



Join Us For an Evening of Storytelling

The Highland County Arts Council presents An Evening of Storytelling Saturday, July 8, as part of its Second Saturdays at 7 series. The Church at the Old Oak in Meadowdale is the perfect setting for this evening. Families are invited to come when the grounds open at 5 p.m. and bring their picnic dinner. The Arts Council will provide drinks.

Norma and Bucky Reynolds look forward to sharing tall tales, family stories, folk/fairy tales, and amusing anecdotes. Shortly after retiring, they attended a week-long program on humor, met their first professional storyteller, and they were hooked. They began attending storytelling festivals and telling their own stories on small stages. Bucky enjoys telling tall tales, Norma tells ghost stories, family stories, and wisdom and wit tales. The couple enjoys entertaining audiences with their great stories.

Storyteller Jim Sherman shared "Norma came to me after our second storytelling event. 'I've got you figured out,' she said. 'All your stories have a lesson, a point. You use them to teach.' I agreed. I'm a teacher, and I have always used stories to help me teach. I think that is the purpose of stories. Since man first sat around campfires and shared the night with others, stories have been told. The first stories might have been about how he or she escaped from the saber-toothed tiger, or outwitted the rabbit that became their dinner. Stories became the tool of survival. Then they became the thread of their history, and the explanation of their existence. Stories exist in all cultures, and storytelling in many cultures is the only way people can understand themselves in a complex and confusing world." Jim wants everyone to know that some of the stories will be geared towards children.

Bring your picnic dinner and enjoy an evening of fine storytelling with your family! The Church at the Old Oak is located at 3898 Meadowdale Rd Monterey, grounds open at 5 pm. and storytelling starts at 7 pm. The performance is free, with donations accepted to support the work of the Arts Council in our community.

IN THIS ISSUE

Storytelling

Successful Weekend

August Preview

Adult Orchestra

Local Exhibits

Creativity Corner

...and more!

Take note

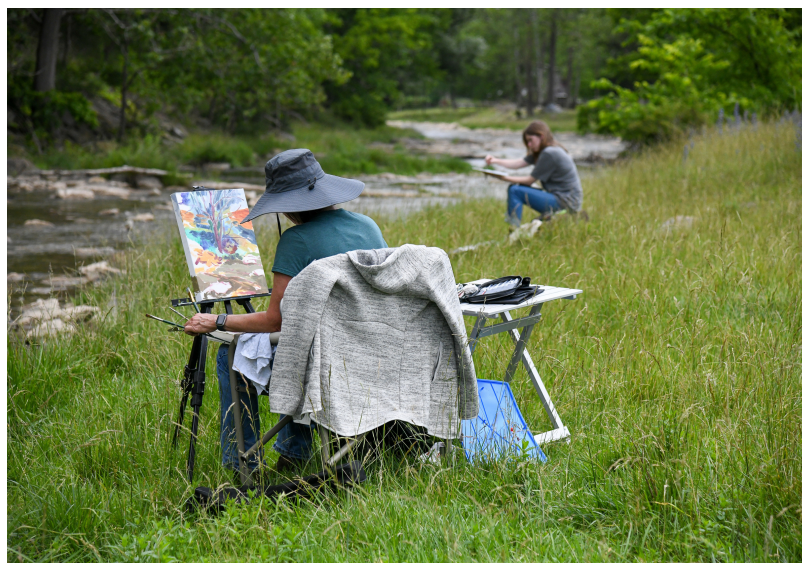
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Artists' Weekend was a Success

The scenic beauty of Highland County was once again the subject of talented artists on June 22 – 25. Seventeen artists from around the state enjoyed The 2023 Artists' Weekend as they captured the rolling landscape, distinctive architecture, and farm life in Highland on canvas.

The weekend started with questionable weather, but participants came prepared and were pleased when the sun came out from the fog and rain. One of the requests this year was to add access to private properties. Five gracious property owners hosted the artists painting on their property. According to Meg West, who has attended fourteen Highland Artists' Weekends, "This was a treat to have permission to go to some new locations. The subjects were wonderful and the owners of the properties could not have been friendlier".

