FTLOA NEWSLETTER

January 2012
Prepared by Terrie Spindle

Greetings fellow members! According to the FTLOA web site, it's been over a year since we had a newsletter. (After Jacques quit writing the newsletter, I wrote a few that didn't make it to the web site, I think) Anyway, Madam President Doris asked me to tackle this project so here goes the first of, what I hope will be many light-hearted, informative newsletters. I'll need constant input from members so, whether it's a happening in your life, a bright idea, something taking place in the area or just something you want to share....PLEASE, e-mail me, call me or bring it to a meeting. I do like to write so this will be a fun venture for me.....but I need stuff to write about.

EVENTS CALENDAR: I plan to post an updated events calendar to each of your e-mails monthly. It will also go to the web site. Again, if you know of coming events that might interest members, please let me know ASAP.

MAILING LIST FOR SHOWS

We've talked about this but, to my knowledge, no one has acted on it, so..... I am compiling a list of 'potential buyers' to be notified in advance of our shows. Think of people you know who might be interested in your art or that of other members. We need their contact information: name, e-mail address, mailing address, phone number. **Name and e-mail address is the most important and most cost effective way to notify people.**

I'll be asking for this information at next week's regular club meeting and hope all of you come up with "potential customers." Consider organizations you belong to and events you attend.....don't be afraid to ask if anyone wants to be notified of our next show. GET THEIR INFORMATION. This will give you an opportunity to talk about FTLOA....just maybe you will rake in new members as well as buyers. Have your business card handy or the FTLOA business cards. I will get this list started but hope someone else will jump in and take over the project. (hint, hint)

SPEAKING OF NEW MEMBERS

We don't have anyone in FTLOA who works in textiles, sculpture (other than wood) or metal art, do we? Do you know anyone who might be interested in joining our club? Remember, we are "visual artists" as in fine arts, not crafts. There is a fine line between the two and I'm not at all sure where it is! For fun, take a look at this Vancouver area artist's web site: Mary Arnold - Fiber Artist Check out gallery I & II. Do you know any local quilters who quilt like this???

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The new year is here and time to get some new art ready for the mountain sales. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. I have started doing some china painting and oil painting to get ready for our upcoming sales. Remember

to get something ready for the Kelso Library display case. It can be brought to the next meeting if you do not plan to be there at set up. (end of February)
I am hoping we do great at the mountain this year. Let's work towards a great display of art and try to sell even more than before. I hope we can all work together to get our art out all over the world. Hope to see you all at the next monthly meeting, January 26, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. in the food court at Three River's Mall. Doris

