

LAKE COUNTRY



# *Dust in the Wind*

LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2016

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952-448-7559

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open

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### Newsletter:

Barb Björnson

Greetings!

“We now return you to our regularly scheduled program”.

Many of us recall this phrase from the bygone television and radio broadcast era of Walter Cronkite, Chet Huntley, and David Brinkley. We can apply it to the return of our regular bi-monthly meeting schedule: September, November, January, March, and May on the second Tuesday of these months. **However, remember that our September meeting this year will be September 6 (first Tuesday), not September 13.** What's more, it will be held at Cynthia Kath's gallery space in Room 366, Northrup King Building, 1500 Jackson Street NE, Minneapolis, MN starting 7:00 p.m. The location and date were changed due to annual maintenance at the New Brighton Community Center the first week of September... and the opportunity to host **an evening pastel demonstration by visiting workshop instructor Marc Hanson!** We look for a great turnout, and encourage those who can to bring a lightweight folding chair or stool to ensure everyone has a seat! As always, our LCPS Board meeting will be held immediately prior beginning at 5:30 p.m.



Thanks again to our members who joined the many Pokémon Go millennials on the afternoon and evening of July 12, swarming the same island at Silverwood Regional Park, the site of this year's annual LCPS potluck and paintout. The weather was breezy and warm, great for picnicking and paint-out. The potluck offerings were spectacular and abundant...enough to feed the millennials as well if they had taken time to look up from their screens! We look forward to next year's potluck and paintout...and hope you can join us or return! We're always on the lookout for new or repeat locations, so let Carol Rowley or Rachel Heeren (program chairs) know of your preferences!

Speaking of plein air, I had a great time and learned much at the John Preston plein air workshop June 30-July 2 in Dubuque, Iowa. This workshop was hosted by Wes Heitzman and the Mississippi River Art Workshops. I felt very welcome as an ISU Cyclone graduate among 18 other Iowa artists...despite eastern Iowa being Hawkeye territory!

.....continued on page 2

The drives to and from—though not along the Mississippi River—were very scenic and full of paintable vistas. I plan to return for a plein air mid-week or weekend excursion of my own and will invite other members. I also understand John will have other workshops next year, so catch one if you can!

Need I mention we're heading into prime plein air painting season? Be sure to spend some time outdoors in the coming weeks painting, sketching, practicing thumbnail or value studies, or taking reference photos!

Our LCPS Board members work relentlessly to make LCPS a society that nurtures our pastel skills and goals, whatever they may be and wherever we may live. Yet our meetings and paintouts draw less than half of total membership—mostly from the Twin Cities metro-- and most drive no more than 2 hours to our meetings. This signals to us that our newsletter, website, and workshops may be primary reasons for some of your memberships. Rest assured that though about half our members hail from the Twin Cities metro area, we don't forget members from outlying Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, and elsewhere! Our challenge as a Board is to meet your member needs and support your "pastelistic" growth (my word) whether you attend meetings or not. However, **you** can help **us**! Here are some ways:

1. If you can't make meetings without a ride or with concerns of weather or night driving, reach out to other nearby members for a ride! Let myself or other board members know if you need names of prospective drivers...or let us know if you're willing to offer a ride to a meeting.
2. If there are other reasons you can't make meetings, bring a meeting—or event-- to you! Invite LCPS members to your area for a paint-out day or weekend! Offer to chair a LCPS exhibit near you! For instance, note in my last President's bulletin that we have opportunities in Stillwater, MN and Amery WI for exhibits. Are there options near you?
3. Stay connected by writing a feature newsletter article on a pastel technique, an event in your area, a show you're hosting, or awards you have earned. We'd especially like to hear news from members who winter in other places!
4. Don't underestimate your ability to help on a committee, even remotely! For instance, Michelle Wegler provides an outstanding service in processing our exhibit applications from Duluth! Our Exhibits, Workshops, Programs, and Membership committees can all accommodate members who wish to help out—and connect—remotely.
5. Yes, we still need an Exhibit Chair or Chairs and a Vice-President/President-elect.

To conclude, we are in one sense returning to "regularly scheduled programming". Yet in another, let's move towards **better** scheduled programming...together, with your help.

Regards,  
Bruce Koprucki, President

~ **WELCOME** ~  
**New Member**

**Jan Stout**

# Programs

## September meeting

Please join us at our next LCPS Meeting on **September 6**. Note we have changed the date and location to accommodate an evening demonstration by visiting workshop instructor, Marc Hanson. We will **not** be meeting on September 13.

Marc is a well known artist, showing his work in galleries and museums nationally and internationally. "I love working with other painters in their pursuit to better their craft."

