

The Arts NEWSLETTER



FALL 2023

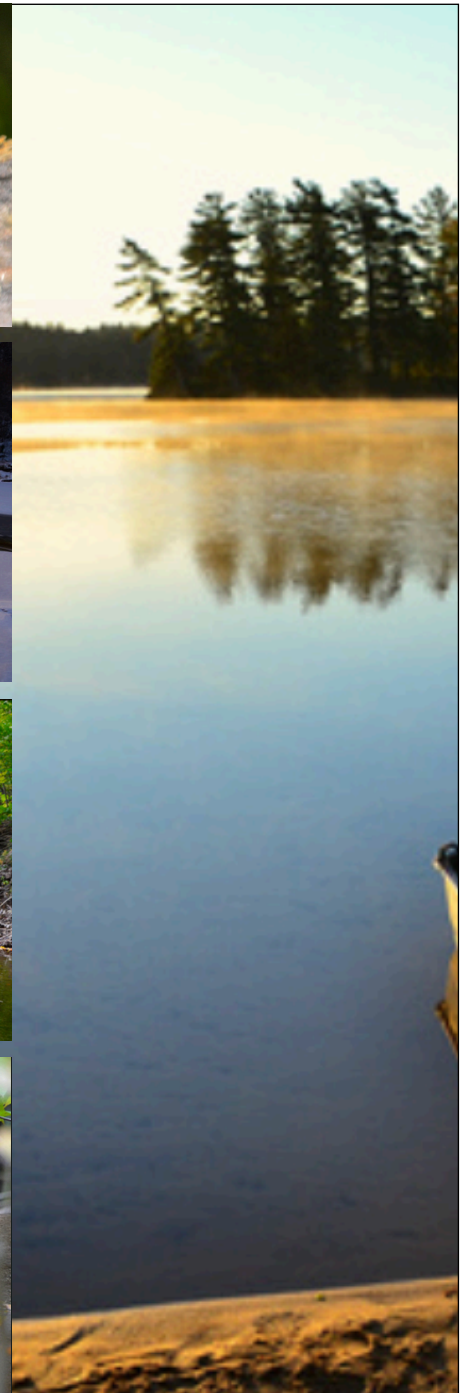
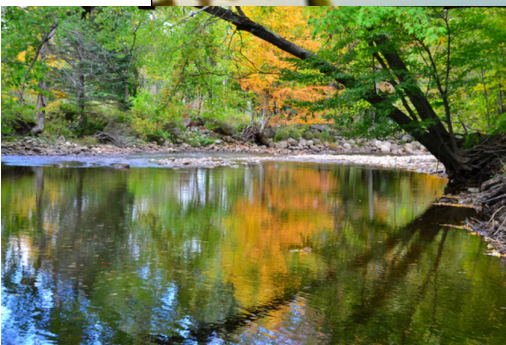
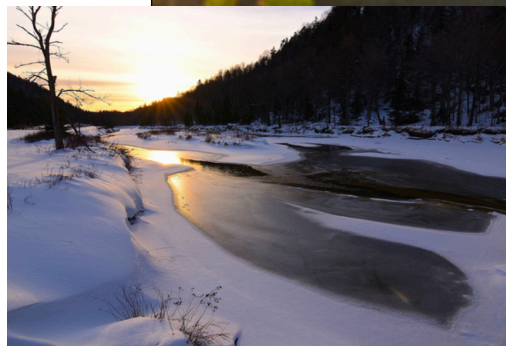
Phil Merlino - Featured Artist

Phil Merlino is a mountain photographer, inspired by the weather and splendor of the Adirondack wildlife, mountains, lakes and rivers. He strives to produce photographs which bring attention to details that are often overlooked in his ever-changing natural environment.

Phil loves to be outside - even in the rain - on the lakes and rivers, and in the snow and on the ice, especially on days where others don't dare to be. These are truly the best days in photography, he says. It is as if Mother Nature puts it all out there, and if you're willing to brave the elements, the rewards are incredible.

Phil relishes his time on a wilderness lake or pond with his camera, often fishing from his kayak, in great anticipation of what he might see. He'll begin a hike on a sunny day to higher elevations, to trek on above the tree line where summit boulders are covered with sheets of ice and the dwarfed trees appear scraggly and snow covered. He will travel to see waterfalls he had previously photographed in autumn, now frozen — beautiful blues and greens, frosty in the landscape. He treasures his time hiking along a brook or river searching for unique ice formations that neither Phil nor anyone else has seen.

