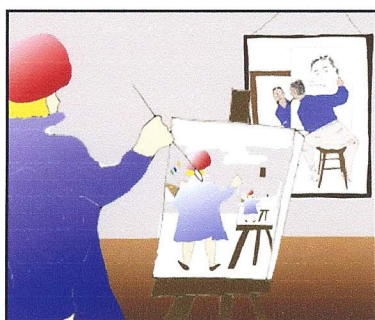


NEWS

www.jamesriverartleague.com



MEETING THE CHALLENGE



Artist Challenge Issue

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SALLY BOWRING CRITIQUES JRAL ARTIST CHALLENGE

If you haven't finished your JRAL Artist Challenge entry, there's still time — but not much.

Maybe just enough for a reimagining of a Jackson Pollock or perhaps a cheaper version of "The Scream."

Be ready to present your work at the May 18 meeting, where it will be critiqued by Sally Bowring.

A New York native, Ms. Bowring teaches painting at VCU and at the VMFA Studio School. Her artwork has been exhibited extensively nationally and internationally.

In addition to the critique, members will vote on a "people's choice award."

Your artwork doesn't need to be framed and ready to hang, but keep in mind that works on paper, such as watercolors or

(Continued on page 3)

SUSAN STULLER IS JUROR FOR JAMES CENTER SHOW

Susan Stuller, whose artwork is known nationally for its rich color and strong design, will be the juror for the annual James River Art League Show in the atrium of the James Center.



Susan Stuller

The show opens June 2 and ends June 23. The reception and award ceremony will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, June 10.

Ms. Stuller has been a professional artist and instructor for more than 30 years. She paints in a variety of media, although her passion lies in watercolor. She is also known for her portrayal of crystal and glass and for her ability to capture light in her paintings.

(Continued on page 6)

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Lois Shipley

CHALLENGE: Where would we be as artists without it? Do you remember that moment in your life when creating art went from "playing" to "challenging" yourself to achieve something — a technique, a style, a message? What do I want to say as an artist? At the May 18th meeting, several of us will be presenting artwork to the **Artist Challenge**. We will meet the challenge of being critiqued by our fellow artists and admired teacher, Sally Bowring.

Welcome to our newest members: Donna Allen, Danielle Ashbridge and Randy Patton who met the challenge of presenting their art before the board on May 4.

If there's one thing I've learned about JRAL, it is this is not a group of passive artists! They are adventurous and courageous individuals who will take on a challenge, and continue to learn and grow.

In this issue, Marla Coleman tells her story about meeting her challenge to paint in plein air. Betty Eddowes and many others continue their travels, collecting experiences and inspirations. And let's not forget those members who took on the challenge of learning about nonprofit status and by-laws in order to bring the JRAL into the 21st century.

Thank you and Bravo!

MEMBERS TO VOTE ON JRAL GUIDING DOCUMENTS

The membership of the James River Art League will be asked to vote on certain changes to the Constitution and By-Laws at the May 18 annual meeting.

The By-Laws committee has been working diligently on re-vamping the JRAL By-Laws to better reflect how we currently operate.

The last revisions were made in March 2007, and the governing documents have never been completely revised since they were written in 1964. The complete revision won't be ready until September.

However, because of our recent association with Capital One as an exhibit site, the Executive Board recommended that we apply for non-profit status from the Federal Internal Revenue Service. The cost will be about \$400 and the

amendments to our current By-Laws are required for the approval process and to ensure that we comply with regulations. The IRS approval process takes around 6 months. Capital One will be giving the JRAL an Honorarium of (\$750 - \$1000) for every exhibit we have at their facilities. We have an exhibit currently running through Aug. 24 at their Knolls 1 facility. Therefore, we feel the need to apply soon for an official non-profit status for future tax reporting of revenue.

The Executive Board has reviewed these changes and approved them.

