

spring studio tours

East of Asheville Studio Tour MAY 14 & 15, 10AM TO 6PM DAILY

First it's the birds flying around trying to find a place to build a nest, then it's the Bradford Plums bursting into bloom, then the cherries, and all of Asheville begins to explode in a riot of color and charm.

Artists have been hunkering down in their studios all winter long — with winter's chill it's the perfect time to explore and perfect their techniques and creative expression. But now it's Spring! Yes, it's Spring and time to display their colors and crafts for the world to see. Just like birds and blossoms, the artists of the EAST of Asheville Studio Tour are getting ready to display what they have been gestating.

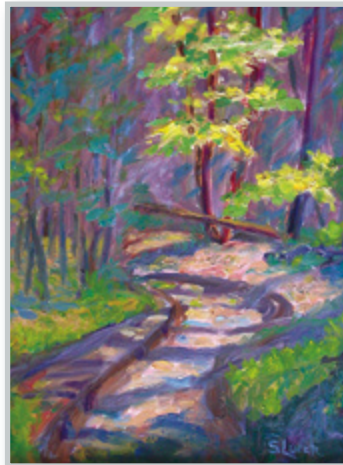
On May 14 and 15, the Spring studio tour will run through the winding roads of East Asheville, Swannanoa, Black Mountain and Fairview and you can visit the artists, see demonstrations, find treasures to cherish for a lifetime or just enjoy the day hopping from place to place and surrounding yourself with the beauty of art and the pleasure of the drive.

The EAST of Asheville Studio Tour began in Swannanoa in 2006 with Maud and Austin Boleman of Black Mountain Studios. On the original tour there were only 12 artists. Now the group has grown to over 50 artists who participate on and off depending on their schedules and seasonal crafts. The spring tour displays the work of 28 artists, plus the exceptional resident artists who are clients at the Black Mountain Neuro-Medical Treatment Center.

This tour includes the work of fine furniture makers Brian Brace and Paul Schmitz of Black Mountain as well as phenomenal muralist Jason Brown. Jason is a visiting artist at Studio 208 where he has painted a mural for studio owners Fred and Lynda Feldman. Fred Feldman is a wood sculpturer who also works in mixed media and "found"



Metalwork sculpture by Fairview artist Roger Klingler.



Painting by Black Mountain artist Susan Lueck.



Gavilan Peak by Catherine Vibert, mixed media

objects, as well as crafting exquisite audio-ophile-quality speaker systems.

Over the winding back-roads to Fairview, Roger Klingler creates beautiful steel and iron garden sculpture amongst other things. And speaking of metal, Catherine Vibert has been exploring mixed media textures with metallic paints to a scintillating effect. Masterful marquetry and impressionist painting by Peggy and Mike Taylor will definitely impress you, and world class glass blower Victor Chiarizia will not only be demonstrating his pyrotechnics daily, but he'll also be offering samples of his newest creative efforts, handcrafted cheese!

These are but a taste of the treats you'll find on the EAST of Asheville Studio Tour,

IF YOU GO EAST of Asheville Studio Tour, May 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Pick up a brochure at several businesses around town. For more information call (828) 686-1011 or visit www.eaststudiotour.com.



Weaverville Art Safari MAY 7 & 8

The Weaverville Art Safari rounds up some of the best of the areas' creative minds during its annual tour on May 7 and 8. "This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Art Safari and our largest one yet. We have 46 artists showing work in our spring show," says Steven Forbes-deSoule, participating artist and founding member of the driving tour of studios in Weaverville, Alexander and Barnardville.

The Weaverville Art Safari's pre-view party, sponsored by Claxton Farm, takes place Friday, May 6 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to mingle with artists and bid on original works during the silent auction. A cash bar and menu of heavy hors d'oeuvres will include local specialties such as stuffed grape leaves and baklava from Stoney Knob Cafe, brie from Sunnyside Cafe, an assortment of finger foods from Dry Ridge Inn, and desserts from Well-Bred Bakery and Cafe.

Artists and sponsors also donate door prizes, with one chance to win included in the event's \$10 admission ticket. All proceeds benefitting future Weaverville Art Safari events. "The preview party is a great opportunity to meet some very interesting artists and the chance to buy a piece of art that would likely cost far more at a gallery," says Tom Hoxie, participating Weaverville Art Safari member.

While Friday's preview party promises cultured fun, the Weaverville Art Safari is a free event perfect for families and art lovers alike. Artists'



Flying Away by Cindy and Michael Ireland of Roundhouse Studio.

studios are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Select studios offer demonstrations of their techniques. Other studios offer a chance to win a door prize, with pieces of work valued at upwards of \$500. "I usually raku fire a piece of pottery so guests can see the creative process in action. Then, at the end of the day, I'll give away that same piece to one lucky visitor through a door prize drawing," says Steven Forbes-deSoule.

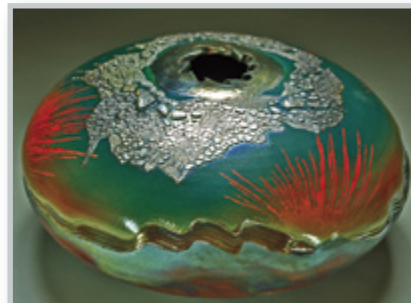
Those attending the Weaverville Art Safari this year have the opportunity to see and experience many different types of art, including pottery, handmade glass, sculpture, jewelry, furniture, paintings, drawings, and fiber art.



