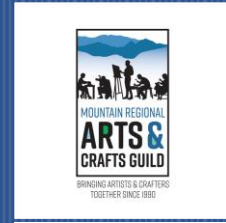


# Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild

Newsletter

Spring 2026



**2026 Show dates have been confirmed:**

**Mountain Fling** – June 19-20  
(set up 6/18)

**Mistletoe Market** – November 13-14 (set up 11/12)

**MOUNTAIN FLING  
INDOOR  
ARTS AND  
CRAFTS SHOW**

FRIDAY, JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>, 10-4  
SATURDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> 10-4

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF UNION COUNTY  
938 HIGHWAY 515 W. BLAIRSVILLE, GA

SHOWCASING LOCAL AND  
REGIONAL ARTISANS  
\$ 3.00 ADMISSION FEE  
VENDOR INFO:  
WWW.MOUNTAINARTSCRAFTS.ORG

**We currently have 23 vendors lined up for the upcoming show. We will have a food truck on site - 2 Breakfast Babes. The Guild will also have a snack/coffee station so we will be looking for donations of our standard \$1 snacks. Flyers will be available at the May Guild meeting for those who wish to help distribute to local businesses.**

**As we have done in the past, the Guild will have its own table for Guild members to sell their items. If you would like to put items in the show, please plan on donating some time to man the booth and or help out in some other way. Please let Pam Coste know if you want to participate in the booth**

Again, both our shows will be held on Friday and Saturday and both events will be at the First United Methodist Church of Union County in Blairsville, 938 GA-515 W, Blairsville, GA 30512.

## 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 [www.mountainartscrafts.org](http://www.mountainartscrafts.org) 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 Alliance Fellowship Hall, 1390 Highway 76 E., Chatuge Harbor Plaza, Hiawassee, GA.

Past meeting presentations: The Elf School. Rachel Watson, program coordinator of the Elf School. Her presentation was extremely interesting as she explained the school's history and her vision for the future. Here is a link to the Elf School website; <https://artistcommunities.org/directory/residencies/elf-school-arts-residency>. In April, Julia Stevens and Virginia Tinsley gave an excellent presentation on the process of Plein Air painting. So many great insights and ideas. 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](mailto:pjcoste84@gmail.com). Our May meeting will be a Guild "Show and Tell". Bring what you are working on to show the group or bring a new idea that you may have just learned about.

**2026 Snack signup:** **May**, Barbara Keyes and Julia Stevens; **June**, Marian Tillitson and Laverne Phillips; **July**, Linda Vanderlaan and Stephanie Brundage (?); **August**, Margaret Windham and Barbara Schmied; **September**, Beth Beasley and Lisa Burd; **October**, Pam Coste and Lynne Whitener **November**, Margaret Windham and \_\_\_\_\_; **December**, Holiday party. Note: helpful if blanks can be filled in. Email [pjcoste84@gmail.com](mailto:pjcoste84@gmail.com) if you can help out.

**Education:** Barbara Schmied and Linda Vanderlaan agreed to co-chair the education committee with Pam Coste. Barbara and Linda are looking into the local home school organizations to see if there is anything we can do with them. I had a meeting with Kim Farmer at Hiawassee Park. I explained what we could offer the residents and she is going to take a survey of what they would like to do. Barbara Schmied arranged for two art teachers (Amber - elementary and Sarah - middle/high school) to attend our April meeting to brainstorm how we could work together. We will be working with them through the summer to see what we can come up with at the beginning of the next school year.

Sarah was saying that it might be really interesting to her students if we could do some demonstrations to her students to broaden their scope.

Amber thought maybe teaching some of her younger students might be a way for us to get involved with the community's youth. She is also looking for toilet paper rolls for upcoming projects. So, save your rolls and bring them to the May meeting and I will arrange to get them to her. Also, check your stash to see if you have any art supplies to would like to donate to the schools. Just send Pam a list of what you have and I will pass it along to Amber and Sarah to see if they could use it.

This will be an ongoing project and if any member wants to be involved, please just let Pam Coste know via email [pjcoste84@gmail.com](mailto:pjcoste84@gmail.com).

## Would you like to teach a class?

We would love to hear from anyone interested in teaching. We are ACTIVELY looking for more teachers in whatever teaching capacity you are comfortable with. Classes can be held at the Fellowship Hall for no fee. 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](mailto:mracg.artworks@gmail.com) and someone from the Guild will contact you.

