

MORGANTON'S FOURTH ANNUAL

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA STUDIO GLASS EXHIBITION

An Annual Celebration of Art Glass

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, June 13

5:00 - 8:00PM

June 13 - July 17, 2015



Footbridge by Ben Elliot

BURKEARTS.ORG

Toe River Studio Tour

continued from Page 30

Tour Guides are available and can be found at venues throughout the region and at all participating studios and galleries. You'll also be able to view the guide online, get links to artist websites, sponsor information and links, and links to places you can stay during your visit to the area.

Before the tour, the exhibition at the Spruce Pine Gallery displays the work of all participating artists, arranged geographically. The exhibition runs through June 7, the last tour day. Beginning at 5pm, on the first Friday, June 5 of the tour, TRAC offers up a down home reception. Visitors take their first go-round during the day (noon to 4pm), then gather at the gallery that evening. With tour guide in hand, visitors can plan their next two days. Artists rub shoulders (it's always packed) and make new friends, talk with old ones, munch on sumptuous finger foods, and enjoy a glass of wine or hand-crafted beer. The fun lasts until 7pm. It's all part of the party. Come see what's generating all that excitement in the summer, in the mountains.

For further information check our NC

The Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, Offers Works by Avery County Artists

The Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, will celebrate the talent of our neighbors to the north with an invitational exhibition for Avery Artists, on view in the TRAC Burnsville Gallery, from June 27 through Aug. 8, 2015. It will feature works in clay, fiber, wood, painting, photography, and include handmade books. A reception will be held on July 10, from 5 to 7pm.

Although tourism is the leading industry in Avery County with the South's highest ski slopes, nine major golf resorts, and scenic Grandfather Mountain, it is also home to many renowned artists spread out through



Work by Michael Rutkowaky

Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/682-7215, 828/765-0520, e-mail to (toeriverarts@gmail.com) or visit (www.toeriverarts.org/studio-tour/).



Work by Craig Franz

the almost 250 square mile region. For the past three years, TRAC has had Avery artists in their gift shops, and now we bring them to the gallery's forefront in a special

continued above on next column to the right

showcase.

This June the gallery will welcome clay artists: Pam Brewer with her powerful animal imagery that speaks to her connection with the natural world, Joe Comeau, former Bakersville resident, gallery owner, and instructor, and Patti Connor-Greene, who has lived and worked in the shadows of Grandfather Mountain since 2008.

Painters include Craig Franz and Gaylene Petcu. A 42-year resident of the High Country, Franz works in both pastels and oils, inside the studio and plein air. Gaylene Petcu, no stranger to regional exhibitions, considers, "Painting...my way of exploring the wonders of the natural world."

Skip Sickler, an outdoorsman and TRAC gift shop artist, uses his photography to explain his awe of nature.

When not behind her loom, weaver Heidi Fisher manages at The Crossnore Fine Arts Gallery at the Crossnore School in Newland. Barbara Aycock, the newest member of the TRAC gift shop roster of artists, hand creates books, full of whimsy and wisdom.

Rodger Jacobs has been teaching woodturning since the late 1980's, has exhibited in shows across the country and has his work in several private collections. Alan Hollar also has been turning since the 80's. Working with wood, in his own short description is "Art and nature in concert."

These ten artists come from different backgrounds and have different disciplines. But they have at least three things in common—their love for the area in which they live, the effect that nature and the inherent natural beauty of Avery County have on



Works by Pam Brewer

their work, and their dedication to their art. The exhibit recognizes those three commonalities with "Avery Artists" and welcomes everyone to stop by the Burnsville Gallery in Yancey County and see what's happening in the arts just over the Mitchell border.

Naturalist John Muir put it succinctly when he offered, "Break away once in awhile and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean." These Avery artists seem to have taken that to heart.

The Toe River Arts Council is a not for profit organization promoting the arts in Mitchell and Yancey Counties, and supported by donations, memberships, local government, grants (including the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts), and supporters who understand the benefit of art in our community.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/682-7215 or visit (www.toeriverarts.org).

The Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, Offers 200 Years of One Family's Chairs

When you walk through the doors of the Spruce Pine TRAC Gallery between June 20 and July 25, you'll smell the forest.

A reception honoring the seven generations of chair makers will be held on Friday, June

26, from 5 to 7pm at the gallery. You'll feel the silken smoothness of the chair arms, the legs, the backs. You'll see the sheen only a hand-rubbed oil finish can produce.

continued on Page 32