

Society of Watercolor Artists August Notes 2013

Hello to Friends of SWA & Members!

July has been very kind to us this year which seems to have created more work for me as I rework my herb garden and restructure our garden pathway. Still, I have set aside time to paint and hope you are doing the same.

The most exciting news I can share is our 2nd Annual SWA Invitational Exhibition. We have a lot of hard workers who help make SWA what it is today. Some of the biggie jobs require dedication—managing our membership, monies, exhibitions and programs while some volunteers quietly provide us with behind-the-scene newsletters, advertising, art of the month contest, organize our refreshments, manage our web site and check our mailbox. It takes many hands to provide our membership perks. Last year I began our Invitational Exhibition to honor those who give back to SWA. Along with the traveling NWS exhibit our 26 artists were featured at the new Grapevine Gallery. This year the tradition continues with an exhibition in the Irving Art Center Focus Gallery!



We had our summer leadership pow-wow at my home in Denton and discussed some exciting changes for SWA! I think you will soon see more benefits to your membership. SWA is blessed with energetic and enthusiastic leaders with great ideas! Upcoming benefits include special exhibit awards, the ability to have personal gallery space on our webpage, the opportunity to pay dues once to become a Lifetime Member (and never worry about dues deadlines again!) and more...to be announced in the upcoming months. As I see it members have 2 choices: be an observer, sit back and enjoy the ride...or you can sit in the front seat as a leader (the view is better and it's more exciting)! Volunteer today!

Darla Bostick, President
(and newsletter editor)

2nd Annual SWA Invitational Exhibition

What is it? We all know any organization depends upon the talents and time of its volunteers. To express gratitude to those who tirelessly devote their energy to SWA as volunteers a new exhibition was installed in 2012, The Invitational. The Invitational Exhibition is honorary and does not award prizes (although we may get creative this year). It exists purely as a thank you for those who step up to see our educational programs (monthly demos and workshops) and exhibitions run smoothly alongside the field trips, fun contests, and parties.

Where is it? Last year we were fortunate to have our 1st Annual Invitational side by side with the traveling NWS exhibition in the new Grapevine Gallery. The exhibit was visited by thousands of art lovers. A beautiful location has been found for the 2nd Annual Invitational in the Focus Gallery of the beautiful Irving Arts Center.

When is it? 14 Sept-13 Oct 2013—delivery and installation Thursday, 12 and Friday, 13 September (specific time to be announced soon)

Who is invited? To qualify for an invitation to exhibit your work, you must simply have been a leader in SWA. Some leadership positions are year-round, some are one-time projects. When you look at the last page of this newsletter you will see a listing of all the people we depend upon to keep SWA running. There are still empty slots to fill for 2014. Let us know if you are interested in one...and next year you could find yourself participating in this prestigious exhibition. The following members are cordially and enthusiastically invited with our thanks for your time given to SWA: (alphabetically)

Rhonda Barefield—exhibition sponsorship

Darla Bostick—president, prospectus, print materials, newsletter, exhibition chair, etc

Lynne Buchanan—workshop chair

Marie Coerver—Japanese Gardens, hospitality

Pam Fritz-- assistant to demo artist, greeter

Sharon Giles—website tech

Mary T House—Japanese Gardens, ASEL art of the month

Judy Huebener—secretary

Collette Jones-- assistant to demo artist, greeter

Diana Littlejohn—assistant to demo artist, greeter

Norma Lively--signatures

Shubha Mantri—workshop chair

Celeste McCall—website development and management

Brenda Morgan—annual audit

Shirley Nichols—membership chair

Diane Petrushka—exhibition chair

Lynda Robinson-- assistant to demo artist, greeter

Marjorie Ross-- assistant to demo artist, greeter

Ray & Eloise Sears--exhibition catalogs

Janet Southern—treasurer, house & properties

Jackie Stengle-- assistant to demo artist, greeter

Mary Stitt—exhibition chair, certificates

Jo Williams—monthly critiques, hanging chair

THOSE LISTED ABOVE NEED TO INDICATE THEIR INTENT TO PARTICIPATE TO DARLA ASAP. ANY SPACE THAT BECOMES AVAILABLE WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE ON A SECONDARY VOLUNTEER LIST. *We have many volunteers who assist with hanging exhibitions and provide refreshments at our meetings and receptions. Unfortunately we do not have gallery space to accommodate all of these. Please know you are equally appreciated!*

How can we celebrate our volunteers? We are considering a special reception with details to come next month. We hope all members can join us and give our volunteers a much-deserved pat on the back!

