



Dust in the Wind

LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY

JULY 2014

The Artist's Corner

Board of Directors



One of the "Catalysts for creativity" taps into our ability to be receptive and open. When any one of us taps into our personal creativity, as Mary Lou Cook states "Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making lots of mistakes, and most importantly having FUN"! Julie Jacobs, an award winning writer, says that creativity is like "unlocking the inventiveness within". When we cultivate our creativity, it requires being alert with a heightened awareness of our environment. It becomes a constant need to continually

ask questions, envision possibilities, generate many ideas, and create opportunities for externalizing our thoughts.

Several years ago, I had the gift of attending a talk given by a great author, Maya Angelou. This statement has left a lasting impression on me. "Everybody born comes from the Creator trailing wisps of glory. We come from the Creator with creativity. I think that each one of us is born with creativity." As we experience developing our creative project of painting in pastels, we must be completely open, receptive and acceptance becomes key. In this experience and in all art forms, something larger than ourselves works through us. At the core of our art, there holds great mystery. When we are immersed and engaged in our creative process, mysterious forms and forces are seeking entrance through us and it would be in our best interest that we cooperate fully with this part of the process.

Art is truly an act of the soul and in order for any of us make great art, we are to practice great humility. It is in our willingness to surrender and be obedient to what would be born through each one of us.

Our creative project is not complete until it is born on its own schedule, not our own. It could be thought of as a new life within us during our waking hours and in our sleep. As the creative gestation continues, the inner life of our painting takes on and gains more primacy. The intimacy of this experience demands great energy, time and focus. Our art experience has begun to occupy our psyche. When we experience talking to our children, dining with our spouses, or visiting with friends - we do not do it alone. The work that we are creating is always present and we find that it continues to work its way through us, throughout all of our life experiences. It is constantly changing shape and form, as it finds entry into this world. The most important part of this task in the creative process is submission, not mastery.

As part of our desire to be an artist, we are agreeing to open ourselves up to art. It is childlike in its vulnerability. Children give us this great gift and show us how we must be responsive to the moment.

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LCPS President

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WHAT WE LEARN FROM OTHERS...

Our featured member artists this month are Diane Gilbertson, Becky Jokela, Karen Berning and Duane Graham. They all have a wide variety of interests and rich backgrounds of experience that they bring to our membership. We are grateful for what they bring and share with all of our members.

Diane Gilbertson

I have always enjoyed art work and being creative in many mediums, but ended up pursuing an engineering degree in computer science. While my children were young I took classes in folk art and decorative painting using acrylics and oils and then taught classes in community education and shops. Later, I began drawing, watercolor, and pastel. My favorite subjects for pastels are wildlife. I love how pastels work for the fur on animals. People and flowers are also on the top of my list.

I am also a harpist, harp teacher, unicyclist, knitter, gardener, maintain rental property we own, work for my son (Magic Bounce), love to read and bake, plus many other things that prevent me from painting as much as I would like.

Becky Jokela

I grew up walking through pastures and checking fences on the "back forty" of my family's farm. I have moved from life on the farm to art teacher and landscape artist. Presently I live on a farm overlooking Sogn Valley near Cannon Falls, not far from the Cannon River Vineyard. I love my surroundings and am inspired by nature and the changing seasons.

Painting outdoors is my favorite approach. I'm in the fresh air--- I can take my easel on a trip to the lake or park or on a hike to a hilltop vista. Maybe best of all is when I paint the barn or maple tree in my own backyard.

I studied art at the University of Oregon and later graduated with a degree in art education from the University of Minnesota. I have taught art to high school and elementary students at Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools since 1985. About ten years ago I began painting with pastels. It was a perfect fit and I plunged in! Painting has made me a better teacher and has fulfilled me as an artist. It is truly my passion.

I have a husband, and two grown sons who live in San Francisco and Portland, Oregon.



Cougar in the Pines



Chasing the Light

Karen Berning

Karen has been exploring art in some form or another all her life. As a child she loved to draw. While attending high school the exploration expanded to photography, ceramics, watercolor, and oil painting and continued in college as an art education major. She taught art in Minnesota and in 1990 accepted an offer to teach at an international school in Tokyo. During her time in Japan she had the opportunity to study Japanese painting - sumi and nihonga. Eight years later she came back to Minnesota to finish her graduate degree in art history. Since then she has been working with English language learners and creating art in her home studio.

