

# JKß - JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

*Classical realism, from hounds to humans & and more!*

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NEWS & JOURNEYS OF JOY! :: VOL. TWELVE, NUMBER TWO :: JUNE 2016

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## *First, March brings good news about my health!*

MARCH 21, 2016: I have a Doppler Echocardiogram, and my ejection fraction is 55%, up from 30% last August. It is now within normal range! And, my valves are leaking mildly to moderately, up from moderately to severely last August. Life is good!

APRIL 18, 2016: My ticker ticks much better! I make a date to see my cardiologist in a year! I need to see my arrhythmia doctor in August when we will try to get me off blood thinner and more. YAY!

APRIL 21, 2016: My smile is back! My dentist installs the crown for the once infected tooth that started this a-fib last summer. A new collector writes, "Aren't tooth implants the bee's knees?"

To put this all in perspective, I again emphasize the need for you to take really GOOD care of your mouth! A friend was in shock when she learned that the overall cost of a tooth implant is around \$5000!!! I wish I had paid more attention to my gums. My tooth/gum infection led to a-fib almost a year ago. FLOSS FLOSS, FLOSS!!

JUNE 22, 2016: **This 15-Inch Piece of String Could Help You Avoid a Heart Attack!** "Oh So True" I say. The article is from Dr. Mercola's newsletter, dated today. Look him up!

## *Jump back ... Valentine's Day came early!*

FEB. 3, 2016: 11:59PM: This day is historic! Two persons promise to purchase life-sized pieces! At 2:34pm a collector commits to "Merry Sunshine" which is shown below. Our banter for the last two days has been fun. And -- at 11:47pm, a new person emails she will send a deposit on "Miss Me"! What a day! This will help pay off new hardwood flooring upstairs. Money just keeps going round, in one day and out the next!



FEB. 4, 2016: My mold maker/wax pourer emails that he can pour a life-sized "Merry Sunshine" as his last pour in his existing shop. For anything else, I will need to hire someone else until he gets into his new place sometime in March (I hope.) And..... he has decided not to make molds anymore. There is always something in this business that makes life more difficult than the lives of painters who rely only on themselves to produce a piece. Sometimes being a sculptor is like trying to shoot a moving target. Each of the seven or eight persons in this bronze casting process is SO very important! They are in addition to me!

FEB. 8, 2016: WOW! I am thrilled that Ben Cordsen said he will pour my little waxes and make my little molds! He makes my pewter medals and I feel confident that he can handle my 1:6 scale pieces. What a relief! *Thank you, Ben!!!*

FEB. 11, 2016, 4:28PM: Today is registration day! Copyright registration, that is. I size images of "Miss Me" MS and "Merry Sunshine" Life size, for the US Copyright office. With effort, I register "Miss Me" and pay the \$35 registration fee. I've been trying to register "Merry Sunshine" (Life size) for at least two hours. It's 5:10 and both pieces are now registered.

FEB. 13, 2016: It's cold today; my favorite Pilates teacher is out of town and it is a perfect day to finally tackle installing my new Elfa shelving in my two office closets. I listen to my favorite music on iTunes. The top bracket and the upright standards are in. After I touch up paint, shelves will be ready to install and organization will begin.

*Happy Valentine's Day!*



FEB. 15, 2016: "Siesta" MS 11/20 has a new home with a veterinarian in Winnipeg, Canada! Thank you, Jeremy Hildt, of Hildt Galleries in the Drake Hotel, Chicago, IL. Way to go, Jeremy!

FEB. 19, 2016: This morning I notice tiny pinecones on our hemlock tree. How do I see these? Something is moving in the tree. It is an American Goldfinch in its winter colors. It is eating from a tiny pinecone and it is one of --- gee, there are more – eight or ten birds feeding! I hope my iPhone pictures come out... Well, it's a little fuzzy because of the breeze...





Look carefully to see the finch and three baby pinecones. Pinecones are too high for me to clip for a sample.

*Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday Jeanne!!!*

FEB. 19, 2016: Brian's mom Jeanne answers her phone this evening and ... sounds GOOD! What a relief! We had no idea someone had found her hearing aids. When she wears them she functions pretty well.

*Farewell, dear friend, Jaye Gregory.*



Jaye Gregory observing my work in my first sculpture class in decades. The year is around 1990.

FEB. 21, 2016: Jaye Gregory was my teacher and friend. She was just 64 years young. Her husband Zelli Fischetti hosts a memorial for her where we speak of our relationships with her. LOVE and the glorious opera-worthy voice of her sister Linda singing "Ave Maria" fill the room. My friend and teacher was very talented, good person.

The event is held at University of Missouri St. Louis, where Zelli is the assistant historian. Located in the neighborhood of my junior high school, afterwards I drive east and notice how Natural Bridge is newly landscaped with a landscaped center divider. It looks GREAT! Then, I drive south on Lucas Hunt and pass Normandy High School, which looks quite different than when I attended. I head north on Easton Avenue through cemetery row, and turn south on Hanley. I meander through Vinita Terrace and pass the house in which I grew up. It is peaceful and looks as if someone cares for it properly. My parents, who built the house in 1929 for \$6000, would be pleased.

