

# Coastal Discovery Museum

continued from Page 10

much layered patina of the seashore, I continue my painting process of reduction . . . (deciding) what to bury and what to reveal”, as in *Ocean 4*.

Donna Varner notes “My art-making is driven by the query, what if? This experimental mind set takes me down labyrinths that never quite exit where I expect. Mixing mediums in unconventional ways is characteristic of my experimental process.” These qualities may be detected in her mixed media work, *Silent Song*.

“For this show I have tried to marry my love for abstract with my love for birds. I work in collage and mixed media. I am constantly inspired by the colors and wildlife I see everyday,” says Jo Dye. (See an example in her work *Conversation*.)

Earline Allen says “I begin painting spontaneously creating color fields with transparent color washes, and lively, energetic, brush strokes. These abstract marks eventually dominate my canvases by forming images reflecting experiences which hold significant personal meaning. Ultimately, this bilateral communication controls my work leading me in the direction that it chooses. Oh, how I love to follow its lead.” See her painting, *Summer Ballet*.

Mark Larkin, metal sculptor, says, “Most



Work by Jo Dye

of my work involves using carbon steel to form shapes that become sculptures. Sometimes I start from a drawing or an idea. What I end up with is never quite like the first concept. Improvisation keeps it interesting as my work takes many unexpected twists and turns. Working in the abstract also allows the freedom to interpret a thought, a song, a feeling or even an observation into an unusual form that communicates with others. As artists we are always thrilled when our work speaks to someone.” See his work, *Giggleswick*.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/689-6767 ext. 224 or visit ([www.coastaldiscovery.org](http://www.coastaldiscovery.org)).

## Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, Offers Works by Nancy Mitchell

The Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, is presenting *Music Wafted Through the Trees*, featuring works by Nancy Mitchell, on view at the Art League Gallery, at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, through Sept. 23, 2017. A reception will be held on Sept. 7, from 5-7pm.

Mitchell, an Art League exhibitor for 25 years, returns to Art League Gallery this September. Mitchell’s clay sculpture and paintings will create an ode to musicians, as she is a proud wife and mother of local musicians. Mitchell proclaims “being the lone artist in a family of musicians, someone has to listen!”

Mitchell has been painting and sculpting on Hilton Head for 30 years. “An inspiring location with an appreciation for art and music,” Mitchell describes. She taught at Art League Academy for 3 years and still



Work by Nancy Mitchell

gives private lessons. Mitchell accepts commissions for her sculptures of families. She calls these pieces Family Trees.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the League at 843/681-5060 or e-mail to ([admin@artleaguehhi.org](mailto:admin@artleaguehhi.org)).

## Beaufort Art Association in Beaufort, SC, Features Works by Marilee Sartori and Dusty Conner

The Beaufort Art Association in Beaufort, SC, will present *Dueling Studios: Two Friends Feature Their Favorites – Flora & Fauna*, featuring the artwork of local artists Marilee Sartori and Dusty Conner, on view in the Association Gallery, from Sept. 1 through Oct. 29, 2017. A reception will be held on Sept. 1, from 5:30-7:30pm.

Marilee Sartori, whose mother was a noted Kentucky artist, has had no formal training in art. As a matter of fact, after having sent Marilee to several schools, her mother Nell, was told to save her money because her daughter was not an artist. As a result, her training came from watching her mother paint.

In later years, Sartori dabbled in paint to help a friend, and her artistic career started in the early 1990’s. One thing led to another that began with several tubes of leftover paint and she began making Chefs, Santas, and Sea Captains out of canvas but with hand painted faces made of clay; these were very popular and a business was born. She segued into hand painted furniture and small paintings.

Acrylics remain Sartori’s favorite medium, with occasional mixed media thrown in for some of her whimsical paintings. For this show, her fifteen paintings include a painting of an ocelot, as well as a friends cat. Others feature animals cavorting in the natural surroundings she has created for



