

Famous Fiber Artist addresses Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild

For the monthly meeting of the Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild, Linda Krause shared her unusual techniques



Linda Krause, of Williston, FL

in creating her award winning wall hangings. The Guild met at the Blairsville United Methodist Church on September 22nd, with almost 100 members in attendance. The multi-talented speaker shared how she had progressed from computer programmer to park ranger to photographer to quilt artist. Her time spent as "Artist in Residence" in the Great Smokey Mountain National Park provided rich material for photography. She uses nature as her inspiration for the lovely pieces of fiber art.

Ms. Krause conducted a workshop the following day, in which students completed a wall hanging. Her website is: www.blueflagstudio.com.

Plans for the October 23-24 "Quiltfest 2015" were also discussed, as were the many community outreach projects of the Guild. For information, visit the website: www.mistymountainquiltguild.org. N(Sep30,M3)CA

Color Copies 35¢
West Printing Co.
706-745-6343

Hammer In...from Page 1A

Twice a year the campground hosts the Hammer-In during the last weekend in March and September. It's held on Friday and Saturday and its purpose isn't to profit financially.

"We plan to keep doing this until they tell us we can't come back," Rechsteiner said. "By the grace of God and the Alexanders, we get to do it every year. We don't come here to sell knives, we come here to show what can be done with a forge and a hammer, and have fun and do it safely. Everybody is welcome as long as they behave and we love to have people come out here and find out what's going on."

Last weekend saw one of the largest turnouts of youngsters ever to go along with another solid turnout. On Saturday, the event received a visit from a large group of Boy Scouts. However, Rechsteiner pointed out that there can be some safety issues with large groups of children with knives and fires, but campground owner Frank Alexander is preparing to make some improvements to accommodate the larger crowds.

"It seems like the flavor is changing just a little bit," Rechsteiner said. "We're getting more kids in than we used to and we're doing more teaching. We're looking to expand things a little bit and getting us more room. It used to be us guys coming up here



forging and having a good time together. Now we've got visitors coming in from all over and it seems to keep getting bigger and bigger."

"This event is growing and we need more parking but it's all good, we have a great time," Frank Alexander added. "We're building a new blacksmith shop that will allow people to do demos at other times of year besides these two weekends."

The dreary weather didn't seem to have any impact on the crowds this year since the event is indoors. It may be rough outside, but we're indoors," Rechsteiner said. "We've had a big crowd all day. It's a very symbiotic relationship because we help fill the campground so they

do well, and we get this wonderful facility to play in, so it doesn't get any better than this."

According to Frank Alexander, the campground cleans out the shop twice a year prior to the Hammer-In so it's definitely a win-win situation for Trackrock Campground. And not only are they looking to make improvements to the facilities, the campground will be celebrating 50 years next March when the blacksmiths return next spring.

"The campground will be celebrating 50 years next year which is a milestone for us," he said. "We just want to thank the support of the community that come up here and pay us a visit."

Pumpkins...from Page 1A

FFA, has been helping out in the family garden for as long as he can remember.

This year he grew several pumpkins and some corn at home, and he said the secret to his award-winning pumpkin was having the right seeds and a good spot to grow them.

"I planted the seed right beside the deck where all the water falls. It's down a hill, and all the water flows in that direction. It was really fertile dirt there, and the pumpkin plant grew really, really fast," said Pandolph, who planted the winning pumpkin seed in May. "It weighs 85 pounds, but only because I went down there two months early to see how it was doing, and I kind of slipped and knocked it off the vine."

Looking ahead to next year's Great Butternut Creek Pumpkin Festival, Pandolph said he plans to compete again with an even bigger pumpkin grown from the seeds of this year's entry, which he grew from other seeds he'd harvested.

Other winners from the day's festivities were: Latrece Mills of 7M Family Farms and Grayson Collins of Freddie Collins Farm for their large field pumpkins; Freddie Collins Farm also won for its 39-pound watermelon; William Sparks of SMM Farms out of Hayesville, NC, had a 4-pound sweet potato, as well

as larger than average tomato, apple and bell pepper specimens.

