

■ Upcoming

August 22

Heritage Day

Montgomery Museum, 300 S. Pepper St.,
 Christiansburg • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Don't miss this day of fun activities for the whole family. Plein air painters are invited to set up to record the day and be part of the fun. Contact Sue Farrar for more information at 540-382-5644.

August 27

Ruth Lefko Reception

Glencoe Museum, 600 Unruh Drive, Radford •
 6–8 p.m.

This opening reception celebrates a new exhibit by Ruth Lefko. Works will be on display through September.

August 30

Plein Air Painting

Hahn Horticulture Garden, Virginia Tech
 campus • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Paint the gardens with the lovely twist of the 24 Simply Elemental outdoor art installations, many by BRAA artists. Email rlfko2@gmail.com if you plan to participate.

September 2

Whet Your Palette Reception

The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery Inc.,
 Blacksburg • 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Come celebrate the abstract art of Marie Collier, Amelie Grooscors, Marianne Jackson, Nicholas Milinazzo, Rita Montrosse, John Wiercioch, and Tom Wilkinson.

September 3

Rhonda Morgan Reception

Montgomery Museum, 300 S. Pepper St.,
 Christiansburg • 5–7 p.m.

Rhonda Morgan's colorful, whimsical paintings inspired by children's stories will be displayed through October.

September 11

BRAA Monthly Luncheon

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

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Heavy metal means something different to this artist

by Gerri Young

When you visit the home of Diane Relf and Dave Angle of Christiansburg, you enter a world like you may have never before seen. Perched high above Den Hill Road, the home offered a particularly unexpected view to visitors on a recent day.

At the top of the drive sat a trailer holding two very large bovines named Steve the Steampunk Steer and Rosalyn the Rustic Ruminant. They were big. They were heavy. They were incredible. They were metal, and they looked like no bovine these visitors had ever seen.

Relf, a collector of many cast off metal things large and small, and her husband, Angle, a self-taught welder, created these two incredible creatures for "Simply Elemental," the first-ever outdoor installation art show at the Hahn Horticulture Garden at Virginia Tech. The bovines are two of 24 installations scattered throughout the trees, flowers and water elements of the six-acre garden.

Relf is an artist sometimes referred to as "the rust lady." Her vast collection of metal objects large and small are spread throughout their land, in part of their house and all over and around her barn studio. Some small, new things are tossed among the grass for the sole purpose of getting rusty. Angle aids and abets her collection through his work in construction projects, bringing home old fuel oil tanks and other things with artistic possibilities.

Married since 1980, Relf and Angle met through a friend. He was managing a Ritz Camera shop at the time; she was on the faculty of Virginia Tech. She is a professor emeritus in horticulture and chair of the Art in the Garden Committee at Hahn. The first time Relf got Angle to do a project involving old metal, he stated at the end that he was done with that sort of thing. One look at his welding tent set up in the driveway, confirms that he no longer feels that way!

The cow couple started with oil tanks and continued through office trash cans for noses, giant ropes for tails, old gears, rebar, a rusted chicken (riding the back of Rosalyn) and other parts too numerous to mention.

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Diane Relf and Dave Angle are the proud creators of Steve the Steampunk Steer and Rosalyn the Rustic Ruminant now on exhibit through September in the Hahn Horticulture Garden at Virginia Tech.

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Meet your fellow members for lunch, updates, and an art spot talk.

September 11–13

Plein Air Crush

Chateau Morrisette, Floyd

Join fellow national and regional artists for a weekend of plein air painting. The fun includes a welcoming reception, Farm to Table dinner, and quick draw competition and sale. For more information, visit the events page at www.thedogs.com or email jolisart@yahoo.com.

September 18–24

Stone Carving Workshop

Newport

The Backyard Stone Carvers are sponsoring this studio-style workshop led by celebrated artist Bob Lockhart. The fee is \$375 (includes dinner). Novices and experienced carvers welcome. For more information, email backyardstonecarvers@gmail.com.

September 19

Art on the Lawn

Courthouse Lawn, Pearisburg •

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This 10th annual juried fine arts show has been named one of the top three art events in southwestern Virginia for four years in a row.

September 20

Plein Air Painting

Stadium Woods, Virginia Tech • 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Watch for more information about the opportunity to paint in Stadium Woods.

September 24

Jordi Calvera Reception

Holtzman Alumni Center, Virginia Tech • 5 p.m.

