MnWS calendar

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

Sept. 11 Charlotte Laxen

Oct. 9 Fall Show (Plymouth Congregational Church)

Nov. 13 Rick Kochenash

Dec. 11 Easel Night

Jan. 8 TWSA Pat Undis and

Karen Knutson

may narrate

Feb. 12 Fred Somers

Mar. 12 Ellen Jean Diederich

Apr. Spring Show

May 14 Nels Femrite

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail your application and check payable to Minnesota Watercolor Society to:

Marian Alstad, Membership Chair 4011 Chicago Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55407-3142

MnWS Membership Dues:

Single \$30
 Couple/Family: \$40
 Seniors (65+) \$25

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Painting from my heart by Charlotte Laxen, September Guest Speaker



Demo on the terrace of Artstudy in Giverny

ave you ever had a dream? I believe that they are God-given and really meant to come true. This is the story of a dream come true, how a girl from a farm in Southern Minnesota came to paint in Monet's Garden in Giverny, France.

When I look back at my life so far, I see touch points, things that individually would not have indicated the path I am on, but that collectively have led me to where I am today. This experience parallels the way I paint: from the inner leading of my heart.



"Lunch in Paris"

The love of watercolor as a painting medium was born in Gerald Korte's class at St. Cloud State University in the 70's, and the love of teaching was born in Lanesboro, Minnesota, where I was asked to teach my first watercolor

workshop years later. My love for painting France was born in 1991, during my first visit there. I was visiting Paris and taking the train to Poitiers at the invitation of a French family whose son we had hosted the previous summer. I came back from France wanting to share all that I had seen and felt.



"Water Lilies"

By the time I got to paint in Monet's Gardens, I'd been working in watercolor for about 35 years. So how did I get to this magical place?

Years ago, as a young mother, I was sitting in a doctor's office looking at a

magazine, when I came upon an article about a program through the Monet Foundation that allowed students to paint for an extended period of time in Monet's Gardens in Giverny, France. In that moment my dream began.



"Rose Trees and Geraniums

I clipped the article (I hate it when people do that!) and kept it for years. Much later, I checked on the requirements, only to find out that that particular program no longer existed. Disappointed, I figured that my dream was over before it began. I went on with my life, but the dream stayed somewhere in the back of my mind, waiting to re-surface. When it did, some years later, I googled "paint in Monet's garden" and the ArtStudy Giverny website came up, presenting me with the opportunity of a lifetime. "Paint all day Monday and each evening in Monet's gardens as well as other beautiful locations near by. Stay near the Gardens and be treated to French cuisine and warm hospitality with all the details taken care of." Amazing! Through a plan larger than my own, I found myself not only painting there, but actually teaching a workshop there in August of 2007.

I remember the first night alone with my students in the gardens, such a different place with all the visitors gone for the day. The light and serenity were almost palpable. At first, more than four acres of flowers seemed overwhelming, even though I had prepared myself with a year of plein air painting in the U.S. One single flower is what I chose to paint that evening. Now, when I look at that painting, I am back at the same spot in the gardens, with the same scents and colors washing over me.

Continued on page 3.

Volume 29, Number 1, September 2008

from the President

As the white smoke rises above the conclave, Jack the Wise nods his approval. The council has made its decision...



I am very excited to introduce you to Catherine Hearding, the new president of the MN Watercolor Society. Catherine's talents are many and she is excited for the challenge. You may recognize the name, since she has won several best of show awards in some of our more recent exhibitions. She was also a "Watercolor" magazine 2008 cover competition finalist. Awards aren't what made her the most

qualified for the post—it is her passion for the organization...and her willingness to carry a big bulky demo mirror to meetings. (Isn't that right Catherine?) I first met her as a new member of the board about two years ago; she stepped forward and took charge of organizing and managing the fall show. She has put a lot of time and effort into these shows and I knew if she said she was going to do something, it was going to get done. She comes prepared and organized, a little bit more than the previous president.

I met with Catherine this summer at her beautiful home in Lake Elmo MN. Her artwork was everywhere and her spectacular studio seemed to blend seamlessly into the perennial gardens just outside. She breaks the stereotype of most artists. Her space was clean, tidy, organized AND she makes amazing and creative art. (I thought that was an impossible combination!) Outside, I was trying to identify all the different flowers in her border garden, and discovered this was also an area in which she is well versed.

