

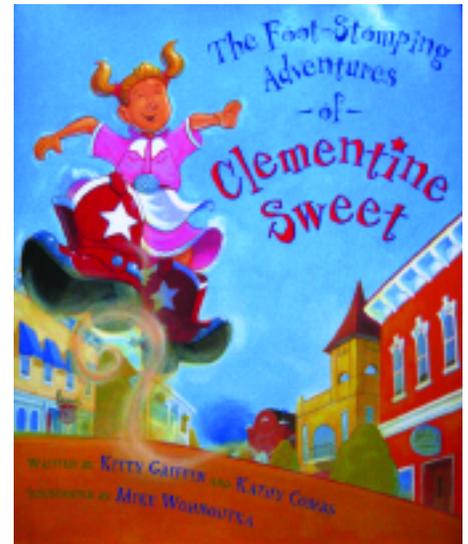
Illustrating Children's Books with Mike Wohnoutka, March Demo Artist



▲ March Demo Artist Mike Wohnoutka.

Out March Demo Artist, Mike Wohnoutka, sent us a wealth of wonderful images of his work (turn to page 3 to see more). At our March meeting, Mike will be telling us about his work as an illustrator of children's books. His most recent project is a picture book for Dutton called *Look What the Cat Dragged In* written by Gary Hogg. He just finished all the illustrations for the book, which will be out this Fall.

In his bio, Mike says, "I grew up in Spicer, Minnesota, which is a town of about 1,000 people and is 100 miles straight west of Minneapolis. Ever since I can remember I knew I wanted to be an —cont. on p.3



▲ Cover illustration for one of the books illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka.

Spring Show Reception Replaces April Meeting! Mark Your Calendar Now!

Don't forget that in lieu of the April meeting we will have the Reception and Awards Ceremony for our Spring Show "Making Waves" at Minnetonka Center for the Arts. This time, it will be a true opening night reception on **Thursday, March 31, 6-8 p.m.** Since this will occur before the April issue of *BrushStrokes* is published be sure to mark your calendar now! You won't get another reminder!

As usual during our Spring and Fall Shows, the Show Reception and Awards Ceremony replaces our monthly meeting (so, no meeting in April).

Good luck to all of you who submitted slides. If you are lucky enough to have a piece selected, be sure to mark down the delivery and pickup dates and times! (see box at right)



Important Dates

Deliver accepted paintings:
9 a.m.–noon, Saturday, March 26

Show Dates: March 31–April 28, 2005

**Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony:
6–8 p.m. Thursday, March 31**

Pick up paintings: 9 a.m.–noon,
Saturday, April 30

Minnetonka Center for the Arts
(952) 473-7361
2240 Northshore Dr
Wayzata, MN 55391

Figuring on attending the March MNWS meeting?

Then bring your figure paintings; human or animal, big or small.

We want to see them all, and everyone who brings in a painting gets to enter the prize drawing.

Stuck for a painting idea?
Go figure.

Also in this issue of *BrushStrokes* . . .

- ◆ Andy Evansen Workshop Report —p.3
- ◆ New Show Chairs! —p.3
- ◆ Barbara Lanzo at Martin Luther Manor—p.4
- ◆ Corrections to Ken Hosmer Workshop Dates—p.5

MESSAGE *from the President*



Those who know me well know I'm a huge film buff. I love the movies, and Woody Allen's always been one of my favorites. The main character in "Bullets Over Broadway" (if you haven't seen it, it's one of his best) continually questions his abilities as an artist. A playwright struggling to get his latest play on Broadway, he agrees to let a mobster bankroll the production with one catch; the gangster's girlfriend gets a big role. Of course she's horrible, and the play struggles through its first couple months. The bodyguard sent to rehearsals with her ends up contributing greatly to the play through a series of edits, exhibiting true genius and a natural gift for writing. He eventually can't stand the fact that this chorus girl is ruining 'his play', so he bumps her off, knowing it will probably get him killed. The playwright comes to the conclusion that this 'thug' was the true artist, willing to kill and die for his creation.

This begs the question, what makes an artist? It's a term that gets tossed out to describe accomplished people in all walks of life. If you're considered an 'artist' in any other occupation, you're the best of the best (an 'artist' in the operating room). But how great do your artistic accomplishments need to be before one feels comfortable referring to him/herself as an 'artist'? When people ask me what I do for a living, I can say "I'm an illustrator." I'm comfortable with that. My goal is to someday be able to strictly paint for a living, but I always hesitate when someone introduces me as an 'artist'. I find myself jumping in to say "I'm not an artist yet." Once you make that claim, you have to live up to it every day. It just implies so much. Other professions don't suffer from that pressure. You can be a crappy lawyer, but still feel comfortable saying you're a lawyer. Same with a carpenter.