Nitty Gritty details for participants: Submit one image to Darla for approval (we don't want everyone turning in the same type subject matter, etc). To accommodate space limitations submit a half-sheet size painting or smaller (and if two pieces are equally as beautiful, choose the vertical format). As in any exhibition, the work should be matted (colored liners are fine) with plexi and wire hangers. Restrictions of classroom/workshop inspiration and time line of creation are lifted for this show. Each piece needs identification on the back: title, media, size, price, artist and contact information. Allow a 20% commission to the Irving Arts Center. There will be no commission towards SWA on any sales. A contract needs to be signed in the office at the IAC as work is delivered.

InVision, Hulen Mall Exhibition Space Available to SWA Artists

Dr. Jan Dao (pronounced "Dow") has a beautiful office between Eye Masters and Dillards on the second level (ground level to parking lot) in the Hulen Mall. Her office is hosting a rotating exhibit of art by our members. Dr. Dao's office has gallery lighting and art work is visible from the mall walkway. Mary Stitt will be handling the rotation of SWA artists who wish to exhibit in the space. There is room for 6 paintings half sheet or larger. Shubha Mantri has her work up and will be followed by Ann Winchester for two months. If interested, contact Mary Stitt msmaryps@aol.com. This is a great opportunity to show your work to the Fort Worth community.



Our Volunteer of the Month: Mary Stitt

Whenever a volunteer is needed, Mary is always the one to first raise her hand! She has served in just about every position SWA has to fill. Currently she is the Exhibition Chair for the Dr. Dao InVision lobby at Hulen Mall, handling the sales of the bamboo paddle fans for the FANTastic Fans Contest in September and securing our workshop space for the Steve Rogers workshop next April. Pending election at the September meeting, she will soon be sharing the Exhibition Chairperson leadership with Bob Cook for the 2013 Membership Exhibition in December.



SWA Members in the

Nancy Maas has a one person show of watercolors, collages and watercolor weavings -- "Magical Waters" at Elm Street Studio, Keller, TX from 7 August 7-5 October. Her reception is Thursday, 26 Sept, 6-8pm.

Michael Holter, Darla Bostick, Jo Williams, Karin Michelle Anderson and John James have work accepted in the SWS 50th Anniversary Juried Exhibit at the PFamily Arts Center, showing 7 Sept-19 Oct in Plano. **Carolyn Buchmann** and **Jeanne Heartsill** are also in the show which insures their Signature status.

Suzanne McNeill has a zentangle video on you-tube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukPQkwVrrf8&feature=em-sub_digst She and **Lynne Buchanan** are featured artists at The Upstairs Gallery, 1038 West Abram Street, Arlington teaching one-day afternoon workshops from 1-4 with **Suzanne** 1 Aug and **Lynne** 28 August.

Lynne Buchanan is among others accepted to the Trinity Arts Guild show now at the Fort Worth Central Library.

Soon Warren's instructional watercolor books can be bought in a group through North Light Publishing online.

Sharon Giles is one of several artists featured in the Irving Library.

Dave Maxwell won the Oklahoma Art Guild President's Award recently in the 36th National Water Media Oklahoma Exhibition in Oklahoma City. His acceptance in this show earned him his Signature Status with OAG!

Iris Ann Moore has been commissioned to illustrate two children's books. (The most intimidating part may be creating a horny toad that looks friendly!)

Carolyn Buchman recently took 3rd place in the Denton VAST Membership Exhibition and won an Award of Merit in the recent National Federation of Watercolor Societies show.

If you have news to share, notify Darla Bostick before the last week of the month <darlabostickart@gmail.com>

****Plan now for the December Membership Exhibition—details to come soon**

Newsletter Demo by Darla Bostick:

If you have a demo series you would like to share during the summer months, send it in!

Since no one sent anything, I am sharing the stages of one of my paintings, "Airplane Plant."

I used a quarter-sheet of 140# Kilimanjaro cold press paper, my usual palette of colors, margarita salt and some frisket. This was an exercise dealing with temperatures of color. I used warm colors for the background and cool colors for the foreground.



After painting the greenery I allowed it to dry thoroughly and used a heavy layer of frisket on the leaves that overlap the background area. This allowed me to freely paint the background and not worry about connecting the colors used through the complicated network of negative space. The background also has a bit of a white area where I dropped some margarita salt into the wet paint. I did not use it across the entire background, just a small interest area. After painting the terra cotta planter I began to lay in the shadows, careful to show where each leaf overlapped another. I changed the color of the paint as I progressed through each line of shadow.



