



Dust in the Wind

LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY

March 2017

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507-645-5031

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Greetings and thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Lake Country Pastel Society president. Some of you know me and I hope to get to know all of you. It is for all of you that LCPS exists.



By way of introduction, my name is Fred Somers. I have belonged to LCPS from near its beginning though I'm not a founder. I've painted in pastel for 40 years. After teaching drawing, painting and printmaking at St. Olaf and Carleton colleges in Northfield, Minnesota, I moved to my farm home studio and began this adventure as a free-lance artist painting in pastel and oil.

In those earliest years I began using my first pastel set, Nupastels, a gift that belonged to the mother of a high school friend. Packing homemade equipment, I took those into the field after discovering that freshly painted oils were quite a mess after they fell into the grass. I knew no one who painted either in pastel or en plein air. I applied what I knew of delicate drawing in lithography and developed my own way of painting. I continue to experiment and ask "what if" with my paintings today.

From then until 1998 when Lake Country Pastel Society was formed my "artist's life" was a solitary one. Though I had shown and taught both in the US and in Scandinavia (1983 as American Swedish Artist of the Year and again in 1986) and I was working with galleries and art consultants, how I painted in pastel was limited to my own discoveries. LCPS became the place where my questions could be answered, where I was introduced to broader possibilities. They brought nationally recognized artists-- the people who write the books, and provided local opportunities to show and share about pastel painting. And there were people here who wouldn't let me stay in my little artistic world. Their verbal "kick in the pants" is what introduced my work to International Association of Pastel Societies, magazine publishers, workshop presentations and much more. I am only beginning to express how grateful I am to many of you.

.....continued on page 2

.....continued from page 1

Through these decades, pastel medium has exploded with new materials, colors, opportunities to learn and to exhibit. Artists know that when light shines on adjacent colors that each is affect by the next one. I want to ask you all to join me to let your light shine in LCPS encouraging each member to grow to the best they want to become and to open doors to share the excitement with even more artists.

Paint What You Love, Walk in the Light,

Fred and Avis Somers



Renew membership

From Karen Berning

If you have not renewed your LCPS membership for 2017 please do so immediately. Membership is \$30 for the calendar year and may be paid by check to Lake Country Pastel Society and sent to:

Karen Berning,
4651 Ibarra Ave. NE,
St. Michael, MN 55376

or you may renew online via the Lake Country Pastel Society website selecting **Contact**, and pay using PayPal.

Welcome
~ New Members ~

Trish Bogle

Tracy Donovan

Margarita Berg
margaritaberg.com

**Dakota Art
Pastels**
your pastel specialist!

888.345.0067
WWW.DAKOTAPASTELS.COM

Programs

March program

Our next meeting will be on March 14th, and **we will meet on the main level, in Community Room B.**

Note: this change is for March only, then back to our regular room.

Our focus for the meeting will be a small group critique, which everyone enjoys and, we have done in the past. Please bring one or two unframed pastels that are underway or finished. We will break down into small groups to view each other's paintings. The evening will be informal, friendly and a way to get feedback on our work.

May program

Our own Fred Somers, is offering a workshop, "Pastels for the Joy of It", from May 2 - 5, 2017, at the New Brighton Community Center. In order for members to receive some nuggets from Fred, an IAPS Master and Eminent Pastellist, he has agreed to host our May meeting.

Please note our May meeting will be switched to May 2, because of this wonderful opportunity.
Don't miss it!



Carol Rowley and Rachel Heeran are stepping down from the Program Committee.

Thank you for giving the pastel society such great meetings the last few years. We have enjoyed the programs and appreciate all your hard work.

Volunteers are needed for programs.

Our Saturday, January 14th LCPS meeting found approximately thirty members willing and able to attend the "all-day" Paint-In. They lugged in and set up a wide variety of ways by which to create their pastel pastings. Many people brought French easels for working while standing, some placed easels on tables, and other artists worked on the flat.



