nothing was grabbing my attention. It was like I was in the early stages of winter “brownness.”

Then I went to a wood work store just to browse. It was there in the middle of the store that I saw this “new flower.” It was a tool that I had never seen before. It suddenly gave me some new ideas. I need to do some research, but I'll let you see what it is when I have finished my first project.

So, what does this all mean? Sometimes in our artistic endeavors we hit times of no new ideas or little motivation. Our creative minds seem to have started a “winter brownness” and started to be dormant. Based on some things that I have read, we (like nature) go through cycles of creativity, enjoyment, dryness, discovery, and creativity. How do we overcome the dryness cycle? Look around at all that you are experiencing. Let nature surprise you. Let new things surprise you. Go places that you don't get to very often. Look at the new flower, the new product, maybe it's a craft that you've never seen before. Simply look around and see what is new and unexpected. Then let creativity flow.

Follow us on Facebook: Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild or on Instagram: mountain_regional_arts_guild.

Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild is a 501c3 corporation.

Email: mracg.artworks@gmail.com Mailing address: P.O. Box 1047, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Monthly Guild Meetings

Come join us! We would love to meet you and see your artwork! We are a friendly and supportive group of like-minded artisans and crafters. Applications are available on our website or at the meeting

Monthly Guild meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Calvary Corner Fellowship Hall, 1390 Highway 76 E., Chatuge Harbor Plaza, Hiawassee, GA. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2025: November 11, and December 9. Also, if you have a suggestion for a speaker at one of our Guild meetings, please reach out to Pam Coste at pjcoste84@gmail.com. Our presenter for November will be Guild Member, Maya Griffin who will show us her Origami skills – Note: if you have some small scissors (reading glasses for close work if needed), please bring them to the meeting. The December meeting will be our annual Holiday Party (member plus 1 invited) - more details on a later date. In January 2026, we will be doing something with the Elf School in Hayesville – more to come on this event.

August meeting presenter was Susan Kirwin who told us about her journey to find her adoptive family. Very interesting process and the group had many questions for her.

September brought us Wendy Donahue, who was a vendor at this year's Mountain Fling event. She showed us the process of making sour dough starter and for those who pre-ordered sourdough starter kits, I hope your baking has been a success.

October meeting was a show and tell with the members. As usual, this was a fun and interactive event.

Classes: We held the following classes since our last newsletter: Barn Quilt Painting and Designing; Hand Embroidery (Margaret Windham); Crocheting Granny Squares (Lynne Whitener) and Acrylic Painting with Barbara Keyes.



Would you like to teach a class?

We would love to hear from anyone interested in teaching. Pam Coste would like to establish a program for the seniors in the area and would love to work with another Guild member on this project. We are ACTIVELY looking for more teachers in whatever teaching capacity you are comfortable with. You do not have to be a member of the Guild to teach. If you are interested in teaching (or would like more information about teaching) please email mracg.artworks@gmail.com and someone from the Guild will contact you.

Report on 2nd Field Trip

Our second "Field Trip" occurred on Wednesday, July 9. A group of us piled into cars and drove to The Booth Museum in Cartersville, GA to visit a truly wonderful venue. The bronze statues and all other art were out of this world! It was a great day. We spent a couple hours touring the museum and then we gathered for lunch in the museum café. And then what appears to be a "reoccurring habit" we found an ice cream shop on the way home.



The plan is to go to Gibbs Garden in the spring for the daffodil blooming event – we will keep you posted on this event.

Please offer up some other suggestions for field trips for 2026. These trips are turning out to be very enjoyable!

Creative Minds

A group of us get together on the last Wednesday of each month at the Calvary Corner Fellowship Hall, 1390 Highway 76 E., Chatuge Harbor Plaza, Hiawassee, GA (across from the Towns County High School) from 10am to 2pm and just "commune". We bring whatever we are currently working on and our lunch and just enjoy each other's company and talk crafts, art and anything else that

come to our minds. This is open to all members and non-members. So please feel free to join us. If you have any questions, please email mracg.artworks@gmail.com and someone from the guild will get back to you. This is a great way to get/stay motivated – the only risk is that you might find some other "rabbit hole" to go down 😊.

Please note that the next Creative Minds will be the last Wednesday in January 2026 due to holiday conflicts in November and December 2025.

Arts Tour update

We will not be participating in the November Arts Tour event due to lack of venue.

Quilt Fest 2025

On September 12 and 13th, we participated in the 2025 Quilt Fest hosted by the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild held at the Union County Sports Center. It was a well-attended event and a big thank you to those members who participated.



Georgia Mountain Fall Festival.

The festival was held over two weekends, October 10-12 and 16-18. The weather was perfect both weekends. This first weekend was more successful than the second but in total we sold over \$1600. Not as good as past years, but maybe it is just the economy. I would like to thank all of you who helped in the setup, manning the booth and the take down. PC



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Future newsletters

If you would like to submit something for the next newsletter, please send it to

mracg.artworks@gmail.com

Membership

Applications

Can be found on our website:

www.mountainartscrafts.org

If you should have any questions about membership, just email mracg.artworks@gmail.com and someone from the guild will get back to you.

Officers/Chairpersons

President: Larry Krewson

Vice President: Pam Coste

Treasurer: Marion Tillotson

Secretary: Lynne Whitener

Membership: Lynne Whitener

Jury: Barbara Keyes

Shows: Lisa Burd

Education: Larry Krewson /Pam Coste

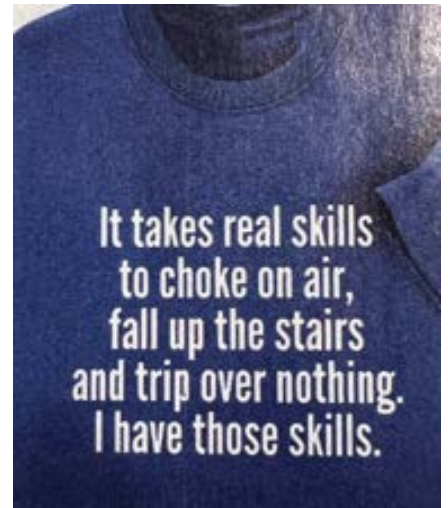
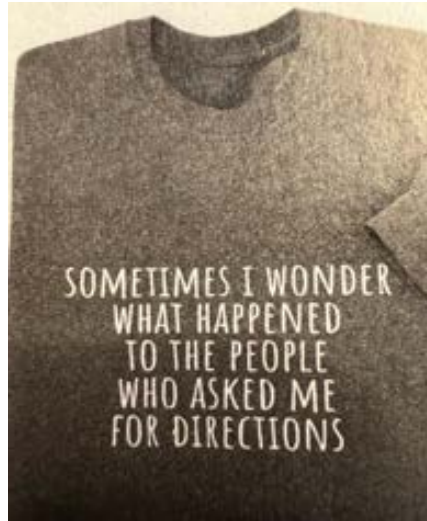
Marketing: Vacant

Website and Social Media: Colleen Conrad - Chambers: Barbara Keyes –
Press releases: Linda Bell

!!!! We are looking for a marketing chair as well as someone to help with social media. Please email mracg.artworks@gmail.com if you can help. We sure could use a hand !!!

Just for laughs.....

I saw these tee shirts and just laugh out loud.....so I thought I would share and also to fill up these last columns 😊



On a more serious note:

A quote for the day:

"The mind of an artist never sleeps, because dreaming is when they do their best work."

— Mark W Boyer