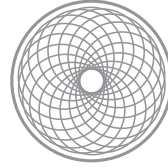


# John Clark Furniture



PO Box 36  
Penland, NC 28765  
828.765.5785  
[johnfclark@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnfclark@bellsouth.net)

January 3, 2013

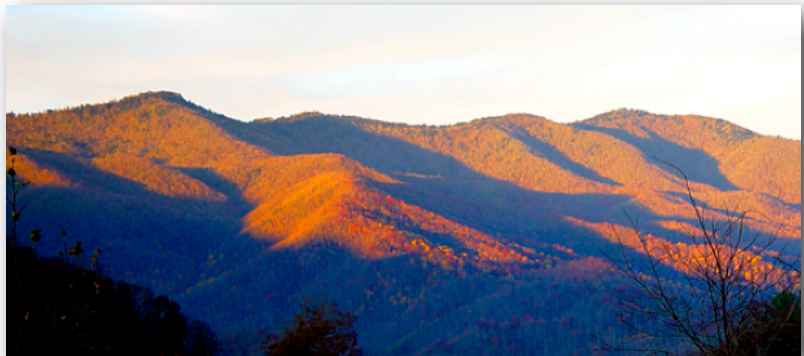
Waynesville Public Art Commission  
PO Box 100  
Waynesville, NC 28786

Dear Waynesville Public Art Commission,

I am pleased to offer my design for the Wildflowers of the Smokies project for the Gateway to the Smokies mini park in Waynesville. My background is in designing and making studio furniture and artwork for public places. I measure the success of my work by how well it fulfills its purpose while also offering the satisfaction of something that is well made, aesthetically stimulating, and enjoyable to use.

Over the past 25 years, I have been working with design committees, architecture firms, interior design consultants and ordinary human beings who seek solutions from someone they can work with effectively. I find great satisfaction in rising to the challenge of negotiating design solutions with clients and especially with groups of design professionals who are ultimately looking for the most streamlined way to a successful piece of artwork.

My inspiration for this design came during a three day backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail in October. The panoramic view of the Smokies from the old Wesser Bald fire tower was a new vantage point for me that highlighted the undulating folds of the mountains. These dramatic lines were the starting point for my design.



My studio is a well equipped, 1700 square foot space with two experienced assistants. I also work regularly with local metal fabricators in this large community of extraordinarily talented professional craftspeople.

I am particularly interested in this project because of my 40-year long relationship with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the theme of celebrating the park's diverse flora makes the connection even stronger. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this project.

Sincerely,  
John Clark

## John Clark

PO Box 36  
Penland, NC 28765  
828/765-5785  
[www.johnclarkfurniture.com](http://www.johnclarkfurniture.com)  
johnfclark@bellsouth.net

### Professional Experience

since 1985	Designer/maker of furniture: John Clark Furniture, Inc.
Fall 2013	Instructor (Fall Concentration): Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC
2002& 07	Instructor: Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN
2003& 06	Instructor: Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC
2002	Instructor: Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN
1985-2000	Wood Studio Coordinator: Penland School of Crafts
1986-88	Artist-in-Residence: Penland School of Crafts
1986-87	Instructor: Swain School of Design, New Bedford, MA

### Education

1987	MFA in Furniture Design, Program in Artisanry, Boston University
1982-84	BFA candidate in Furniture Design, Appalachian Center for Crafts, Tennessee Tech
1976	BS degree in Forestry from Mississippi State University

### Publications

2009	500 Tables, Lark Books
2008	500 Chairs, Lark Books
2005	The Penland Book of Woodworking, Lark Books
1991	Creative Designs in Furniture, Kraus Sikes, Inc.
1990	Fine Woodworking Design Book 5, Taunton Press
1987	Fine Woodworking Design Book 4, Taunton Press

### COLLECTIONS

Harvard Business School:	Boston
Ron and Ann Abramson:	Washington
Mississippi Museum of Art:	Jackson
Hunter Museum of Art:	Chattanooga
Senator Richard Licht:	Providence
Wells Fargo Bank:	Charlotte
Bank of America:	Raleigh
Southern Living Magazine:	Birmingham
Blue Ridge Regional Hospital:	Spruce Pine

John Clark  
Gateway to the Smokies Park  
Wildflowers of the Smokies Project

**Summary of Qualifications**

1989

The architecture firm of Jova/Daniels/Busby in Atlanta commissioned me to build furnishings for the chairman's reception area in Southern Living Magazine's corporate headquarters building in Birmingham. I worked with the construction team to include the same granite used in the building's details as an element in the pieces I designed. I completed the pieces under budget and ahead of schedule.