FEB. 24, 2016, 7AM: A snow plow rumbles, scrapes the street and awakens me. I have *NEVER seen or heard* such large wet plops of snow! Plops are a good 4-5 inches in irregular diameter and they sounded like tennis balls or tree branches hitting the roof! This happens all morning. Fortunately, our power stays on but 41,000 places are without power all day! The wind is so strong that many branches blow off trees, and, in our yard, our river birch sheds many, many small branches that need to be cleaned up.

I send my biography for the Washington University School of Fine Arts Class of '66 Memory Book.

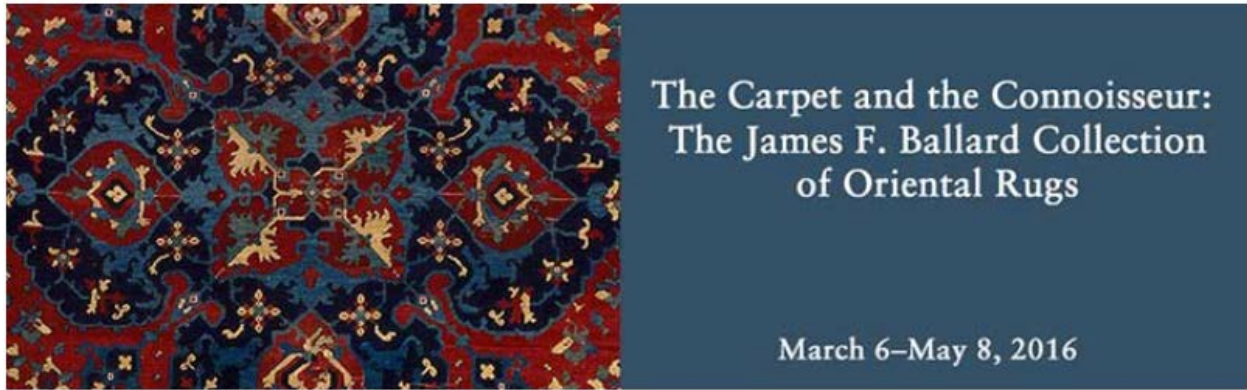
## *Scammers beware!*

FEB. 29, 2016: I call Midland State Bank in Effingham, IL to get to the bottom of what I suspect is a scam. Bank persons ask me to print and send copies of everything, including my emails with the offending party. They said that the particular account on which an oversized check was drawn had had some fraud, and it would be helpful in apprehending the scammer(s).



The sun shines brightly, and, a few blooming crocuses peek through Liriope just outside the front door.





MARCH 3, 2016: Brian and I preview “The Carpet and the Connoisseur” at the St. Louis Art Museum. Mr. Ballard, who lived in St. Louis, was the creator of Campho-Phenique, the healing formulation of stuff your mom and grandmother used. It is still available. I have some! Brian surprised me with lunch at O’Connell’s Pub where they proclaim to serve the best hamburgers in town. We need no dinner.



Kim Barnett, Bronze Coast Gallery, sold a quarter life size “Merry Sunshine” to a lady from Vancouver, WA. Yay, Kim!!! Should I photograph this in my hand for reference? Above IS the quarter life size “Merry Sunshine”.



I open the box that The Miniature Art Society of Florida returned. Inside I find a check for “The Eyes Have It!” AP1/9, and “Sweet Roll” 54/99. Thank you! I write thank you notes to both buyers.

*Life is good!*

MARCH 7, 2016: Good news! My periodontist is pleased that my dental implant has healed VERY well. Wednesday, March 9, I will see my dentist who will create a crown that will be ready in April.

## *what's with the WHITE GLOVE?*

2:50PM: Mole Patrol! For the past few weeks I've noticed a mole has actively burrowed around our front porch, covering some pieces of slate and uplifting liriopse. Now I see the critter, sunning its self. I poke it. It moves a little bit. I poke it again and it moves a bit more. I get two plastic grocery bags and try to bag it. I did and it BITES ME, BIG TIME in my left little finger!!! I SCREAM! Brian comes to find out what happened. He puts the critter in yet another plastic bag and in the trash.

I pour alcohol over my wounded finger, and Brian suggests salt. I call my cardiologist to ask again for antibiotics before my dental cleaning, as I want to prevent infection again for that caused my heart problems last summer. No luck with the cardiologist, so I call my Primary doc about the mole bite. I tell the gal who answers what is going on and she said I need a tetanus shot. I am to go to Urgent Care ASAP.

3:30PM: After less than an hour at Urgent Care, I am armed with a tetanus shot in my right deltoid and a prescription for a week's worth of strong antibiotics. This is getting antibiotics the hard way!

5:30PM: I feel sort of like Michael Jackson. My two Pilates reformer classmates and teacher ask why I am wearing a white cotton glove. I tell them the story and am really glad I am wearing the glove, because I want to protect my wound from reformer straps that do not get washed. When I get home I am bleeding slightly, and am very glad my wound is well covered.

MARCH 9, 2016: Oops! I back into a redbud tree beside the driveway. My passenger side mirror works, in and out, but the mirror jiggles... I add that fix to my oil change.

MARCH 9, 2016, 3:24PM: A woman I'd met at DCA three years ago tells me she saw two of my small pieces at a local auction house and she *had* to tell me! *THANK YOU, Michele!* I look on line and check my inventory to find that they were purchased from a local gallery that no longer exists. The buyer passed away.



MARCH 11, 2016: "Art in Bloom" at the St. Louis Art Museum. WOW! Two visits to the St. Louis Art Museum in a week! This is a fun outing with girlfriends. The above arrangement is my favorite.



