

PWS HalfSheet

A Publication of the PHILADELPHIA WATER COLOR SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1900

Siv Spurgeon, President

Jane James, Editor

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Right now you are probably in the process of finishing a new masterpiece to be submitted for our 106th Anniversary Exhibition. The creative process is a daunting task and each



piece accepted into the show is a testament to your talent as an artist. But please remember that acceptance is dependent on just one juror's opinion, and make sure you don't take a rejection to heart.

Considering how much effort goes into the creation of the art itself, one would hope that the finished work be treated with enormous respect when taken out into the world on exhibit. But through involvement with the last two Anniversary Exhibitions and our recent Members Exhibition, I have become very concerned about the condition of the work that I see being dropped off.

Please take extra time to carefully scrutinize the work before delivery. Mats (white only) should be clean, frames should be free of damages, the glass or Plexiglas should be clean and free from scratches, and there should be no stickers or remnants of stickers on the glass. The back of the painting should be sealed and in good condition. Entry forms from other venues should have been removed, and done so without leaving scars on the backing paper.

The back of the painting can however be used for attaching information that may be of interest to a potential buyer,

PAINT-OUT SCHEDULED FOR MAY 20 AT JENKINS ARBORETUM

By Nanette Noone

On Saturday May 20, the Society will be hosting a day of Plein Air painting to help you enjoy the beauty of spring. The event will be held at the Jenkins Arboretum in the heart of Devon on Berwyn Baptist Road. We will start the day off at 9:00



Signature Member and former president Jim McFarlane will be our demo artist for the Paint Out

AM with an inspiring demonstration by award winning artist James McFarlane, AWS. Following the demo, you will all have the opportunity to spend the day painting in the company of fellow artists. It sounds like a guarantee for a productive and memorable day! While you are enjoying the gardens, make sure you take time to notice the 30 enormous, fiberglass watering can sculptures, decorated by various area artists, which are on display throughout the Arboretum. The rain date for this event is May 21. The event is free and open to the public. For directions please call Jenkins Arboretum at 610-647-8870 or check their web site at www.jenkinsarboretum.org.

such as your biography or information about awards the particular painting has earned.

Calling attention to the back of the painting may appear petty, but when a painting is offered for sale, we should look at the work as a whole package, the way a buyers will look at it when they pick up their purchases. I would venture to guess that if they pay a hefty price for a painting they have come to cherish, they will be very disappointed to see the back of the painting presented in any other than a professional manner.

So please, those of you who are fortunate to be rewarded with a Letter of Congratulations for the 106th Exhibition, take the same pride in the "packaging" of your art as you do in the art itself.

Have a wonderful spring and summer! Please don't miss our annual paint-out at Jenkins Arboretum on May 20th with a demonstration by James McFarlane, AWS. The event is free and open to the public.

For more thoughts from Siv, see page 4.

SIGNATURE MEMBER NEWS

Jeanne Dobie received Best of Show at the Society of Watercolor Artists, Fort Worth, TX; Gold Medallion, Best of Show Beechmont Award, Adirondack National Exhibition of American Watercolors, NY; Art League of Alexander Award, Mid-Atlantic Regional Exhibition sponsored by the Baltimore Watercolor Society, MD; and Second Prize, Watercolor West, Los Angeles, CA. She was included in exhibitions of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America, Kankakee Museum, IL, and "Things with Wings," Adirondack Arts Guild, NY. She was the keynote speaker at the Florida Watercolor Society convention and has two books published by North Light: *Painting Light and Shade* and *Watercolorist's A to Z of Foliage and Trees*.

Beverly Golembeski had two paintings in the Arts in the Parks in the National Park Academy of the Arts in Jackson Hole, WY. She will be conducting art workshops and tours in Tuscany and Rome and the New York Catskill region. She has her work at the Anchor and Palette Gallery in Bay Head, NJ, until May 21.



Diane Hark, shown above with PA Senator Arlen Specter, will have her mummery panels hanging in the Senator's office.

Guy Lipscomb had paintings accepted in 10 regional and national shows, winning awards in 4 of them.

