

A Book Review by Tom Starland

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Black Skimmer

Piotrowski of WPDE had this to say, “As a nature photography fanatic, I always enjoy seeing photos of our beautiful coastal region. On some occasions, however, I’ll see one so captivating that it actually strikes an emotional response. Many of those times, it will be a photo by Steve Ellwood. Steve’s talents go far beyond his incredible technical abilities, which are impressive on their own. He has a gift of capturing ‘the moment’ and the raw emotion and intensity of the scene before him, as is so well displayed in this amazing collection! We can’t put this book down.”

The art of the shot is in the planning, Ellwood explains. It’s taken years of experience to learn how to approach natural settings with the proper respect and care plus decades of observing the habits and habitats of different species to absorb a deeper understanding of their behavior.



Three Royal Terns

“Sometimes I have to lie in the sand or mud, just inches above water level, waiting for the birds to arrive near low tide,” Ellwood said. “The process can’t be rushed and should always be done with care. I’ve walked away from great shot opportunities simply because the birds were not comfortable with me being there. There is no photograph more important than the well-being of the birds. When I’m out there, I’m in their home so I behave accordingly. It’s important to me that future generations don’t miss out on what we have.”

Brookgreen Gardens is one of the special places where Ellwood has spent hours waiting for the perfect moment to get his shot and Lauren Joseph, Director of Marketing for Brookgreen Gardens, had this to say about Steve’s work.

“When I first heard the news that Steve Ellwood’s truly inspired avian photography was going to be compiled into a book, I was thrilled. Thrilled mostly because more people would have the opportunity to share the emotions that Steve’s work invokes. Wonderment and joy are just a

couple of the ‘feels’ I get when seeing his work. His love of nature is evident in the images that he is able to capture. To truly experience the fullness of beauty in the natural world, you have to be patient. In our busy lives, Steve is patient for us. He gets the shot we wouldn’t sit still long enough to see. At Brookgreen Gardens, we invite people to slow down to enjoy nature and art. We are so glad that Steve chooses to spend some of his time here, and that he is able to capture some of our wild guests enjoying the Gardens as well,” Lauren said.

More about Ellwood’s journeys and the special moments he’s captured, as well as a collection of fascinating and informative “How I Got The Shot” stories, can be found at (InTheMomentBook.com).

Steve Ellwood has spent the last two decades creating his unique brand of artistic wildlife photography from his adventures across South Carolina and Florida. As a long time resident of coastal South Carolina, Ellwood has photographed countless species of birds. From the coastal marshes and swamps to maritime forests and inland pastures, he has a deep fascination with the wide variety that makes their home and raises their young there year after year. His goal has always been to capture those special moments that offer an intimate look inside their extraordinary lives. Ellwood’s work has been published multiple times by *National Geographic* and local and regional publications.

Well that’s what the press release said from LHHW Advertising and I have to say rarely do I believe everything said in a press release, but I have to say, with some background in photography, that this one might be understated. Steve Ellwood is one heck of a wildlife photographer who must have the patience of Job.

Ellwood stated that he has spent thousands of days in the prone position to bring you these nearly 200 images, I can assure you they also represent thousands of images taken and culled down to the best of the best. It’s been said that the top photographers only show you their best, yet those best might take hundreds of tries. Why would anyone show you their second best or their near misses?

Many photographers who try their hand at wildlife photography might have a handful of really good photos after years of trying, to offer nearly 200 in one book

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Steve Ellwood

represents years of work - in this case decades. Even though I wish more had been provided in the book, Ellwood does offer some “How I Got The Shot” stories at (InTheMomentBook.com).

Some might think that \$45 for an 80 page book might be a steep price, but if you are a bird lover, a wildlife photogra-

pher, or anyone who has ever tried to get a good photograph of that bird you see on your walks at the beach, you’re going to enjoy this book and find the cost well worth it.

I’m glad this book came my way, just in time for holiday gift giving - maybe you will too.

Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, Offers Gallery of Gifts

For the first time ever this December (1 - 31), the Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, will turn the Art League Gallery into a holiday Gallery of Gifts, featuring one-of-a-kind decor and gift items handmade by Art League members. Shoppers can add to their holiday ornament collection, pick up a pair of unique earrings or a stunning necklace for a special someone (or themselves), or browse a variety of small paintings and sculptures to add a special touch to their home for the holidays or year-round.

“The idea of turning our art gallery into a gift gallery is an exciting one for us here at Art League. Of course, all of the artworks we exhibit throughout the year are available for purchase, but we’ve never before sold gift items specifically with the holiday season in mind,” says General Manager Kristen McIntosh. “It gives our artists a chance to craft smaller pieces and our visitors the opportunity to own or gift a piece of art that’s priced more affordably.”



Work by Karen McCarthy

Art League Gallery is dedicated to providing as safe an environment as possible. To that end, Art League is following all CDC and Town of Hilton Head guidelines, including mandatory masks for all employees and patrons, contactless and cashless service, frequent sanitization of the gallery, and a limit of 10 visitors in the gallery at



Works by Linda Raih

any one time.

Art League of Hilton Head is the only 501(c)(3) nonprofit visual arts organization on Hilton Head Island with a synergistic art gallery and teaching Academy.

Art League Academy welcomes artists and students in all media at all skill levels, including true beginners. Taught by professional art educators, students can choose from many art classes and workshops that change monthly.

Art League Gallery features local artwork in all media created by more than 170 member artists. All artwork on display is for sale and exhibits change every month. Located mid-island inside Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, next to the box office.

“Inspiring visual arts for our community and its visitors through exhibitions, education and partnerships” is Art League of Hilton Head’s mission.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the League at 843/681-5060 or visit (www.artleaguehhi.org).

Lowcountry Made Hosts Another Pop-Up Artisan Market at Lot 9 Brewing Co. in Bluffton, SC - Dec. 12

Lowcountry Made will kick off its first Pop-Up Artisan Market at Lot 9 Brewing Co., located at 258 Red Cedar St. #14, on Dec. 12, from noon-5pm. The brewery is tucked behind the strip mall on Red Cedar in Bluffton, SC.

“We are so grateful to Lot 9’s generosity for hosting our first Pop-Up Market,” said Katie Silva, founder of Lowcountry Made, the organization that created the artisan markets. “Lot 9 is dedicated to promoting and engaging with the creative community.”

The Artisan Pop-Up Market will take place from noon-5pm, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020, featuring more than a dozen local artists, artisans and makers. Lowcountry Lobster’s food truck will be available, along with holiday music to inspire some Christmas shoppers.

“Part of our mission at Lowcountry Made is to encourage the community to support their local artists and local businesses during these challenging times,” said Silva, adding, “The point of the Pop-Up markets is to bring these artisans to the community through the collaboration of local businesses like Lot 9.”

Social distancing best practices will be in place with attendees and vendors required to wear masks. The Dec. 12 Artisan Pop-Up Market will include the following vendors: Handmade Beaufort, Meg’s Sweet Treats, BB Boutique & Co., Woodsman’s Wife, True South RH, Fabula Collective, Declan’s Delights, Mystic Mates, Cottonwood Soap Co., Bluffton Candles, Eagle Creations, BP Carbon, 7th & Palm and Little Fish Boteak.

Lowcountry Made is a promotional organization that represents a collective of Lowcountry artists, artisans, and entrepreneurs creating in the Lowcountry. Dedicated to encouraging the community to shop small and local, Lowcountry Made offers an online directory, a maker-to-shopper newsletter, special events, wholesaling representation and more. The organization’s goal is to provide opportunities for local makers to help their brands succeed whatever each maker’s goals may be.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings or visit (www.lcmade.com).