

Ohio Watercolor Society

March/April 2023 Newsletter

In this issue:

- Watercolor Ohio 2023 Update
- Ohio Watercolor Society History
- Grow OWS
- Watercolor Ohio 2024
- News from Around Ohio

Watercolor Ohio 2023

Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield, Ohio July 6 – August 23



As those of you who read my MailChimp messages know, it's been a bumpy road to Mansfield! For those who don't read them, I'll bring you up to date.

Everything seemed to be in place – until things weren't. Unlike four years ago, we are unable to take in our paintings at the MAC due to another exhibition. Also unlike four years ago, our Juror won't be able to make his selections there, forcing us to seek another location for both activities. Thanks to **Karen Jennings**, we have another location for both activities, and that will be announced when the Accepted Artists letters go out.

The biggest surprise came when we learned that the date set for our Reception and Awards Banquet this year coincides with "Inkcarceration," a music and tattoo festival that will take place at the old Mansfield Prison. Probably a fun event, but it will also attract 25,000 visitors to Mansfield each day over the three-day weekend. Driving will be a nightmare, not to mention every restaurant in town filled to capacity and exorbitant hotel rates, too.

We decided to move back our reception and banquet. Rather than Saturday, July 15, both are now scheduled for Saturday, July 22. In another complication, the banquet venue **Pat Edwards** and **Peg Stover**, our Banquet Chairs found, was insisting on a signature to hold our event asap, and I had to make a quick decision to find another location.

We will now be holding our awards banquet at Der Dutchman in Belleville, just off I-71. While Der Dutchman has a great reputation for its food and friendliness, there are a couple of changes to our regular format. Der Dutchman is buffet style, not plated, and it is also dry. There will be a "cocktail hour," but with non-alcoholic beverages only. Seating will be at long tables rather than round tables, but the banquet rooms are large and comfortable. As Monty Python might say "And now for something completely different!"

While things didn't turn out exactly as planned, I want to thank **Pat Edwards** and **Peg Stover** for all the time they spent making calls, visiting venues and making contacts with banquet managers. They volunteered to help, and did what they could given difficult circumstances.

The rest should work out as planned. **Kevin Buckland**, our Workshop Chair, has been in contact with Stan Miller, the Juror, and with staff at MAC. It's looking like we'll have a full workshop with 16 eager students. Thanks, Kevin! The workshop will, as in the past, be held in the workroom at MAC, a very good facility.

All else is unchanged, so, we're back on track and looking good.

See you all soon.
Mike



President's Message

Just like Spring, Change is on the Way

It was a little difficult yesterday to take the coming of Spring seriously as I cleared two driveways of 6" of snow. But, Spring is on the way, and thoughts naturally turn to watercolor and to exhibits and to websites.

Soon our members will be taking advantage of warming days and drier weather to do a little plein air painting, to photograph possible landscapes or cityscapes to be done in the studio, and to possible exhibit venues where they might compare their efforts to those of their peers. And yes, by the time you read this, the deadline for Watercolor Ohio 2023 will have come and many of us will be holding our breath as we await the verdict of Stan Miller. It's an exciting and scary time.

While we all wait to see what chance brings, many are also hard at work to play a more deliberate role in planning the future of our own painting careers and of OWS.

Two years ago I asked members to share their ideas of what we should do as a group to make OWS better – to Grow it and Revitalize it. I stressed that we aren't looking for a quick fix, but for the right fix. Lots of your suggestions pointed to an updated website that could not only pass on information but offer more services and advantages to our members. That process continues quietly but deliberately in the background under the guid-

ance of Trustee Jen Sowders and with the help of other board members with good expertise in the field.

We recently attended a Zoom meeting with a website developer to get a feel for what can be done, what should be done, and yes, how much all that will cost. It was a good meeting, and I think we all left it with renewed dedication to the process. Next steps include approaching other developers to get comparisons before we commit to one of them.

We've already begun the movement of a number of our services to digital only, making them more efficient, reliable and accessible. In doing so we've also begun to save money for OWS in reduced printing and mailing costs.

We will be moving on now to what can be added to the site, making it more helpful to members in terms of public awareness and outreach and other new features we might make available to the public and to members only.