All of the same changes will be included in the final revised By-Laws. Please, take time to review the proposed amendments and be ready to vote on this issue at the May 18 meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Descriptions of proposed changes are in italics, and the actual wording of proposed changes are shown in red.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Article One – Name and Purpose (*Expand definition of organization's purpose*)

Section 2: The purpose of the James River Art League is to promote artistic growth of members by fostering the creation, understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the visual arts through activities such as exhibits, educational programs, social activities, and community outreach

Article Eight – Dissolution Statement (*Add dissolution statement*)

The James River Art League ("League") is a not-for-profit organization. In the event that the League is dissolved, after all debts and obligations have been paid, any and all assets remaining shall be donated to other non-profit organizations that have similar or related purposes.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

Article One – Purpose (*Add non-profit wording and purpose*)

In order to achieve its purpose, the League will:

4. Cooperate with other art-related, non-profit organizations working toward the same goals.
5. Operate on a not-for-profit basis, with the purpose of fostering

and stimulating the development of and interest in the visual arts in the Greater Richmond area.

Article Two – Membership (*Add non-discrimination statement*)

Section 8: No otherwise qualified person will be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of membership in the James River Art League on the basis of race, national origin, age, gender, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.

Article Four – Governing Body (*Add Conflict of Interest Policy*)

Section 5: Conflict of Interest Policy. Whenever an Executive Board member has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the Executive Board, the affected person shall (a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and (b) withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Any transaction or vote involving a potential conflict of interest shall be approved only when a majority of disinterested Board members determine that it is in the best interest of the organization to do so. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention and rationale for approval.

Article Seven – Dues (*Change fiscal year from May-Apr to July-June*)

Section 3: The fiscal year shall be July 1st through June 30th.

Article Nine – Dissolution Statement (*Add Dissolution Statement*)

The James River Art League ("League") is a not-for-profit organization. In the event that the League is dissolved, after all debts and obligations have been paid, any and all assets remaining, shall be donated to other non-profit organizations that have similar or related purposes.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE



Date	Type	Details
May 18	Annual meeting JRAL Member Challenge	Artist Sally Bowring, who teaches at VCU and the VMFA studio school, will critique the "Famous Painting Challenge."

NEWS, NOTES FOR AND ABOUT JRAL ARTISTS

Member shows

Ten JRAL artists are participating in a special exhibit at Capital One's Knolls Campus at Innsbrook, May 2 through Aug. 24.

Exhibiting members are **Beth Bradford, Elizabeth Hood, Sally Booth, Stella Jones, Anne Negus, Arlene DeConti, Lois Shipley, Virginia O'Rourke, Helen Sanders and Betty Eddowes.**

"We are extremely excited about our new exhibit venue at Capital One," said Gigi Vranian, JRAL exhibit chair. "The exhibit is not open to the public, but artwork will be enjoyed by Capital One employees during the 3 1/2-month show."

Sandy Basham and Clarence Nichols will be featured at For Art's Sake, May 29 through June 25.

Works by **Nihdi Misra** will be featured in the Frable Gallery of Uptown Gallery in May and June. Proceeds from sales will benefit the Balashram project of the non-profit Hand in Hand USA (handinhandusa.org). Balashram is a residential home for orphans and destitute children in India.

New member **Dani Ashbridge** will have a show this summer at Café Caturra in Midlothian. The reception will be from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., June 11.

Honors

Mary Pedini has been selected to participate in "Plein Air Richmond," an event of Brazier Gallery to benefit the Richmond Symphony.

"Plein Air Richmond" will take place



PAINTING IN THE GARDEN

More than a dozen artists turned out for the JRAL outing at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Here Betty Brinser painted along a walkway in the garden.

from Sunday, June 17 through Saturday, June 23. The Collectors Preview and Awards Presentation and Gala will be on June 22. For tickets, go to: www.richmondsymphony.com or call 788-4717, ext 112.

