

## ■ Upcoming

### April 24 and May 8

#### Figure Drawing

*The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg • 7–9:30 p.m.*

The model, easels and drawing boards are provided and the cost is \$10.

Reserve your spot online by the Friday before each session at <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>.

### April 27

#### Paint Party

*The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg • 7–9:30 p.m.*

Michele Walter will lead this session focused on “van Gogh over the NRV.” The \$30 fee includes supplies. Register at [www.artfullawyergallery.org/events](http://www.artfullawyergallery.org/events).

### May 13

#### BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot

*Famous Anthony’s, Blacksburg • 11:30 a.m.*

Join your fellow members over lunch to discuss the latest art happenings and hear this month’s featured speaker, Tom Barnhart, who will be sharing the art of knotting.

### June 4–5

#### Sidewalk Art Show

*Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke*

This annual show attracts thousands to the downtown streets of Roanoke near the Taubman, and has featured original fine art since 1958.

### June 10

#### BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot

*Famous Anthony’s, Blacksburg • 11:30 a.m.*

Join your fellow members over lunch to discuss the latest art happenings and hear the featured speaker of the month.

### June 11

#### Reception, The Jax New Works Exhibit

*Jacksonville Center for the Arts, Floyd • 5–7 p.m.*

This 14<sup>th</sup> annual event celebrates new works from the local and regional community. For more information, visit [jacksonvillecenter.org](http://jacksonvillecenter.org).

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## Kanuga watermedia workshops a real pleasure

By Gerri Young

Ever since I moved to Blacksburg, I have heard artists speak with reverence about a place called Kanuga; a place where, once a year, artists gather for a week to teach and to learn.

Located in Hendersonville, N.C., Kanuga Watermedia Workshops have taken place at the Kanuga Conference Center in the Blue Ridge Mountains for 31 years. The conference center, affiliated with the Episcopal Church since 1928, includes 1400 mountain acres offering a lake, 39 rustic cabins, a beautiful chapel, gym, hiking trails, a modern conference center and inn. It is a year-round conference and retreat center and more.

From April 2–8 this year it was the scene of the 31<sup>st</sup> Kanuga Watermedia Workshops offering 12 instructors to about 250 students. A long-term cadre of volunteers plans and manages the popular week. Remarkably, the director of the event, Robbie Laird, lives in California and conducted a mentoring workshop this year along with all her duties to oversee the week.

I was invited by fellow BRAA member Danie Janov to attend what artists have come to just call “Kanuga,” as in “are you going to Kanuga?” For those in the know, no further explanation is needed. I did the Google thing to see more about what I already knew was a big artist gathering and accepted Danie’s invitation right away.

By April 2, we were there with half our home studios crammed into our vehicles. Danie was part of Robbie Laird’s mentoring group and I had signed on for a week of figure drawing with Ken Goldman—someone I had never heard of. Danie, a 20-year veteran of Kanuga, including time as a teacher, assured me he was wonderful. I must admit to some fright at having signed up for a whole week of figure drawing. Thank goodness I had been doing it for several years, learning as I went.

Your first impression of Kanuga might make you wish you were there just for fun. It is a truly beautiful place; steeped in water, sky and forest and dotted with rustic cabins with screened porches. I couldn’t count the rocking chairs I saw on every porch, but I sure could picture myself enjoying one with a book in my lap and a nap not far behind.

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Gerri Young

The drawing on top left was by Kanuga instructor Ken Goldman. The other two are the work of Gerri Young in ink, watercolor and gouache, all drawn from model poses.

## Learn with Lee

Lee Sandstead is often referred to as "the world's most fired-up art historian." Sandstead was host of the Emmy-nominated Travel Channel show, "Art Attack," and author of the number one international best-seller on iTunes, "Cleaning Mona Lisa."



