

Annual Wooden Boat Show Poster Contest 2026

The Southport Wooden Boat Show, once again in collaboration with Franklin Square Gallery, is pleased and excited to announce the Annual SWBS **Poster** Contest. As in the past, we are looking for local artists to submit their artwork for judging in this annual event. To qualify for entry in this contest, artists must have at least a General Membership in the Associated Artists of Southport/Franklin Square Gallery. We strongly encourage local artists who are not currently members to please contact Kim Kirk at creativespirit@ec.rr.com for membership details or consult the website at Franklinsquaregallery.com.

Below are the guidelines:

1. The artwork should feature wooden boats, be clearly distinguished as such, and entice the viewer to appreciate the beauty and heritage of wooden boats of our region.
2. It is preferred the subject of the painting be of a classical or traditional design, old or new. Examples:
 - Working vessels such as a shrimp boat, tuna boat, bill fish boat, menhaden boat, etc.
 - Sailing vessels
 - Skiffs
 - Dinghy
3. All submissions should be presented unframed.
4. The gallery will be accepting submittals to the vault **April 16-21**.
5. The orientation should be "Portrait" to better accommodate the poster and tee shirt layout. *Note that a "Landscape" orientation could result in cropping for poster layout.
6. The winning artist is asked to make themselves available for poster signing at the Franklin Square Gallery on the **first Friday evening in September and on the first Saturday in November at the SWBS event**. The winning artist will have their own tent at the Show to autograph posters for those who buy them.

The contest selection will be held April 22 at the Franklin Square Gallery by the SWBS committee, and the winner will be announced in the State Port Pilot. All submitted artwork not chosen can later be framed and will hang in the gallery for the September First Friday Gallery Walk and for the remainder of that month.

Please let Carol Kidd (carolskis@earthlink.net) know that you plan to enter the show and she will contact you further about bringing art to the gallery.

For an idea of previous winners, all posters proudly hang in the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Southport.

Note: While there is no monetary compensation, this does provide much publicity and exposure for the winning artist.