We will meet at 7:00pm at Northrup King Building Studio, #366 (Cynthia Kath's studio), 1500 Jackson Street NE, Minneapolis.

If possible, please bring your own lightweight folding chair due to space.

## November meeting

November meeting will focus on our Mentoring Program and instruction on hanging framed art. Heather Hultgren will update us on the Mentoring Program and some of the participants will share about their experiences and discuss a pastel they did while in the program.

Bruce Koprucki will demonstrate and talk about how to hang your art for an Exhibit or at home.

He will cover the basics such as deciding height from floor, centering art, grouping your art, sight-lines and go through the hanging layout process. Also, how to split up tasks for hanging an exhibit in a timely manner. It should be an informative evening.



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## LCPS Members

You have the opportunity to put 3 images of your paintings on the Lake Country Pastel Society website.

Go to :

[lakecountrypastelsociety.org](http://lakecountrypastelsociety.org)

Members Showcase page.

On top of the page click on:

**How to submit images for the showcase.**

It is free to members and you can change images for free once a year.

# *Notes from March meeting*

Our May meeting was taken up mostly by small group critiques. We were invited to bring one or two pieces to display. There were five or six areas in the meeting room where, after we all counted off, we were welcomed to place our paintings - either works-in-progress or finished - with those of us with the same numbers. I was in the Number Four group so can only speak of our experience.

The four or five in our group gathered on chairs placed in front of our grouping. We had a set period of time to discuss our work with each other. Then it was time to move on to the next set of paintings. This year we had papers near each pastel. It was good to be able to jot compliments or make suggestions, and see the comments of groups who'd already seen the works.

Paintings ranged widely in subject, size, and stage of completion. Landscapes prevailed, but were not the only subjects depicted. And even though many artists brought landscapes their techniques varied widely!

Within our group we tended to agree on things we liked or areas we thought could be improved. Some artists brought reference photos - we then could write "keep water line level" when we saw that a particular painting was indeed an effort at depicting a particular site. Some work appeared too "busy," but without the artists' input it was difficult to know intent.

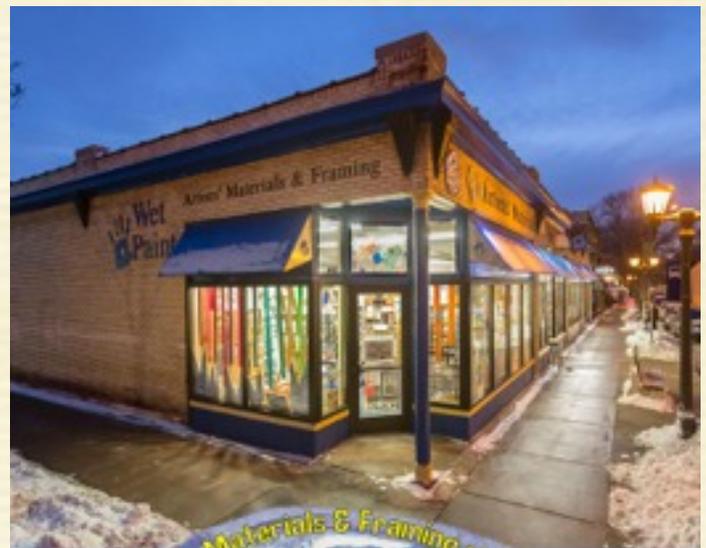
And, of course, because our members many different levels of skill in working with pastels we tried not to judge too harshly pieces in which intent was visible, though not quite done up to some others' ability.

All in all the evening went smoothly and quickly. I hope we all came away having learned a thing or two. It was good to read the comments left concerning my work, and I later tried my best to follow through on some suggestions.

In June it was fun to see a number of these pastels finished, framed, and part of our LCPS Exhibition at the Stillwater Art Guild in Stillwater, Minnesota.

I know at least one painting was purchased during the Opening Reception! It was a lovely show overall - our group did good!

**-Sue Rowe**



651-698-6431

[www.wetpaintart.com](http://www.wetpaintart.com)

1684 Grand Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55105

# Workshop

## Marc R. Hanson Pastel Workshop September 6, 7, & 8, 2016



### “Misty Mississippi”

12 x 9 inch, pastel  
© 2016 Marc Hanson

The Lake Country Pastel Society is very excited to be sponsoring a pastel workshop with Marc R. Hanson, OPAM on Tues., Wed., & Thurs., September 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This workshop will be held at the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts in Fridley, MN. The BLCA sits adjacent to the Manomin Park with the Rice River running through it and into the Mississippi River. There will be classroom space available at BLCA and a Pavilion for our use. The workshop's focus will be with plein aire using pastels. (Other medium can be used with prior permission.) The class will cost \$390 for Lake Country Pastel Society members and \$425 for non-members. What an opportunity!

