

Featured Artist of the Month

Kathy Baker

An Ocean Shores resident since she and her husband, Tom, moved here in 2019, Kathy Baker finds artistic inspiration in materials found in nature. She is the AAOS Artist of the Month for May.

In her Earth Gems Studio, Kathy works with a variety of media and motifs, creating pieces including nature-inspired jewelry, driftwood nativities, greeting cards and tags, Christmas tree ornaments, white birch baskets, and more. Her fondness for natural materials owes in part to Tom's nearly 30 years in the National Park Service.

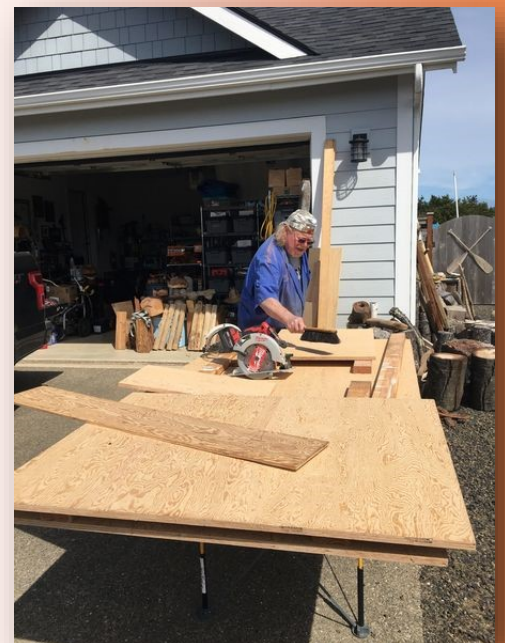


Kathy's newest art creations are called "Sea Sprites." She has developed these unique pieces using locally hand-gathered sea kelp and driftwood. Each Sprite carries a name from a mythological marine creature and has been fashioned to evoke its own personality.

A Michigan native, she now enjoys selling her work at the AAOS Arts and Crafts Festival and the Winter Fanta-Sea Holiday Show. Her Sea Sprites were also part of the Coastal Interpretive Center's Winter Art Competition. This year, Kathy has been part of the AAOS Arts & Crafts Festival Team.

Her latest passion involves literally spreading and sharing the love of art and has quickly attracted support in the area. On March 31, she posted on Facebook:

"I am considering building a FLAG (Free Little Art Gallery) here at the Southwest end of Ocean Shores. Posting to see if there is any interest?" Another post explained, "The nation-wide interest in these little galleries is on the rise! Their sole purpose is to share a love of art and to spread that love, without cost. A Free Little Art Gallery is like a Free Little Library, but for small artworks instead of books. If you see something in the gallery you like, take it home. Or create something you want to share, and leave it for someone else to take home and love!"



After receiving encouraging responses, she launched a Go fund Me page, and the results were heartening:

“We did it! The donations rolled in and the Free Little Art Gallery is taking shape! I want to thank the generous people of this community for funding a new art project that will showcase our local artists and crafters. Tom is busy building the gallery and I am designing the interior, making a supplies shopping list and looking for a public location to place the gallery.



I now have a call out for anyone (or group) of artists that would be interested in painting the exterior of the gallery. I will provide the paints and brushes, purchased with donated funds, to complete the project. Anyone interested? It should be attractive, colorful and creative!

For those that have not yet seen the new Facebook page, please check it out by searching for Free Little Art Gallery - Ocean Shores. I will be posting all updates here. The GoFundMe page has been closed - we raised \$580 in two short days! Thank you everyone! — looking for volunteers with Tom Baker.

I will be posting updates rather regularly so that everyone can share in the excitement! Again, thank you to all of the kind people that made a donation to get this project completed. My heart is filled with happiness...”

Kathy's Earth Gems Studio is located at 448 Sportsmen St. SW in Ocean Shores.

Her email address is: september_moon1@yahoo.com