MARCH 12, 2016: I acquire "So Good to See You" Smooth, 11/99, and "Dream Chaser" Long, 8/20, from the estate of the woman who had loved them since 2000.

MARCH 13, 2016: Our friend Ellen holds a memorial service for her mother, Edith, who is her family's matriarch. After each testimonial we want to clap; each is so good! The service leaves us feeling good about Edie, her life and life in general. This service, as well as Jaye's, was uplifting. When my time comes, I hope my service is like these two.

My cousin Wayne sends this very creative arrangement of onions, twigs and berries. I love it! Unfortunately, the person who sent it to him did not share the artist/florist's name and I cannot give the artist credit.



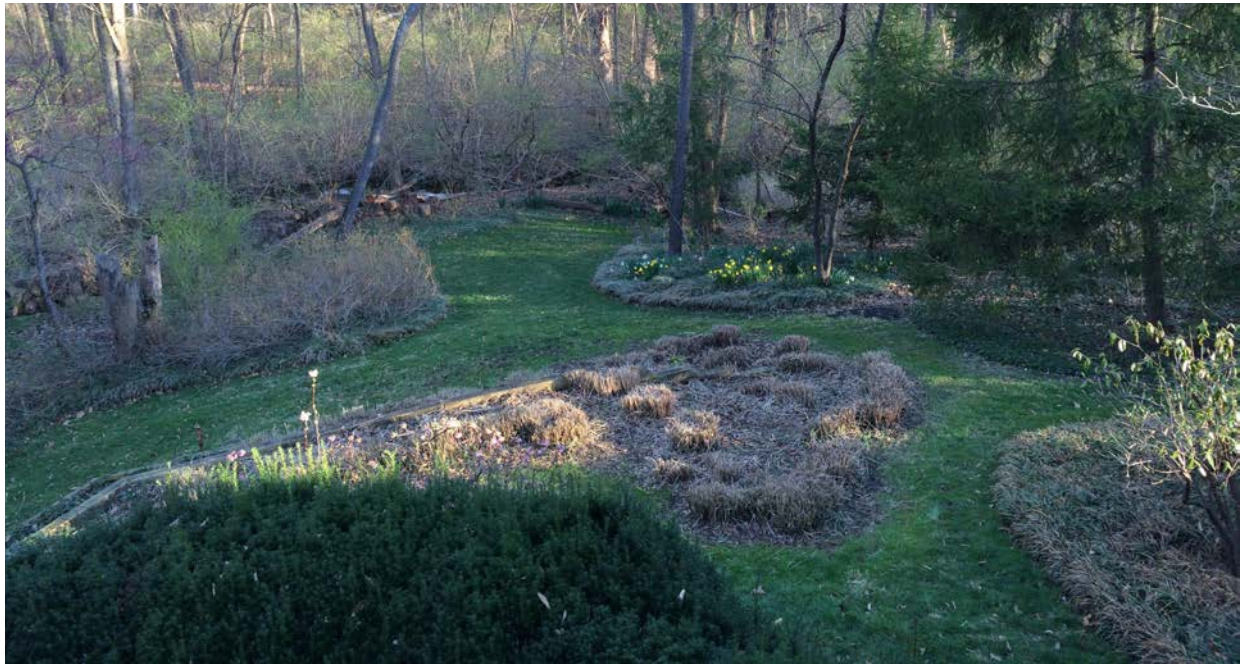
MARCH 15, 2016: I am lucky! I get an appointment at 10:30 am with Quest for blood work, vote on the way home, and, the day is beautiful!

I take advantage of the 76 degrees and cut back at least a third of my big grasses (*Miscanthus Gracillimus*) in the back yard. It's always a huge job, and I'm glad I feel well enough to do it.



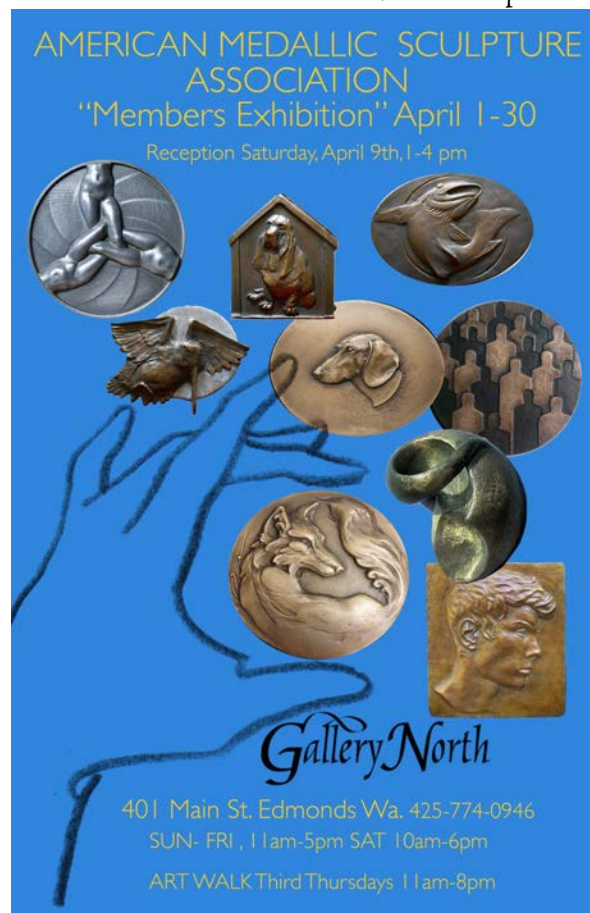
MARCH 16, 2016: It is still warm and I cut back the rest! I am so happy Brian bought me a Black & Decker hedge trimmer. I used to cut all these back by hand with my dad's sickle!





