



## Quarterly Member Newsletter August 2025

Hello WAOTC members,

The mission of the Wildlife Artists of the Carolinas, Inc. (WAOTC) is to connect wildlife art and the natural world through education, exhibition, volunteerism, and experiences. We strive to be a vibrant cornerstone for all ages, races, and genders for artistic and environmental advocacy of wildlife in communities throughout the Carolinas.

We are having a great year so far with two successful shows under our belts and three more to go! Yes, it is a lot of work to put on 5 shows in one year. We were presented with a few additional opportunities this year to showcase our wildlife art and further our mission. We simply could not turn them down. We are excited to bring these opportunities to you and we hope that you take advantage of every one of them!

Our membership is also at an all-time high with 82 members as of the time of this newsletter! Our members now extend beyond the Cape Fear region into Eastern South Carolina, to the North into Beaufort/Morehead City and into Western NC as far as Hendersonville! As we continue to grow, we want to also exhibit in these areas and beyond. There isn't a better time to be a member, so if you have art friends in either NC or SC, invite them to join us. Also, as we grow, we will need more members to become involved. We can use your help in a lot of different areas, such as exhibitions, marketing, communications, fundraising, grants, education and more. Reply to this email to let us know how you'd like to help.

Thank you for trusting us with guiding the goals and activities of the WAOTC,

Your Board of Directors

### **WILD & FREE show recap**

---

We recently wrapped up our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual member show, Wild & Free, at Events on Front in Wilmington. The quality of the art was outstanding and showcased beautifully in this venue. We also included a small amount of bin work for the first time in WAOTC's history. This was very well received by our members, as well as our show visitors. We will likely offer bin work again in future shows, as long as it is appropriate to the venue.

Congratulations to all award winners! The Best in Show winner also gets to have her artwork featured in the announcement & program for next show.

Best in Show: "Arcadia" by Deborah Mcduffie

1<sup>st</sup> place photography: "Egrets in Flight #2" by Dave Kilgore

2<sup>nd</sup> place photography: "Buoy Buddies" by Regina Lusby

3<sup>rd</sup> place photography: "Happy Hour" by Lisa Myers

1<sup>st</sup> place 2D: "Colors of the Dreaming" by Patti Resso

2<sup>nd</sup> place 2D: "Catch of the Day" by Jack Hurley

3<sup>rd</sup> place 2D: "Sleeping Otters" by Cathy Poulos

1<sup>st</sup> place 3D: "Coral Reef by Terri Swanson

2<sup>nd</sup> place 3D: "A Glassy Couple" by Allison Fanelli

## Up next: MEMBER MEETING & PAINT PARTY – August 19 @ Hannah Block

At our last show, we offered small artwork donated by the board and other members in exchange for a monetary donation or as a token of appreciation to new members that joined WAOTC during the show. This was a small but successful fundraiser for WAOTC and we would like to make it an even bigger event during our Fall show, "Into the Wild". Our next member meeting will include a paint party, so plan to come & paint with us, whether you're a painter or not. We will provide 4x4's blank canvases. Bring your favorite brushes, paints and any other embellishments you'd like to use, like collage. Not a painter, not a problem... bring some things you'd like to incorporate in your creation & pair up with a buddy. Our meetings are free and open to the public. Got a friend that would enjoy painting with us, bring them along!



## SAVE the DATES – Upcoming Shows



Exciting opportunities coming up...are you working on your entries yet?

"Into the Wild" is our annual open fall show, open to both WAOTC members & non-members. This fall, we return to the historic Hannah Block Community Arts Center, in the center of the arts scene in Wilmington, NC, and where we had a successful show last year. Registration opens on our website Wednesday, August 13 and closes Friday, September 5. Our judge is Sharon Wozniak-Spencer, a professional artist and instructor at Cape Fear Community College.



“Wild About Art” ... We are excited for the opportunity to show this fall at one of North Carolina’s most respected galleries, Sunset River Gallery, in Calabash. “Wild About Art” is a dynamic joint art show in collaboration with the Waterway Art Association, celebrating creativity, nature, and artistic expression. Registration Opens August 25 and closes September 13, 2025. This will be a juried show, with awards in multiple categories. All details will be in the prospectus, coming out soon.

And just before the year ends, we return to Wilmington with “Seasons Tweetings”, a WAOTC member-only show. Stay tuned for more to come later on this exciting opportunity.

## Welcome New Members

---

Welcome new members who joined our group since our last newsletter. We are growing and expanding into new territories in the Carolinas!

Alec Hall, Hendersonville, NC  
 Alisa Harris, Wilmington, NC  
 Deborah Hutcherson, Beaufort, NC  
 George Bason, Raleigh, NC  
 Holly Clark-Dull, Ocean Isle, NC  
 Janet Nickle, Morehead City, NC  
 Jeanne Rietzke, Wilmington, NC  
 Katrina Shinn, Southport, NC  
 Laura Oleniacz, Durham, NC

Linda Drye, Oak Island, NC  
 Linda Medders-Jackson, Cross, SC  
 Marilyn Stover, Surf City, NC  
 Patti Chisolm, Hampstead, NC  
 Regina Lusby, Southport, NC  
 Sarah Marcus, Wilmington, NC  
 Suzanne Mills-Winkler, Leland, NC  
 Walter Barnard, Ocean Isle Beach, NC

## WAOTC Website Update – **\*\*ACTION REQUESTED\*\***

---

A new website is about to roll out soon. One new exciting feature is a members’ gallery. If you have not already, please send a brief bio, a head shot, six images of your work, and your social media account information to [wautcinc@gmail.com](mailto:wautcinc@gmail.com). We want to show the talents of our fabulous members!

## Member News – *Help us help you!*

---

**Are you in an upcoming art exhibit/event/publication? Are you teaching a workshop? Let us know!**

Let us share your good news! When you post your upcoming events, etc. on your social media channels, tag us. Then email us at [wautcinc@gmail.com](mailto:wautcinc@gmail.com). We are happy to share your good news in our Facebook and Instagram

pages, but we don't always know... unless you tell us. You can also post directly on our Facebook group: [facebook.com/groups/wildlifeartistsofthecarolinasinc](https://facebook.com/groups/wildlifeartistsofthecarolinasinc)

## WAOTC contacts & links

---

General inquiries, news sharing, etc.: [wautcinc@gmail.com](mailto:wautcinc@gmail.com)

Membership: [wautcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:wautcmembership@gmail.com)

Website [www.wautc.com](http://www.wautc.com)

WAOTC Facebook page: [facebook.com/wildlifeartistsnc](https://facebook.com/wildlifeartistsnc)

Facebook fan group [facebook.com/groups/wildlifeartistsofthecarolinasinc](https://facebook.com/groups/wildlifeartistsofthecarolinasinc)

Instagram [@wautcinc](https://www.instagram.com/wautcinc)

### WAOTC Board of Directors:

President: Allison Fanelli

Vice President: Lourdes Rasdall

Treasurer: Dave Kilgore

Secretary: Terry Turley

Members at large: Lisa Myers, Gwen Pikul, Sabine Baeckmann

*The Wildlife Artists of the Carolinas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
EIN 92-4024608*

