



Waterlogue

NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

<http://www.virginiawatercolorsociety.org>

Number 120 / June 2014

FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

What a wonderful show! The 35th annual Virginia Watercolor Society Exhibition in Lynchburg makes me ever so proud to be your president. Co-chairs David Eakin and Cindy Vener and their hard working crew did a magnificent job organizing a spectacular show at the Art Center. I heard nothing but raves from participants in juror Nicholas Simmon's stimulating workshop and so enjoyed his commentary as he lead us through the display of the works selected for this year's show.

It was gratifying to see so many of you at the business meeting. The minutes of that meeting should accompany this Waterlogue. Our treasurer's report should also be included and confirms we are a financially healthy organization. Lynn Hosgood's hard work with the proposed VWS By-law Changes and Addendum to the By-laws was overwhelmingly adopted. These documents will by go a long way toward making us even more efficient as an organization, aiding other area watercolor groups as they take their turns hosting future exhibitions. Both of these documents can be easily found on the VWS website.

One of the changes made to the By-laws incorporates and explains the requirement for sustaining membership in VWS in order for a member to keep signature membership status. The strength of VWS lies in its talented membership. We need to maintain our current members as well as recruit new ones. I was asked by the state board to prepare a new VWS brochure to be used to disseminate information about our society and recruit new members to our ranks. I will be counting on our area representatives and those of you who teach to help me get the word out by distributing this new brochure.

Next year VWS heads to Harrisonburg. Brenda Hounshell shared the some of the exciting plans for May 2015 at our business meeting. As sad as it is too bid goodbye to Lynchburg, the beautiful show and all of my "artist friends", I'm consoled by the knowledge that we have next year to anticipate.

Gwendolyn Bragg

FROM INCOMING CHAIRPERSON 36TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION, 2015

Hello everyone and congratulations to David and Cindy for an amazing job on our 35th Annual Exhibition in Lynchburg. As chairperson for the 2015 Annual Exhibition I am looking forward to another successful exhibition of our membership's beautiful water media work here in the Harrisonburg area. Look for details in our next issue of the Waterlogue and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2015!

Brenda Hounshell
Harrisonburg

JOHNSON-CREASY FUND

The Johnson Creasy Fund has a proud heritage of helping and furthering the watercolor arts in the state of Virginia. Several VWS members review the applications and using a point system decide on the funding requests that we receive. We awarded one grant of \$1000.00 to the Arts Center of Orange County for a summer children's art camp. Chee Ricketts was the instructor. Our second grant was Shenandoah Valley Watercolor Society for 3 workshops. Total was \$930.44. Our fund remains at \$8,331.43. The committee consists of Vera Dickerson, Nancy Midgette, Nancy Stark and Beverly Perdue. Beverly has taken Michael Farrar's place. In the past we have had at least several grants per year and were able to help many school children explore the joys of watercolor. For all our artist instructors I hope that you will keep this in mind as you start to prepare your summer instruction plans. Applications and Information can be found on the VWS website under Grant Info. Or you can direct any requests to Susan Stuller, 2930 Barrow Place, Midlothian, Va. 23113.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Stuller

Splashings

☛ **Myrtle Hooker's/Roanoke** painting, Arcadia, has been accepted into the American Watercolor International Exhibition. The exhibition was held April 1 to 20 at the Salmagundi Club in New York. This is the second acceptance for Myrtle into an AWS exhibition.

☛ **Brenda Barthell/Arlington** is a finalist in the Abstract/Experimental Challenge issue of the International Artist Magazine, December/January 2014. She was also awarded an Honorable Mention for a painting in the Art League of Alexandria in May, 2013.

☛ **Susan Stuller/Midlothian** has had paintings accepted into the Transparent Watercolor Society of America, Watercolor Society of Alabama National Exhibition, Southern Watercolor Society Exhibition, Georgia Watercolor Society National Exhibition and Missouri Watercolor Society National Exhibition. She will also be the juror for the 2014 Central Virginia Watercolor Guild Annual Exhibition.