At some point I decided to remove the lizard and lifted him out with clear water, paint brush and a towel (I never use paper towels—in fact, I like a cotton diaper). You can still see the ghost of the lizard when you look hard enough but it does not affect the composition and is not distracting. I used my cooler reds on the foreground to contrast with the warmer background. I use purple in just about any painting I create. It adds a spark that is simply not in the initial photograph. You can see where the leaves have purple added as well as the shadows on the pottery. Here is a close-up:





Treasurer's Report: Current Balance as of 20 July is \$16,392.23 Bank CD Total: \$15,252.17

Update on Giving Back to the Arts

Unfortunately our idea to sponsor an art competition at a Fort Worth high school and encourage art students with art gift certificates as prizes has been cancelled due to lack of volunteers.

A New Leadership Position Created



Your current leadership group has been working on several goals that can only be met with membership participation:

1. Involve more of the membership as leaders
2. Break down responsibilities of current positions into more manageable commitments for volunteers
3. Provide good continuity from each position to the next leader.

Dividing the position of Membership Chair will help make lighter work of this important responsibility.

Membership Director: Shirley Nichols has held this position since 2009...that's a LOT of members who had Shirley as their first contact. We certainly could not expect more from her and she has been consistently diligent in her duties. Shirley has presented a plan to split the duties in half (and she will continue with one part!)—one to process new members and the other to edit/print the membership directory. The Membership Director will maintain the roll of membership. Specifically this person would be available at meetings to accept membership applications, add them to the Membership Roll and send the secretary and president names as they join so new members can be properly welcomed and added to the email list. At times of exhibitions, the Membership Director also checks to see that those claiming membership are up to date. Our new Membership Director can sit with Shirley at a meeting and learn the ropes--then take over in October 2013 as our members renew for the next year. Contact Shirley if you are interested: 817.247.9091. The other half of this position is Membership Directory Editor. This position involves compiling, printing and distribution of the yearly Membership Directory. Shirley has generously offered to continue as Membership Directory Editor through 2014. At that time she hopes to train her successor to take the position for 2015. Since this will require a change in our bylaws the membership will need to vote on this proposal when we find a Director.

Dues News and a NEW Option!

Did you know you can pay dues on the website? SWA runs on a calendar year. In October our 2014 membership dues is due (so you can be included in the printing of the membership directory). Just go to our web page www.swa-watercolor.com and each time you hit the pay pal button to pay dues, you are paid for one year.



SWA is pleased to announce a new option for dues payment! You may become a Lifetime Member with one simple payment. Imagine no more worries about dues deadlines, no fretting to remember if you paid before you were accepted to the International Exhibition! For a one-time payment of \$400 you will become a Lifetime Member and never pay dues again! The perks of this membership equal those when paying one time at a year. Make life simple...and enjoy the monthly programs and demos, our annual exhibits, parties, workshops and field trips. This membership option should be available soon. The \$400 is payable by check to Shirley Nichols, 2525 Ryan Place Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76110. This option will be available with Pay Pal on the website soon, but a convenience fee will be added (the percentage we pay to Pay Pal for transactions). Note: This Lifetime Membership is not the same as the Honorary Lifetime Membership SWA has bestowed on precious few members.

Member Spotlight: Suzanne McNeill Sparks

After Suzanne's husband, James, took her to visit the Upstairs Gallery in Arlington she signed on for a painting class by Doug Walton. She says after that she wanted to hang out with arty friends and learn more. In 2004 she joined SWA adding "It is such a wonderful organization and offers valuable benefits. Taking workshops with great artists, learning from the demos, and getting to know other arty friends are all benefits." Suzanne was a demo artist at a SWA meeting with Zentangle® and has helped with registering visitors at meetings. She is a member of SWA, Woman's Club of Fort Worth and Irving Art Association. She has lived in Arlington for 15 years and in Fort Worth and Dallas before that time. She explains, "I love to travel but have never lived anywhere except my home state of Texas. This year I plan to visit India on a sketchbook tour and next year to visit South Africa on a Zentangle® tour." When describing her style of painting she says, "I like to try everything. I just want to 'learn how' then I am ready to learn or try something new. Basically I enjoy putting together creative compositions then I like to add colors, dimensions and details. I tend to paint in a collection of related subjects, colors and styles. But on any one day I could be inspired in different ways... and quite frankly I don't exactly know what I am going to pursue until I begin to draw or paint. It is sort of like my subconscious influences my choice of subjects and colors in an intuitive manner. Definitely I want my art to have it's own unique look."