Phil has been selected as one of ten Adirondack photographers to participate in the Adirondack Photography Showcase at Adirondack Experience, the Museum, Blue Mountain Lake, on October 6-8 this year.



North Country Arts (NCA)
Suite 120
71 Lawrence St.
Glens Falls, NY 12801

Visit us at:
www.northcountryarts.org
Like us on Facebook and
Instagram



Phil Merlino - Continued

Phil Merlino has been a full-time resident of North Hudson for ten years, having been born in New York City. He is a graduate of Trenton State College, now The College of New Jersey, where he met his wife, Grace. They later raised three daughters and have lived in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey and Newtown, Pennsylvania. He was a Health and Physical Education Teacher and Basketball Coach at the Schools for the Deaf in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and was a Division I Assistant Basketball Coach at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY. He also was an Assistant Basketball Coach at the World Games for the Deaf in Rome, Italy where his team won the Gold Medal in 2001.

Phil always loved photography and took his first photography course while living in Pennsylvania, and never looked back, developing a passion for his camera and the natural world.

Phil's father, Fortunato J. Merlino, was born in Italy, immigrated to America at age four, and became an artist. He left high school to attend the Leonardo da Vinci Art School in NYC, and later followed his art dreams. Phil most

likely developed an eye for art while growing up watching his dad paint at home.



Phil, his family, and his camera have been frequenting the Adirondack Mountains in New York State for a long time. He is an Adirondack 46R (climbed the 46 peaks above 4,000 feet), he is an avid fisherman, kayaker, and enjoys all mountain sports.

He is with his camera every day and has been “hooked on photography” his entire adult life. It has been in the past few years that Phil has propelled his work to the next level, displaying his photographs at local restaurants and in exhibitions at The Lake Placid Center for the Arts, Saranac Lake Artists Guild, The Ticonderoga Art Gallery, and North Country Arts.

Phil Merlino's Adirondack Mountain photography website can be viewed at philmerlino.com.



President's Newsletter Message

Dear North Country ARTS Members,

As the calendar year comes to a swift close, we still have much to look forward to. Two additional exhibits will be featured at the NCA Gallery at the Shirt Factory. First, "Bounty" will open on October 7 and will feature Bernice Mennis and Dawn Clifford as our solo artists. Their work will be exhibited in the Elizabeth (Betty) O'Brien Gallery. Then, "Celebration" will begin on November 18 and will run through January 7.

In addition to exhibits at the Shirt Factory, NCA will also show work at the Queensbury Hotel on the 2nd Floor Mezzanine. This exhibit, entitled "Autumn," will be second in the series. Space for this show is limited to 20 pieces. The drop-off for the show is September 30. Artists who participated in the last show, "Summer," must pick up their work on the same day.

During the next three months, we are very excited to feature the works of Jack Montoya, The Upper Hudson Valley Watercolor Society, and Drew Monthie at the 2nd Floor Gallery, Glen Falls City Hall.

I want to thank all members who have volunteered their time to support our organization. Without your assistance, it would be impossible for NCA to continue our mission to provide opportunities, encouragement and promotion to the artists of the North Country.

The growth of our organization depends upon volunteerism. Please consider joining a committee or the Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,
Judith Aratoli Tully,
President, Board of Trustees

NCA Board Member to Receive Crandall Public Library Award

Dr. Jacqueline Touba, NCA current treasurer and past president of the North Country Arts Board of Directors has been chosen by Crandall Public Library to receive the Henry and Betsy Crandall Award for 2023. Dr. Touba is the founder of the World Awareness Children's Museum, co-founder of the Arts District of Glens Falls, and along with her husband Dr. Riza Touba, founded the Touba Family Foundation. The Foundation has been the sponsor of the NCA Expressions Juried Exhibition for the past seven years. The Touba Family Foundation has supported numerous non-profits in the North Country including Crandall Public Library. Dr. Touba will be celebrated at a Treasures of the Community Dinner on Friday, September 29th at the Queensbury Hotel. Tickets are available at Crandall Public Library.

Jacky is also an accomplished artist and has just had an exhibit at LARAC of her Love Stories from 1000 Years Ago, based on Persian miniatures from the 15th and 16th century. She also just published a book of the stories using her paintings to illustrate the stories. She has brought the miniatures housed in museums, libraries and universities all over the world together in this publication introducing the reader to literature and art famous all over the world.



