

# MNWScalendar

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

**February 8** .....  
*Mark Granlund Presentation*

**March 8**.....  
*Nancy Carney Presentation*

**March 24 & 25**.....  
*Dan Wiemer Workshop*

**April 30**.....  
*Ron Ransom Workshop*

**LOCATION:** Christ Presbyterian Church,  
6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN  
(Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100)  
[www.minnesotawatercolors.com](http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**MnWS Membership Dues:**

☐ Single: \$28

☐ Couple/Family: \$35

☐ Seniors (65+) \$23

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☐ Check here to have your name removed from the list sent to our exhibition award donors who mail product information to our members.

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Marian Alstad, Membership Chair  
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“To further development of the watercolor artist by providing a supportive environment with education and exhibition opportunities, and to promote public appreciation and greater visibility of the art.” — MnWS Mission Statement





# BrushStrokes

**Volume 27 Number 2**

**February 2007**

## This Flowering Life — our February speaker, Mark Granlund

Flowers seem to be a never ending source of activity for me. Up until the time I moved to Minnesota from New York City in 1990, I had never drawn, painted or planted a flower, as far as I can recall. Yet, here I am sixteen years later, painting botanicals and managing the public gardens for the City of Saint Paul.

I did study art while in New York, at the City University of New York - Brooklyn College. I received my Masters Degree in painting and drawing. After living in New York City for graduate school, I worked in the foothills of the Green Mountains of Vermont at the Vermont Studio School. It was here that I realized what I had been missing while in New York City - nature! I began painting landscapes with thinned down tar (that’s another story).

A few years after moving to Minnesota I approached the Como Park Conservatory about their need to have an artist teaching classes and documenting the park. They asked me to start art classes, which eventually lead to my developing the education department for the zoo and conservatory. Being surrounded by flowers and wonderful lush tropical plants every day has a way of rubbing off on you. I began to paint botanicals.

Eventually, with the help of Vera Ming Wong and Marilyn Garber, the Botanical Art and Illustration Certification program began at Como. I no longer run the program at Como but continue to teach each quarter and help out where needed. The Saint Paul Division of



Red Lily by Mark Granlund

Parks and Recreation asked me to start up a city-wide public garden program with emphasis on the downtown area. So now, when I am not painting flowers, I am responsible for the growing, designing, planting and maintenance of 500 hanging baskets, 150 planters and over 300 ground beds. Who knew?

What have I learned about flowers? I enjoy flowers because they have a structure and a design that is a direct response to their environment and genetic history. But when people interact with a flower the genetic design is ultimately overwhelmed by the sensual experience and beauty is perceived.



Pinecone by Mark Granlund

The presentation for the Minnesota Watercolor Society’s February meeting will focus on underpainting. Underpaintings are more associated with oil painting, but where a good drawing and accurate tones are needed, an underpainting works great with watercolor. I will cover ideas for achieving accurate, strong edges and how to create a sense of space in and around your subject. I, of course, will be painting flowers, but these concepts apply across subject matter.

If you would like to see some of my botanicals and landscapes and learn more about me, please visit my website at [www.mgranlund.com](http://www.mgranlund.com). Or take a class from me at Como. Or join me for a week long workshop at Mallard Island this summer. Or visit the streets of Saint Paul this summer and see a different kind of flower art which incorporates a sense of color, shape and texture on a bigger scale.

### Spring Tonic

*MnWS Spring Exhibition*

You can turn your form/slides in to Deb Chapin at the next WNWS meeting.

Please VOLUNTEER for the show!

Slides must be turned in by **February 14!**



## MESSAGE from the President



### Take a break—work in a little rest.

I am writing this after recovering from the hectic holiday season, where it seems everything is done to excess. A good lesson in life is also a good lesson in your painting. Create some visual rest in your work and watch it improve.

Over the holidays I went to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. I love that place! I arrive hungry and leave full. I usually try to see too much in too short of time. Absorbing so much art always leaves me excited and a little overwhelmed. It reminds me of the time I ate an entire package of Oreos and drank a half gallon of milk in one sitting (oh, to be thirteen again.) As painters, we are visual entertainers. We are trying to create pieces for the eye to feast on. The viewer takes a tour through our art as they view it. It is our job as the artist to make their sight-seeing tour a good one.

Sometimes when I become absorbed in the painting process, I get carried away. It's much easier to complicate than to simplify. (Raise your hand if this has ever happened to you.) I run into trouble when I detail and micro-manage every portion of the scene, instead of thinking of the whole. The result is an overworked painting that has little drama. In other words I'm trying to feed the viewer an entire package of Oreos and a whole bunch of milk.

