



NEWSLETTER

April 2026

SBA MEETINGS

Saco Bay Artists meet from March through December on the second Monday of the month (except for holiday weeks). All are welcome, so feel free to bring anyone who is interested. The meetings are held from 10:30 am -12:30 pm at the Saco Parks & Rec Center at 75 Franklin Street in Saco.

The next meeting will be on April 13. Make a note of it! And please let Heather know if you want to put anything on the meeting agenda.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting March 9, 2026

- **Welcome:** Heather welcomed everyone and at our tables we introduced ourselves, shared about the type of artwork we create and who has inspired us as artists.
- Cathy O'Loughlin will be filling in as **Newsletter editor** during May-June as Art Morrissette recovers from surgery. Thank you Cathy!
- **Treasurer** Cathy Turpin reported that we ended 2025 with a balance of \$8,489.96, and we ended 2/28/26 with a balance of \$10,728.40. We voted to explore online payment alternatives for membership and Show fees.
- **Art Opportunities.** Kailleigh Archibald gave an overview of this year's shows. We voted to buy a \$300 sponsorship, which includes a 10'x10' booth at the June 20th *Saco Arts Festival*. For those who wish to have their own booth, registration is \$175, and deadline is March 31, so apply at <https://sacomainstreet.org/arts-festival-application>. In addition, we will be having our annual Saco Bay Artists Shows on July 4th, August 1st (Illumination Night) and September 5th (Saturday of Labor Day Weekend). Heather also announced that the Libby Library has once again invited us to have a month long SBA Member show November-December. This will mean that our Libby Library Show, in Old Orchard Beach, will be displayed during the December Art Walk so more people will view our work. The Art Walk is always the first Saturday in December and provides an opportunity for members to sell their work at one of our participating Art Walk businesses. **See other Art Opportunities below.**
- **Student Scholarship:** Reminder, we have a student scholarship, Saco Bay Artists-Gertrude Eastman Scholarship. This month the information goes out to the Saco Bay Schools and local art programs. Guidelines are on our website. The Saco Bay Artists-Eastman Scholarship Award (\$1000) may be awarded to eligible applicants residing in or who are from the Saco Bay area. (Old Orchard Beach, Biddeford, Saco, Scarborough).
- **Membership:** SBA currently has 73 members. If you have not renewed your membership, please bring it to Cathy Turpin at a meeting, or mail it to Saco Bay Artists C/O Vicki Lowe 47 Spruce Street, Foxboro, MA 02035 (Oct-April), or P. O. Box 7100, Ocean Park, ME 04063 (May-Sept). The dues are \$45.00. Any renewal after March 9 incurs an additional \$10 late charge.
- **Meeting Time Poll:** Heather Fountain led a discussion about meeting times and if we want to consider having some meetings in the evenings. Ellen Pelletier mentioned that it would be nice in the summer or Fall to have at least 3 meetings in the evening, so all members could take

advantage of the additional member show discount. This discount is given to members who attend at least 3 meetings in the prior year. This also takes into consideration our older members who don't drive after dark. A motion was made for Heather to email out a poll to members, and she will report back next meeting what data came out of the poll.

SACO BAY ARTISTS WEBSITE

For new and current members who have an online presence for their art—either a dedicated website, Instagram feed or Facebook page—you have the option to be listed on our SBA website with a link to your website, Instagram, Facebook page, LinkedIn or other social media link of your choice. (see the Artists tab at the top here: <https://www.sacobayartists.org/>). If you'd like to have your page added, please contact our membership chair Vicki Lowe or Heather Fountain and they will work with the Web Manager to add you to our artist list. Also, after the 2026 member renewal deadline, Vicki Lowe, our membership chair will be sending out a login to the new Member Only section of our www.sacobayartists.org website.

March 09, 2026 Meeting, We had 33 attendees and wonderful guest artist Karl Ramsdell. See below for more on Karl and his work. Heather Fountain presiding.



2026 OFFICER SLATE

President/Chair - Heather Fountain
Treasurer - Cathy Turpin
Events Coordinator - Sylvia Orchard
Web Manager - Stephen Beckett

Summer Shows Chair - Mary Brunner; Diane Fumia (assistant)

Outside Shows Coordinators – Robert Dunn

SBA Historian – OPEN POSITION

Newsletter Chair/Clerk – Art Morrissette (temporary replacement: Kathy O'Loughlin)

Program/Demo Coordinators – Wayne Turpin & Pat Nash

Scholarship Committee - Gail Caiazzo & Faylinda Kodis

VP/Vice-Chair – Pam Chute

Membership Coordinator - Vicki Lowe

Member Spotlight Coordinator – Faylinda Kodis

Facebook Coordinator - Kailleigh Archibald

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ART MORRISSETE

by Faylinda Kodis

ART MORRISSETE has been creating illustrations for magazines and newsletters since his youth, beginning with cartoons and continuing throughout his professional career. Although he considered studying fine arts after high school, he chose instead to attend Seminary College in Bar Harbor, Maine. While he left the priesthood in 1970, Art has continued his lifelong study of Christianity. Twelve years ago, he set himself the ambitious task of writing a commentary on the entire New Testament, reading approximately 300 books in the process.