☛ **Jill Poyerd/Leesburg** and her husband, Denis, have pulled together their technical and artistic knowledge in order to help people in the creative industries keep up with changing technology. They're excited to announce the release of 3 of their workbooks: *Editing & Saving Images with Photoshop*, *Editing & Saving Images with Photoshop Elements*, and *Creating a FREE Website Using Weebly.com*. All of the books were created specifically with artists in mind, meaning lots of visual aids, minimal technical jargon, and easy step-by-step instructions. Future topics include using online marketing tools, and computer & Internet essentials. The workbooks are available on Amazon.com (search POYERD). For more information, visit www.INTRO-TEK.com, or email jillpoyerd@gmail.com.

☛ **Chica Brunsvold/Falls Church** had three of her paintings in the June issue of *The Watercolor Artist* as well as one of her articles in a feature entitled "Say it with Flowers". Both she and **Rachel Collins/Alexandria** had paintings accepted in the National Watercolor Society's Member show. Their paintings can be seen on the Society's home page. Chica received a Second Place for her painting "The Bayou" in the Potomac Valley Watercolorists Spring Show. This painting was also exhibited in the California Watercolor Show.

☛ **Vera Dickerson/Troutville, Nancy Stark/Roanoke** and **Chris Krupinski/Fairfax** have paintings in the touring exhibit of the National Watercolor Society's 2014 Exhibit. The traveling exhibit is on display at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center in Newport News until June 29.

☛ **Jan Ledbetter/Williamsburg** received notification that her painting of the "Maya Women of Chichicastenango" that was juried into the SHENZHEN WATERCOLOUR INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL EXHIBITION 2013-14 has also been selected for their TRAVELING EXHIBITION. It will be displayed at the Ningbo Art Museum in March and then proceed to seven other venues throughout China.

☛ **Marni Lawson/Haymarket** has created posters to promote America's national parks, specifically the Scenic Appalachian Trail. One can see her work at <http://seeamericaproject.com/products/appalachiannational-scenic-trails-by-marni-lawson>.

☛ **Martha Rhodes/Roanoke** has had one of her watercolor paintings, "Lifestream", selected to be a part of the permanent art collection at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. The exhibition, which was installed in May, is entitled "Pieces of Hope". The painting can be seen in the new Parkinson's and Movement Disorders Medical Center. Martha is a graduate of the VCU School of Art.

☛ VWS members did well in the 37th Southern Watercolor Annual Exhibition. **Beverly Perdue/Midlothian** was awarded an Honorary Membership; **Christopher Wynn/Richmond** is now an artist signature member and **Janice Sayles/Hardy** and **Vera Dickerson/Troutville** won awards.

Please submit news items for "Splashings" to Pam Ogden, Editor, 615 Academy Street, Salem, VA 24153 OR email momog@aol.com.

TEENS PAINT THE TOWN A VWS Creasy-Johnson Fund Grant

Last summer a lively group of young people -ages 11 to 17- gathered for three fun-and-sun-filled days in Orange, Virginia, to participate in "Teens Paint the Town". The program, sponsored by The Arts Center in Orange under the leadership of Director Laura Thompson, was made possible by a grant from the Virginia Watercolor Society's Creasy-Johnson fund.



VWS member and teacher Chee Ricketts led the students in this outdoor painting event, which began with the students practicing basic watercolor wash techniques in the studio and then venturing outdoors for sketching and painting. Students selected their favorite subjects from the lovely parks and historic buildings that line the main street of Orange. The workshop concluded on the third day with a reception for parents and friends. The students' paintings were matted and hung for a gallery showing and prints of the paintings were made into note cards that have been sold by the center, with the proceeds from any sales being given to the student artists.

The Arts Center in Orange wishes to thank VWS for making this art experience possible.

Chee Ricketts

FROM THE EXHIBITION CO-CHAIR

As the song goes by Etta James, "...at Last!" the Virginia Watercolor Exhibition returned to Lynchburg after many years! We have learned so much along the way and are so proud and pleased to have hosted the 35th Annual event in Central Virginia.



Co Chairs Cindy Vener and David Eakin along with many committee members worked for over two years putting things together to make this exhibition take place. And we made it through!

Thanks to Ted Batt and the Galleries at the Academy of Fine Arts, we were able to at last host the exhibition of 90 paintings representing all areas of the Commonwealth. And thanks to a generous donor, the AFA was given 20 moveable walls which made it possible for us to install these selected works in the two main galleries.

