



Mission Statement

The Blue Ridge Fine Arts Guild (BRAG) promotes the works and activities of artists working in two-dimensional media in Yancey, Mitchell, and Avery counties and the surrounding areas of Western North Carolina. BRAG is an avenue for artist education and exposure through programs, workshops, exhibitions, and the internet, and seeks to promote and encourage the arts among its members, local schools, and the public.

Check out our On-Line Store to use PAYPAL



March - BRAG Newsletter

From the Editor...

Everywhere I look there are signs of Spring. March is my favorite month here in the mountains. The brown and gray winter palette begins to add splashes of yellow and purple and pink. And best of all, it holds the promise of warmer weather to come.

Our next meeting is coming up quickly - Monday, March 19th. I looked at our guest artist's website (Karen Weihs) and I'm looking forward to her presentation. I hope to see you all there.

Don't forget... paint first!

Susan Garriques

The BRAG March meeting is Monday, March 19th, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Center.

Karen Weihs, a "contemporary oil painter" will be presenting "The Color Of Creativity". See her beautiful landscapes on her website, www.karenweihs.com.

News

During the February BRAG meeting the members voted in favor of an entry fee of \$20 per member for the Avery show. The deadline for this entry fee is July 1st. Please give your money to Kathleen Turczyn, our treasurer. Here is a link the rules for this show - *Avery Show Rules*.

Members also voted NOT to raise the membership dues at this time.

After more discussion, members approved having Wendy from The Design Gallery sell the painting John Houglum painted and donated to BRAG rather than holding a raffle.

Welcome to **Dean McCurry**, the latest member of BRAG. Be sure to check out his paintings which are already up on the BRAG website. www.bragwnc.com

Rolf Holmquist has work in the "Birdhouses On Parade 2012" show at the Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill. Learn more about it here... <http://www.carolinainn.com/birdhouses.php>

Susan Garriques' painting of Scout was awarded a People's Choice award in the Helping Paws exhibit sponsored by the Canine Art Guild. The award of \$50 went directly to the Yancey County Humane Society. Susan would like to thank everyone for their votes. The best news, though, is that Scout was adopted and was last spotted curled up on the couch.

Plans for the Route 80 exhibit in the Yancey library have been put on hold. Please keep this show in mind as a possibility for September. Space will be an issue, so if your original Route 80 paintings were all large, you may want to consider painting a smaller painting for this exhibit.

Julianna Hallman is the youngest BRAG member. She has been studying painting with Sandra Gates. Here is a photo of both Julianna and a painting she recently finished.

The Seasonal Challenge is "Spring". Seasonal challenge art is specifically for the banner on our website, so please keep a "panoramic" format in mind.

We've decided to change the Creative Challenge from a "word" based subject matter to a "photo". Each month a photo will be included in the newsletter and members are encouraged to paint from that photo. It should be quite interesting to see how everyone handles the subject matter. Feel free to crop and edit as you wish. You may bring your paintings to the meetings, or if you would prefer, send photos of your paintings to Susan Garriques for the newsletter. And... you don't have to finish it for a specific month - there won't be any deadlines. So if you don't get to paint this month's photo till November or December, no worries. Just have fun.

(if you would like a higher resolution image (larger image) for printing - or an image from a previous Creative Challenge, please email Susan Garriques)

Guest Article

Alyson B. Stanfield
Art Biz Coach

6 Brainless Business Actions

Sometimes you just don't feel like using another precious brain cell.



Artist: Laurel Lovrek



Artist: Barbara Deschenes



Artist: Nancy Wood



Creative Challenge March



You're wiped. Your creative juices are spent.
.Here are some tasks you can do when you don't have the energy to think too much.

1. Organize Image Files

Most of us get lazy with our digital images. It's too gosh-darned easy to take a lot of pictures and keep them on your seemingly endless disk space. But they soon become clutter. In your down time, you can rename your images with titles that are much easier to find because they are descriptive. You can also take the time to organize, delete, and reorganize your image filing system.

2. Upload Images

Upload new images of your art, your openings, and yourself to your website or social media sites. You don't have to publish them as the descriptions and text might require more neurons than you're willing to ignite. Just uploading the images is a step in the right direction.

