



VIRGINIA EQUINE ARTISTS
ASSOCIATION

The Association for Virginia Equine Artists and Photographers

APRIL 2020

Letter from the President

Hello fellow members,

At a recent Board meeting, we decided to send out a monthly newsletter to our membership. We thought this would be a great way to communicate with each other and to let everyone know about what we are planning for you!

This particular newsletter is a work in progress, so the finished look has not been finalized, and will change as we get more comfortable with this new way to reach each other.

For those of you who do not utilize the internet, we will mail your copy each month.

This newsletter is designed to be a platform for you to share with the rest of the group. Please feel free to contact me at E7Aquila@aol.com to share your news, articles you want to share, and what you are working on at the moment.

Upcoming Events

June 27, 2020 at the Virginia Horse Center

We do not know at this time if we will be having our meeting in person, or online.

Will keep everyone posted.

Eleszabeth



BOARD MEMBERS and Contact Information

President - Eleszabeth McNeel

E7Aquila@aol.com

Vice President - Debby Thomas

tthomas222@comcast.net

Treasurer - Wilma Bradner

Wilybrad@aol.com

Secretary - Renae Major

renae.major@gmail.com

Membership - Renae Major

Marketing/Publicity - Marion Mercer

marion_mrcr@yahoo.com

Activities/Events - Debby Thomas

Website - Wilma Bradner

Social Media - Cyndi Pixley

cynthia.pixley@me.com

Workshops - open

Gallery Shows - open

Booth Shows - open

New Board member Carolyn Schofield

zephyrsfarm@gmail.com



Hello members of VEAA!

I want to share with you the amazing experience I had on Saturday, October 19 at the event offered by VEAA President Eleszabeth McNeel in Laurel Park, Maryland (where the Preakness is raced). I drove up the night before to meet Eleszabeth and Debby Thomas for dinner. When I arrived, they were having dinner with Alex Horn, our point of contact for the photo shoot at the Laurel Park Race Track the following morning. Alex has ridden horses all her life and is now an exercise rider and assistant trainer for the Sola Dei Gloria Stable. As a journalist, I was thrilled to ask a million questions about her experience riding thoroughbreds. Alex said she doesn't often get asked about her vocation, and said she thoroughly enjoyed talking about it. She is an amazing young woman and it made it even more interesting to find out about her horse history. She clearly loves her job and the three of us clearly loved hearing about it.

So, what's a photo shoot experience like with Eleszabeth and Debby? First, I was with two of the most talented equestrian photographers in Virginia – these two can match talents with the best equestrian photographers in the world. They travel the world photographing local breeds. Their most recent trip took them to Portugal where they shot Lusitano and Andalusian breeds in incredible settings. When I first heard about them at my first VEAA meeting 2 years ago in Hume, VA, I was energized by their incredible, amazing and artistic photography.

Second, Eleszabeth and Debby are dedicated to their photography and want to share their expertise with those who attend. I have learned so much from them. They are fun loving and enjoy sharing what they know. Third, they both ride and Debby worked as a trainer for 30 years.

We all met at the hotel restaurant at 7am and left for the track at 7:20am. The horses were exercised between 5:30am and 9am. When we arrived at 7:30am, the sun was barely creeping up through the incredible mist and fog on the track. We parked in a VIP area and before I could even get my gear, Debby was sprinting to get to the track to capture the golden light of the thoroughbreds racing through the fog. Those horses closest to the inside of the track were racing at full throttle – what Alex termed as “brezing.” I tried to spot Alex through the fog, but it was so thick, I didn't find her until I was reviewing my photos later. Horses and riders were coming fast, and we had many, many opportunities to capture them through our lenses. The entire shoot with Debby and Eleszabeth is a total learning experience. They don't hesitate to talk about their camera settings and make suggestions for getting the best photos. It was an adrenaline surge to be with these two, working on capturing the most beautiful horse images. It fed my soul.

After the horses finished their exercise, the three of us drove to have coffee and review our photos. Debby and Eleszabeth helped critique my work. I'm insecure about it, but they are so positive and bring out the best – it made me feel like I'm getting there and doing a pretty good job. We talked about settings and light, and perspective as we viewed the photos. And, we cheered each other on. Afterwards, we drove back to the track and watched the first couple of races and of course photographed the horses as they came to the paddock to be checked and saddled. We got to see Alex one more time as she led the horse, Laddie Liam, from her employer's barn to the paddock to be saddled. He placed 3rd in the race.

