

JKß-JOY KROEGER BECKNER-JKß

classical realism, from hounds to humans & more!

News & Journeys of Joy! Vol. 20, Number 3, Early Summer 2025

Happy July 4th!

July 1, 2025: WOW!!! This is a day of happiness - and - great sadness.



First, Brian and I go to the St. Louis Art Museum to see “Roaring: Art, Fashion and the Automobile in France, 1918-1939.” This show is particularly exciting for auto enthusiasts! It runs thru July 27. See it if possible!



Brian is particularly impressed with the paint work on each auto, except the less expensive wooden auto. ;-))
The 12 vehicles are phenomenal! Look at the curves!!!



Sad News...

When we get home, I call Christine Peike, to thank her for reminding me of this car show when we got together at Sheila Rhoades' home for a girls' party on Sunday, June 22.

In tears, Christine shares that Sheila passed away yesterday, June 30. As it turns out, we learn from Farzana, her nurse/caretaker, that Sheila wanted nothing to do with doctors or hospitals. Her husband passed last summer and she must have had enough of that then. The problem is that she had told no one that she had breast cancer and that it had spread to all parts of her body including her bones. Sad...

Prevention is the key to long life. Always try to catch disease early before it gets really bad. I was lucky that my breast cancer was caught early. I had only 5 days of radiology, and have been on Anastrolzol since. So far, so good.

In 2022, Sheila wrote a wonderful article about three local artists, myself included, in our West County News magazine.

May Sheila rest in Peace.

June 11, 2025: Ross Pollard's book, *"The Art of Making Medals"* features my three *"Inspiration"* medals.



"Inspiration" Smooth

Fine Pewter, 3 1/4"W x 2 5/16"H x 1/8"D



"Inspiration" Wire

Fine Pewter, 3 1/4"W x 2 5/16"H x 1/8"D



"Inspiration" Long

Fine Pewter, 3 1/4"W x 2 5/16"H x 1/8"D

Medals may be special ordered in Bronze.

Below is my story in the book, *"The Art of Making Medals"* by Ross Pollard. I definitely need a new headshot. ;-))



Joy Beckner was born in St. Louis, Missouri and trained at the Washington University School of Fine Arts. She worked in fashion and then fund-raising before a sculpture class reawakened her love for clay and wax modeling. Her attention to detail and commitment to creating strong representational work has resulted in many awards and invitations to membership in prestigious organizations. Professional memberships include: The National Sculpture Society, Fellow 2014; The Salmagundi Art Club, Non-Resident Artist Member, 2012; The Society of Animal Artists, Signature Member, 1999; and American Women Artists, Master Signature Membership, 1999. Joy's first solo exhibition was at the Margaret Harwell Art Museum in 2012.

*Two clients order a total of 5 sets of my
medals to give as awards at dog shows!
Thank you!!!*

Step back to April...
Happy Easter! April 20, 2025

Dachshund Club of America
National Specialty

Purina Farms, Gray Summit, MO
About 45 minutes from home.

May 12-17, 2025: DCA sales are good especially the first few days. However, there are far fewer exhibitors than in prior years. I miss seeing many of them.

Oh, Lucky me!

May 16, 2025, Friday, 1:45ish: I RUSH home from DCA to avoid severe weather that is predicted. I arrive home at 2:27pm, 3 minutes before the severe storm hits at home with heavy rain, quarter size hail and lots of wind! I do NOT remember a storm with such forceful winds and hail as this one. I could not have seen to drive in this storm. My vehicle and I are safe! By 2:50pm everything is simply wet and quiet here. A tornado touches down in Clayton, a wealthy suburb to the east, and, in St. Louis. The devastation is sad. By 3:04pm, the sun shines brightly!

Happy Anniversary, Brian!

May 22, 1984: Brian and I married 41 years ago!