Whatever worked! After a short business meeting we were treated to a talk by Gary Carabio, a signature member of the PSA and Third Place Winner in the Pastel/ Drawing Division at the Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Show. He moved from the Philippines five years ago to live in the United States, and he is inspired by a wide variety of subjects. Gary

displayed two amazingly-detailed portraits. During his talk he stated that he often works with very small pieces of pastel over an underpainting. Pastels of choice are Grumbacher square sticks, which he then breaks into pieces and sharpens with razorblades. He was also available to answer questions after his presentation. I think we all came away from his talk inspired for many reasons.



A walk around our work space found most pastelists using landscapes as their subjects. Some were busy still trying to choose an image from a number of possible images on a digital tablet. Others had brought works already in progress. it was fun to see each others pastel boxes, too. Some meticulously organized; others, not so much!



Sue Rowe had been asked to demonstrate her technique in creating one of her bears. Using no references she just started in drawing some basic shapes - mostly circles at the start. She is not much for planning, preferring to be surprised at what happens on surface on which she is working. This day she was playing with bright colors and attempting to create a "happy," spirit-lifting bruin. She was honored when Fred Somers came over, admired the bear in progress, and shared some "bear" stories of his own. Fred also graciously allowed Sue to title this bear, "Freddie." Time passed gently and well. We work, or watched others work - all at our chosen pace. And we appreciated the tasty snacks and beverages that were there for re-fueling throughout our day of

accomplishing.

All around, our Paint-In was a winter day well-spent, and an activity that many members would probably like to participate in again. - Sue Rowe

Thank you Sue Rowe and Sher Leksén for the pictures. More photos are on bottom of page 9.

Workshop

Fred Somers 4-Day Workshop in Pastel

“Pastels for the Joy of It”

Tuesday through Friday, May 2 - 5, 2017 at the

New Brighton Community Center, New Brighton, MN



“Blooming Spring” copyright Fred Somers

The Lake Country Pastel Society is honored to sponsor a workshop by LCPS member, Fred Somers. This will be a four-day workshop held at the New Brighton Community Center in New Brighton, MN. The workshop will be held on Tuesday through Friday, May 2-5, 2017. Fred is an IAPA' Master pastel painter and what a thrill it is for the LCPS to be a part of this event.

4 day Pastel Workshop (studio & plein air)

Awaken the sparks of your creativity with IAPS' Master and Eminent Pastellist, Frederick Somers .

Fred will establish a solid foundation to work with the traditional landscape. In plein air demo he will explore how we see vs. how a camera 'sees.' Introducing his unique uses of materials he will show us some new techniques he has been working with including hints about using gold leaf. Demos and slide shows give tools to enhance each student's artistic identity.

His own work is very expressive, often focusing on close up details with an abstract sensibility. He has a very reassuring manner as well as inspiring and interesting insights on art making. All student painting will be conducted indoors. Some experience in painting is recommended but all levels of experience are welcome. Certificates of Participation are available for educators.

Registration is on the Lake country pastel society website.
www.lakecountrypastelsociety.org go to workshop page.

Gary Carabio

I have a one man show at the Edina Art Center this coming March 23- April 26, the show will open at 5 pm. I will be featuring my recent paintings in oil, watercolor and pastel. I want to extend an invitation to everyone in our group.



.....more great news from Gary

I'm so thrilled to inform you that that my painting "Vendor" was accepted to the 30th IAPS Convention Show in Albuquerque, New Mexico in June.

Pat Duncan

I received 2 awards for the "Arts in Harmony", the 22nd Annual International Juried Art Show.

1st Place Pastel Award for "Graceful Presence"

Purchase Award (Sherbourne County Government Center) - which will be on display at the Government Center permanently after they complete their construction.

I received an Honorable Mention at the St. Benedictine Monastery for the piece "Filled With Essence and Energy"

I, also have had the opportunity to do a solo show at the Hungry Turtle Institute in Amery, Wisconsin through the months of December, 2016, January and February, 2017. We had a fun opening on December 9th, with a mother/daughter(concert pianist) team playing a baby grand piano that evening.



.....more great news from Pat

I am honored & grateful for the opportunity to have this piece be selected for the 30th IAPS (International Association of Pastel Societies) Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The exhibit will be held during the Convention which runs June 5th - 12th, 2017.

