

February 2011

West Virginia Watercolor Society

WVWS
WEST VIRGINIA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

President's Letter

Dear Members,

2011 is going to be packed with exhibits! You should regularly check our website (www.wvwatercolorociety.org) for downloadable forms of our exhibits and annual workshop.

The calendar for the juried show has been set and the prospectus for Aqueous 2011 has been mailed to members.



My thanks to Rita Montrosse for putting this show in motion. I hope you can all come to the opening and awards on June 24 at 2 p.m. in the gallery of the Chuck Mathena Center in Princeton. I also am thinking about using the pick-up date for Aqueous as a drop-off

for our upcoming Signature exhibit at the Icehouse in Berkeley Springs.

About that Signature exhibit.... A **WVWS Signature Members Exhibit** will occur August/ September at the Icehouse in Berkeley Springs. Thank you to Anna Hogbin for making a connection with this wonderful gallery. Berkeley Springs has been distinguished on the national level as a promoter of the arts. It is a great destination town worth checking out and is in the vicinity of West Virginia's noted Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Soon WVWS Signature members will receive an invitation to participate, but information will be posted on our website first

Website: I cannot thank Kristen Colebank enough for the work she has put into the website. It is my intent to put new information of our activities on the website first to encourage more of its use. This is the fastest – and yes, cheapest way – to be in contact with one other. We also have a wonderful way of promoting our artwork by utilizing the online galleries. Right now, that is where I send

WVWS Meeting

**Saturday, March 19 at 1 p.m.
Martinsburg**

Join us for our first meeting of 2011 at the WVU Robert C. Byrd Health Center Eastern Division in Martinsburg at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 19.

There are lots of restaurant options near the health center for lunch; a map of the area, including restaurant names and locations, is available for download on the WVWS website.

Don't forget that the AWS Traveling Show is in nearby Hagerstown, Md. See the President's Letter for more.

Directions to the WVU Health Center:

Take Exit 14 off I-81, turn east on Dry Run Road, and then make immediate right onto Tennessee Avenue. Drive past the hospital and then turn left onto Hospital Drive (might not be a sign). Then take immediate right onto Foundation Way (sign for hospital center). The Cancer Center will be up the hill to the left — keep to the right.

Stay right until the end of the parking lot and then turn left; go to the end of the lot and make a right into the Health Center.

people who want to see my paintings.

Rising star: Laurie Goldstein-Warren is on the rise. Our lady from Buckhannon has been winning awards and having solo exhibits beyond our West Virginia borders. Congratulations Laurie!

March meeting: I hope to see you all at the March 19 meeting in Martinsburg. Besides going over the needs of the upcoming exhibits, we will further address the issues affecting our organization concerning originality in art.

While in the Martinsburg area, I also recommend that you visit the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, Md., as they are hosting a traveling exhibit of the American Watercolor Society, March 12-May 8. The admission is free to this museum. You can visit their online web page at: <http://www.wcmfa.org/about.htm>. Their website mentions other exhibits that might be worth checking out. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. (Closed Mondays).

"There's no retirement for an artist, it's your way of living so there's no end to it."

—Henry Moore, artist

I am looking forward to Spring....keep painting!

Linda Elmer, president

News & Notes

Aqueous 2011

The WVWS Juried Exhibition, Aqueous 2011, will be June 21-July 21 at the Chuck Mathena Center in Princeton.

Nancy Stark, NWS, will be our juror this year. Nancy is a graduate of Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., and the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. She has received numerous awards from regional and national shows, and has been featured in *Watercolor Artist* and *Watercolor* magazines. She is best known for her large-scale, railroad-themed paintings, both in watercolor and acrylic. Her work may be viewed on her website, www.nancystarkart.com.

Please note that entries for the juried show will only be accepted in digital format this year. If you are unsure how to correctly photograph your work for digital submission, please contact us at wvwatercolor@gmail.com for assistance. A help sheet "Taking Your Best Shot" is also available on the WVWS website and includes tips for shooting and preparing your images.

The prospectus has been mailed to WVWS members, and additional copies are also available on the website.

Entries must be postmarked by April 25.



Rita Montrosse
West Virginia
Watercolor
Society 2011
Workshop
August 5-7
Canaan Valley Resort State Park

WVWS Workshop

We have finalized plans for the 2011 WVWS Workshop, which will be held Aug. 5-7 at Canaan Valley Resort State Park in Tucker County.

"Working in a Series" is the theme of the workshop, led by WVWS signature member Rita Montrosse.