Suzanne was a featured artist at Giddens Gallery in Grapevine in July, will have her work at the PenWomen show at Your Private Collection Gallery, 106 North Houston, in Granbury during August and in September she plans to have plenty of work showing in her new gallery, Sparks Studio in Arlington.

"I graduated from Southern Methodist University with degrees in Art and Biology. After teaching school for a year (this was not for me) I was lucky enough to go to work for Tandy Leather/American Handicrafts/Merribee where I authored craft books, designed kits and experimented with new craft products. Eventually I started my own publishing company, Design Originals, and published books for arts and crafts for 25 years."

She is a Signature Member of SWA and Woman's Club of Fort Worth and adds to her credits awards in the Irving Art Association Texas & Neighbors Show. Suzanne was named "Designer of the Year" by Craft and Needlework Age (a wholesale oriented magazine for shop owners), "Woman of the Year" Fort Worth and the "Lifetime Achievement Award" with the Craft & Hobby Association.

"I am amazed by the art of many artists. Santa Fe is one of my favorite places to visit - I love all of the art and influences of color and ethnic folk arts. Bob Burrridge gives amazing workshops. His classes are packed with great tips, helpful information and fun. Every time I take a workshop from Bob, I come away totally inspired!" Another workshop favorite is Doug Walton. "He is a fabulous teacher of creativity. He specializes in experimentation and creativity with compositions."

Suzanne is a prolific artist and writer with many books to her credit. Her newest books (published by Fox Chapel Publishing Co.) are: Zentangle Basics, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and Zen Mandalas. Coming out in 2013 are: Art Journals and Sketchbooks, The Beauty of Zentangle, Rust and Patina Finishes, Zentangle 9 and Zentangle 10.

"I'm excited about opening Sparks Studio and Gallery. We are organizing fun and informative classes, open studio days, and days for Art Journaling." You can find more of Suzanne's artwork and studio opening at the following:

Website - sparksstudio.snappages.com

Blog - blog.suzannemcneill.com

Email - suzannebmneill@hotmail.com



ALERT** Our Membership Exhibition is scheduled for December. This gives us time to organize a reliable group of volunteers who together will see our exhibitions run smoothly and effectively. Many hands make light work. Can you lend a hand? Many of the jobs can be done from the convenience of your home computer. We need about 15-20 volunteers to help us better organize this process. The weight of carrying this project must be shared. The future of SWA exhibitions is at stake. We need:**

Exhibit Chair (this can be a shared position by 2 people) to oversee the people listed below, be the liaison to the juror, the shipping company and the place where the exhibition is held. Apply for show space following year. A computer/email is required. [Mary Stitt and Bob Cook will Co-Chair] They will need help with:

Prospectus—1 person update and amend the current prospectus with updated info, see that it is posted on website by our website administrator [Darla Bostick has the prospectus made for 2013]

Admissions— 1 person make an excel chart of each entry, notify each person that their entry was received. Ideally the admissions and notifications should be done by the same person. **VACANT**

Notifications —1 or 2 persons maintain an email list of those entering, send a general notification email of those chosen to enter, a reminder of hanging date, a reminder of pick up date. See that our secretary has the list of emails to add to the SWA contact list and notify the signatures volunteer of those chosen for the show.

VACANT

CD Preparation for the Juror—1 person burn a CD with every entry (labeled properly) and send to juror. Burn a second CD of accepted work and send to catalog editor. Give the SWA board a copy of each. **VACANT**

Hanging Chair—1 person to recruit and oversee about 6 volunteers **VACANT**

Publicity—1 person to make postcards, get notices to the newspapers (would be nice to be mentioned in Arlington, Bedford, Granbury, Fort Worth, Denton, etc) , take out ads presented to/approved by the board (i.e. Watercolor Magazine, Artist Magazine, etc) **VACANT**

Catalog—1 or 2 people to compose, get to printer, proof, pick up, distribute at reception [Eloise & Ray Sears have volunteered to continue this position]

Sponsorship—1 person to contact about 12 art companies and any other avenues to pursue to ask for sponsorship with funding or merchandise, acknowledge receipt, get info to catalog editors and Exhibit Chair [Rhonda Barefield has volunteered to continue this position]

Certificates—1 person to print certificates to each artist in the show, award winner, new Signature Members **VACANT**

SWA Signatures: 1 person add new names to excel chart of previous exhibits (Norma Lively has been doing this for years. Would be nice to have an assistant to learn the ropes and assist. She states if someone will take it over she would be willing to step down.) This position also prints/adds stamp to certificates. **VACANT**