Grants for NCA 2022/2023 - Jacqueline Touba, Ph.D.

NYSCA Decentralization Grant for 2022-2023

An application was made December, 2022 to NYSCA Decentralization administered by LARAC for two grants: one to fund six music and art programs at the NCA gallery in the Shirt Factory for \$2500 and one to fund the Gem Festival in July 2023 for \$2500. The first request was rejected but the second one was funded for \$1500.

City of Glens Falls Bed Tax for 2023

Since the Music and Art program was rejected by LARAC, in spring an application was made to the City of Glens Falls for the six programs and additional advertising of the program in ***518 Profiles Magazine*** for \$5000 through the Bed Tax grant. The grant was funded at the \$2400 level and funds were received by the middle of July. Therefore the program was reduced to three music and art programs to take place in the fall. The programs will take place on Saturday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. during the NCA exhibitions at the NCA gallery in the Shirt Factory.

Town of Queensbury Bed Tax Grant for 2023

In 2022, the Town of Queensbury partially supported the design and printing of the ***NCA Arts Guide***. The Town grant was \$4400 and the total cost was \$8100 for 1000 copies. The participants paid \$3000 toward the cost and NCA paid the rest. In 2023, NCA applied for \$3000 for the mailing expenses to create the lists and send the Arts Guides to the following places: Museums and Art Galleries, Art Schools in Universities, Theaters, Chambers of Commerce, Tourist Offices and Real Estate Brokers in the Hudson Valley, Catskills, Central New York, Capital Region including Saratoga, and the Adirondacks. The grant will also allow for the distribution of the NCA rack cards to all these locations for the coming year events. In addition, the Queensbury Hotel has put a NCA Arts Guide in all their rooms starting in July, 2023. The Marketing Committee is working on this project.

EXPRESSIONS 2023 funded by the Touba Family Foundation

A grant of \$2500 was received for the annual juried art show EXPRESSIONS which was held from May 6 to June 10. Laura VonRosk juried 80 pieces into the exhibition from 135 entries. Adelaide Walsh Leibold and Jim Tubbs were on hand to receive the art, while Drew Monthie typed it all into the computer. Dr. Jacqueline Touba worked with the juror Laura VonRosk to record the selected pieces as Jon Segan organized the ones selected and those not selected. Phil Casabona contacted everyone to let them know the decision about their work. Drew Monthie then created the wall labels for the show. Thanks to Alyssa Shiel at LARAC the list of participants was ready to be inserted into the program for the public. The hanging committee proceeded to hang the show. At the reception and opening of the exhibition on May 6th the winners were presented the awards. Four artists received the following awards:

Gold — \$750 Cindy Handy for Cherry Plum Blossoms
Silver — \$500 Diane Swanson for Dream Trees
Bronze - \$250 Ajay Mehta for Travel(s)
Honorable Mention - \$100 Rebecca Zeh for Sky Gesture

**2023 FALL 2ND FLOOR
GALLERY SCHEDULE**

**DATES OF
DISPLAY**

**RECEPTION
2ND. FLOOR
GALLERY**

Upper Hudson Valley
Watercolor Society

10/30 - 12/1

11/3, 5-7 p.m.

Drew Monthie

12/4 - 1/5/24

12/8, 5-7 p.m.

by Dennis Wilson

NorthCountryArts City Hall Gallery began its fall season in September with the works of computer scientist and artist Jack Montoya who exhibited until October 27. For the month of November, the Upper Hudson Valley Watercolor Society will display their paintings in the gallery. Beginning in 1989, the Society has met monthly for inspiration, ideas, and encouragement. Normally assembling in the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council's building, the Society also meets elsewhere. Artists interested in attending should review the Society's Facebook page.