Dressed for the occasion, vendor Eleanor Smith of Relish This won the Site Award because, as Cummings put it, she was "a sight" on Saturday.

"I just always do something funny," said Smith, who wore a nice orange button-up sweater with a festively decorated hat. "It was Pumpkin Day, and I got some pumpkins that we glued to my hat. I wear different hats every once in a while."

And Smith is embracing the official coming of the fall season with her selection of baked goods and relishes she sells every Saturday at her station in the Market.

"I have pecan pies, I have the fall relishes that go with your beans and greens," said Smith. "I've got apple cake with apples from this time of the year."

Also at the Market for Pumpkin Day was Union County FFA Alumni Vice President Donna Dyer, who sold raffle tickets with Jennifer Kerr of Mountain View Farms.

Dyer's son, UCHS junior Austin Dyer, is vice president of the Union County FFA, and he was on hand to help her and Kerr sell raffle tickets for chances to win two amazing items, with donations to benefit the FFA: a Yeti Tun-

dra 65 Cooler and a Mossberg Patriot .308 Rifle.

"The cooler is \$500 if you go out and purchase it," said Donna Dyer. "And we had a student who graduated this past year, Peyton Brewer, who actually donated the Mossberg. He wanted to give something back to FFA, and I think that's awesome that he took his own money and gave us a new gun to raffle off for the FFA."

Tickets can be purchased at Booth 25, which is Mountain View Farms, on Saturdays at the Farmers Market, and also at the FFA booth at the Blairsville Sorghum Festival at Meeks Park the second and third weekends of October.

Those interested can purchase tickets for the cooler at one for \$5, three for \$12 or six for a \$20 donation, and for the rifle, one for \$3, two for \$5 or four for a \$10 donation. Tickets will remain on sale through Oct. 17, and the drawing will be held at the FFA booth during the Sorghum Festival.

"We'll be selling tickets until the last minute, and then we'll give it away," said Dyer, noting that winners need not be present to win, but that the winner of the rifle must be legally eligible to possess a firearm, and if not, that no alternative prize or cash would be available in lieu of the rifle.

Halloween...from Page 1A

square. First Baptist does a big event in their parking lot, and that draws a lot of people, and they kind of walk between the two."

And yes, there will be plenty for adults – parents or otherwise – to do, but everyone knows that Halloween is all about the children.

"Kids love Halloween – they're excited about their costumes," said Harper, who dressed as Buddy the Elf last year. "The individual businesses will provide the candy. They decide what they're going to give out and how much. It's a good opportunity for them to meet parents and promote their businesses, and hand out brochures and business cards."

"They do it not because they make money – in fact, it's quite expensive for businesses to participate, not because of a fee or anything, it's just the amount of candy they have to hand out. But they do it because it's good for the community. It's something where everybody has a good time, and it's not a long drawn out thing, it's just two hours of family-friendly fun."

Last year, Hometown Halloween on the Square prevailed despite snow and cold weather, and Harper hopes that this year will bring milder weather to the historically spooky evening.

And while it's still under consideration, possibly new to this year's event could be a projection system that will project the images of ghosts and skeletons onto the Old Courthouse on the Blairsville Square.



"We do play spooky music over the loudspeakers, which adds a little coolness to it, but I think this year we'll do some lights," said Harper.

Leading up to Halloween on the Square is Scarecrow-Ville, which will be in effect from Thursday, Oct. 1, through Halloween.

"We encourage businesses, individuals, organizations and churches to participate by creating a scarecrow," said Harper. "They can either display it at their home or business or church, or they can bring it to the Square and put it up on the lawn."

"What we've asked them to do this year is, when they make their scarecrow, to take a picture of it and post it on our Scarecrow-Ville Facebook page, and we will pick the winner based on the number of Likes and comments they get. That way, it takes all the judging out of our hands, and you can sit at your desk and see all of the scarecrows."

People looking for tips on creating a truly original scarecrow can check out the DDA's webpage at www.downtownblairsville.com/scarecrow-ville.