

Spring Show Proclaimed a Success

By Deb Chapin

The MnWS 2009 Spring Exhibition was a rousing success due to the high quality of our members' work, the efforts of dedicated volunteers who assembled the exhibition, and the courtesy and expertise of the Director and staff of Minnetonka Center for the Arts. Thirty-one MnWS members worked to make the show run smoothly and look professional. Those special people deserve an extra thank you, as also do the many, MANY MnWS members and their families and friends who attended the opening and/or visited the exhibition during its run at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts.

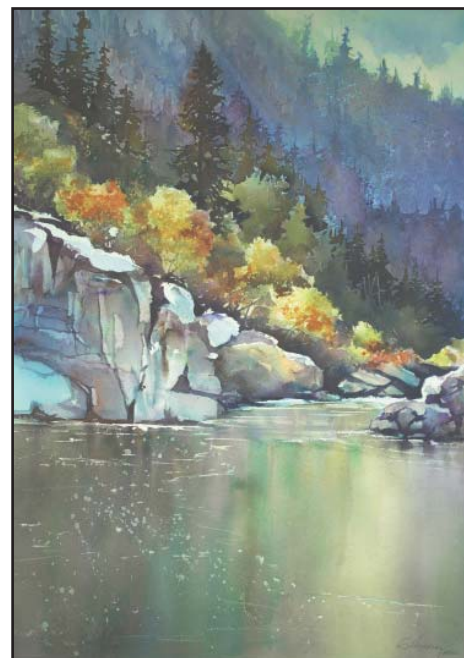
Bob Bowman, Gallery Director of the Minnetonka Center for the Arts, and his crew of volunteers hung the exhibition with great finesse. Because paintings met prospectus criteria, Bob was able to concentrate on the work itself as he hung the show. Minnetonka Center for the Arts also helped set up for the opening.

Catherine Hearing's painting, "Just Around the Bend," won the People's Choice Award. Congratulations, Catherine! There were 409 votes for 65 pieces (we had 78 in the show!) At pick-up people were recruited to help count votes, which was quite

an undertaking! At the delivery, the opening, and pick-up, volunteers were generous with their help and all seemed to enjoy the opportunity to meet and visit with fellow artists. Everyone was on time for the drop-off and there was only one little snag at pick-up. In my four years of chairing the shows, this was a record! I really appreciated the participants' efforts to keep this show running smoothly. There was a lot of unexpected paperwork, but people completed it in good humor!

Nine paintings were sold at \$6,325, a respectable amount since many group shows typically don't achieve these results. Kathleen Riopelle, MnWS Publicity Chair, contacted the Star Tribune, prompting their art critic, Mary Abbe to contact Bruce Camp, Minnetonka's Publicity Director. Ms. Abbe proceeded to write an inviting commentary on the show for the Star Tribune, complete with a photo of Andy Evansen's painting. The larger than normal amount of visitors to the exhibition may be attributed to this positive press.

Deb Magelssen will be heading up the next spring show, and I know you will support her in the same generous fashion that you did me. Again I thank so many of you for a beautiful show!



"Just Around the Bend"
by Catherine Hearing wins
People's Choice Award

Last call for newsletter survey

If you haven't already done so, please turn in your newsletter survey. A copy of the survey can be found in the May issue of Brush Strokes. Please mail surveys to Carol Wingard 10427 Fawns Way Eden Prairie, MN 55347
THANK YOU

from the President

We have come to the end of another year for the MnWS, with an extended run for those of you participating in the Members' Day Event in June. We have had a couple of wonderful shows, many good demos and some really great workshops. I hope that you were able to be a part of some of these events and realize the significance of having a group like MnWS to belong to. I have personally received so much value from this organization and I hope that our members feel the same

way. We had a great turnout for our last meeting of the year on May 14, and the mini-show was fantastic! The theme was self-portraits and we had a wonderful selection and variety of great self-portraits. Thanks to all of you who brought your work and helped to make the meeting a great send-off for the summer.

As we wind up another year, I would like to thank some of our board members who will be stepping down from their long-held positions. Dianne Jandt is retiring as our treasurer, but will remain on the Board as secretary, to replace retiring Steve Brumbaugh. Georgia Kandiko will be taking on the position of treasurer. Thanks to both Dianne and Steve for their hard work on our behalf and to Georgia for stepping in. Ceile Hartleib is retiring as vice-president and will be replaced by Deb Chapin. Thanks to Ceile for being a faithful board member for so many years, and many thanks to Deb as she retires from spring show chair to take on duties as vice-president. We appreciate all of you who volunteer to keep this organization running so smoothly.

As we look forward to next year, one of the early events will be our Fall Members' Show. As you can see from the registration forms in this newsletter, the theme for the show is Ripples & Reflections: Views of the River. This will be held in the Atrium Gallery at Bloomington Art Center, September 24 - November 13. Take some time over the summer to think about what you might want to enter. The theme encompasses anything having to do with the rivers in our communities. These could be river-scapes, landscapes, people on, by or at the river, buildings or structures by the river or abstracts inspired by the river. There are lots of possibilities. The overarching theme will be the water, but it is up to you what you do with it. The paintings will need to be small, as this gallery is quite a bit smaller than the Greenberg gallery downstairs. We are asking that the paintings be no larger than 16x20" framed.

