



Scuffletown will be a Maple Festival Feature on March 12th.

Known for their dynamic music and engaging stage presence, Scuffletown has been performing for the past 25 years throughout the Atlantic Coast region, and features singer/songwriter and guitarist Marc Carraway and multi-instrumentalist John Whitlow. They have released 5 recordings and toured Ireland in 2019 at the invitation of renowned Irish musician Seane Keane. John Hill, founder and former host of WNRN's Acoustic Sunrise, says "a Scuffletown show is full of energy, mischief and downright great music. They are one of the true musical gems in this richly talented region of the country".

John Whitlow, who honed his harmonica chops under the tutelage of Phil Wiggins of Cephas and Wiggins, also plays flute, melodica, and accordion. John brings energy, musicianship, and humor to Scuffletown, Marc Carraway performed and toured

professionally throughout the 1980's and 90's, as a solo singer-songwriter and as a member of Tidewater-based bands. With several albums to his credit, Marc has received extensive airplay for his original songs. He plays mandolin and banjo as well as guitar and does much of the lead singing and songwriting for Scuffletown. Both Carraway and Whitlow have expressed their excitement about their upcoming show at the Highland Center during the Maple Festival. Whitlow states "We are thrilled to be returning for the Highland County Arts Council 2nd Saturdays at 7 Concert Series. Our show there in 2020 was such an outstanding experience and we just loved performing in such a beautiful venue for such a great community. We are looking forward to reconnecting with our friends and the fine people there".

IN THIS ISSUE

Scuffletown March 12

Square Dance at
Maple Fest

Building Community
Through Art Film
Viewing

Highland String Solo
Recital

A Word From Caroline
Smith

...and more!

Make note

Our new email:
HighlandCoArts@gmail.com



Circle Up Four!



If you would like to learn how to square dance or love to enjoy this Highland tradition, join us on Saturday, March 19, at the Highland Center for two events. The Arts Council has teamed up with the Highland County Chamber of Commerce to provide square dance workshops from 12 – 2 pm. Then at 7 pm, Juanita Fireball and the Continental Drifters will provide some foot-tapping music for a traditional square dance.

Thirty minute, square dance workshops will be held every half hour on the half hour starting at 12 noon and lasting until 2 pm.

Local callers, Ellen and Eugene Ratcliffe, will lead participants through some basic calls and figures. Entry fee will be by Maple Leaf key chain or \$3 at the door. From 7 pm – 9 pm, Juanita Fireball and the Continental Drifters will play their

Appalachian string band tunes for a high energy good time that will make you want to use your new dance skills. The band will be joined by callers and afternoon instructors, Ellen and Eugene.

There will be a \$5 entry fee for the dance.

Arts Council Unveils New Logo

The Highland County Arts Council Board appointed Rick Hill, Mary Parham and Brit Chambers to find a new logo. The Board wanted something that was fresh, but also reflected the history of the Arts Council in Highland County. They also wanted something that was simpler in style so that it could be used in a wide variety of situations including business cards, web pages, banners and even the trailer.

After reviewing submission by several local graphic designers, the Board chose Paul Vosteen, who is a resident of Highland County. The team then worked with Paul helping him understand the criteria for the new logo, the mission of the Arts Council, and the history of Arts in the County. Paul began working with some ideas and came up with the quilted maple leaf. We looked at several different color combinations and decided on the red and gold as being the best looking. Paul then worked with several different fonts and tweaked some of the details of the design to come up with the final design.



HIGHLAND
COUNTY
ARTS
COUNCIL

The maple leaf is an element in the old logo and immediately identifies Highland County. The quilted pattern reflects the barn quilts seen throughout the county. It would be far too complicated to try and represent all the arts one might find, so the quilt represents all the artistic abilities of the County. The word “Arts” in large letters in the title also helps reinforce the idea that Highland County has a wide diversity of talented artists in all the genres.

Using Art to Build Community

The Highland County Arts Council will feature the video, Arts Build Community, on March 8th. The 25 minute video will be shown as part of the Highland Center’s monthly Tuesday Talks at 2 pm. The film will focus on ways other communities are using art to build their towns and give examples of how traditional arts are used to teach old skills, how art makerspaces have been created, and how art has helped them create the kind of future that communities can build together.

