



NEWSLETTER



President's Message - Karrie Mast

Dear Members and Supporters of the Art Center

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits, as 2025 speeds along.

The Board welcomes incoming 2nd VP of Visual Arts, Ms. Loretta Bell, picture and bio in this issue. Loretta is excited to learn about the running of the Art Center and the handling the exhibits. We would like to thank outgoing 2nd VP of Visual Arts, Deb Newman, who served in the position for two years, bringing new ideas and leadership to the role.

Another welcome and thank you to new member Mary Ann Gilfillan, recently from Tennessee who is resuming the newsletter to share all the exciting things happening at the AC. Mary Ann is also an accomplished photographer along with her marketing and publicity skills.

Last fall we welcomed the Citrus Watercolor Society as an affiliate, and are pleased to have them hold their meetings, demos and workshops at the Art Center. They have started an open watercolor group on Thursdays from 10 - 1 weekly. This group is open to all Art Center members.

I wish to thank all of our dedicated volunteers who make our theatre and art groups thrive. Together we make the Art Center the gem of Citrus County.

Please enjoy this issue, and as always, your feedback and ideas are welcomed. We are here to serve you and our community

Warmest regards,

Karrie

MARCH 2025



MaryBeth van Sickle
VP of Performing Arts



We hope you have been enjoying this season of shows.

"Ring of Fire" has the audience clapping along to the great music of Johnny Cash. If you haven't seen it yet, you only have two more weekends so get your tickets now! **March 7-9** and **March 14-16** are on sale online or at the box office.

Our last show of this season will be "Cookin' With Gus." As we initially read the script, we were laughing out loud at the antics of these characters. Director Patrick Erhardt has assembled a cast and crew that is sure to have the audience laughing too. Dates for "Cookin' With Gus" are weekends **March 11-27**. Friday and Saturdays start at 7:30 pm and Sundays are a matinee with a start time of 2pm.

We have announced our **2025-26 season** and will be starting that one off with a Christmas in July spectacular- Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" directed by Danielle Flury-Downey. It will be running weekends from **July 11-27**.

If you're interested in auditioning for this wonderful musical, auditions are **March 30th at 2pm** and **March 31st at 6pm**. Please bring a prepared piece of music to sing. Looking for all ages.

We are always looking for ushers, if you would be interested in volunteering to usher, please email Karen at karen.artcenter@gmail.com

We are also always looking for tech booth, backstage crew, building and painting help. We will train you. If you are interested in learning more, please email me at marybeth.artcenter@gmail.com

Hope to see you at a show soon!

Mary Beth



Timothy Rodd, Kyle Flanagan
(singing), **Richard Flury,**
Jeremy Harrison



Danielle Flury-Downey (on
piano), **Timothy Rodd** and
Sandy Mosley



Jeremy Harrison



Jim Houle, Camera Club President and Sr VP Visual Arts

ART CENTER OF CITRUS COUNTY



PHOTOGRAPHERS OF ALL ABILITIES

Donna Dominic Wins Judges Choice Award with Stunning Wildlife Photography

Photographer Donna Dominic has been awarded the prestigious Judges Choice Award for her captivating images “Coming in for a Snack” and “Showing Off” at the March Photo Competition.

Donna’s winning photographs impressed the judges with their striking composition and technical excellence. “Coming in for a Snack” captures a breathtaking moment of wildlife in action, while “Showing Off” highlights the beauty and personality of its subject.

“Donna’s work stood out for its remarkable detail and storytelling”, said Jim Houle, one of the competition judges. Her ability to capture the essence of her subjects was truly exceptional.

Donna’s success adds to her growing reputation in the photography club. She expressed gratitude for the recognition and credited her passion for nature and patience in the field as key factors in achieving these award-winning shots.

The competition, which drew submissions from talented photographers across the region, showcased a diverse range of artistic perspectives. With this latest accolade, Dominic continues to make a name for herself in the world of photography.

If you’re interested in photography, please come join us at one of our monthly meeting. We sponsor classes, challenges, field trips, outings and workshops throughout the year. For more information contact club chairman, Jim Houle by email at [“ArtCenterVP@Gmail.com”](mailto:ArtCenterVP@Gmail.com)

The club meets monthly from September to June at the Art Center located at 2644 N. Annapolis Ave. Hernando. You can also visit the camera club on-line at <https://artcenterofcitruscounty.org/camera-club/>



Showing Off



Coming in for a Snack



Loretta Bell
2nd VP of Visual Arts

Meet Loretta Bell

Loretta Lynn Bell, Veteran, USMC, relocated back to NW Central Florida, about two years ago with her husband, Jon. They are avid bike riders, love camping and traveling. Together they have four adult children and six grandchildren, and now a puppy, Amelia, a service dog in training. Loretta's mediums of choice are acrylics, watercolors, mixed media and organic pigments. She is an active member with the Citrus Watercolor Society and Marion Cultural Alliance. She is also an Artist Practitioner with Arts in Health Ocala Metro, where she shares her passion for art with other women, Veterans and caregivers,

Loretta is also a yoga instructor and trauma yoga certified. Her background is in public relations & marketing and working with non-profits. She is also a former editor, publisher and published author. She is an Ambassador for Essential Stencil, reseller for Dynasty Brush and Decoart Artist. She has served on numerous boards and worked with numerous service organizations and is a licensed aesthetician.

Loretta says, "My art serves as a beacon of hope and resilience, offering a gentle reminder that amidst life's challenges, there is always beauty to be found and strength to be cultivated. Together let us embrace the transformative power of art and yoga, forging a path towards inner peace and fulfillment.

