

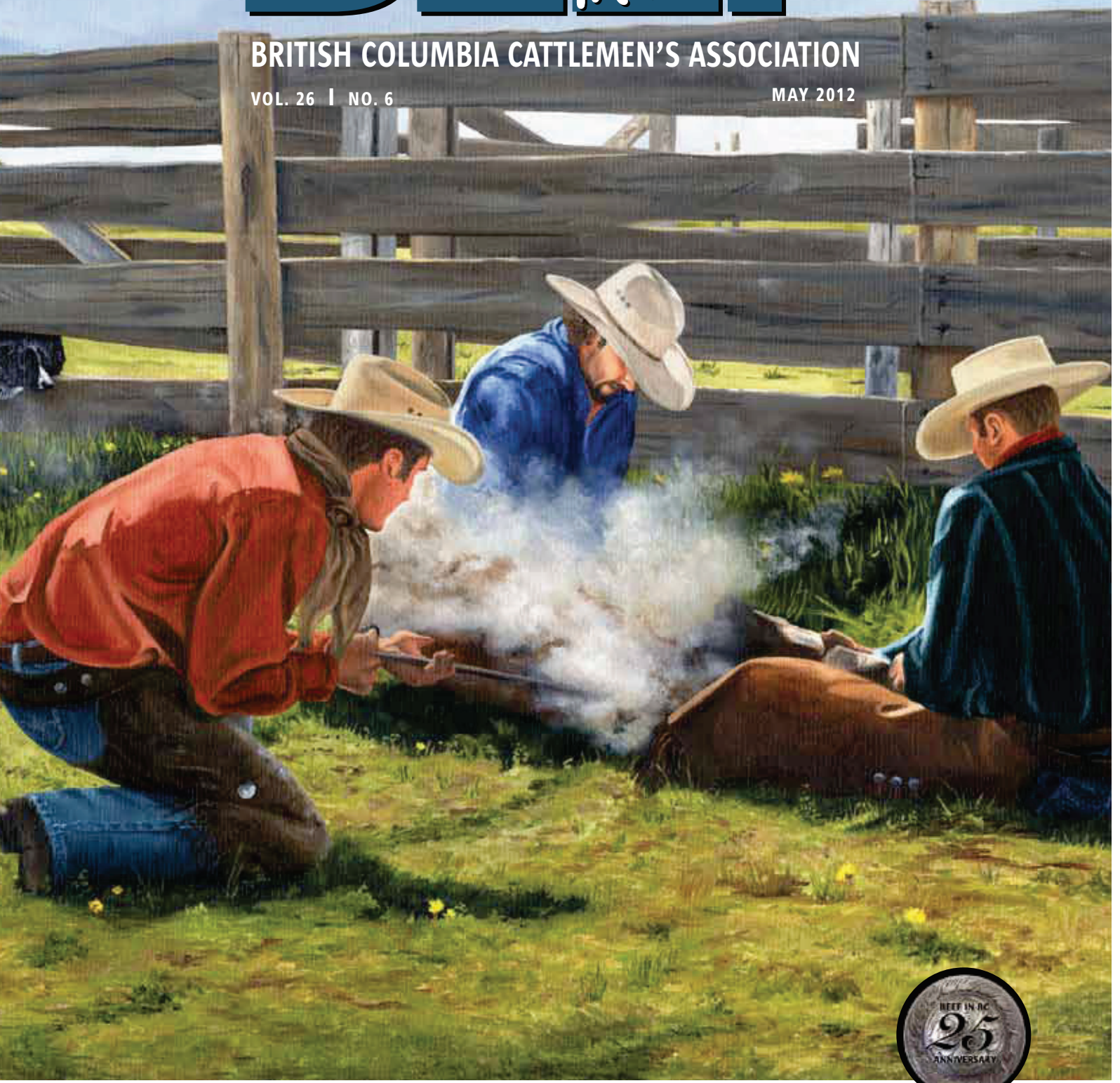
BEEF*in BC*

Price \$3.50

BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

VOL. 26 | NO. 6

MAY 2012

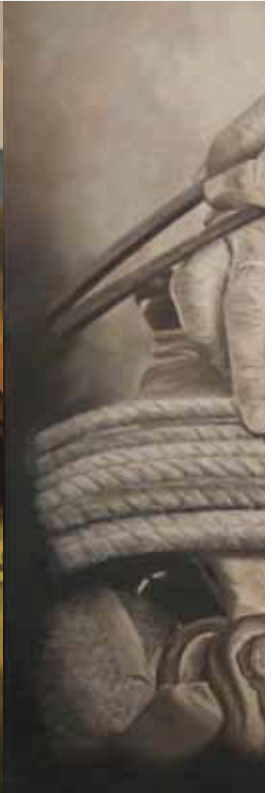


10 | AGM 24 | AG WASTE REGS 42 | ALFALFA WINTERKILL 56 | FEEDING DISTILLER'S GRAINS

Lesley White *Cowboy Inspiration*

Lesley White

Ol' Blu, 17.5x23



Lesley White is forever inspired by life on the ranch; the stories of the people, the beauty of the animals and the scenic landscapes. Painting exclusively with oils, Lesley has always had a deep appreciation for people who pursue the farming lifestyle and live the life they love. "I go back to my roots, in my early years, when I would visit my grandparent's farm in Manitoba. I've always loved rural living; the feeling, the smells and the vision of ranching."

