

## Dec. 2007: Wayne Trapp sculpture installed at Jones House Community Center



Wayne Trapp is a nationally known artist who lives in our community but is known His painting and sculpture are scattered throughout our community but are also in many other parts of the country. Most recently he has installed pieces in Miami and Chicago, with one currently under preparation for shipping to South Dakota. As a long-time friend of the Watauga

County Arts Council, he has graciously agreed to allow the Arts Council to display one of his sculptures, *Gravitational Pull*, for a year on the lawn of the Jones House Community Center, which is owned by the Town of Boone. With the able help of town crews, the sixteen foot high structure was installed by both crane and sheer manpower on the freezing cold morning of December 7, 2007.

Originally a rusted steel, the sculpture was prepared for its tenure at the Jones House by being sandblasted and powder-coated a bright, striking red gloss. It was carefully hauled in by the artist and a helper on a trailer pulled by a modest mini-van. Straps were wrapped around the main trunk-line of the piece, then these were hooked to a crane. and it was hoisted by crane up over the hillside until it was near the concrete sculpture pad. Then the town crewmen, the artist, and his helper all joined together to push it upright (creating a sight reminiscent of the famed photo, *Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima*, by Joe Rosenthal). Finally



the brass pendulum was hung from the uppermost point, hence the naming of the piece, *Gravitational Pull*.

### **Sherry Ann Edwards Memorial Sculpture Exhibition**

#### **background:**

Since the late 1980's the Arts Council has displayed a new piece of outdoor sculpture each year on the pad located on the front lawn of the Jones House Community Center. This annual program is designed to give regional sculptors an opportunity to display a large-scale work in a local setting and to create an atmosphere and opportunity for area artists to show their work celebrating and sharing their diverse visions and talent with friends, neighbors and visitors to our area. By providing a place to exhibit, the Arts Council hopes to encourage and develop existing and potential arts activity in the community. The Watauga County Arts Council sponsors this program in keeping with its mission which is "to sponsor and encourage cultural and educational activities in the creative and performing arts in Watauga County and its surrounding areas." In 1999 the Arts Council's Board of Directors agreed to rename these annual sculpture exhibitions in memory of a local sculptor, *Sherry Ann Edwards*, who had made significant contributions to the advancement of sculpture in the region and even nationally.