In the background, clockwise are Korean azaleas, "February Gold" Daffodils, two Norway spruce and a shiny leaved Prague Viburnum to the right that is under-planted with Liriope. My yew topiary of Edgar, in front left, is in dire need of a haircut.

MARCH 17, 2016: I am thrilled! Postcards arrive announcing the American Medalllic Sculpture Association Member Show at Gallery North in Edmonds, WA. My bronze "Inspiration" Smooth made the postcard and the beautiful blue poster! All coats are available in bronze and also pewter.



"Inspiration" Smooth  
 3 5/16" x 2 12/16" x 1/4" Bronze, Edition 10 ©2009



MARCH 20, 2016, AROUND 7 PM: Childhood neighbor Colie (Coleman) Wheeler passes peacefully of congestive heart failure and complications from diabetes. He wants no memorial.



MARCH 20, 2016: Thanks to a freeze warning, I cut Daffodils and Spirea to enjoy on our kitchen windowsill. Next is a welded, 12-sided steel sculpture by my dad, an exquisite bronze nude by Jaye Gregory, Rosetta's "Panther" and three 1:6 scale bronzes by me: two "Siesta" and "So Good to See You".

MARCH 26, 2016: A collector and I meet, talk about our dogs and our health over lunch and she takes home "So Good to See You" 11/99. We had a delightful time. *Thank you, Susan!*



"Dream Chaser" Long >  
1:6 Scale, 8/20, ©1999  
Bronze, 7"L x 3.5"H x 2"D

< "So Good to See You" Smooth, 1:6 Scale, 11/99 ©2000  
Bronze, 2.5"L x 2 7/8"H x 1.75"D, Leather patina  
Edition Complete.



MARCH 27, 2016, EASTER EVENING: Owls talk across the trees in the back woods.

MARCH 28, 2016: My Normandy Alumni Courier arrives with Wayne Basler's article!

## Still (brilliantly) going to the dogs

Joy Kroeger Beckner, Class of 1962, an internationally acclaimed sculptor, seems to be a master at sculpting her own life too. Year after year Joy pursues new adventures, produces more remarkable art, and through her fascinating (and in-depth) newsletter "News and Journeys of Joy" shares her latest projects, her latest sculptures and art and intriguing world travels, illustrated with her own vivid photography.

She also shares her thoughts about keeping healthy and young in heart and spirit.

**JOY IS MARRIED** to Brian Beckner. They live in a beautiful and distinctive home in Chesterfield surrounded by nature. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch has done major feature stories on Joy, Brian and the house and its garden.

At Normandy High, Joy served as the Saga's art co-editor; was inducted into Quill and Scroll national high school journalism society; was president of Art Society; participated in Co-Ed Dancing; and was a member of Bible Club.

She credits her art teacher at Normandy, William Newman, for both what she learned with him and discovered about her abilities and possibilities.

**FROM NORMANDY** she went to Washington University school of Fine Arts, worked in fashion

and worked in fund-raising. About 25 years ago she took a sculpture class and, as happens with many artists, she reclaimed life as a creative process.

Her fame with sculpture built steadily, one reason being she is involved in every step of the process including working with a full-service foundry to create the bronze cast. Another reason was and is her fondness for portraying animals in moods, movement and whimsical moments.

Joy sculpted humans until her first dachshund grew old. She loved the line of her shoulder to elbow, to hip, and "Dreaming of Tomatoes" was born. Little did she know that she had stumbled into the canine sculpture market.

"It was magic," she said.

**HIGHLY RESPECTED**, Joy is an elected Fellow of National Sculpture Society and a member of many national art organizations. Her creations have appeared in many museums and she has received numerous honors (nearly 100 at this point) from art societies, academies and shows. Her work now resides on six continents.

Her most celebrated work is her sculptures of dachshunds, so detailed, so lifelike, so exuding

personality that sometimes in photos it is difficult to determine what is sculpture and what is living.

Unsurprisingly, she is a loving and caring pet owner and in her newsletter keeps readers up on her companions' latest adventures and challenges.

"I am thrilled to bring memorable experiences, from giggles to tears, to those who view my finished creations," she said.

Joy's newsletters are at <http://www.joybeckner.com/ joys-newsletter-archive.htm>



Photo by Mel Schockner courtesy of Joy Beckner

**JOY BECKNER WITH MERRY SUNSHINE**

MARCH 30, 2016: I treasure a 2014 recording of my friend Jaye I find in the call history on my iPhone.

MARCH 31, 2016: SOLD! The secondary market "Dream Chaser" Long #8/20, shown above, sells to a collector in Ohio. And, "Dream Chaser" Long, 18/20 sells to a collector in Dallas! Thank you for a GREAT day! **Only two remain in the edition of 20!**

*Please tell me if you wish to be on a waiting list for your favorite piece.*

If you plan to downsize, kindly contact me about your collection of my work, especially if you have a piece that is sold out. Given the opportunity, I will try to work with you so we can each benefit without diminishing the value of my work for other collectors.