From 1980 to 1990, Art served as the Youth Services Coordinator for Kennebunk and Kennebunkport - the only position of its kind in Maine. This experience inspired him to return to school to earn his MSW and pursue a career as a therapist. He worked at Sweetser Family Services and later as a private practitioner until 2015.

A 2007 adult education course in watercolor painting marked a turning point for Art. Since then, he has created more than 250 watercolor paintings. In addition to painting and reading between 50 and 70 books each



year, Art enjoys woodworking. Over the years, he has crafted every piece of furniture in his home, including a dining room set, cabinets, a sofa, and distinctive lamp bases made from multiple types of wood. His favorite wood is cherry.

Art and his wife, Catherine, recently celebrated 53 years of marriage.

Watercolor at left:
Old Railroad Bridge,
spanning the Saco River,
adapted from a photo by Stephen Rideout.
01-25-2026. 14¼" x 11¼".

NEXT MEETING'S PRESENTATION: RENÉE HARDY

by Pat Nash

Renée Hardy is a New Hampshire artist inspired by the lakes, mountains, and everyday beauty of the Lakes Region. A self-taught painter working in oils, watercolor, gouache, and acrylic, she enjoys moving between mediums to match the mood of each piece.

Renée's love of sharing art with others began at a young age. As a child, she created poster-sized marker drawings of mountains and lakes and set up a small roadside stand, much like a lemonade stand, to sell them. On summer days, she would patiently wait for passing neighbors and visitors, offering her artwork for just one dollar.

Renée is especially known for her commissioned pet portraits, capturing the unique personality and spirit of each animal she paints. When she's not working as a publishing production designer creating CPA exam courses, she is happiest with a paintbrush in hand.

Her artwork has been exhibited throughout New Hampshire communities, including the Moultonborough Public Library, Tuftonboro Public Library, Gafney Library (Sanbornville), and the Franklin Gallery in Rochester, NH. She has also served as a judge for art shows for the Mount Washington Valley Art Association and the Lakes Region Art Association.

As a painter who enjoys creating small-scale works, Renée will explore the meaningful differences between the two mediums of watercolor and gouache, highlighting their unique qualities and practical benefits. During the presentation, she will demonstrate how watercolor's transparent washes contrast with the rich, opaque qualities of gouache, and how each medium offers different possibilities for layering, correcting, and creating light within a painting. Renée will also discuss why both watercolor and gouache are ideal for artists who enjoy painting on the go. Their portability, minimal supplies, and quick drying time make them excellent companions for travel, plein-air painting, and sketchbook work.

Follow Renée's work on social media: Facebook: www.facebook.com/reneesstudio; Instagram: www.instagram.com/reenesphotostudio. For inquiries about paintings or commissions, contact: reenesphotostudio@gmail.com



ART OPPORTUNITIES

- **Free Friday Painting & Sketching Studio at Libby Library in Old Orchard Beach, Feb.6th-March 27th** from 11-2:00. Come create your artwork. This is open for anyone of all skill levels. For more info see or call Sylvia Orchard 207-934-2930.
- The SBA hosts **open-studio “drop ins” at the Rec Center** on most non-meeting Mondays from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm for those who would like to get together to paint, create & chat. Ellen Pelletier coordinates these meet ups by sending around an email to interested members on Sunday or Monday mornings – please email Pastelpainter84@gmail.com if you'd like to be on that list. Everyone on this list should reply-all to Ellen's emails and if at least 3 people are coming, the session is on!
- **Art & Wellness Retreats:** Space is limited to twelve people for both retreats. These Art & Wellness retreats are for both the beginner painter and the seasoned artist and offer the perfect blend of art, wellness, community, and rest that allows you to relax, rejuvenate and be creative! <https://www.iacksonartnh.com/art-classes/art-classes-for-adults/>
- **White Mountains of NH April 17-19,2026** at the Preserve at Chocorua, Tamworth, NH
- **Monhegan Island on August 28-31,2026** at the Monhegan House, ME.

55th Annual Saco Arts Festival

<p>Saco Main Street SacoMainStreet.org 15 Pepperell Sq. • 207-286-3546</p> <p>Saturday, June 20 (rain date: Sunday, June 21) Dyer Library & CK Burns School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Event Impact:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2,000+ attendees• Fine art show attracting enthusiasts from across the region.• Multi-generational appeal• All sponsorships \$300+ include booth space		<h3>Call for Artists</h3> <p>55th Annual SACO ARTS FESTIVAL Saturday, June 20, 2026</p> <p>Artist applications close March 31, 2026. Early bird registration rates are available until March 9.</p> <p>APPLY TODAY: SACOMAINSTREET.ORG</p>	<p>To register by email:</p> <p>Director@sacomainstreet.org or Program@sacomainstreet.org</p>
--	--	--	---

This juried show turns Saco into an open-air art gallery!

