



Mission Statement

The Blue Ridge Fine Arts Guild (BRAG) promotes the works and activities of artists working in two-dimensional media in Yancey, Mitchell, and Avery counties and the surrounding areas of Western North Carolina. BRAG is an avenue for artist education and exposure through programs, workshops, exhibitions, and the internet, and seeks to promote and encourage the arts among its members, local schools, and the public.

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June 2013- BRAG Newsletter

From the Editor...

It's that time of year again - busy and busier. As I type this, the artists participating in the TRAC Studio Tours are busy getting thier studios ready for a weekend of visitors (and hopefully sales!). Exhibitions, concerts, parties. This is a great time in the mountains!

Several times now, I've typed something here and erased it. Seem to have lost my words today. So... on with the news!

Don't forget... paint first!

Susan Garriques

News

June is the last month in BRAG's fiscal year, which would mean "a changing of the guard", but during May's meeting it was announced that all the current officers (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) agreed to continue for a second year. There were no additional nominations from the floor and the members approved the continuation of current positions.

The committee chairs are appointed at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1st. Committee chair positions include Webmaster, Newsletters, Historian, Publicity, Programs, and Hospitality. We have quite a few new members this year and it would be wonderful to have some "new" energy to volunteer for these positions.

(note from your newsletter editor: I've been putting this newsletter together since the beginning of BRAG and would love to have a break. Anyone interested in taking over?)

July's arrival also means that is time to pay our member dues again.

Our next meeting will be Monday, June 17th at 6:30 in the Town Center in Burnsville. Art consultant, Wendy Outland, will be returning. The topic will be "Sales Techniques and the Ethical Quagmire". Her website www.whoknowsart.biz provides a great deal of information about Wendy and her services to artists and art organizations.

Peggy Home, our program chair, reminds us that Wendy requires a mileage fee of \$52 from Asheville for her presentation. Many of the members volunteered to subsidize this cost at the April meeting. Please give your donations to Judy Larkins at this month's meeting.

BRAG Member, Barbara Deschenes, won an Honorable Mention at the TRAC Paint Out on May 18th. Several BRAG members braved the rainy day and spent the day painting in and around Burnsville. Congratulations, Barb!

The Toe River Valley Plein Air Painters have a Paint Out planned for June 19th up at the top of the Roan. With luck, the rhododendrons will be in bloom. We'll be meeting at Cloudland at 9 am. We'd love to have you join us. If you would like directions or more info, please email susan@susangarriques.com.

The NC Watercolor Society has a Paint Out planned at the Carl Sandburg Home in Flatrock on June 17th from 9:30-3:30. There is a fee for this, but it includes lunch, a demo and a tour of the home. If you would like to go, please email susan@susangarriques.com for more info.

Two of our previous guest artists have won prizes in the Appalachian Pastel Society's statewide show, "On Common Ground". Deborah Squier won First Place and Susan Sinyai won the Judge's Choice. Pastel Paintings from the Mountains to the Sea and will be on view at the Hickory Museum of Art until August 18th. (see sidebar for these winning paintings)



Artist: Sharon Bradshaw Easter Sunday



Creative Challenge June



Artist: Carol W. Bailey Rhododendron



**Creative Challenge** - Each month a photo will be included in the newsletter and members are encouraged to paint from that photo. It should be quite interesting to see how everyone handles the subject matter. Feel free to crop and edit as you wish. You may bring your paintings to the meetings, or if you would prefer, send photos of your paintings to Susan Garriques for the newsletter. And... you don't have to finish it for a specific month - there won't be any deadlines. So if you don't get to paint this month's photo till November or December, no worries. Just have fun. (if you would like a higher resolution image (larger image) for printing - or an image from a previous Creative Challenge, please email Susan Garriques)

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**On Going Events**  
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Our "Made To Measure" exhibit at TRAC is coming up in September. Have you painted your masterpiece yet?

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**Internet Tidbits**  
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An in-depth (and very interesting) article about studio lighting...  
<http://www.sadievaleri.com/blog/2013/5/26/studio-faq-lighting-wall-color-and-casts.html>

Ever thought about your "artistic lineage"?  
<http://doodlealley.com/2012/12/07/know-your-artistic-lineage/>

Great blog post about the business side of art from an artist's perspective...  
<http://makingamark.blogspot.co.uk/2013/05/picasso-businessman-branding-and-value.html>

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**Classifieds**  
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**ARTsCENTERed** is looking for arts/crafts instructors to diversify programming. Two compensation packages to select from. Preferred courses: journaling, paste paper, book making, Basketry. Pastel. Wire wrap jewelry making. Whittling/wood carving. Small loom weaving. Established artists seeking spacious studio space in which to conduct their own seminar or workshop are encouraged to call **Jann Welch. 828-688-6012/828-385-6342.**

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BRAG Member, **Sandra Gates**, is teaching a watercolor class **June 21-23, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 9-4pm.** Cost is \$190 for the three days, if anyone is interesting in being included, email me, [sandragatesart@aol.com](mailto:sandragatesart@aol.com).

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**One last note - it's about the Money Jar.** You may have noticed a vase or a jar placed near the refreshments at each meeting and you may have assumed that was to help pay for the coffee and cookies. BUT..... BRAG pays the Town Center \$30 for each night that we meet. The "Money Jar" is meant to help pay the rent. If each member attending the meeting will contribute \$1 it will just about cover the cost of the rental. Please don't forget to add your dollar when you come to the meetings. Every dollar helps!

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**9th Annual Bakersville Creek Walk Arts Festival Sat, Sept 21.** Entry fee: \$100/non-refundable application fee: \$15 (App fee waived if you have previously juried into show). 3 images of your work and one of your booth set-up. Early bird entry deadline (\$15 discount on entry fee): May 1. Final entry deadline: July 15. For more info to [bakersvillefestival@gmail.com](mailto:bakersvillefestival@gmail.com)

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BRAG Member, **Kathleen Deasy**, is offering painting and drawing in her studio. She paints with both oils and acrylics. Classes are geared to new painters and artists that want to explore new techniques using texturing and adding dimension to their work using cloth and other natural materials that create 3 dimensional paintings. The cost is \$18 for an hour and half session and I am doing the classes by appointment. Kathleen's studio is **White Oak Art Studio in Bakersville** at 46 White Oak Rd. Call 828-688-1882 for more info or to schedule a lesson.

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**Archive of Newsletters:**  
December Newsletter 2011.pdf  
[January/February Newsletter 2012.pdf](#)

Artist: Deborah Squier *On Common Ground*



Artist: Barbara Deschenes *Home*



Artist: Susan Garriques *Off Hatteras Study*



Artist: Susan Sinyai *unfired*



Artist: Kathleen Turczyn *Cabin in the Woods*



Artist: Anne Sabri *Woodland Path*

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BRAG is a not for profit organization under TRAC (Toe River Arts Council) in North Carolina.  
Any information not covered in this website can be obtained by emailing one of the officers on the BRAG website contact page.

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