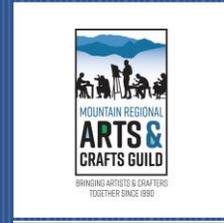


Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild

Newsletter

Winter 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)

Again, 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 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.

Speakers/presenters currently scheduled are March: The Elf School. Rachel, program coordinator will come to our meeting to tell us about the Elf School with the possibility of us visiting the school at a later time. Here is a link to the Elf School website if you are interested in looking it over before Rachel comes to discuss in March;

<https://artistcommunities.org/directory/residencies/elf-school-arts-residency>. In April, Julia Stevens and Virginia Tinsley have agreed to do a presentation on Plein Aire events and how they prepare for them. 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.

2026 Snack signup: **March**, Shirley Snyder and Maya Griffin; **April**, Larry Krewsen and Margaret Windham; **May**, Barbara Keyes and Julia Stevens; **June**, Marian Tillitson and Laverne Phillips; **July**, Linda Vanderlaan and _____; **August**, Margaret Windham and Barbara Schmied; **September**, Beth Beasley and Lisa Burd; **October**, Pam Coste and _____; **November**, Margaret Windham and _____; **December**, Holiday party. Note: helpful if blanks can be filled in. Email pjcoste84@gmail.com if you can help out.

Classes: Pam Coste is looking for people interested in teaching classes. Please reach out to her if you would like to share your skills with the community. Classes can be held at the Fellowship Hall for no fee. Also, Pam is looking for someone to co-chair the education committee with her. Fresh ideas are welcome.

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.

Follow us on Facebook: Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild or on Instagram: [mountain_regional_arts_guild](https://www.instagram.com/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

2026 Field Trips

Our first field trip of 2026 has been scheduled. On April 9, those who are interested in going to Gibbs Gardens in Ballground, GA should meet in the parking lot of the Fellowship Hall, 1390 Highway 76 E., Chatuge Harbor Plaza, Hiawassee, GA at 9 am. The daffodils should be in bloom along with the cherry blossoms and tulips – so bring your cameras! We will be carpooling, **so please let Pam Coste know by April 2nd** if you would like to go and if you would be willing to be one of the drivers. You can email Pam at pjcoste84@gmail.com.

We were tossing around other ideas for 2026 and came up with Atlanta Botanical Gardens in Gainesville, the High Museum in Atlanta 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 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 😊.

Note: if the weather is bad enough for Towns County to cancel school, then this event would also be canceled.

Quilted Hugs

Report from Beth Beasley:

I found out about Quilted Hugs on Facebook. Thought it sounded like a great project. Decided I would like to make them for our nursing home residents here in Hiawassee. They are made with a quilted top and fleece backing. I have been meeting with others at Mountain Quilts to try and form a group to work on these. So far, I have delivered 13 to Chatuage Nursing Home. But we need 110 for the 55 women at Chatuage and the 55 at Brasstown.

If anyone sews (or would like to learn) there are plenty of jobs for everyone. Join us on the first Tuesday of the month, at Mountain Quilts, 12:30.

This is a pay-it-forward project. The instructions are FREE at the top of our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1B57D7YAGW/>. They are not for sale. You may also like our YouTube videos https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8_XvvkKjyM&t=486s Tips & Tricks <https://youtu.be/Y0x90TQy3Zw>.

Here are some of the beautiful “Hugs” that have been created so far.



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: Larry Krewson /Pam Coste

Marketing: Vacant

Website and Social Media: Julia Stevens - 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 !!!!

Future newsletters

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

mracg.artworks@gmail.com

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.

So, I'll start:

ALL FREE – YOU CAN CONTACT ME AT PJCOSTE84@GMAIL.COM

- Various books on Polymer Clay
- 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
- Blick Earthtone Pastels
- Faber-Castell – Set of 24 Soft 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

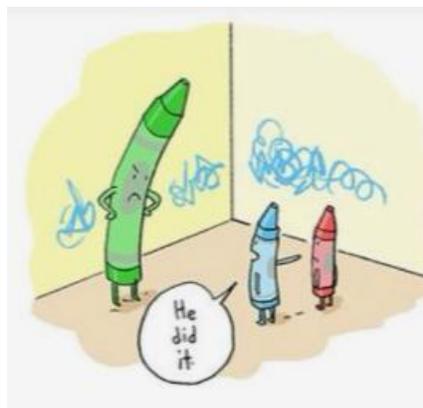
Please email

mracg.artworks@gmail.com and I will have Barbara contact you.



Quotes for the day:

1. "If you hear a voice within you say, 'You cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced" – Vincent Van Gogh
2. "Creativity takes courage." – Henri Matisse
3. "Don't think about making art, just get it done. Let everyone else decide if it's good or bad, whether they love it or hate it. While they are deciding, make even more art." – Andy Warhol



Follow us on Facebook: Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild or on Instagram: [mountain_regional_arts_guild](https://www.instagram.com/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