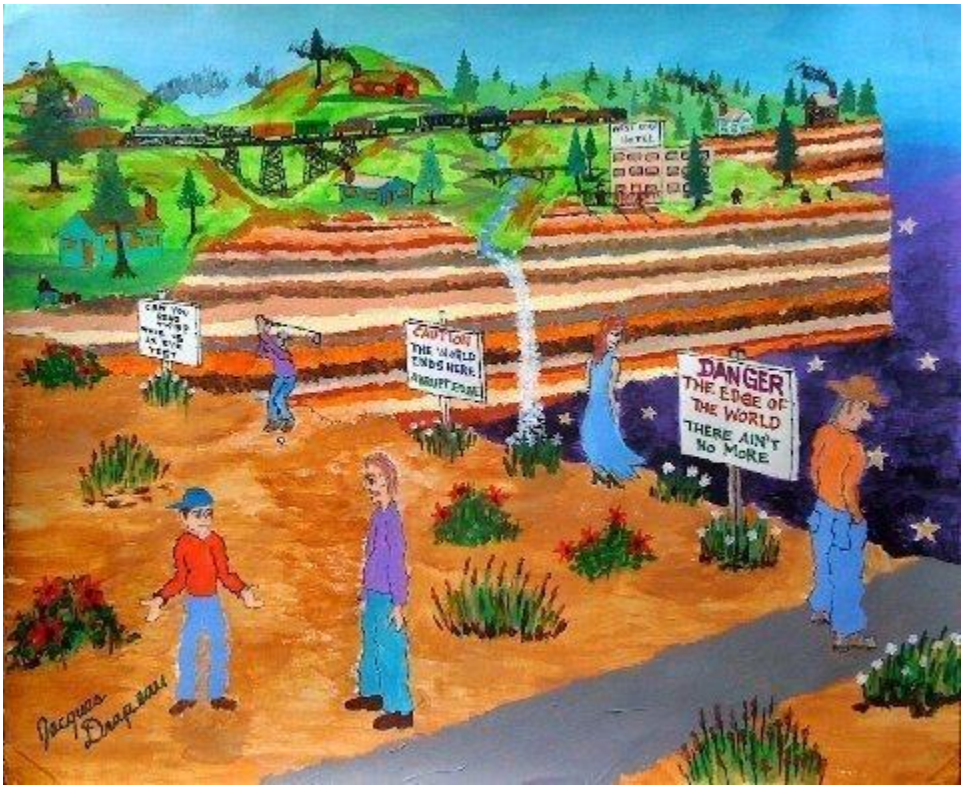
INPUT FROM MEMBERS

***Kris wrote**: The month of December I sold four items at the Broadway Gallery. Then I met with a woman from Toledo and she bought over $200 in gifts, ect. What a nice surprise that was.....on the other hand, I am Making Myself Carve at least ONE HOUR A DAY IF NOT MORE. Yikes! I have a lot to catch up on!*

***Jacques wrote:** On Tuesday I went to a meeting of the Arlington Art Council. The guest speaker was Paul Vexler. Take a look at his stuff at www.paulvexler.com ... it's pretty cool stuff, and the web site includes a video of him talking about what he makes.*

On Wednesday, I went to a meeting of the Lake Stevens Art Commission. It was ... weird. When I walked in, they were trying to figure out how to elect officers for 2012. They needed to fill 4 positions, and there were 7 people there. Fortunately, since I don't live in Lake Stevens, I wasn't eligible to fill a position. Later on, they were talking about working with teachers from the schools to get more student art on display. My question was ... Do you still have art teachers in the schools? They looked at me like I'd dropped in from Jupiter, and told me they did. I guess it's nice to live in a community where there's money.

I sold a print at the video store last month. I've been working on a couple of pictures of doings at the edge of the world ...


CAUTION
THE WORLD
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THE WORLD
THERE AIN'T
NO MORE

***On 1/12/12, Beckie said**: Sorry, having dental surgery so I don't really have much input at this time. My husband owns a sign shop and would be willing to give you the signs if people would come to an agreement as to what they want.*

(I hope all goes well with Beckie's surgery.....not a lot of fun! Wow.....that is a great offer from Beckie's husband.....I think we should at least pay for materials.....something to discuss at a meeting.)

***Kevlyn wanted to let everyone know** that "Pop-Up Galleries" were mentioned at the planning meeting but right now, we don't seem to have enough members to support the idea....maybe toward Christmas time. Also that Barbara is going to check into the club doing a weekend show at the mall, perhaps tying it with a Kiwanis event.*

***Terrie's two-bits:** The Christmas season brought eight sales of framed and matted prints at the Moviehouse at Castle Rock. This month I donated two pieces of art to an auction held at The Bistro. It was a wine tasting/fund raiser for the Humane Society. Both pieces brought far more money than I expected.....one brought <u>four</u> times the amount I sell it for! So, I am wondering.....are people really generous at such functions? Am I selling too cheap or did they have too much wine? LOL Whatever the reason, I am really happy about the donations and my December sales. I too need to get busy painting!*

<u>WHAT'S UP WITH THE MT. SAINT HELEN'S VISITOR CENTER?</u>

OK, here is the issue: The visitor's center is currently operated under the State of Washington. Since a Washington State 'Discovery Pass' is now mandatory to enter or cross state parks and recreational lands, it would cost visitors a minimum of $10.00 just to enter the visitor's center parking lot. ($10.00 for a one-day pass, $30.00 for an annual pass) <u>Plus</u> there is another charge to enter the building's exhibit area which just happens to be where "FTLOA" sets up it's art show. I don't think there is any doubt that the visitor's center will see far less tourists this year due to the added fees. In turn, our show there would also see less traffic.