I suppose it follows that if you can earn a living doing it, that's what you are. The dictionary's definition of artist is; a person who practices one of the fine arts, esp. a painter or a sculptor; one who makes an art of his employment (there's that pressure again!). I just feel like a perpetual student. There's too much to know! We have to study, read, and practice endlessly. I always enjoy seeing everyone's paintings at our meetings, and in workshops, when you can see people making continual progress. My oil painting instructor has said he's met a lot of great painters over the years, but he's yet to meet a genius. He's just met people who work harder than others. Face it, there aren't many 'geniuses' out there. For every Mozart, there are a thousand Salieris.

I have a quote by Louis Nizer, an American lawyer, tacked up in my studio. Hadn't heard of him before, but it sounded good. It says "A man who works with his hands is a laborer; a man who works with his hands and his brain is a craftsman; but a man who works with his hands and his brain and his heart is an artist." From that, I'd gather that there are a lot of artists out there. I love painting, as do most of you. Hopefully I'll be able to continue to do it. However, if I couldn't paint, I could go on living. After all, I'd still be able to watch movies.



◀ "An Artist in His Studio"
by John Singer Sargent, 1904



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BrushStrokes Newsletter

BrushStrokes is published monthly, September through June. Deadlines are the 15th of the month. Send letters to the editor and art related stories that help inform or educate members to:

MnWS BrushStrokes Editor

1830 Dutch Heritage Ct.

Baldwin, WI 54002-5155

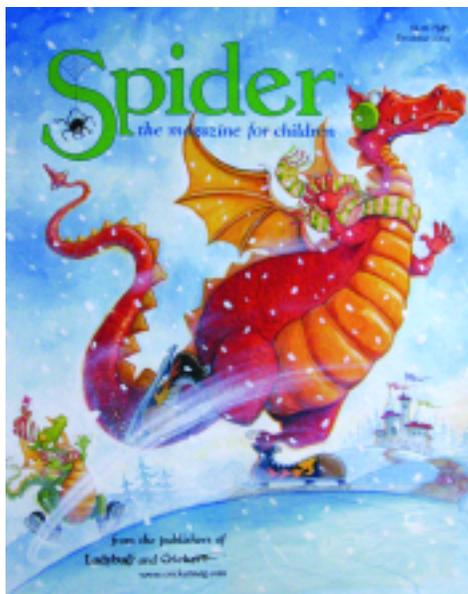
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(please do not use l.baur@att.net—account no longer active)

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Mary Hanson 952-476-6896



artist. I remember when my dad, who was an engineer at the Highway Department, would bring home reams of paper that had highway plans on one side and were blank on the other. I would be so excited to have all that paper to draw on and I would fill each sheet. In high school my art teacher encouraged me to pursue

art as a career. This, along with a scholarship, led me to the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia.

Since graduating in 1993, with a B.F.A. in Illustration, I have worked with various clients including Random House, Clarion Books, Cricket Magazine Group, General Mills, 3M, Medtronics, Mpls-St. Paul Magazine, Peaceable Kingdom Press, Scholastic School Productions, and City Pages.



I live in south Minneapolis with my wife Anna and our brand new son Franklin."

Be sure to check out Mike's website at

www.mikewohnoutka.com for more images and information about some of his other projects (plus a great photo of Franklin). ■

Weekend Workshop with Andy Evansen by John O'Leary

On February 6th and 7th, MnWS President Andy Evansen taught a workshop at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Fifteen MnWS members enjoyed Andy's low key, empathetic teaching style. Andy's approach to landscape painting begins with a accurate pencil sketch and a knowledge of where one places a simplified value structure. He cautions against getting



▲Dianne Jandt follows the progress of Andy's demo and marvels at the size of his wash brush.

bogged down in detail and recommends using a large wash brush for most of the painting, saving the crisper, detailed washes and smaller brushes for the final defining touches. In his demo painting, Andy rendered the downtown scene of nearby, Lindstrom, Minnesota, which features a quaint, coffee-pot shaped, water tower.