We were lucky to have Nicholas Simmons say "yes" to be our juror of selection, judge of awards and workshop leader. He was great to work with at every turn and I heard comments from the workshop participants that "this was the greatest workshop". Even through an evacuation of the city from a train derailment, the 20 students persevered and did fantastic work!

This year's exhibition received 509 entries from 206 artists. Nicholas selected 90 works from 90 artists. We were fortunate to have over \$14,000 in awards from many generous donors. Two awards for this exhibition were donated and dedicated to two long time VWS members who left us this year, Gerrie Brown of Harrisonburg and Robert Carter of Richmond. What great art they created and what outstanding influences they bestowed on many who knew them. They will be missed. We also received many awards from local donors one of which was an award to remember VWS founders, Earnest Johnson and John Will Creasy. Thanks to all who contributed to the awards for this 35th Annual Exhibition.



Nicholas Simmons' gallery talk

I would like to thank all of our committee members, many of whom are listed in the catalog. These artists came together and worked diligently on all facets of this show. We were fortunate with the assistance of Laren Baum, Cindy Vener and Katie Vaden to secure a generous grant for our advertising from the City of Lynchburg and the James River Arts Council!! That was such a great help to promote this show.

The Hospitality group of Pat Shahrohki, Jane C. Vaughan and Purnell Pettyjohn, along with many volunteer artists who helped at our opening reception, did a fantastic job coordinating meeting spaces, compiling goody bags, decorating for the banquet, securing amazing flowers for the exhibit and much, much more. We also owe our thanks to Pat's husband, Farshid Shahrokhi, for compiling a slide show of images of the accepted works and award winners to present at the banquet.



Nicholas Simmons, juror for Exhibition #35

Phyllis Hollenbeck was instrumental at soliciting award donations, compiling an amazing request letter and making sure that everyone received our thanks.

Our supporting cast of artists, Karen Bowden, Solly Blank, Dave Keebler, Jim Hoban, Debbie Berger, and Cheryl Hawkins, attended meetings, helped with receiving works, took many photos, and took on duties when needed. Jill Jensen and Patty Powers organized our art tour by limousines during the opening weekend. Thank you all for filling in the gaps and making this show come together!

Special thanks to Ted Batt, exhibition curator and recording secretary ...I cannot say enough about Ted, he holds the Lynchburg art community together with his enthusiasm and willingness to promote! He has done the work of 5 people on this show from helping with the entries, organizing images to send to the juror, receiving the works and installing this fantastic show!

But this show could not have been put together so smoothly without the support of Cindy Vener. She stepped up to co-chair this event and did so many things to make this show sing: from designing the invitation postcards, poster, and a banner across Main Street, to helping with entries, working on our budget and many more details. But above all this, her positive personality kept me on task and many times showing support by simply telling me "It's going to be great!"

I'd like to finish by dedicating this exhibition to our wonderful treasurer Katie Vaden who could not be with us at the event and we thank her for all she did to get us and keep us organized!

Next year's show will be hosted by the artists in Harrisonburg and I know this will be a spectacular event. The show will be exhibited at the Sawhill Gallery which will return to its original location at the newly renovated Duke Hall. Best wishes to the 2015 Exhibition Committee and to all future venues for this continuing excellent organization!

David Eakin, Co-Chairman
35th VWS Exhibition

IN MEMORIAM

My aunt, Harriett Martin Stokes, passed away on May 18, one month and two days short of living for a century. While not among the founders of the Virginia Watercolor Society in 1979, she was an early member who never faltered in her support of the organization, taking her turn as President, faithfully entering the competition every year, winning awards along the way and recruiting new members.

Harriett earned degrees from Roanoke College, Richmond Professional Institute and the Chicago School of Design. She also earned a degree in patience when she took me on at the age of five as her pupil. She won her first art prize at the age of 6 after entering a contest sponsored by the Roanoke Times and said it was her proudest achievement.

