



President's Message

Winter isn't over yet but we certainly have had some good weather lately making me feel like winter is almost over. I've been able to fill in my spare time from shoveling to working on a few more watercolors. A quick winter break to Arizona will also give me a chance to free myself from some of this winter stuff.

If you have not already heard, Chris Sommerfelt will be doing a demo at our WWS Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 9th at the Lake Park Community Room. Chris will present a watercolor demo technique using transparent watercolor on crinkled Masa paper. Masa paper is a machine made Japanese rice paper. This technique, Chris says, "is fun and well suited for natural subject matter that contains texture". I hope you will have a chance to make this very interesting and informative presentation.

The annual meeting will also have the election of our WWS slate of officers. Our worker bees on the board would entertain some help if you were interested in volunteering.

I always like to mention the world of exhibitions when I get a chance. I'm sure many of you have had a chance to see the new layout of gallery space at the Milwaukee Art Museum. The galleries are now accommodating over 1000 additional pieces of artwork. There is a lot of work in the galleries that I have never seen before. The new addition on the lake side of the museum is very nice as well.

Speaking of which, the Milwaukee Art Museum opened the exhibition *Nature and the American Vision* running through May 8th. The exhibition will feature over 50 paintings from the New York Historical Society's collection of landscape paintings. This is a must see for all of you landscape painters out there. I believe most of this work is from the Hudson River School.

The TWSA exhibition at the Kenosha Public Museum will be coming up starting May 7th and running through August 7th. Watch for this exhibition of really wonderful watercolor work.

And last but not least the Wisconsin Watercolor Society will be having our spring exhibition at the Anderson Arts Center in Kenosha this spring from April 10th through May 22nd. You may have already received the prospectus by the time you read this newsletter.

It seems like the plein air painters are more and more plentiful as there are more and more plein air events to choose from. There is an East Side group called Milwaukee Museum Mile that is organizing such an event called: Plein Air MKE 2016. To download/view the plein air prospectus or to register go to milwaukeemuseummile.org/pleinairMKE.

See you at the Annual Meeting. Good painting.

Steve Horvath

Annual Member Dinner

Last fall our Annual Member Dinner was held again at Carini's La Conca D'Oro on Oakland Avenue. In addition to the wonderful Italian dinner choices, several members ordered homemade pizza made in Carini's newly installed wood-fired pizza oven. It was a lively evening and all enjoyed socializing with fellow artists.

Look for information in the September newsletter for information about our next Annual Member Dinner.



Jean Tobin, Chris Sommerfelt, Carolyn Simpson
Annual Member Dinner, October 2015



Jean and Dan Thielen, Annual Member Dinner, Carini's

Board Meeting

A Board Meeting of the Wisconsin Watercolor Society was held on Saturday, February 6, 2016 and called to order by President, Steve Horvath at his home

Chris Sommerfelt, Exhibit's Chair and Facebook Administrator, reported on the upcoming WWS shows ("Exhibits" below) and also an update on our Facebook page (see "Facebook").

Our Historian, Barbara Sorenson Rambadt has been working to document our membership dating back to our founding in 1952. She realizes what a huge undertaking this is and feels that WWS would be better served if the position of Historian were filled by someone with computer skills.

WWS Exhibits



Kappy Schwab and Carolyn Simpson stand in front of Carolyn's painting at Concordia University Gallery.

The WWS Fall Exhibit was held at Concordia University in Mequon. The attractive gallery there was an inviting setting for our artist's work. Votes were cast at the exhibit for approval of our prospective WWS members and we are happy to report that we now have two great additions to our membership. We welcome Jennifer and Stacy!

Jennifer Herro's home is Hartland, WI along with her husband, two cats, nine chickens and her horse Justa Q.T. Animal and House Portraits are her specialty however Jennifer is also known for her beautiful feather paintings and paintings of subjects from nature. You can view her work at jenherrowatercolors.com.