There is a chance that Cowlitz County will take over the visitor's center, eliminating the Discovery Pass requirement. But, there still may be fees and possibly a flat fee for use of the room instead of the 10% of sales we gave to the visitor's center in the past. Doris is supposed to know something concrete about this in February.....so, for now, it's all up in the air. You can find more on the Discovery Pass requirements at: <u>Washington State Discover Pass</u>

<u>IT'S NOT TO LATE!</u>

Calling all area artists! (That's you, right?) It's not too late to submit entries for consideration in Lower Columbia College's <u>award winning literary & arts magazine</u>, the Salal Review. This annual magazine showcases the best works from writers, poets and artists of the Lower Columbia region. The magazine is published each year in May by

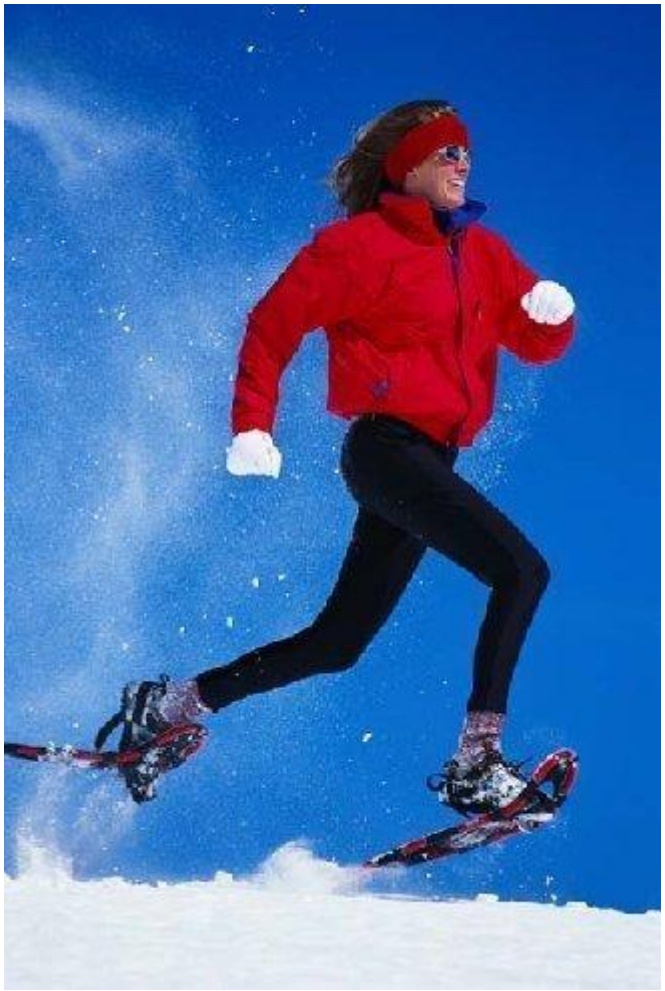
the student editors and faculty advisors of LCC. You may enter up to five pieces of visual art suitable for print reproduction. Submit by e-mail attachment, CD, 8x11" paper mailed or in person. Deadline for art submissions is January 31, 2012. This is a great opportunity! Get the exact requirements and information at: Lower Columbia College: Salal Submissions

WHY ENTER CONTESTS, FAIRS & JURIED SHOWS?

Shoppers at a "juried" art show expect higher quality artwork than bazaars or non-juried events....and they expect to pay more for that art. If you can display a ribbon won at a fair or document showing your art piece won an award.....you can expect to get more money for that piece of art. And who doesn't want that? Plus, 'wins' will build your artists portfolio.....(more on portfolios another time.) If, at first you don't succeed, try again and again. Learn what it takes and what is required for each event. Follow the rules exactly. There are lots of events coming up.....just check the Internet! It is suggested over and over to start close to home.....small events and local fairs. (like the Salal Review) Learn the ropes, so to speak. Here is a good web site: » Taking Care of Business: Juried Competitions, Be Prepared to Win

SOMETHING NEW!

Each month I plan to spotlight one or more members of our club. At our January meeting, I'll explain this further and ask how many are on board with this idea and if the method of choosing the order of spotlighting is agreeable. This first month, I have chosen someone whom I greatly admire for her integrity, her artistry, her huge dedication toward humanity and the intestinal fortitude to get out there and fight wildfires. January's Featured Artist is fellow FTLOA member, Mary Huels.