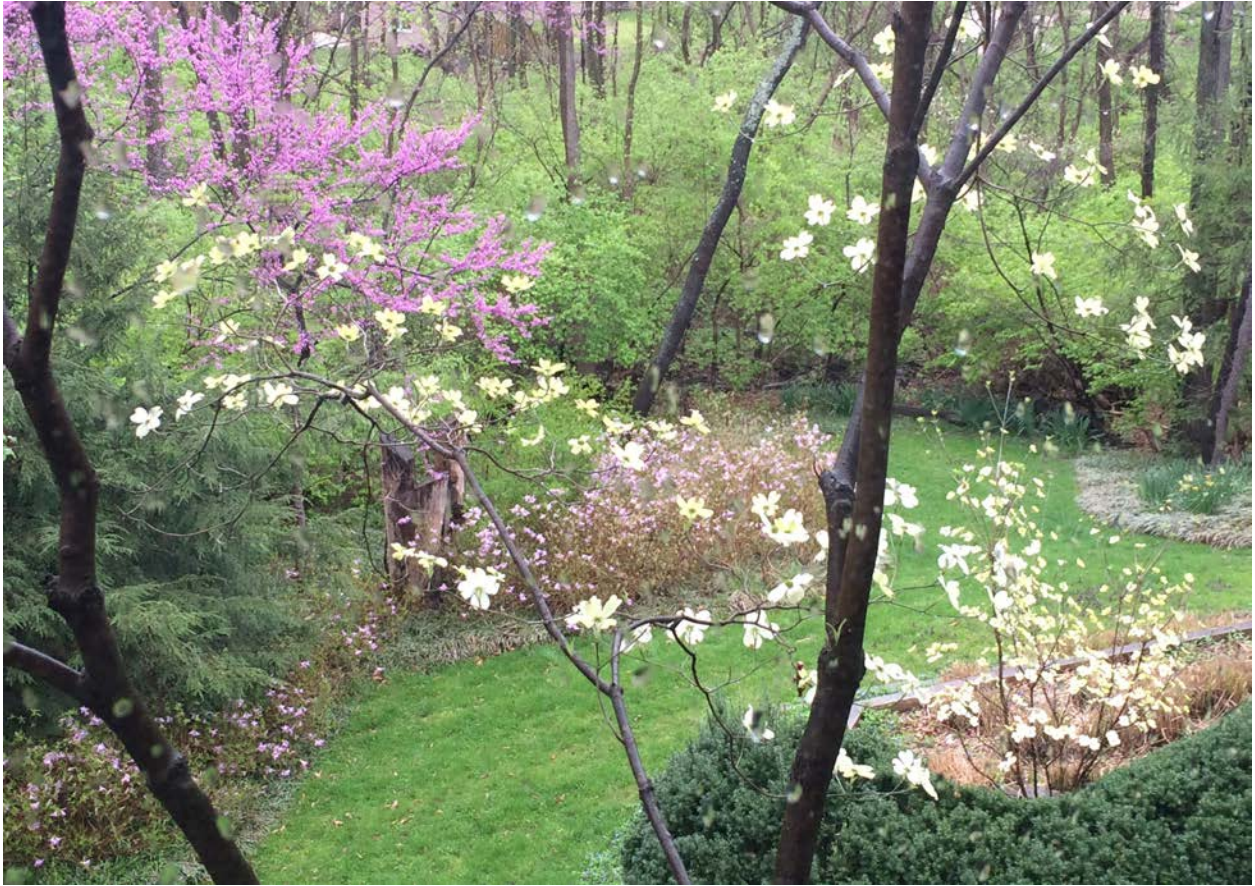
APRIL 3, 2016: A woman approves a custom head I sculpted for her on a 1:6 scale "Sunnyside Up" Smooth.

Spring has sprung! Our "Back-40" as we call our yard that backs to common ground, is GREEN! The grass is green, the invasive understory Japanese Honeysuckle is green, and Redbuds are blooming! Korean Azaleas bloom as do our Dogwoods! Rain is gentle. The weeping Japanese maple is just leafing out.



Peace Lilies & an early nude overlook our "Back 40"





