

“Drawing on Talent” Celebrates 17 years!
Written by Gallery Coordinator Karen Jean Smith

A variety of nature-inspired art will be on display in “Drawing on Talent,” the seventeenth annual Members Art Exhibit at Baltimore Woods Nature Center. The public is invited to attend the opening on Sunday, November 2 from 2:30 until 4:00pm. This is an informal affair when visitors can meet the artists and view the artwork while enjoying refreshments.

In addition, the exhibit may be seen when the Interpretive Center is open Monday through Friday (9am-4pm) and Saturdays (10am-4pm) from November 1 through December 16. The John Weeks Art Gallery is located in the Interpretive Center at 4007 Bishop Hill Road, Marcellus. There are no admission or parking fees, and all of the art work is for sale.

Although all of the art work in this exhibit is related to nature in Upstate New York, the assortment of media, subject matter and approach to the work always results in an interesting show that promises something for everyone.

Many of the artists begin their work with a walk in the woods or fields, looking for the right moment, subject and light to capture on canvas or through a lens. Guy A. Swenson’s photograph of ice crystals and reflections (*Gold on Ice*) began in this way. Others work from memory or imagination, and may even have a playfulness about their approach, resulting in unique interpretations. Elements of this can be found in use of color (Suzanne Ray: *Vernal Delight*), unusual materials (Karen Tashkovski: *Mariposa*), and loose brushstrokes (Christie Lemp: *Breezy Daffodils*). Other artists in this exhibit have chosen to depict a familiar or beautiful scene more accurately and deliberately (Gail Norwood: *Mushrooms in Oaks* and Diane L. Menzies: *Rolling Clouds*).

Art is also a form of storytelling, and this can be seen in *Mousing*, Bob Ripley’s watercolor painting featuring a red fox. It is also an ingredient in Diana Whiting’s *Cedar Waxwing*, a photograph in which we see a bright red berry in the bird’s beak as it flies by. All of our participating member artists, both hobbyists and professionals, are from Central New York, and this annual gallery celebrates their local talent.

The artists are:

Buddy Belonsoff, Emily Bender-Murphy, Karen Burns, Don Crumb, Bobbi Dean, Donna de Monte, Milton Franson, Dean R. Kolts, John Kosecki, Christy Lemp, Diane Menzies, Laurie A. Michelman, Teresa Nelson-Graham, Gail Norwood, Jackie Sullivan Passetti, Sharon Schuchard Patsos, Elizabeth Percival, Suzanne Ray, Bob Ripley, Timothy Rodrigo, Millie Schmidt, Karen Jean Smith, Guy A. Swenson, Karen Tashkovski, Diane Thompson, Jeanne Ulrich, Kim Weinheimer, Diana Whiting