.....More Members News

Lisa Stauffer

I had two pieces, *Oak In Winter* and *Lilies And Boat- Afloat*, accepted in to Arts In Harmony's 2017 International show. This year there were entries from several other countries as well as all around the USA. *Lilies And Boat* won the Second Place Pastel Award. Many other members had pieces in the show and LCPS society members won the 4 pastel awards and more!



Sher Leksén

My painting *Blue on Blue* was accepted into the Arts in Harmony exhibit at the Blaine government Center and received Third Place Pastel Award. My painting will go on the traveling show to the American Swedish Institute.



Fred Somers

has 3 paintings in shows.

International Association of Pastel
Societies 4th Masters Circle Exhibition
Timeless Wonders
Pastel on Canson

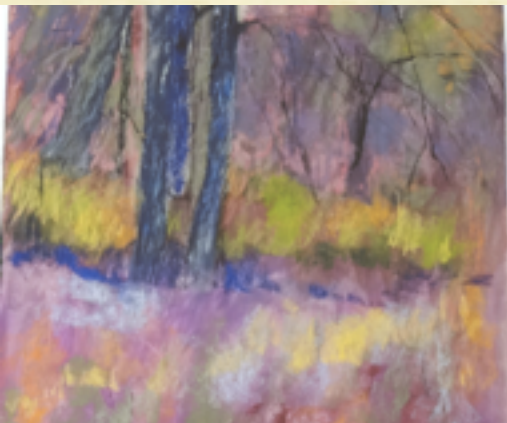


Plein Air Magazine 6th Annual Plein Air Salon
Dec/Jan
Shaped by Time
Oil on panel



Cadmium's Last Touch
Oil on Panel

More pictures of January Paint-In



Opportunities

Lake Country Pastel Society Exhibit at Minnetonka Art Center April 13 - May 11

The Minnetonka Center for the Arts (MCFTA) has graciously provided their space for our spring show. Please be sure to check out the Prospectus on line (through [this link](#)) and get your entries in to Michelle Wegler along with the entry fee postmarked no later than February 22, 2017. If you have not renewed your LCPS membership yet, annual dues must be sent to Karen Berning postmarked no later than February 22, 2017 to be eligible. Some of the important features of the show are as follows:



1. Frederick Somers is the judge to accept entries. Please follow digital guidelines for labeling images and image size when submitting to Fred. Entries to Fred are being accepted now. Fred will also be Juror of the show.
2. Up to five (5) images may be submitted to Fred. Payment of \$30.00 (flat entry fee, 1-5 images) with a completed Prospectus form should be sent to Michelle Wegler first. Before you send the form, make a duplicate copy of the Entry Labels on the back of the Prospectus form to affix to the back of each accepted entry at the time of Drop-off at MCFTA. Artists will be notified of accepted entries no later than March 25th, 2017.
3. Drop off at the MCFTA is Saturday April 8, 2017; 10 AM - 2 PM. Artists submitting for drop-off will be required to sign a W-9 Contract Form provided by the MCFTA.
4. Awards Reception is Thursday evening, April 20, 2017, hosted by the MCFTA; time to be determined.
5. Pickup at the MCFTA is Saturday May 13, 2017; 10 AM - 2 PM.
6. All paintings must be for sale, and must remain in the gallery for the duration of the show. The MCFTA will cover insurance.
7. The MCFTA will charge a 40% commission on sold paintings for MCFTA Members, and 50% commission on sold paintings for non-members of the MCFTA. No other fees are charged to LCPS or Artists other than a commission on sold paintings.

We are excited about this show and are hoping for a good turnout! Start painting and get those entries in!!

Mary Sabin

I am taking part again this year in the Grand Marais 100 Day Project.

It is free and open to anyone. Last year I really enjoyed the goal setting and the timeline of 100 days.

You can go on their website/facebook and see what others are doing, which is a nice catalyst for your own creativity. <http://www.grandmaraisartcolony.org/events.cfm>

It is very beginner/amateur friendly as you can't do anything wrong. Others that are also relatively new may find it worth noting for future reference anyway. They also have a Solstice Project, also free earlier in the winter.