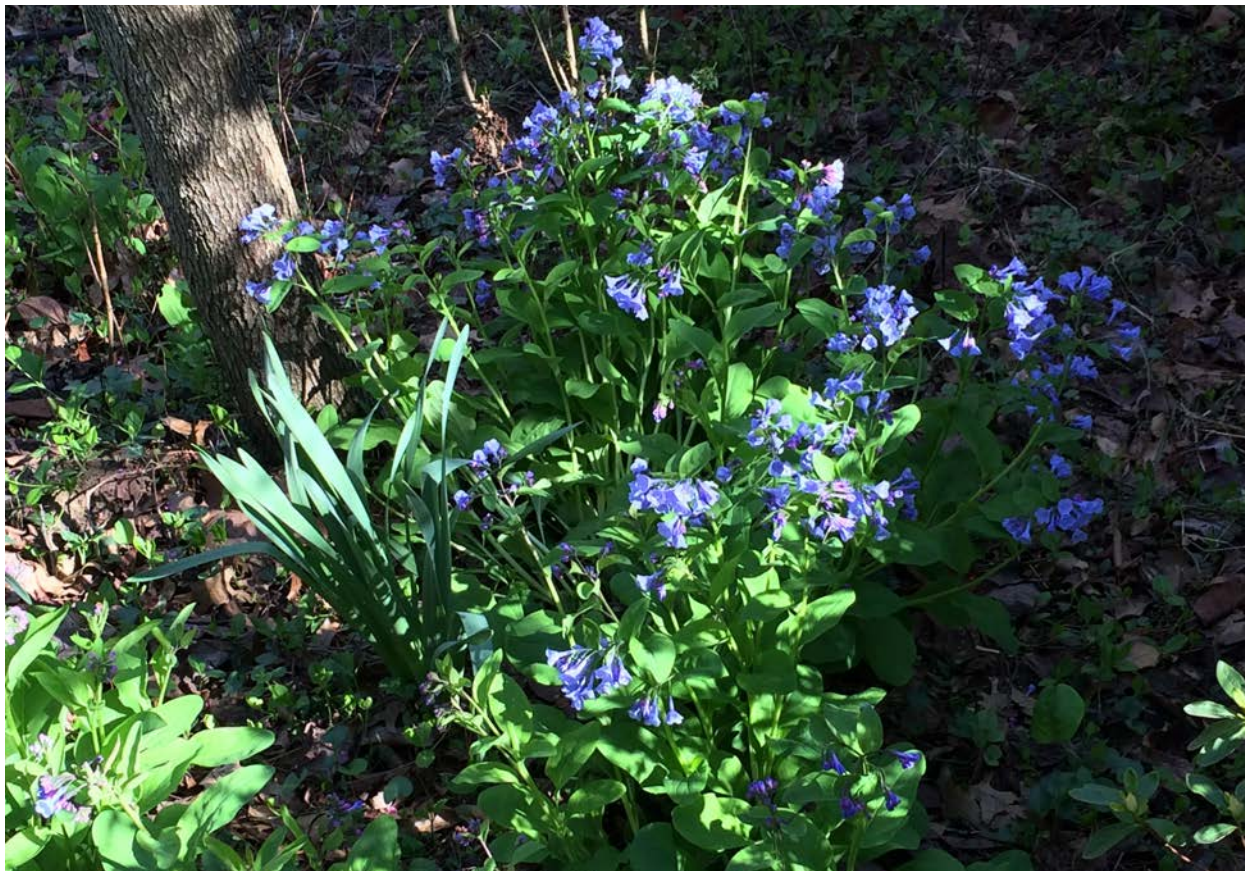
Brian assures me I was a sod sculptor long before I turned my attention to clay and wax for bronze.



A native dogwood blooms just outside our window. Hemlock leaves and raindrops set off the blossoms.

*Come. Walk with me through my April garden.*





*Virginia Bluebells along the walkway to my studio. Official name: Mertensia virginica*