Living in a rural area has allowed her to closely observe and contemplate the landscape, which is the subject matter she likes to paint. The landscape is always changing from minute to minute and day to day. During her college years she had worked in pastel but was never satisfied with the results on paper. About ten years ago, with a newly purchased piece of sanded pastel paper and an old box of ignored pastels she decided to give the medium a second try. For her, the surface made all the difference in the world. She loves the immediacy and brilliance of pastels and is currently experimenting with homemade surfaces.

Karen lives with her husband Bruce in St. Michael surrounded by a federal wildlife refuge.

Duane Graham

As a child I had an interest in art for most of my life; however, it has been subtle, and at times, dormant. I grew up on an Iowa farm, attended a one room country school, and a small town High School where there was limited exposure or opportunity for art. More emphasis was placed on skills that would support the earning of one's livelihood in a rural economy.

In 1956 I started at Iowa State University with a focus on engineering, and then on business. I graduated with a BS in Industrial Administration and started a life time career involving computer utilization. This career did provide travel opportunities and some exposure to art in various museums and exhibits which helped to grow my appreciation of art, and to explore various aspects of creating art. Painting became a hobby or stress reliever; where the casual painting sessions attracted me to pastels – you could paint for a few hours, and then set the painting aside; later, you could return to painting without have to remix the media. The appreciation and creation of art has been a life long journey, and one that continues.

Recently, a friend retired and started to write short stories. During conversations about his journey in writing, I could begin to see parallels between writing and painting – in a sense, everything that we as artists create is a form of a short story. A writer puts words on paper, we put marks on paper. How the words or marks collectively tell a story is something that I would like to explore more when I create art. This will involve the inclusion of human traits as feelings, emotions, senses, etc. When I visualize, sketch, create, and evaluate my paintings I have begun to ask myself the question: “What is the story I am trying to say?”

(continued on next page)



Passing Storm

Duane Graham continued....

The coral and starfish in the accompanying picture do tell a story. They were collected while walking with my daughter on Florida beaches. To me, it brings back memories of collecting shells on a bright and sunny day, and being amazed at the variety that nature provides.



Coral and Starfish

More News from our President

Calling all members to the plein air paint out and pot-luck on Tuesday, July 8th. Please come join in the fun as we gather to paint the beauty we see in nature. Plan to arrive at Como Park Pavillion at 1:30 or so. Bring along a pot-luck dish to share with the group. We have a few hours to paint before the board meeting at 5:30. It will be a shorter meeting and all are welcome. We will enjoy a nice meal together and discuss our paintings from the afternoon with the group.

If you haven't had a chance to see the Ames Center exhibit in Burnsville, it will be showing until July 9th. It is a wonderful exhibit of our very talented group of LCPS artists! So very proud! Keep up your good work!

We welcome David Allan Olson from Mankato, MN., Ruth Ronning from Scandia, MN., and Amber Lindstrom from Burnsville, MN, Kathleen Lenaghan, Davenport, IA. Our members are looking forward to getting to know you better.

A big thank you to Michelle Wegler for getting Wet Paint to advertise in our last newsletter. They have given in return six, \$25 gift certificates. We will continue to draw names from the hat for a member to receive this gift at each member meeting.

Member News



Ripening Fields

Lisa Stauffer...

was on the artist panel at a fun still life opening at Peninsula School of Art, June 7, 4-6 pm.

She won Third Place for her painting: "Ripening Field" in the MidAmerica Pastel Society juried member show and a Merit Award on another painting at Southwind Arts Gallery in Topeka, KS.

Her upcoming Gallery shows include:

Waterfront Gallery in Two Harbors, MN

June 21-Aug 32

Opening: June 21, 3-5pm

and

A Botanical Show at Grand Hand Gallery
on Grand Ave in St. Paul

Opening: July 12, 5-7pm



Classes & Workshops Taught by Members

Lisa Stauffer

will be teaching a workshop and a studio class this summer.

5-Day Plein Air Workshop in Grand Marais, MN,

July 7-11, 2014.

