

Gallery News!

The **Open Door Gallery** is pleased to have the work of photographer Ann Wolfe. Ann moved to Boone in 1998 and was very moved



by the great beauty that surrounds us here. She was really inspired by the vibrant colors, textures and patterns, expansive vistas, meadows, running

streams, and vegetation she saw. She feels that she has captured these elements very sensitively in her most recent images. Ann's work depicts the traditions, architecture, ways of life, and natural scenic beauty of this very special area. She is always looking for different textures, patterns, lighting and color — how they work with each other or oppose each other. The more texture and pattern, the better for her photography. Ann likes the quality of old wood, shapes of doors, hinges, rusting, etc. that we can see around us. As she travels and spends time in new areas of the country or abroad, she enjoys capturing images that reflect the essence of that particular area.

Expressing different cultural interest, life styles, flora & fauna, and architecture through her work brings great fulfillment to her! Come and see what she has captured with her skillful eye and the camera's lens!



The **Mazie Jones Gallery** will feature the artwork of Marsha Holmes. She is, a native of Charlotte, settled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of NC with her husband and children over 25 years ago. They built a home and the HBarW Ranch where they raise Appaloosa horses. Marsha's formal art training began at the University of N.C. at Greensboro, majoring in Fine Arts, specializing in Painting and Printmaking. She continued her studies at East Carolina University and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. For the past fifteen years, Marsha has worked as an artist and art instructor teaching both children and adults in a variety of programs.

Currently, she teaches art at Project on Aging at the L.E. Harrill Center and Western Watauga Community Center in Watauga County. She curates The Serendipity Gallery at the Watauga Arts Council, exhibiting very talented senior artists. Commissioned works include portraits of people and animals, as well as murals. She has served as juror for the Blowing Rock "Art in the Park" and for the High Country Watermedia Society members exhibit and has presented painting demonstrations and workshops for various artist groups.



Marsha's first show was held here in 2009, with best friends/artists Beth Andrews and Tara Belk. That show traveled for the next year to 3 other art galleries in surrounding counties. This is Marsha's first solo exhibition, as well as being her 60th year celebration. Marsha feels she has been fortunate to have traveled to France, Ireland, England and Italy as well as the Caribbean Islands and the Hawaiian Islands. She can honestly say that she feels nowhere is more beautiful than her home, the northwest mountains of North Carolina. The unique beauty of this area inspires her work as a painter, as well as an art teacher!



The WCAC is grateful for the ongoing support of Cheap Joe's Art Stuff for our Monthly Gallery Exhibitions!



The April exhibits will be on display from May 3rd through May 27th.. Please join us on Friday, May 7th from 6:30—8:00 pm for the gallery reception.

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the Jones House
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Downtown Boone, Ph. 264-1789



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Do you have one of these in your wallet yet?

Watch this area of our newsletter each month to learn which local business is helping to "Make the ARTS a Presence in Our Community."

Present your **membership card** during the Month of May at

Christy & Co.

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Located at Highland Commons,
Near Ingle's in Boone

From the Executive Director's Desk:



Cherry Johnson

Being the Arts Council Director, you'd probably expect me to say this anyway...but I still think there a lot of people who would agree with me that **we're very lucky to be living in such an arts-rich community!** Over the years I've watched with a mixture of delight and awe as the arts are being taken more and more seriously by those who, twenty years ago, might not have felt they were anything more than just a little something extra. Now things like public art, art crawls, concerts...all these are no longer dispensable niceties.

The other night I sat and listened as the Boone Town Council and the Board of Directors of the Downtown Boone Development Association were discussing plans and goals for making downtown Boone more and more appealing to locals and visitors alike. I couldn't help recalling, as they were deliberating on what exactly public art was and discussing the future of public art in downtown Boone, another conversation back in the fall of 2005 around the DBDA meeting tables when they first starting exploring the idea of using art to make the downtown more inviting. Because they weren't quite sure how to approach this, I agreed to write a grant in their behalf to the North Carolina Arts Council for funding for Public Art Planning. With that grant, a consultant was hired and a Public Art Plan was developed for downtown Boone. Obviously something is working! Here in 2011, only five and a half years later, we are about to celebrate the installation of the Doc Watson Statue. And we have another permanent sculpture donated by the artist (Wayne Trapp) which caps Depot Street right near the library; there are unique and artistic benches gracing the west entrance to downtown Boone; and then there are three sites on which large-scale sculptures are rotated annually. We've come a long way very quickly! All that is without even counting the rotating sculpture pad in front of the Jones House and the wonderful artistic "Fench" created by Blue Mountain Metalworks and Dirk Brown which marks the end of the lawn of the Jones House. Boone is definitely far more appealing since these works of art have been added!