Stacy Small Rupp is from New Franken, WI and her focus is Door County landscapes and nature scenes. Stacy has been painting the Door County landscape for over 20 years. Her work can be seen at the Cottage Row Gallery in Fish Creek which is open year round or at their website, cottagerowgallerydc.com.

Chris Sommerfelt reported that our spring exhibition will be at the Anderson Arts Center in Kenosha, a beautiful old mansion on the shore of Lake Michigan. Our show runs April 10 through May 22, 2016. Look for your prospectus with all the details in early March. Our fall exhibition will be at the Miller Art Museum in Sturgeon Bay, WI, September 17 through November 1, 2016. Our spring 2017 exhibit is at the Cedarburg Art Museum. This is a lovely old home and our art will be displayed in individual rooms of this home. This show has a theme, "Awakenings." It is a fairly open-ended theme to be interpreted as you choose. Keep your brushes busy!

Member News

Last year Watercolor Wisconsin celebrated its 49th year and continues to attract a wide range of artists from around the state. Many of our members were included in the show. Those WWS members juried into the exhibition are **Jean Crane**, Grafton; **William Davis**, Mequon; **Lisa Englander**, Racine; **Joyce Eesley**, Milwaukee; **Harold E. Hansen**, Hartford; **Julia F. McMurray**, Brookfield, **Lyle Peters**, Racine; **Don Ricchio**, Racine; **Diane Shabino**, Wausau; **Dan Simoneau**, Kenosha; **Carolyn Simpson**, Wauwatosa; **Chris Sommerfelt**, Wauwatosa and **Alice Struck**, Mequon. Watercolor Wisconsin runs through April 23, 2016; Wustum Museum, 2519 Northwestern Ave., Racine, WI

Madison artist, **Kaaren Oreck** had her painting, "The Orient Came to Me" included in *Splash 16, Exploring Textures (the Best of Watercolor)*.

Joyce Eesley's painting, "Grape Still Life", won the *Heart of Gold Award for Best Floral or Still-Life* at the Museum of Wisconsin Art Member Show.

Fond du Flambeau artist, **Christine Alfery's** solo show titled *Imagine* is on view at Gallery 110 North, Plymouth, WI. Her colorful abstract paintings will be on exhibit through March 11, 2016.

Artist Profile

Quick Sketch – Chris Sommerfelt

By Steve Horvath



Chris Sommerfelt in her Studio

Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, February 2, 2016 – She was born in St. Paul and grew up in Saukville. Chris Sommerfelt always knew she wanted to be an artist. Her father had a liking for art, so much so that he went to art school after serving in WWII. I wondered out loud while speaking with Chris if she got her love for art through her father. She said she was always encouraged to make art. Her father had a job as a layout artist doing newspaper ads and used to bring home reams of white paper for Chris to draw on.

She said her grade school teacher was the one person who most encouraged her to keep making art. This was a small classroom where 2 grades were combined into one classroom. She continued to take all of the art classes that were offered from junior high through all of her elective classes at Port Washington High School.

After high school Chris began taking art classes in the fall of 1970 in a 2-year program at MATC. The educational program at MATC was, then as it is now, a schedule of classes that prepared their graduates for a professional career in the program of their particular enrollment. Chris would be pursuing a career in graphic design so she took classes in photography, printing, setting type, graphic design, drawing, illustration, air brush photo retouching, etc.

Chris said that at the time she attended MATC they didn't have an internship program as schools do now. There was a competition of sorts sponsored by various businesses that offered what we would now call an internship in their place of business for the summer. Chris won the competition in her area of design at the Styles Campbell Studio. After her 'internship' she stayed on for 2 years after graduation as a Production Artist for the studio.

She found, after this time, that she wanted to stretch her creative pursuits so she found employment at M & I Bank as one of 3 staff artists engaging herself in production art, design, and some illustration. It was

during this time, 1976, that she met and married her husband Rick. So after 5 years at M & I she left to start her family, run her home and raise her 2 daughters Laura and Karin.

