

## Joanne Crouch Featured Artist

Joanne Crouch is one of the newer members of the North Augusta Artists Guild, introduced to the group by a friend. “I remember the excitement of getting new crayons in first grade — the colors, the smell, the feel. That was my earliest memory” of making art, says the local artist.

She certainly grew from there, creating now in a variety of media. She enjoys mixed-media, encaustics, and gourd art, with abstracts being her favorite subject. During her journey in art, she has taken encaustic workshops at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN, as well as many classes in gourd art in SC and GA. She has also been part of a small group that met in the Columbia area that was known as Artistic Endeavors. There she took classes in gourd art, paper arts, and painting.

Joanne grew up in Saluda, SC, but now lives in Ward with her husband Tim. They’ve been married 40 years and have two married sons and four grandchildren. She has worked in nursing and also textiles, but plans to retire soon, to have more time for her art.

Although she continues to work, she is president of the Art Association of Ridge Spring, a small group of painters and photographers located in Ridge Spring, SC. And she enjoys using that platform to teach her craft to others. “I teach classes also. I feel that you must practice much in order to teach others. I always like to help others find the artist within them.”

Finally, when asked why she does art, Joanne replied, “I feel at peace when I have time to create.”