The culmination of the weekend was the popular Wet Paint Show & Sale where the public could view the paintings created throughout the weekend. They enjoyed speaking with the artists and recognizing locations around the county in their works. Many of these paintings will be on display at other art shows and galleries in the state as they continue to promote the beauty of Highland.

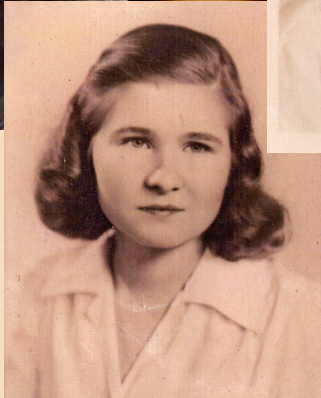
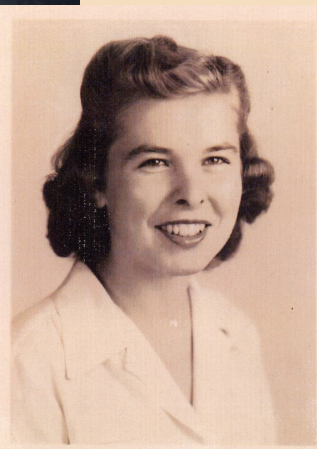


Artists' Weekend is a project of the Highland County Arts Council. A special thank you goes out to all who helped make it possible, including Tim and Terry Duff at Fairlawn Farm, Ske and Deb Ellington at Ginseng Mountain Farm, Jim and Lorraine White at Laurel Point Cabin Rentals, the Charles Pickney Jones Garden, and the home of Neal and Nancy Mohlman, for opening their properties to our local and visiting artists.



AUGUST PREVIEW

August's Second Saturday will coincide with "Taste of Highland," the Highland Center's 14th annual fundraiser dinner featuring local foods. Stay after the delicious dinner for the McCoy Sisters' Memorial Concert to hear songwriter, singer and fiddler Kate McLeod.



clockwise from top: Kate MacLeod, Elizabeth McCoy, Mary Hille McCoy

SingOut! Magazine states MacLeod "channels the spirit of the great Carter Family classics." She is a versatile musician adept at guitar, fiddle, mountain dulcimer and harmonica. Her songs have been featured on nationally syndicated radio shows including Tom May's "River City Folk," and were sung by others on "A Prairie Home Companion." MacLeod's musicianship has been featured in a number of documentaries aired on PBS stations including "My Canyonlands: Kent Frost," "We Sagebrush Folks," and "Zion Canyon Song Cycle." In addition to her performing, she teaches songwriting and fiddle workshops in schools, concert outreach programs, summer camps and at music festivals. She is a sought after vocalist, fiddler and guitar player, working regularly with other artists.

The concert will begin after "Taste of Highland," and tickets will be by donation to support the work of the Arts Council.



Highlands Community Orchestra Forming

Gretta Sandberg, secretary of the Highland Arts Council, is restarting an orchestra that was formed before the pandemic. Sandberg has over 40 years of public music education experience and is the string instructor and orchestra director of the Allegheny Mountain String Project.

The string section will meet to rehearse at The Highland Center weekly, and winds will join bi-weekly. The first rehearsal will be held Wednesday, June 28 6:30-8 pm. The orchestra is open to anyone in surrounding counties. "It's open to anybody who has played for at least two years I would say, even more would be better, because I would like to try some more adventurous music and this means that you have to have a few more skills," says Sandberg.

Sandberg hopes this will give people a chance to make music together, learn new skills, and meet new people to form friendships. For more information contact Gretta Sandberg at grettasandberg@gmail.com

"A Place for Critters" Exhibit in Library

The Mountain View Room at the Highland County Public Library has a new gallery show featuring the work of Dr. Constance Anderson. The work shows mostly animals, as Anderson said "There's something about painting an animal that's indescribable, the same feeling as holding a bird in your hand for the first time, feeling a Hummingbird's feet on your finger, or seeing tiny Wood Frogs sunning themselves. You get to know well the subjects you paint. I don't want to pass by the small, magical moments (or critters) that might be hiding in the quiet of the woods or secret places of the mountains."

