fine art

Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands

ince 1948, the Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands has set the standard for fine craft shows across the country. The tradition continues July 21-24 and October 20-23 when more than 200 craftspeople fill two levels of Asheville's Civic Center, selling their works of clay, glass, leather, metal, fiber, mixed media, natural materials, paper, wood and jewelry.

All exhibitors are mountain artists who are masters of their craft and have been accepted into the Southern Highland Craft Guild. The Guild is a non-profit organization which has been supporting local and regional craftspeople since 1930. From its humble beginnings, the Guild has grown to represent more than 900 members living and working in the mountain counties of nine states from Maryland to Alabama.





Dede Styles will demonstrate spinning and the traditional craft of using the natural dyes of plants to color yarn.

The Craft Fairs are a wonderful way to showcase the talent of this diverse group. Crafts rooted in Appalachian customs are featured along with the work of contemporary artists. Tradition and innovation are trademarks of the Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands, setting it apart from other shows.

Throughout the show, the Guild sponsors educational craft demonstrations. Some demonstrations for the 2011 Craft Fairs include natural dyeing and spinning, throwing, trimming and assembling clay, raku firing, and doll making.

In addition to the demonstrations of members, the Guild also invites non-member artists to participate, this year showcasing Asheville artist Suzie Millions. Millions is the author of The Complete Book of Retro-Crafts. Famous for building her own handcrafted environments, she will bring to the July show a whimsical blend of mixed media and Japanese-inspired Appalachian crafts. Celebrating the DIY craft movement, Millions will have plenty of projects to share with

BY APRIL NANCE In October, the stage sharing techniques from

Ed Byers

Since the first Craft Fair in 1948, the Guild has been supporting and conserving Southern Appalachian

dance and music forms which have developed hand in hand with regional craft traditions. The Guild celebrates this strong connection by sponsoring live entertainment

beginning on Friday during the Fairs. Local musicians play live on the arena stage, sharing their love of old time and

bluegrass. A gala mood invigorates each Fair through fine crafts, demonstrations, and live music.

The 64th Annual Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands, July 21-24 at the Asheville Civic Center, 87 Haywood

St. in downtown Asheville. Hours: Thursday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission: Adults \$8, children under 12 free. Group discounts available. For more information visit www. craftguild.org or call (828) 298-7928.



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CRAFT FAIR OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Friday, July 22

11 a.m. Ric Ledford and the Reems Creek Incident - Traditional and contemporary bluegrass. 12:30 p.m. Quarterhouse - This family bluegrass band has been around for more than thirty years. 2 p.m. Tyler and Ashley - Tight vocal harmonies

with great musicianship. 4 p.m. Buncombe Turnpike - The finest bluegrass - featured on CMT.

Saturday, July 23

11 a.m. Paul's Creek Band – Traditional mountain sounds, originals, folk, bluegrass and dancing.

12:30 p.m. Hominy Valley Boys - This group has shared the stage with Dr. Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, Lonesome River Band, Balsam Range and many others.



Sherri Lynn and Mountain Friends

Saturday, July 23

2 p.m. Split Rail – Strong vocal harmony.

4 p.m. Riders of the Green Laurel - Bluegrass songs, jazz-infused acoustic instrumentals, dancy Texas swing numbers, folk ballads, and classic country tunes.

Sunday, July 24

11 a.m. Sherri Lynn and Mountain Friends - High energy American swing-grass. 12:30 p.m. Firefly - Mother and daughter harmonies and a jumping fiddle accompaniment.

2 p.m. The Moore Brothers Band – Led by a duo of young brothers from Hickory, NC this band plays bluegrass and gospel.

4 p.m. Cary Fridley and Down South – Powerful vocals soar on an all-star group featuring honky-tonk guitar, bluesy pedal-steel and hot Appalachian fiddle stylings.



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