Sharing and teaching art and yoga have helped me become a better artist and person. Every day I am exploring, playing and learning. I am passionate about helping others find some relaxation, peace and joy using these natural remedies to navigate through life's challenges such as anxiety, PTSD, stress, overwhelm and more."

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Art Group Schedules

Mondays, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Acrylic Painters

Wednesdays, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Open Studio

Thursdays, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Watercolor
Group**

Fridays, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Portrait Group

Exhibits: Coincides with plays, Member fee to exhibit: \$15 for two pieces, Non-member fee to exhibit: \$30 for two pieces



Citrus Watercolor Society General Monthly Meeting

March 14th at 12:30 pm at the Art Center

CWS Annual Membership Dues \$35

First time guests \$5

General Meeting & Demo by Workshop Artist Lynn Ferris

Citrus Watercolor Society Monthly Workshop

March 15th ~ "Bringing the Figure to Life" by Lynn Ferris

Please see website for details and to register:

<https://citruswatercolorsociety.org/workshops/>

Exhibit #4 Winners Announced

Acrylic/Oil/Pastel Category

1st place - *Joanne Sherburne - I'm Listening*. Very personal, wonderful feeling and good composition. The colors are lovely, especially the skin tone. Well-rounded and draws you in.

2nd place - *Ava Rudnicki – Coconuts*. Judge loved the continuity, how her eye traveled around the painting, all the nuances of color and shape, nice 3-D dimension, background not competing and good color choices.

3rd Place - *Loretta Bell with Rainy Dance*. Fun painting. Lively, composition is good & effective as well as the colors. Wonderful mood. Message is delivered as to "What are they trying to tell me?"

Honorable Mention - *Ted Kloski - The Archetype* - Judge described this as primal. Very interesting and challenging. The color leads you through the painting, not about what you think, not typical. Almost abstract features. You're very drawn in. Very chaotic. Aggressive statement.

Mixed Media/Photography/ Watercolor Category

1st Place - *Walk in the Wood by Crystal Adams*. (MM/Wool) You can tell this was a lot of work. Very dramatic, good use of color, clean and pure. Nice use of textures in the feathers & grass.

2nd Place - *Red Trumpet Vine by Helene Lancaster*. (watercolor) Very fresh. Lovely. Love the color composition and round medallion shape, brings your eye around the painting and back in. Delicate flowers & vines, holds your interest. Lot of interpretation.

3rd Place - *Poppy Field by Judi Miller*. (watercolor) Good composition. Good work with transparent colors. Nice play with the light & dark, lot of depth in field & color. Good use of values. Dramatic and realistic.

Honorable Mention - *Portrait of a Rose Deconstructed by Susan Wyant* (tempera) Has almost a Victorian feel. Interesting textures. Luminous skin tone. Nice play of value, attention to the skin.

Best of Show - *Emergence by Gerri Pennington*. Good composition really invites you in to look around, your eye travels to see the details, color & texture. Quiet of the sky allows of rest and then you dive back in. Very engaging, the colors are wonderful.

People's Choice - *Fog Along the Rock Shore by Barbara Mason*.

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Exhibit #4 Winners

Judges Notes overall- Exhibit - The goal of a good exhibit is to know a variety of art, the different media and techniques, which we have here. This exhibit acknowledges all different techniques and art mediums (watercolors, acrylic, oils, mixed media, photography), and gives consideration to each separate medium that it deserves. Love the variety. There were definitely some challenges in judging.

Some of the talented winners



**Best of Show -
Gerri Pennington,
Emergence**



**First Place -
Joanne Sherburne, I'm
Listening**



**Second Place -
Ava Rudnicki, Coconuts**



**Third Place -
Loretta Bell, Rainy Dance**



**Honorable Mention -
Susan Wyant,
Portrait of a Rose**

Upcoming Events

ART CENTER OF CITRUS COUNTY
Art Center Theatre
 PRESENTS

Cookin' with Gus



By Jim Brochu "Cookin' With Gus" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

April 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
 Buy Tickets Online: artcentertheatre.org
Friday & Saturday Nights at 7:30 pm
Sunday Matinee at 2:00 pm
Tickets: \$21

2025 BOX OFFICE 352-746-7606 2644 N. ANNAPOLIS AVE HERNANDO FL 34442




CALL TO ARTIST

Art Center of Citrus County 2024-2025 Season Nature Coast Exhibit No. 5
 Continuing our mission to promote local artist's work through exhibitions!

Nature Coast Exhibit No. 5	Artist Reception
• Take in: April. 9, 2025, 10 am - 1pm	• Fri. April 11, 6:30pm - 7:15pm
• Pickup: May 14, 2025, 10 am - 1 pm	• Refreshments served
• Entry Fees: Members: \$15 for 2 works; Non-members: \$30 for 2 works; \$5 for each additional work up to 5.	• Winning works announced • Free and open to the public



2644 N. Annapolis Ave Hernando, FL 34442 (352)746-7606 artcenterofcitruscounty.org

New Group Alert

The Art Center Youth Group

We will be meeting on the third Thursday of the month from 5 pm- 7pm.
 On **March 20th**, we will be having a "How to Audition for a Musical" class taught by Danielle Flury- Downey.

On **April 17th**, Miguel Machado will be helping us to crochet animals. Everyone will have a cute, and easy to take care of, pet to bring home.

This is a members' group. You don't have to be a theatre youth to join since we will be having arts, crafts, and social events also. You can pick and choose which classes or events you want to attend.

Any questions- please email MaryBeth at marybeth.artcenter@gmail.com