This opening reception is for Jordi Calvera's art that will be on display until mid-January.

September 26

Parkway Paintout

Blue Ridge Parkway Mile Posts 150-176 •

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (painting), 4–6 p.m. (display/sales of art on Tuggles Gap restaurant porch)

This event is hosted by the Floyd Artists Association and Tuggles Gap restaurant and proceeds (10% suggested donation of sales) will fund art supplies for Floyd County High School. Rain date is Sept. 27. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ParkwayPaintOut>.

Heavy metal continued from page 1

Unconventional as they may be, there is no doubt they are bovines.

The cow and steer sculptures are quite a culmination of decades of collecting and a perfect example of how Relf and Angle have formed an excellent creative team. "I started collecting this sort of stuff when I bought this house in 1976, before Dave and I married, but I have always been a collector of sorts," said Relf. "I have always gone in many directions."

The barn studio the two of them built is a testament to that.

Two floors are packed with a visual feast. The walls are lined with finished artworks made with various pieces of rusted metal.

The studio table is covered in small alcohol ink painted tiles waiting to become part of some other artwork. The cabinets and shelves hold hundreds of pieces of interesting glassware equally at home in an antique shop. One's eyes cannot be bored in this place; one's artistic imagination can be kick started a hundred times.

In her home, a round object covered in a mosaic of pale blues, whites and pinks, features rabbits, birds and flowers. This tribute to childhood covers a bowling ball with not a spot of rust on it, hinting at Relf's sentimental side. In the garden (she is a master gardener in a natural spring water paradise), a collection of bowling balls becomes a colorful and unusual adornment.

Throughout a visit to Relf's home, she talks quickly and often, telling stories about where things came from, what she plans to make out of them, who gave her what, but she wasn't always like this.

A Dallas, Texas, native, Relf was completely terrified of public speaking but had a sense of adventure. "Once I sold Touch Tone phones in Oregon," she recalls. "I hated it. It made me apply for grad school. I lived briefly in a mud hut in Venezuela and had to survey a piranha-infested river there. After surviving that, I decided I no longer had to be afraid of anything." She now has a master's degree and Ph.D. in horticulture with an emphasis in horticultural therapy.

In the winter, Relf's love of all things botanical takes the lead as they travel to their house in New Zealand and are part of the art and garden community there as well. It is handy that Angle was once a travel agent and sets up all their many travels.

Relf shared the planning for Art in the Garden with other BRAA members Nancy Norton and Paula Gordon. "It was a great project for community involvement. The idea came from something I saw in New Zealand," recalls Relf. "Local artists and the staff of the Hahn garden just loved the idea so we gave it a try and it has been a great success. The opening reception attracted about 300 people."

From trash to treasure to garden art, great minds find each other (like Relf and Angle) and, sometimes, imaginary cows emerge from the tangled grass. ■



Diane Relf in her studio barn surrounded by her extensive collection of assorted things, which may become works of art.

Teri Hoover Photography

■ President's Report

I just love it when plans come together.

It has been a busy summer made terrific by the efforts of many BRAA members.

Judy Crowgey and **Ruth Lefko** have kept us outdoors painting and photographing at wonderful plein air locations and we have more to come—the Hahn Horticultural Garden, Aug. 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and maybe even Stadium Woods in September. How's that last one for a unique event?

Speaking of Hahn, the efforts of many for the good of our group really paid off at the "Simply Elemental" event still ongoing in the gardens. **Diane Relf** and her husband, **Dave Angle**, **Nancy Norton**, and **Paula Golden** were in the forefront of this terrific event. They were involved in planning and coordinating, but went beyond and contributed their awesome works of art, too. (Think giant, rusty bovines!) Many individuals of BRAA contributed their own personal works: **Tom Wilkinson**, **Jeanette Bowker** and her granddaughter, **Sarah Fortier**; Tom Barnhart's wife, **Missy Barnhart**; **Bill Pulley**, and **Carol Davis**. If you have not seen the two dozen outdoor installations, you really should come on Aug. 30, when we will be there for plein air.

Another great success for this summer was the Z. L. Feng watercolor workshop with **Charlotte Chan** coordinating and **Betty Moore** and **Ruth Lefko** helping with setup. Throughout the three-day event, **Riley Chan** was on hand with both video and still photography support. This workshop was held at the Warm Hearth information center, which turned out to be a spectacular location that we will definitely use again. We had students come from as far away as Colorado and Minnesota and our reviews have been terrific. Professor Feng rarely teaches workshops, but finally gave in to Charlotte's cajoling and delivered a wonderful learning experience.