Project Budget: \$6500



1989-90

As a partner in Big Furniture Corp, I built four pieces of residential furniture for architect Robert A.M. Stern to furnish his client's Chestnut Hill, MA residence. We worked closely with the architect's interior design department, conferring in their New York offices and in our studio in Easthampton, MA. The four-month long project required considerable consultation as we revised and updated our blueprints to reflect the architect's changes. We had a contractual agreement that required strict adherence to design criteria and deadlines.

Project Budget: \$24,000



1993

Mississippi Chemical Corporation commissioned two 10-foot long conference tables for use in their fourth and fifth floor conference rooms. To maintain the required open look and thin apron structure, the undersides of the tables were reinforced with steel to keep them flat even when weighted with lounging executives. Too large for the passenger elevators, the tables were rigged and hoisted up through the emergency stairwells.

Project Budget: \$21,000





2007

Chan Mock Architects in Cambridge contracted with me to build the furniture for the office of the Dean of the Harvard Business School in Boston. The project operated on a very strict schedule with on-time delivery being the overriding requirement. The school's campus planning office required on-site progress verification visits to my studio in North Carolina  
Project Budget: \$38,000



2011

The Mississippi Museum of Art accepted my project proposal for outdoor public seating as a featured element for its new 1.2 acre Art Garden park. The \$4.5 million dollar greenspace complex, which adjoins the museum, features seasonal foliage, an outdoor performance stage, and a wading fountain that is overlooked by this 34-foot, three-piece bench. I worked closely with the nine-member project design team and construction group throughout the 10-month design and fabrication process. I coordinated the work of six subcontractors in three states while supervising three craftsmen in my studio for the fabrication.  
Project Budget: \$103,500



2012

The Blue Ridge Regional Hospital chose my design for their donor recognition wall after reviewing applications resulting from their request for proposals. The selection committee held finalists interviews and scrutinized the details of each proposal before making their final determination. I screened suppliers and subcontractors to get the right combination of materials and craftsmanship that the hospital was looking for. This is an ongoing project with updates as new donors are recognized on the piece.  
Project Budget: \$16,000



1995

I built my studio space from the ground up over a period of 14 months. It includes a bench room and assembly area along with a 100 square foot spray booth and complete machine room. It has remote dust collection, three phase power, 15-foot high ceilings, chain hoist, and a sliding cargo loading door.



John Clark  
Gateway to the Smokies Park  
Wildflowers of the Smokies Project

**Image Inventory List**

Image#1

John Clark  
Moon Dining Table & Chairs  
96" x 120" x 29" high  
Quilted Maple, Mahogany, Ebony  
2001  
Vero Beach, FL  
\$24,000

Image#2

John Clark  
UNCA Conference Table & Chairs  
96" x 60" x 29" high  
Wenge, Curly Ash, Mahogany  
2007  
Asheville, NC  
\$22,000

Image#3

John Clark  
Corner China Cabinet  
34" x 28" x 86" high  
Quilted Maple, Mahogany, Ebony  
1993  
Jackson, MS  
\$9,000

Image#4

John Clark  
Wine Cabinet  
42" x 17" x 36" high  
Lacewood, Marble, Pearwood  
2010  
Roaring Gap, NC  
\$4,500

Image#5

John Clark  
Upholstered Bench  
20" x 110" x 22" high  
Cherry, Bubinga, upholstery  
2009  
Chapel Hill, NC  
\$4,000

















