

## Bancroft Studio Tour continues to grow in 2015



By Tony Pearson

Into its third decade as a local arts focus, the annual Bancroft Studio Tour has grown again, with 22 artists presenting at 17 different sites, up from 20 artists last year. In keeping with established custom, the tour again mixes veterans with 'newbies'. Some artists are brand-new to the area, although well-known in other regions - for example, Joyce Burkholder of Wilno, an established Madawaska Valley exhibitor. Others are returning after some years absence - for example, wood turner John Olesen. Other artists have branched out and are exhibiting in new genres - for example, Margot Merritt has added alcohol-ink painting to her regular stained glass métier. And some artists are working in genres that are new to the tour itself - for example, Wendy Taxis in wire sculpture, and Miriam Hookings in clothing she calls 'Wearable Art'. Convenor Karen Istead remarks that this year, 'there's something for most every taste.'

Istead also notes that only the tour only encompasses two weekends, the exhibitors are year-round artists. The tour brochures gives contact information, including many websites, for those who wish to think about a purchase or commission one.