Take a look at Edward Seago's work. You can find it in one of the many great books written by Ron Ranson. Seago's watercolors are wonderfully simple. He surrounds areas of activity with areas of wash or tone with virtually no detail. Because of this, they have wonderful drama and presence. His paintings work up close and they work from across the room. He is a master of guiding your eye through his composition with active areas vs. quiet areas. Ron Ranson writes, "He also achieved one of the most difficult things in watercolor,- he knew when to stop! That climactic moment when one has imparted just enough information and before the painting has become opaque & muddled. This moment is a veritable knife-edge." - Edward Seago (1910-1974). He was an amazing artist. Needless to say, as a viewer looking at his work, I was very entertained.

Okay, I've rested long enough. I have to get some exercise. I can't believe how long it takes to work off all the Christmas cookies I ate.

Happy Painting...

DAN WIEMER

## Mini Shows Held Every Month by Emmy White

Some members find that a theme helps them center on a painting for that month. Others would prefer to choose a painting to share that has nothing to do with the theme. All choices are welcome and appreciated. A special gift drawing from all the names of the participants will be held. Also one voluntary artist will be chosen for a critique. Here's the list of themes for the rest of this year.

**February – Warm (warm colors, warm places, warm feelings)**  
**March – Food – (fruits, pies, cakes, chefs, restaurants, coffee houses, etc)**  
**April – Spring show, no meeting**  
**May – Landscape, abstract or realistic**



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### HOW TO REACH US:

INFORMATION•VOICE MAIL LINE  
**952-996-9228**

WEB SITE: [www.minnesotawatercolors.com](http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com)

### 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**  
 16800 Blenheim Way  
 Minnetonka, MN 55345  
[cjmay@eganco.com](mailto:cjmay@eganco.com)

Advertising Placement  
 For ad rates or to place advertising, contact

## MnWS Workshops

► **Dan Wiemer Workshop**, "Strong and Simple." March 24-25 at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Cost is \$95. Dan promises to cover these topics:

1. Good paintings start with good abstract design. Strong value shapes are key in the painting process.
2. Simplify and be direct. (Less is so much more.)
3. Descriptive shapes with exciting edges can replace too much detail.

Dan also believes that students should allow themselves to have fun. I'm sure all of you know by the way that Dan conducts our meetings, that he's easy-going, fun, and has a great personality. This is bound to be a winner of a workshop! For more information contact Susan Zinschlag 651-437-9327 e-mail: [s.m.zinschlag@att.net](mailto:s.m.zinschlag@att.net)



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## SPRING TONIC

*The MnWS Spring Exhibition*  
 Minnetonka Art Center  
**April 5, 2007**

The 2007 Spring Juried Exhibition will be held in the lovely gallery at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts and we are very pleased to welcome Sally Johnson as our judge for this show. Sally Johnson has been the Director of the very popular Groveland Gallery since 1984. Now we need the members to step forward with their work and this will be a great show!

**Slides must be handed in by February 14, 2007**

*Questions, contact Deb Chapin at 952-890-8684*

► **Marian Alstad**—"Paint Your Pet Workshop" at the Edina Art Center, Saturday, March 17 from 9:30-2:30 p.m. \$50 non members/\$45 members. Paint a favorite lovable pet in watercolor. Bring your paints, a good outdoor or non-flash photo, and turn it into a watercolor painting-fluffy, sleek or scaly, find the right technique. Call 612-915-6600 or register on line at [www.EdinaArtCenter.com](http://www.EdinaArtCenter.com)

► **Karlyn Holman**—Prague and the Czech Republic, August 30 to September 13. Paint in this beautifully preserved city. \$3450.00 without airfare. Call 715-373-2922 or [www.karlynholman.com](http://www.karlynholman.com). Bulgaria, September 13-27. Paint and tour this amazing country with Karlyn and Stella Canfield. \$2850.00 without airfare. Call 715-373-2922 or [www.karlynholman.com](http://www.karlynholman.com)

► **Calvin deRuyter**—In conjunction with the exhibit at the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center in New York Mills, MN Calvin will also be giving a full day workshop (6 hours) on Feb. 23—preregistration is required by Feb. 12 and more information can be received by calling 218-385-3339 or emailing [nymills@kulcher.org](mailto:nymills@kulcher.org).

**Coming in the Spring!**

April 30 - May 4

**Ron Ranson Workshop!**

Sign up now to be sure to get in. Cost is \$395 for members or \$435 for non-members. Ron Ranson is a nationally known artist and his extensive experience of painting and teaching has formed the basis of a number of very successful books, including: *Big Brush Watercolor*, *Watercolor Fast and Loose*, and *Watercolor Impressionist*. More detailed registration will follow in the next newsletter. This workshop is bound to fill up fast! Call or email Karen Knutson now to get on the list. Phone (952-934-0876) or email: [karen@karenknutson.com](mailto:karen@karenknutson.com)

## the WORKshopper

Send **Workshop** listings to: *Workshopper*, 16800 Blenheim Way, Minnetonka, MN 55345, or email to [cjmay@eganco.com](mailto:cjmay@eganco.com)

### Art on a Line

The fifth annual *Art on a Line* show and sale will take place May 18-20, 2007 at the Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Building. The registration form can be found at the Northstar Website ([www.northstarwatercolorssociety.com](http://www.northstarwatercolorssociety.com)) and must be submitted no later than **February 15, 2007**. Participation packets will be available for pick-up at the March NWS meeting.