FTLOA's FEATURED ARTIST, January 2012

MARY HUELS

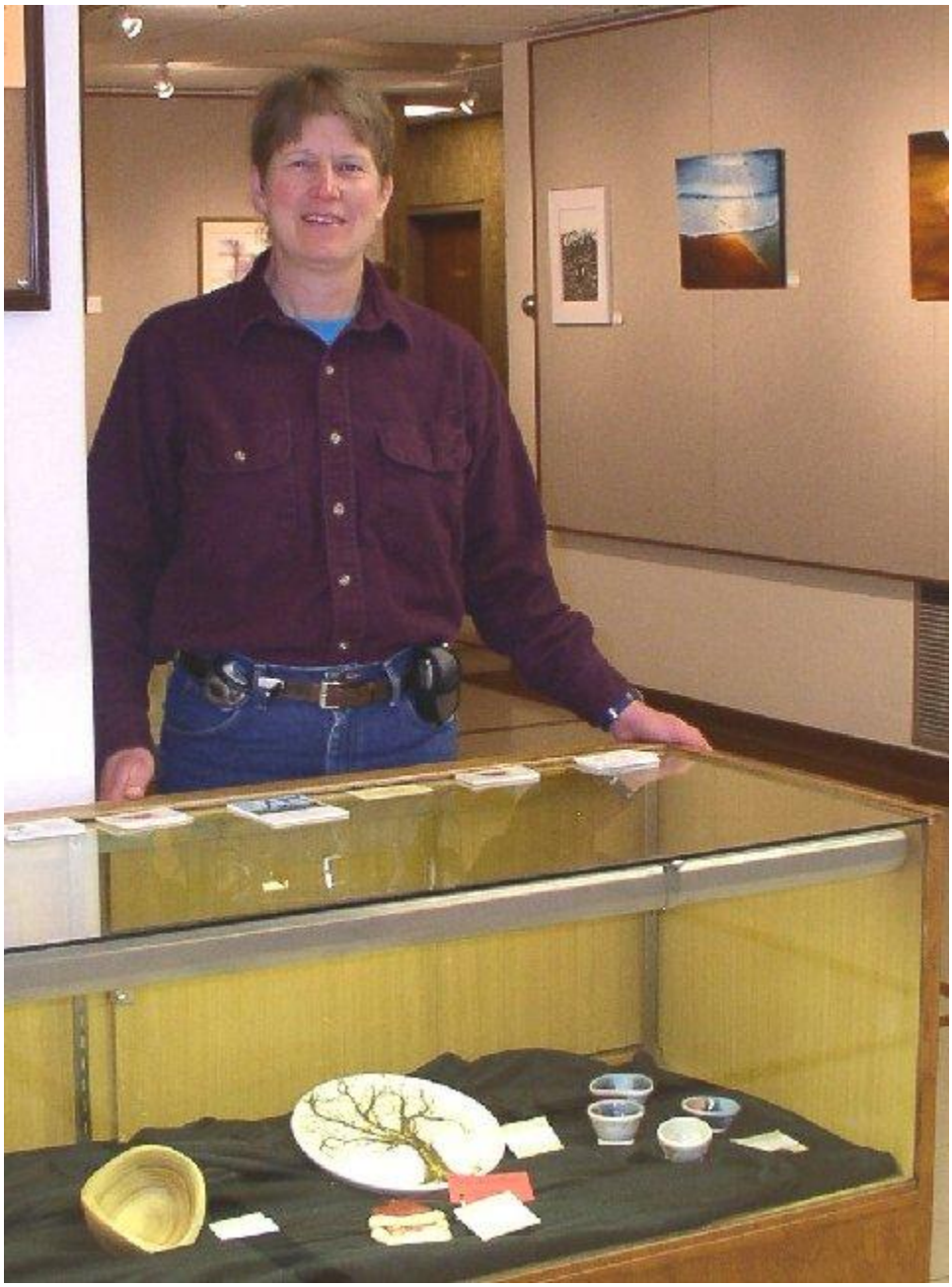
No, no, that's not a photo of Mary but it's the mental image I've had this past week. While many of us "holed up" in our warm houses watching the snow fall, Mary strapped on snowshoes and headed down town from Columbia Heights! Yeah, over the hill and through the woods to Help Warehouse she tromped to assist with commodities for the less fortunate. Another day, our deepest snow day, she tried her cross-country skies and gaiters but found the snow too deep and mushy. So, again, snowshoes strapped on, off she went to assist at CAP shoving debris and slush from the doorway and parking lot plus returning grocery carts to their rightful owners. Mary said she didn't really need the snow shoes in town but people along the way were amused so the trek was fun. Other times she helps sort, pack and deliver commodities to those who are homebound.