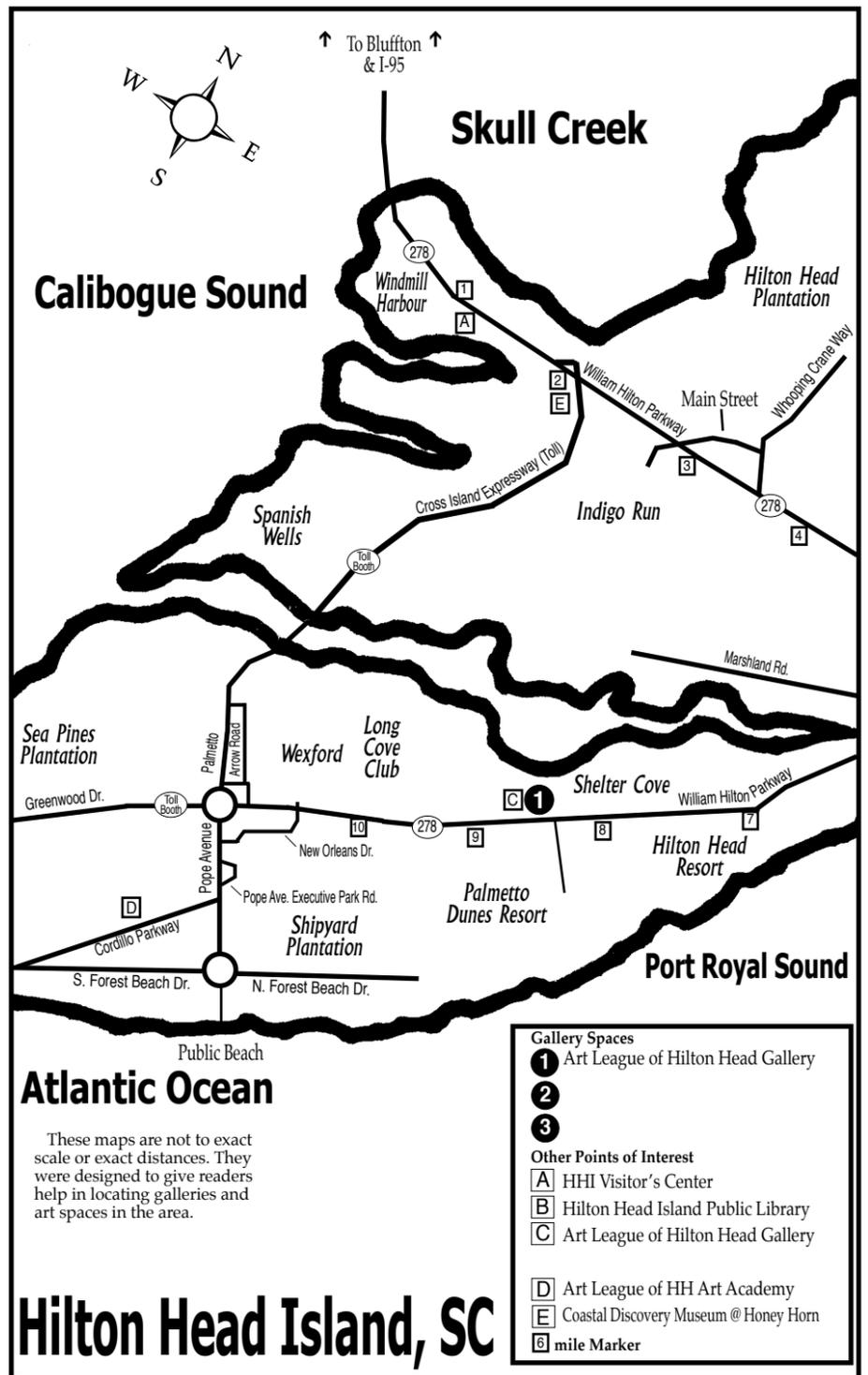
Work by Dusty Conner

them, an almost imperceptible owl in the branches of a tree, and a horse and rider disappearing into the fog.

Sartori’s work had been featured in many of the BAA Galleries in Beaufort and has won awards in several of their Spring Shows.

Dusty Conner grew up on a tobacco farm in Lumberton, NC, and as a respite from all the hard work on the farm, he

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liked to draw, color, and paint as a child. His innate love of beauty found one way to express itself through his hands and he attended Aurora Beauty College to become a hairdresser; another expression came through his continuing to paint on and off over the years. For years, he gave his paintings as gifts, and still often does because that is just the nature of his spirit.

After years of self-education in painting, Conner has expertly settled into capturing nature’s beauty with his bright colors and ripe sense of style. Having tried many different media, acrylics remain his favorite. His works in this show, fifteen paintings of fruits, fauna, and flowers, include a highly dimensional bird of paradise, a pair of figs, and a sunflower in conversation with a moth.

Recently retired from heading the Department of Cosmetology at the Technical College of the Lowcountry, Conner hopes to devote full time to pursuing his art career.

Conner’s work was showcased in the show *Pixels to Pigment: A Provocative Perspective from the Camera to the Canvas*, at the USC-Beaufort Center for the Arts in May of 2015.



Work by Marilee Sartori

In 2013, Sartori and Conner were featured in the collaborative show, also at USC-Beaufort’s Center for the Arts, *Friends and Art...Love Made Visible*.

The exhibit at the Beaufort Art Association Gallery will also include the artwork of other local artists who are members of the Gallery.

Chartered in 1957, the Beaufort Art Association is a tax-exempt membership organization.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/521-4444 or visit ([www.beaufortartassociation.com](http://www.beaufortartassociation.com)).

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