Art will be dropped off on Thursday, May 17, by 7 p.m. and picked up at the end of the sale on Sunday night, May 20. The maximum number of paintings per participant will be limited to 50. NWS will again take a 20% commission. Contact Leny Wendel, 651-653-0032, ([leny\\_wendel@msn.com](mailto:leny_wendel@msn.com)) or Connie Keithan, (651-774-2677, [conkaystpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:conkaystpaul@yahoo.com)) with any questions.

Please note that the registration form is for sign-up and payment only. You do not submit the list of your paintings until after you pick up your packets at the March meeting.



"Art on a Line" shoppers at the State Fair Art Building

► **Jan Fabian Wallake**, author of "Watercolor: Pour It On", will instruct painting workshops at the following locations:

May 21-24 at the Moose Lodge Spring Art Retreat, northern MN (a private, all-inclusive painting retreat for five artists). Contact Wallake Studios at 651-351-1301.

June 11-14—Madeline Island Art School, Wisconsin. Contact 715-747-2054.

Aug. 26-31—Dillman's Art Resort, Wisconsin. Contact 715-588-3143.

Oct. 8-11—Moose Lodge Fall Art Retreat, northern MN. Contact Wallake Studios at 651-351-1301.

Oct. 22-26—Saanich Peninsula Art Soc., British Columbia. Contact Ruth at 1-250-655-4836 or Wallake Studios at 651-351-1301

Jan also teaches a once-a-month class in Roseville. Contact Wallake Studios at 651-351-1301.

► **Karen Knutson Workshop** "Still Life Paintings in a fun way! (Watercolor and collage workshop.)

March 15-17, 2007 (Thursday - Saturday) in Hastings, MN. Contact Barb Pinc (651-438-3488) [studio61art@hotmail.com](mailto:studio61art@hotmail.com)

To see Karen's painting style, check out her website, [www.karenknutson.com](http://www.karenknutson.com)

### /VISUALLY SPEAKING/

## Workshop at the Art Center

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Instructor: Holly Nelson

Skill Level: All

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Enrollment limited to 12; ages 16 and up

C422W Thursday, February 15 (1 session)  
\$54 Members / \$56 Non-members

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
\$10 Materials Fee

### Minnetonka Center for the Arts

SPACE IS LIMITED SO REGISTER EARLY!

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## MEMBER happenings

Send member news to: *BrushStrokes*, 16800 Blenheim Way, Minnetonka, MN 55345, or email to [cjmay@eganco.com](mailto:cjmay@eganco.com). Images are welcome and will be used as space permits.

## Welcome!

We have 371 paid members to date.

### NEW MEMBERS

Cathy Kehnwald  
B. Lynne Gasterland  
Jo Schwalboski  
Christine Polis  
David Rickert

► **Dick Green** had one of his paintings on the cover of the December 06 issue of *Cross Country Skier* magazine. Four more of his paintings were included on the inside story.

► Two watercolors by **Terry Genesen Becker** were selected by jurors Will Auger and Eric Ouren

for the "Arts in Harmony '07" national juried exhibition in Elk River, MN. 170 pieces were selected from 579 submitted by 223 artists. The exhibition will open on February 5 and runs until March 30.

► **Calvin deRuyter** will be displaying approximately 30 works at a one-person show at the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center in New York Mills, MN from Feb. 13-Mar. 24. Opening Reception is Feb. 24, from 1-4 pm.

## Northstar News

**February:** *Calvin deRuyter (part 2) & Dick Green demo - may be ONLY Dick*  
**March:** *Heidi Nelson*

**April 16-20:** *Robert Burrridge Workshop*  
Contact Georgiana Ruzich 763-424-5164

For meeting info contact  
Diane Kuenzli, 651-771-6303.  
Meeting location is Centennial United  
Methodist Church, 1524 W. County Rd.  
C2 at Snelling in Roseville.  
[www.northstarwatercolorssociety.com](http://www.northstarwatercolorssociety.com)



This is a photo of the Fred Dingler workshop participants. Fred is 4th from the left in the back row. It was a great workshop, and fun was had by all! Fred was a great instructor, who really cared about each student and encouraged them to paint in their own style, but to remember values. He even demonstrated how to do

a portrait on the second day, by special request. We learned so much about adding value, and having a full range of values in our paintings. Fred is an advocate of using fresh paint, and had us convinced by the end of the workshop, how vibrant our paintings would be if we would use fresh paint. The next mini workshop will be on March 24 and 25 at the same location, with Dan Weimer as our instructor. The class size is limited, so be sure to sign up early.

Your workshop director, **Karen Knutson**



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