



## Letter from the President

Happy New Year!!! Hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to a prosperous new year. I know I am looking forward to having a great year with SWA as your president for another year. We have a great workshop coming in April with Don Andrews that promises to be a lot of fun. He will be our guest demo artist at the April meeting and I hear he is a fun person to listen and learn from. I have always enjoyed his very colorful art. He will also be the juror for our International Show at the Fort Worth main Library. So, everyone, get those brushes going before the March entry deadline sneaks up on you.



Speaking of the International show (and all other shows), we are in dire need of an Exhibit Chair. It is an important position since there is a lot involved in coordinating the different aspects of putting on an exhibit. The good thing about our board, though, is that each member is ready to help out when needed. And, some of the work has already been completed. So, if you think you might want to volunteer to help SWA, get in touch with me. Hope to see all of you at the meeting on **January 22nd**. Don't forget it is a week later than we normally meet due to Martin Luther King Day.

Happy Painting,  
Janet

## ASEL ART AWARDS Artist of the Month Competition

SWA members are invited to bring a completed piece to our monthly meeting. The artwork is shown anonymously with each member in attendance voting for their favorite. After winning 1st place, an artist retires from the competition for the remainder of the calendar year. Those who win 2nd place may continue to compete with other pieces of work. Art work previously shown in a SWA



juried exhibit is not allowed. The first place wins a \$25 Asel gift certificate and 2nd place wins a \$15 gift card. In November all first place pieces during 2018 will return for selection of "Artist of the Year."

Many thanks to Mary T House who chairs this fun event for us each month! Be sure and thank Asel Art Supply when you shop at 825 Foch Street. Plan to bring your art to our next meeting, **January 22, 2018.**

## **2018 Demo Artists**

January	Nancy Maas	<a href="https://nmaas.com/">https://nmaas.com/</a>
February	Darla Bostick	<a href="https://www.darlabostick.com/">https://www.darlabostick.com/</a>
March	Michael Holter	<a href="http://michaelholter.com/">http://michaelholter.com/</a>
April	Don Andrews	<a href="https://www.donandrewsstudio.com/">https://www.donandrewsstudio.com/</a>
May	Cecy Turner	<a href="http://www.ceceturner.com/">http://www.ceceturner.com/</a>
September	Sarah Graham Harman	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/SarahGrahamArt/">https://www.facebook.com/SarahGrahamArt/</a>
October	TBD	
November	Bev Boren	<a href="http://bevboren.com/">http://bevboren.com/</a>
December	Christmas Party	

## **Important 2018 Dates**

March 11	Deadline Entry for International Exhibition
April 17-19	Don Andrews Workshop
May 20	Reception for International Exhibition
October	Fall Workshop
December	SWA Membership Juried Exhibition at Fort Worth Community Arts Center

## **On Being an Artist...**

### **NANCY NEAHER MAAS**

Painting provides a great deal of pleasure in my life, with a small dose of stress if things aren't turning out as I hoped. My Texas home studio is a dedicated space in which I can get as dirty as I like. There are two "stations", one for watercolor and the other for acrylics (a large easel serves both). I tend to be rather free with paint as I start a new work, especially with acrylics, so the room is looking the part after five years of throwing color spontaneously. Our dog Charle is my constant companion in the studio, along with NPR (music only; no news) and a Diet Dr. Pepper. [cont'd]

I like to work a few hours at a time, starting in the morning and sometimes continuing in the afternoon. Break time consists of everything from lunch to walking the dog or biking with a friend, running an errand or going to the Y. I find if I leave an unfinished painting and come back after a time away, I can better see what needs to be done next. A mirror in my studio also helps, plus critique sessions, like SWA's which I am determined to take better advantage of, and Tony Saladino's which meet a few times a year.



In response to a question about good advice received, I would have to say that Randy Meador's rule of putting down a good wash of fresh color, followed by LEAVING IT ALONE, is my first commandment (which, sad to say, I often break). Also, Tony Saladino urges us to SIMPLIFY, which is especially relevant to me in acrylics where I am constantly paring down an image (Let's just say I don't often bring my watercolor weavings to his meetings). These two principles can keep me going for years. Otherwise, as someone who always loved art but didn't take a fine arts degree, books about watercolor masters like Winslow Homer and John Singer Sargent inspire me and can provide help in solving a problem.

As to mechanics, I use a baseline of Winsor & Newton paints, plus a few Daniel Smith's (quinocridone burnt orange), Holbein "opera", and a few others. Sometimes I resort to white gouache to retrieve whites, but only very sparingly. Critical brushes include several of the Silver Black Velvet synthetics, a one inch flat, and, perhaps surprisingly, some larger "Simply Simmons" rounds.

Now that my teaching career and the responsibilities of raising a family are in the past, I can paint at will - a privilege I almost feel I don't deserve. In Spanish the word for retired is "jubilado/a", suggesting a state of joy. That's me now!