Lee Sandstead

*"I can say this: When I attempt anything, I have a passionate determination to overcome every obstacle ... And I do my own work with a refusal to accept defeat that might almost be called painful."*

— Cecilia Beaux (1855-1942)

It is one of the supreme tragedies of our age that so much great art has been forgotten. The Modernists, so anxious to break from the past to create something new, not only shattered any connection to past artistic traditions, but did so thoroughly that tens-of-thousands of artists have been forgotten to us. Artists from just 100 years ago. Who is the sculptor of the Seated Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial? Who is the sculptor of the Statue of Liberty? Can we name any of their other work?

To document all the art that was created between the years 1860–1915 would take several art historians several lifetimes. Bolstered by the technology and wealth of the Industrial Revolution, society had greater access to art than any previous period.

Cecilia Beaux is one such artist and deserves our attention. Born in Philadelphia, she started her artistic training early in life, and by age 21, she was receiving professional training in one of the premier schools in America. She achieved early success, and by age 32, she was training in one of the most rigorous artistic schools that France could produce: the Académie Julian in Paris. (Also one of the few schools that would accept female students.) In her own lifetime, Beaux was considered the equal of famed artists such as John Singer-Sargent and was even hailed by contemporary critics to be the greatest female painter of all time and was known as a staunch individualist with an iron will.

## Montgomery Museum features art of area high school students

Art works from high school students from Blacksburg and Christiansburg have been exhibited at the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center during March and April. At a March 13 reception for Blacksburg students, judges **Betty Moore** and **Gerri Young** presented awards sponsored by BRAA. **Shaun Whiteside** and **Alice de Sturler** were the judges at the April 7 reception for the display by Christiansburg students.

The Blacksburg first place winner was a portrait by **Anna Ervin**. The first place winner for the Christiansburg show was **Tayten Allison** for "Clown."



Photo courtesy of Larry Middleton

Anna Ervin of Blacksburg won first place for her portrait drawing.



Man with the Cat (Henry Sturgis Drinker) by Cecilia Beaux

In this painting of Henry Sturgis Drinker (1898), we see her broad, facile brush struck characteristic of contemporary portraiture. Drinker's mutton-chop whiskers, linen suit, and casual pose convey immense self-assurance, and as was the goal of her portraiture, we see a caring, sensitive man. With the addition of the cat, we like him—and are meant to.

Cecilia Beaux's work can be found in museums across America. Take a look, not only at her, but her forgotten colleagues as well. ■

## ■ Upcoming *continued from page 1*

### July 16

#### Art at the Market

Draper Rd., Blacksburg • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Art, food and other farmers' market treasures will be featured and celebrated. See Exhibit Opportunities for more information.

### July 20–22

#### Robin Poteet Watercolor Class

Christiansburg Presbyterian Church

This workshop is sponsored by the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center. For more information, call 540-382-5644.

### August 5

#### Reception: One Chair, 23 Artists

Alexander Black House, Draper Rd., Blacksburg • 5–7 p.m.

Take a break from Steppin' Out and visit this exhibit where 23 artists display paintings derived from photos of a wooden chair.

### August 5–6

#### Steppin' Out

Downtown Blacksburg • 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

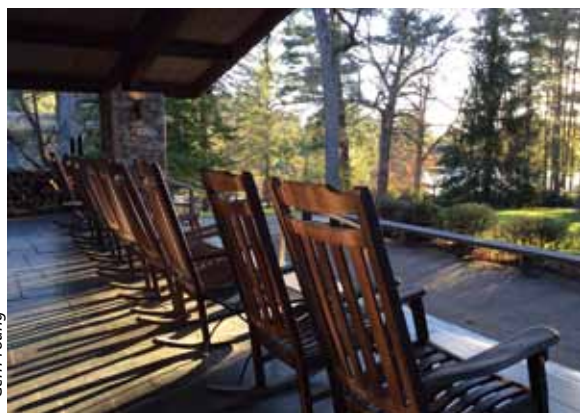
This 35<sup>th</sup> annual street fair fills the historic central district with artists and crafts people; three stages of live music and entertainment; great ethnic and festival foods; and sidewalk sales at participating downtown merchants.