It won't happen all at once, but it is gathering momentum, and that's what's important. Just like Spring, change at OWS is on the way. Stay tuned!

Mike



Member Tips

Sadly, though we had high hopes for the TIPS column, it proved not to be of sufficient interest to the readership, and has been discontinued. There will always be a space in our heart and in our newsletter for the column, and we hope to resume it down the line. All that has to happen is for members to send a simple bench tip or two, and we can share what we get with everyone. For now, adieu!

Ohio Watercolor Society Watermedia Seminar

STRETCHING BOUNDARIES FOR CREATIVE PEOPLE

Sharon Stolzenberger

This highly successful series of biennial seminars was conceived and organized by **Marilyn Phillis** and sponsored by the Ohio Watercolor Society. The first seminar took place in Fairborn, Ohio at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in 1993. With one exception, these seminars took place every two years, starting in Fairborn, then held at the Sheraton Place Hotel in Cuyahoga Falls, and finally Sawmill Resort on Lake Erie. The last seminar was in 2010.



Jean Deemer and Marilyn Phillis

“Stretching Boundaries for Creative People” was unique in that Marilyn organized the format as a sampler of mini workshops over the course of the three or four day seminar which allowed participants the opportunity to avail themselves of the many disciplines and instructors. Marilyn selected nationally, regionally and locally known watermedia artists, educators and



Ted Vassar, Karen Benedetti, and Chris Leeper

creative professionals. The roster included painters, authors, art therapists, ceramicists, print makers, university professors, gallery owners and the performing arts. Marilyn’s reputation on the national watermedia art scene insured that she had no trouble scheduling instructors and presenters.



Marilyn at a Creativity Seminar

Attendees could register for a variety of classes from a list of demos and workshops some of which might be two hours long or a half day, others were a full day in length, and there were a few where the instructor taught a full two or three day workshop for the seminar. Along with the classes was a trade show featuring demos, hands-on activities, plus art supplies, materials, books, etc. sponsored by companies such as Cheap Joe’s, Golden and others. Many attendees were entertained by Joe Miller’s performance as Vincent Van Gogh one year.

The evening banquets brought everyone together for lively discussion and the treat of a keynote speaker, usually one of the presenters, but sometimes someone outside the classroom. The Montana Logging Company was a singing troupe of young men who put on a performance at nearby Kent State on one occasion.

continued -next page

Ohio Watercolor Society History

Ohio Watercolor Society Watermedia Seminar

STRETCHING BOUNDARIES FOR CREATIVE PEOPLE

Sharon Stolzenberger

continued from page 3

It was truly a rarified atmosphere of total immersion in the creative process and getting “high” off the collective energy of everyone in attendance.

As you might expect, it took an army of volunteers to help make these seminars a reality. Those who knew Marilyn Phillis knew how hard it was to say “no” to her. Her organizational skills, determination and her enthusiasm and support for her fellow artists was infectious and everyone wanted to be a part of that energy. **Jean Deemer** eventually became Marilyn’s right hand woman, and **Barbara Zentgraf** was the stalwart treasurer. But at the time, there was hardly a member of OWS who didn’t have a helping hand in some aspect of the seminar.



Hal Scroggy Demo for Cheap Joe's

CELEBRATING THE CREATIVE SPIRIT

While **Marilyn Phillis** was still involved in organizing “Stretching the Boundaries for Creative People” for OWS, she established her own series of workshops, “Celebrating the Creative Spirit”, at Sandscrest Conference and Retreat Center in Wheeling, West Virginia. This was an annual week-long workshop emphasizing the creative nature that is a natural part of each being.

In the words of **Carol Stevens**, who was Marilyn’s friend, fellow artist and assistant at Sandscrest Conference and Retreat Center: *Her present, gentle smile of encouragement gave us the confidence to experiment, open new doors and find our own personal language to paint. Her enthusiasm and excitement to create were contagious with joy. No puzzle was too great to solve with persistence and thoughtfulness. She was the kindest, gentlest soul I have ever met. Sandscrest was her dream she so generously shared with those of us lucky enough to be there.*



Creativity Seminar - Fred Graff and class

Marilyn Hughey Phillis, died on December 29, 2022 at the age of 95. Marilyn was a former president and founding member of the Ohio Watercolor Society and a winner of its Jim Brower Lifetime Achievement Award. OWS has received donations to establish a Memorial Award for the Annual Juried Exhibition in her honor.