People's Choice: 2 people to count votes at the reception and present the winner with their award **VACANT**

Catalog Mailing: our secretary does this [Thank you Judy Huebener]

Let's Help our Exhibit Chairs!!! Even if you have done the job before and plan to help again, we need to hear from you for an accurate volunteer list! Respond to: <darlabostickart@gmail.com>

Upcoming Calendar of Events

1 September: Deadline for qualifying artists to submit image of entry for Invitational Exhibition

12/13 September: Deliver work to Irving Art Center for 2nd Annual SWA Invitational Exhibition

16 September: Regular monthly meetings resume

5:15—Board Meeting

6pm—Critique with Jo Williams (bring in a couple of your works for some kind advice)

7-9—Meeting and demo by San Cheang

FANTastic Fans Contest during the break! (bring your painted bamboo fans)

Note: Mary Stitt has a few left if interested, contact her at MsMaryPS@aol.com or 817.377.8709

New Awards Expected at Next Exhibition



Your board has voted to re-evaluate our exhibition awards system. Rather than have a "Best of Show" followed by First, Second, Third, 5 Jurors Awards, 5 Honorable Mentions and Peoples' Choice we plan to initiate awards for the top three winners as "Best of Show", Second and Third Place. We plan to get creative with naming the remaining awards. Perhaps there will be a President's Award, Signature Members' Award or Bluebonnet Award, etc.

This poses an opportunity for our members to send in suggestions, and perhaps even consider sponsoring an award in their name (or the name of a loved one). Certainly a group of contributors could pool resources and sponsor an award with the name they choose. Anyone could contribute funding towards awards and perhaps if one wishes to simply make a general donation as a Show Sponsor that is appreciated. Any and all sponsors will be named in the exhibit catalog. The prize fund will remain the same unless, of course, resources exceed our present allowance. Perhaps we might see an increase in the awards allowance for the Membership Exhibit.

Another idea worth considering is the donation of a painting from a member that could be raffled. The amount raised could be given as an award by the name of the artist who donated it. There are plenty of ideas for awards and sponsorships. If you have one, please let your board members know. It would be nice to initiate our new awards in the upcoming Membership Exhibition in December as well as the International in April.

2013 SWA Officers and Members Extraordinaire

These dedicated members give their talent and time to keep SWA alive! We need YOU on the list!

President: Darla Bostick *OPEN FOR 2014*

President Elect: *(OPEN for 2013, to serve in 2014 as president)*

Recording & Corresponding Secretary: Judy Huebener

EDUCATION:

Monthly Programs: Darla Bostick—open for 2014

Workshop Chairperson: Lynne Buchanan

Monthly Critiques: Jo Williams

MEMBERSHIP:

Publication of Membership Directory: Shirley Nichols

Processing and Maintenance of Membership rolls: OPEN

EXHIBITIONS:

Exhibition Chair: *Mary Stitt and Bob Cook pending election*

Sponsorship: Rhonda Barefield

Hanging: *OPEN*

Entry Requirements: Janet Southern

Certificates: Mary Stitt

SWA Signatures: Norma Lively *ready to retire*

Catalog/Postcard: Eloise and Ray Sears/Darla Bostick

Catalog Mailing: Judith Huebener

Exhibit volunteers needed for notifications, processing, hanging, certificate printing, labels and strike—please contact Mary Stitt or Bob Cook

Non-Juried Exhibitions Chair: Mary Stitt

FUNDRAISING:

Japanese Gardens: Marie Coerver

FANTastic Fans: Mary Stitt

FINANCE:

Treasurer: *OPEN*

Professional Standards: (Yearly Audit) Brenda Morgan

PUBLICITY:

Website: Celeste McCall

Website Technician: Sharon Giles

Newsletter: Darla Bostick

Photography: Lori Atwell

Local Resources & Advertising: *OPEN*

MEETINGS:

Greeters: Shirley Nichols, Diana Littlejohn, Lynda Robinson, Dee Casstevens

Hospitality: Marie Coerver

House & Properties: Janet Southern

Painting of the Month Asel Competition: Mary T House

Assistants to Demonstration Artist: Collette Jones, Pam Fritz, Jackie Stengle, Marjorie Ross, Diana Littlejohn and Lynda Robinson

OUT AND ABOUT:

Field Trip Organizer (s): open for FUTURE TRIPS!

Do you have a program or event idea?

How do YOU contribute to YOUR SWA

www.swa-watercolor.com