According to Donna Bedwell, “the Arts Council believes art helps strengthen communities and strong communities lead to more prosperous regions – a mission also shared by SaveYour.Town, the producers of this video. We needed a venue to share this information with the public and the Tuesday Talks presented the perfect opportunity”.

This will be the 2nd Tuesday Talk held by The Highland Center in an effort to bring topics of interest to the community of Highland.



Highland String Solo Recital to be Held Sunday, March 6, 3:00 PM

March 2022 in Highland County will feature more than just the county's acclaimed Maple Festival. It will also be when the string students in the county present their annual solo recital program.

The program will take place on Sunday, March 6 at 3:00 p.m. at The Highland Center.

Admission is free!

Performing will be fifteen students with the Highland County String Studio, under the direction of Arts Council Board member Gretta Sandberg.

The studio is sponsored by the Allegheny Mountain String Project, a part of the education program of the Garth Newel Music Center in Warm Springs, VA. The students range from beginners – one has been playing for just 3 weeks – to a “veteran” violist who has been playing for 12 years ago, when the program began in 2010.

The families that produce maple syrup, tap into their maple trees every year in early spring.

The Highland County String Program is “tapping” into the incredible talents of the young people in the county. Come support these young musicians, as they present their solos on March 6 and kick-off the Maple Festival with music!



Ida Farrell & Lucy Sax rehearse for the recital



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

Looking At My Last Year: Caroline Smith

What a concept! I joined the Arts Council in 1997 nervously hoping to meet new friends and to create some sort of theatre group so my daughters could continue to perform as they had in Alexandria. It's now 2022, and I will be retiring from the group at the end of the year. I plan to start anew as audience member and enthusiastic volunteer as needed.

People develop random fears as they get older. One of mine is dread of becoming that tiresome old lady who constantly harps on the past. That being said, I think it's important to remember elements of it. When we started doing theatre, our circumstances were pretty rough. The stage was high off the ground, so deep that it swallowed people's voices and lit by a bank of bright, white footlights. In my gloomier moments, I thought of it as “nostril theatre” because the lights really did shine up the characters' noses. Looking back though, I also see a large body of plays performed by lots of people before enthusiastic audiences.

When the Highland Center was re-opened after its renovation, the Arts Council cooperated with Center staff and board and started finishing the auditorium space. It has been a big job well done.

Over the years, the Arts Council started the artists weekends, now 13 years old; Allegheny Mountain Strings Program, now 12; Second Saturdays at Seven, starting its fifth season and the Highland Arts Academy, now age three. Each initiative was the idea of one person, picked up and carried forward by the organization.

Our board is bursting with enthusiasm and talent. I'm looking forward to the rest of the year--involved in projects, making new friends and looking forward to retirement.

Creativity Corner: Elizabeth McClung

2022 Season



March 12th @ 7p- Scuffletown

Location: The Highland Center

Scuffletown is an acoustic high energy duo performing their unique blend of roots, jazz, world, bluegrass and original music.



April 9th @ 7p- After Jack

Location: The Highland Center

Combine your most beloved musical memories with a foot-stomping string band and top it off with harmonies that spring straight from the soul of the mountains, and you've got After Jack.



May 14th @ 7p- Robert Jospé Express

Location: The Highland Center

The Robert Jospé Express with Butch Taylor on keyboards, Dane Alderson on electric bass, Brian Mesko on guitar and Robert Jospé on drums play a percussive driven mix of jazz, rock, funk and Latin with a contemporary electric sound.



June 11th @ 7p- The McCoy Sister's Annual Concert with Zuzu Hot 4

Location: The Highland Center

The Highland County Arts Council celebrates the lives of Elizabeth and Mary Hille McCoy with a musical tour of the sounds they enjoyed. Sponsored by the Charles Pickney Jones Foundation.



To learn more about our events, programs, or how to support the **ARTS** in Highland County, please visit: www.highlandcountyartscouncil.org or scan the QR code



During the gray days of late winter, it's good to remember bright flowers will soon be in sight, bringing new hope and new perspective. My recent work celebrates nature all around us--especially the flowers, seed pods and landscape features found in our yard, fence lines, meadows and beyond. While creating studies for paintings, really looking at natural forms for long periods of time, one becomes more observant overall. Drawing materials and watercolors are portable and fluid mediums, perfect for capturing the wonders of our natural world.

watercolors by Elizabeth McClung

