

Tree exhibit at Marblehead Arts Association leads to purchase of the real thing

By Chris Stevens

marblehead@wickedlocal.com

@MheadReporter

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Entry fees donated to tree fund

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Forty-six pieces of art depicting or relating to trees has led to the purchase of the real thing, thanks to a generous donation by the Marblehead Arts Association to the Marblehead Tree Fund.

“I never even thought to ask for a donation,” said MAA member DL Kaulbach, who organized the exhibit.

Kaulbach serves on the Tree Committee for Sustainable Marblehead and is a member of the Cottage Gardeners of Marblehead & Swampscott. She said each January the garden club brings in an environmental speaker and this year, the focus happened to be trees.

Kaulbach said she thought a show at the Marblehead Arts Association on the same would be a nice tie-in. It was Associate Board member Claudia Kaufman who suggested the \$10 entry fee paid by artists be donated to the Marblehead Tree Fund.

“We were happy to help,” said board President Missy Fisher.

Fisher said typically they hold a new members exhibit in January, but the board agreed to set aside one gallery for the trees exhibit to run simultaneously.

“But because of the plentiful entries, we decided to give trees two galleries,” she said. “They have 46 pieces.”

Thursday, Jan. 16, Fisher, Kaulbach and Lynn Bryant, executive director of Sustainable Marblehead, were on hand at the Hooper Street mansion, home of MAA to present Tree Warden Jonathan Fobert were with a check for \$460.

It has been a busy tree year for Marblehead. Dozens of trees came down in 2019 as a result of two significant storms, one at the end of August and a second in October. But before that happened resident, David Hooks swayed residents to support a one-time only Proposition 2 1/2 override for \$50,000 in order to purchase trees for the Pleasant Street/Atlantic Avenue/5 Corners area. And the Tree Department purchased and planted 30 trees with \$8,000 earmarked in the budget for exactly that.

Fobert said the \$460 from the MAA will go into that existing tree fund. He said he's also been working with Sustainable Marblehead on the tree replacement issue. He is also "close, very close," to having a workable plan for the \$50,000 as well.

"It will be a go by spring," he said.

Fobert said he was grateful for the donations since they have a long list of residents wanting trees.

"We're always looking for donations," he added. "It's tough for us to plant on top of everything else we have to do."

With donations, Fobert said they can hire out the planting freeing his department up for maintenance. Anyone wishing to make a donation can contact the Tree Department at 781-631-2721.