Catherine began her professional career in 1974. She has a B.A. in zoology and botany from the University of Montana. As a self taught artist she approached her painting career from this scientific starting point. This remains one of her passions—She still teaches in the Como Conservatory Botanical Arts Program and conducts workshops in the twin cities area. She describes her style as "impressionistic realism". I think this is a fitting description. Standing in her studio/gallery soaking in all the paintings, I came to the conclusion that not only is she very talented but she is amazingly versatile as well. In one piece she has a series of coleus leaves painted with incredible precision and in another she explores abstract shapes of light and shadow playing across a loose snowy landscape. In her artist statement she says she "likes to find abstract in the realistic." I can relate. I could tell that she was growing as an artist because she continues to challenge herself. She sees different things and more importantly—sees in different ways. This makes her aware of the limitless ways to use watermedia and will serve her well.

I was honored to be president of this organization and I know Catherine feels the same way. We have a lot of fun on the board, but we also take our jobs seriously. We want to see our organization continue to grow and become more user friendly in the future. We are in good hands as we move forward and I have no doubt that Catherine will "pour" herself into the job.

To learn more about our new president or to see some samples of her beautiful watercolors go to chearding.com

Thanks to everyone for the compliments and encouragement along Dan Wiemer the way.



BrushStrokes: MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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2006-08 Dan Wiemer 1994-96 MarySue Krueger **2004-06** Andrew Evansen **1992-94** Carol Gray 1990-92 Gwen Leopaldt 2002-04 Sandra Muzzy 2000-02 Keith Donaldson 1988-90 Harry Heim 1998-00 David Rickert 1986-88 Sally Burns 1996-98 Jan Fabian Wallake 1983-86 Jeanne Emrich

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HOW TO REACH US:

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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

10910 Quebec Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55438 tweseman@earthlink.net

Advertising Placement

For ad rates or to place advertising, contact Mary Hanson, 952-476-6896

Color printing of BrushStrokes is made possible by a general contribution from Engineering Repo Systems

Workshops and Classes

Send workshop listings to: Workshopper, 10910 Quebec Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55438 or email to tweseman@earthlink.net. Images are welcome and will be used as space permits.

- ➤ CeCeile Hartleib's Friday morning watercolor classes will begin on Sept. 26 in her studio at 106 Water St. W. studio 402, St. Paul, across from Harriet Island Park. The classes run for 6 weeks and include beginners as well as more advanced students. Class size is limited so each student will get individual attention. For more information please call 651-647-6078 or email ceceile hartleib@msn.com
- **Paint in Giverny, France!** June 12-June 19, 2009 Watercolor Artist Charlotte Laxen returns to Artstudy Giverny for June watercolor painting.

Poppies, Peonies and Roses await watercolor painters of all levels. Enjoy the pleasure of daily watercolor painting in Monet's garden and in the glorious surrounding Normandy countryside, as well as in Monet's beloved village of Giverny. Enrollment limited to 10 participants. Charlotte has a heart for painting France and can't wait to share this special place with you. For further information and to register for this experience of a lifetime, contact Charlotte at claxen@tds.net. Early enrollment special through Oct. 15, 2008 www.charlottelaxen.com, www.artstudy.com

- **Oaxaca Art Adventure** with Andy Evansen. Join Andy on an Art Adventure to one of the most beautiful mountain cities in Mexico. The plein aire outing will happen February 18-25, 2009. Contact Earl Olson for information at 715-248-7630 or eolson1@frontiernet.net.
- ➤ Florals with a Twist! (Watercolor Collage Workshop)

Instructor: Karen Knutson

Dates: Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 13-16, 2008 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day Times: Location: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

(Azalea Classroom)

Cost: \$425 (nonmembers)

> \$375 (members of Edina Art Center or Arboretum)

To sign up: Call 952-443-1422

Students will first paint a floral watercolor in the traditional manner, learning techniques that make it fun and easy. They will learn to create a unique design, build color, and incorporate collage to enhance texture. Later, students will give that same subject a semi-abstract twist. (Intermediate or advanced skill level.)

To see Karen's paintings, check out her website: www.karenknutson.com

Watercolor: Pour It On, Jan Fabian Wallake meets once a month to instruct a three-hour watercolor class in Rosedale. Learn a new technique and complete a small painting every month. Call Wallake Studios at 651-351-1301 for information.

➤ How Does an Artist Solve the Landscape Puzzle?

(Lecture, Gallery Walk & Demo) Instructor: Carol (aka:Gray) McIntyre

Date: Friday, Oct. 31 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Time:

Location: MN Landscape Arboretum. \$20 (non-members) Cost:

\$15 (MLA or Edina Art Center members).

To sign up: Call 952-443-1422

In conjunction with her exhibition at the MN Arboretum Carol will show & describe her creative process, her internal musings & her artistic decision making while completing her landscape paintings. We will walk through the exhibition and a palette knife demo will also take place. (Open to all adults interested in the artistic process.)