Bill Smith won first place for "Bird on an Urn" in the Virginia Regional Exhibition at the Celebration of the Arts at The Montpelier Center for Arts and Education.

Nidhi Misra won an Award of Merit for her entry in the Virginia Watercolor Society 2012 Exhibition in Hampton.

Events

For Art's Sake will hold a **Wine and Design Workshop** with Elizabeth Eubanks on May 15.

The **Central Virginia Watercolor Guild** will hold its 21st Annual Exhibition Sept. 4-30 at the McGuffey Art Center in Charlottesville. The deadline for submitting entries is June 6. For details go to: central-virginia-watercolor-guild.org

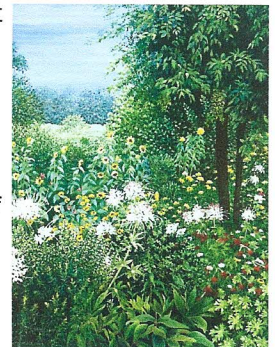
Hanover County — Landmarks and Legends Paint-Out for plein air painters will be May 21, June 24, Sept. 24 and Oct 29 beginning at 9 a.m. For details and locations, call Lois Shipley at 804 883-5040 or go to: www.montpelierartcenter.org

Recent sales

Paulette Nesbitt sold "Fiesta Fish," an acrylic on Yupo.

Sally Booth sold several of her mini paintings honoring Charles Rennie MacIntosh at Crossroads Art Center.

Shirley Harrington sold "Monet's Garden in 1999" from results of For Art's Sake annual juried show at the James Center in January.



Monet's Garden in 1999

On the road

Betty Eddowes filed this dispatch on her iPad from somewhere in Austria:

"I'm taking an art trip — plus.

"We saw the town where the 'Venus figurine,' a piece over 30,000 years old was found and is now in the national museum in London. Small and large ones have been found in caves and in sunken ships.

"The gardens, the flowers, the museums, the buildings, the fountains and the weather are all above average.

"Oh, think of "The Sound of Music."

THE 2012 JRAL ARTIST CHALLENGE

(Continued from page 1)
pastels, may benefit from matting.

Bring in an image of the painting that you used as inspiration for your work and be prepared to tell about why you chose it and what you accomplished in your own work.

Because there will be a lot of set-up work to be done, entrants should bring

their artwork to the meeting a few minutes early.

And don't forget a display easel if you have one.

Whether you're planning to bring your artwork to the artist challenge or not, come prepared to have a lot of fun and to be impressed by the talent and creativity of your fellow art league members.

GOOCHLAND ART CENTER

Goochland Art Center, which offers a range of classes, studios, galleries and art-related activities for adults and children, has opened at 1940 Sandy Hook Road in Goochland.

For details, go to:

Goochlandartcenter.com



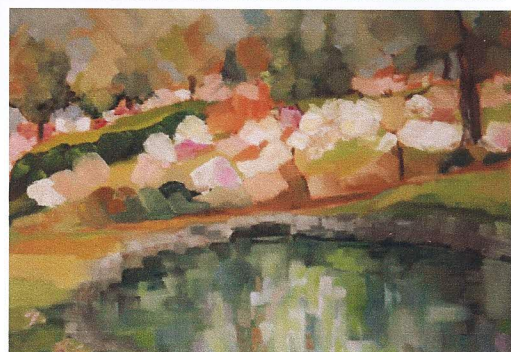
By Marla Coleman

I like to mow grass. There's nothing quite like cutting the field with a zero turn at high speed. It's dirty, challenging and immensely satisfying. I deal with the heat and the chill and the occasional rain squall. I wear old clothing, floppy hats and lots of sun screen and bug repellent.

I like to walk long distances and go on picnics. I enjoy new vistas and roaming animals. I like the unknown, the challenging.

Why on earth I equated all of the above with painting in plein air I will never know. I thought it might be fun, like mowing grass.