## ***American Watercolor Website and Weekly Newsletter Launched***

A new website devoted solely to watermedia has been launched in partnership with some of today's top watercolorists. Our own Laurin McCracken is on the Advisory Board.

Visit their website [here](#) for medium-specific tips, techniques, advice and opportunities; and while you're there, sign up for their free newsletter, American Watercolor Weekly. Other notable watercolorists on the Advisory Board include Bev Jozwiak, Thomas Schaller, Mark Mehaffey, Carol Carter, Jean Pederson, Antonio Masi, Keiko Tanabe, John Salminen, and Mario Robinson. The Editor-in-Chief is Kelly Kane, who is also Editor-in-Chief of *PleinAir Magazine*. Kelly has more than 20 years' experience in art publishing,



*Laurin*

## ***Botanical Art Group***

The newly formed botanical art group based at The Botanical Research Institute of Texas has a new name – The Botanical Art Collective of North Central Texas. Led by SWA member Denis Benjamin, the name change aims to be more inclusive as a “collaborative community of artists interested in sharing, exploring, and expanding both the traditional and contemporary practice of botanical art and illustration. BAC also welcomes individuals who might not consider themselves artists (yet!) but who are interested in supporting all aspects of botanical art, such as its history, educational value, scientific contributions, and its aesthetics.” Two botanical watercolor classes will be offered in January and February; check it out here: [Classes](#)



If you are interested in joining the group or participating in any of the programs please contact Denis Benjamin ([dbenjamin@brit.org](mailto:dbenjamin@brit.org)). Also, please join the Facebook page [here](#) for information about upcoming events, to share your art and join in the discussions.

## Member News



**Michael Holter** has been selected to the faculty for the 2018 Plein Air Convention and Expo in Santa Fe in April. Michael's painting "The Banner" has been selected to be included in the 151<sup>st</sup> Annual American Watercolor Society Exhibition at the Salmangundi Club in New York.

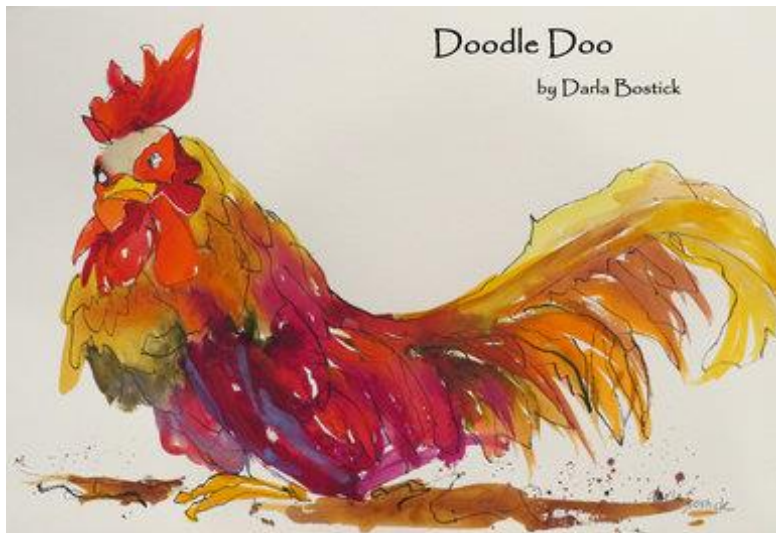


**Suzy Powell** will be teaching a watercolor workshop in Tuscany October 18-28, 2018. The itinerary includes watercolor instruction as well as many other fun cultural events and activities. Check it out here: [Tuscany](#)



**Les McDonald's** *Wading Whooper* will be exhibited at the Beeville Art Museum January-April, in Beeville, TX.





**Darla Bostick** just returned from leading an art retreat in Branson and will have "Doodle Doo" exhibited at the MCL Grand in Lewisville with the other Asel winner of 2017 with the Visual Arts League of Lewisville. At the January meeting of Visual Arts Society of Texas in Denton she won 2nd place at their Asel Art of the Month contest with "Thirsty 2", a wall sculpture. Darla will be leading a group of artists going in June/July to visit Copenhagen, Denmark as well as Hamburg and Berlin, Germany.



**John James** gained signature status with acceptance into the upcoming 2018 American Watercolor Society show. In 2017, he also achieved signature membership in Watercolor West and the Northwest Watercolor Society, and won awards in their shows (pictured at left, "Lightning"). In addition, he won second place in Southern Colorado Watercolor Society's Aquarius National Show and was accepted into Western Colorado Watercolor Society's Rockies West National Show. Whew! Great work, John!



## ***SWA membership runs on a calendar year January through December***

You can join SWA anytime during the year. Our official membership campaign is in October as our regular year runs with the calendar: January through December. Those who join mid-year do not receive a discounted membership fee, but they are eligible for the membership juried show in December which is for the 2018 members only. We will not be meeting during the summer months and will resume again in September.