Coming up Oct. 16-18 will be the Becca Imbur eco printing, mark making and book making workshop and, soon after, our annual meeting. Watch for more information coming soon.

None of these events could happen without the cooperation and planning by our eager volunteers and I thank you all!

Your partner in art,

Gerri



Instructor and watercolor master Z. L. Feng (right) offers guidance to BRAA member Toni Bowman during the recent three-day workshop.

■ Now Showing

July 15 – October 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Charlotte Chan, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

Laura Fender, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Francis Frederick, ICTAS, Virginia Tech Campus (until mid-Nov.)

Teri Hoover, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Ruth Lefko, Community Arts Information Office, Blacksburg (Aug.)

Nancy Norton, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea and Virginia Tech Women's Center, Blacksburg

Martha Olsen, Holtzman Alumni Center gallery, Virginia Tech campus (until Sept. 17)

David Pearce, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Melissa Philen, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Joy Rosenthal, ICTAS, Virginia Tech Campus (until mid-Nov.)

Donald and Joanna Sunshine, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Blacksburg (through Sept.)

Tuesday Night Painters (Joann Boles, Toni Bowman, Charlotte Chan, Diana Dougherty, Delbert Jones, Johanna Jones, Elina McCartney), Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

"Drawing and color are by no means two different things. As you paint, you draw ... When color is at its richest, form is at its fullest."

~ Paul Cezanne



Linda Correll

Bill Pulley (left) assists Nancy Norton with her installation at the "Simply Elemental" exhibit at the Hahn Horticulture Garden at Virginia Tech.

■ Exhibit Opportunities

BRAA Galleries – 2016

August 20 Deadline

BRAA artists who would like to exhibit in a participating gallery during 2016 can find interest forms and other information under the Galleries tab at www.blacksburgart.org.

New River Art Juried Biennial Show

October 9 – November 20 • Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley • Pulaski

This popular biennial show is back! Entry deadline is **September 21**. Applications and more information available at www.callforentry.org.

Fall Home Show Art Gallery

Sept. 26–27 • Salem Civic Center

Artists are invited to display and sell their work at this Roanoke Regional Homebuilders Association event. Registration deadline is **Aug. 31**. For more information, email artzysuzi@hotmail.com.

First Sunday Jazz Series

Chateau Morrisette • Floyd

Plein air artists are invited to come to Chateau Morrisette the first Sunday afternoon of each month to paint around the winery complex. There is no fee to show up and paint among the visitors, sights, and sounds.

■ Kudos

Betty Moore and **Donald Sunshine** received people's choice awards at the BRAA annual theme show at VTLS (Corporate Research Center). "Our Backyard" was this year's theme and Moore placed first for her painting "Back Porch Dreaming," and Sunshine was the runner-up with "The Oaks." All entries will be on display until mid-October.

Sally Mook was awarded third place and **Gerri Young** received honorable mention in the 2D category at Art at the Market on July 18. The downtown Blacksburg event showcased the work of 32 artists.

Shaun Whiteside received the Shenandoah Framing award for his acrylic, "Rise," at the 16th annual juried show at the Nelson Gallery in Lexington.

Jennifer Carpenter was awarded honorable mention for "That's a Wrap!" (colored pencil) at the Jacksonville Center for the Arts annual juried exhibition.

Watercolors by **Jeanette Bowker** and **Michele Walter** were accepted into the Central Virginia Watercolor Guild's 24th annual exhibition, displaying Sept. 4–27 at the McGuffey Art Center in Charlottesville.



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/>



www.facebook.com/BlacksburgArt

Send Facebook news postings to:

Gerri Young at younggerri@gmail.com
 or **Teri Hoover**
 at crystalirisphotos@gmail.com

[Twitter @BlacksburgArt1](#)

Send news, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to Lois Stephens (stephens1@pemtel.net)

Thanks to Mish Mish for providing printed versions of this newsletter. Please support our local art supply store!



The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Lines of Adaptation and Knowing" (photography, 12x18") by Teri Hoover. This and more of her series, Summoning the Lines of Safety, can be viewed at See Mark Optical in Blacksburg until October 15.