



## Quarterly Member Newsletter August 2026

Hello fellow WAOTC members!

The Call for Artists is now open for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual “*Into the Wild*” open juried exhibition and art sale. This year, we return to Events on Front in Wilmington for our signature show of the year, when we open the doors to all artists residing in NC or SC, whether or not they are members of WAOTC. We hope that all WAOTC members take advantage of this opportunity to exhibit your wildlife art in this beautiful venue and among your talented peers. With every show, we are amazed at the talents of our members and just when we think it can’t get any better, you surprise us one more time!

Go ahead and enter now. WAOTC members are guaranteed that at least one piece will get into the show. But review the prospectus carefully before applying as every show is different. We set size limits and other criteria based on the venue size, venue policies, space configuration, whether the art hangs on permanent walls or exhibition panels, etc. Also, please pay careful attention to how you present your art. This is a fine arts show and all art must be presented in a professional manner. See more about this on the *Applying to Art Shows* article in this newsletter.

Also, as you know, there are many expenses associated with putting on an art show of this magnitude. A big thank you goes to those that have already contributed as sponsors. If you know of any business or individual that would like to be a sponsor, please put them in touch with us. Sponsorships start as little as \$100, but they make a huge impact in helping us cover expenses such as venue rental, judge’s fees, artists awards, etc.

Really, we can’t wait to see what you enter in the show!

Here’s your link to the prospectus & show application: [2026 Into the Wild Fall Show – Wildlife Artists of the Carolinas](#)

Wildlife Artists of the Carolinas  
4th annual  
“*Into the Wild*”  
open juried exhibition & sale  
award-winning artwork by George Bason  
September 24-26, 2026  
Events on Front, Wilmington, NC  
**Call for Artists**  
Application period August 1 - August 23  
[waotc.com/2026-into-the-wild-fall-show](http://waotc.com/2026-into-the-wild-fall-show)  
Entry fee: \$35 member/\$45 non-member. Up to 3 pieces per artist. Must reside in NC or SC.

## Wild & Free Spring Members' Show – *a quick recap*

---

We would like to thank everyone that participated in our members-only Spring show this year, whether you were a participating artist, sponsor or visitor. Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual WILD & FREE held at the Brunswick Plantation in Calabash, NC, was the most successful show we've had to date, not only in terms of participation and attendance, but also sales exceeded all prior shows. We issued over \$2000 in checks to artists from the sale of artwork. And the generosity of our artists and show attendees raised \$1185 for our supported charity, Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter in Oak Island, NC! To top it all off, those in attendance at the art reception were able to witness an owl release back into the wild!



We are extremely grateful to the Homeowners Association at the Brunswick Plantation and to our Treasurer, David Kilgore for letting us use their clubhouse (The Brunswick House) for our show. In addition, we are ecstatic to share that we have secured this venue once more for our 2027 members-only Spring Show, WILD & FREE!

### **Continuing our charitable efforts ...**

For our upcoming Into the Wild show, we will be raising funds for Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary, another wildlife rescue and rehab non-profit, based in Hubert, NC. Once again, we are asking for donations of small art (10" or smaller in all directions) for a raffle, with 100% of the ticket sales going to this organization. It is part of our mission to advocate for wildlife and their habitats within our communities. We are grateful for our artists and patrons; together, we have been able to give back to several wildlife charities over the years, including Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter, Skywatch Bird Rescue, the Wild Horse Ranch and the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Center.

## **SAVE these DATES – *Mark your calendar now for these important events...***

---

**November 3, 2026, 2:00-4:00pm** at Hannah Block Community Center in Wilmington – this will be our last meeting of the year

**January 16 - March 15, 2027 – “Every Living Thing: A Celebration of Wildlife and Nature”** - we are kicking off the year once again with an exhibition at theArtworks in Wilmington. A big THANK YOU to Jim and Betsy Knowles, owners of theArtworks for inviting us back! Once more, this exhibition will coincide with the Cape Fear Women's Birding Conference in Wilmington, and there will be a reception on Sunday, January 17, the last day of the festival. More details to follow.

**April 15 – 18, 2027** – 5<sup>th</sup> annual “Wild & Free” members-only exhibition & sale at the Brunswick House in the Brunswick Plantation Golf & Resort, Calabash, NC. Art intake will be on April 14. Reception TBD.

**Oct 4 – Oct 9, 2027** – 5th annual “Into the Wild” exhibition & sale, Sunset River Gallery, Calabash, NC. Art intake 10/3, art pick-up 10/10. Reception 10/5. More details to come.

**October 19 – November 19** (November 20 take-down) – WAOTC members featured at the Burgwin-Wright Museum House, Wilmington, NC. Reception during Wilmington’s Fourth Friday’s festivities 10/22. Stay tuned for more.

Before this year (2026) ends, we are hoping to organize a visit to one of our supported wildlife charities. More to come on this.

As we find additional show opportunities for our members, we will add them to our line-up and let you know. If you have a connection or know of a venue that would host our group or you have suggestions for future shows, please contact us at [waotcinc@gmail.com](mailto:waotcinc@gmail.com).

