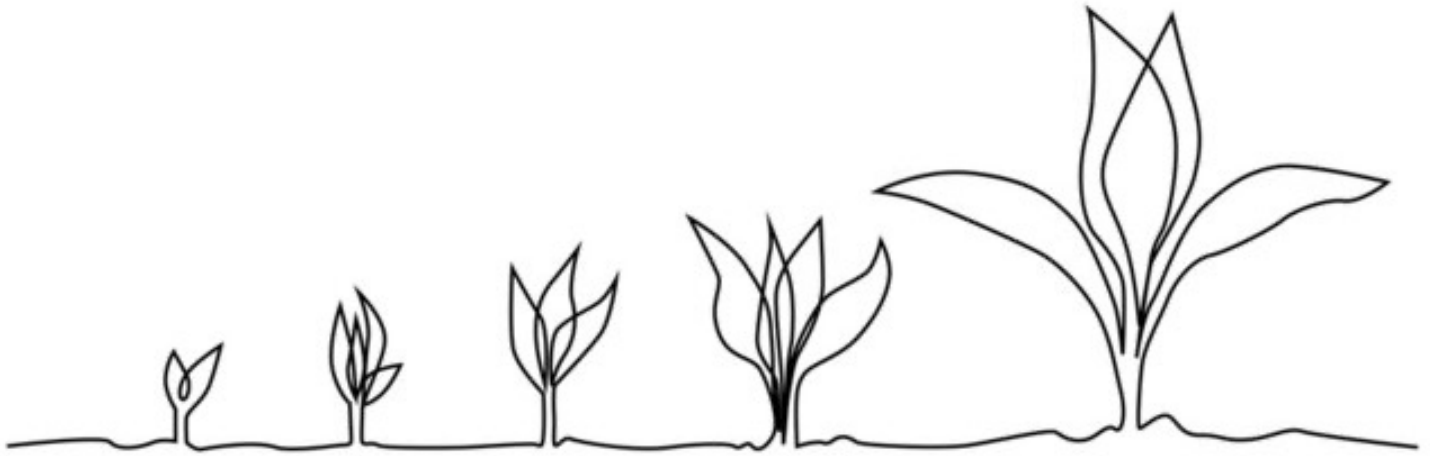


Saco Bay Artists

May 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, JUNE 12, 2023 - ALL WELCOME. 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.

May Meeting Minutes:

- Ellen called the meeting to order and reported that there hasn't been much change in the treasury. She also reminded the group that we need to identify a new Treasurer to take over for Lettie, who has been graciously serving for years.
- Heather gave a Membership report. We have 40 members that have renewed and 17 we are still waiting to hear from. Also, Pam Chute joined as a new member. We've been averaging 14 members in attendance at meetings and 6-7 have been joining on the other Mondays for drop in painting.
- Kathy gave an update on the summer show sign ups. So far we have 27 registered for the July show, 20 for August and 18 for September. During the August show we plan to have the SBA tent again for members who want to offer a few pieces each during the show. More details on the summer shows are provided below.
- Sylvia reported that the portrait sketching offered at Libby Library will take place indoors this year. Participants can sketch or paint and the library pays to have a live model for each session. The dates are the second Thursday of the month from 1:30-4:30: June 8, July 13, Aug 10, Sept 14, and Oct 12. Sylvia (sgorch6648@gmail.com) can add people to the call list each month if they'd like a reminder.
- Ellen announced that Jossoyln Budesheim from OOB High School has been selected to receive the Saco Bay Artists' Gertrude Eastman Scholarship Award. \$500 is awarded annually to a promising student pursuing a degree or certification in the arts. A portfolio of Jossolyn's work is viewable here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1w8a9-YFnVES5qcepkmTCuaKxA49Lw3rnHkOHZj-K3nw/edit#slide=id.p>. There was a suggestion that Jossolyn be invited to come show and discuss some of her work live at a future SBA meeting.

- Iona Desmond—one of the original founding members of SBA-- has not been able to attend recent meetings live and had not renewed her membership yet, so there was a motion to make her an honorary lifetime member which passed with a unanimous vote.
- The meeting was adjourned so the demo by Gerard Bianco could begin.