I received some comments regarding confusion over CDs associated with this show. This is still our Member's show, non-juried, first-come-first served for space. The only difference is that Bloomington Art Center is interested in using some of our images for a Fall Fusion Event on Water, before our show opens. If you are interested in having your image considered for this event, it will need to be submitted on a CD by August 10. The details can be found in the May newsletter. This is entirely optional and only for those who are interested. Other than that, the show will remain in the same format, as outlined in the registration form and paintings will be delivered as stated. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me about this.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable summer and that you take the time to get some great paintings done. We will see you in the fall!

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2004-06	Andrew Evansen	1992-94	Carol Gray
2002-04	Sandra Muzzy	1990-92	Gwen Leopaldt
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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INFORMATION – VOICE MAIL LINE, 952-996-9228
WEB SITE: 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

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

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For ad rates or to place advertising, contact
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Come join the MnWS Board of Directors

Joining the MnWS Board of Directors is an easy way to meet other members. It's also a great way to become active in the art community.

The board meets at 5:30 before scheduled MnWS meetings. Most positions require a 2 year commitment.

The following positions are currently open:

- Hospitality Director
- Program Chair
- Advertising Manager
- Mailings

Please contact the Board if interested. The board's contact information is located on page 2 of the newsletter.



MEMBER happenings

Send member news to:

BrushStrokes, 10910 Quebec Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55438 or email tweyman@earthlink.net. Images are welcome and used as space permits.

- ▶ The society would like to thank **Bonnie Crouch** for her donation of books to the MnWS library.

- ▶ **Larry Johnson** was juried into the Southwest Washington Watercolor Society's spring show in Vancouver, Washington. His painting of an Amish Wagon, titled "Heading Home," won first place for juried members and also won the People's Choice Award.



Larry Johnson © 2008

"Heading Home"
by Larry Johnson

- ▶ **Catherine Hearing's** painting "Winter Haven" was selected for the 28th Annual Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors in Old Forge, New York. Her painting "Oregon Dunes" will be showing in the Red River Watercolor Society's Annual National Watermedia Exhibition in Fargo, ND.

- ▶ **Steve Brumbaugh's** painting titled "Temperance River" was accepted in the Red River National Juried Watercolor Society Show.

- ▶ MnWS members received awards at the Artist of Minnesota Show in Bemidji. **Dianne Jandt** won First Place in the Advanced Landscape for her watercolor painting "Hutchinson Power."



"Temperance River"
by Steve Brumbaugh

Kathleen Sovell won First Place and Creativity awards for her painting "Nature's Kaleidoscope," and an award of Merit for "Amber Garden". Both her paintings were in the Intermediate Still Life/Floral division. In the Theme Category "Dream" she earned a Merit award for "Visions of Summer." **Bonnie Crouch** won a First Place award for her watercolor painting "Cannonball Blossom" in the category Intermediate Abstracts/Experimental. **Susan Zinschlag** won Second Place for her painting "Autumn 2" in the Super Gold category. **Georgia Kandiko** received Second Place for her painting "Orchids" and a Creativity Award for "Charlie"

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 Hamline Ave. and left into Civic Center Drive before Lexington Ave.

Upcoming Meeting: Sept. 17

Upcoming Fall Workshop: Oct. 12-16, 2009, Janet Rogers, "The Expressive Portrait, Figure in Watercolor. Sign up online.

New Website Up: Check it out at www.northstarwatercolorssociety.com. Northstar newsletters are available online.

Letters to the editor

Let me congratulate your society on a fine show!

We had so many comments about the quality and beauty of the artwork on display. I'd also like to commend you for the terrific job your group did of getting members and others interested in watercolor into the gallery to see the show. We had a steady stream of viewers in the gallery all through the run of the show. We were very pleased to see that Mary Abbe highlighted the show in one of her "See-worthy" columns in the Star Tribune. And on top of all that, sending so many pieces home with buyers was a pleasure, especially in the current economy (can we still use that phrase, or are we all just sick of mentioning it?!) Still, it's more important than ever for artists and arts organizations to keep reminding people of the importance and relevance of the arts, and the key role art and artistic activities play in our quality of life.

What better testimony to that fact than the many people who came to see this show? You should all feel very proud of this exhibition.

Somewhat off the subject, but worth mentioning, is the degree of sophistication your shows gain by the strict approach your group takes regarding matting and framing. This tailored, clean approach to presentation leaves the viewer free to examine and enjoy the image that has been created instead of bludgeoning the viewer about the head and neck with a visual cacophony of overdone commercial framing products and vulgar colored mats. This is especially important in fuller, more densely hung exhibits, in which pieces must be placed close together without "insulting" each other, for lack of a better term. I mention this because it must come up from time to time and require defending. Be assured you are on the right path.