Maps and brochures will be available May 7 & 8 at the Art Safari information booth on Main Street in downtown

Weaverville. For more information visit www.weavervilleartsafari.com

'Forbes-deSoule' continued from page 4



Raku pottery by Steven Forbes-deSoule

writing and math, and art and music take a back seat. To be a successful artist, the innate ability must be nurtured.

RRM: What role does the artist play in the community, and has that role changed in your lifetime?

SF: In my lifetime, I think art has become more ingrained in the public consciousness, as can be witnessed by the vast number of public art commissions in places like airports, subway stations, parks, etc.

IF YOU GO View work by Steven Forbes-deSoule during the Weaverville Art Safari, Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and 8. Artists' studios will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A Preview Party hosted by Claxton Farm takes place Friday, May 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information visit www.weavervilleartsafari.com

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TRAC Studio Tours: a Tradition for Some

Every year the high country of western North Carolina beckons to new visitors to come take the Toe River Arts Council's (TRAC's) popular FREE and self-guided tour of artists' studios and galleries. Folks from all over the United States and even overseas make a pilgrimage to seek and buy art right at its creative source, a tradition that started years ago when a small group of emerging



Ken Sedberry, Clay Platter

artists decided to open their studios for a weekend holiday sale. That little tour has grown into a major event. Twice a year hundreds of craft lovers come to the scenic mountain communities of Mitchell and Yancey counties to enjoy the Toe River Studio Tour. Some visitors become so enamored of this "trek with TRAC" that

they return year after year. Their tradition of taking the studio tours sometimes surpasses two decades of annual and bi-annual visits.

This year's Studio Tours take place on June 10, 11, and 12, and on December 2, 3, and 4, 2011. Tour participants will have a chance to meet with local artists at receptions held on the Fridays of the Tours at the Spruce Pine TRAC Gallery from 5 to 7 p.m., where an exhibition of all Tour participants is on display.

Pouring over the maps of the tour, the visitor may decide to add one or two new artists to the list of old favorites. With their itineraries planned, they head for the hills keeping their eyes open for the red and white signs that studios and galleries post by the roadside to guide and welcome them. June Tour hours are Friday from noon to 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

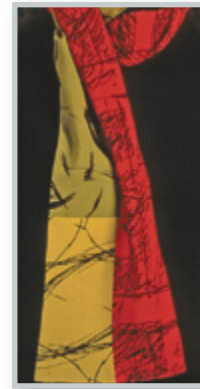
Over the years, family reunions have centered on

touring the studios of the Toe River Valley. TRAC's executive director Denise Cook recalls "sisters meeting sisters to take the studio tours."

For other tour takers, the touring experience is about more than arts and craft collecting. Artists love to demonstrate their skills and explain the processes involved; friendships are formed. There is always the thrill of discovering a new talent about to take wing and fly. The Studio Tour closes the gap between artists and the public. Denise Cook explains, "buying art at the source eliminates much of the impersonality and formality of the art market. Buyers can watch work being made; they can question the artists and make their purchases all the more significant to them by what they've seen and heard."

To plan your studio and gallery tour visit the Toe River Arts Council's website,

William and Katherine Bernstein, Blown Glass Pitcher and Tumblers



Carmen Grier, Fiber Scarves



Kenny Pieper, Blown Glass

arts.org, which houses an online gallery of artists' work and includes digital images, artists' statements, biographies, and other information.

IF YOU GO Further information about the Toe River Studio Tours is available by calling the Burnsville TRAC Gallery at (828) 682-7215 or the Spruce Pine Gallery at (828) 765-0520, or visit www.toeriverarts.org.

EAST OF ASHEVILLE STUDIO TOUR

MAY 14 & 15, 2011 ✨ 10 AM - 6 PM

POTTERY ✨ WOODWORKING ✨ GLASS BLOWING ✨ PAINTING ✨ PHOTOGRAPHY ✨ FIBER ARTS ✨ METAL ARTS

FREE SELF-GUIDED TOUR

ARTISTS OF EAST ASHEVILLE, SWANNANOVA, BLACK MOUNTAIN & FAIRVIEW INVITE YOU TO VISIT THEIR STUDIOS

Detailed maps for the E.A.S.T. tour can be found on our website and at many places of business. Look for the yellow signs during the tour!



E.A.S.T. THANKS OUR SPONSORS

Asheville: Café Azalea • Courtyard Gallery • Curtis High Tech • Custom Cuts & Color Styling Salon • Eastside Optical • Filo Pastries
Black Mountain: ANTHM • Artisan Gourmet Market • Black Mountain Bakery • Black Mountain Yarn Shop • Bone-a-Fide • CW Moose • Edward Jones • Fifth Third Bank • First Citizens Bank • Greybeard Realty • Las Cazuelas • Madison's Inn • The Merry Wine Market • Michelle Salon • Morning Glory Café • Old Depot • Seven Sisters • Town Hardware
Fairview: Blue Ridge Mountain Creamery • Busey & Laughlin Family Dentistry • Cloud 9 Farm • Fairview Business Association • Ira Starr & Associates • Sugar Beet Café • Visual Eyes Optical

WWW.EASTSTUDIOTOUR.COM ✨ 828-686-1011