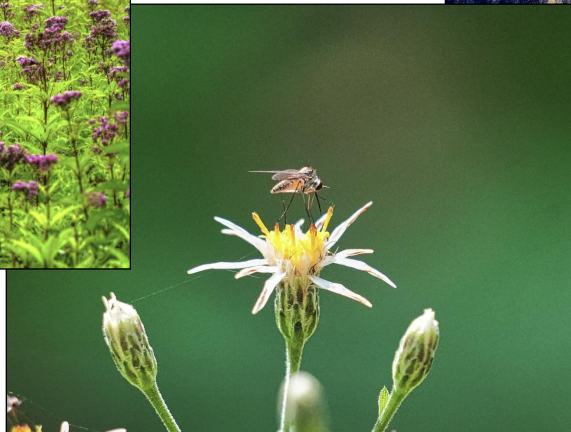
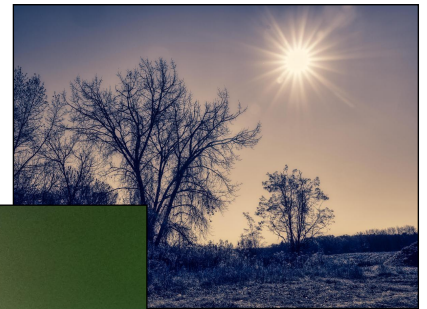
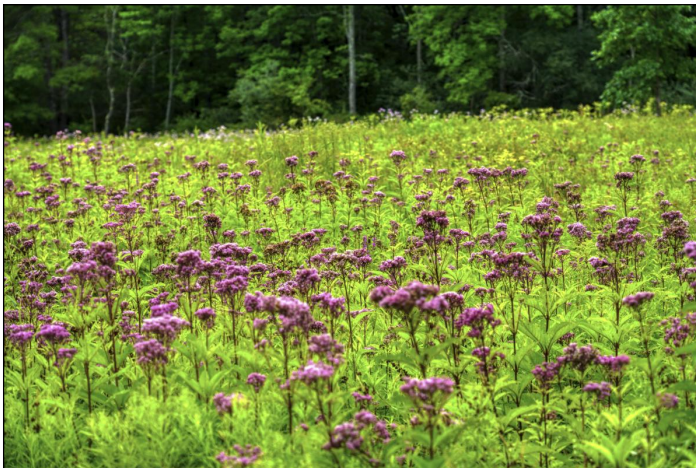
Composed of both beginning and advanced award-winning artists Society members work in a variety of "watermedia." This term refers, of course, to water, but artists may also dilute with gouache and acrylic. More unusually Coca-Cola, tequila, tea, and even sweat are sometimes employed.

The Watercolor Society holds not only member shows in a variety of locations, but also workshops, artist demonstrations and art-related outings. Interested artists are encouraged to email Don Russell at drussellquickdraw@gmail.com.

With degrees in Plant Science, Ecology, and historical Ethnobotany, which is the study of how cultures use plants, Drew Monthie has worked in the nursery and landscaping business. He describes plants as "my lifelong passion" and has developed a career photographing them. As a child he used his parents' Polaroid camera but transitioned to digital when it became available. He uses Sony cameras, full frame and APS-C, and also his phone.

Drew's photos will be both black and white and color and will be eclectic. Subjects will include plants, animals, landscapes and ecosystems as well as the "built environment." He continues to operate a landscape and design business and may be reached at his studio in the Shirt Factory via one of his websites, [StarflowerStudioNY](http://StarflowerStudioNY.com) or ecologicconsulting.net.

I remind readers of the wonderful but rare opportunity to meet the artists and discuss their work with them at the receptions.



Images photography of
Drew Monthie

Tannery Pond Exhibit

Joy Muller-McCoola and Charlene Leary will have an exhibit of felting and weaving at Tannery Pond in North Creek from September 29 - November 5. A reception will be held on September 29th from 5 - 7 p.m. with light refreshments served.

This fiber partnership between felter and weaver demonstrates raw inspiration, as their materials are from the natural world of animals and plants. The many steps involved require feeding, growing, processing and dyeing.

Each step requires water, one of our most precious resources. Increased awareness of this essential element has brought about an awareness of methods of conserving and recycling. Using local sources for wool that is sustainably raised and making dyes from plants that grow around us are two of the many ways we've shifted our material sources.



Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Crandall Public Library Fine Arts Exhibit

Mark your calendars for our Juried Fine Arts Show for the month of December at Crandall Public Library. On Saturday, December 2nd, you can drop off one piece of artwork at the Friends' Gallery, library second floor, from 12-4 p.m. All work must be two-dimensional, wired and ready to hang. No photography or sculpture, please. Cost is \$25 dollars and must be cash or check. Reception and awards Thursday, December 7th, at 5 p.m.

Fred Holman Art Awards

The Colonie Art League Awarded Fred Holman's painting, *Dog Day Afternoon*, their Artists Choice Award at the semi-annual art exhibit at the Guilderland Public Library. The show ran from August 1-30.