The Saco Arts Festival returns for its 55th edition in 2026. This event features juried artists and fine crafts, live music, and activities for art lovers of all ages.

Community Supporter — \$300 — *unlimited*

- Booth space at event
- Name recognition on event website
- Logo on social media post thanking all sponsors

Bronze Sponsor — \$500 — *unlimited*

All of the above +

- Logo on event website
- Emcee recognition at event

Silver Sponsor — \$750 — *unlimited*

All of the above +

- Logo on poster, event website, and at information booth
- Name recognition in thank-you email to newsletter subscribers thanking event sponsors

Gold Sponsor — \$1,500 — *3 available*

All of the above +

- Dedicated thank-you post on social media thanking gold sponsors & logo on social media post thanking all sponsors
- Logo on thank-you email to newsletter subscribers thanking event sponsors

Presenting Sponsor — \$3,000 — *exclusive, 1 available*

note: first right of refusal to previous year's Presenting Sponsor

All of the above +

- Logo on 36'x3' banner spanning Main Street (displayed for 2 weeks leading up to event)
- Event named "55th Annual Saco Arts Festival presented by [Your Company]"

NOTE: We have already paid for a \$300 sponsorship and an SBA booth.

From Ken Kantro: if you are interested, use the email listed below.

February 16, 2026

Dear Artisan,

We are happy to announce that the 2026 Lovell Arts and Artisans Fair will be held on Saturday, August 15th from 9 am to 3 pm at the New Suncook School. This key fundraising event for the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library is in its 51st year and we have already started to plan. We appreciate your past participation and hope to see you again this year!

Please complete and return the attached **Accepted Artist Agreement** and non-refundable exhibitor's fee of \$60 by June 1, 2026.

Please complete and return the attached **Accepted Artist Agreement** and non-refundable exhibitor's fee of \$60 by June 1, 2026.

You may request exhibitor space with electricity. We will do our best, but may be unable to fulfill your request and ask that you please be prepared for either scenario. *Note that hallway space has guaranteed electricity.

You are responsible for providing your own exhibit stand/booth/table and electrical cords. Only items that have been juried may be brought for exhibition and sale.

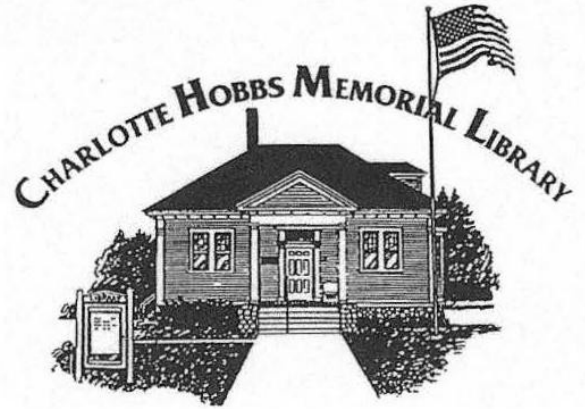
The school doors will be unlocked at 7:00 am on Saturday for your arrival and set-up and we will provide a team of volunteers to help you move your display items to your assigned space. This year we will also allow you to set up on Friday if that works with your schedule.

As part of your participation in our library fundraiser, we ask that all artisans donate 15% of their total daily sales and commissions. We also have an opportunity for artisans to donate an item(s), with a minimum value of \$50, to our raffle. Artisans will be selected by a random drawing and, if selected, will donate the raffle item and 10% of their total daily sales and commissions.

We look forward to seeing you in August to celebrate our 51st year! Please email your questions to aafair@hobbslibrarv.org. If you are unable to open the attachment, please let us know. Forms are also available at the library.

All my best,

Amanda Albert, Chair, Arts & Artisans Fair Committee



**Maine Wild Life Park:
Apply at
mainewildlifepark@maine.gov**



ARTIST CALL

We're looking for local artists and crafters to set up FREE booths at our Art in the Park event on Saturday, July 11, 2026

Apply today: mainewildlifepark@maine.gov

PHOTO GALLERY



Guest Artist Karl Ramsdell is a professional wildlife and nature photographer from Maine's coast, known especially for capturing the landscapes, wildlife, and outdoor life of the region through striking, immersive imagery. He grew up in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and his love of the outdoors is reflected in both his subject matter and his approach to photography. Ramsdell's work often highlights the natural beauty of Maine's seasons—from icy winter landscapes and wildlife encounters to coastal scenes and everyday moments that reveal the character of the environment. He is also active in the local outdoor community, pursuing activities like surfing, paddleboarding, cycling, hiking, and ice skating, which often inform his photographic perspective. His images have appeared in regional publications and local guides, and he maintains a strong online presence, sharing his photography with a broader audience through **Instagram (@kari.ramsdell)** and print sales. ~Pat Nash