About 15 years ago, Lesley decided to quit her day job as a dental assistant to pursue her passion for painting full time. Lesley first started out painting every subject that came to mind, but then decided to narrow her focus to become more adept at one area rather than mediocre at many. Lesley realized that she was much happier when painting the cowboy lifestyle, and decided to focus her paintings on that. "I love meeting the people behind the painting. Rural people are so welcoming and grounded; I admire that. I love to hear their interesting stories and their true love for their animals."

Currently residing in Prince George, Lesley enjoys going horseback riding with her brother and traveling around to the local ranches, stopping at places that look interesting to take photos as a reference for her paintings. "It is so much easier now with digital cameras, sometimes I will use 3 or 4 photos for one painting- with light coming from any direction it works well for me to use as a reference point." Lesley and her husband spend their spring and summer months on the road doing photo shoots, and visiting ranching families all over BC, Alberta and even in Montana and Idaho. "Ranching families are always so accommodating; it amazes me how many people have invited me in to photograph their families and animals. I go on these photo shoots because I really enjoy meeting my subjects. It is very important for me to meet whomever it is - animal or

human, as it really helps me to capture the personality and character of my subject in the way that I paint."

Lesley is a self taught artist who has developed and honed her skills through workshops, by studying the masters, but most of all by putting miles on the paint brush every day. "I find oil is the best suited to my type of work, using the malleability and blending in the rich color. The slow drying time is also an advantage. It allows for contemplation at varying times and I can make changes throughout the process." The art market is constantly changing and Lesley has continued to grow and develop her skills to reach beyond every day. "I have been very lucky to be able to pursue my passion in life. It has been an amazing journey and it has led way beyond anywhere I had ever expected. I went from an eight square foot working space, to now working in my own studio and traveling around to different art shows and competitions with my paintings."

When asked about her favorite painting, Lesley told the story of a border collie working dog painting called Business as Usual. This working dog is special because he was born deaf. The owner didn't realize he was deaf until time went on and he started training the puppy. The breeder offered the owner another dog, and today these two dogs work the cattle together. "I was just amazed by this beautiful border collie with a receiver around his neck, who did everything he was asked by using hand signals," explains Lesley.

Last year, Lesley was awarded the "People's Choice" at the Kamloops Cowboy Festival for her painting called Eternally Loyal. In this particular piece, Lesley captures a handsome yellow Labrador Retriever laying at the base of his master's gravesite. This summer, Lesley has been accepted to participate in the Calgary Stampede's live western art auction. In years

Qualified, 20x16

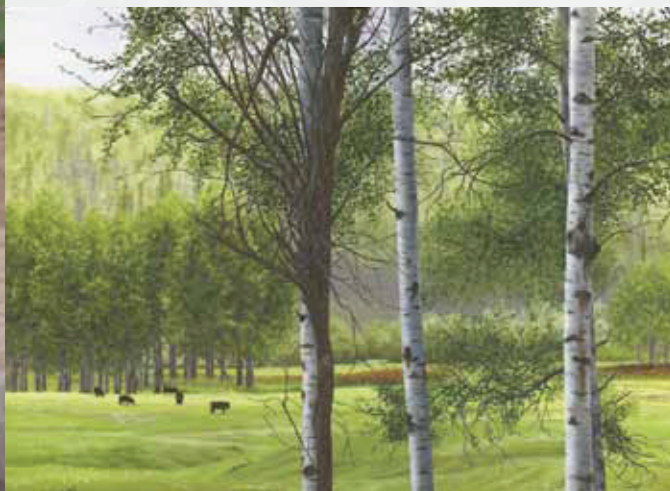


Business as Usual, 24x18



Walking my Baby Back Home, 16x20

Grazing Angus, 18x24



past, she has also submitted paintings to various art shows such as the Ducks Unlimited Art Print Portfolio, Horses in Art, and Salon International. "I like to go to local shows here in Prince George and I have a solo exhibition at the Station House Gallery in Williams Lake." Lesley also keeps current with her website, artist blog and monthly newsletter.

"I try to paint what moves me as an artist and a human being and capture that feeling on canvas to celebrate that rewarding life, giving it a lasting voice through my work. I will be doing this for the rest of my life," says Lesley.

If you would like Lesley to add your ranch to the list of destinations on her summer photo shoot tour, you can send her an email at Lesley@oilbyLesley.com or give her a call 250-563-2299. You can also view more of Lesley's artwork on her website www.oilbylesley.com.

Brooke Madley



The Nonconformist, 18x24

Auction Day, 16x20



Ready, Willing and Able, 15x30



Beef in BC welcomes suggestions for the artist profile.
Email: editor@beefinbc.ca