## Kanuga *continued from page 1*

Truth be told, I sat in those rockers less than one hour the whole week. No time!

The art side of Kanuga was incredible. Workshops covered watercolor, acrylic, figure drawing, pastel, and mixed media taught by well-known instructors. Numerous subjects were offered such as watercolor featuring animals, drama, people, landscape, portrait and more. The teachers and subjects change yearly. Levels of experience range from beginner to very experienced.



Gerri Young

*The back porch of the Kanuga Conference Center is an ideal place to rock your cares away or get inspired by the beauty of nature.*

Workshops ran from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Every studio, spread out through modern buildings and a cabin or two, stayed open 24 hours a day to satisfy the most obsessive artists. Delicious meals were served in the main building. Evening programs included speakers, studio visits, demonstrations by artists not instructing and a field trip to the new Cheap Joe's retail store in Asheville. His highly successful art supply business has supported the workshops for years and he made a personal visit to Kanuga on the last night.

One of the most amazing things at Kanuga was a temporary art supply shop set up in one of the cabins and offering everything on the supply lists for the workshops and more. Provided by the locally-owned store named Starving Artist, those folks could not have been more accommodating to our needs.

The beautiful chapel on the grounds offered a place to contemplate your life and provided a lovely morning service about half way through the week.

We walked to all these events, never moving our cars until departure day. We loved this part of the adventure because it afforded us many opportunities to take photos during the day and to do serious stargazing. The lack of city lights made the night skies stunning.

My figure-drawing workshop with Ken Goldman was incredible. Eleven students all fell in love with this talented artist and teacher and the highly professional model posing for us for four days. I can easily say I have never worked so hard, drawn so many figures or produced so many drawings and/or paintings in five days in my life.

Ken had a plan for every minute of every day. He directed us through his demos, changes of paper, changes of media and changes of poses at a steady clip and made use of every minute. He was encouraging, fun, inspiring and willing to sit in the floor to assist a student looking for a different angle. I couldn't count the number of times he made the rounds of every student, commenting, advising, correcting, praising. We all watched his demos with fascination. Check out his seven books on Amazon.

We lined the walls of our room with our works and just loved hearing someone from a different workshop say Ken Goldman's workshop was one of their favorite stops.

I got every penny of my money's worth out of this class and highly recommend Ken to anyone interested in serious figure drawing instruction. It will have a lasting impact on me.

At the end of every busy day we returned to our cabin. Danie and I had cabin #15 with five bedrooms, three baths, a cozy living room and that hardly-used screened in porch. Our four roomies came from as far away as Vermont. There was no TV, no stove, no microwave, but we did have a refrigerator, rustic furniture, real beds and clean sheets.

A fully renovated inn will soon open but it won't have the charm of the cabins.

## ■ Now Showing

**April 15 – July 15**

(except where indicated otherwise)

**Pat Bevan**, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

**Patricia Bolton**, Amy Hunter Dental Office, Christiansburg (thru June) and Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

**Jennifer Carpenter**, Virginia Tech Women's Center

**Charlotte Chan**, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

**Marie Collier**, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

**Judy Crowgey**, New River Bank, Christiansburg (thru June)

**Leslie Gregg**, *The Keepers of the Tradition* show, The History Museum of Western Virginia, Roanoke (thru May 15)

**Anne Hammond-Tooke**, Community Arts Information Office, Blacksburg (thru April)

**Susan Hensley**, VTLS, Corporate Research Center, Blacksburg

**Teri Hoover**, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

**Sue Hossack**, Virginia Tech Women's Center

**Ruth Lefko**, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

**Darcy Meeker**, Hotel Floyd, Floyd (thru May 16).

**David Pearce**, Christiansburg Library (thru June)

**Diane Relf**, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

**Lois Stephens**, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

**Nancy Trump**, Haga Law, Christiansburg (thru June)

**Tom Wilkinson**, Glencoe Museum, Radford (April thru May)

*"To the artist there is never anything ugly in nature."*

*~ Auguste Rodin*

## ■ Exhibit Opportunities

### **Art at the Market 2016**

**July 16 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. • Downtown Blacksburg**

Located next to the Blacksburg Farmers' Market, this annual event attracts a lively audience. For more information and online registration, visit the events page at [downtownblacksburg.com](http://downtownblacksburg.com) or email [events@downtownblacksburg.com](mailto:events@downtownblacksburg.com).