Time passed into the early 80's and Chris was missing her art so she investigated the adult evening classes program at Wauwatosa West and enrolled in some watercolor classes there. She really liked being back making art and even started attending a few art fairs each year. In the late 80's Chris decided that she wanted to get back into the world of design. Her daughters were older now to make this possible.

She found a part time job at Birdsall Voss Advertising. This was about the time that digital technology came into our lives. The agency invested in computers and Chris says, "This is where I learned how to work on a computer." She remained at the agency for 5 years and decided that she would like to work on her own as a graphic designer. She did that successfully until 2008 when an opportunity arose for her to become the designer for the Brookfield Academy, a private K4 thru 12 schools. In this capacity Chris creates all of their external marketing material and all of their internal design needs as well.



"Missoula Market"

She has taken classes with Bridget Austin, Win Jones, Joy Moon, Tom Francesconi, Sharon Crosbie, Ann Miotke and Alice Struck. All of these artists have influenced Chris's approach to creating her own work.

Chris likes to keep busy so in addition to being the Exhibition Chairperson for the Wisconsin Watercolor Society she teaches watercolor at the Art Park Senior Center in Wauwatosa, The Wauwatosa Recreation Department, Mentor for the Wauwatosa Artists Workshop, (WAW), and teaches watercolor workshops at The Clearing in Door County. She is also a member of the League of Milwaukee Artists, she conducts critiques, demos and judges exhibits for local art groups, tutors privately, and she is involved with a group called Fine Art Montage, artists working together for exhibition opportunities.



"Painting the Broad Side of the Barn"

If you would like an opportunity to enroll in a class that Chris is teaching you can view her teaching schedule on her web site at www.chrissommerfelt.com or e-mail her at csommerfelt@wi.rr.com.

Facebook

Several months ago, WWS has created a Group page on Facebook, www.facebook.com/groups/WisconsinWatercolorSociety. Please join or invite others to join. Galleries, other art associations, venues that might be interested in having WWS exhibit would be great choices. A group page on Facebook differs from an organization page in this way. All member's posts will show up in the main timeline in a group. In this way you can post about exhibits you are in, classes you are teaching. You can post a tip, tell about a great new art supply. Show us your latest painting. All posts carry equal weight. If you don't belong to Facebook, now you have a reason to sign up! Chris Sommerfelt reported that Facebook currently has 38 WWS followers.

Shows to Enjoy

Van Gogh's Bedrooms

Vincent van Gogh's bedroom in Arles is arguably the most famous *chambre* in the history of art. It also held special significance for the artist, who created three distinct paintings of this intimate space from 1888 to 1889. This exhibition—presented only at the Art Institute of Chicago—brings together all three versions of *The Bedroom* for the first time in North America. Art Institute of Chicago, 111 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, Through May 10

Exhibit Opportunities

Alive in the Arts, 21st Annual Juried Exhibition

May 20 – July 15, 2016

Delivery of art work, Sat., May 14, Plymouth, WI
Plymouth Arts Center, 520 E. Mill Street
www.plymoutharts.org, 920-892-8409

From Garden to Canvas

April 14 – May 15, 2016

Delivery of work Tuesday, April 12, 10 – 5:00pm

An exhibit and sale of original works in all media and styles. Each artist may submit one piece that reflects the exhibit's theme of florals, botanicals, fruits vegetables and other items which might be found in a garden. No size limit. 262-375-3676

Opening Reception Thursday, April 14, 6:00-8:00pm
Cedarburg Cultural Center, W62 N546 Washington Ave.

Schedule of Activities

2016

March

Spring newsletter
Membership roster
Prospectus for Spring Show

April

Annual Member Meeting
Saturday, April 9, 2016

Board Meeting &
Election of Officers
12:00 – 1:00pm

Demonstration
Chris Sommerfelt, (*See below*)
1:00 – 3:00pm

Marcia Coles Community Rm.
Lake Park, Milwaukee

Spring Exhibition

April 10 – May 22, 2016
Anderson Arts Center, Kenosha

May

June, July August

Ck. Website for Plein Air Events
Happy Painting!

