

Saco Bay Artists

July 2025 Newsletter



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

NOTE: THE AUG 11 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT PORTER HALL, 52 TEMPLE AVE, OCEAN PARK. There's parking on Temple Ave, but we can also park pulling straight in on the grass behind the building (Colby Ave).

We also host open-studio "drop ins" at the Rec Center on most non-meeting Mondays from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (though NOT on Aug 4) 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 her](#) 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!

July 14 Meeting Notes

- SBA 30th Anniversary Show: The Saco Museum will host an exhibition in celebration of our 30th anniversary. The show will be from September 6 - October 10, 2025 with an opening reception on Thursday, September 11. An email was sent out on July 11 from Kathy with the details and application. Deadline for returning the application to her is August 1.
- Ocean Park has a new magazine and SBA has been invited to be featured in the fall issue. They have provided questions that we'll answer (these were included in the meeting agenda, input from long term members is helpful!) and a photographer took pictures at the July show).
- A question was asked about photography/video at shows. Members should feel free to ask that show attendees not photograph or video their works, but members of SBA and the Ocean Park Association may make the rounds to take pictures/clips for show promotion.
- No one has applied yet for our Gertrude Eastman Scholarship this year. The amount has been increased from \$500 to \$1000 and Heather has now sent it around to area art schools to make students aware.
- Note that the August meeting will be at Porter Hall again (see details above) and that Monday drop in painting/drawing at the Saco Rec Center will NOT happen on Aug 4 and the Aug 18 and 25 sessions will be there in room 106 instead of 203.
- Heather reminded the group that members should to the survey she sent about what personal info they'd like to have included on our membership list for others to see. Please reply to her by the end of the month. This will be posted on the members-only section of our website, which will be launched and communicated after the list is ready.

- Membership report from Vicki shows 67 paid members now.
- Cathy T gave the Treasurer's Report, showing an end cash balance of \$13,158.
- Mary couldn't attend the meeting but shared a SBA summer show update:
 - SBA member tent at the Aug 2 show: Mary emailed on July 12 the application for anyone who would like to take part. Applications must be returned to her by July 25. The number of participants will dictate the number & size of the pieces each artist can display.
 - The July SBA show was a success and award winners were announced. The judge was Joel LeVasseur and his comments are included below:
 - **Best in Show – Michael Murray for “Cathedral Wood”**
Comments – Masterful, original, stunning triptych
 - **First Prize Fine Art - Pat Nash for “Baby Leopard”**
Comments – Medium of pastel is so well executed, spectacular
 - **Second Prize Fine Art – Carrie Meas for “Pine Point Sunset”**
Comments – Contemporary, unusual risky workmanship w/fluorescents so well done.
 - **Honorable Mention Fine Art – Mary Brunner for “Word Salad”**
Comments – Narratives broken. A true symbol of chaos and the current world.
 - **First Prize Fine Craft – Mark Wheeler for Sugar Maple Bowl from Gray Maine**
Comments - Stunning wood turning workmanship with historical Maine maple
 - **Second Prize Fine Craft – Marrick Auger for “Only Onyx Necklace”**
Comments – Remarkable work, so well crafted and unusual.
 - **Honorable Mention Fine Craft – Anne Alexander for Oyster with Point**
Comments – A favorite piece of your work, love the scale and idea of the work for landscape and architecture use.
 - **Bill Edmunds Award for Photography – Lynn David for “Fiddlehead”**
Comments – Unusual filtered photograph making the fiddlehead almost unrecognizable. Keeping the viewer focused.
- The Libby Library show will move to Nov this year so it doesn't conflict with the 30th Anniversary Show and we will once again host the Holiday Art Walk in Ocean Park this Dec.
- We need members to volunteer to fill the following roles. Please reach out to Heather to learn more or help out!
 - Outside Show Coordinator – These would be other shows beyond SBA's 3 summer shows which Mary is coordinating. For instance, the coordinator would handle organizing the Libby Library show and Ellen can pass along all the info and materials from prior years.
 - Program Coordinator (or Committee) – This person(s) would plan and recruit the artist programs/demos we have at our monthly meetings.
 - Newsletter Chair – This person would take notes at each SBA meeting and ideally photos of our artist programs/demos and compile them into the monthly newsletter. They can use whatever computer software they are comfortable with (word processor, design program, etc.) and it doesn't need to be fancy. They will also maintain the email mailing list that the newsletter is sent to each month and distribute each newsletter issue to members.

Guest Presenter

Amelia Tagaris (<https://www.amaliatagaris.com/>) did a fantastic presentation and demonstration of her encaustic work using heated wax.

