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## Watauga Arts Council Staff

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Traditional Arts Coordinator  
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Christy Chenausky, Community  
Arts Education Coordinator  
[christy@watauga-arts.org](mailto:christy@watauga-arts.org)

The **Mazie Jones Gallery** will feature the artwork of **Janet Montgomery** for the December Art Crawl. She has been a prolific drawer since she was a child growing up in eastern North Carolina. In college, she studied graphic design and painting using acrylic paint, but she did not like the medium. After college, she went outside her comfort zone trying many different mediums including oil paint, encaustic (wax), assemblage, and digital medium.

To Janet, art is research. She finds that it is a process of exploring the abilities of a medium and what colors fit within each art work. Also, she believes it is an intellectual process influenced by sensations from one's environment and from interactions with others. She is influenced by nature and natural forms. For Janet, a landscape painting is similar to a postcard from the subconscious. Therefore, her paintings are supposed to reflect more than one sensory experience: vision, sound, smell, taste, touch. She like to focus on composition but also on narrative qualities of her work. Therefore, she likes to leave room for interpretation for the viewer.

Recently, Janet has become interested in digital media and mixed media work. She has been exploring photography and cloud computing. Janet has also received a Regional Artist Project Grant in 2009 that allowed her to investigate encaustic at Penland School of Crafts. This experience has led her to artwork to shift to three-dimensionality.

One of her works, "Winter Woman," is a collection of feathers, sunlight-exposed tarpaulin, polymer clay, encaustic, and felt. She does not want the piece to mean anything specifically, thus she leaves room for the audience to bring in their personal experiences and imagination to narrate the work.



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

## Gallery News!

The **Open Door Gallery** will exhibit works by **JoAnn Pippin**. After retiring from her career in electronic publishing, she began selling her watercolor paintings at art fairs and galleries in the summer of 1995.



She draws from her experiences of traveling for her artwork. JoAnn and her husband, Ron, have live abroad on a boat, cruised along the Intercoastal Waterway from Maine to Key West, and have traveled across the United States and Canada in their camper. Every year, they work in National Parks as volunteers like the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Acadia National Park. Recently, they have settled in Boone, NC.

JoAnn draws from her appreciation of these places for her art work. Her paintings are not strictly representational. They are her reactions to a scene or subject that are

reflected in her composition and design elements. Her works are landscapes, nature close-ups, interiors, and scenes with figures.



JoAnn has studied at the Art League School in Alexandria, VA, and she has studied with nationally acclaimed artists including Jane Cordes Simanis, Marge Henderson, Susan Abbott, Ted Butts, and Gwen Bragg. Her landscapes and close-ups of nature have appeared in galleries and juried shows in Tennessee, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Maine, California, and Colorado. Be sure to check out her website [www.pippin-arts-prints-and-paintings.com](http://www.pippin-arts-prints-and-paintings.com) to see more examples of her work.

*The December exhibits will be on display through December 21st*

*Please join us on Friday, December 2nd from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. for the gallery reception.*

***THE JONES HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 22nd till JANUARY 3rd. We will re-open on Wednesday, January 4th at noon.***



## From the Executive Director's Desk:

On behalf of the board and staff of the Watauga County Arts Council and the Jones House Community Center, I want to take time to thank two very special people, Sarah Grenier and Jasmine Ammon, who have been absolute lifesavers during the month of November.

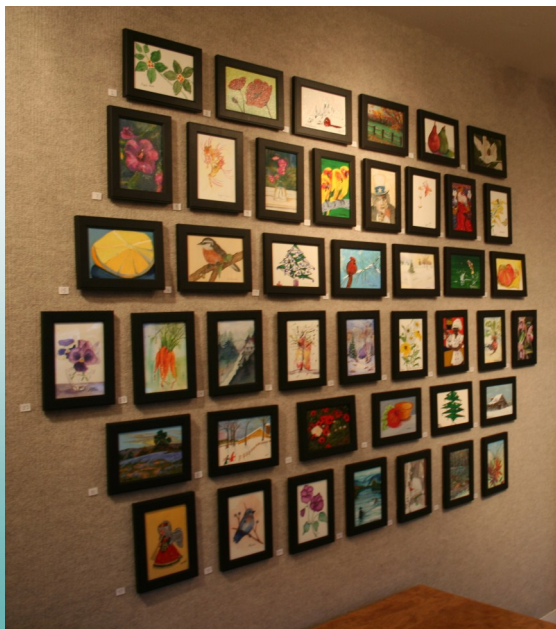
As you may recall, our Office Manager, Teena Cone, is no longer with us (although she'll occasionally be around as a volunteer, she will be wintering in Florida with her husband). November is always a very intense time at the Jones House, when we have to not only do our normal business, but we also have to decorate the Jones House for the holiday season....quite an intensive process stretching over 2 1/2 weeks!