➤ Solving the Landscape Puzzle!

Instructor: Carol (aka:Gray) McIntyre Friday, Oct. 31 & Saturday Nov. 1 Dates:

Time: Friday 1-4 p.m., & Saturday 9 a.m. -4 p.m.

Location: MN Landscape Arboretum.

Cost: \$175 (non-members)

\$150 (MLA or EAC members)

To sign up: Call 952-443-1422

How do you break a landscape into paintable shapes? Building on the morning session, and with her wit & passion, Carol will guide you to learn how to "see" the larger shapes that create depth, design & feeling in a painting. Students will solve several of their own "landscape puzzles" from which to develop successful paintings. (Open to the intermediate & above working in any media or style. Fri. morning session required.)

➤ Moose Lodge Art Retreat with Jan Fabian Wallake. TWSA, RRWS, MnWS, NPWS,

Registration is now open for the Spring "09 Moose Lodge Art Retreat. Five artists take part in this unique experience at a beautiful Lodge in northern MN. Private rooms, our own Chef, one-on-one painting instruction, are just some of the highlights. Make it a gift to yourself! Call Wallake Studios at 651-351-1301

MnWS NEW MEMBERS

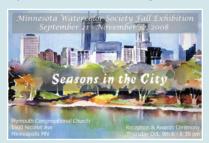
Joel S. Kaplan Delores Read Jan McLandsborough Jessica Drenth Sally Hebeisen Victor Perlbachs

We have 330 paid members.

(Check the label on your newsletter to see when your membership dues are due.)

Fall Open Exhibition at Plymouth Congregational Church

by Catherine Hearding



By the time you receive this edition of Brushstrokes, the postmark deadline for our Fall Open Exhibition will have passed. I am writing this in mid-August and we are well on our way to filling up this show.

It looks like it will be a fun show. Just a reminder for a few important dates regarding the show:

exhibits

- by the Arboretum" Carol (aka: Gray) McIntyre & Karen Knutson will be exhibiting at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Reedy Gallery, 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska, MN 55318, Oct. 29, 2008 Jan. 4, 2009. Opening Reception is Sunday, Nov. 2, 2-4 p.m. Two artists begin with the same inspiration, follow their creative muses along different paths and present contrasting views. (See Workshop Listings for their class/gallery talk offerings during this exhibition.)
- ➤ Edina Art Center: "24th Annual Members'
 Juried Art Exhibition," features artwork created by
 members of the Edina Art Center and at all levels from
 beginning to professional. Artists' reception 5-8 p.m.
 with Judges' comments 6 p.m. Thurs., Sept. 4, and
 continues thru Oct. 27, 4701 W 64th St., Edina.
 www.EdinaArtCenter.com, 612-915-6600.



Come join our MnWS board

From left to right: Deb Chapin, Ceceile Hartlieb, Mary Brainard, Therésa Weseman, Katherine Hearding, Jack O'Leary, and Dan Weimer. Photo taken by Karen Knutson

- Saturday, September 20
 Drop-off at Plymouth Congregational Church
 9 a.m noon
- Sunday, September 21 Exhibition opens
- Thursday, October 9
 Reception and Awards Ceremony 6 8:30 p.m. (Awards 7 p.m.)
- Saturday, November 15
 Pick up art at Plymouth Congregational Church
 9 a.m noon

Thank you to all of you who have submitted entries for this show and to all of you who have volunteered to help with the show. Our volunteer coordinator will be contacting you shortly to line you up for your volunteer positions.

"Painting from my heart" continued from page 1.

The students were as entranced as I was, their faces aglow with wonder and amazement. They spoke in awe of the privilege of being in Monet's own gardens, and they chose their painting spots almost with reverence. The painters, all at different levels of expertise, had each come for different reasons and with different needs.

No one went away from the garden empty-handed; it is a healing place.

When I later viewed many of Monet's paintings at the Musée Marmottan in Paris I felt a kindred spirit and an understanding that transcended the paintings themselves. Now I have been offered a new opportunity to return to Monet's Garden in June of 2009, to teach a watercolor workshop during the time of the poppies and the roses.

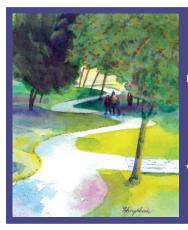
A Native American judge at an art show once said that whatever is inside us will come out on our paper and that is the story each one of us must tell. Painting has been the only constant in my life, the recording of my heart and soul-sometimes bright and colorful-sometimes dark and melancholy. Each time I paint, there comes a time when the vision I'd imagined takes its own turn and I need to go in a new direction. I am privileged to be on this journey of the heart.