Charles McVicker, AWS, NWS, had a retrospective show of his artworks at the College of New Jersey in March. He was also the Juror for a NJ American Artists Professional League show at the Bordentown Gallery, NJ, and in March for the Jersey Show art exhibit. His painting, "Bike Rack" won an award in the New Jersey Water Color Society's Open

Show; his painting "August" won the Dagmar Tribble Memorial Award at the Garden State Watercolor Society's Annual Exhibition, and an oil painting, "Morning Mist II", won the Crystal Springs Farm Award at the Phillips Mill, New Hope, PA Juried Exhibition.

Lucy Graves McVicker won the President's Award for "After Hours" at the Garden State Watercolor Society's 36th Annual Open Exhibition, the Anne Gardocki Award for a mixed media painting, "Penelope's Tears" at the Phillips Mill Annual, and the Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Award for "Early Morning Birdwalk" at the NJ Watercolor Society's 63rd Annual Open Exhibit. In March she exhibited five mixed media artworks in a group show entitled "Marsh Meditations" at Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Lawrenceville, NJ. She was the Awards Juror for the NJ American Artists Professional League Exhibit at The Guild of Creative Arts, Shrewsbury, NJ, and Juror for the Pine Shores Art Association Art Show, Manahawkin, NJ.

Donald W. Patterson will have a featured article in the June issue of *Watercolor Magic* magazine titled "Putting It In Perspective."

Siv Spurgeon won the Jack Richeson Gold Watercolor Award in the Baltimore Watercolor Society's 2006 Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition.

Andrea Vincent had "Rocks and Rapids" accepted for the American Watercolor Society's 139th Annual International Exhibition.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

Ted Rose had his paintings and photographs displayed at the Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee, WI. The title of the show was "Railroads and the American Industrial Landscape."

Ella Parshall Stevens had an exhibit of her watercolors at the Paoli Library during January and February as part of the library's rotating artists' exhibits.

Andrea Sauer has a watercolor exhibit at the Slayton House Gallery in Columbia, MD. The exhibit runs from April 12–May 13th.

Carol Staub had work selected for publication in *The American Art Collector* which will be available for sale some time in August 2006, in *Best of Artists and Artisans Florida 2005* where she was awarded an honorable mention, and in the *Book Art—Art Project* by Associazione de Promozione Sociale Artetica, Rome, Italy. She will serve as Juror

of Awards for the Port St. Lucie "4th Annual Art And All That Jazz" outdoor show and exhibit in April, 2006. She exhibited in the 2006 Bakers Dozen International Exhibition, Okato, New Zealand. She had work selected for the Watercolor Society of Alabama's 65th Annual National Exhibition and for the Watercolor Art Society of Houston's 29th International Exhibition.

Galina Vitalyeva had her work featured in the Artists' Gallery, Lambertville, NJ, in March.

IN MEMORIUM

Albert Gold
Suzanne Kaminsky

SLIDE LENDING LIBRARY

Since 1996, the Philadelphia Water Color Society has made the Annual International Exhibition available to its Members and other select societies and institutions through a traveling slide exhibition.

Slides of each anniversary exhibition, starting with 1996, and the Side By Side NWS/PWCS Joint Show, may be borrowed for a period of two (2) weeks by sending a request form with a check for \$8.00 made out to PWCS to cover costs of shipping, handling and upkeep of slides. A second check made out to PWCS for \$35 is also required. This check will be held in escrow until the safe return of the slides, at which time it will be torn up or returned if an SASE is enclosed with the checks.

Borrowers are responsible for return shipping costs and any costs incurred in replacement of damaged slides. Damaged slides must be returned to PWCS with return shipment. Borrower also assumes responsibility to ensure that no copies or facsimiles are made of any slides without the express written consent of the individual artists and full knowledge of PWCS.

To order slides or find out what is available, write or call:

Kass Morin Freeman
1183 Troxel Road
Lansdale, PA 19446
(215) 368-9882

2006 MEMBERS EXHIBITION

by Nanette Noone

The 2006 Member's Exhibition was on display through the month of April at the Community Arts Center in Wallingford, PA. It was a wonderful Works on Paper exhibition that showed the talents of many of our members. This was the first year that the show was juried from the original work and not from slides, and we had a great response with 144 entries. Our juror Diane Podolsky, executive director of the Sketch Club in Philadelphia, had a very difficult time narrowing her choices down to 50 paintings, but the end result was a show that we all can be proud of. Dee Casner won First Prize, Jane James won Second Prize, Claire Goldenberg won Third Prize and Debbie Greenwood took Honorable Mention. Fran Van Allen and Nanette Noone received special Merit Awards.

