

Big Meadows Lodge To Host Art Show

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Big Meadows on Skyline Drive gets a lot of foot traffic.

The lodge there hosts an annual exhibit of local artists. This year, three Valley artists will be featured, says Helen Morton, director of sales and marketing for ARAMARK's Shenandoah National Park Lodging.

The Art Guild Display will open Aug. 1 and run through Sept. 4 in the Great Room at Big Meadows Lodge.

What goes well up on the Drive is what will be shown at the exhibit: scenic, wildlife and historical sites of the area in oils, watercolors and photographs. Framed originals and prints will be available for sale.

"For the Big Meadows show, I like to paint scenes that tourists can take home," says Gladys Burke of Elkton. "Anything with Massanutten Mountain in the background is a good seller."

In addition to mountain and Valley landscapes, Burke paints flowers, birds, horses, cats, dogs and covered bridges. She paints pet portraits by consignment.

Burke, 82, became interested in art as a girl. Although her Mennonite schools offered no art classes, in 7th grade she had to write a report on wildflowers and drew a trillium for the cover. She enjoyed doing it and thought it came out quite well.

After graduating from Madison College with a business degree, Burke went back and "took fun things," including lots of art classes. But she got most of her training in art while living in Colorado, where many artists lived and shared their secrets.

"I learned more there than anywhere," says Burke.

This is Burke's fifth year showing her work at the annual Art Guild Display, sponsored by ARAMARK.

Jean Moyer of Luray has shown her art at Big Meadows for "several years," and her work always sells well there.

"I have views from the mountains into the Valley and views from the Valley at the mountains," says Moyer, 64, who retired from Page Valley Bank as a financial officer.

"It's such a beautiful place here," says Moyer. "It's so easy to find things that are really lovely."

Moyers paints oils and watercolors and will have both originals and prints in the exhibit.

Debbi Dellinger of Fort Valley is a newcomer to the show. She's a photographer who specializes in scenics and wildflowers.

Dellinger spent 20 years as a winemaker on the Eastern Shore before arthritis forced her to retire. However, after moving to Fort Valley, she found walking in the woods to be therapeutic.

"It helped me to exercise, loosened my joints and made me forget my pain," says Dellinger, 54.

The woods, along with encouragement from a National Geographic photographer friend, also inspired her to start photography.

"I developed a love while cataloging his work," says Dellinger.

Visitors to the exhibit can expect to find pieces ranging from large canvasses to notecard-size prints.