WATERCOLOR OHIO 2024 - A Look Ahead



We'll, it's time to gaze into the crystal ball and have a peek at what's in store for us next year. First, through, let's address the oxymoron in the room: The view in a crystal ball is not always crystal clear, and 2024 is a good example of that.

In a nutshell, while we don't have a contract yet, I can clearly say that, thanks to **Sharon Stolzenberger**, we're very close to signing an excellent gallery with beautiful workshop space that can easily hold 20 students and Juror, and provide all they need to have an excellent learning experience.

Even better, the gallery will hold up to 80 paintings. It will be another large exhibition— great opportunity to let your work shine.

So, with those tantalizing bits in your head, return your gaze to 2023 and focus on enjoying the fruits of this year's labors. Try to visit the main show in Mansfield, but, if you can't, be sure to visit one of the several Travel Show venues that will host 32 paintings selected by Stan Miller to represent the best of Ohio 2023, including all the award winners. Our new Travel Show Coordinator, **George Kocar**, is working on that schedule right now.

And yes, we're hard at work on Watercolor Ohio 2025! The fun never stops!

Mike

GROW OWS

Stay connected with the Ohio Watercolor Society!

Check out our Instagram page:

<https://instagram.com/ohiowatercolorsociety>

Are you on Facebook?

Follow the Ohio Watercolor Society page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ohiowatercolorsociety>



Travel Show at the Marathon Center for Performing Arts



Our travel show reception at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts on March 10, from 5-7pm was a wonderful evening thanks to the volunteerism and donations of our Northwest Ohio members. **Tom Sorrell** and **Janealla Killebrew** drew admiration and a lot of good water-media related questions while painting demos throughout the evening. **Dennis Zimmerman**, **Barbara Hahn**, **Martin Chappuies** and **Jennifer Sowders** also attended. Prospectuses and OWS membership information were on hand for our visitors but the hot topic of the evening for members was: "Have you sent in your entry for WatercolorOhio 2023 yet?"

Do members in your area of the state do anything that could double as an outreach to "Grow OWS"? Contact **Mike McEnroe** and share your good ideas: miketab48@gmail.com



Tom Sorrell demonstration



Janealla Killebrew demonstration



Three NW region award winners: Martin Chappuies, Jennifer Sowders, Tom Sorrell



Member News:

News which may be printed includes: awards, publications, solo or small group shows (*other than our OWS exhibitions*), serving on juries, additions to permanent collections, signature membership in *other art societies*, participation in art festivals and other unusual art adventures. Please make sure news is briefly and clearly expressed...but please send news to your reporter!



NEWS from the CENTRAL AREA

Pam Hartford reporting
Contactus@celticartistsllc.com

Rick Mock's painting, titled *The Birdwatcher*, was chosen for the 2023 Bryn Du Art show in Granville, Ohio at the Bryn Du Mansion. There were 683 entries and only 80 were selected for the show. Rick also provided a demonstration at the mansion titled *Special Occasion* which featured a bottle of red wine, a glass of red wine and some flowers in a glass vase. The show runs until the end of March.

In late January, **Leslie Laufman** hosted a booth at the Southwest Art Festival at the Polo Grounds in Indio. In late February and early March, Leslie hosted three successive weekend shows at Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells and Palm Desert, sponsored by West Coast Artists. The challenge in the desert is the wind, since rain rarely happens, even when the rest of the state is getting soaked.

In Florida, **Fran Mangino** was awarded Signature Membership with Florida Watercolor Society.

Suzanne Accetta's *Shadows of Hope* was selected for the 2023 Transparent Watercolor Society of America 47th Annual Exhibition. The exhibition is being held at the Kenosha Public Museum, 5500



First Avenue, Kenosha, Wisconsin. Suzanne's painting, *Shattered*, was also accepted into the Watercolor Society of Alabama's National Exhibition. Her painting, *Fly High Our Julie*, was accepted into the Georgia Watercolor Society's National Exhibition. Juror **Chris Leeper** awarded Suzanne a honorable mention in the South Carolina online exhibition."