Check out Charlotte's workshop, Paint in Giverny, France, June 12-June 19, 2009, on page 5.

MEMBER happenings

Send member news to: BrushStrokes, 10910 Quebec Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55438 or email to tweseman@earthlink.net. Images are welcome and will be used as space permits.

- ➤ Jeanne Long won the bronze medal at the Red River Watercolor Society's 15th Annual National Juried Watermedia Exhibition. This was her first national show.
- ➤ Kathy Braud's piece "Reflection" on exhibit in the "Spirit of Woman" through the Artist's Eyes Art Show, Bremness Gallery, Ann Bickle Heritage House, Glenwood, MN received "Best of Show".
- ➤ Dick Green has a painting accepted into the Watercolor West XL national exhibition at the Brea Civic & Cultural Center in Brea, CA. Oct. 11 Dec. 19.
- ➤ Dick Green has a painting accepted into the National Watermedia Oklahoma 34th Exhibition, Oklahoma City, OK. Nov. 1 Dec. 30.
- ➤ Jan Fabian Wallake will be judge & juror for the New Mexico Watercolor Society, Sept. 2008. She will instruct a watercolor workshop in Albuquerque, NM. Jan will also instruct a workshop in Ft. Worth, TX in Oct.



A Huge Thank You

to MnWS members for remembering us with cards, balloons, creative cards and poems at our 90th (180 total) birthday party at the Edina Art Center.

We will be painting forever, Harry & Lois Heim Many members were selected to be part of the 2008 Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition. They were: Julie Allen, Terry Genesen-Becker, Joyce Ells, Elizabeth Franklin, Kris Fretheim, Catherine Hearding, Karen Knutson, Judy Lieber, Sandy Muzzy, Virginia Olsen, HeeJune Shin, Gail Speckmann, Tara Sweeney, Wendy Westlake, Emmy White, and Nanci Yermakoff.

Northstar Meetings

Held at The Roseville Oval at Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Dr. Directions from MPLS, take Hwy. 280 to Hwy 36 and East to Snelling North Exit, turn right on County Road C, drive past Hamlin Ave. and left into Civic Center Drive before Lexington Ave.

Upcoming Meeting & Demo:

September 18 Wendy Westlake

Questions? Call Georgianna Ruzich 763-424-5164 or Carole Jernigan 651-459-5103

Upcoming Fall Workshop:

Love Transparent watercolor? Learn from a master! "Painting with a Purpose" with Tom Francesconi

Date & Time: Oct. 13 - 17, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Cost: \$350 (Member) & \$375 (Nonmember) Location: Presbyterian Church of the Way, 3382 N. Lexington Ave., Shoreview, MN

For more information or to register call Georgiana Ruzich 763-424-5164 or Joe Greenwald 651-633-7593.

To view Francesconi's work check out his website: www.tomfrancesconi.com

Minnetonka Center for the Arts



Fall Watercolor Classes with Terry Genesen-Becker

WATERCOLOR BASICS

Skill Level: Beginner

All technical aspects are covered including pigment characteristics, brush handling, texturing, masking and paper stretching. Class exercises are designed to increase confidence, explore value, color mixing and composition. Imaginative assignments integrate content and technical skills. Supply list will be provided at first class.

Enrollment limited to 12; ages 16 and up

A420 Wednesdays, Oct. 1 - Nov. 19 (8 sessions) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM \$173 Members / \$192 Non-members

CONTINUING WATERCOLOR I

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner

This course is for the painter fresh from Watercolor Basics and provides more directed experience in the media. Material covered will increase familiarity with value structure, composition, color use and painting techniques. Bring supplies to first class. **Prerequisite: Watercolor Basics or instructor's permission. Please Call!**

Enrollment limited to 12; ages 16 and up

A425 Thursdays, October 2 - 23 (4 sessions) 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM \$72 Members / \$80 Non-members

CONTINUING WATERCOLOR II

Skill Level: Intermediate

Continue developing skills and personal expression in a course that encourages exploration while increasing familiarity with watercolor techniques. General emphasis on individual confidence and growth. Bring supplies to first class. **Prerequisite:**Watercolor Basics or instructor's permission.
Please Call!

Enrollment limited to 15; ages 16 and up

A426 Thursdays, October 2 - 23 (4 sessions) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM \$86 Members / \$96 Non-members

Need to know more? Call for a catalog, or go to our web site. 952.473.7361, ext. 16 • minnetonkaARTS.org/classes

2240 North Shore Drive • Wayzata, MN 55391 952.473.7361, ext. 16