

HELLO SENIOR GAMES & SILVERARTS FAMILY!

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State Finals - Our team for 2023

Registration has now closed for the 2023 NC State Finals and we have a total of 25 people registered from Cherokee/Clay Senior Games for State Finals this year - 16 in SilverArts submitting 23 entries and 11 in sports competing in 39 events. This year, there are over 3,100 people from around the state registered for the State Finals and I hope our participants are looking forward to having a great time there – win or not.

Kicking off the games for Cherokee/Clay on September 6th and 7th will be Mary Mott and Bill Battle in the Golf tournament.

The 'Big Week' - including most of the sports events and the SilverArts Showcase competition - will take place from September 18th through to the 23rd and our sports contingent that week will include Michele Preisser, Bill Battle, John Nicholas and Terence Faries.

In the SilverArts, we have 4 participants in Literary arts (Sandy Benson, Raven Chiong, Janice Kirk and Brenda Ledford), 4 in Visual Arts (Karen Haas, Craig Hall, Kimberly Packard and Debra Vanderlaan) and 9 in Heritage Arts (Jane Birchfield, Chris Faries, Terence Faries, Cynthia Gonzales, Anne Hastie, Mike Lalone, Kimberly Packard, Steve Riedel and Dolores Von Philp) which is a pretty good representation.

The Cornhole, Bocce ball and Mini Golf events are scheduled to take place October 3rd through to the 5th and we have 7 people participating in these events this year – Jane Birchfield, Marilyn Ogden, Michele Preisser, Marjorie Swanson, Rick Alringer, Gary Preisser and Kyle Swanson.

GOOD LUCK to all our participants this year!

SilverArtists -

Chris and I will be traveling to Raleigh on September 19th and will be glad to transport your artwork there for you if you are not able to take it yourself. I will be sending out another email later this month to confirm these arrangements with everyone.

Here is the list of our distinguished competitors:

Rick Alringer	Cornhole
Bill Battle	Golf, 1500M & 5K Powerwalks, 200M, 400M, 800M & 5K Runs, Bowling Singles & Discus
Sandy Benson	Short Story
Jane Birchfield	Bocce ball, Cornhole, Mini Golf & Crocheting
Raven Chiong	Essay & Life Experience
Christine Faries	Basket Weaving & Needlework
Terence Faries	50M, 100M & 200M Runs, Running & Standing Long Jumps, Woodcarving
Cynthia Gonzalez	Quilting (Machine Stitched)
Karen Haas	Watercolor
Craig Hall	Oil
Anne Hastie	Jewelry
Janice Kirk	Poem
Mike Lalone	Pottery (Thrown or Hand Built)
Brenda Ledford	Essay, Poem
Mary Mott	Golf
John Nicholas	100M Run, 1500M & 5K Powerwalks & Standing Long Jump
Marilyn Ogden	Bocce ball & Cornhole
Kimberly Packard	Crocheting, General Fiber Arts & Photography-Digital
Gary Preisser	Bocce ball, Cornhole & Mini Golf
Michele Preisser	100M, 200M, 800M & 10K Runs, 1500M & 5K Powerwalks, Bocce ball, Cornhole & Mini Golf
Steve Riedel	Stained Glass
Kyle Swanson	Mini Golf
Marjorie Swanson	Mini Golf
Debra Vanderlaan	Digital Art & Photography-Digital
Dolores Von Philp	General Fiber Arts & Toile/Decorative Painting

Summer/Fall activities

Well we've finally got some summer/fall activities arranged. I hope you will be able to join us at some of them. If you plan to come to any of them, please use the link at the end of each one to register so we will know how many to plan for.

1. **Come join us for a Bocce ball, Cornhole & Horseshoes evening activity on Thursday, August 31st at 6:30pm at Konehete Park, in Murphy.** Come on down and play (or learn) some Bocce ball, Cornhole or Horseshoes with us.

Please register here if you plan to come to the Bocce ball/Cornhole evening —> [Bocce/Cornhole RSVP](#)

2. **On Tuesday, September 26th at 10:00am at Bear Creek Mini Golf, come join us for Mini Golf and Ice Cream social.** The price to play Mini Golf will be \$5 per person and that will include ice cream!
Please register here if you plan to come to the Mini Golf/Ice Cream get-together —> [Mini Golf RSVP](#)

3. Now for something a little different. **On Tuesday, October 10th at 1:00pm at Meeks Park in Blairsville, we plan to hold a Disc Golf event.** I'm not sure how many of you are familiar with this sport so whether you know anything about it or not, come on out for a little fresh air and exercise and we will all learn together. If you do plan to come and have your own discs, please bring them along. We will provide discs for those who don't have any. If we get enough interest in this event, we may consider adding Disc Golf to the Senior Games schedule next spring.
This course is located at 150 Senior Center Dr., Blairsville, GA which is on the NORTH side of Hwy 515.
Please register here if you plan to come to the Disc Golf event —> [Disc Golf RSVP](#)

4. **Finally, on Monday, October 30th at 4:30pm at Konehete Park, in Murphy, we will be conducting our 'Annual' Hot dog & Chili picnic.** We had a great time last year and the Bocce ball and Cornhole will be open for business.
Please register here if you plan to come to the Hot Dog & Chili picnic —> [Hot Dog/Chili RSVP](#)

Further down the year, we are planning to be part of the Christmas Parades and more information will be coming for that later.

National Senior Games results

The National Senior Games just concluded in Pittsburgh, PA where more than 11,500 seniors aged 50 and better gathered from around the nation to compete in 20 sports and games (sorry SilverArtists, there are no SilverArts categories at the National Games). They went for medals, reunite with friends and make memories. Whether they set a record, performed a personal best or simply crossed the finish line, each competitor set an example of the benefits of staying active at any age.

Among them this year were 5 seniors representing Cherokee/Clay Senior Games – Lisa Sellers, Ruth Harrell, Debra Bolle, Terence Faries and Daryl Jones. At this level of competition and with that many competitors, it goes without saying that unlike the local games, medals are not easy to come by but our little group managed to bring home 1 bronze medal!

Lisa Sellers was our medal recipient! Lisa was able to join a ladies Softball team from another county when some of their original team members could not make the trip.

Ruth Harrell and Debra Bolle both competed in the 1500M and 5K Power Walk events with both of them setting new personal bests. Ruth managed an 18th in the 1500M and 15th in the 5K while Debra earned a 17th in the 1500M and 12th in the 5K in their respective age divisions.

Terence Faries competed in the 50M dash (18th) and 100M dash (16th) and the long jump where he placed 14th.

Daryl Jones competed in Badminton Singles and Mixed Doubles where he was edged out of the bronze medal positions finishing 4th in both events.

Some people call it the 'Senior Olympics' and that is just the way it felt. It was truly an inspirational time participating and cheering on everyone else – especially the eighty and ninety year olds - and there were plenty of them! It's not often anyone can get to be a part of an event of this magnitude and it is an experience never to be forgotten including marching in the 'Parade of States' which took place prior to a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game at PNC Park.

Since the Senior National Games are only held every 2 years, the next opportunity will be in 2025 in Des Moines, Iowa and the road to those games will start locally in next year's Cherokee/Clay Senior Games for anyone who is interested.

Our Website and Facebook

Don't forget to check out our website occasionally - [Cherokee/Clay SG website](#) - as well follow us on our Facebook page - [Cherokee/Clay Facebook](#). You can find most of the information you might be looking for there as well as the current news.

Terence