Winning became very important to her. She traveled the world after being widowed in her early sixties, painting her impressions of what she had seen but always returning to her hometown of Salem and her lifelong friends with whom she shared a love of a bourbon and water at sundown. She raised three sons but never raised a fuss about anything except perhaps not getting into a juried show. The first time I was accepted into a juried show, I excitedly called her, my mentor, to give her the good news, thinking she would have happy words for me. She was silent for a heartbeat and then snapped "Well, I don't know why I didn't get in that show!"

She attended workshops at Springmaid for years with two good friends, Pat Lawson and Smitty Shepherd. The three of them plotted each October how they would win the Halloween costume contest by dressing up in various homemade getups such as the three blind mice (grey flannel yardage) or the three fallen angels (puffing cigars and waving whiskey bottles while wearing nightgowns and wings and halos made of coat hanger wire) or Bo-peep and her two sheep (wagging tails made of cotton balls). They always won the prize.

Harriett took time out from the studio to play tennis four or five times a week, a sport she took up at the age of 60 or so. She had both rotator shoulder cuffs repaired but usually won her match/tournament. When she was 90, I noticed that she wasn't going to the club to play anymore so I asked her why. Her reply was that she was just too busy to take the time out for tennis.

I could tell stories for hours about this remarkable sister of my father's who cast a wide net of influence in the regional art world: she was a teacher, a mentor, a supporter, a guru to hundreds but, in the end, she was best known and most admired for her landscapes and color. My good friend, Nancy Newhard-Farrar, has expressed it best when she emailed me the following: "I just learned of Harriett's passing on Facebook – either it's one more symbol of social decay or one of hundreds of mini-revolutions she witnessed in her lively, lovely life.

I know for those of us who admired and followed her

and her work, Harriett was a blazing color star, reminding us that trees could be searing green and hills often burned themselves into visual memory. A grande dame in every sense and a force to be reckoned with in many ways, she was one of those who taught us not to be afraid of bold, but to keep some semblance of control – just a bit. We are richer for her and her talent and it is good to know that she is at peace. I expect to see some extra special sunrises as she settles into the skies." Nancy added that Harriett's "colors sang me a siren song the first time I saw them." Another good friend used to point to a summer sky and say "look at those Hattie Stokes' clouds!" She taught me to make them by dabbing Kleenex into ultramarine paint. My Kleenex was used for something else last week but now I'll return the box to the studio and try to live up to her expectations. That's what she wanted us all to do, even if it meant she didn't get in the show because one of us was picked instead.

So I guess one could say that she is still winning because you know that all of us artists are going to keep on trying to do our best. Get in that show and win that award and give thanks for Harriett and her art.

Pam Ogden
Editor

OPPORTUNITIES

You are invited to Darla Bostick's 7th Annual Ghost Ranch Workshop/Retreat 2014 in Abiquiu, NM, October 5-11. Includes digital photography, watercolors/acrylics, pencil, incorporating text and mixed media work with opportunity for plein air painting and comfort of a group activity room (floor to ceiling vista views). For 7 days/6 nights you can relax, enjoy, and create. Lodging/meals included at Ghost Ranch property. The Georgia O'Keeffe Landscape Tour takes you where she painted from the magnificent area scenery. Visit the O'Keeffe studio/home on tour. Space is limited to 14 participants. Bring materials you love to work with (or try something new) and join us! The workshop fee is \$485. Room and board at the Ranch are per their rates. Unclaimed rooms will be released 1 September, but I may be able to get rooms after that date. Come and see for yourself why Georgia O'Keeffe loved Ghost Ranch! My website has more details: www.darlabostick.com, Darla Bostick, 940.320.5660; Email: darlabostickart@gmail.com

In September, **Vera Dickerson/Troutville** will be teaching an acrylic/abstract workshop at the Nebraska National Forest 4-H Camp in Haley, NE. If interested contact Karen Thurlow, Registrar at PO Box 261, Cedar Bluffs, NE 6801 or, 402-628-2635 or Lartist@yahoo.com.

Call for entries from the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society announcing their 35th Anniversary International Juried Exhibition November 8 to February 8, 2015 at the State Museum, Harrisburg, PA. Entry deadline: July 12, 2014. Contact for prospectus: www.pawcs.com for download or email pwsjuriedshow@gmail.com.

DEADLINES

Deadline for submissions to Waterlogue #121 - August 10