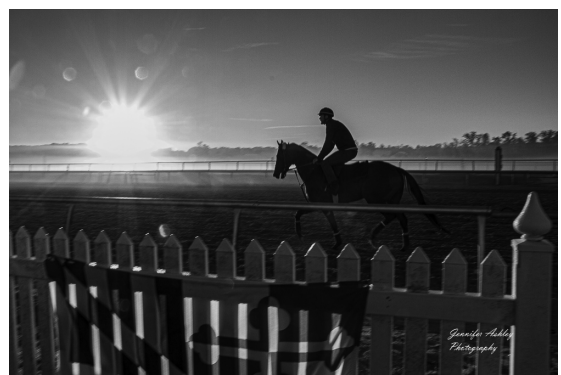
I left for home feeling incredibly exhilarated with the entire experience. There is nowhere that I know that you can have a better learning and sharing experience than with this club and what we offer to one another. The love of horses and art.

Jennifer Ashley

Jenniferaashley@msn.com

<https://www.facebook.com/JenniferAshleyPhotograph/>

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We realize that it is difficult to be creative in such challenging times, but here are some resources for you to check out, most of which are free! Due to the nature of the newsletter, these links will have to be copied and pasted instead of live links:

PHOTOGRAPHY INFORMATION

info@phlearn.com

Contact them and ask to be put on their mailing list for notifications.

<http://www.nanpa.org/finding-yourself-needing-to-connect-virtually/>
NANPA | North American Nature Photography Association Blog

https://www.ppa.com/education-unlocked?utm_source=PPA-Professional+Photographers+of+America&utm_campaign=0028f40170-PPA+News+200318_Non_Mem_calendar&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_980f052bd3-0028f40170-299468125

MEDITATION

https://www.calm.com/blog/take-a-deep-breath?utm_source=life-cycle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=difficult_times_nonsubs_031720

CREATIVE BUSINESSES

<https://www.creativelive.com/>

newsletters@mail.pophoto.com

Newsletter from Popular Photography covers several creative areas.

DIGITAL PAINTING

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TGuRiVzjLA&utm_source=Active-Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=It+s+Time%21&utm_campaign=Live+Workshop+++Starting+soon

DRAWING, PAINTING

https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/nature-journaling-and-field-sketching/?utm_campaign=bird%20academy%20general&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=85246164&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8FRBsj0GcPHSateqj53JMDfiivEfRiqHTox5vXwNgB570moOYk9T0qF3CbACmgnXWHs1n2E07VneJiMkMrfdIvglVhzQ&_hsmi=85367823



YOUR PAGE

Send me social media size photos of what you are working on, or a description of what you are doing, and I will post one artist per month. Send to E7Aquila@aol.com I'll go first.



Sock puppet recently used in my FB video...



T-Shirt design in process for the local therapy riding group



Visitors on my deck every morning.

Revisiting some photos from my trip to Spain a couple of years ago





**HOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS ARE SPENDING THEIR TIME
DURING THIS PERIOD OF ISOLATION**

Eleszabeth

“I am shredding paper (old bills, etc.) to give to the SPCA for use as litter for their small caged animals. Be careful to remove staples and don’t shred envelopes with the plastic windows. Regular weight paper only, no cardboard. You can put the paper shreds in a trash bag and leave at their door.”

Wilma

“Doing quick 20-30 minute very small paintings with palette knife. Waaaay out of my comfort zone.”

Cyndi

“I am setting up my studio and learning about lighting.”

Marion

“I am converting all my classes to an online format, and that includes drawing I and drawing II. Rather challenging... My only equine activity at this point is scooping poop, bringing hairy, muddy horses in and out of the field, and feeding.”

Carolyn

“I’m spending my time enjoying the outdoors with my camera on the farm and going back through old images with a new eye. I’m focusing on enjoying life’s surprise moments and looking for beauty in each day.”

Debby

“Going through folders of photos from the past year. Planning to update my outdated website. Learning online and practicing Photoshop skills.”

Renae is using this time to recover from hip surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery!



ZOOM is an online format for holding meetings. The Board has used this service on several occasions and have decided to pay for a Business account.



In the future, we will be hosting Board meetings (open to all members), workshops, information platforms, and, quite possibly, our Annual Meetings.

Check it out at [ZOOM.com](https://www.zoom.us) to become familiar



Free Classifieds for Members!

Send me info about art related items you want to sell and it will be posted in this monthly newsletter!

Eleszabeth E7Aquila@aol.com