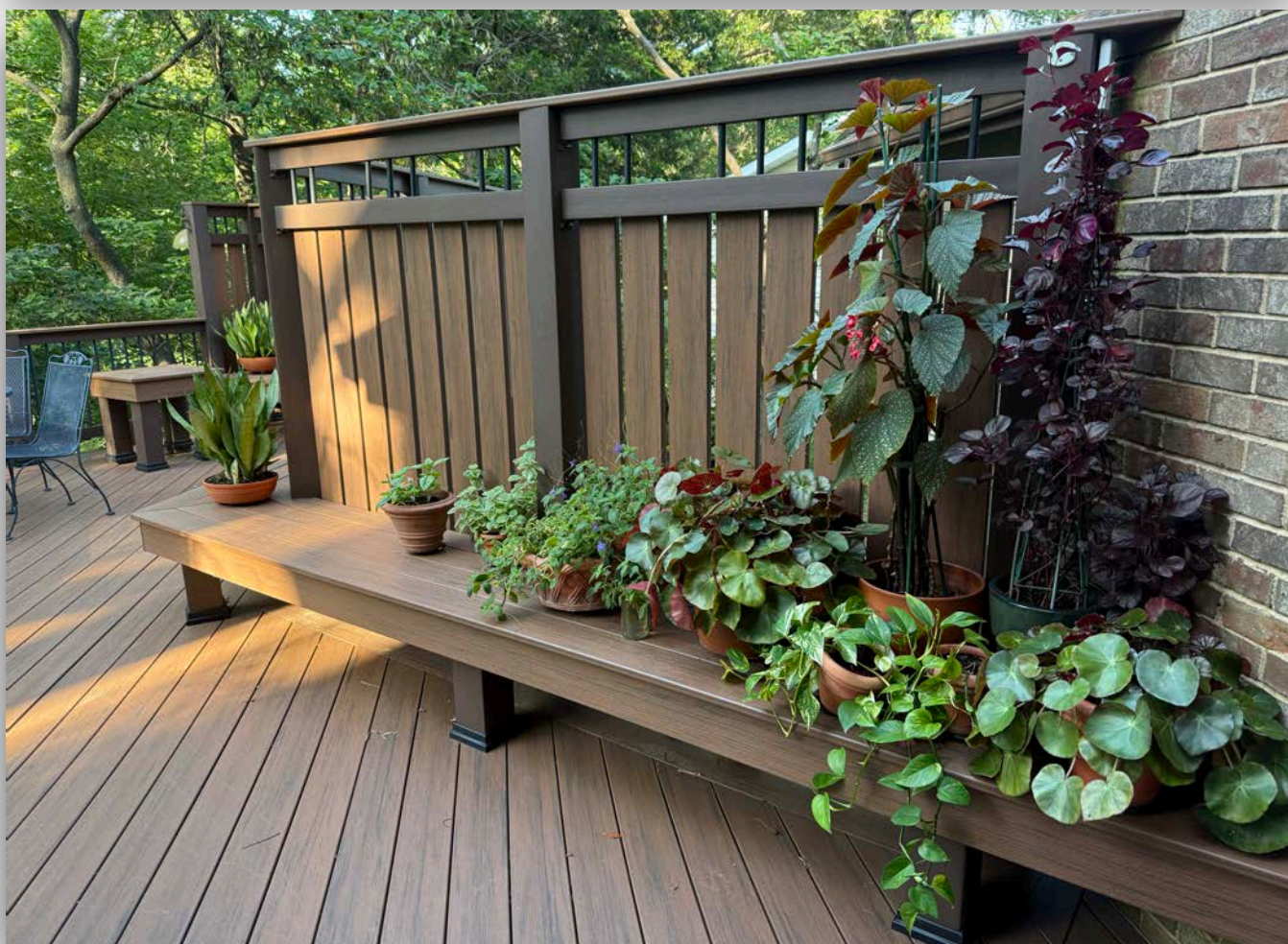
Our BIG Visitor

May 24, 2025: WOW! This is the BIGGEST TURTLE that has visited us in 41 years! It is very near our pond in the front yard. Others have been box turtles... Welcome, Big Turtle!!! Are you a Snapping Turtle? You are about 12 inches long! Did you lay eggs? By 6:24pm it is 62 degrees and our turtle left. Since then I have seen no eggs or babies.