Details at grandmaraisartcolony.org

3-Day Studio Class: Still Life In Pastel- Artistic Elements
in Door County, WI

August 14-16

Course ID- PD 1419. Details at peninsulaschoolofart.org



August Day

Hope to see you out and about painting this summer!

MAY PROGRAM NOTES: Paint Around Program

Six artists set up their easels and chose an image to paint. Each artist spent 10 minutes beginning their painting and then passed it on to the artist next to

them. Every 10 minutes the paintings were passed on until they returned to the original artist who then had a final 10 minutes to finish up.

The audience greatly enjoyed watching the whole process. It was fun to see the variety of styles and techniques used on a single painting.

The artists were:
Bruce Koprucki,
MaryAnn Cleary,
Heather Hultgren,
Cynthia Kath,
Pat Duncan
and John Heckman.

To view more images check out the Lake Country Pastel Society Facebook page.

Submitted by Vivian Dunbar and Sandy Gildersleeve.



Lakeside Pavilion at Como Park!



July 8th

We will gather for a paint out starting at 1:30 p.m. There will be a short board meeting at 5:30, followed by a pot-luck. Members will have an opportunity to show their work from the paint-out or bring a piece they

are currently working on to share with the group. This is a fun social gathering for our members!

July Program



Congratulations and Thanks!

to the two winners of our
Wet Paint gift cards for volunteers:
Vivian Dunbar and Janice Olson.



If I could say it in words,
I would have no reason to paint.

Edward Hopper

*Presenting the winners of the 2014
Lake Country Pastel Society
Juried Exhibit
'Toward the Light'*

Best of Show

Dianna Shandorf



~ Czesky Wall ~

First Place

Christine Tierney

~ Sunrise on the Road Home ~



Second Place

Fred Somers

~ Where You Ought to Be ~



Third Place



Lisa Stauffer

~ Along County Road V ~

Pastel Society of America Award

Karen Stombaugh ~ Survivors of the Straight Line Winds ~



Merit Awards

MaryAnn Cleary

~ Light My Way ~



David Olson

~ Waiting ~



Honorable Mention Awards



Rita Corrigan

~ Cascading Light ~

Cynthia Kath

~ Day's End ~



Michelle Wegler

~ Todd ~

Carol Rowley

~ Leaving Lake Five ~



10.9%

Workshop Survey Summary

63%

There were 46 responses to the survey with all being current LCPS members. 72% of the respondees had been members for more than 3 years with 28% two years or less.

The top five types of workshops were:

Landscape - 15.4%

Mixed media with pastel - 13.1%

Plein Aire - 12.6

Portrait - 12%

Figure - 10.9%

Other suggested workshops were for nocturnes, city or urban and one with an emphasis on strokes

Of those responding 63% have taken a LCPS workshop and 32.5% have taken more than three workshops sponsored by LCPS.

Reasons for not taking the workshop were first conflict, second price, third location.

There were 43 suggestions for future instructors with the top being Liz Hayward Sullivan and "no one special or unsure". The next three top contenders (tied) were Marc Hanson, Margaret Dyer, and Terri Ford.

Best days for a workshop were Thurs, Friday and Saturday with Sunday next, followed by Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Locations for a workshop: Metro received the highest with 32%, followed by Any area 17%, then the East or North area - 15% and 14%. The South and West area received 11% and 6%.

There seems to be a preference for three days or less with either a weekend or weekday combination being the same. Most preferred workshops that are \$300 or less.

Respondees would take from a nationally known artist 74% and a LCPS member 42%.

Deciding factors on taking a workshop depended on who the artist was first followed by the price, then location.

Elizabeth Mowry Workshop

"Painting In Pastel-Simply Nature, From Realistic To Evocative"

March 16-20, 2015

Tuition is \$475 for the 5 day course. **Applications must be submitted with a deposit of \$100 (non-refundable). Balance must be received by February 1, 2015.** Prompt registration preferred to guarantee your space in the workshop (participants limited to 18) and confirm our commitment to this artist. Cancellation after February 1, 2015 will result in forfeiture of the entire fee unless the space can be filled with a student from the waiting list, in which case a \$150 cancellation fee will be assessed. To register fill out the initial registration form and mail it in along with your deposit.