When Anderson visited Highland County for the first time it looked like where she grew up in Tennessee, magical and unspoiled. It didn't take long for Highland's abundance of animals to show up in her artwork, both wildlife and sheep. Her work can be seen at the library through the end of July.



PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Photographer Michael Bedwell has been taking pictures of Highland County since he was first introduced to the area in 1971. "The scenic landscapes and strong, distinct seasons make it a unique and very photogenic location, so it was easy to move back in 2010 after retirement," said Bedwell. "I have enjoyed the time here working on new photographic techniques, improving my skills, and finding new locations and views, although one location can look entirely different from one day to the next." His Highland County photographs will be on display through the mid-July.



in the Highland Center Auditorium

Bedwell's work is on display in several locations, including The Highland Center Gallery and Jenny Wren Gatherings in Monterey, as well as the CoArt Gallery in Staunton. He has a number of first and second place entries in the Scenic Virginia Vistas contest, the Highland County Fair, and regularly contributes to The Recorder. He will be teaching photography classes this fall at the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina, and here for the Highland Arts Academy.

Creativity Corner

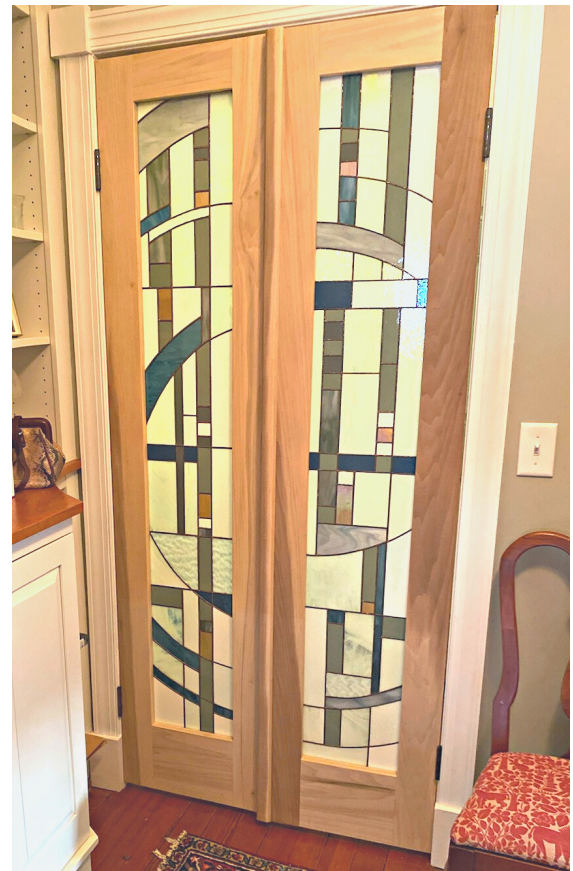


Stained glass has been present in Erica Stephenson's life since early childhood. Her artistic mother co-owned The Personal Touch in Monterey for over 25 years, where she created and sold sun catchers, nightlights and boxes to support her family. Erica became her apprentice in 2000, and quickly developed a love for the craft and its endless possibilities.

Today, Erica has her own home studio where she runs a thriving custom stained glass business. She enjoys taking what a client wants for their space and translating it to glass. Her designs are all original and unique. "I have so many ideas and pieces I want to design and make," said Erica, "I am always creating."

Erica has taught a stained glass workshop the past two years for the Highland Arts Academy. She enjoys showing others the craft, and said many continue to learn and create on their own after her workshops.

Erica's work can be seen at The Highland Center Gallery, and in many local homes. She is available to create beautiful custom pieces, and can be reached at ericastep@hotmail.com for more information.



THANK YOU



Without the support of the following organizations, the Highland County Arts Council would not be able to provide the programming that is its hallmark.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts The National Endowment for the Arts
The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
The Little Swiss Fund The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation

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