Registration form can be found on LCPS website : [lakecountrypastelsociety.org](http://lakecountrypastelsociety.org)  
go to Workshop page.

# Exhibit News

## Lake Country Pastel Society Stillwater Show

A huge thanks to all who participated in our Stillwater Show! We had 22 artists participate and 42 pieces of art in the gallery and we received many positive comments about our show.

Congratulations to Fred Somers, who won the People's Choice Award, with his pastel "Where You Ought to Be".

A special thanks to our many volunteers who planned the show, helped at the reception, and worked with hanging and taking down the show. It was great to see such a strong and vibrant collection of pastels at the gallery!



Fred Somers "Where You Ought to Be"



# Stillwater Exhibit



# Members News

Accepted paintings into the Minnesota State Fair

Congratulations!!!!



"Freedom From Expectation"

**Linda Ricklefs Baudry**

"Snow Cover"

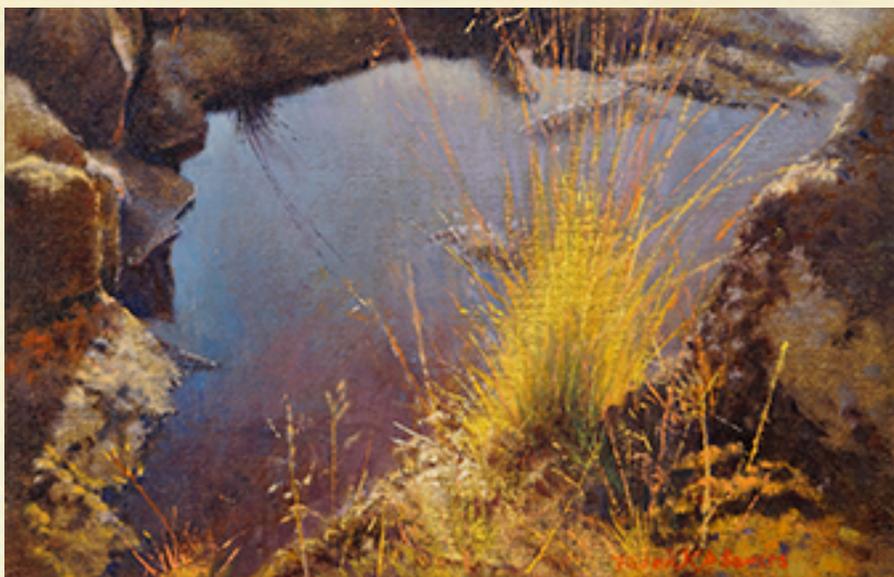
**Eileen France**



"Used Freight" was accepted for the MN State Fair Show and the UART 2016 Online Pastel Show.

**Karen Berning**

## .....*More Members News*



### **Fred Somers**

"Come to the Waters II" 9 x 12" oil on linen panel will be showing at the Oil Painters of America Eastern Regional Exhibit at the Eisele Gallery in Cincinnati, OH September 9 to October 8



**Lisa Stauffer** won the People's Choice award in Aitkin for "Lilies and Boat Afloat"

**Lisa Stauffer** won The Depot Founder's Award (2nd) at Duluth's Plein Air "Paint Du Nord" event in July for her painting "All Tied Up".



## .....*More Members News*

### **Cynthia Kath**

I am happy to announce that I'm exhibiting my Abstract Paintings in **Gallery 535**, in Rochester Minnesota until Sept 7th, 2016.



## *Exhibit Opportunity*

- **Greetings to Artists from The Northern Showcase Art Show 2016**

Artists del Norte, located in Fridley, Minnesota, would like to invite you to enter our 2016 fall art show. It is an open and juried show which will be exhibited at the Blaine Government Center during the month of November.

Entry forms will be available August 29, Monday. Our web address is:  
 Artistsdelnorte.squarespace.com [www.artistsdelnorte.org](http://www.artistsdelnorte.org)

We do have some glass cases for smaller 3- dimensional works. Drawing, painting, photography, mixed media, ceramics, sculpture, and jewelry pieces are welcome.

Our art club meets at 7 pm on the last Tuesday of August, September, and October. Guests are welcome. We have a demo artist at each meeting.

The meeting is held at Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts, 6666 East River Road, Fridley, MN.