## ***We like new members...invite your friends! The first visit is free.***

Membership includes these benefits:

- ✚ Fellowship with like-minded creative folks
- ✚ Post your art work on our Facebook page
- ✚ Free monthly SWA newsletter  
[Http://www.facebook.com/SWAwatercolor](http://www.facebook.com/SWAwatercolor)
- ✚ Entry discount for any SWA show
- ✚ Free image on the SWA Members Gallery
- ✚ Annual Juried Membership Exhibition
- ✚ Buy space on the SWA Premium Gallery for \$20
- ✚ Annual Juried International Exhibition
- ✚ While maintaining SWA membership earn SWA Signature Membership after selection to 5 juried exhibitions our juried exhibitions (without disqualification)
- ✚ Asel Art Supply 20% discount
- ✚ Fun competitions
- ✚ December Holiday Party and painting swap
- ✚ ASEL Art of the Month Contest

Our Monthly meetings are held at the UNTHSC, Everett Building. After you turn from Camp Bowie to Clinton St turn left into a sloping parking lot beyond the vacant kiosk. We are on the bottom floor of the building to the right corner. Watch for a banner on the parking lot with directions to our room (or check the map on the website)

5:45pm Board Meeting  
6:00pm Critique (bring in 1 or 2 works for some friendly advice)  
7:00pm Brief business notices

## ***Ongoing SWA Fundraisers (They help you to help us!)***



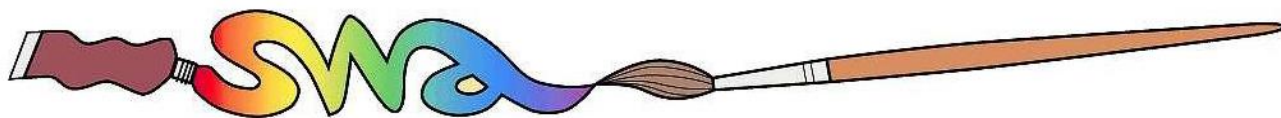
Kroger makes quarterly donations to SWA through your shopping! Go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). If you already have a Kroger's Plus card, create your account and input your card number. In 7 to 10 days after shopping you will notice at the bottom of your receipt a donation was recorded for SWA.



Colors of Nature offers SWA members a 20% discount on their watercolors and customized brushes that are 100% vegan and cruelty-free. The savings are matched and donated back to SWA. The company will post member's art work created with their paints on their website, blog and direct people to a site of the artist's choice. SWA discount code: Members-20-SWA <http://shop.colorsofnature.com>.



Amazon Smile donates .05% of your online purchase back to SWA. Choose Society of Watercolor Artists as your nonprofit organization.



## **2018 SWA Officers and Standing Committee Members**

### **2018 Board of Directors**

**President:** *Janet Southern*

**Secretary:** *Dawn Kerbs*

**Treasurer:** *Pat Banell*

**Exhibits:** **OPEN**

**Education/Workshop:** *Bill Dale*

**Membership:** *Mary Bell*

**Communications:** *Skeeter Murley and  
Veronica Ritchey*

**Past President:** *John Nickell*

### **2018 Standing Committees**

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: Bill Dale

*Members are:*

ASEL Painting of the Month/Year: Mary T House

Monthly Critique: **OPEN**

Programs: Alice Hoener

Social Chairman (Refreshments/Receptions): Rhonda Barefield

Workshop Chair: Bill Dale

#### **PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE**

Co-CHAIRS: Skeeter Murley and Veronica Ritchey

*Members are:*

Newsletter Editor: Elaine Jary

Photography: Veronica Ritchey

Print Editor for Catalogs: Skeeter Murley

Publicity: **OPEN**

Website Manager: Skeeter Murley

Website Consultant: Sharon Giles

Facebook & Twitter: Skeeter Murley

#### **EXHIBITION COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: **OPEN**

*Members are:*

Hanging Volunteers: Jim Stewart

Membership for Exhibitions: Mary Bell

Monetary Entries for Exhibitions: Treasurer

SWA Signatures: Debbie Downing

Website Entries & Submissions: **OPEN**

Prize Sponsors: **OPEN**

#### **FINANCE AND MARKETING COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: Pat Banell

*Members are:*

Director of Finance & Budget: Pat Banell

Fantastic Fans: Shirley Nichols

Professional Standards (yearly audit): Brenda Morgan

#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: Mary Bell

*Members are:*

Director of Membership: Mary Bell

Greeters: Shirley Nichols, Linda Taylor, Suzy Ware

#### **MEETING VOLUNTEERS** (Not a committee)

House & Properties: **OPEN**

Hospitality: Rhonda Barefield

Painting of the Month: Mary T House

Programs/Assistant to Demo Artist: **OPEN**