Something drew Mary to pottery and she started taking a series of classes at Lower Columbia College in 1993, stopped for several years, then took two more terms in 2004-2005. It was here that her business name took root.

"I needed something with 'tree' in it to reflect my forestry background and that I draw trees (about the only thing I can draw well)," she told me. Back when she was an advanced student at LCC, beginners would admire a pot she had thrown while she was sitting still at the wheel. She would say, "Watch this!" and turn on the wheel. The pot would wobble as it spun and she would say, "This one really dances." That's how her business name, Dancing Tree Pottery, was born. The down side, Mary says, it that she gets a lot of junk mail related to dancing, costumes and yellow page proposals for listings under dance studios.

Mary is the fifth of seven kids, a graduate of the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry. In 2005, she quit her twenty-five years (plus) career as a professional forester, then set up a pottery studio in her basement and slowly turned a junky storage shed into a kiln room. Her first sales were three years later in 2008.

THIS IS MARY!



Besides FTLOA, Mary is a member of the Washington State Clay Artists Association and the Oregon Potters Association. With OPA (Oregon Potters Association) she is the sales vice-chair person for Ceramic Showcase, one of the largest ceramic shows in the United States. During the three-day shows at the Oregon Convention Center she spends most of her time in the centralized sales area overseeing up to thirteen cashiers and nine credit card machines. For this event she also trains customer service people, unravels credit card errors and answers questions. In return, she gets a booth space at the show which is earned by accumulating points. Mary's Showcase work is a high stress, high point position.

This busy lady is also involved with OPA's Empty Bowl fundraiser, a national program where pottery is sold and proceeds go to local food banks. After Christmas in 2011 Mary joined other potters in glazing pots, unloading kilns, pricing, packing and getting pottery ready for this fundraiser.

Did I mention that she also ushers and helps at the Columbia Theater for the Performing Arts? Or that she is a member of the Mt. St. Helens Hiking Club, where I happen to know she recently lead a group hike? Somehow, in the midst of all that she finds time for gardening, walking, photography, reading, bird watching and food dehydrating! (I recently read a blip about her in a regional Audubon magazine!) Whew! I'm tired just thinking about it all!

Mary is an active member of our club, For The Love Of Art. She has been a guest artist at the Broadway Gallery and Lord & McCord's Gallery in Longview. Her pottery sold well at Gallery 21 in Vancouver prior to it's closing in 2009. In 2011, Mary was juried into ARTrails of Southwest Washington and has participated in two sales at the Morgan Art Center, also juried events.

Wild land firefighting produces the bulk of Mary's income. She is a "casual hire" through the US Forest Service which means she can be called anytime regular

firefighting resources cannot handle the fire or other emergencies. Mary has worked as far north as Alaska and as far south as Florida. She can be shipped anywhere in the US, does not get overtime pay and can expect to put in fourteen hour days.

Mary stated, "I usually work on fires either supervising crews, fire engines, bulldozers, timber fallers, ect., or work as an information officer writing press releases, talking to the public about the fire, posting info in nearby communities and in fire camps, ect." Fighting fires is seasonal, usually April to October, Mary said, so that is why she limits her other commitments during that time (such as being involved with our mountain sales).

The rest of the year she has quite a bit of free time, so she says. :-) Personally, I think she is one of the busiest, most interesting people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing! Thank you, Mary, for letting me showcase you as FTLOA's first Featured Artist.

A FUNNY FROM JACQUES

It says in the by-laws that the dues are due on November 1. I've read that, in 2012, according to the Mayan calendar the world will end on December 21. If this comes to pass, all the FTLOA members will have paid for a full year's benefits, and will have received only 1 and 2/3 months of benefits when the world ceases to exist. Has any consideration been put into how to refund FTLOA members their unused dues after the world ends?

ONE LAST NOTE

My writing skills are rusty and self taught. The computer corrects most of my spelling errors but not punctuation and sentence structure so, please, just go with it! I'll do my best to bring you news and interesting information each month.....don't forget, I need member input! Terrie