

**New Developments:
PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN**

For the past three years **Meg Peterson** has directed two-week Art and Nature Day Camps, under the auspices of the Western North Carolina Alliance, using space at Penland. The program has been so successful that Penland has been looking for ways to incorporate Meg's work more fully into life at Penland. Long-range plans call for her to offer a longer day camp program which would be half days, in addition to a repeat of the two-week day-long camp and to develop some programs throughout the year. These would be available at a modest cost to children in the area as well as the children of staff and instructors.

Through these two-week summer programs and her years of working as a visiting artist in schools, Meg has developed a philosophy, a series of projects, and an approach which she plans to document in a small manual which Penland staff will produce. This manual will become the basis of mini-workshops for art teachers, which we hope to offer next summer as a pilot project. These workshops would be several hours long and available for teachers registered in a regular Penland class.

Meg will begin her partnership with Penland this spring in a project funded by an Arts and Education Partnership grant from the North Carolina Arts Council. Penland will provide the facility and the equipment for this three-part project. The first part will be visits by groups of elementary school students to Penland for a tour, demonstrations, and a hands-on project. The second is workshops for classroom teachers. Finally, the grant will provide scholarships to the summer day camp for eight to ten children who have participated in the project. Meg will be the coordinator for the project, working with Gouge Elementary School in Bakersville as the primary public school partner, extending to Tipton Hill and Buladcan Schools as possible.

This partnership project, which is a part of Penland's outreach to the Mitchell County community, is based on the belief that art serves many purposes in the education of children. This program should help children learn by increasing their interest in and appreciation for crafts, nature, and other cultures, providing links which can be used by the classroom teacher.



Children gathering grass in the Penland meadow for a project during Art Camp '93

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