Susan Brickner-Wren is having her first solo art exhibit at Innis House of Inniswood Metro Gardens, Westerville, OH. The exhibit includes original watercolor paintings and some of her favorite photography, including red-headed woodpeckers and barred owls in the park.

Vivian Ripley is just finishing up her 8-week classes and will start again with the Spring session in mid-April. There will be two one-day classes: *Watercolor Pencil and More* on April 30 and *Want a Lift? - Try These Watercolor Grounds* on May 20. Please call Upper Arlington Parks and Recreation at 614.583.5300 or 614.583.5331 to register for a class.

Vivian is also looking forward to the coming season at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, West Virginia (no relation to her!). She will be teaching *Acrylic: Bold and Free* on April 21-23 and a week-long class titled, *Watercolor: A Fresh Approach*, starting August 13-18. Call 304.372.7860 for a beautiful setting and relaxed learning experience.

The COWS 2023 Spring Exhibition will open April 6 and go through May 24, 2023. The 32 paintings will have a theme related to literature, books, or experiences at the library. The artist reception will be Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 2-4pm at The Carnegie Gallery, Columbus Metropolitan Library-Main, 96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.

Member News continued on page 8



NEWS from the NORTHEAST

Gail Peters reporting
5491 Winfield Drive
Mentor, OH 44060
440.257.9341
gailpeters740@gmail.com

Karen Miraldi had a solo exhibition with 150 pieces, *Bringing In The Light* at the Stocker Center Gallery at Lorain County Community College from February 24 through March 23. photos by Ron Jantz.



Joan Satow accepted an invitation to participate in a group exhibit at Yards Gallery located in the Worthington Yards residential apartments at 725 Johnson Court in downtown Cleveland. The exhibit is titled *The Cleveland Show* and will feature "non-typical Cleveland" and is being curated by Cheryl Lynn Craver and Cheyanne Jefferies. It will run November 30 through January 6, 2024. The opening reception is Thursday, November 30 from 5:30 - 8pm.

OWS Signature Member, **Gary A. Johnston**, 72, sadly passed away unexpectedly on January 10, 2023 in Charleston, SC surrounded by his wife, daughter and son. As well as golf, Gary was also passionate about painting. In 2005 he began studying watercolor painting. Gary took classes and workshops from dozens of artists over the years. He was a prolific painter and practiced his craft daily. Gary's paintings are sold in galleries, as commissioned works and at art fairs. A memorial service was held on January 28, 2023 at Weymouth Country Club, Medina, Ohio.



Three of **Nancy Notarianni's** watercolors were juried into the Annual BayArts Juried Show for 2023. *Bird's Nest*, *Snowy Town Center*, and *Woman Braiding Her Hair*. The opening reception was March 10 from 5-8pm. The show will be up until April 15 at the Sullivan Family Gallery in Bay Village, OH.

The jurors, Adrian Eisenhower and Chad Cochran, reviewed almost 500 submissions chose 86 unique pieces.

Other OWS members in the show are **Micki Ansberry**, **Donna Bargar**, **George Kocar**, and **Joan Satow**.

Note from our President:

Gail Peters has asked us to find someone to take over her correspondent duties after many years on the job. I hope one among you will have the time to help us keep acquainted with the goings on in the Northeast. Three times a year, the OWS Newsletter is posted to keep all of us up to date with individual experiences, paintings, exhibits, etc. Rather than have fifty people send items individually to our Editor, we ask that members within each region send them to a volunteer. The Correspondent then collects the articles and photos, does minor editing, if necessary, then emails their report to the editor by deadline. The current Correspondents are listed on the last page of the newsletter.

If you're interested and want to make a difference to all of us, please let me know at: miketab48@gmail.com or call me at: 440.669.0886.



NEWS from the SOUTH

Thomas Schroeder reporting
513.324.8615
Tmschroeder@gmail.com

The Greater Cincinnati Watercolor Society meeting facility experienced major plumbing pipe freeze and water damage over the winter requiring them to meet in an alternate site. Their meetings in the near future will be at the Brent Elementary School cafeteria. Once the repairs are made, they expect to return to their normal meeting place, Arts Connect. The GCWS has had a demo from Wyn Erikson (Louisville) and have scheduled demos by **Kay Worz**, Rodney Reveal and **Kathryn Dailey** in the next few months.