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).

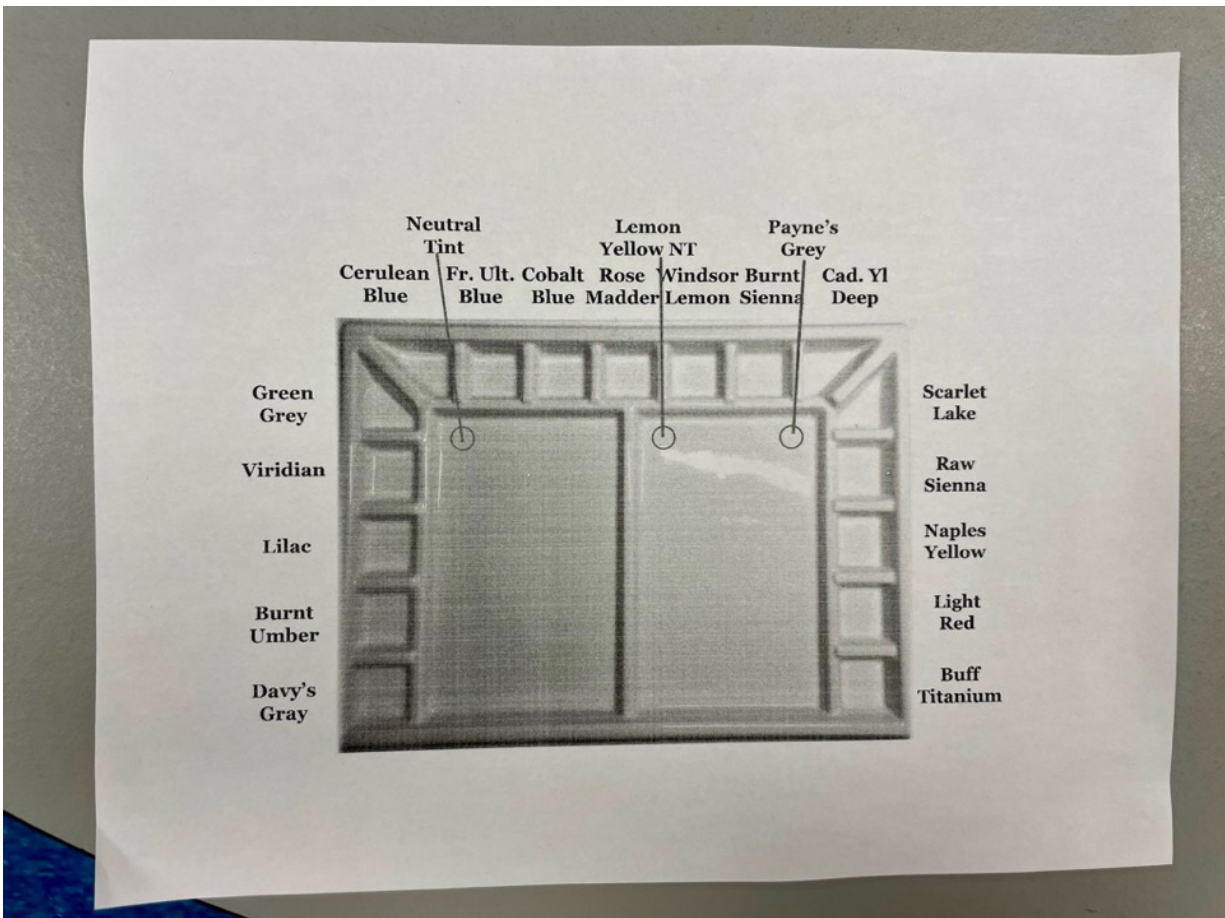
May Demo by Gerard Bianco

Gerard is an accomplished artist (and writer!) working primarily in watercolor but also other media. Details on his upcoming show beginning May 27 at the Meetinghouse Arts Gallery in Freeport are provided below.

