

Saco Bay Artists

March 2023 Newsletter



Our meetings are held monthly from March-December, usually on the second Monday of the month from 10:30 am -12:30 pm. The meeting location is the Saco Parks & Rec Center at 75 Franklin Street in Saco. OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023 - ALL WELCOME. Please look for signs at the building entrances indicating whether masks are required based on community COVID levels. Once in the meeting room, masks are currently optional, so please do whatever makes you comfortable.

We host a “drop in” at the Rec Center on the non-meeting Mondays from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm for those who would like to get together to paint, create, chat, etc. Please let Ellen (pastelpainter84@gmail.com) know if you might like to join on those Mondays; she has been trying to email around on Sundays to see who plans to attend, which helps us all in planning.

March Meeting Minutes:

- Ellen reviewed the treasury report from Lettie.
 - Heather could not attend the meeting but her membership report indicated there weren't recent changes.
 - For those of you who may not know, Saco Bay Artists offers the Eastman Scholarship Award (\$500) each year to an eligible student residing in the Saco Bay area (Old Orchard Beach, Biddeford, Saco, or Scarborough). The applicant must be planning on studying in the arts leading to a degree or certification in the arts. Ellen reported that she has contacted the guidance departments at the relevant schools. She has heard back that some students might apply, but please also help get the word out!
 - Kathy prepared and distributed a budget for show expenses, indicating we are in good shape; the only new expense might be ribbons.
 - Kathy also reported the outcome of the work she, Heather and Kay did (judge interviews and show research) to review the award structure of SBA shows. They prepared 2 proposals for consideration and voting which would separate the fine arts and fine craft awards:
 - Option 1: \$150 best in show, \$100 1st prize art, \$50 second prize art, \$100 1st prize craft, \$50 second prize craft, and the photography award
 - Option 2: same as Option 1 but also including a \$25 honorable mention each for art and craft
- OPTION 2 PASSED. More info on the summer shows is included later in this newsletter.

SBA Leadership Roles and Needs

We have been incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated and talented members who have volunteered their time for SBA Chair and Committee positions over the years, but several of our current leaders have understandably expressed a desire to identify successors so they can pass the torch. Members are encouraged to review these positions and to please express their interest in taking on these roles or even just helping with some of the responsibilities.

- **SBA Chairperson:** Ellen has served as Chair for several years and has also faced some recent health challenges so she would like to transition out of the role. Responsibilities include preparing agendas, running SBA meetings and collecting attendance, ensuring that reports are provided from other committee chairs (finance, membership, etc.), arranging demos, and other responsibilities as needed.
- **Summer Show Coordinator:** Kathy has asked if someone would work with her this spring/summer to learn about our shows and how to put them together, with the idea that this person would transition into the show coordinator role. Kathy is preparing a month by month checklist of tasks that need to be completed.
- **SBA Finance:** David Steed has stepped back from his finance role due to other commitments. There is a need for someone to oversee the budget and work with the treasurer to develop the budget.
- **SBA Treasurer:** Lettie would like to transition out of the Treasurer role. This involves depositing checks, making payments, working with SBA's bank, tracking deposits and withdrawals from the various accounts, and working with the Finance person on budgeting.

Please let Ellen know if you are interested in learning more about the Chair or financial roles (pastelpainter84@gmail.com) or contact Kathy about the Show Coordinator role (207-937-2125 or kathyangellee@gmail.com).