Andy's Hopkins' workshop was "sold-out" and to accommodate the demand it was repeated at the Minnesota River School of Fine Art on the weekend of February 19 and 20th. ■

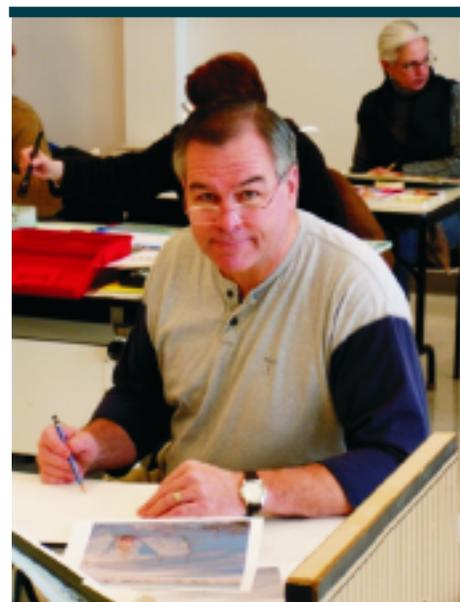
◀Andy give Mary Schulz a suggestion, as Larry Stickler works in the foreground.

▶Gary Marquardt asks, "Do you think painting ice houses on Lake Minnetonka is easy?"



New Show Chairs!

Ceile Hartlieb (last month's demo artist) and her husband, Terry Kayser, have volunteered to co-chair the Fall Show; and Deb Chapin has agreed to be our new Spring Show Chair. Our heartfelt thanks to all three! Please consider volunteering to help them—volunteers are needed for tasks big and small, many of which require no prior experience. It's a great way for newer members to get to know other members and learn the ropes (plus, it's fun!). Pitch in! ■



MEMBER happenings

Send member news to: *BrushStrokes*, 1830 Dutch Heritage Ct., Baldwin, WI 54002-5155, or email to lbour@mac.com.

A watercolor by **Terry Genesen Becker** was selected by juror John Salminen for inclusion in the 13th Annual Western Colorado Watercolor Society National Exhibition. The exhibition, in Grand Junction, Colorado, runs from March 4 to April 16.

Dick Green also had a painting accepted in the 13th Annual Western Colorado Watercolor Society National Exhibition. (See info above.)

Gloria Miller Allen, who taught a workshop for us last fall, writes, "I taught a workshop for the Minnesota Watercolor Society and was very kindly given a year's membership to the organization. I made many new friends there, and we talked a lot about national show goals, etc. That is why I'm writing. We talked about how persistence is a great quality to have. I have persisted on this goal for a very long time. I just received word that I have had a painting accepted in 2005 AWS. I have been on this trail for a while, and was also in the 1999 AWS exhibit. So, now I am eligible to apply for signature membership (2 acceptances in 10 years). I am excit-

ed about this of course, and just thought there were a few people there in MN who just might celebrate with me."

Carol J. Larson is pleased to announce that her painting "Saving Lives Every Day" has been selected by Kaiser Permanente Health Care System in Berkeley, California, as the corporate logo for their new laboratory.

Agnes Fine will show several watercolors at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Burnsville (across Hwy 42 from Burnsville Center) March 12 through mid-May. The opening reception will be March 13, 2-4 p.m., with a gallery talk at 2:30.

Jan Fabian Wallake is one of eight veteran artists whose work is showcased in a new book titled, *North Light's Big Book of Painting Watercolor Flowers*.

The City of Plymouth has just purchased two of **Anne Graves'** paintings of the city's Millenium Gardens. One of those paintings received first prize in a juried show this past summer.

Congratulations Everyone! ■

Marian Alstad and Barbara Lanzo at MLM, Part II

[Last month, we ran an article about the current display at Martin Luther Manor by Marian Alstad and Barbara Lanzo, but due to technical difficulties, we had not received a photo and information for Barbaba Lanzo. Now that we have the material, we want to give Barbara her moment in the sun!—ed.]

Barbara has always been interested in art and has worked in sculpture, acrylics, oils, pastels, collage and the medium that she enjoys the most, watercolors. She has done commissions for businesses and private collections, and has won many awards for her work. Her paintings are shown in various places



▲ Barbara Lanzo with one of her paintings.

around Minneapolis, St. Paul and the surrounding areas. Her favorite subjects are "anything to do with Minnesota".

This is the first time she has shown at Martin Luther Manor. ■

Don't Respond to "Phishy" Email!

Recently, some of the board received a suspicious piece of email telling them activity on one of their bank accounts had been frozen until they provided certain personal information. This is a scam, aimed at identity theft. This was the first time some of the board members had gotten this sort of email, so we decided to alert the rest of you, just in case.

If you get an email message requesting you provide information such as account numbers, pass-

words, social security numbers, etc.—*don't do it!* This is called "phishing" (as in "for info") and it's a scam. Some of these emails look quite sophisticated, including actual corporate logos, and even links to dummy websites that look just like the actual bank or business website, where you are supposed to "update" your account information.

If you think the email might really be legitimate, call your bank or the business supposedly requesting the information to investigate it. (And don't use the phone number in the email!) In addition, you can check to see if the message has been reported to one

Welcome!!

NEW MEMBERS

We have 386 paid members to date.