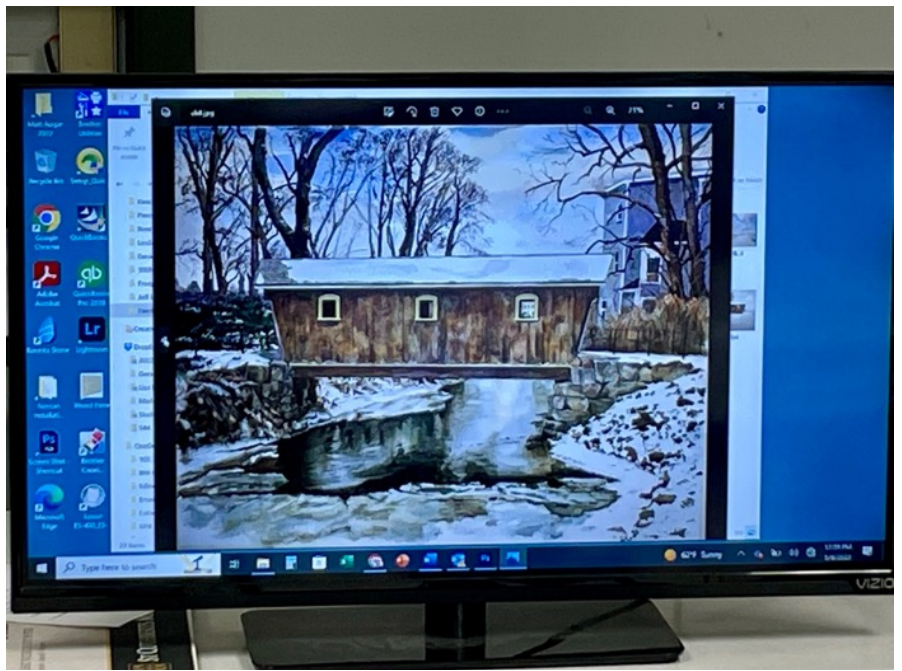
His comprehensive demo used a slide presentation with photos to walk the group step by step through his process of painting several of his watercolor works, including two that he'd brought with him to show. Select notes from his demo were as follows:

- With watercolor, as soon as you put a color down, everything else has to relate to that
- He starts with a drawing (usually on graphite paper and then transfers over, which prevents too much erasing which is hard on the paper) and then lays in the background
- For portraits getting the skin tone right is important (he often uses burnt umber here) as is the shape of the hair which serves as a background for the face and helps focus the features
- He uses masking fluid to preserve the white in tight areas; he prefers the light blue tinted fluid from the SAA English artist group
- For landscapes the sky often sets the tone for the painting; 80% of skies will be darker on top and lighter toward horizon, and the area in back is typically lower in chroma and intensity
- He typically works from the top down and from the back forward with watercolor
- He will mix all the color for an area before laying any down so he can work quickly enough so that it won't dry and form a hard edge
- He will paint over areas after they dry to deepen value or increase intensity or even dry brush in small details like thin tree branches
- He walked us through his non-staining porcelain palette (see schematic of colors in the photos below – he prefers Winsor Newton professional) and covers them with a kitchen cloth afterward to keep the paints wet
- He prefers Arches 300 lb cold press paper and keeps a stiff bristle brush to help lighten up areas
- He talked about using the imagination to build upon an element in an inspiring image, using the example of the pond photo below followed by the final painting with the mountain range; *"If we do not expect the unexpected, we will never find it."* — Heraclitus









Upcoming Demos

JUNE 12: In lieu of a demo, SBA will host another BUY-SELL-SWAP event. Use this as the opportunity to do a spring cleaning of your studio and please bring any art related items (books, paints, brushes, canvasses/paper, frames, other tools/supplies) you are no longer using to sell or trade with other members while they do the same!

July 10: Cynthia Holmes is scheduled to do a weaving demo so be sure to come and see!

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).

Summer Art Shows
2023

July 4
 August 5
 September 2
 9a-4p

Saco
Bay
Artists

Ocean Park Library Lawn
Temple Avenue
Ocean Park, Maine

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.*