



Sitka Center for Art and Ecology e-Newsletter

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>> Director's Notes

The rainy green hues of spring have given way to that rich mix of browns and greens that indicate we are entering the fall. As I make my way to work each day, I can see the daily change on the hillside of Cascade Head as the grasses begin to die and the deciduous trees ready themselves for their annual leaf drop. We are in September, one of our favorite months to be at the coast... perfect temperatures and daily sunshine... this is our reward for the soggy month of June. It's also a reminder that workshops will soon be coming to an end, new residents will arrive and the Sitka Art Invitational is just around the corner.

Our workshops have been overflowing with joyful energy this summer: writing, drawing, sculpting, bookmaking, weaving, photographing... the dynamic richness of this place never ceases to inspire and amaze me. And in my spare moments when I have a chance to talk with the incredible people who have made their way from around the country to take a workshop, polish an artistic skill, or savor the fascinating ecology of Cascade Head, I am continually reminded that our world is filled with good people doing remarkable work. We hear stories of people making a positive difference in the world, coming to Sitka to relax, refresh, and recharge.

Last week we celebrated our 40th year. And what a celebration it was! The planning, the preparation, David Duncan and Frank Boyden's presentations, George Thompson and Jim D'Ville's music, Dawn Stetzel and Lori Latham's art making, Silas's boatrides across the river, the more than 150 guests ... it was, in Frank's words: "a seriously good time!"

A forty-year celebration also gives us a moment to reflect on the notion that our actions today will create ripples out into the future. Someone has a spark of an idea. Someone else is inspired by that idea. Another person picks up the torch, nurtures the flame and runs with it. We each play our part to contribute to the whole that becomes something much bigger than anyone imagined when it started out. As the song goes, "history starts now." At Sitka we are working on the history that begins today. We are building the partnerships, the programs, and the financial base that will let us keep inspiring people for the decades ahead.

Forty years is also a time to ask, "are we still relevant? Are we still needed?" Based on the feedback from the 674 people who have taken classes so far this year, the answer seems to be a resounding "yes!" Our visitors this summer described Sitka "an oasis for a weary soul," or "a sweet cold-water spring in the desert." Another person called it a "creative brain camp." And yet another, "a magical place in the woods. Peaceful and beautiful."

Think for a moment about a time when you last felt peaceful and beautiful. Do you have it? Not coming to you? Maybe it's time for another visit to Sitka. When your soul needs recharging, a painting class or a bark weaving workshop at the Sitka Center, and a hike up Cascade Head may be just what you need.

And remember to carry that spark of creativity into your work and your home so that we can keep making this world of ours a better place for our future selves.

-Eric

>> The Basics



Do you call yourself a "beginner" artist? Have you been wanting to take an art workshop but are a bit scared? Here are 3 art workshops teaching the basics about drawing, pastels, and acrylic painting.

Instructor, Jill Goodell, believes these are skills that everyone can learn and she's passionate about teaching beginners. Make the leap and take 1 or all 3 workshops!

Here are the links to the details:

[Basic Drawing](#) 9/13

[Basic Pastels](#) 9/14

[Basic Acrylic Painting](#) 9/15-16

>> Cedar Bark Weaving

Nancy Olson taught this workshop last year and students asked for it to be longer, so, this year we're offering 5 wonderful days



to learn and practice weaving.

Learn techniques used by the NW Coast Native American Haida using red and yellow cedar bark. Choose your own project to practice bark preparation, basic twining, and plaiting.

Nancy spent years in Alaska and has plenty of stories and weaving experience to share!



[Cedar Bark Weaving in the Tradition of North West Coast Native American Haida](#) 9/19 - 23

>> Plein Air Beading



The artwork that Teresa Sullivan makes using beads is simply incredible! She'll teach you the skills to use beads in making the shapes that you dream-up, whether they're crazy & whimsical or simple & organic.

Experiment with sculptural techniques, overlay and textures, design, and color. See [Teresa's website](#) for more images of her work.

[Plein Air Beadwork](#) 9/25 - 26

>> Life Size

This takes life drawing to a whole new level--draw in real-size! Students will draw a nude model from a series of seated, standing, and elevated positions. You get to work big and take home a completed life-size drawing.

[Life Drawing Life-Size](#) 9/9 - 10

>> Ukalaliens Unite!

Folks have gone ukulele crazy around here lately! This adorable, fun, and friendly instrument exudes pure joy, spreading smiles on the faces of everyone who comes into contact with it. Yes! We've been bitten by the ukulele bug and we want to share it with you! We've quickly and enthusiastically pulled together some REALLY cool options for you to experience the ukulele as a total beginner, an intermediate player, and/or as a participant in a good ole group singalong. [Uke classes](#)



>> Sea Bowls



Making Sea Bowls is a blast! Imagine gathering materials from the beach, man-made or organic, and combining them with casting plaster and paper & wire mesh, then giving your creation a shape using a rock or log. Sound intriguing? It's an amazing process and the results are unbelievably cool!



Come play, get messy, go wild, and make a [Sea Bowl](#) from 9/27 - 30.

>>Mushrooms!

Fall is for mushrooming at the Oregon coast! This workshop is focused on learning to hunt and identify local mushrooms out in the forest. When you return home, reap the bounty of your harvest as you savor the rich, tenderness of all the mushrooms you find. Yum!

[Elements of Mushroom Identification](#) with Nancy Weber on 10/2-3



>> Art Invitational

Planning is well underway for the 17th Art Invitational, held in Portland, November 11-14. Check out the list of this year's [artists](#) and plan ahead for your annual art purchase. There are still spaces in the [recorder workshop](#) to be held at the World Forestry Center.

This year, on Thursday the 11th, in addition to the much anticipated [Artists' Party](#), we will be hosting a Gala Dinner and Auction. Gather your friends, reserve a [table for 8](#) and join us for the party.

Have other ideas for how you can help? Please call us! Want to get involved in putting on the grooviest art show in the state? Please call us! (541) 994-5485 or send an email to info@sitkacenter.org.

>> Teaching at Sitka

Are you interested in teaching at Sitka? We're always open to new instructors and ideas. Would you like to [learn more](#) about it? The deadline for submitting proposals for 2011 workshops has been extended to September 17th.

Sitka Center for Art and Ecology

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