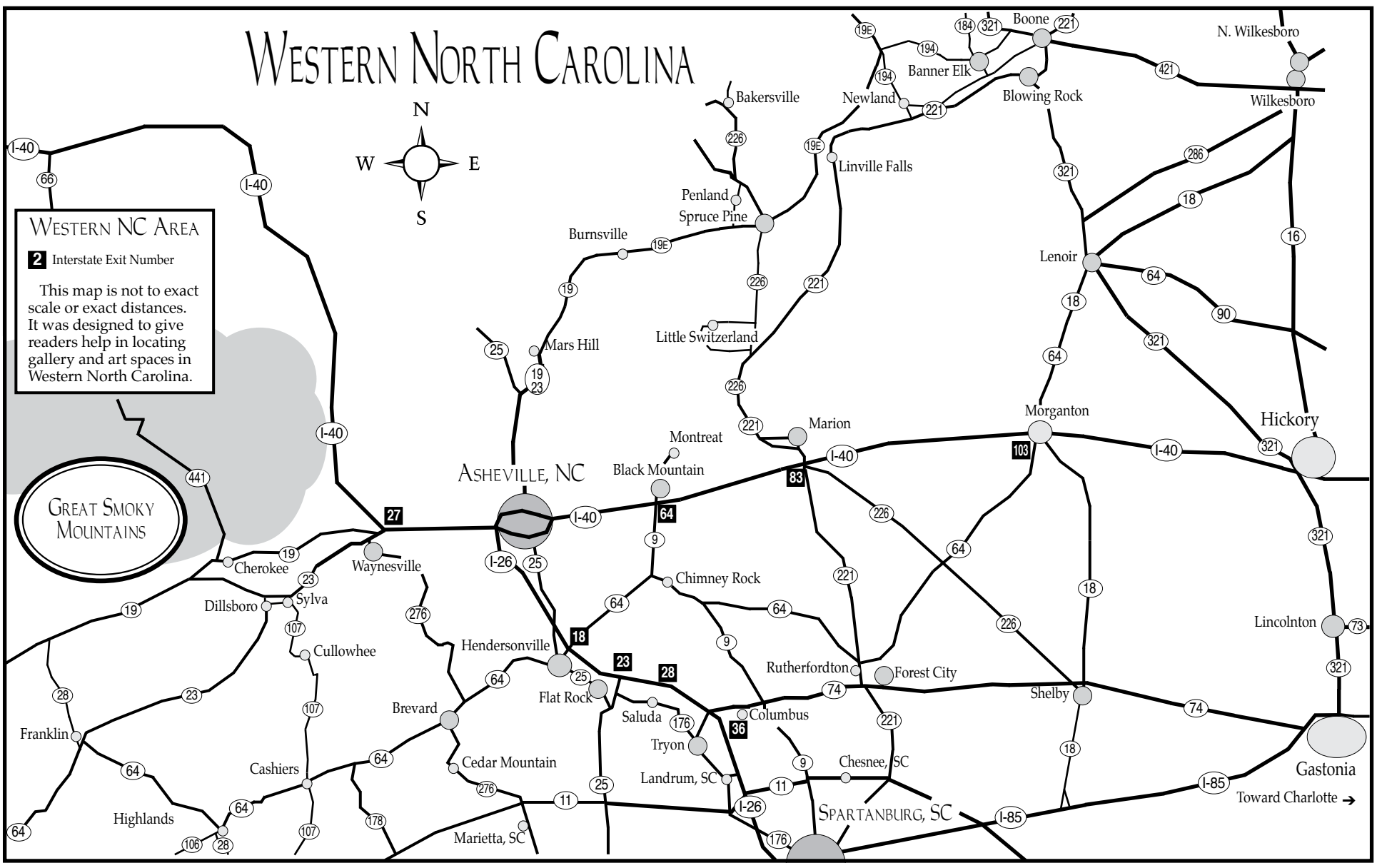

Southern Highland Craft Guild Presents 67th Craft Fair in Asheville, NC - July 17-20, 2014

Join the Southern Highland Craft Guild for the 67th Annual Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands at the US Cellular Center in downtown Asheville, NC, from July 17 – 20, 2014. Hours are 10am-6pm, Thur.-Sat., and 10am-5pm on Sunday.

Nearly 200 juried artists of the Southern Highland Craft Guild will be selling works of clay, metal, wood, jewelry, fiber, paper, natural materials, leather and mixed media. With styles ranging from traditional to contemporary, the Fairs showcase the rich talent, diversity and craft mastery of Guild members.

The Craft Fairs have a proud tradition and history of excellence by representing the Southern Highland Craft Guild, a non-profit organization formed in 1930. The Fairs began in 1948 as a way to provide a regional market for the mountain craftspeople. Since that time, the Craft Fairs have set the standard for fine craft shows across the country. Each year in July and October craft collectors and gallery owners from across the country come to Asheville to see the show. They are joined by western North Carolina residents and tourists who appreciate the quality and history of the show, knowing it is an ideal destination for shopping and inspiration. Nearly 20,000 visitors to the Fairs each year invest in the regional and local economies while supporting artists working in the Appalachian mountains, and by spending a summer or fall weekend in beautiful Asheville, NC.

A view of the arena area. Copyright of Southern Highland Craft Guild.

Several new Guild members will be exhibiting at the Craft Fair for the first time in July including Matt Kelleher (clay), Ursula Goebels-Ellis (clay), Kim Thompson (jewelry), Erin Janow (clay), Robin Ford (fiber), Linda Azar (jewelry), Catherine Murphy (metal), and Zan Barnes (clay). For a complete list of exhibitors visit (www.craftguild.org).

