

Discover hidden art

Join the global ‘Game of Shrooms’ scavenger hunt

By **SANDRA WILKERSON QUEEN**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Mushrooms, both exotic and ordinary, can be found throughout wooded and grassy areas in Burke County. On June 8, you’ll be able to find unique artistic versions of the fungi hidden in strategic locations in Morganton and Glen Alpine.

Mushroom collectors or anyone looking for an unusual piece of art can join in an annual happening celebrating creativity and tiny toadstools. “Game of Shrooms” is a once-a-year worldwide “art n’ seek” event. Artists from all over the world hide their original mushroom-themed artworks in public places, then give hints about their locations on social media.

And “Game of Shrooms” is a finders-keepers affair — find a piece of art, and it’s yours to keep. A map of all participating artists with links to their social media sites can be found online at yumfactory.com/attaboy.

Two Burke County artists plan to participate. Laura Bill, a self-described emerging artist who lives and works in Morganton, and Jordan Bumgarner, an accomplished fiber artist, will be hiding tiny treasures for the event.

According to Bill, “Game of Shrooms” is a fun way for artists to use nature and social media to share their craft.

“My artwork is inspired by nature, from focusing on the small things to landscapes inspired by grand adventures,” Bill said. “I primarily work in acrylic and watercolor painting, but I also work in a variety of mixed media compositions, especially when they are part of community or collaborative

art installations. I love to experiment and be connected with my community and the world at large through my artwork.”

Bill said she will be hiding small acrylic paintings and shadow boxes around Morganton and Glen Alpine.

“The main way to find out about where my paintings will be hidden is by checking out my Instagram page and following the clues on game day,” she said. “Each participating artist should be posting clues to their respective social media on where to find the mushroom pieces. I’ll also be posting some updates on local Burke County Facebook groups hoping to hype up the scavenger hunt more the day of.”

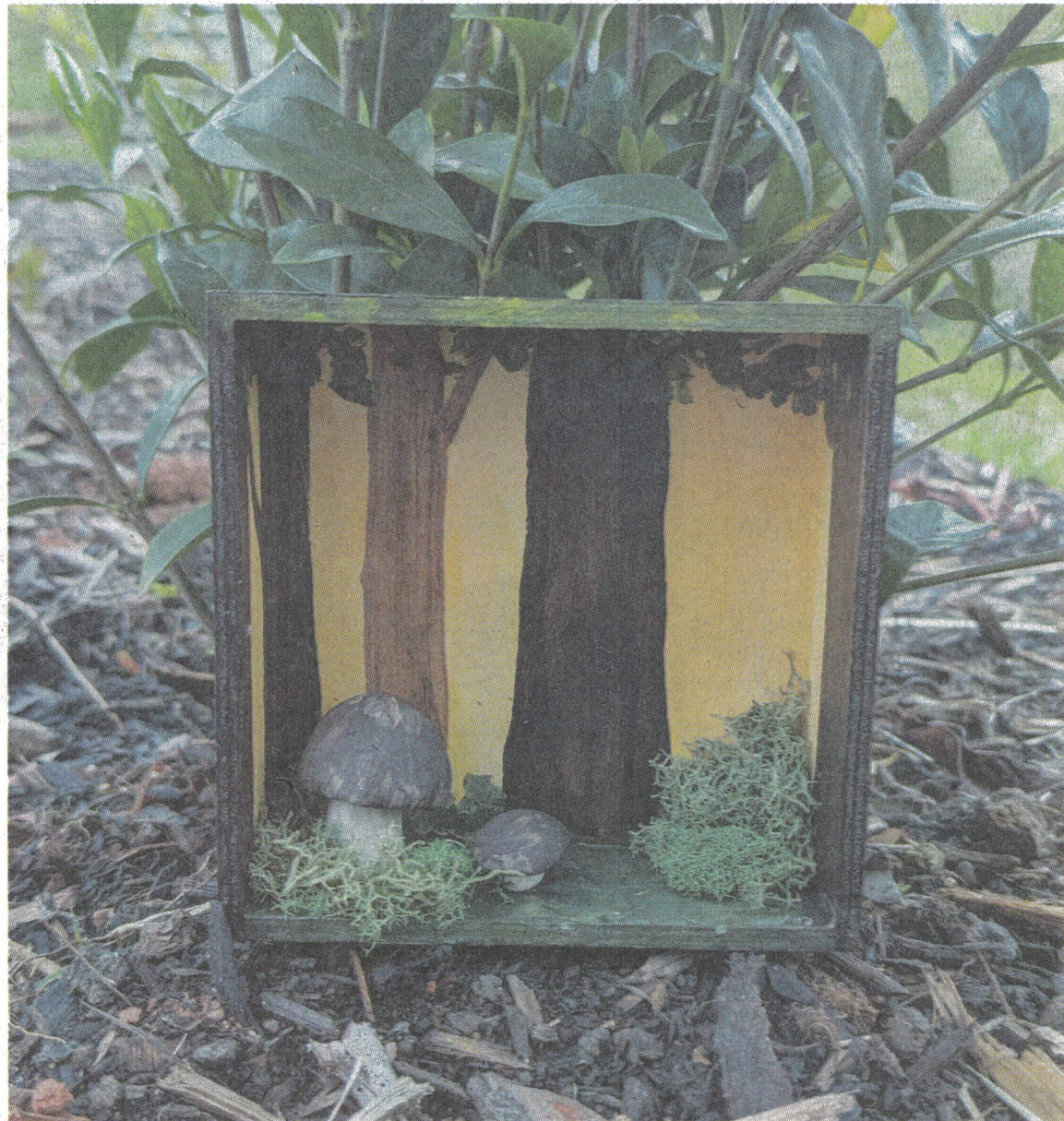
Jordan Bumgarner started crocheting in 2017, making scarves and blankets. “They always turned out horrible,” she said. “It took me years to get better at it.

“When I was entering into my motherhood era in 2021, I switched it up, making stuffed animals for my son,” she added. “I’ve kept going ever since then.”

Bumgarner will be hiding crochet mushrooms for “Game of Shrooms” day. “I will cross-post on Facebook and Instagram on my Knot Moonlit Magic page,” she said.

Follow Bill on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/laurabillart>) and Bumgarner on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/knotmoonlit-magic>) to find clues for locations of their hidden art.

Sandra Wilkerson Queen is the arts & entertainment editor for The Paper. She may be reached at 828-445-8595, ext. 2002, or via email at sandra@thepaper.media.



PHOTOS FOR THE PAPER

ABOVE: Laura Bill creates art based on nature. She will be hiding mushroom-themed pieces for the June 8 ‘Game of Shrooms.’ **LEFT:** Jordan Bumgarner displays a crocheted mushroom for the June 8 event.

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