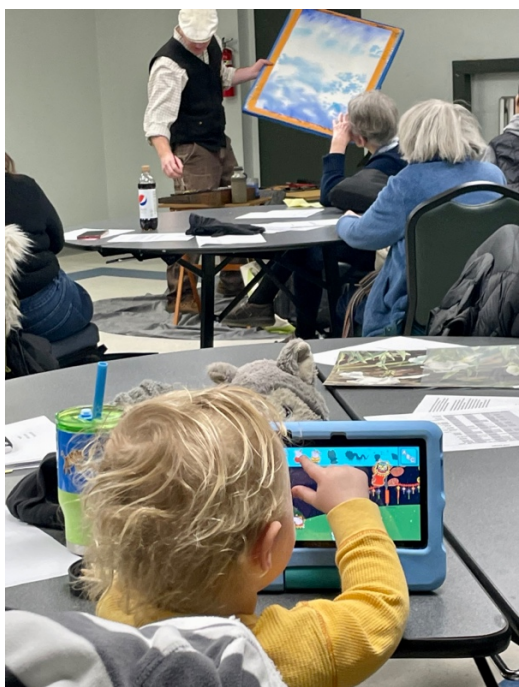
March Demo by Russel Whitten

At the March meeting, we enjoyed an instructive step-by-step demo by local artist, Russel Whitten, who teaches watercolor. Russel studied art at Maine College of Art, Heartwood College of Art and the Art Students League of New York. He considers himself fortunate to have studied watercolor with DeWitt Hardy and Edward Betts. He is a member and showing artist with the Ogunquit Arts Association/ Barn Gallery and the Kymara Gallery.

Russel prefers painting from life, on location, but also includes figures or the occasional still life. He finds painting from photos...boring. He did his entire composition and demo from memory, based on many, many trips to the beach and another painting he'd done recently. He talked a bit about how to create perspective with Z's and S's—that clouds and water currents in the sand will appear closer together and more Z-like zig zags at the horizon line and stretch out into smoother S's as they move away from the horizon. Unlike oils, with watercolor you are conserving your lightest areas and painting around the negative space-- he doesn't use white paint or resist. He began by wetting his paper (cotton rag) and painting the entire sheet as if it were the sky since the water in the foreground sand would be reflecting the sky. He then dried it with a hair dryer because you want the surface dry before adding additional layers—in this case, the sand. The sand was applied with both drips and strokes, bending the color in different ways, to get a variety of effects. See some of the process and the end product in the photos that follow.







Ellen is seeking volunteers to host demos during our monthly SBA meetings in 2023...and you get paid for it too! You are encouraged to show us how you make your art, but if you prefer not to “perform,” a demo related to your art/technique, tips of the trade, history/influencers, etc. would be just as valuable. Feel free to get creative!

SBA Summer Shows in Ocean Park

As you may have seen, Kathy sent out an email in late January with information and the application for SBA’s summer shows in Ocean Park. The application can be downloaded or printed from the SBA website: <https://www.sacobayartists.org/pdf/SBAShowApplication2023.pdf>. The dates are set as Tuesday July 4, Saturday August 5, and Saturday September 2 from 9 am – 4 pm.

SBA awards cash prizes at each show and the categories are Fine Art, Photography and Fine Craft. Be sure to check off which category your work falls under when you submit your application. Feel free to reach out to Kathy if you have questions (207-937-2125 or kathyangellee@gmail.com).



Libby Library Sketching

Sylvia has confirmed that sketching will be offered at the Libby Library in Old Orchard Beach again in 2023, running from June through October on the second Thursday of the month from 1:30-4:30 pm. The sessions will be held indoors this year. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

Gerard Bianco Exhibit

New SBA member, Gerard Bianco, will have an exhibit of his paintings and illustrations at the Meetinghouse Arts Gallery in Freeport, running from May 27-June 3. The opening reception is May 27 from 2-5 pm.

DUES REMINDER

If you haven't yet paid, 2023 dues are \$45. Please bring your check made out to Saco Bay Artists to the next meeting or mail it to Heather Fountain at 2 Pavia Ave, Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064.

A note for SBA members who participate in the summer shows, if you attend 3 business/program meetings during the year, your show fee will be \$35 instead of \$55/show. This is a nice benefit for attending meetings. Plus you get to meet other artists and enjoy excellent demonstrations.

SBA Chairs/Committees

Chair

*Ellen Pelletier – Prepare agendas, run meetings, demos

Committee chairs

*OPEN – Facility, Finance

*Lettie Lemay – Treasurer

Christine Labaree – Meeting Scribe & Newsletter Editor

*Kathy Angel Lee – Summer Show Coordinator

Heather Fountain - Membership Coordinator

Sylvia Orchard - Events

Stephen Beckett – Webmaster

Kailleigh Archibald – Facebook Coordinator

** Seeking successors – for more information, see meeting notes above or contact Ellen/Kathy.*