## RECENT CLASSES

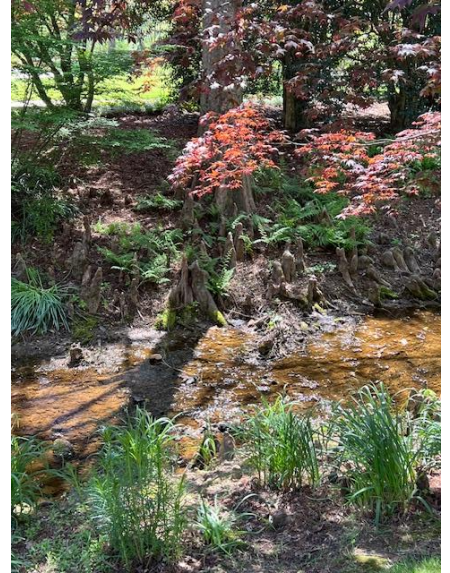


Photos from Barbara Keyes' acrylic painting class and Pam Coste's watercolor/ink class. Next class is on May 22, Perfectly Papered Iris Folding Vase with Cheryl Warner. See information on Guild website [www.mountainartscrafts.org](http://www.mountainartscrafts.org)



## 2026 Field Trips

Our first field trip of 2026 was held on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Four of us went to Gibbs Gardens in Ballground, GA. We had a lovely time, The weather was great (thank goodness) and I know that a lot of pictures were taken for future project references.



We have been tossing around other ideas for 2026 field trips and came up with Atlanta Botanical Gardens in Gainesville, the High Museum in Atlanta, John C. Campbell in Brasstown and maybe visit a winery. If anyone has any further thoughts, please contact Pam.

## Creative Minds

Creative Minds has turned out to be a very enjoyable event and will be continuing in 2026 on the last Wednesday of every month.

We meet at the Calvary Alliance 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](mailto: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 😊.

## Georgia Mountain Fall Festival

At the March meeting the Guild members discussed and voted on applying for a double booth space at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Fall Festival being held two weekends in October. We have received confirmation of our acceptance. Further information will be forthcoming – but mark your calendars!

October 9, 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> (10am – 7pm)

October 15, 16 & 17<sup>th</sup> (same time)

## Plant Affair on the Hiawassee Town Square

The Hiawassee Garden Club invited us to have a table at their annual Plant Affair event on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. It was decided at the April Guild meeting that we would set up an information table promoting the Guild and upcoming classes. Thankfully the weather was good and the only glitch was when the sprinkler system decided to turn on. That was quickly remedied and the rest of the event went smoothly. We had a number of people stop by and inquire about the Guild and upcoming classes. Demonstrations were provided by Marian Tillotson, Barbara Keyes and Pam Coste.



## Future newsletters

If you would like to submit something for the next newsletter, please send it to [mracg.artworks@gmail.com](mailto:mracg.artworks@gmail.com)

## Officers/Chairpersons

President: Barbara Keyes

Vice President: Pam Coste

Treasurer: Marion Tillotson

Secretary: Lynne Whitener

Membership: Lynne Whitener

Jury: Barbara Keyes

Shows: Lisa Burd

Education: Pam Coste, Barbara Schmieid and Linda Vanderlaan

Marketing: Vacant

Website and Social Media: Beth Beasley - Chambers: Barbara Keyes – Press releases: Linda Bell

## “Still” Something new!

### Classified section

I thought that if any of you are anything like me you have a trove of used (but good) items that are just gathering dust in your studios, garages and any other nook and cranny in your homes – and you would like to find a good home for them....then an Arts/Crafts Classified Section could be added to our newsletter. So, I’m going to give it a try. All I would need are the item(s) you would like to either sell (price needs to be included, obviously) or give away – be clear that items are free - **sent to me via email at [pjcoste84@gmail.com](mailto:pjcoste84@gmail.com)** with your contact information – or, if you prefer, you could have interested parties email [mracg.artworks@gmail.com](mailto:mracg.artworks@gmail.com) and I will forward any inquiries to you. We’ll work the bugs out if this takes off.

**ALL FREE** – YOU CAN CONTACT ME AT [PJCOSTE84@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PJCOSTE84@GMAIL.COM)

- Gouache Paints – 24 set of HIMI Jelly Gouache – 8 colors will need to be

rehydrated – others not even opened.

- Gouache tube set.
- Set of 36 Oil Pastels
- 36"x24" Art Portfolio Carrying Case

Barbara Keyes has various items either for sale or for free:

- Card making supplies, embossing folders, dies
- Batik supplies

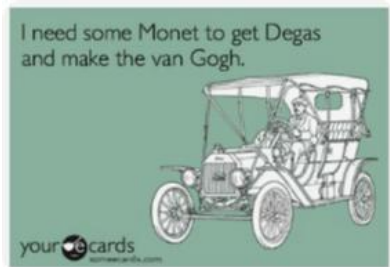
Please email

[mracg.artworks@gmail](mailto:mracg.artworks@gmail) and I will have Barbara contact you.



### Quotes for the day:

1. "Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep." Scott Adams
2. "Creativity takes courage."  
– Henri Matisse



Sad, but true.....