

The Artist's Almanac

August 2005

Summer – the handmaid of the poor.

- Anonymous

This is the season of meatless meals. With fresh corn, tomatoes, eggplant, squash, green beans, okra, stewed apples, cabbage and new potatoes, neither table nor diners have space for meat. Watermelons and peaches are abundant. The ancient man stirs within, and we celebrate the season of plenty by fattening ourselves against the dark seasons of want.

Hurricane Dennis broke the drought with a week of cool clouds and rain. Yesterday I picked the first figs and honeysweet pears, and I believe there will be a second hay crop by the end of this month. The trees celebrate as well, blousing themselves with clouds of green.

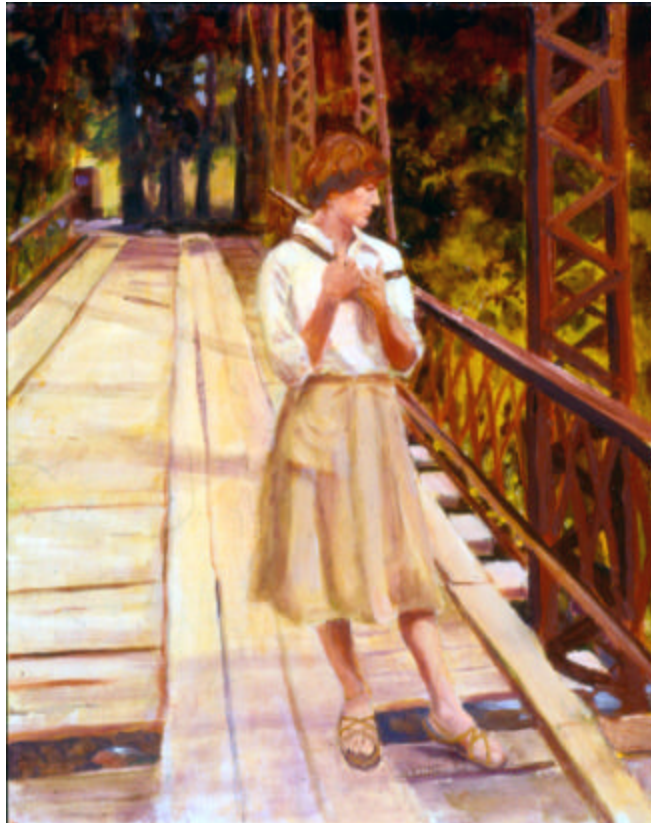
This rich verdure shortens our views to our own backyards and gardens. I remember one gardener, famed for his huge August watermelons, who was prosecuting a neighbor boy for stealing them in the night.

“You say it was at midnight and you identified this lad here,” asked the defense attorney.

“Sir, just how far could you see in the middle of the night?”

“Well, I could see the moon. How far is that?”

Clouds are the angels of August. John Ruskin calls them the only part of nature not altered by man. Even on the sultriest days we watch thunderheads parading far horizons and call our cousins to see if they got rain.



Rain has solved the stagnant ponds and refreshed the creek. Bridges are the perfect vantage for a summer's afternoon of watching creek perch finning in the current, studying the shoals of minnows at the head of the pool.

A stream is a perfect type of time. Perhaps that is the subject of my wife's meditation pictured here in *Crosscurrents*. Art is subject to the viewer's own interpretation - the viewer is allowed to participate in the creative process. Different analysts might interpret the missing plank in all sorts of metaphorical or psychological ways never intended by the artist.

The artist takes a more practical view. The bridge only implies a stream; the missing board shows it. Cover the opening and see the loss of depth and dimension in the picture when the gurgling stream is no longer visible.

Most of us are neither rich nor poor. The richest are poor in some things the poor are rich in, and the poor imagine that winning the lottery would solve every imaginable problem. Only the saints are free of envy.

A wise friend once observed to me that in judging whether a man was successful we first needed to understand what he intended.

I met Claudia my junior year in High School at the Beta Club Convention. When I first danced with her I felt dizzy, and we talked the night away in the lobby of the Hermitage Hotel. By the time we finished breakfast the next morning, my heart was sealed by intention.

We are further down the stream today. This August we celebrate our first fifty years together, successful, by the grace of God, beyond all the dreams and all the intentions of youth.

Coming Events

- September 17, Talk before Williamson County Writers Group on Painting and Writing, Williamson County Library, Franklin, TN
- November 4th Opening Reception for *Small Treasures*, Art Sumner Annual Show at Winchester Cottage Gallery, 154 South Water St. Gallatin
- November 11th Opening Reception for Southern Light Artists Four-Man Show, Auld Alliance Gallery, Westgate Shopping Center, 6109 Highway 100, Belle Meade
- December 2-4, *Fine Art In Brentwood* Show and Sale, Brentwood Academy, Brentwood

Southern Light Artists of America



"Cragfont Mansion"

Oil, 30" x 30"

Joel Knapp
Oils
615.451.9718
joelknapp@earthlink.net

Contact the artists for information
on the upcoming workshops at the
Cragfont Mansion and Gardens.

Bill Puryear
Watercolors
615.452.1540
pury@comcast.net



"Cataloochee"

Watercolor, 8" x 10"

Show Opening

November 11th, 2005 • Works by Southern Light Artists
Auld Alliance Gallery • Westgate Center • 6019 Hwy 100 • Nashville, TN

www.southernlightartists.com