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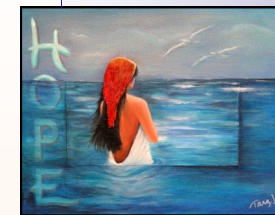
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Cherry Johnson,
Executive Director
cherry@watauga-arts.org
Mark Freed, Folklorist and
Traditional Arts Coordinator
mark@watauga-arts.org
Christy Chenausky, Community
Arts Education Coordinator
christy@watauga-arts.org
Teena Cone, Office Manager
and Visual Arts Coordinator
teena@watauga-arts.org

Gallery News!

The **Open Door Gallery** is pleased to have the artwork of Tara Belk. Tara has been living and creating art in the Blue Ridge Mountains for the past twenty years. She grew up in Minnesota of Scandinavian



descent and attended college there. Like most children, she loved to draw from a very early age.... moving from crayons to pencils and then to paints. She took her first oil painting class at 14

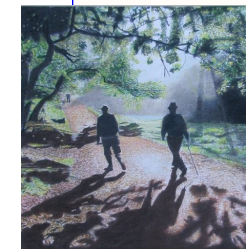
receiving the lessons as a gift from a close family friend and her mother. Never dreaming her most enjoyable pastime could actually become a career, she focused on other studies in college. Afterwards, moving on to Arizona where she worked, married and honed her drawing and painting skills under brilliant desert skies. Eventually, she moved east and earned a Creative Arts Degree from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Her artwork found its way into numerous exhibitions, receiving awards and a place in both private and public collections. After visiting the Blue Ridge Mountains and sensing a deep connection, she knew she'd found her permanent home.

She now divides her time between teaching drawing, painting and pottery at her Trade, Tennessee studio and also at ASU in the Craft Enrichment Department, and creating her own personal expressions in clay, pastel, and paint. The inspiration for her work stems from her love of the mountains, a grateful heart and a desire to honor her Creator.



Tara has exhibited at the Jones House only in group shows in the past and we are excited to have her for a solo show this month!

The **Mazie Jones Gallery** is featuring the colored pencil artwork of Bob Stevens. As it is with many artists, Bob had a pretty full life before his artistic abilities came to light. He worked for 32 years in the computer business and raised a family with his wife and four children. His mother taught a ceramics class and his mother-in-law was a painter. After



Bob's retirement his mother-in-law introduced him to oil painting and became his mentor for about 10 years before her death. Bob then studied oil painting at the Lighthouse Gallery in Tequesta, Florida under a number of talented instructors.

Then about 8 years ago, he was sketching objects and people in black & white and he decided to add color. The black & white with graphite pencils and the colored pencils didn't mix well. So, he decided to take a colored pencil class and a new learning curve began to develop.

While here in Boone, he started taking weekly lessons from John Bond, the owner of Art Mart. Colored pencil is a layering process using different colored pencils to achieve value, hue and shading. Varying the amount of pressure with a colored pencil produces the value desired.

Although he has experimented with watercolor pencils and adding watercolor to a few paintings, his goal is to produce each "painting" using only the prisma color colored pencils no matter what the subject —animals, structures, landscapes, people, water, or any combination thereof.

Bob also enjoys writing poetry for family and friends and includes poems in greeting cards for special occasions.

Bob has exhibited recently at the Edgewater Cottage in Blowing Rock as part of the Artists in Residence series. We are so happy to have him exhibit here with us this month!



The **Serendipity Gallery's** featured artist this month is Mahala Porth. She started painting with watercolors 8 years ago. Mahala is from Elkin, NC and after living in several areas of the country has settled in Blowing Rock with her husband, Jack.

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



The September exhibits will be on display from August 30th through September 30th. Please join us on Friday, September 2nd from 6:30—8:00 pm for the gallery reception.

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage Paid
Standard Mail
Permit #85
Boone, NC 28607

Office & Galleries located in
the Jones House
Community Center
at 604 West King Street in
Downtown Boone, Ph. 264-1789

Boone, NC 28607
PO Box 366, DTS



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 September at Appalachian Music Shoppe and receive a special discount just for WCAC members!



Appalachian Music Shoppe
is located at
324 Hwy. 105 Ext.
Carriage Square in Boone
(828) 263-0051
(828) 295-9683
<http://www.appmusic.com>

From the Executive Director's Desk:



Every month I sit down to my computer and try to decide which of so MANY possible topics to focus upon in this little note to you, our supporters. Sometimes I try to tell you about something we're doing. Sometimes I try to thank people who've made it possible for us to serve our community in so many ways. Sometimes I try to urge you to get more involved personally...and sometimes I'm just trying to get you to take advantage of the many wonderful opportunities that are offered through our organization. This month I'm feeling indecisive (or possibly I'm feeling overwhelmed) ...so please bear with me as I touch on several things:

- Cherry Johnson**
- 1) As Mark pointed out, it's time for JAM (Junior Appalachian Musicians) to crank up again. I look forward to crazy, hectic Thursdays with kids spilling out of every nook and cranny of the Jones House as they take lessons in fiddle, banjo, guitar, and mandolin. Yes, I do get a little tired of hearing the same tune squeaked out week after week but it's such fun to see their excitement, pride, and energy at the end of the term when they show off for their parents what they've learned.
 - 2) We have had such a wonderful 19th season of Summer Concerts on the Lawn that I truly hate to see it end...but I want to personally thank all our wonderful sponsors: Mast General Store, Footsloggers, MPrints, Melanie's Food Fantasy/Stick Boys, and the DBDA. You guys are great!
 - 3) Speaking of wonderful sponsors, PLEASE take advantage of this month's Membership Discount....take that membership card you were sent when you joined the WCAC over to **Appalachian Music** anytime during September and get **10% off** on anything in the store. Hey, not bad!!!
 - 4) Keep watching our facebook page and our website. There's far more going on with the WCAC than we can ever squeeze into this newsletter so you really need to check our website and/or "like" us so you can get photos of things we're doing, hear about new things coming up, and just feel like a part of the action. We've now got more "likes" than we do "members" so it's high time we stepped up the member totals. How about asking your friends to join you in supporting the Arts Council's work in our community?
 - 5) And now that we've mentioned things coming up, there's a deadline coming up for artists. The **Regional Artist Project Grant** deadline for this year is only days away. It's **September 16th at 5pm**. So to help artists prepare, I'm offering an informational workshop on **Thursday, September 1st at 5:30 pm** at the Jones House Community Center. Please pre-register by emailing me at wcac@watauga-arts.org or call 264-1789.
 - 6) Finally, I'd like to extend a hearty WELCOME to our 3 new board members...Gary Nemcosky, Priya Daas, and Sarah Bergstedt! We're so excited that they're going to be working alongside us!

September Events

- ♦ **Friday, September 2nd - 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 afternoons—Summer Music Lessons**
- ♦ **Concerts on the Lawn every Friday at 5:00pm through September 16th (Bring a chair or blanket)**



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

Partners

Bob Snead
Mazie Jones Levenson
Pat Geiger
High Country Watermedia
Ashley & Craig McKinney

Individuals and Families

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Pat & Mike Moritz
Gary Nemcosky

Gary Hobbs
Pat Lanno
Linda Elksnin
Susan McCracken
Oscar Knight
Richard & Mary Gray
Marianne Suggs



Mark Freed

A Traditional Note from our Folklorist:

Greetings friends,

The school year has begun, and I am enjoying the cooler nights of late August, but we are not quite ready for summer to end.

We still have three great **Concerts on the Lawn** performances coming your way in September. Join us on September 2 for an evening with vocalist-extraordinaire, **Auden Parks** (who you might have heard singing "Happy Birthday" at Makoto's - yes, the one with the amazing voice!), and the soulful, feel-good, rocking sounds of **Sould Benefactor**. We will get back to our folky (and flowery) roots on September 9 with performances by **Mountain Laurels**, a group of ASU women with passion for a variety of world folk music, and **The Forget-Me-Nots**, with the unforgettable fiddling girls, who have been playing together since they were 2, 3, and 4-years-old (they are now teenagers and AMAZING fiddlers and tunesmiths). We will wrap-up the 2011 season with an evening with the old-time variety of songster, **Matt Kinman**, and the harmony singing and playing of **Lisa Baldwin and Dave Haney** on September 16. Be sure to get out to one of these last Concerts on the Lawn for 2011.

We are still enrolling student in our **Junior Appalachian Musicians** program, which begins on September 15. The classes are filling up, and we will be offering instruction in fiddle, guitar, banjo, and mandolin. We have about 70 students thus far, representing 1st through 12th grade and schools from all over the county. If you know a young person that would be interested in learning to play an instrument or improve upon their skills, have his or her parent drop me a line, and we will get them involved. If you would like to sponsor a child's scholarship for the program, please drop me a line. \$100 gets about 25 lessons for a student - one of the best deals around!

See you soon!

Mark



Focusing on Arts in Education:

September full of exciting things for Arts in Education within Watauga County! I am working on a variety of alternatives to our Touring Arts Program



Christy Chenausky

and as those ideas and plans come together we will be enjoying a few residencies at local schools.

The last week of this month will kick off the start of a two week long residency with mosaic artist, Pam Brewer. Pam

will be working with our students at Watauga High School to create a permanent mosaic piece for the new Watauga High School building. The first week of this residency will take place this month and the second week will take place in April 2012.

Also, on the last week of September we will welcome Allan Wolf, performance poet to Cove Creek and Mabel Schools. Allan will be working with seventh and eighth grade Language Arts classes at both schools on poetry (writing and performing)! We are so thankful for the continued support of the North Carolina Arts Council who have made this week possible. We hope it will inspire a new group of budding poets to enjoy writing and sharing their work while introducing future classmates to each other in a fun cooperative and productive environment!

Christy Chenausky
 Community Arts Education
 Coordinator