*A smaller flowering variety of Spiraea than my mom's*





*Tiny Blue flowers of Forget-Me-Not Myosotis*



*European Wild Ginger - Asarum europaeum*



*Unfurling ferns among violets*



*August blooming hostas*



*Dogwood: Cornus Florida*

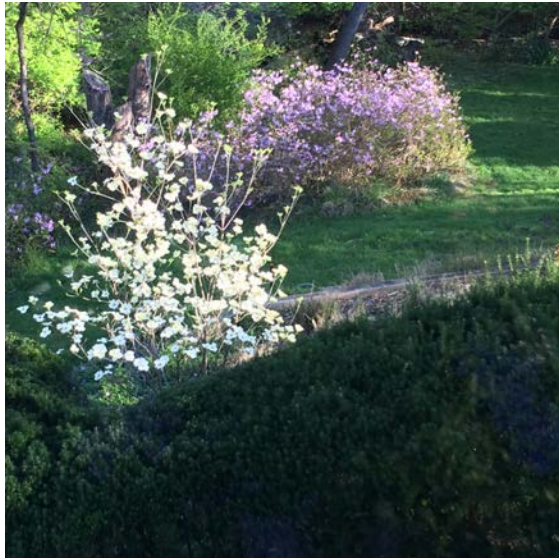


*Korean Azalea blossoms*

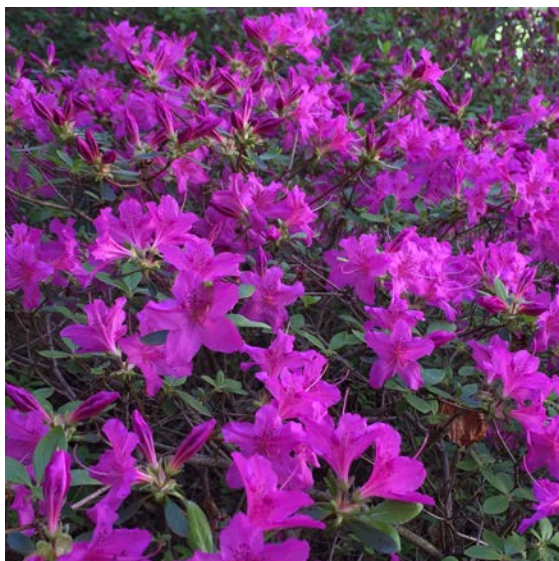




*Late blooming Daffodils*



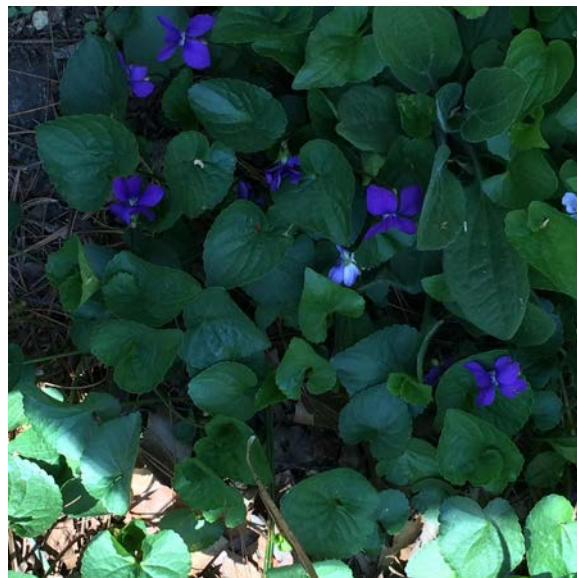
*Cornus Florida Dogwood & Korean Azaleas*



*Azaleas beside the garage.*



*Fragrant Carlissi Viburnum – Two Stories Tall!*



*Wild Violets in the shade*



APRIL 14, 2015: An unsolicited second payment arrives for "Miss Me..." 3/20. Love that Miracle!



*"Miss Me" MS*

LIFE-SIZED MINIATURE SMOOTH, 19.5" x 11 3/8" x 6.5"H BRONZE ED. 20 & 2 AP ©2015. APPROX. 22#

*First place – 3D!!!*



APRIL 16, 2016: "Siesta" SS earns "First Place 3D" in the 2nd Annual At the Walker Exhibition, at The Maynard Walker Art Collection, Garnett, KS.

## *April 30 – We are DCA Bound for Harrisburg, PA.*

Eastern Ohio is beautiful. Dogwoods and serviceberry trees are blooming. The countryside along I-70 is wondrously unspoiled, rather rural. It's so nice to have a rain free day.

**11:38AM:** Sunshine peeks between the clouds on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. It is 68 degrees. Stag horn sumacs cling to the shoulder among deciduous trees. A dirt road leads from a valley up a high hill to the right of the highway. It reminds me of the road to my grand parents house. Mountains appear in front of us. What a beautiful drive! Thank you, Brian, for driving on your birthday. We are in Unionville, PA. "Oh, do we ever live in the flatlands!"

Trees here are just budding; they are about two weeks behind ours back home. I love the old brick buildings, frame farmhouses and occasional log cabin on the sweet little two lane Historic National Road, Hwy. 40. We pass Fort Necessity National Battlefield is on the right.

Now we are on PA 381, the Laurel Highlands Scenic Byway. Gorgeous! We pass through Ohiopyle State Park. Cows graze just around a bend.

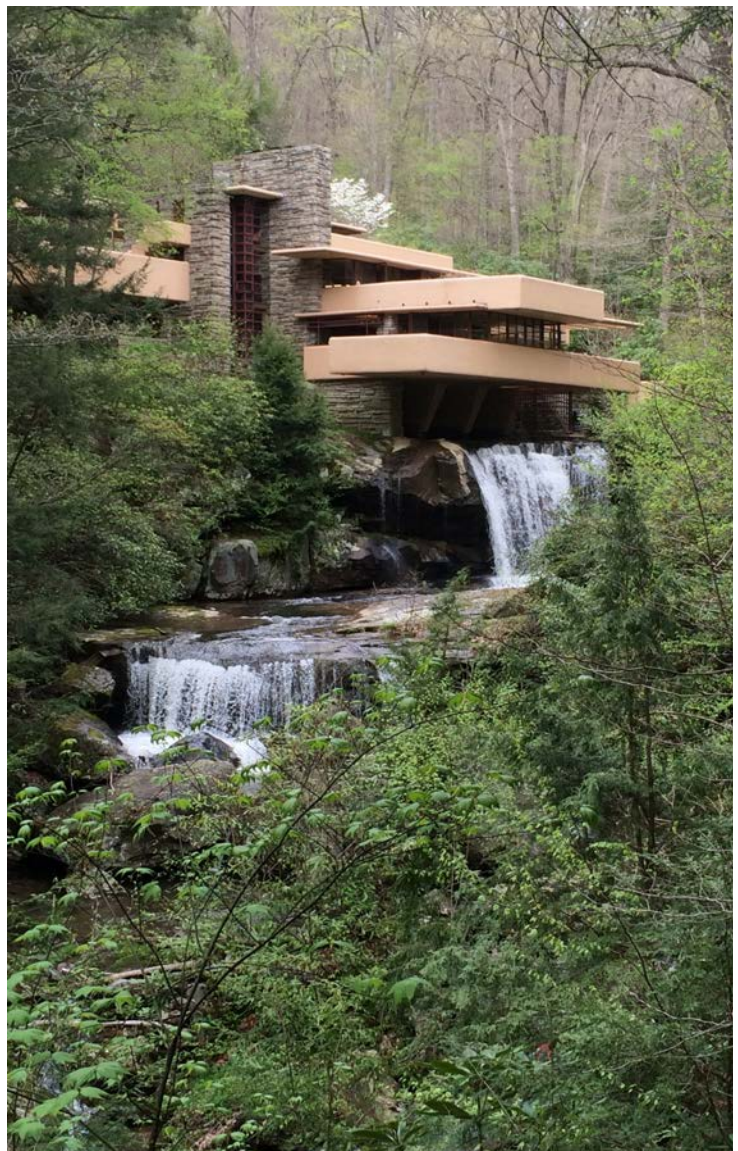
## *Fallingwater ... The Dachshund connection...*

**12.36PM:** We arrive at Fallingwater. Blooming ajuga, huge hemlocks, white redbuds greet us. I can only imagine how gorgeous this is when the 12 feet tall rhododendrons bloom.