In addition to providing a retail market for juried members, the Guild hosts craft demonstrations during the Fairs. A strong part of the Guild's mission is to educate the public about the history of crafts in this region, various craft techniques, and an appreciation for fine crafts. The July show features blacksmithing, natural dyeing, basket making and woodcarving.

Beginning on Friday during each Craft Fair, mountain musicians perform live on the arena stage. Since the first fair in Gatlinburg in 1948, the music of the area has been woven into the fabric of the Craft Fair experience. From old time to bluegrass, this tradition is kept alive today.

"Creating a world in which craft and other native talents can flourish – this is the Guild's legacy. The craftspeople of Southern Appalachia are always aware of tradition and forever renewing themselves from the old sources of nature, family, spiritual life and the desire to share one's gifts with others," says Jan Davidson, Director, John C. Campbell Folk School.

Craft demonstrations are a highlight at the Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands. Watching and interacting with highly skilled craftspeople as they create is entertaining and educational. Throughout the show, visitors will have the opportunity to observe works by nearly 200 members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild and to learn about their inspiration and methods. There are also scheduled demonstrations to enhance the experience.

July Schedule of Demonstrations:

Rita deMaintenon of Fletcher, NC, will demonstrate hairpin, broomstick, Tunisian and thread lace, and give visitors the chance to try out the various techniques. She has been a member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild since 2004 and often exhibits during special events at the Folk Art Center.

Carla Fillipelli of Asheville, NC, will share with Craft Fair visitors varies stages of the basket making process. Using a display of raw materials she will show the steps in achieving distinct shapes and sizes, while also showing completed bas-

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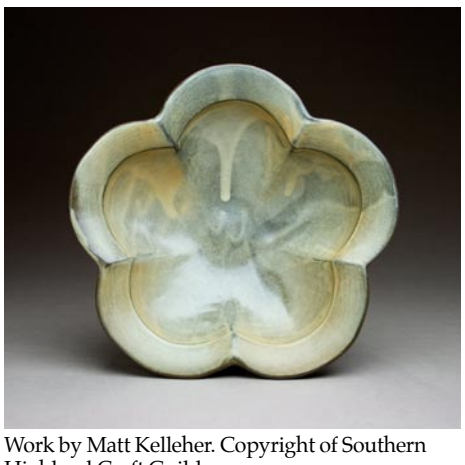
Work by Matt Kelleher. Copyright of Southern Highland Craft Guild.

kets. She will be at the Craft Fair July 17 – 19. Fillipelli has been a member of the SHCG since 1983 and regularly teaches school groups of all ages at the Folk Art Center through the Guild's educational programming.

Ronnie McMahan of Black Mountain, NC, will demonstrate woodcarving as a wildlife artist. He carves basswood utilizing traditional hand tools, power tools and a wood burner. His work often depicts birds and other wildlife. McMahan has been a member of the SHCG since 2012 and exhibits at Wood Day at the Folk Art Center.

Guest craftsperson Lenny Moore will be outside the US Cellular Center at the forge greeting Fair-goers while demonstrating the craft of using heat to transform metal into art and functional objects.

Sandra Rowland of Murphy, NC, will demonstrate the process of using sunprint paint, found materials such as leaves, and sunlight to create unique patterns and designs on fabric. Rowland has been a member of the SHCG since 1993. She often works with kids at special event days at the Folk Art Center such as Fiber Day, Clay Day, Wood Day and Heritage Weekend.

Arts For Life is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting children and young adults facing serious illnesses. They have been invited to share their mission with fair-goers while providing an opportunity for kids and adults to experience hands-on craft activities.

July Music Entertainment Schedule:

Friday, July 18 at 11am – Ric Ledford & Reems Creek Incident. An Asheville, NC. based bluegrass band that specializes in a wide variety of traditional, not-so-traditional and original bluegrass music.

1pm – Cane Creek Bluegrass Band. Musicians from Upstate South Carolina specializing in bluegrass and bluegrass gospel.

3pm – Hot Duck Soup: Ladies and Gentlemen, prepare yourselves for a jolt to your funny bones; the Hot Duck Soup Novelty Vintage Jazz Band is about to assault your senses with wild and zany tunes from the teens, twenties, and thirties!

Saturday, July 19 at 11am – Southern Crescent Bluegrass. Southern Crescent Bluegrass has been together now for over seven years. They play traditional bluegrass and occasionally country or rock song with a bluegrass touch, with some originals as well. They are a six piece band, with four members native to WNC.

1pm – Split Rail. Split Rail provides a great continuity of sound that can only be achieved from years of playing together. Strong vocal harmony is their trademark.

3pm – Carol Rifkin and Friends. Carol Rifkin and friends play original and traditional mountain music, their fine harmonies blending in an old timey style heavily influenced by the elders of the region, family, friends and diverse interests.

Sunday, July 20 at 11am – Mountain Friends. This group plays high energy American swing-grass. This is a strong team that combines fine musicianship and pure joy, giving audiences a highly entertaining show.

Work by Linda Azar. Copyright of Southern Highland Craft Guild.

1pm – Buncombe Turnpike. Buncombe Turnpike plays a variety of heartfelt tunes ranging from traditional and contemporary bluegrass to gospel and Buncombe Turnpike originals. With their crowd pleasing demeanor, seasoned musicianship, and powerful vocals, the band has made a name for themselves among traditional and contemporary listeners alike.

3pm – Moore Brothers Band. Trio of musicians from Hickory, NC that play Americana, Blues, Newgrass, Grass, Country, Jazz & Gospel Flavors.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild will do this all again, with different artists, demo, and musicians on Oct. 16 – 19, 2014. If you can't make it this July, make plans for a Fall trip to Asheville.

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