September

Fall Exhibition

September 17 – November 1
Miller Art Museum, Sturgeon Bay



Masa Paper Demo, Chris Sommerfelt

In Memoriam



Mary Lee Benson

May 6, 1940 – June 9, 2015

Mary Lee Benson passed away peacefully on June 9 from breast cancer. She lived in Davenport, IA from 1941 until 1980. She graduated from Augustana College, Rock Island, IL in 1962.

Mary Lee and Donald H. Benson were married in 1963 and resided in Davenport, IA until 1980 when they moved to Cedarburg, WI. After retirement in 2002, they lived on Washington Island, WI where they had a summer home for many years.

Mary Lee served as the Art Director of the Washington Island Art and nature center and was a member of the Washington Island Zoning and planning committee for over 10 years, serving as secretary and chairman. She was a talented artist in Norwegian rosemaling and then in watercolor, acrylic and printmaking. Her artistic style was continually evolving as she believed strongly in creating and finding new direction with each painting.

She loved being surrounded by nature at her home, gardening and caring for the land. It was important to her that the environment be protected for future generations. She also loved to travel and was thankful for the many hiking trips she and Don took.



Peter Boyajian

Peter Boyajian passed away July 1, 2015 at the age of 87. He attended the Layton School of Art and graduated from the UWM. Peter worked as an Art Teacher at Pulaski High School in Milwaukee for 34 years, the Milwaukee

Art Center and Alverno College. Peter owned an art gallery on 27th Street for 7 years where he sold original art, the work of local artist's, frames and gave lessons. He was a very prolific artist, a member of the Wisconsin Watercolor Society and the Milwaukee Men's Sketch Club. After moving from Greendale in 1998 he lived at The Villages in Florida where he continued to paint actively in his studio. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Judy, three sons and two step children.

Richard H. Smith

March 2, 1932 – December 11, 2015

Richard Smith grew up in Youngstown Ohio before moving to Milwaukee in 1955 after graduating from Miami University. There he received his Bachelor of Architecture degree. Richard served his country in Korea and after the war did architectural work there to rebuild the country.

In Milwaukee Richard worked for Steffen & Kemp designing churches, Miller & Waltz and then KM Development as Project Manager. After retirement in the 1980's he took up painting full time. Richard explored pen and ink and with his wonderful drafting skills would work directly on paper without sketching first. He also tried oils, pastels, acrylics and then moved into watercolors. He painted plein air, and traveled several times to France where he painted with Tony Van Hasselt and Judy Wagner. Richard also traveled to Mexico painting with Tony. There were also trips to Maine and Amelia Island where he painted with Tony and Judy. Wisconsin was also a favorite choice for painting where he did several river trips.

Richard preferred painting landscapes, buildings and boats and he received many awards throughout his years of painting. He was a member of the Wisconsin Watercolor Society, League of Milwaukee Artist's, displayed his work in art fairs in the 90's and opened up his home studio in Mequon during the Cedarburg Artist's Guild Studio Tours.

Richard's painting career was shared with his wife of many years, Leila. They were a team, helping each other by offering criticism; helping in composition and color; and interpretation. They both settled on watercolor as their medium however the similarities stop there. Richard preferred to work loose and fast while Leila works slower and is more meticulous. Both partners were very energetic and enthusiastic about their work because it was such a significant part of their lives and marriage. Leila continues teaching watercolor painting classes in her home studio in Mequon.



Richard Smith landscape

I NEED YOUR NEWS!

Let me know what is happening in your area-exhibitions, workshops, painting trips, current museum exhibitions, awards. I would love to hear from you! Send articles about members, photographs/digitals of artwork. August, 2016 deadline for September 2016 newsletter

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By regular mail:

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Please, no-handwritten or phone-in submissions.
Submissions may be excluded due to space restrictions.

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