What I experienced was very different. Plein air requires entirely too much planning and more skill than I ever suspected. While I can zero turn an Oak tree, I find I cannot satisfactorily paint one en plein air. While I can enjoy a long walk, I find I do not enjoy hauling a plethora of equipment long distances: think Hollywood Rapids at Belle Isle. And, while I am adept at utilizing the available bush, I find I prefer tile and porcelain.

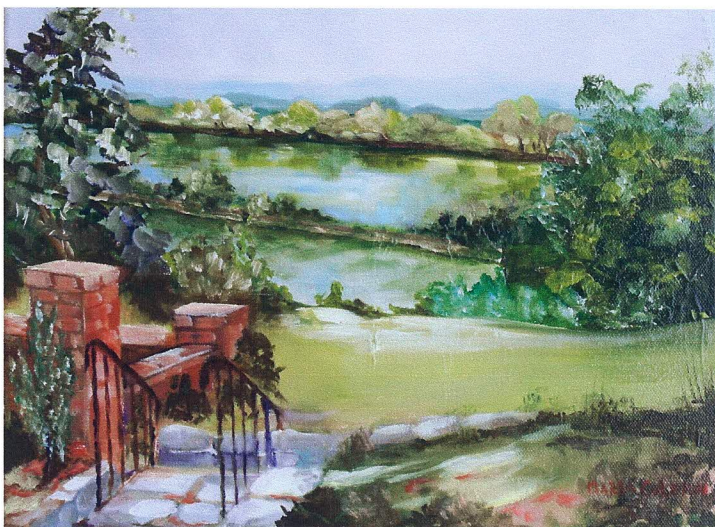


Azalea Row at Bryan Park

As much as I like the unknown and challenging, I do not extend "liking" to include outrageous geese attacks (Vince!), side-stepping slicky, fat copperheads, batting away bugs and fighting off irate Libby Hill residents (Christopher!). And, did I mention all of the stuff that I found I absolutely had to have in order to be a proper plein air painter?

Artists on Art

My first plein air painting excursions were not charming interludes in the Virginia countryside. (Note, please, that I did not refer to the experience elegantly as "painting in plein air") I am thinking especially of the first and only jaunt out to Belle Isle, the rapids. I packed enough lunch in the big cooler to feed three of my best friends. I dressed in some painterly clothing, a proper hat and



The James River from Agecroft

(Continued on page 5)

PLEIN AIR, TWO MULES AND ME

(Continued from page 4)

packed my gear.

Below is an authentic, complete list of stuff that I packed and actually took to that first paint out:

1. French Easel with shoulder strap: what seemed like 400 pounds
2. Cooler with lunch for 4: 3 pounds
3. Folding table with handhold from Dick's: 2 pounds
4. Folding chair in canvas cover with shoulder sling: 2 pounds
5. Large canvas carryall (repurposed beach bag) with shoulder straps (15 pounds). It held the following items: Zip bags (2) for oil paint — 48 tubes; Box of brushes and similar instruments: 63 items; Roll of paper towels; Roll of toilet paper; Small container of hand wipes; Turp container with clip latches; Several mediums to mix together and cause explosion
6. Several canvases of varying sizes.

I prepared for any eventuality by bringing everything I could think of except for the one thing that was most important: knowledge.

I didn't know one damn thing that mattered about plein air painting. I also had no idea that I would need two mules and a wagon to tote my supplies.

That day provided a lesson that could not be ignored.

So, fellow artists, listen, learn or weep!

Today, I can pack everything I need into a rolling cart with seat. My easel pops up in seconds and weighs 7 pounds. My paint is down to a dozen or so tubes plus white.

I know which medium works best for me in plein air. I know what size painting I can reasonably expect to paint. I take a tiny cooler that holds my Diet Coke, a water and a single sandwich. I have a brush holder for my 15 or so items that includes a pair of pliers, some brushes and a palette knife.

