



Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild

Summer/Fall Newsletter

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 and Linda Vanderlaan

Marketing: Vacant

Website and Social Media: Qinghong Wei - Chambers: Barbara Keyes –
Press releases: Linda Bell

Mistletoe Market

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

**First United Methodist Church of
Union County in Blairsville, 938
GA-515 W, Blairsville, GA 30512.**

As of our August 11th Guild Meeting, we currently have 14 vendors lined up for the upcoming show. We will have two food trucks on site - 2 Breakfast Babes and Smoked N' Loaded BBQ. 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 October 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.

New Scholarship Committee re-established

The scholarship committee chaired by Marian Tillotson with Margaret Windham, Gin Fisher, Beth Beasley and Bob Mitchell as acting members was formed at the July Guild meeting. They are looking at ways to help the art community by establishing a scholarship for Young Harris College art students and by also making donations to the Towns County and Union County Schools art programs.

Brief report on Mountain Fling

Mountain Fling was held the 3rd week of June 2026. The Guild worked extremely hard to make it a successful show. Attendance was not what we had hoped for but none the less we did our best. We had some wonderful vendors and hope to see them again at Mistletoe Market.



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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 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.

October's Board and Guild meeting will be held at the Elf School in Hayesville, NC. About a 15 minute drive from our usual meeting place. Pam will provide directions prior to the meeting

2026 Snack signup: **September**, Beth Beasley and Barbara Keyes; **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 if you can help out.

Georgia Mountain Fall Festival

October 9, 10 & 11th (10am – 7pm)
October 15, 16 & 17th (same times)

This event is getting closer and closer 😊. At the last Guild meeting a work schedule was passed around and some of the slots were filled in. There are plenty more spots available. We will be setting up on October 8th from 10 am to however long it takes us..... If you want to put items in the Guild booth, you will

need to agree to help out by either taking a shift or two or helping with set up (10/8) or take down (Saturday, October 17 – 7pm to 9pm). Remember to price your items so that tax is included, rounding up to the nearest dollar. Please make sure that you sign a waiver (previously send to all members – but there will also be some at the booth) and provide an inventory list when dropping off items. Date/Time for dropping off items is October 8th between 10 am and 2 pm. You will see an email from Pam Coste coming out soon with the work schedule and waiver document.

2026 Field Trips

On July 7th a group of us met for lunch at Mariolino's in Hayesville and then drove to the John C. Campbell Folk Art School for a tour of their campus. The weather was great, not too hot and the docent did a great job giving us the history and explaining the mission of the school.

On October 22, we will be meeting at the William Holland Lapidary School in Young Harris and get to tour their facilities and enjoy a dinner with the group (\$10/person to cover dinner). We will meet at the school at 4:30 pm; dinner at 5:00 pm and then "show and tell" by the current students in residence. More information will be forthcoming.

If anyone has any other ideas for field trips, please bring them up at one of the Guild meetings.

Creative Minds

Creative Minds is still going strong 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 comes to mind. 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 😊.



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Guild Member Focus:

This is a new feature that we have taken on. Lynne Whitener will be talking to various members of the Guild and will do a brief interview. This time around she has interviewed Marian Tillotson and Beth Beasley:

Meet Marian Tillotson



Marian has been a member of our Guild for 5 years. She has been Treasurer for the last two years. Her craft is jewelry – she does beading, chaining and wire wrapping.

She spent her first 11 years in a suburb of Washington in Maryland.



Then lived in Frankfurt Germany for 2 years, back to Maryland for a year, off to Okinawa for 2 years, another year in Maryland, then to Florida, where she moved with her parents as a high school senior. She lived in Florida for 10 years, in Miami and

Gainesville. Marian went to the University of Miami for her Bachelor degree, and the University of Florida for her Masters and PhD. She was part of the school system in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina as the Mathematics Coordinator. After she retired, she continued to work for the system helping low performing schools.

Marian recently sold her place in McDonough and moved here with her partner, Cathy. They have been together for 29 years, married for the last 12. Cathy is a licensed counselor and is still seeing clients, most which have been with her for a long time. They still have a condo in Bradenton, Florida.

Marian loves dragons and dogs. She has had dogs since she was 21. Her older brother passed away 10 years ago, but her other brother, Stan, lives in Asheville and is involved in antiques.

In addition to jewelry making, she loves antiques, and she reads a lot – novels, science fiction, and cozy mysteries. She also enjoys reading beading patterns in books and magazines even when she doesn't plan to make the project.

Meet Beth Beasley

Beth has been a member of our Guild for 5 or 6 years. Her crafts/hobbies are jewelry, quilting, reading, traveling, and Kumihimo (which is a traditional Japanese art form of gathered "threads" used to create intricate braided cords).

She has been married to husband, Bill, for 50 years. They have two grown children; Michaela who lives in Ms., and Justin who lives here with them.

When she isn't working on her crafts, or pursuing her hobbies, she volunteers with the Lion's Club of Hiawassee. You can see her quite often working at Anderson Music Hall at the Ga. Mtn. Fairgrounds as an usher for their concerts (in her Lion's Club capacity). In addition to her work with the Lion's Club, Beth also volunteers with the Food Pantry and as a poll worker at election time.

Beth worked in Education for 31 years, as an Elementary and Middle School teacher, and then as an Elementary School Media Specialist.

Recently, Beth has been spear-heading the "hugs" project. This is a quilted-type shawl that volunteers are making for the seniors in our area. The goal is to have 50 by the end of the year. She also loves animals.



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Education:

Now that Towns County Schools are back in session, Pam Coste is having conversations with the two art teachers, Amber and Sarah about what types of demonstrations or classes we can provide. Currently the elementary principal has some hesitation about a program for the younger kids, Pam has scheduled a day in October with at the high school to show the students the needle felting process. Sarah (high school art teacher) suggested that we start with one session a month and indicated that jewelry making would be on her wish list too. This will be a “work in progress” and we are hoping that if all goes well with the high school then maybe the elementary principal will get on board.

Both teachers were very appreciative of all the art supplies that we have provided them.

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.

Would you like to teach a class?

We would love to hear from anyone interested in teaching for the Guild. We are ACTIVELY looking for more teachers in whatever teaching capacity you are comfortable with. Classes can be held at the Fellowship Hall (**no fee charged for the space.**) Instructors charge what they want to be paid, then add \$8 that will go to the Guild. 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. At the last Guild meeting we agreed that our day for holding classes would be on Wednesdays. This will help with scheduling with the Fellowship Hall which has had a few hiccups.

“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** with your contact information – or, if you prefer, you could have interested parties email 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

- Gouache Paints – 24 set of HIMI Jelly Gouache – 8 colors will need to be rehydrated – others not even opened.
- Gouache tube set.
- 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.com and I will have Barbara contact you.



Quotes for the day:

1. **Albert Einstein:** "Creativity is intelligence having fun"
2. **Pablo Picasso:** "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

Future newsletters

If you would like to submit something for the next newsletter, please send it to mracg.artworks@gmail.com