3. Update Your Lists

Keeping your contact list and email list fresh with new people you've met is an ongoing task that is, I admit, not glamorous. But it has to be done. You don't want to spend a lot of time updating your list when an event is on the horizon, and you have more important things to do. *Adding names to your lists in bits and pieces will pay off.*

Artist Conspiracy member Mary Gilkerson shared her secret in the forums: "I've set my database to open as soon as the computer is turned on, which reminds me to do a little bit every day."

4. Trash Old Files

This might be my favorite brainless task of all. Open up your documents folder on your computer and behold! I'll bet you find a lot of files and folders that you no longer use or need. Dump them!

If you want to retain files that are out of date, create an Archives folder. I have one inside almost every folder on my computer. When something is no longer timely, I drop it in the Archives folder. For instance, I archive past workshops, audio programs I no longer sell, and classes I no longer teach.

Do the same with your paper files, recycling what you choose to get rid of.

5. Back Up Your Computer

There are too many heartbreaking stories of artists who have lost everything because their computer crashed, and they had no back-up copies of data. Backing up must be a habit. Put it on your calendar as a regular commitment.

Store your critical files – including image files – offsite or in the cloud.

6. Interact on Social Media

Proactively find good people to follow and say nice things about on your social media site of choice.

On Facebook, comment on other pages as your page so that you're mingling with others as your business. This allows you to clock in some marketing time without having to put too much thought into it.

***** Internet Tidbits

An article about the state of the art market - be sure to read the comments that follow.
<http://faso.com/fineartviews/40744/the-state-of-the-art-market-2012>

The Frick has begun to stream its lectures, so you don't have to be on the Upper East Side of Manhattan to attend. The inaugural offering – all free of charge – was an overview by deputy director Colin Bailey about Renoir's full-length figure paintings from 1874 to 1885, ten of which are the subject of a show he curated (on view through May 13).
<http://faso.com/brushbuzz/links/5502>

***** Classifieds

The Bakersville Creek Walk Arts Festival Organizing Committee and the City of Bakersville, NC are happy to announce the eighth annual Bakersville Creek Walk Arts Festival in historic Bakersville, NC on Saturday, September 22nd, 2012. The festival will feature juried exhibitors from North Carolina and throughout the southeastern United States and will further establish Bakersville as a destination for individuals seeking fine art and craft.

We would like to invite local & regional fine artists and craftspeople to apply for space at this year's show. The entry fee is \$100 and the non-refundable application fee is \$15. (The \$15 application fee is waived if you have been previously juried into this show.) The jurying committee will require 3 images of your work and one of your booth set-up. (See application guidelines for specifics on submitting images.)

Awards include:

Best of Show \$1000 ::
Second Place \$500 ::
Third Place \$300 ::
Honorable Mentions (3) \$100 each
Middleton Emerging Artist Award \$200

Early bird entry deadline (\$15 discount on entry fee) is May 1, 2012.
Final entry deadline is July 1, 2012.

An application has been attached to this email. You may obtain additional applications, if needed, via:

Email: send a request to bakersvillefestival@gmail.com

Website: download an application at www.creekwalkfestival.com

Or by contacting our Festival Coordinator: Brette Barron at 828-284-1913



Artist: Julianna Hallman

Brette Barclay Barron
Festival Coordinator

Bakersville Creek Walk Arts Festival
September 22, 2012
10am - 5pm

www.creekwalkfestival.com

One last note - it's about the Money Jar. You may have noticed a vase or a jar placed near the refreshments at each meeting and you may have assumed that was to help pay for the coffee and cookies. BUT..... BRAG pays the Town Center \$30 for each night that we meet. The "Money Jar" is meant to help pay the rent. If each member attending the meeting will contribute \$1 it will just about cover the cost of the rental. Please don't forget to add your dollar when you come to the meetings. Every dollar helps!

Archive of Newsletters:
[December Newsletter pdf](#)
[January/February Newsletter pdf](#)

BRAG is a not for profit organization under TRAC (Toe River Arts Council) in North Carolina.
Any information not covered in this website can be obtained by emailing one of the officers on the BRAG website contact page.

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