Fred Holman was honored to have his painting, *The Escarpment*, installed on permanent display at the Thacher State Park Visitor Center (southwest of Albany, New York). Fred had donated the piece to the Friends of Thacher Park as a fundraiser just before Covid shut everything down. The organization, instead, donated the piece to the Park. The painting will hang above the fireplace in memory of his sister, Trudy Horl.

A Paired Musical and Art Creation Series During NCA Exhibitions

Pairing music and art is a new initiative for North Country Arts. Three musical performances will take place while an artist is creating live artwork on Saturday afternoons from 2- 4 p.m. at scheduled times (below).

We want to attract music lovers to enjoy two dimensional art, thus reaching an additional audience, giving them a new experience and at the same time enticing art lovers to experience something new.

These performances will be advertised on print and social media to entice new viewers to enjoy the work of NCA's creative community. Targeted advertising will bring art lovers and music lovers alike to the gallery.

The artists and musicians who are scheduled to participate are:

Oct 21 - Painter- Hannah Williams / Music- Mark Rabin, 2 - 4 p.m.

Nov 4 - Painter- Sarah Calzada / Music - Donna Britton, 2 - 4 p.m.

Dec 2 - Painter- Corey Pitkin / Music - 2 - 4 p.m.

Monotype Workshop - LARAC Mt. Gallery, Glens Falls, NY

contact: mtngallery@larac.org or call 518-798-1144 x2

Monotype Printing; multi-media print workshop with Joan Reid, \$50/person, class size up to ten participants
Wednesday, September 13, 12 - 3 p.m.

Monotype is a form of print making using a variety of mediums, made by drawing or painting on a smooth, non-absorbent surface, and/or assembling objects on a plate to create an image. Instructor will provide parts and press. Participants can bring their own water-based mediums and different kinds of paper. Instructor will provide some basic watercolor paper, and additional materials.

Also, oil painting classes starting in September.



Art Classes

Beginners and experienced

Painting Classes

Thursdays 3:00 to 5:00

Learn about color mixing, composition, brushes, how to go from a blank canvas to a finished painting, & much more. Experienced Artists, Hone your skills.

**Joan Reid, Art & Healing Arts
Studio 311 at The Shirt Factory**

Contact me at spiritualreid@gmail.com
for more information

NCA Board Members

Officers

Judith Aratoli Tully: President, Gallery Committee

Phil Casabona: Vice Pres. and Gallery Committee, Juried Show Expressions

Ann Nelson: Secretary

Jacquiline Toubia, Ph.D.: Treasurer, Grant Writer, GFArtsDistrict Rep, Juried Art Show Expressions Coordinator, Marketing Committee

Others

Phyllis Brown

Maria Clara Castano: Gallery Chair

Drew Monthie: Marketing Committee, Labels and Programs

Anthony Richichi: Marketing Committee, Gem Festival

Jon Segan: Gallery Committee, Hanging Coordinator

Lee Shippey: Gallery Committee

Dolores Thomson: Chair, Marketing Committee

Adelaide Walsh-Leibold: Juror's Choice, Fine Art and Photography Show Coordinator at Crandall Public Library, Gallery Committee

Hannah Williams: Marketing Committee

Dennis Wilson: 2nd Floor Gallery Exhibit Writer and Solo Show Writer, and 2nd Floor Gallery Chair

Non-Board Regular Volunteers

Brian Alvarado: GEM Festival

Nancy Austin: Newsletter Coordinator and Designer, Marketing Committee

Robin Brewer: 2nd Floor Gallery Assistant

Russell Hillard: 2nd Floor Gallery Assistant

Emily Latterell: Membership Chairperson

Lee Shippey: Gallery Committee

Jennifer Switzer: Bookkeeper

Jim Tubbs: Gallery Committee

2023 North Country Arts Schedule

Small Works Show

August 19 - Sept. 23

Art no larger than 12" in any direction

Opening: August 19, 5-7 p.m.

Bounty

October 7 - November 11

Drop off - Sept. 23

Opening - October 7

Celebration

November 18 - January 7

Drop off - November 11

Opening November 18

Close - January 7

Queensbury Hotel Mezzanine

October 3- December 30

Drop off - September 30

Stewart's Shops

Please support North Country Arts by liking us on Facebook and by visiting our Instagram page.

North Country Arts
Suite 120
71 Lawrence St.
Glens Falls, NY 12801

info@northcountryARTS.org
www.northcountryarts.org