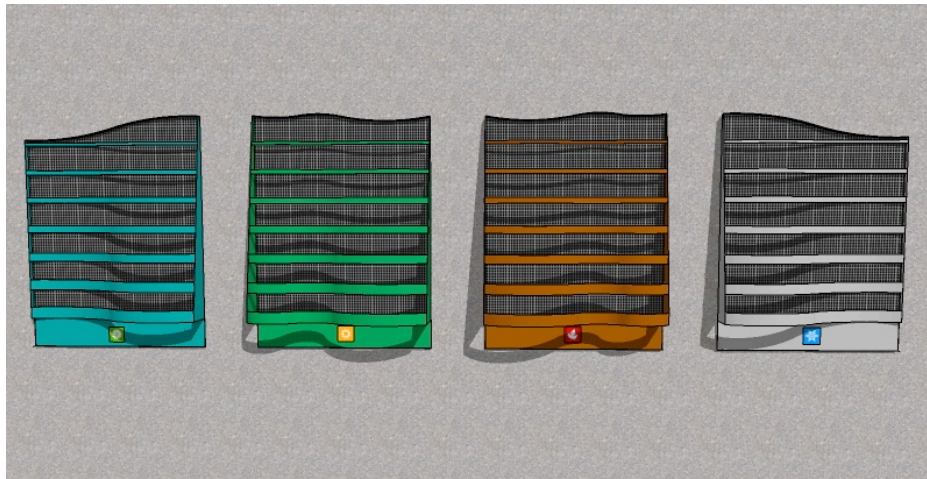




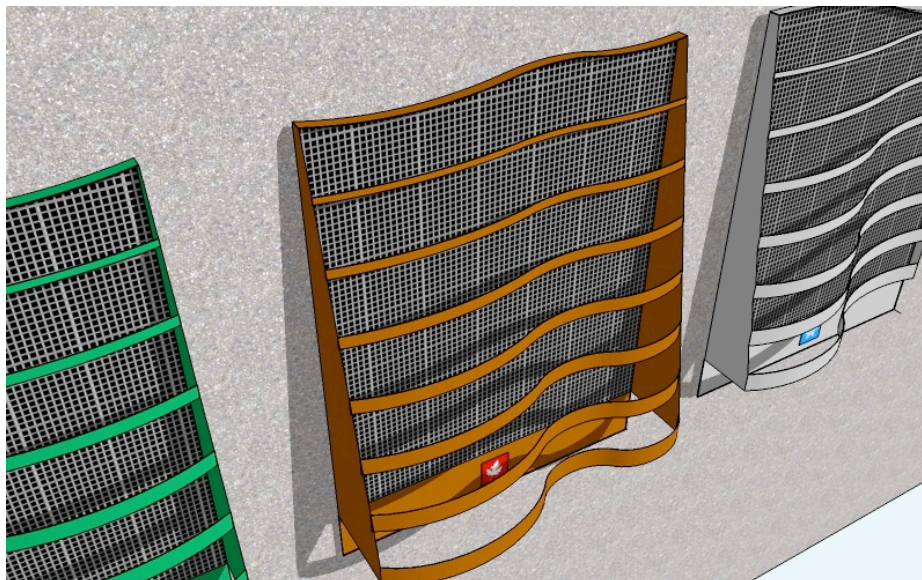
John Clark  
Gateway to the Smokies Park  
Wildflowers of the Smokies Project