I rarely complete a decent painting, but I

am learning how to collect "color notes" and paint straight onto the canvas without drawing. I can paint faster with more clarity of strokes and actually am seeing "shapes" now instead of "things," thanks to heavy mentoring by a brutal friend.

Two years into plein air painting, I can describe my experiences as immensely satisfying and challenging. I still think mowing the yard on a zero turn produces much more clarity in results, but I am learning to use the plein air experience to my advantage. I am excited by every opportunity to visit a new location or paint with a different artist. There is much to learn from the

plein air experience, and it affects everything I try to do in my studio.

Today, the Virginia Plein Air Painters provides a home for those who enjoy painting outdoors. VPAP offers a safe opportunity to share the experience with like-minded painters.

Painting "en the wilde" may not be for everyone, but it is for artists who want to train their eye to light and shadow, warmth and coolness and practice the purity of simple artistic expression.

And, when you get it right, you won't need 48 tubes of paint, 63 brushes and two mules!

Trust me.

EXHIBIT SCHEDULE



Location	About This Exhibit	Important Dates and Info
<u>For Art's Sake</u> 8538 Patterson Ave. Henrico, VA	April 30— May 29 30% commission 20 artists, 2 paintings each	Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., May 29 Reception: 5-8 p.m., May 4
<u>James Center</u> 1051 E. Cary St. Richmond, VA Annual Judged Exhibit	June 2 — 23 No commission Max 70 paintings, 1 per artist Panel width 37"	Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., June 2 Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., June 23 Reception: 2-4 p.m., June 10
<u>Glenmore Yoga</u> 10442 Ridgefield Pkwy. Henrico, VA	June 27 — August 22 30% commission 30 artists, 1-2 paintings each	Drop off: 1-2 p.m., June 27 Pick up: 1-2 p.m., August 22 No reception
<u>St. Paul's Episcopal Church</u> 815 E. Grace St. Richmond, VA	August 29 — September 29 No commission 30 artists, 1-2 paintings each	Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., Aug. 29 Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., Sept. 29 Reception: 5-8 p.m., Sept. 7
<u>SunTrust Bank</u> 919 E. Main St. Richmond, VA	October 1—31 No commission 30 artists, 1-2 paintings	Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., Oct. 1 Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., Oct. 31 No reception No prices on cards
<u>Tuckahoe Library</u> 1901 Starling Dr. Henrico, VA	Dec. 1—29 No commission 30 artists, 2 paintings each	Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., Dec. 1 Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., Dec. 29 No reception

Diana Robinson, Gallery Co-Chair: 741-5550 (H), 512-9389 (C); dnr36@comcast.net

Kate Towler, Gallery Co-Chair: 565-2606 (H), 432-4188 (C); katetowler@verizon.net

Gigi Vranian, Exhibit Chair: 784-8087 (H), 337-3720 (C); vraniangigi@comcast.net

NOTE: Sign-up is a must for all exhibits. Please call Gigi if you sign up but can't make it.

Schedule is subject to change.

May / June 2012



James River Art League

Lois Shipley
President

Mary Kent
1st Vice President
Program Chairman

Collin Hoskins
2nd Vice President
Parliamentarian

Jane Cox
Recording Secretary

Sally Booth
Corresponding Secretary

Maryanne Evans
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Elizabeth Hood
Membership

Suzanne Spooner-Munch
Publicity

Diana Robinson
Kate Towler
Gallery

Gigi Vranian
Exhibit / Contact

Anne Twisdale
Historian

Lisa Nye
Pam Roach
Hospitality

Sandy Bruton
Telephone

Mike Steele
Newsletter

Our Mission:
To encourage the creation and
appreciation of good art.

JAMES CENTER ART SHOW JUNE 2-23

(Continued from page 1)

She has won many regional and national awards and her work has appeared in a number of art books.

She is represented by Crossroads Art Center where she also teaches.