## New WAOTC Website now live!

---

A million thanks to board member and the brains behind our new website, Sabine Baeckmann! One new exciting feature is our members’ gallery. If you have not already, please send a brief bio, a head shot, and 3-5 images of your work, and your social media account information to [waotcinc@gmail.com](mailto:waotcinc@gmail.com). Please make sure that your photos are high quality and showcase your artwork without frames or background distractions. We cannot simply take photos of your website or spend time cropping and editing. Send us actual photo files that showcase your talent!

We want to keep these galleries up to date and showcasing your newest and best work. Members with existing galleries can submit updates quarterly. Next update will take place around the end of September. Your membership with WAOTC must be active to have an active gallery page on our site. Galleries for members whose memberships have expired will be removed.

## Welcome New Members

---

Welcome new members who joined our group since our last newsletter. We are so excited about continuing to grow and to expand our mission into new territories in the Carolinas!

Allison Cesario Paton, Longs, SC  
Anne Jett Owens, Mount Pleasant, NC  
Annemarie Petty, Southport, NC  
Barbara Clark, Calabash, NC  
Barbara Gallagher, Calabash, NC  
Barbara Hubbard, Leland, NC

***New Members continued ...***

Cathy Jackson, Holly Ridge, NC  
Cathy MacQueen, Ocean Isle Beach, NC  
Debi Pemberton, Apex, NC  
Deborah Wilson, Carolina Shores, NC  
Karen & Dan Pierce, Hampstead, NC  
Karen Mortimore, Southport, NC  
Karen Rose, Hampstead, NC  
Karl Gabriel, Charlotte, NC  
Kevin Fetzer, Oriental, NC  
Maureen Noble, Leland, NC  
Molly Leech, Ravenel, SC  
Paul Visserman, Mount Pleasant, SC  
Rebecca Gurganis, Carolina Beach, NC  
Trent Taylor, Kure Beach, NC

***Applying to Art Shows – Your art and your submissions represent you!***

---

Given that art show season is here and we're all likely reviewing and responding to calls for artists, we thought we'd help you out with not just tips and tricks, but what should be the gospel for artists:

- First and foremost: THE PROSPECTUS - Every show has some sort of prospectus that list deadlines, rules and other important information about the show. Every show is different, so it is imperative that you read each show's prospectus in its entirety. There are no shortcuts and no cliff notes here.
- DEADLINES – all deadlines are critical and must be respected, as are specific times for drop off, pick up, etc.
- PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR ART – your photo is what gets your art into the show. Blurry photos, photos with distractions such as frames, parts of your easel or messy studio will not get your art into the show, no matter how good the art is.
- NAMING YOUR PHOTO FILES – this is important! You must rename your photo files (according to how the prospectus specifies) before uploading them to a show's application. For WAOTC shows, we typically ask you to name each photo file to match the title of your artwork...easy enough! And that brings us to the next point: titles.
- NAMING YOUR ARTWORK – We can't tell you enough what a bad idea it is to duplicate titles within a show ... if you have two paintings both titled "Egret" and the judge only wants to accept one of the egrets, how are we supposed to know which one was the lucky egret? While on the subject of titles, "untitled" is also not a good idea. One way that people connect to art is from the story that the art piece tells. The title is part of that story.
- FRAMES – Whether you pay for professional framing or frame your own, your frames are part of the package that showcases your art and YOU. Frames should always look pristine, glass and plexiglass free of scratches, and mats free of stains. Simple frames are best as they resonate better with buyers and create consistency within a show. Ornate





- frames (unless they are absolutely a critical part of the finished art) should be avoided. A buyer may pass on a piece of art that they liked because they hated the frame, or not even notice the artwork because the frame got all the attention.
- WIRE AND D-RINGS are the norm. A foolproof formula is D-rings attached at one quarter of frame height. Wire must be slack enough for someone to easily reach out behind the frame or canvas to hang your art on wall hooks, and the top of the wire should hang 2-3" from the top
- CANVASES – Some shows will require that even the canvases are framed. Others may be more flexible and will accept "gallery wrapped" canvases. Gallery wrapped canvases create a seamless, frameless appearance that showcases the artwork on all sides. One-and-a-half to two-inch thickness is norm, but this may vary by show. Trust and follow the prospectus.
- BIN WORK DESERVES THE SAME ATTENTION AND RESPECT: Clear bags of appropriate size to the artwork, clean looking mats and proper backing are a must. You want your work to always look fresh. Print bags start to look worn-out when moving from show to show and that's when you know it is time to replace that \$0.20 bag!
- Know that galleries and shows will reject pieces that are brought in with dents, scratches and stains. But most of all, your art and how you present it is a reflection of you. When people look at your work, how do you want to be remembered?

## Member News – Help us help you!

---

Are you in an upcoming art exhibit/event/publication? Are you teaching a workshop? Do you have a major accomplishment? Let us know! We are happy to share your good news in our Facebook [facebook.com/wildlifeartistsnc](https://facebook.com/wildlifeartistsnc) and Instagram (@waotcinc) pages, but we don't always know. To make sure we don't miss your news, follow us, tag us on your posts and send us a direct message through Facebook Messenger or Instagram when you have news to share. 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.: [waotcinc@gmail.com](mailto:waotcinc@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

**President:** Allison Fanelli

**Vice President:** Lourdes Rosas Rasdall

**Treasurer:** Dave Kilgore

**Secretary:** Terri Turley

**Members At Large:** Lisa Myers, Gwen Pikul, Sabine Baeckman



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