From Joanne Meierhofer

Join award winning pastel artist, **Steven R Hill** and **The Blue View Pastel Group** for a 4 day intensive landscape workshop in pastel, **September 28-October 1, 2017**, at Karlyn's Gallery in Washburn, Wisconsin. Open to all levels!

Steven has taught over 65 workshops in the pastel medium, since 2004, all over the U.S., and Europe. His work has won 45 top awards and honors in major juried National Fine Art Competitions. Most recent : **Plein Air Magazine** for *Best Overall Pastel* in the October/November 2015 Annual Salon Competition and two **North Light Books**, "*Strokes of Genius 8*" (October 2016) and "*Strokes of Genius 9*" with all three entries selected for publication, October 2017, by **Rachel Rubin Wolf**, editor.

In our workshop, he will demonstrate and thoroughly cover a wide range of Pastel Painting techniques, starting with a series of Basic Stroke Exercises, which are a hallmark of his successful teaching method, through painting finished landscapes, both in the studio and outdoors. Many experienced pastel artists have taken his workshops more than once and rave about the stroke exercises . . . and how much they have helped them learn, in such a short time.

After his instructor led Basic Stroke Exercises, we will all work from a simple still-life, plus landscape reference photos at Karlyn's gallery the first two days and then take it outdoors to work *en plein air*, around the nearby waterways of Wisconsin, day 3 & 4. His live, narrated demos are informative, easy to understand and loaded with special techniques developed from years of pastel painting.

A recent testimonial: "*Love Steve Hill - he's a great teacher and could not have had more teaching experience, with attention to everyone and constructive, to-the-point advice. I really liked his demos before we painted and that he shared art experiences, working techniques and even his mistakes with us. A nice long critique discussion at the end was given to all students, with constructive advice and praise for what we did well, too.*"

Deborah K.

Dakota Art - Plein Air Pastel Workshop, September 22-24, 2016, Mt. Vernon, WA

To see his work: www.windsweptstudios.com

This workshop ltd to 15 artists. To register contact Chris Lindsey, 78195 Singer Rd., Washburn, WI 54891 before June 1, 2017. 715-373-2259

Fee is \$385 for 4 days plus a basic pastel starter set (@\$200-\$275). A complete materials list will be sent upon receipt of your \$150 deposit.



Cynthia Kath

Teaching at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts is one of the gifts in my life. It's a long drive but worth it. I love my students. They work hard capturing the concepts of creating a two dimensional painting, that when finished, looks three dimensional. Some students like more abstract results. It's all fun! We painters constantly learn about color and how varying the hue make images come forward or recede. I teach how and why to blur some edges while keeping other crisp and why some colors look better than others next to each other.

We work on different types of paper and sometimes paint on the surface before we start with our pastels

In the painting "Soft Rain on Lace Lake" I used the process of a watercolor on sanded paper and then laid the pastel over the watercolor. This scene was challenging, creating color harmony with a wet, rainy landscape next to a lake.

Every painting exercises new muscles. Every time I paint, the process is new to me. Learning to let the painting dictate where it wants to lead me emotionally and skillfully has taken a lifetime. I love to learn and frequently put *myself* in the hands of a Master Artist who continue to show me what this Fine Art of painting requires. I love to paint and I love to teach.

Please join us at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts on Tuesday mornings, beginning February 28 through April 18, 2017, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

<https://17116.thankyou4caring.org/painting>

Lake Country Pastel Society Calendar 2017

January 14

11:00 Member's Meeting Paint-In

February 15

Deadline for March newsletter

March 14

5:30 Board Meeting

7:00 Member's Meeting

April 13 - May 11

Exhibit at Minnetonka Art Center

Intake Sat. April 8 10:00 -2:00

Pick up Sat May 13 10:00-2:00

April 15

Deadline for May newsletter

May 2-5

Workshop with Fred Somers
New Brighton Family Center

May 2

5:30 Board Meeting

7:00 Meeting with Fred Somers

July 11

Potluck

August 15

Deadline for newsletter

September 12

5:30 Board Meeting

7:00 Member's Meeting

October 15

Deadline for newsletter

November 14

5:30 Board Meeting

7:00 Member's Meeting

December 15

Deadline for 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 Fred Somers at: 507-645-5031

or email: studio@fredericksomers.com