### **Steppin' Out 2016**

**August 5–6 • Downtown Blacksburg**

Sponsored by Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. for over a generation, this street fair fills the historic central district with artists and crafts people, live music and entertainment, and a wide variety of foods. Artists wishing to participate must apply by the **May 2** deadline. For more information and application form, visit [www.downtownblacksburg.com](http://www.downtownblacksburg.com) or email [dbi@downtownblacksburg.com](mailto:dbi@downtownblacksburg.com).

### **The Jax 14<sup>th</sup> Annual New Works Exhibit**

**July 16–17 • The Jacksonville Center for the Arts, Floyd**

The local and regional artistic community is invited to show new works in this annual exhibit. Application deadline is **May 9** and the reception is June 11. For more information and application, visit [www.jacksonvillecenter.org](http://www.jacksonvillecenter.org).

### **Art at the Barn**

**July 16–17 • The Jacksonville Center for the Arts, Floyd**

This event will take place on the seven-acre lawn surrounding the center. Artists of all media are encouraged to apply by the **May 15** deadline. Prizes totaling \$1000 will be awarded. For more information and application, visit [www.jacksonvillecenter.org](http://www.jacksonvillecenter.org).

### **Virginia Artists 2016**

#### **Juried Exhibition**

**August 20 – October 9 • The Charles H. Taylor Arts Center, Hampton**

Virginia artists working in any media, styles, techniques and original subject matter are eligible to enter. Cash awards total \$6750 and the entry fee is \$35. Find more information and enter on-line at The Charles H. Taylor Arts Center link at [HamptonArts.net](http://HamptonArts.net). The entry deadline is **June 5**.

## ■ Kudos

**Ruth Lefko** and **Judy Crowgey** are exhibiting at the Louisa County Art Center in Louisa, Va. Lefko had six pieces and Crowgey had three pieces accepted into the juried show titled "The Color Purple." The exhibit will run through May 20.

The following BRAA artists have been selected to show in the 2016 Virginia Watercolor Society juried show in Gloucester, Va., opening May 22 and on display until June 25 — **Jeanette Bowker, Charlotte Chan, Sally Mook, Midge Ovenshire, Suzanne Ross, Jane Schafer, Michele Walter, and Gerri Young**.

### **Kanuga** *continued from page 3*

We didn't mind the sloping floors or the doors swinging open by themselves. We didn't mind carrying flashlights at night to navigate the unlit, mostly unpaved walkways. We didn't mind never seeing television.

We sort of minded the movie crew checking out cabin #8 for a remake of Dirty Dancing instead of our place.

What we really minded was when we had to leave.

I can hardly wait for next year.

For further information, visit:  
[Kanuga.org](http://Kanuga.org)  
[Kanugawatermediaworkshops.com](http://Kanugawatermediaworkshops.com)  
[Goldmanfineart.com](http://Goldmanfineart.com) ■



The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Chestnut Tree" (above, mixed media, 12 x 12") by Sue Hossack. This and more of her work can be viewed at the Virginia Tech Women's Center until July 15.



### **BRAA Officers**

- Gerri Young**, president
- Charlotte Chan**, co-vice president
- Teri Hoover**, co-vice president
- Jeanette Bowker**, treasurer
- Pat Bevan**, secretary
- Nancy Norton**, membership
- Robi Sallee**, past president



<http://www.blacksburgart.org/>



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Send news, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to Lois Stephens ([stephens1@pemt.net](mailto:stephens1@pemt.net))

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