Fallingwater is fabulous! In the late 1930s Frank Lloyd Wright designed the house over a waterfall for the Kaufmans, of department store fame. Mrs. Kaufman had longhaired dachshunds. She had Stearns and Foster create a mattress for her dogs - and - she adorned them with pearl collars!

## *Happy Birthday, Brian!*

Today, May 1, we drive to DCA, the Dachshund Club of America National Specialty in Harrisburg, PA.







*My booth at DCA. Photo by Brian.*

MAY 5, 2016: Yikes! My new mold maker emails saying due to health constraints he can no longer make my molds and waxes. He was soooo good. So sorry. Challenges continue in this business.

MAY 6, 2016: Brian's dear friend Paul and his wife check Yelp and recommend a restaurant in Lebanon, PA, half way between our hotel and Allentown where they live. The restaurant is fabulous; I wish I could import it to St. Louis! When in Lebanon, PA, eat at



Trattoria Fratelli  
502 E. Lehman Street  
Lebanon, PA 17046-4082  
717-273-1443

*Thank you to everyone who visits my booth and  
acquires my work!*

*mayflies by...*

MAY 21 - 22, 2016: Brian drives Bo & me to Loveland, Colorado, where I chase a "Merry Sunshine" wax all week!

Shown are two of the ten waxes necessary to create the life-sized bronze.



*Above: "Merry Sunshine" rear end, viewed partially from the inside.*

*Right: Dog's left thigh and part of the belly.*

Red Wax Spru Bars help to keep the wax from warping, and serve as channels for the bronze pour.



MAY 28, 2016, 6:39AM: On the road again ... headed home!





*May 28, 2016, 7:58am: Looking west from I-25 at Long's Peak*



*May 28, 2016, 2:28pm: Happy Cows. Garfield County, Kansas.*



*May 28, 2016, 7pm: Crossing the mighty Missouri River near Rocheport, MO*

MAY 28, 2016, 8:47PM: Thirteen hours and 870 miles after leaving Loveland at 6:39am, we arrive home. The beautiful mountains and clouds are a welcome relief from my long week of tedious wax chasing. It took eight days, including three days of driving, for me to get the job done. Thank goodness Brian volunteered to drive home in one day! Now, to recover!!!

JUNE 7, 2016: *SOLD - on the Secondary Market!*



*Life's a Ball! Smooth* ©1998

1:6 SCALE: 4 3/4" L X 2 1/4" H X 1 1/2" D BRONZE ED. 99 & 9 ARTIST'S PROOFS

"Life's a Ball!" Smooth sold out in 2012. Above is a photo by a collector in the Czech Republik who memorializes his dog Ferda with his "Life's a Ball!" in his garden. A dear longhaired dachshund breeder has loved Number 2 (of 99) since 1998, long before I created it with a long coat. At DCA, we traded so she could have "Life's a Ball!" with a longhaired coat as shown below. It is also available with a wire coat.





## *Edgar gets a haircut!*

JUNE 8, 2016: I start giving a haircut to my yew topiary of Edgar. It has two years growth! The weather is good with low humidity.



After pruning this 30+- feet long topiary of Edgar I have still more respect for Guzson Borglum who carved four presidents on the face of Mt. Rushmore and, for all sculptors whose final work is monumental. Three days after starting, my topiary is finished, for now. Brian held the ladder for the final clip of the dog's Mohawk. Again, I am glad I feel well enough to do this.

JUNE 10, 2016: Day four, today, I clean up all the clippings. Whew! It is HOT, HOT – nineties -- with high humidity these last two days!





*"Merry Sunshine" sits among azaleas in a collector's garden. Photo courtesy of my collector.*

*See, touch and be touched by my work at these upcoming events...*

MAY 17 - JUNE 26, 2016: Society of Animal Artists, RS Hanna Gallery, Fredericksburg, TX

AUG. 6 – OCT. 30, 2016: National Sculpture Society 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Exhibition, Brookgreen Gardens, Pawley's Island, SC.

SEPT. 23, 2016 - JAN. 1, 2017: Society of Animal Artists 59th Annual Exhibition, The Houston Museum of Natural Science, Houston, TX.

OCT. - DEC. 2016: Art Exhibit at City Hall, Chesterfield, MO

THROUGH AUG. 2016: Artists for Conservation, 8th Annual Juried Virtual Exhibition. Online.

THROUGH JUNE 2017: David A. Straz, Jr. Center for Performing Arts, Tampa, FL.

THROUGH MAY 2018: Art on the Avenues, Wenatchee, WA.





ALMOST EVERYTHING  
WILL WORK AGAIN IF  
YOU UNPLUG IT FOR  
A FEW MINUTES...  
INCLUDING YOU.

ANNE LAMOTT

*Thank you for taking the time to read my ramblings.  
Enjoy life!*

*May you and yours enjoy sunshine and good health!*

*Joy*

*Please keep in touch!*

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