Please call me if you would like more information or if you have a question.  
 Raynele Schneider, 763-755-8563 The Northern Showcase Art Show

# Classes

## Classes with Lisa Stauffer

### Still Life in Pastel: Artistic Essentials

*Lisa Stauffer*

Enhance your skills through a better understanding of the key principles every artist needs to know to improve their paintings. Focus on painting simple still life set-ups in the versatile medium of pastel and learn how these lessons apply to painting all subject matter as we discuss design and composition, painting fundamentals, and the importance of accurate drawing. Delve into effective application of color, value, intensity, and temperature. Explore pastel brands, papers, and techniques. Class time will include demonstrations in pastel, personal assistance at your easel, group critiques, and fun!

\* Visit [www.WhiteBearArts.org](http://www.WhiteBearArts.org) for a supply list.

CLASS ID: 2L01

Date/Time: Monday-Wednesday, October 24-26,  
9:30 AM-4:00 PM

Tuition: \$230 Member/\$288 Non-Member

Age/Level: Advanced Beginner to Advanced

### Advancing in Pastel

*Lisa Stauffer*

Enjoy this further exploration into pastel, continue painting your own still life set-ups or begin a new project. Work from your favorite photographs and continue to improve your painting skills. Lisa will outline the pitfalls and possibilities that come when working from photographs as well as provide guided feedback in response to students' work. **Prerequisite:** Previous pastel class with Lisa, including Still Life in Pastel.

\* Visit [www.WhiteBearArts.org](http://www.WhiteBearArts.org) for a supply list.

CLASS ID: 2L02

Date/Time: Thursday & Friday, October 27 & 28,  
9:30 AM-4:00 PM

Tuition: \$153 Member/\$191 Non-Member

Age/Level: Advanced Beginner to Advanced

Prerequisite: Previous class with Lisa required

*Lisa Stauffer has been awarded Masters Circle status from the International Association of Pastel Societies and Signature status in the Pastel Society of America in addition to receiving many national awards. She has worked and taught in a wide variety of media with a special focus on painting en plein air to indulge her fascination with light and color in Minnesota's beautiful north shore landscape.*



## JUST PLEIN CHALLENGING: NOTES FROM THE JOHN PRESTON WORKSHOP

By Bruce Koprucki

Plein air painting can be compared to an extreme sport with its own unique challenges. There's changing intensity and angle of sunlight and shadows (clouds or not); wind; moisture in forms of rain, snow, or high humidity; temperature extremes both hot and cold; accessibility; terrain; plants; insects; animals; and people, to name most. If you choose to paint nocturnal scenes, it gets even *more* challenging! Ah yes, painting indoors from photos sounds **much** easier!

As I've said in this month's President's column, this year's John Preston workshop in Dubuque, Iowa was a great learning experience. I'd highly recommend John's workshops, but in the meantime here are a mix of his comments from his handouts and my notes. Most apply to both studio and plein air work, but some are especially important en plein air where speed and efficiency are a high priority.

**A plein air painting starts long before you set up the easel.** John finds the greatest plain air challenge is **indiscriminate seeing**. This includes distraction by details at all depths, and indecision of subject and a focal point. When we're on-site **everything** looks like a good painting! Meanwhile, the light is changing...

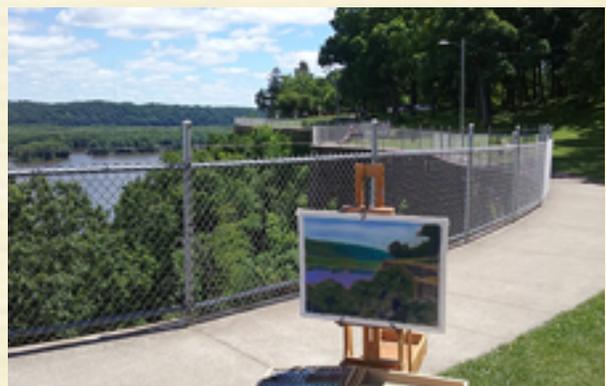
In response, John uses a **deliberate painting process**. As he looks about for subjects, he checks five key elements of composition: **Position, Size, Shape, Color/value/chroma/hue bias** (e.g. too much green), **and Texture**. If the above elements are there with adequate variety, a focal point will usually emerge. John recommends a viewfinder, thumbnail value sketches, and a value scale to help decide. If three of the five elements are inadequate, he'll move on to a different subject.

**Composition is top priority.** Composition will make or break a painting. John says, "**Composition is about contrast...of any element...about asymmetry and disproportion.**" Asymmetry creates energy and tension in a painting. In choosing subjects and sketching thumbnail studies avoid equals in widths, sizes, and shapes.