As the Town Council and the DBDA Board moved on that evening to discuss the now firmly established Art Crawls, I remembered Jamie Goodman, Brian Lee, and myself sitting in several DBDA meetings way back in 2001 trying to explain to the downtown merchants of that time why bringing hoards of people downtown once a month to celebrate the arts could benefit even the least artistic business. It's such a delight to see how the Art Crawls have become a staple of downtown Boone within the last decade!

I'm so proud of the way the community has not only "bought in" to the arts, but has recognized and now cherishes the added value it gives to all of our lives (in addition to the obvious economic values). It makes me proud to be a part of this community and I hope you feel the same way! Watauga County is a great place to live with the arts!

MAY EVENTS

- ◆ Friday, May 7th- Art Crawl & Gallery Reception at the Jones House from 6:30-8:00 pm
- ◆ Every Thursday - Free Acoustic Jams from 7:30-11:00 pm
- ◆ Thursday, May 26th—Summer Music Lessons begin
- ◆ Saturday, May 28th—The Artfull Palette 6:30-9:00pm in Rosen Concert Hall

BE SURE TO WATCH OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.WATAUGA-ARTS.ORG AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES!

Congratulations to Joanne Aldridge who recently won the North Carolina Press Club Award for Special Articles-Reviews and Special Articles—Arts and Entertainment in the 2011 Communications Contest for the 6th year. The winning articles have appeared in the Watauga Democrat.

Thanks to our generous supporters & members for their recent gifts!

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Individuals and Families

John & Carol Turner
Doug & Pam Washer
Eula Mae Fox
Rose and Craig Bridgeman
Wes & Lynne Waugh

A Traditional Note from our Folklorist:



Mark Freed

Greetings friends~

Last month I wrote about 60-plus-degree days, and we have now even seen the 80s. The lovely spring weather certainly gets summer on the brain, and we are preparing for a busy one here at the Watauga Arts Council and Jones House Community and Cultural Center in downtown Boone.

Visit the Arts Council website (www.watauga-arts.org) for a look at our 2011 **Concerts on the Lawn** schedule. We have a very exciting summer planned with old favorites, new selections, and a couple showcase evenings. The concerts will be packed this summer with visitors and great



performances, so please be sure to show up with your chair starting in June to get in on the action.

And if you really want in on the action, please get in touch with me soon to sign up for our **Summer**

Music Lessons at the Jones House. This is the time of the year when we open our group lessons to adults, in addition to kids. Once we have enough students to put together a class (4-5), we schedule group classes on Thursday afternoon and evenings. We group lessons into five-week sessions, with weekly lessons. This year, we plan to offer lessons in fiddle, guitar, banjo, and mandolin. We may also offer classes in dulcimer and flatfoot dance if we get enough interest. So, dust off those instruments, get in touch, and get active this summer with our music lessons.



And, as always, if you want a taste of traditional music without the commitment of our summer classes, stop by the Jones House on a Thursday evening between 7:30-11:00 for the weekly **Jones House Acoustic Jam**. These jam sessions take place all year, and the nice weather has allowed some of the musicians to venture onto the porch. There is not much better than picking on the porch in the summer time (or spring!), so come out and join us. See you soon!

Cheers,
Mark

Focusing on Arts in Education:

Our Annual Summer Arts Camp is less than two months away! We have a lot of fun in store for our campers.



Christy Chenausky

Summer Arts Camp registration is open and filling up quickly! Camp will be held at the new Watauga High School June 20-25, 2011. Our featured production will be "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." I know it will have a Missoula Children's Theatre twist to it that will add some fun and more adventure to an old favorite. You can sign your camper up by using the forms that are posted on our website, (or by contacting me).



Thanks to the generous friends of long time theatre teacher, Tom Lanno, we have a scholarship fund that continues to grow. Tom was an instructor during our Summer Arts Camp who recently passed away. Gifts to the scholarship fund have been received in his memory by the Arts Council. We already miss Tom and the enthusiasm he brought to teaching each of us. We are thankful and humbled to continue his legacy of bringing theatrical experiences to children.



Summer Arts Camp is quite a week. If you are curious about the end product, come out and see the performance for yourself. The performances will be held at 3pm and 6pm on Saturday, June 25! You will be able to purchase tickets at the door.

Christy Chenausky
Community Arts Education Coordinator