Don't forget to renew your membership by July 1 if you wish to be included in the next exhibition catalog.

DOMENIC DEMO & DINNER

By Wendy Scheirer

A fine crowd of about fifty folks gathered at the Community Arts Center on a sunny March afternoon to watch Domenic DiStefano, AWS, paint yet another dynamic watercolor. His subject matter was the docks and boats of Beacon Marina in Gloucester, so familiar in his work that the sketch and value plan came from his head. Colors were vibrant green and sienna



Domenic DeStefano concentrating



The demo painting is almost finished

with wonderful warm and cool grays, and his signature brushwork in dark indigo and blue.

The strength of his work lies in its simplicity, and his equipment and methods reflect that philosophy. He has remained true to pure transparent watercolor all through his long painting career, and his demonstration was as strong as the painting. He answered questions while painting, and reminded us with humor, to "KISS," keep it simple sweetheart.

Domenic was recently honored with the PWCS Achievement in the Arts Award, and also received the Mary and Alden Bryan Memorial Award in the American Watercolor Society exhibit which opened in April.

The demonstration was followed by dinner at The Little Inn in Media, which was attended by a different group of folks who enjoyed renewing friendships in the company of other painters and a good meal in congenial surrounding.



Discussing his work in progress with audience members



GOING DIGITAL?

by Siv Spurgeon

We are at the cusp of a change in our industry when it comes to the process of jurying entries for major exhibitions. The world is going digital!

New Mexico Watercolor Society may be the first group to jump to accepting only electronically submitted digital images, but I understand that MasterWorks and Western Federation of Watercolor Societies will follow in their footsteps next year. New prospectuses from the NWS 2006 All Member Juried Show and Virginia Watercolor Society indicate that they will be accepting both digital images and slides.

There certainly are many issues that warrant careful review before taking the plunge, such as the potential for manipulation of images and the need for all entrants to have access to a high quality digital camera or scanner, a computer and perhaps a broadband internet connection, but regardless, it is only a matter of time. Kodak stopped making slide projectors in 2004. I am told that slide film is no longer available in Albuquerque, NM, and hard to find in Denver, CO, and that Kodak plans to stop production in 2008. Yes, there are other slide film manufacturers, probably even more commonly used than Kodak, but I don't think they will be able to slow down this fast moving train.

There are many positive reasons why jurying from digital images will be a much simpler process, both for the Society and for the juror(s). Email submission would make last minute entries a snap. With some reasonable

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Paint-Out at Jenkins Arboretum

631 Berwyn Baptist Road, Devon, PA.
Free and open to the public.
Saturday, May 20 at 9 am.
(rain date, Sunday May 21 at 9 am).

106th Anniversary Exhibition

The Banana Factory, 25 W. 3rd St., Bethlehem, PA.
September 23–November 12, 2006.
Slides due June 13, 2006.
John Salminen, Juror of Selection.
Roberta Carter Clark, Juror of Awards.
The prospectus is available at pwcsociety.org.

guidelines regarding image size and resolution, all images will fit on a couple CDs, which then would be mailed to the Juror. If several jurors, each get their own set of CDs at the same time and no longer have to wait for another juror to be finished with the slides. And we would no longer have to worry about the slide show being lost in the mail. If a set of CDs is lost, another set would simply be sent.

Digital submission would also eliminate the time now spent scanning slides for the catalog, providing of course that image resolutions accommodate professional printing requirements. Putting color and contrast matching to the original work solely in the hands of the artist is an important side benefit.

Please let me hear from you as to your thoughts on this and what you think the major obstacles might be. Send an email to PWCSociety@comcast.net or write to the general PWCS mailing address noted below. We need to tackle this issue at some point in the future and I would like start the discussion and explore the concerns up front.

CONTRIBUTIONS

PWCS has in previous years enjoyed member contributions to help offset the high cost of our Anniversary Shows. Contributors' names are listed in the Exhibition Programs as follows:

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| Benefactor | \$100 or more |
| Sponsor | \$50 or more |
| Patron | Under \$50 |

We invite you to join the long list of members who have so generously supported us in the past. Please make your check payable to PWCS, write "PWCS Contribution" in the memo field of the check and mail it to:
Richard Greenwood, PWCS Treasurer
111 Kings Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

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| PWCS | General Information | 215.569.3955 |
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