**Design Proposal**

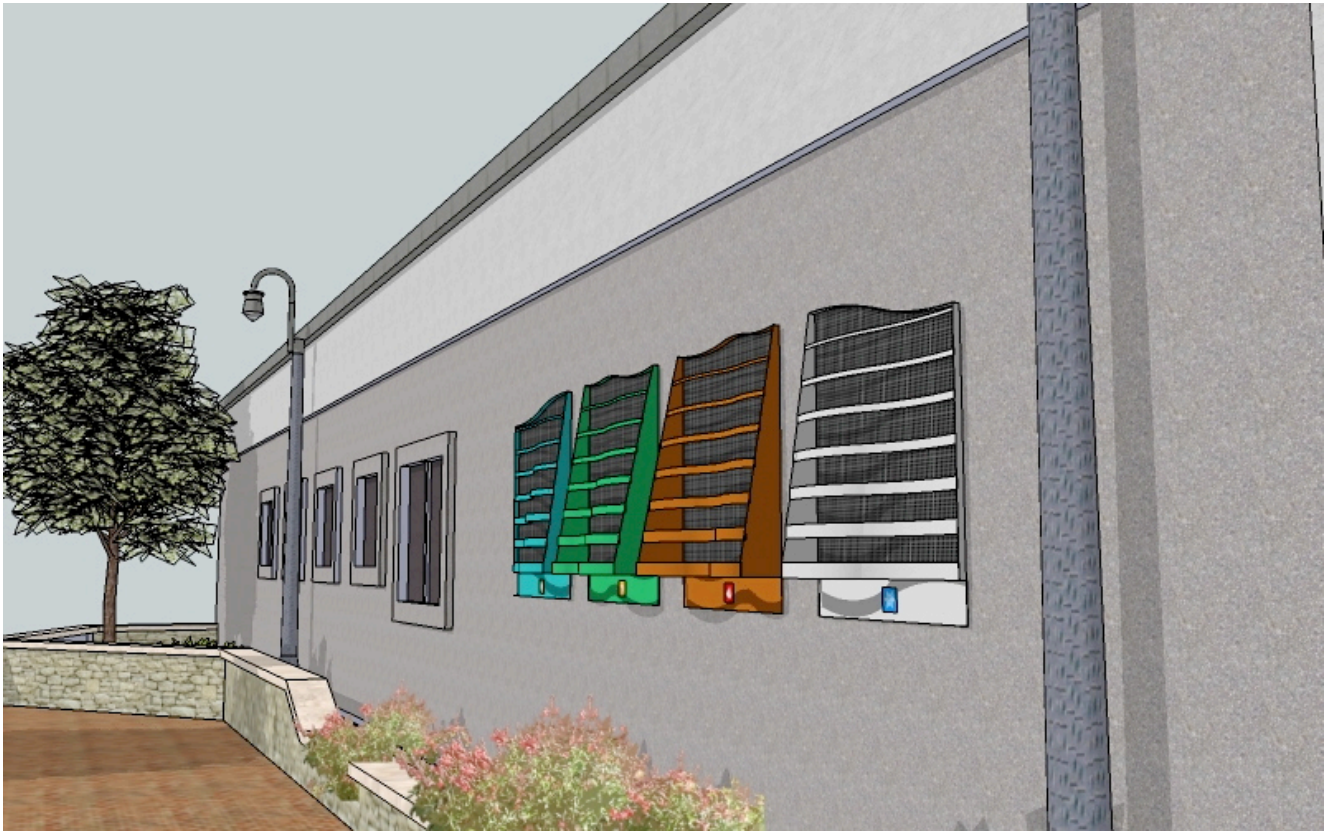
My design references the flowing lines of the Smoky Mountains by imitating the contour lines of a topographic map with undulating strips of powdercoated steel. Secondly, the piece is a quadriptych to represent the four seasons in the mountains.



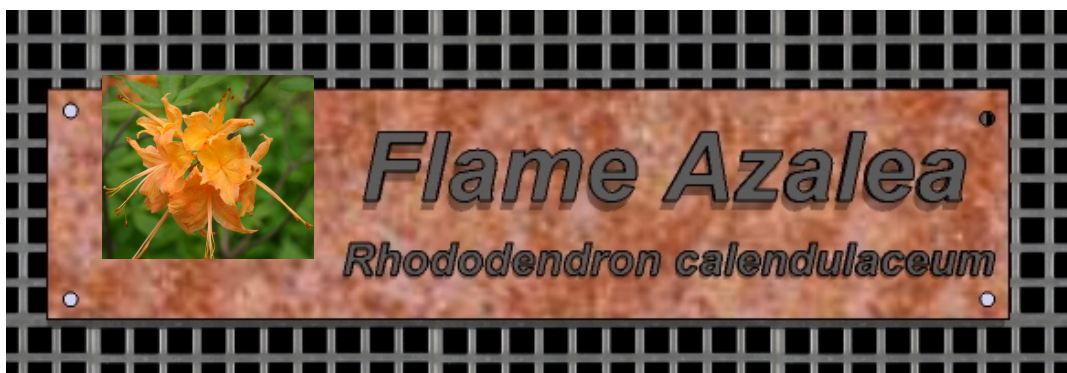
In my mind, there is a natural orderliness in the diversity of wildflowers that can be organized by two factors: elevation and time of the year. From the spring ephemerals, through the rhododendron blooms in July, to the flowering trees of early winter, wildflowers are busy throughout the year. Elevations in the park range from 875 to 6,643 feet and flowering plants can be found throughout.



