

"The Earth Speaks VI

By Sue Randall

Stroudsburg, PA – The Pocono Arts Council is pleased to announce the spring exhibition "The Earth Speaks VI: A Juried Exhibition on the Environmental Crisis," launching online April 25, 2020. The Earth Speaks is an artist's means of capturing their concern regarding the climate crisis and how it affects our planet, as well as an opportunity to offer possible solutions.

Thirty-six artists submitted 62 pieces to be juried. 44 works were selected to be included in the show from artists residing in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Awards were granted in the following categories to those encapsulating the environmental crisis theme:

Juror's Choice Award: "Anthropocene Vessels," Stephen J. Washington, East Stroudsburg, PA (Photo attached)

Kay & Girard Lichty Climate Crisis Award: "Piping Plover," Maryann Riker, Phillipsburg, NJ

Otto Grever Printmaking Award: "Rush Hour," Cora McKenzie, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

PoconoArts Student Award: "Momento Vitae-Ecological Grief Jewelry," Cora McKenzie, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

3-D Award: "Invitation to (Dr) (Th)ink," Joni Oye-Benintende, Stroudsburg, PA

2-D Award: "Natura," Sarah Jane Stoll, Woodstock, CT

Photography Award: "Biloxi, Two Years After Katrina," Glenn Koehler Jr., Bethlehem, PA

Origins Student Award: "Kill Coffins, Go Green," Danielle Kunkel, Henryville, PA; Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

Juror for the show was Santa Bannon:

Juror: Santa Bannon: Santa Bannon is the founder of the Pennsylvania Museum of Art & Design, a new museum coming to Easton, and director of Santa Bannon Fine Art. She has operated her award winning art gallery for the past seven years and has been an international art dealer, curator, advisor and consultant since 2010 specializing in bringing the world's art to Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania's art to the world. She regularly attends the premier art fairs worldwide such as Art Basel, Paris Photo, et al. She

has mentored over twenty interns from fifteen universities in the tri-state, hailing from five countries. She has adjudicated art competitions, hosted major fundraisers, and taught workshops to artists on the business of art. In 2017 Bannon established Due Santi Publishing, a not-for-profit art book publisher. She has studied art history in Italy, France, Switzerland, and the United States; holds a certification in interior design from Northampton Community College; and a BA in psychology/global studies (South Africa/Namibia) from Rutgers University.

An online artists' reception is planned for Saturday, April 25, from 1-3pm, where awards will be presented and artists recognized. The online exhibition will be hosted virtually at <https://www.poconoarts.org>. If conditions permit, the show will also be hung in the Dunning Gallery at Northampton Community College-Monroe Campus over the summer.



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Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Unpredictable

Predicting where the energy market will go relative to our cost for electric, natural gas, and oil is anyone's guess. I'm no economic analyst but I did not think that I would ever see heating oil below \$2.00 per gallon again. That proves my lack of understanding of the energy market. Now that heating oil is far below that mark, will the others follow? Many people replaced their oil systems with gas systems in the last several years and now oil will be half the cost of running a gas system unless natural gas prices also plummet. And natural gas is used to generate most of the electric so electric rates should drop drastically too. It is probably only temporary but it is welcome relief from the upward spiral we were used to. Will that happen though or will something else prevent the end user from getting the break on gas and electric? Most things that are regulated by the government only seem to go one direction and it usually not down.

What I don't want to see is people ignoring their old and inefficient heating equipment just because it's not eating them out of house and home. The people who always have trouble keeping oil in their tanks should fill them now at half the price they had to deal with all winter. And retiring the old junker furnace should be a good way to use the extra money that was not needed for the fuel budget this past winter because it was warm and now prices have hit rock bottom. Sure I have a one track mind but getting the best value for your money is also part of the plan.

I have a feeling that we may not see any price increase from equipment manufacturers this spring because they have a lot of inventory that has probably been gathering dust. I would love to see some incentive programs that help homeowners replace old systems. Not the fake ones either where they add money to the back end and then take it off of the front. Just a flat 10% off the top to jump start the economy that is going to act like it has a virus of its own. Hopefully everyone else has made it through this crazy spring event and is ready to get back to normal. We have all learned a thing or two about people, and government, and germs. Let's use what we have learned to keep our families safe and healthy.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

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VIRTUAL HIKE: A new point of view at Cresco Heights

By Brodhead Watershed Association

While large-group hikes have become a temporary casualty of the coronavirus, Brodhead Watershed Association offers an arm-chair adventure to Cresco Heights in Monroe County, Pa., via video (see below for links).

Then, armed with trail information and a yen to get outdoors, hike the Heights yourself, remembering to keep at least 6 feet away from other hikers.

There, you might get a new point of view from a lichen-covered rock bluff at 1,700 feet, bare except for pitch pines, grasses and scrub oaks.

The leaves are off the trees, opening up a 180-degree view. To the east, is the long sweep of ridgeline above the wild and scenic Delaware River. Then Delaware Water Gap with a sliver of New Jersey beyond, followed by the slopes at Camelback with early snow, Wind Gap, and south along the Appalachian Trail.

A woods road of solid rock leads past lichens like pixie-cup, British soldier, and reindeer "moss" grow in the crevices. Next comes a variety of pin cushion mosses and evergreen ferns, a small bird's nest, titmice and juncos. An eagle glides by.

Quite a different view than the one from your couch.

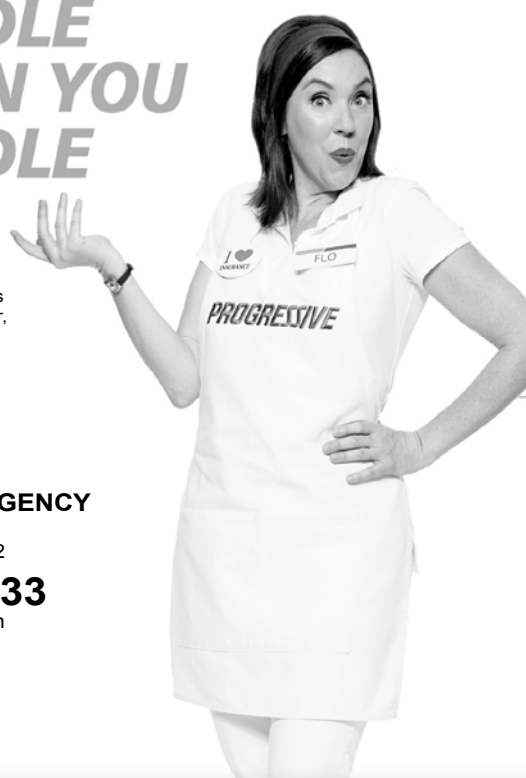
VIRTUAL HIKE

- For the virtual hike, go to BWA's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/VCTJAEBJhVs>. Special thanks to Tom Gregory of Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau for the videography.

- Go to brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos for information on Cresco Heights as well as other hikes in the Get Outdoors Poconos series. The series is administered by Brodhead Watershed Association and supported by a grant from the William Penn Foundation.

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