May 29, 2025: My printer croaks. I am on the phone with HP for at least an hour trying to get it to work and eventually I order a new one.

May 31, 2025: HP is FAST! My new printer arrives! I need to wait until I have time to set it up. Meanwhile, I move my houseplants to our deck.



More Good Luck!

June 4, 2025: Another tornado hits near us in Chesterfield. We lucked out again... No damage!

June 5, 2025: A Wildwood Garden Club friend is without power after the storm last night.

June 8, 2025: Goodness! More severe weather is predicted for tonight. Thank goodness it does not arrive here.

I'm Tired...

I am tired all the time. Monday I will contact my cardiologist and my a-fib doctor to see if they think it could be caused by a medication.

The good news is my EKG reveals that my heart has improved, but my doctors do not want me to take fewer meds...

Several years ago doctor friend told me that my ejection fraction was low. It was right around 39-40% and needed to be higher. Now it is 45-50% and that is a good sign. I guess I just need to live with being tired. ;-))

June 9, 2025: A collector's check arrives today. On May 6, it was postmarked certified from Carrollton, Texas. This is the second check that has taken forever to arrive from Texas. Actually, the first simply has not arrived. What's with the post office in Texas?



June 15, 2025:

Happy Fathers' Day!

Doggie Dads included!

Picture taken in January in San Miguel de Allende

June 16, 2025: I get a haircut at 10 and will make an appointment with a highly recommended computer guru to get my computer and printer working together.

Yay! Brian sets up my printer. I will call my new computer guru to cancel our Friday appointment! Soon I can send thank you notes to my DCA buyers!!!

Thank you, Brian!

June 18, 2025: Yesterday my "Inspiration" pewter medals arrive. I pack them for my two clients and once again try to get the printer to work. ;-))

Sometimes it prints on my printer, sometimes on Brian's....?

Thank you, Sheila Rhoades!



June 22, 2025: Thank you, Sheila, for including me in your wonderful article about three artists' work in the June 8, 2022 West News Magazine: *"Home is Where the Art is."*

Thank you, too, for inviting me to your home today to enjoy the company of nine of your friends. You are a cherished friend and hostess! I wish you were in this photo.

"Sunday at Sheila's"

June 22, 2025

Oh, how I wish Sheila was still with us...



June 24, 2025, 7:30pm:

Brian surprises me with a date to see "Asleep at the Wheel" at the City Winery here in St. Louis. It's our first time to visit this location near Grand Avenue which is maybe 3/4 of the way to downtown,

7:38pm: This uniquely shaped gal introduces us to this Texas swing band. Brian saw them many years ago.





The Star

Ray Benson Seifert

Ray has been with *"Asleep at the Wheel"* since 1969.

"Fried Green Tomatoes"

June 25, 2025: We enjoy "*Fried Green Tomatoes*" starring Kathie Bates. It is better than I remember. Thank goodness we are past segregation. Great movie n TV.

June 27, 2025: Whew! I finally update my site to show which pieces are now Special Order, and, I finish sending thank you notes with literature to my wonderful collectors at DCA. *Thank you!!!*

Happiness! Mystery solved!

June 28, 2025, 5:15pm: I learn that the "*So Good to See You*" that a lady bought at an auction is a life-size miniature, MS, size. It was originally sold in 2004 by a long gone gallery. YAY! I hadn't accidentally made two number 4/20 in life-size standard! And this new person has the only life-size miniature smooth "*So Good to See You*" MS, number 4/20. Yay!

Yay! I call my long time collector of standard bronzes to let her know all is well. She has the only Standard Smooth 4/20.

Good News!

I am once again invited to participate in the Aiken Center for the Arts, Aiken, SC, "*Over Land & Sea*" Exhibition from October 23 - Nov. 29, 2025.

*Thank you, sculptor friend, Jeff Birchill
for arranging this!*

Happy July 4th!
Stay healthy!

*Your friend,
Joy*

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