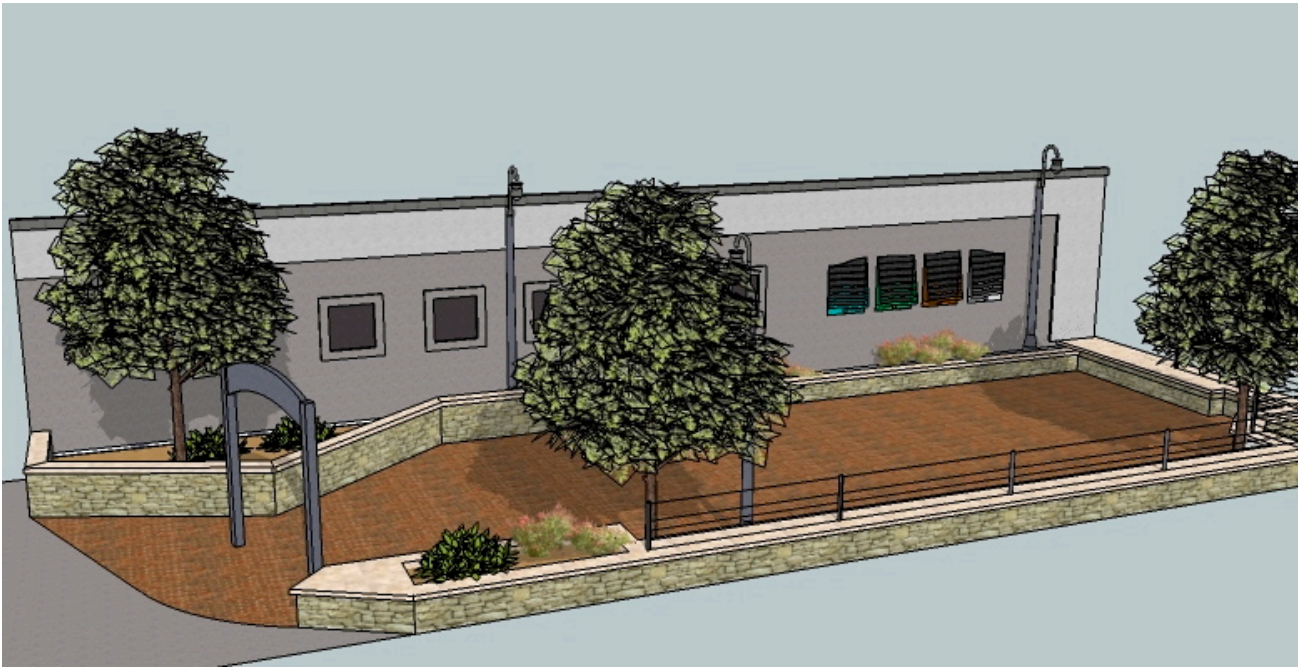
These factors of seasonal activity and elevation are the primary elements of my design. Together they can be thought to form four grids, each of which is represented by the metal mesh backs in each “season” of the piece.



I would highlight individual species of wildflowers with plaques placed at the height on the grids that corresponds to the elevation where they are found in the mountains, together with the season in which they are in bloom. For instance, Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*) blooms at low and mid-elevations in April and May, so it's name would be found midway up in the Spring grid.







The symbols that depict the four seasons would be hand painted and fired ceramic tile, permanently mounted on the steel apron of each section:



### Materials List

I will use durable, practical materials for low maintenance and minimal susceptibility to vandalism.

1. Powdercoated steel: the primary structure of each section including the contour lines which vary in width from top to bottom.
2. Stainless steel: mounting hardware and wall anchors to attach the sections to the concrete/stucco wall.
3. Powdercoated or stainless steel mesh: for the backs of each section that will allow for the attachment of the individual wildflower name plaques.
4. Copper, anodized aluminum, or glass: for the individual wildflower name plaques. These may be laser cut or etched for the lettering, probably with photochemical etched images of the flower.