Josie Bertie
Deborah Carlson
Pat Choffrut
Nancy Coffman
Eddi Fesler
Jan Gromek
Peggy Hall
Carreen Heegaard
Paul Hemmila
Jeff Hughes
Georgia Kandiko
Madeleine Lowry
Chris May
Darlene Mowry
Mary Sololik Petersen
Delmar Phipps
Brian E. Roberge
Shannon Savick
Donna Whitman

Need a roster?
 Call our Membership
 Chair, Marian Alstad, at
 612-824-6460 to have one
 mailed to you.

Summer Opportunity

The Midtown Farmer's Market is actively seeking artists and musicians to perform and sell wares at the Market, from May - October 2005.

For more information, contact Carla Kaiser at corcoran_carla@qwest.net. ■

of the websites maintaining information on email scams and hoaxes, e.g. hoaxbusters.ciac.org.

Also, always check forwarded messages from friends warning about some household hazard, pending legislation, etc. These messages are often hoaxes, and can be used to spread computer viruses (ironically some of them purport to be warning you about a new virus). Virus protection companies Symantec and McAfee both maintain hoax lists (www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html or vil.mcafee.com/hoax.asp). Type "hoax" into your search engine to find more such sites. ■

the WORKshopper

Send **Workshop** listings to: *Workshopper*, 1830 Dutch Heritage Ct., Baldwin, WI 54002-5155, or email to lbaur@mac.com.

Marian Alstad

- ▶Ireland, May 5 to 16, 2005
- ▶Tuscany, July 9 to 16, 2005
- ▶Greece, Sept 29 to Oct 9, 2005

For details call Marian Alstad at 612-824-6460 or e-mail mardi4011@aol.com ■

Jan Fabian Wallake

▶2006–June 19-23. Art-in-the-Mountains, Bend, Oregon. Contact: Debra Prater, 541-923-2648.

▶2006–Nov. 11-14. Brevard Watercolor Society, Cape Canaveral, FL. Contact: Linda Neal, 321-751-5520.

Jan has a once-a-month, three-hour class in Roseville. If you are interested in joining this fun and friendly group, call Jan at 651-351-1301 (no long term commitment—come when you can, pay only for the class you attend). ■

Charlotte Laxen

▶The Palette of Provence, July 20–31, 2005. Lavender and sunflower fields, markets and magical scenery; 6 nights in Bonnieux, 4 nights in seaside village of Cassis. Limited to 12 artists. Contact: Scottie Watson, 952-285-1272 or scottiew1@msn.com. ■

Lana Grow

▶Aquamedia & Collage: Experimental and Energizing
June 20-24, 2005, Watertown, South Dakota.
Contact: Jennifer Stone 605-882-1396.

Karen Knutson

▶Abstract Watercolor and Collage Workshop—Adding metallic touches to your paintings.
Friday and Saturday, March 18 and 19, 2005 at Avalon Arts in White Bear Lake (651-429-4489).

Upcoming MnWS Workshops

Mar 28–Apr 1, 2005–Karlyn Holman

Oct 11-14, 2005–Ken Hosmer

For MnWS workshop information contact
Bonnie Crouch, coordinator (952-945-0682)
Dianne Jandt, registration (952-891-2375)
or John O’Leary, publicity (952-888-0638)

Hosmer Workshop Dates Correction!

The Ken Hosmer workshop flyers enclosed in last month’s issue of *BrushStrokes* incorrectly listed the dates as October 10-14, 2005.

The correct dates are October 11–14, 2005.

Please correct your flyer and calendars if you plan to register for this workshop.

We apologize for any inconvenience resulting from this error.

Spring Cleaning?

Consider donating those art books and videos you no longer want to the MnWS library. Contact our Librarian, Ruth Valgamae at 952-920-3975 or bring your donations to her at one of our regular monthly meetings.

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Northstar News

Workshops

May 16-20, 2005: Carla O’Connor

Contact Carol Jernigan (651) 459-5103

Meetings

March 17. Calvin deRuyter demo

April 21. Ellen Diederich demo

May 13–15. Art on a Line Show & Sale

May 19. Carla O’Connor demo

Meeting location is Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 W. County Rd. C2 at Snelling in Roseville.



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MNWS*calendar*

Programs are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

April
Spring Show reception March 31, 6-8 p.m. Minnetonka Center for the Arts. No regular meeting in April.

May
May 12: Dan Weimer—landscapes

Minnesota Watercolor Society meetings are held September–May. No regular meetings in June, July or August. Happy summer painting!

LOCATION: Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN (Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MnWS Membership Dues:

- Single: \$25
- Couple/Family: \$35
- Seniors (65+): \$20

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