Kay Worz received an *Artistic Excellence* award from Fusion Art Competition for her painting, *Focused*. Fusion Art offers online competitions with a variety of subjects each month.



Tom Schroeder's painting, *Best Friends*, won an Honorable Mention in *Artists Magazine's* 2nd Annual Best of Show/ Pets Art Competition. The piece will be part of their online presentation in April.



Dan Knepper's painting, *Black Horse and a Cherry Tree*, was included in *Realism Today's* article, *11 Contemporary Paintings of Horses*.



Dan's painting, *The Cutting Horse*, is in the current issue of *Plein Air Magazine* as winner of Best Western in the Plein Air Salon. It will also appear in the January 2023 issue of *Artists Magazine* as the 2nd place winner in their annual contest.

And Dan is honored to be included in the article *Best Watercolor Portraits by Famous Artists*, - *Fine Art Blogger*.



NEWS from the NORTHWEST

Micki Ansberry reporting
mickihuron@gmail.com

Jennifer Sowders will be displaying landscape paintings of Ohio's Parks and Preserves at the John Glenn Columbus International Airport's "Gateway to the Arts" Gallery for the months of April and May as a member of the Ohio Art League: <https://oal.org/airport>. Also, she will be jurying entries in the "Art & About 2023: Jim White Memorial Paint Out" to be held June 22-24, 2023 in Waterville, OH..

OFFICERS

President

Mike McEnroe
440.669.0886 miketab48@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Position vacant

2nd Vice president

Li Baker
440.339.9615 lbaker8647@gmail.com

3rd Vice President

Position vacant

Treasurer

Aileen Cave
937.631.5713 aileencave@ymail.com

Recording Secretary

Aileen Cave
937.631.5713 aileencave@ymail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Lynne Rosati
330.501.2594 lynnemariosati@gmail.com

Interim Membership Secretary

Mike McEnroe
440.669.0886 miketab48@gmail.com

TRUSTEES (Term Runs January 1 – December 31 of the given years)

2022-2024 TERM

Thomas Schroeder Cincinnati
513.324.8615
tmschroeder@ymail.com

Rick Surowicz Medina
330.668.1980
rwsurowicz@roadrunner.com

Rob VanNatta Walnut Creek
330.473.7805
rvannatta@mac.com

2023-2025 TERM

Li Baker Waite Hill
440.339.9615
lbaker8647@gmail.com

Kevin Buckland Lewis Center
614.543.0000
kevin@bucklandgillespie.com

Jennifer Sowders Fostoria
567.245.1179
mongalleryandart@gmail.com

2024-2026 TERM

George Kocar Bay Village
440.723.1195
georgekocar@gmail.com

Rick Mock Powell
614.216.9889
rickmockart@gmail.com

Sharon Stolzenberger Kettering
937.299.7707
sstolz0235@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENTS

Don Getz, 1978-1988
Homer Hacker, 1988-1990
Marilyn Hughey Phillis, 1990-1996
Jean Deemer, 1996-2000

Beverly Reiley, 2000-2004
Theodore W. Vassar, 2004-2008
Chris Leeper, 2008-2012
Barbara Rollins, 2012-2016

Immediate Past President:

Tom Sorrell, 2016-2020

Exhibition Travel Show Coordinator

George Kocar
georgekocar@gmail.com

Permanent Collection Curator–Open Membership Secretary–Open

Newsletter Editor/Exhibition Catalog

Nancy Notarianni
440.364.3501 nnotari@sbcglobal.net

Angel/Patron Coordinator

Jeanette Bill-Cole
216.543.8797 gsc8907@sbcglobal.net

www.ohiowatercolorsociety.org



Ohio Watercolor Society
Box 350301
Toledo, OH 43635

Regional News should be addressed to the following correspondents:

Northeast

Gail Peters
gailpeters740@gmail.com

**Southeast
and Southwest**

Tom Schroeder
tmschroeder@ymail.com

Northwest

Micki Ansberry
mickihuron@gmail.com

Central

Pam Hartford
Contactus@celticartistsllc.com

**Next Newsletter –July/August 2023
Deadline: July 14**

This Newsletter accepts NO paid advertising.

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