

need help until near dark. In those cases, EPCSAR will be out looking at night with cooling temperatures and a higher risk of injury to all involved.

We have had two very similar missions in about the same location. Last spring, we again had a good latitude/longitude location, hiked up the icy Ice Cave Creek Trail, located the lost hiker, gave them traction devices (Microspikes), and were able to walk her back down to the reservoir road

and drive her back to her vehicle in the daylight. The previous year, a hiker called 9-1-1 at dusk. We found her at 10 p.m. and walked her down and out of the same area.

In all three of these searches, the subjects were less than 100 yards from the trail, but with the realization they were lost, wisely made the 9-1-1 call and stayed put, making it possible for us to locate them quickly. In each of these cases, the hikers had cell phone coverage and Dispatch was able to provide a close

enough location to start our searches. Even with this valuable location information, it is still typically two hours before a SAR member can hope to contact the lost person. The 9-1-1 paging process, driving to the staging area, getting enough people for a team, making a search plan, coordinating radio channels, determining resources needed, hiking in—they all take time. We always search in a minimum of pairs, because there are too many risks in the woods to be out alone day or

night.

Thanks to Lonquist and the other SAR team members who provide a wonderful service to our hiking/biking community. As mentioned earlier, Keith is also a certified K9 search dog handler. Search dogs can take the effort to a level humans can't achieve—searching for scent. I hope to include more of Keith's expertise in this area in future "On the Trail" columns.

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High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

Early birds for gardens and mucho mulch



Above and right: May is a good time in our area to enjoy bulbs and seeds such as the columbine planted the previous autumn, yet seeds can be planted for successful wildflowers, garden flowers, and other seedlings that will thrive later in June, July, and even August. *Photos by Janet Sellers.*

By Janet Sellers

Our hummingbirds arrived recently. I saw one flying over my garden mid-April, but they have had to hide during our cold spells. Hummingbirds go into a state of deep sleep called torpor, sort of like a hibernation, to survive cold, and they also go into torpor when they sleep at night. Their metabolism will lower to 1/15th of normal, and body tem-

perature drops to a point of nearly hypothermic.

We can help our delicate birds with a supply of clean, fresh water. Many people have heated water bowls to accommodate the late freezing temperatures we often get in May. While it's great fun to supply hummingbird sugar nectar feeders, water is easier, cleaner, and much more needed in our area. Many more kinds of birds will come to water sources than are attracted

to the various feeders offered, so water is a good bird magnet. Water can be placed in dishes placed to hang like bird feeders, in shallow dishes or small water features. Placing rocks for the songbirds to perch on and take a sip will bring the most success, as most songbirds cannot lean out or stand in water over a half inch or so.

In the garden for May, we have a local saying that we put in seeds or can buy plants around Mother's Day, but don't put them in the ground until Memorial Day. Our weather varies so greatly in May, my best advice is to put thick mulch over the garden areas. I use pine needle straw over my seedlings and plants because it stays put even with windy, rainy, or snowy weather, and I use it for my garden paths as well. The pine straw is free to rake up or get from neighbors who raked them up, and I put them 4 to 6 inches deep for early plant protection.

The seedlings can grow up through them, and they gradually turn into rich soil over the course of the growing season. Myth has it that pine needles are acidic, but that's just not so. When planting seedlings using good, amended soil

with the pine needle straw cover, the composition of the pine needles do not affect what is growing in the garden from underneath. In the forest, seeds cannot get down through the pine needles to the soil in order to get started, and that is why we don't have lots of weeds around pine forests.

In May, we can plant seeds for our greens out in the garden, and many other plants, if mulched well, will begin to grow but wait for the warmth to take root and thrive, likely in June. I've successfully planted most of the community garden in greens and started snow peas and beans, even squashes and pumpkins by May, but they have needed 6 inches of mulch for protection.

Flowers from last year will begin popping up, both annuals from seed and perennials, and we can safely plant flower seeds if mulched well, or birds will consider them a grab and go feeding.

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Art Matters

Crypto art, an online-only prize

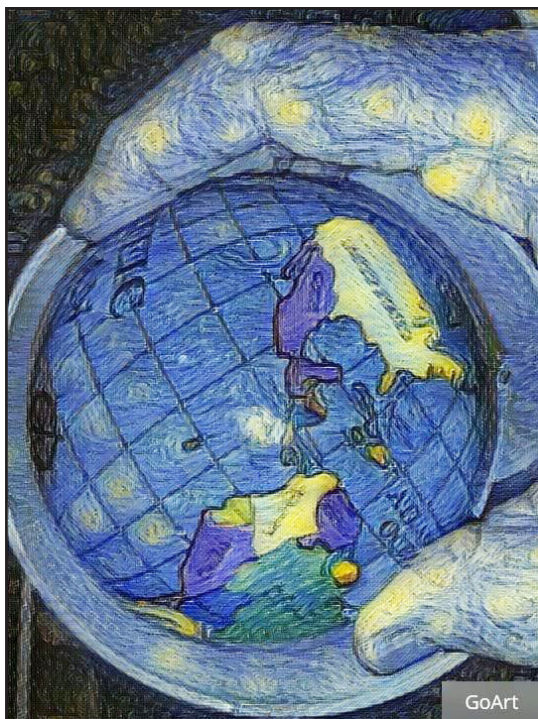


By Janet Sellers

"...You can think of SuperRare like Instagram meets Christie's. A new way to interact with art, culture, and collecting on the internet!"—SuperRare website.

Many artists and galleries have had to open online venues due to the pandemic limiting social gatherings. On my art radar of late is the world of collectables, including the spectacular niche genre of digital collectibles. Besides being a new cultural activity, it's gaining tremendous interest as a social activity, albeit online at "galleries" such as SuperRare, which explains, "SuperRare is a marketplace to collect and trade unique, single-edition digital artworks. Each artwork is authentically created by an artist in the network and tokenized as a crypto-collectible digital item that you can own and trade."

When I stumbled upon this new-to-me genre (it's been going since 2013 or 2014), I thought back



Left: These kinds of images, if only available online, could be considered crypto art, which are only electronically generated, electronically transacted, electronically owned, and based on blockchain technology. A blockchain collects information together in groups, also known as blocks, that hold sets of information. Blockchain is used in ever-growing industrial applications and is now a vital element in the protection of digital artworks. *Imagery courtesy of Janet Sellers.*

tected artwork is bought and sold among collectors amid the (to many of us) confounding systems recorded in the blockchain ecosystem.

These reminded me of sports trading cards or Pokémon trading cards but in an online ecosystem. Yet, it's not just for playtime anymore. On March 11, 2021, Beeple, (real name Mike Winkelmann) auctioned a piece of crypto art at Christie's, *Everydays: The First*

5000 Days, that sold for \$69.3 million (with fees), making it the third-highest price paid at auction for a work by a living artist.

One of the factors of the system is that artists sell their work for a specific NFT price but they also have rights to receive royalties from the primary as well as secondary art market sales, something that has been denied many artists of all levels in brick-and-mortar galleries and global platform markets.

Why do people buy works of art? Physical or not, art collecting relates to the primal desire of connectivity. At its very core, it's still an asset-based support of the arts and artists. Collectors will collect, whether it's art, model trains, baseball cards, or whatever it is they're on the hunt for, and in this case, the crypto art in its own ecosystem is the ultimate prize.

Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, and lecturer locally and globally, in person and online. JanetSellers@OCN.Me.