Rita received her B.S. in Education from Concord University and an M.S. in Art Education from Radford University.

She is a retired art instructor from Mercer County Schools and is currently teaching jewelry and watercolors at Concord University, Athens. She has also been an

Advanced Placement instructor for the WV Center for Professional Development.

Rita has been juried into numerous West Virginia exhibits including the Allied Artists of West Virginia, and the Mountain State Arts and Crafts Fair of Ripley. She is a signature member of the West Virginia, Georgia and Kentucky Watercolor societies and has also been juried into many galleries and shows in Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and New York.

Rita describes the idea behind the workshop in this way: "Working in a series affords the artist an opportunity to really explore a theme, concept or composition. Many times the first pass at an idea may produce a wonderful painting but not satisfy the artist's needs. Many artists stop because of the success of this first painting. But, if you press on and re-develop the idea, you may find that the challenge is just what you need to continue to grow artistically."

A brochure describing the workshop, including details on accommodations and costs, was recently mailed to the membership. Copies are also available on the WVWS website.

Forest Festival winners

Several WVWS members were recognized at the 2010 Mountain State Forest Festival Juried Art Exhibition in Elkins.

Best of Show was awarded to Kenneth D. Waddell for his watercolor "Forest."

Doris Bright won first place for her watercolor "Audra Park."

Other WVWS members recognized include merit award winners Robert Wren Smith and Katherine Crim, landscape winner Linda J.C. Turner, merchandise award winner Laurie Goldstein-Warren, and purchase award winner Grey Darden

Also, honorable mention award winners Kenneth D. Waddell, Grey Darden, Robert Wren Smith; and choice award winners Katherine Crim and Doris Bright.

The show juror was Jean K. Gill, AWS, NWS.

Opportunities

 **Morgantown Art Association's 53rd annual Exhibit 60** is April 6-June 1 at the group's gallery in the Mountaineer Mall in Morgantown. Juror for the exhibition is Pat Dews, AWS, NWS, who is also teaching a

Painters' Perspective

Editor's Note: In this new feature, I randomly choose a handful of WVWS members and ask them a painting-related question to share with the readership. I hope to make this a regular feature of the newsletter.

Question: What is your favorite watercolor paper/support? Why?

Libby Cagle

I use Arches 140 cold press. I have tried other brands and used Arches hot press and 300 lb, but I always come back to the 140 cold press. I guess it is just the way the paint and water react on it. It is durable enough to wash out when needed without being too stiff like the 300 lb. I think it is what you get used to when you first start painting.

Robert Wren Smith

My favorite watercolor paper is Saunders Waterford 200 lb, cold press. It requires almost no stretching, does not wrinkle, and absorbs paint very well.

Nancy Kautz

Actually my favorite is Arches cold press 140 lb. I started with it, and have always liked how it worked well both wet on wet and just wet. The price is reasonable in bulk – and I really don't like the blocks. I can't get the paint to flow as nicely. I teach watercolor at Adult Education, and really encourage the students to buy better paper. What a difference it makes.

Monica Wilkins

My favorite is Arches Bright White cold press. I like my white areas to be very bright white. I also do some acrylic on watercolor paper and for that I like the Fabriano Artistico. It stands up well with the layers of acrylic paint that I put down.

five-day workshop for MAA as part of her visit to Morgantown.

Eligible artists must be 18 years of age. Artists must reside within a 60-mile radius of Morgantown or be Morgantown Art Association members in good standing. Entries are due April 6. For more information, review the prospectus, available for download at the WVWS website, or call the MAA Gallery at 304-291-5900.

 Tamarack is seeking entries for its **Best of West Virginia Juried Exhibition** at the David L. Dickerson Fine Arts Gallery, June 19-Aug. 13 in Beckley.

Eligible artists must be current West Virginia residents. Entries must be received by April 11. For more information, download the prospectus from the Tamarack website (www.tamarackwv.com) or the WVWS website, or direct questions to Christine Humphrey, gallery manager, at 1-88-TAMARACK, ext. 157.

 The Beckley Art Group is planning its second annual **Cynthia Bickey Art Gallery Juried Exhibition**, May 6-June 12, at the Bickey Gallery in Beckley.

Artists 16 years and older in fine art or fine craft media are eligible to participate. Entries must be received by April 4. For more information, review the prospectus,

available for download at the WVWS website, or visit the group's website at <http://beckleyartgallery.com>. The Beckley Art Group may be reached at 304-253-9226.

 Plans are under way for the 6th annual **Paint Oglebay Plein Air**, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, at Oglebay Resort near Wheeling.