Elizabeth Mowry Workshop

INITIAL REGISTRATION FORM

Elizabeth Mowry Workshop through LCPS

Monday, March 16- Friday, March 20, 2015

Please provide your e-mail address to promptly receive workshop updates

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Amount enclosed: _____ \$100 Down Payment OR _____ \$475 Full Payment.
Balance Due by February 1, 2015.

Make **check payable to LCPS**

Mail to:

MaryAnn Cleary, LCPS workshop

P.O. Box 551

Cambridge, MN, 55008

Retain this portion for the FINAL PAYMENT

Elizabeth Mowry Workshop through LCPS at New Brighton Family Center

Balance Due by February 1, 2015

Name: _____ Phone _____

Email: _____
Amount enclosed: _____ (\$375 due if initial payment made of \$100)

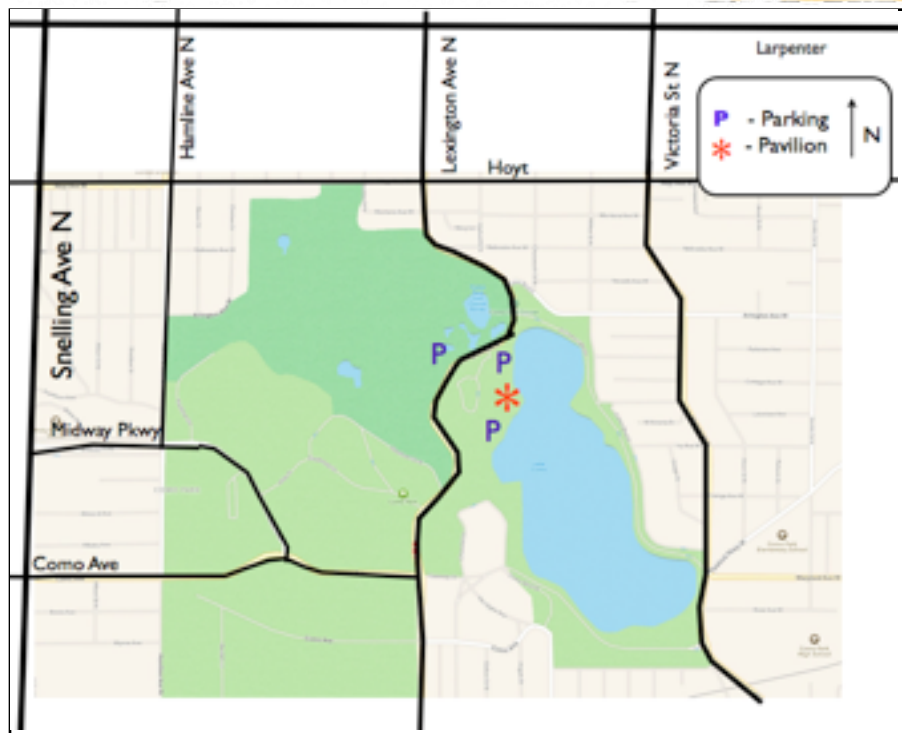
Make **check payable to LCPS**

Mail to:

MaryAnn Cleary, LCPS workshop

P.O. Box 551

Cambridge, MN, 55008



Map to the Como Park
Lakeside Pavilion
for our July Paint-out,
Meeting and Picnic

Come experience
our beautiful Como Park
from a plain air perspective,
then enjoy our annual
potluck gathering!

LCPS 2014 Calendar

TIMES: 5:30 LCPS board meeting
all are welcome
7:00 Member meeting begins

JUL 8 LCPS Paint out & board &
member meetings & Pot Luck!
Begins at 1:30

AUG 15 DEADLINE for newsletter

AUG 20-22 Richard McKinley Workshop

SEPT 9 LCPS board & member meetings

SEPT 13 Frameworks Gallery Exhibit

OCT 15 DEADLINE for newsletter

NOV 11 LCPS board & member meetings

DEC 10 DEADLINE for newsletter

over 35,000 CREATIVE SUPPLIES for every artist

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WWW.WETPAINTART.COM
651-698-6431
M-F: 10AM-8PM SAT: 10AM-6PM SUN: 12PM-5PM

Mission Statement: We seek to unite artists from beginner to professional who are interested in the pastel medium and to serve their needs by encouraging artistic growth and development through education and sharing. We also work to create public awareness of pastel as a unique and beautiful art form.