

**News Release**

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**Virginia the Beautiful Exhibit at the Fredericksburg Center for Creative Arts**



**Along for the Ride**

**Fredericksburg, Virginia** – The Fredericksburg Center for Creative Arts (FCCA) presents the art exhibit “Virginia the Beautiful”. The exhibit will showcase the photography of Sandy Leigh Skipper. The show will be located in the FCCA Members’ Gallery and opens on July 31 and runs through August 26, the first Friday Opening Reception is on August 5 from 6:00-8:30 pm.

Last July Sandy and Vickey Hluchanek-Monan collaborated on the “Exotic Locales” exhibit in the FCCA Member’s Gallery. For her first large solo exhibition Skipper wanted to highlight the natural allure of the “Old Dominion State”. The premise being that you do not have to visit an exotic place to find beauty in fact you can find it without leaving Virginia. In order to give viewers a representation of the diverse vistas of Virginia she traveled to Leesburg, Virginia Beach, the Eastern Shore, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Shenandoah National Park (Skyline Drive), Fairfield, Montebello, Crabtree Falls, Piney River, Covington, Lexington and Stafford’s Government Island. Exploring the east and west coasts of Virginia was exciting, fun and awe inspiring.

While shooting the photographs for the exhibit Sandy tried to capture the gravity defying grace of butterflies and the expressive personalities of dragonflies and the birds of the Eastern Shore. She experimented with taking shots of the moving water of streams, rivers, an ocean and a bay with various and surprising results. Sandy photographed one of eight covered bridges in the state

along with a mill that began operation in 1794. Troubleshooting the fog on the Skyline Drive journey was a fun challenge. Her goal was to provide a unique prospective of familiar scenes in addition to including some unexpected places and creatures.

There will be a contest during the “Virginia the Beautiful” exhibit. Visitors to FCCA will have a chance to guess where in Virginia the photograph *Along for the Ride* was taken. A winner will be randomly selected from the entries with the correct answer. The prize for the contest is an 11x14 print of *Along for the Ride*. The purpose of the contest is to help draw awareness to the arts in Fredericksburg and to introduce people to the Fredericksburg Center for Creative Arts.



**Ripples**

Sandy Leigh Skipper considers her hobby photography her passion. She loves taking photos of nature, animals, buildings and whatever else strikes her fancy. She has exhibited at the Fredericksburg Center for Creative Arts, PONSHP, LibertyTown Arts Workshop, the Fredericksburg Photo Show and Bistro Bethem. Sandy has been selected for over 20 national and regional exhibits since 2008. She is a Virginia Railway Express 15th Anniversary photo contest winner. Her picture of Quantico

Station won best station photograph. Sandy has won honorable mention in regional shows and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a national show. She serves on the FCCA Publicity Committee.

The Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts (FCCA) is an all-volunteer non-profit organization supporting the creative arts in Fredericksburg, Virginia. FCCA is located in the Historic Silversmith House, *circa* 1785 and a Partner of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Monthly, FCCA brings new art exhibits, special programs and events, art trips, and art classes for all ages to the Fredericksburg community. These events are planned and organized entirely by volunteer members, and funded through member and community support.

**Location: 813 Sophia Street Fredericksburg, VA 22401**

**Hours: Open 12:00-4:00 pm Wednesday – Monday 11:00 am-4:00 pm Saturday, (Closed Tues.)**

**Main Phone: (540) 373-5646**

**Website: <http://www.fccava.org/>**