The annual JRAL juried show features the work of more than 60 artists. Prizes are awarded in three categories: oil and acrylic, watercolor, and other media. There also is a best in show prize.

Drop off for the show is 9:30-10:30 a.m., June 2. Please note that there are width restrictions. (See Exhibit Schedule, Page 5)

Artists with work in the show are requested to bring refreshments to the reception on June 10.

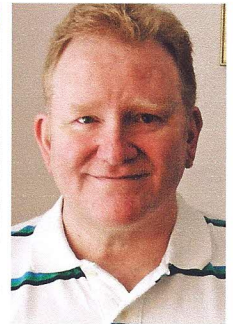
NEWEST JRAL MEMBERS



Donna Allen



Dani Ashbridge



Randy Patton

The James River Art League Board admitted three new members at its May meeting. They are:

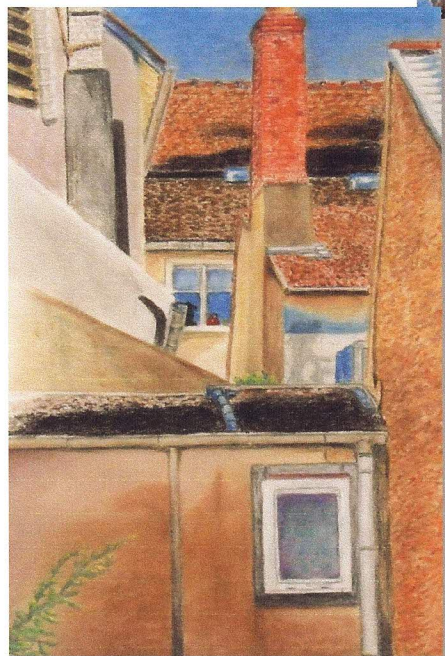
Donna Allen of Midlothian who studied at the Ivy School of Professional Art and teaches at the University of Richmond, the Visual Arts Center and ArtHaus.

Dani Ashbridge of Midlothian. She has studied art at Randolph-Macon College, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and at For Art's Sake.

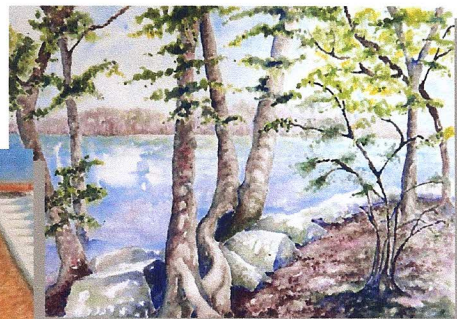
Randy Patton of Chesterfield. He has studied at the Watkins Institute in Nashville and the Visual Arts Center and For Art's Sake.

For Art's Sake

Parham & Patterson
Richmond, VA

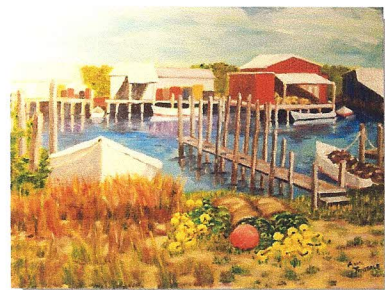


Collin Hoskins

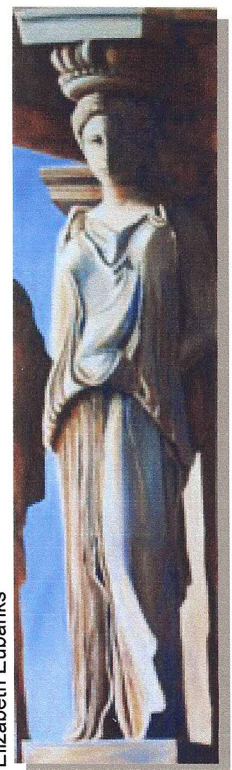


Stella Jones

April 30
May 29



Anne Twisdale



Elizabeth Eubanks