Organized by ARTWORKS Around Town, the event offers artists an ideal environment for plein air painting, and the public has the opportunity to watch skilled artists in action. For more information, call 304-242-6855, or visit the Oglebay website at www.oionline.com.

WVWS Region V Director Janet Hart is an enthusiastic supporter of the event, and is actively seeking WVWS members to participate. Janet may be reached at 304-280-3638 or by email at janetlynnhart@comcast.net if you are interested in participating.

 Looking for a way to highlight your work online? Take advantage of the **WVWS Members' Gallery!**

WVWS members can have a gallery of images on the WVWS website, and the best part is that it's free!

Contact WVWS webmaster Kristen Colebank at kcolebank@waitesrunstudios.com if you want more information. Limit of nine images, please.

WVWS Member News

Region I – Lou Riffe Gates

W Sharon Johnson of Rainelle has had paintings included in Tamarack's "3-D Illusions" exhibit (December-January), and is part of the "It's a Watercolor World" display at Lewisburg's Carnegie Hall.

She also has exhibited at the Greenbrier Valley Theater in Lewisburg.

Region II – Patricia Roberts

W A series of exhibitions is keeping Patricia Roberts of Charleston busy this year. Pat has had paintings included in the 3-D Illusions (December-January) and Architectonic (February-April) shows at Tamarack in Beckley, as well as jurying into the state Division of Culture and History's Historic Buildings and Structures Exhibit at the Culture Center in Charleston.

Pat also has work included in the West Virginia Arts & Craft Guild Juried Traveling Exhibition, and is included in a Main Street Studio display (January-February) at the Robert C. Byrd Federal Courthouse in Charleston.

Region III – Joy Cooper

W Kathryn Gillispie of Arborvale spent much of her summer and fall demonstrating and selling paintings and pottery at regional events in the Pocahontas County area, including Pioneer Days, Autumn Harvest Festival and the W.Va. RoadKill Cookoff, all based in Marlinton, as well as Huntersville Traditions Day. She also spent time at the U.S. Forest Service Cranberry Mountain Nature Center near Marlinton.

Kathryn's work is currently displayed at the Pocahontas County Artisan Cooperative in Green Bank, Artists at Work in Elkins, and at the West Virginia Highlands Artisans Gallery in Davis.

She's also taking time to teach, including watercolor instruction at the Green Bank Senior Center, as well as teaching watercolor, oil, clay and art history as an after-school teacher with RESA IV at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School. Her instructional work included a trip to Lewisburg recently to pick up the Benedum/Oglebay Institute/Carnegie art trunks, which she is using for lessons in Post-Impression painting.

Artisans in Randolph and Pocahontas counties know well Kathryn's efforts to develop and grow venues for local artisans to display and sale their work. She is currently serving as vice president of the Pocahontas Arts Coun-



"Blues Harmonica" by Laurie Goldstein-Warren



"Gwen" by Laurie Goldstein-Warren

cil, which has secured a location in Durbin to develop into an art center. The location, across from the Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad Depot, will hopefully attract tourists and visitors who ride the excursion trains. Kathryn says they are looking for member artists to help develop the center. For information, contact Arthur Kreft at 799-2438 or arthur@pocahontasarts.org.

Region IV – Katie Crim

W Laurie Goldstein-Warren of Buckhannon received Best of Show and a \$2,000 prize at the 42nd Cincinnati Viewpoint National Exhibit for "Blues Harmonica."



The multi-media art exhibit, sponsored by the Cincinnati Art Club, was at the CAC's Wessel Gallery in Cincinnati. The show's juror was Nita Leland.

Laurie's "Musician Series," which features jazz and blues musicians, will be the basis of a solo show at the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, Ark. The show opened Feb. 5 and runs through May 31. The show will include more than 20 of Laurie's watercolors, including "Gwen."

Laurie also received a merchandise award at the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society 2010 Exhibit for "Morning Demo," a painting she had exhibited at the 2010 WVWS Juried Exhibition in Huntington. She also has received signature status in the Kentucky Watercolor Society and North East Watercolor Society.

Judith S. Becker of Terra Alta announces she's been accepted as a member artist of the David L. Dickirson Gallery at Tamarack. The gallery staff has already selected some pieces from her "Spiritualism" series for inclusion in the upcoming "Natural Wonders of West Virginia" exhibit, opening April 17.

Appalachian Gallery in Morgantown featured the work of **Peggy Isaack**, also of Morgantown, during December with a solo show of summer florals on the gallery's first floor.