**Look for diagonals.** As painters, we are (usually) stuck with a rectangular format or frame, so we need to offset the dominance of plumb and level lines, shapes, and such with diagonals within our composition. Values, textures, and chroma can create diagonals as can shadows, highlights, shapes, and lines. Rectangular manmade objects, such as buildings, need to be countered with lots of asymmetry to balance a composition. Also, a rectangular object can be changed to trapezoidal--perhaps via perspective--to present it as an asymmetrical shape.

**Watch out for tangents** where lines or edges from different depths align horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. Break or offset them to create overlap and depth.

**Preserve a foreground.** It may seem unimportant, but a foreground adds depth to a painting.



**Maximize your ergonomic efficiency on site.** Set up so your subject is at “sight size”, at eye level off to one side of the easel, with equal light on pastel palette and painting. Minimize the weight of your plein air gear with a reduced palette and multi-purpose items. Assess can be tricky not just in wilderness!

**Complete block-in ASAP.** Lay out shapes—biggest to smallest; lightest lights and darkest darks— based on your chosen thumbnail study. Thumbnails—and some photos—preserve the values and composition as the light changes. Check the overall value scheme of big areas before moving to smaller ones. Keep the scheme right by referring back to the overall value of a plane while working small shapes. Use a pastel for layout, not charcoal which gets fluffy and bleeds into lighter pastels.

**Step back.** A good painting should read as well from 25 **feet** away as from 25 **inches** or less. Check frequently.

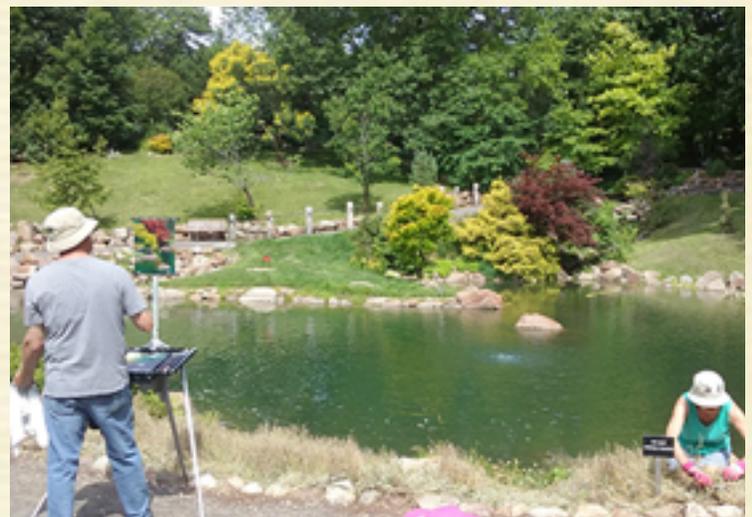
**To speed up, slow down.** Never make a mark on the picture that you haven’t seen clearly in your head. As John says, “Just dabbing about is like picking up people in bars: it rarely ends well.” Minimize the number of times you change pastels. Stand the pastels you’re using on end, or keep them separate to reduce search time. Start with only three or four pastels for each value. Don’t draw outlines and color them in; turn marks into objects. Color and texture are the advantages of the pastel medium; use them to your advantage.

As to details, “**looseness**” applies to edges: position, size, shape, and color are right. “**Sloppy**” means one or more of these are not.

Equal amounts of detail in foreground and background will “flatten” a painting. Take advantage of this “age of hyper-suggestivity”. **Suggest** in the foreground, **hint** in the middle, and use **innuendo** in the distance. Choose your focal point; translate detail there with number of strokes and specificity of shape. Wait for the end of the painting to add details and finish. Texture is most effective where dark goes over light...or vice versa.

**Blend at the end.** Don’t blend pastels early unless you have a very limited palette available.

These notes are not a substitute for plein air painting practice or John’s plein air workshop, but I trust they will help elevate your fun and skill levels in the meantime!



## Lake Country Pastel Society Calendar 2016

### August 15

Deadline for Sept. newsletter

### Sept 6-8

Marc Hanson Pastel Workshop

### Sept 6

5:30 Board meeting

7:00 Member's meeting demo Marc Hanson  
Northrup King Building Room 366

### October 15

Deadline for Nov. newsletter

### November 8

5:30 Board Meeting

7:00 Member's Meeting

### December 15

Deadline for January newsletter

## 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.



New Brighton Community Center  
400 10th St. NW  
New Brighton, MN 55112

## In case of bad weather.....

LCPS will email members by noon the day of the meeting and will contact people who don't have email. If you have questions, call Bruce Koprucki 952-448-7559 or email: chaparralwoodart@gmail.com