

7th Annual Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival Takes Place in Bluffton, SC, in October

The Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival is back for the seventh year – and growing. What started as a one-day event in 2005, has quickly become a week of festivities in historic Bluffton showcasing the arts and locally harvested seafood.

Festival events are scheduled Sunday, Oct. 16 – Sunday, Oct. 23, 2011. The response to the event has grown over the years. “Festivals are like magnets, they attract the young and old, rich and poor, locals and visitors, all to celebrate their community,” said Dan Wood, Festival Founder.



Work by Eric Soller

The traditional opening ceremony, the Blessing of the Fleet and Boat Parade on the May River, will again kick off the week of festivities on Sunday, Oct. 16. On Monday evening at 5:30pm an Oyster Roast and Tour of the Waddell Mariculture Center (reservations required) will take place with Al Stokes on the bluff of the Colleton River. Friday night is Family Night at the Promenade Park offering environmental activities, story telling and movies for children and the young at heart.

Other favorite returning events include daily gallery happenings, kayak tours, author night, the 5K Run, Saturday morning children’s fishing tournament, boat tours, and culminates with the Saturday and Sunday Street Fest. This Street Fest includes live music, “Iron Chef” competition & Chefs’ Auction and of course the juried Artist Showcase on Calhoun Street. Over 90 artists from 10 different states including 15 from our very own Beaufort County will be showcasing and displaying their fine art; local restaurants and caterers will be serving up delicious seafood dishes and Low Country Cuisine; and area environmentalists will be highlighting our natural resources and the necessary conservation practices to ensure their continuance.

One of the highlights of this week-long event is the juried Artist Showcase which takes place along Calhoun Street in Historic Bluffton on Saturday, Oct. 22 and Sunday, Oct. 23. Festival goers will



Work by Harry Jarman

enjoy seeing a variety of fine art in media such as oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, and mixed media. The paintings vary from realistic to abstract to folk art. The wide range of photography, plus an eclectic assortment of fine crafts from metal, blown glass, handmade musical instruments, wildlife woodcarvings, carved gourds, pottery to sweet grass baskets, round out the artistic offerings to be viewed. Come out and enjoy the fine art while supping on delicious food as you are entertained with great music to complete a wonderful time in the heart of Old Town Bluffton.

The Festival was created in response to the citizens of Bluffton who have expressed a great passion for protecting and maintaining the pristine quality of the May River and the historic Bluffton Oyster Company. “As Bluffton continues to grow it is paramount that we continue to introduce our citizens, old and new, to these precious Bluffton gems,” Wood said.

Support for the event from the community has been strong. *Bluffton Today*, Hargray, 104.9 The Surf, Rotary Club of Bluffton, and *The Island Packet* have all committed to major sponsorships.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Festival at 843/757-2583 or visit (www.blufftonartsandseafoodfestival.com).

The Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, Features Group Exhibit

The Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, will present, *Six Artists One Palette*, an exhibit by six artists using the same palette set-up but exploring individual motifs, on view in the Walter Greer Gallery, at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, from Oct. 4 - 29, 2011. A reception will be held on Oct. 4, from 5-7pm.



Work by Linda Nickles

This exhibit has been assembled by a group of artists that have been painting together for the last 2 years. The palette

they use is a concentrated palette of 8 colors and white -minus black (they mix their own). Each artist explored their own motif. The artists and their subjects are as follows: Linda Mack has given us an impressionistic view of Historic Savannah for this show. Mack focused on the interplay of lush oaks, period architecture and courtyard gardens. Dolphin Head is Pepi McNair’s special place. She visits the beach regularly on family outings and walks with her dogs. McNair has painted the changing colors and amazing views that have inspired her these last 30 years.

Nancy Mitchell has given us children at play inspired by memories of her own childhood and her children, she loves how kids stay in the moment and just have fun. The ever changing light and atmosphere is what inspired Linda Nickles to paint her soft waterscapes of the Lowcountry.

Annie Smithers’ earliest memory of creating was drawing horses. Exploring

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horses interacting with nature and each other in her painterly style is the latest step in her artistic journey. Animals in nature painted in oil are the subject of Bing-ie Tan’s latest artistic medium. In addition to painting Tan has photographed

animals all over the world. For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the League at 843/681-5060 or visit (www.ArtLeagueHHI.org).

Beaufort Art Association, Beaufort, SC, Offers Works by Audrey Montgomery

The Beaufort Art Association in Beaufort, SC will present the exhibit, *Time to Paint*, featuring a collection of watercolors by Audrey Montgomery, on view Oct. 3 through Nov. 12, 2011. A reception will be held on Oct. 7, from 5:30-7:30pm.



Work by Audrey Montgomery

Montgomery’s artistic interests began at an early age. “I remember one of my favorite memories growing up was the smell of turpentine and lavender oil at my grandmother’s home.” Her grandmother, an artist, encouraged her to create and was generous with her supplies.

“I always knew I would enjoy painting, but there were other things I chose to do first,” said Montgomery. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design from the University of Georgia and then continued her education at Auburn University where she received

a Bachelor of Architecture. A native of Georgia, Montgomery and her husband Rob moved to Beaufort in 1990. She works with her husband at Montgomery Architecture and Planning. They have three boys.

“I have enjoyed working in architecture, but I have to admit, I miss pencil and paper drafting. I took a lot of pride in creating architectural drawings. Now almost everything is done by computer,” says Montgomery.

Through the years Montgomery has continued to draw and paint as a hobby, but it was not until two and a half years ago that she became serious about her creative work.

“I took drop-in classes at Coastal Art Supply with Jennifer Kassing-Bradley,” says Montgomery, adding, “She introduced me to watercolor methods and quality supplies. These lessons encouraged the development of a true passion for painting in me. There is so much to learn about watercolors. Watercolor pigments can be granulating or non-granulating, transparent or opaque, and the way each color reacts to another is different. The possibilities are endless. It is fascinating.”

Montgomery has been an exhibiting member of the Beaufort Art Association Gallery for 2 ½ years. Her paintings may also be seen at The Gallery in downtown Beaufort.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/521-4444 or visit (www.beaufortartassociation.com).