Isaack is also participating in "Architectonic" (February-April) at Tamarack with two full-sheet "Cheerio Skies" paintings, featuring Buckhannon and Clarksburg.

Region V – Janet Hart

Janet Hart of Wheeling has spent six hours in private watercolor instruction with Bill Rettig in Wheeling.

Janet also reminds everyone to save the date for Oglebay Resort's annual Oglebay Plein Air event, Sept. 20 – Oct. 2. For more, see the Opportunities section on Page 3.

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel featured a photo and article about **Sandra Peasley Bush** in the Nov. 12, 2010, edition. Sandra was opening an exhibit of 30 of her watercolors at WesBanco Bank in Parkersburg.

The exhibit ran through November, and a portion of the exhibit's proceeds was pledged to the West Virginia Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Parkersburg-area chapter of the Mid-Ohio Valley Literacy Volunteers.

"This was my first one-person exhibit," Sandra says, "and a great, if not exhausting, experience. So nice to share my work with the public — especially with those who might not otherwise see art in their daily lives."

Region-at-Large – Robert W. Smith

"Citrus Unfurled," by **Sandra Thompson Pealer** of Rangeley, Maine, was included in the National Watercolor Society's 90th Anniversary 2010 Exhibition.

Sandra's "February Sun" was also at the Philadelphia Water Color Society's 110th International Works on Paper exhibit.

Sandra also exhibited at Shelburne Farms 23rd annual Art at the Coach Barn event.

She also took time to travel to Ohio and North Carolina, where she took in Asheville's arts district — and visited with her new granddaughter. Congratulations Sandra!



"The Letter" by Kathy Caudill

Kathy Caudill of Rock Hill, S.C., won Best of Show for the diptych "The Letter" in the South Carolina Watermedia Society's 33rd annual exhibition this fall in Rock Hill. The exhibition's juror was Barbara Nechis. The top 30 award winners from the show are now part of a one-year traveling exhibition coordinated by the South Carolina State Museum that will stop at museums throughout South Carolina. "The Letter" was also featured in the February 2011 edition of Watercolor Artist magazine.

At the annual exhibition, the SCWS also honored Kathy with the Member in Excellence designation.

Kathy also reports a second place award at the 2010 South Carolina State Fair Juried Exhibition, Columbia, S.C., in October for "Road to Tootsie's Place," as well as the Niles Storrs Award of Merit for "Dog Days of Summer." Both paintings also received purchase awards at the show.

"The Letter" also garnered Kathy a Best of Show in August at the Yorkville Artists' Guild 2010 Open Art Competition, held in York, S.C.

Reflecting on reflections

Editor's Note – "Brushing Up" is a new feature I'd like to include with each issue of the newsletter. My plan is to interview several WVWS members about specific painting topics. I believe the Q&A format can provide tips and helpful information for our membership. Look for a new interview with another artist in the next issue.

Jeanne Brenneman is an accomplished painter living in Lewisburg. She takes a great deal of inspiration in the landscape of Greenbrier County and the surrounding region, and waterways, whether as small streams, ponds, or rivers, play an important design role in many of her paintings.



Question: If you are planning a painting that includes water — a stream, pond, river, etc. — do you find that the design is improved if the water's reflections are simplified?

Answer: Yes, I try for reflections that have good design and rich, luminous washes, rather than exact representation of every detail.

If so, how do you accomplish that? Do you squint at the scene, create three-step value drawings, etc.?

I plan value patterns and color temperature at the start, and give consideration to the mood I want to create. That usually involves a value sketch.

Before I put paint on the paper, I want to have a good feel for what parts of the painting need to go dark and

what parts will remain light.

As you design a painting, do you carefully plan interior elements within the reflections, or are they painted more intuitively?

I paint reflections very intuitively. I finish the land masses before the water is painted, and let those colors and values be my guide when I put in the water.



"Below Babcock Mill" depends on the water's reflections to unify the painting's design. The large pool of water with its large, simply rendered reflections, contrasts with the details of the foliage in the painting's upper half. Placid areas of the water, such as the area below the three figures, are created wet-into-wet, with some highlights indicating the water's surface. The harder edges of the reflections below the falls help indicate the ripples and flow of water. Notice that the reflections of the figures and the tree trunks come straight down.

I do the water as one big wash, using brush strokes that describe the water type (flat, horizontal shapes for calmer water and curved marks for choppy water). I emphasize areas of sharp contrast, such as tree trunks or edges of buildings.





