

One Thousandth Ornament Graces TAAS-Gallery

By: Dru Heldman, Co-owner, TAAS-Gallery, Downtown Old Fort, NC



As the weather outside cools down, The Appalachian Artisan Society Gallery is heating up with a growing selection of handmade Christmas Ornaments.

TAAS-Gallery member, Kevin Clark of K & D Handcrafted Wood from Marion, NC now has on display (not for sale) his milestone 1,000th ornament. It represents years and years of craftsmanship and attention to detail. The ornament is finely crafted using the finest and rare woods. *"The Bulb is made from Olive wood from the Holy Land. The top & icicle are made of African Black Ebony wood"* Explains, Kevin Clark.

Many of the ornaments available in the gallery make for a wonderful family heirloom, a prized possession that can be passed down from generation to generation.

If you ever needed a gift idea and have someone on your list that seemingly has everything, you can't go wrong with a handmade Christmas Ornament. Currently our gallery has about 100 unique handmade ornaments for sale. A large selection from Kevin Clark, felted ornaments by Jennifer East, ceramic and glazed ornaments, wire crosses by

Beverly Heldman and many, many more... Someday, we hope to make our small downtown Old Fort handcraft gallery famous for our selection of unique handmade ornaments.

Christmas Ornaments hold a special place in our heart at TAAS-Gallery. Continuing a tradition that we began last year, we're holding our second annual Christmas Ornament competition & Fundraiser for Hospice of McDowell County. The holiday program invites people to compete by entering their ornaments into a competition where the public votes for their favorite ornament. Each vote is one dollar. Every dollar collected goes to Hospice of McDowell County.

We're hoping that our community will support the event again this year by entering into the contest and / or voting for ornaments. The competition is open to anyone from anywhere. The only requirement to compete is that the ornament must be handmade by you (not store bought). In addition to the adult category, this year the competition also has a children's category for the competition.

Entries are accepted now through December 15th but the earlier you enter the more public votes you will get. We have invited a very distinguished panel of judges to select the winners. Only the ornaments that are in the top ten make it to the final round for the judging.

The competition has over \$500.00 in cash and prizes that will be awarded to the winners on December 18th during our awards ceremony.

If you can create an ornament, please visit TAAS-Gallery at 48 East Main Street, Downtown Old Fort or see the information on their website: www.taasg.com 828-668-1070