- The wax she uses is a combination of beeswax, damar resin (tree sap), plus pigment
- Melts at 160 degrees F so a finished work could experience some melting if placed in the direct sun
- Her palette is a heated metal plate with metal tins on it to hold the melted wax
- She uses natural bristle brushes so they won't melt with the heat

- Her panels are mostly wood prepped with encaustic gesso but canvas frame panels can be used if handled carefully to prevent warping or cracking
- Once the wax is applied it needs to be burned in afterward, typically with a heat gun but torches can also be used (carefully); it's important that the room be ventilated because of fumes
- Potter's tools and other devices can be used to scrape and shape afterward; one advantage to wax is that the artist can scrape off mistakes and layer over!
- Amalia also does "monotypes" with watercolor paper; she paints directly on the palette and can get multiple presses; afterward she typically mats and frames these pieces
- She often does works that include a photo transfer and she demonstrated this technique where a photocopy of an image is burnished onto clear wax; the paper is then wetted and the pulp is rubbed off, leaving the image behind; additional pigmented wax can then be applied over or around the image
- Encaustic allows flexibility for the inclusion of multiple techniques and multimedia such as:
 - Stencils
 - Stabilo wax based pencils
 - Oil based pigment sticks
 - Multimedia collage using papers
 - Wax shavings for textured works
 - "Accretion" where wax is built up to create relief
 - Buffing burnt in wax to create shine





Art Opportunities

- Saco Parks and Rec is available every Monday (except for our meeting days and Aug 4) as an open studio for working on your art from 10:00 - 12:00. [Contact Ellen](#) if you are interested, we ask that you email her so she knows who is attending. If we don't have 3+ attending or if weather is bad, open studio will be canceled.
- Robert Whisenant, owner of the [Burano's chain](#) (three restaurants in Scarborough, Bath, and Hallowell) is looking to start a program where he displays a local artist on the restaurant's walls each month. He has featured both painters and photographers so far. If anyone is interested, they should reach out to Rob by emailing info@buranospizza.com with "artwork" in the subject line.
- **Resin Pendant Class with Pam Chute:** Mon 8/11 from 9-10:30 am and 7-8:30 pm. Sign up in the Ocean Park Association office (Jakerman Hall) or by calling 207-934-9068.
- **SBA's 3 Summer Shows – register ASAP:** Two remaining...Sat Aug 2nd (Illumination Night), Sat Aug 30th; all 9 am – 4 pm. Information and link to our application at <https://www.sacobayartists.org/shows.html>.
- **The second Ocean Park Bazaar** is scheduled for Wednesday August 13 (rain date 14th). It will run on the Curtis and library lawns from 9 am – 1 pm with set up beginning at 7:30 am. This is a true bazaar (not a fine arts show). Forms will become available on the Ocean Park website or through Nancy K. Table registration is \$25 and the bazaars are usually very well attended.
- **Women in the Gardens at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay Harbor:** SBA member Kailleigh Archibald will have her drawings of Maine wild blueberries from her Certificate in Botanical Arts featured in this exhibit from July 18 – October 19 in the newly refurbished café.
- **September/October: SBA 30th Anniversary Show at Saco Museum.** The Saco Museum will host an exhibition in celebration of our 30th anniversary. The show will be from September 6 - October 10, 2025 with an opening reception on Thursday, September 11. An email was sent out on July 11 from Kathy with the details and application. Deadline for returning the application to her is August 1.
- **November: SBA Annual Show at the Libby Library in Old Orchard Beach.** Stay tuned for more details.
- **December:** The Holiday Art Walk will again be held in Ocean Park, likely the first Saturday of December.

2025 Guest Speakers

This year we have an exciting and diverse group of guest artists who will be with us at our meetings:

- TO BE RESCHEDULED - Meline Barash Levitt, Owner of Jackson Art Studio and Gallery, Plein Air Oil Painter <https://www.jacksonartnh.com/melanie-barash-levitt-owner-of-jackson-art/>
- August 11th - Rebecca Hillman, Potter & Ceramic Teacher, <https://www.rebeccahillmanpottery.com/>
- September 8th- Sylvia Orchard, SBA multi-talented artist will demonstrate how to cut a mat to create a professional look to your work. Members are encouraged to bring mat board to try their hand at cutting a mat for their own work.
- October 20th- TBD, Have a suggestion? Please contact Heather fountainglass10@gmail.com
- November 17th- Leah Bares of Violette Tide Studios, Watercolor <https://www.violettetidestudios.com/>

December 8th is our annual holiday party.

Membership 2025

Annual dues are \$45.00 payable to Saco Bay Artists. 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 (May – Sept 2025, P. O. Box 7100, Ocean Park, ME 04063).

Saco Bay Artists Website

For new or current members who have an online presence for their art—either a dedicated website, Instagram feed or Facebook page—you have the option to have the SBA website link to that page (see the Artists tab at the top here: <https://www.sacobayartists.org/>). If you'd like to have your page added, please let Christine (art@christinelabaree.com) know and she will put you in touch with Stephen who maintains our website.

SBA Chairs/Committees

Chair - Heather Fountain

Treasurer - Cathy Turpin

Membership Coordinator - Vicki Lowe

Events Coordinator - Sylvia Orchard

Newsletter Coordinator – NEEDED

Program/Demo Coordinator – NEEDED

Webmaster - Stephen Beckett

Facebook Coordinator - Kailleigh Archibald

Summer Shows Coordinator - Mary Brunner

Outside Shows Coordinator - NEEDED

SBA Historian – NEW/OPEN