“Shallows” presents a serene scene, with areas of smoothly flowing water contrasted with a foreground section broken with large rounded stones. Notice how the reflections softly flow into one another in the smoother section of water, with the reflection of the small cluster of trees broken by a carefully lifted highlight. That highlight is critical in making the area look like the water’s surface.

Do you paint the elements around the reflections first (trees on the shoreline, people, etc.)? If so, how does that help you?

While the wash on the water area is wet, I drop in whatever colors are directly above, and keep the paper tilted to allow gravity to pull the colors down the sheet. I paint the reflections of light objects negatively, by painting the colors on either side.

What angle or direction should reflections take?

Reflections always come straight down. Shadows point away from the sun. It is easy to get the two confused. Sometimes you see both shadows and reflections on the surface of the water.

How do you handle ripples, or areas of turbulent water?

For ripples I drag a big round brush horizontally to suggest gentle movement. For very rough water I use negative painting to save the white of the paper as much as possible. I pay special attention to the edges, to keep them soft or broken. Where rocks stick out of the water, drybrush at the edge can work well. After the paper is dry, I often scrape with a razor blade to create spray, par-

ticularly on waterfalls.

What are some of your favorite techniques? (e.g. wet into wet, lifting, dry-brush).

Wet-in-wet is by far my favorite technique for all sorts of subjects, but it works particularly well for water and reflections. Another technique I use on still water is to lift a horizontal streak or two across the reflection with a flat brush to indicate light hitting the surface of the water.

With wet-into-wet applications, do you paint on a flat surface, or tilted? How do you judge the wetness of the paper and determine when you should apply pigment to achieve a realistic reflective surface?

I always tilt the surface when painting wet-in-wet. The movement of the paint gives beautiful mixing of

colors that you can’t get any other way. Judging wetness can be tricky. I test it in the middle of a dark area with just a small bit of paint, and if it spreads too quickly, I wait a little longer and test again. Once I think the wash is the right wetness, I go with the reflection colors quickly so the wash won’t get partially dry before I finish. I try to get the best freshness and luminosity by getting the values right on the first wash.

Are there certain pigments that you depend upon to create lively reflections? What are some of your essentials?

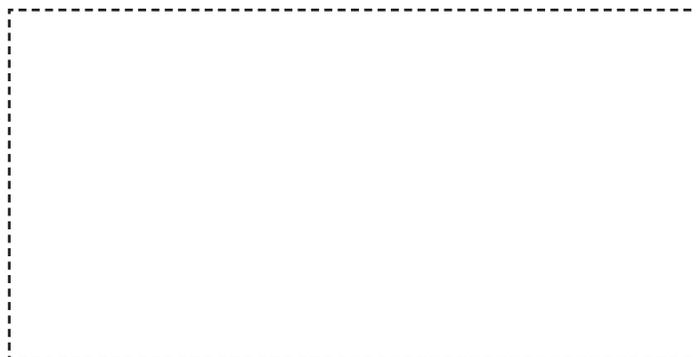
I try to stick with transparent colors for the best luminosity, and colors with plenty of mixing strength for rich darks. All of the quinacridone colors are great, and I also couldn’t paint without thalo blue.

What kind of brush do you usually use...round or flat? Natural hair or synthetic? Why?

For water I like big blunt round brushes because they lend themselves well to making ripple marks. I have always used synthetic brushes, partly because I’m too stingy to spend the money for sable, but also because I like the springiness of synthetic.



West Virginia Watercolor Society
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West Virginia Watercolor Society

WVWS Officers

- **Linda Elmer**, president
- **Jeannine Romano**, past president
- **Jeannine Romano**, vice president
- **Bruce Brenneman**, treasurer
- **Katherine Crim**, recording secretary
- **Amy C. Post**, corresponding secretary

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- **Patricia Roberts**, Region II
- **Joy Cooper**, Region III
- **Katherine Crim**, Region IV
- **Janet Hart**, Region V
- **Robert W. Smith**, Region-at-Large

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- **Jeanne Brenneman**, membership
- **Doncia Franklin**, archives and video library
- **Linda Elmer** and **Betty Beatty**, workshops
- **Joseph Sweeney**, videographer
- **Linda J.C. Turner**, publicity

The West Virginia Watercolor Society actively seeks new associate members. Applicants must be a West Virginia resident at the time of application. Dues are \$30 per year (January to December). Membership applications can be downloaded from the WVWS website, www.wvwatercolorssociety.org, or contact Membership Chair Jeanne Brenneman at bjbrenneman@gmail.com.

Please send newsletter items to:
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www.wvwatercolorssociety.org