

Art in the Park Founder Funeral Today

Written by Steve Frank
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As Art in the Park enters its 52nd year, opening tomorrow, there is sadness with the passing of the person the Blowing Rock Chamber credits with spearheading the drive to hold what is now a landmark event in Blowing Rock. Edith Carter, founder of Art in the Park, passed away on Monday. The Blowing Rock Chamber reports that Carter was an art teacher at Caldwell and Wilkes Counties, and worked with area businessman Robert Snyder back in 1962 to add "something special" to the town of Blowing Rock to bring in more tourists and activity. Art in the Park was one of the very first juried outdoor art shows designed to showcase local talent. The Blowing Rock Chamber honored Carter for her contribution to Blowing Rock at the 50th anniversary of the festival in 2012. The 2014 season opens tomorrow, running monthly through October, showcasing craftspeople and artisans from all over the Southeast. More than 35,000 people will attend the shows this year, choosing from handcrafted jewelry, pottery, fiber, glass, photography, painting and more.

Carter helped organize the Ferguson Fire Department and was involved with the Ferguson Community Organization and also the Ferguson Homemaker Extension Club. Following in her father's footsteps, she wrote the Ferguson Community News column for the Wilkes Journal-Patriot for decades. She served on the Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation.

Photos: Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home