We always work with work-study students and have had some real gems in the past. But the two young women with whom we're working this year have been extra-extraordinary and, in particular, we have been grateful to them for teaming up to step into the temporarily vacant shoes of our Office Manager in the last three weeks while also putting in extra time and energy during those same three weeks to become the core of our decorating team to decorate the Jones House for the holidays. Amazingly enough, they are also both full-time students at ASU and I understand that they are both doing very well in their studies.

Sarah and Jasmine have become quite accomplished decorators and can create some pretty incredible wreaths! You really should make a point of coming by the Jones House this holiday season to see the wonderful work they've accomplished.



However, Sarah and Jasmine won't have to multi-task forever.....be sure to come by the Jones House during December to welcome our new Office Manager and Visual Arts Coordinator, Sarah Collins.



## Many Minis in the Serendipity Gallery

The Serendipity Gallery is Featuring Many Minis this holiday season. This exhibit features 43 works of art.....each is 5x7 and include many different mediums. They are available for purchase for only \$25, a price which will fit everyone's holiday budget, and come pre-framed. You can hang them or they look wonderful sitting on bookcases or tables. Our Serendipitous artists come to us through the Project on Aging. They attend art classes at the Lois E. Harrell Senior Center and the western Watauga Community Center under the direction of Marsha Holmes. Be sure to stop by, check them out, and shop local!

### December Events

- ◆ Friday, December 2nd - Art Crawl & Gallery Reception at the Jones House from 6:30-8:00 pm
- ◆ December 22nd —January 3rd —CLOSED for the holidays season
- ◆ WEDNESDAY, January 4th —Jones House re-opens at noon
- ◆ Thursday afternoons—Junior Appalachian Music Lessons will only meet at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 pm on December 1st and 8th. The Recital will be on December 15th at the Harvest House
- ◆ Every Thursday - Free Acoustic Jams from 7:30—11:00 pm (come to play or just to listen!)



## A Traditional Note from our Folklorist:



**Mark Freed**

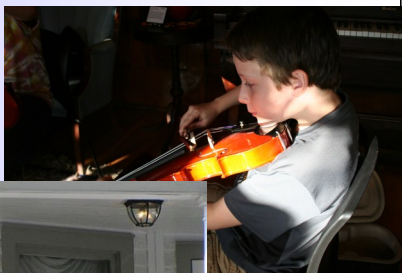
Here we are – the last newsletter of 2011. My, oh, my how the time does fly. We are on the eve of Thanksgiving as I type this newsletter greeting, and I have much to be thankful for this year. Most of all, I was blessed to bring a baby boy into the world in August, and my family continues to grow. I'm also thankful to continue my work as folklorist with the Watauga County Arts Council.

Times are tough for people, companies, and organizations all over the globe as we crawl our way out of the recession. The world of the arts, and traditional arts, are as threatened as we have been with funding cuts, increased competition for grant money, and the uncertainty of a wavering economy.

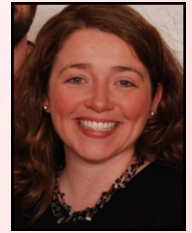
Despite these tough times, you have continued to support the Watauga County Arts Council. This year, we have increased our membership, participation in programs, audience members, and number of artists with whom we work. This year, I am especially thankful for your continued support and participation.

Without our members and patrons, we would not be able to offer weekly jam sessions, affordable music lessons for kids, and free concerts throughout the summer. This year, as we all take time to reflect, please know that you made a difference and helped improve our community by making the arts present. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mark



## Focusing on Arts in Education:



**Christy Chenausky**

It is hard to believe that this year is coming to an end. WCAC's Arts in Education has continued to thrive despite steep budgetary costs. We conclude the fall semester having reached thousands of Watauga County School children and their teachers with meaningful performance and classroom experiences with artists.



Looking toward next semester we still have much more to do and see. Many more exciting opportunities await our students! I am honored to work among such a collaborative group of community members. We have relied on our friends and neighbors at ASU and Lees-McRae to continue to help us offer top notch programs for our students and teachers.

Thanks to our friends at Watauga High School and to a generous grant from the North Carolina Arts Council – we will enjoy some spectacular live performances in the spring. I'll tell you more about those soon!

In the meantime, if you are interested in supporting our arts in education programs, please be in touch with me.

Christy Chenausky  
Community Arts Education Coordinator

During December, be sure to use your WCAC Membership Card to get a 20% Discount off the original price on purchases from Vendors L700-L999 at



in Downtown Boone!

Return Service Requested

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

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 WCAC **membership card** during the month of  
December at ArtWalk and receive a special discount just for  
WCAC members!

Located at 611 West King Street in Downtown Boone