Robert Bowman, Exhibits Director, Minnetonka Center for the Arts



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Tu 9-6
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SaSu 12-4

More thoughts on the judging of our exhibitions

Imagine, if you would, this scenario: You work hard at your job, study up on techniques, work late, attend workshops, all to improve your skills. You also do a lot of soul searching, attempting to make your job more meaningful, not only to you, but also to those with whom you attempt to relate through your work. Then, once a year you go before a representative of your employer and he says whether your work was good or bad and decides what you will be paid. Each year the representative changes. He might be the CEO of the company, or the janitor, or the guy in the cubicle next to you. After he says whether you are doing well or poorly, he states his self-made set of criteria on which you were judged.

One year the representative gives you high marks because your job performance was "bold and impressive."

The next year the new representative gives you nothing because he sees your efforts as "too aggressive." The following year the new rep marvels at your "skills of execution and effective presentation," and gives you the highest grade and the highest salary possible. The year after, another rep walks right past you, and gives you absolutely no remuneration at all.

One thing may become apparent to you—you don't have a clue about what is considered important to do in your job. You go home confused after each review, attempting to assess what the representative said, and how it might improve your work efforts, only to find out the next year that the criteria has again been changed, maybe even diametrically. You keep asking yourself, what do these evaluations mean,

and how am I supposed to improve my efforts when I never know what qualities are considered worthwhile until AFTER I'm assessed?

If these conditions existed in your employment, would you simply accept them, or might you seek to have some criteria of assessment made available to both you and the designated representative BEFORE the assessment took place? Would you want that criteria to have been thoughtfully considered, and meaningfully articulated to the representative? Or would you just want to go back each year, never knowing what was valued, and take your chances on getting some kind of reward?

Jeanne Long, MnWS

workshops and classes

Want to find more workshops?

Visit the MnWS website at www.minnesotawatercolors.com and click the "Happenings" link at the top of the page.

To include your listings on the website please e-mail information to webmaster@minnesotawatercolors.com

MnWS Workshop

October 5-9 (Mon – Fri)

Myrna Wacknov www.myrnawacknov.com

Wacky portraits - many possibilities from one image



Cost: \$395 Members
\$435 Nonmembers

This workshop is for people who wish to move away from strict interpretation of a photograph and explore the potential for more

unique and creative alternatives. Each day will explore a different element of design and how it could apply to the image at hand.

Be prepared for fun, creative excitement and a fast paced and highly structured environment.

Workshop Registration

Please register me for

- ☐ Myrna Wacknov/Wacky Portraits –
Many Possibilities from One Image
members \$395 nonmembers \$435
October 5 - 9 (Mon-Fri)
Location: Bloomington Art Center

For detailed information about the artist or workshop visit our website at:
www.minnesotawatercolors.com

Questions contact: Kathleen Sovell,
Workshop Chairperson
Phone: 612-374-3195
E-mail: jksovell@comcast.net

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____@_____

(MnWS does not share e-mail addresses with others.)

Please send \$125 deposit.

Cancellations in writing must be received no later than two weeks prior to the workshop to qualify for a full refund. If the workshop is cancelled, money will be promptly refunded.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to Minnesota Watercolor Society and mail with form to:
Workshops, Susan Zinschlag
2353 Glacier Way
Hastings, MN 55033-3757
Phone: (651) 437-9327
E-mail: s.m.zinschlag@att.net

MnWS NEW MEMBERS

Wayne Dunifon	Donna Gadtke	Nancy Howcroft	Vera Kovacovil
Pamela Mikeworth	Chriscell Rudolph	Arthur Weeks	Leny Wendel

We have 379 paid members.

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

exhibits

- ▶ **Dianne Jandt** will have an exhibit of her watercolor paintings at Abbott Northwestern Hospital from June 1 - July 31. The location is in the lower level of the Wasie Building by the Live Well Fitness Center. Opening reception will be held Friday, June 12 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Institute for Health and Healing (building location is the south east corner of 28 & Chicago). Healthy food and great art. Directions call 612-863-3333.
- ▶ **Open to all artists:** Kansas Watercolor Society National Exhibition 2009 Show dates Nov. 20, 2009 - Jan. 3, 2010. For more information go to wcfta.com or call 1-316-634-2787.
- ▶ **Judy Fawcett** will be exhibiting watercolors at the Hudson Hospital Patient/Staff until July 12.
- ▶ **"The Long Zoom,"** Sandra Muzzy and Jeanne Long's exhibition of the Arboretum from a distance and close up, will run through June 30 at the Reedy Gallery in the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. www.arboretum.umn.edu/TheLongZoom.aspx

Save money by reading paint labels

by Marian Alstad

As a long time watercolor painter and teacher, I have learned to use many pigments for their distinct personalities. This is no longer possible due to manufacturing changes.

As I buy my paints I realize that these old standbys are being replaced with substitutes.

These pigments are no longer available. Naples yellow, formerly a lead based pigment, is now white paint with yellow. Cerulean blue is now made with cobalt. Manganese blue is extinct, and available in hue form only. Vermillion contains mercury, and is also in hue form only. The word "hue" means a color resembling the original, but not very closely.

Read labels for color content and save money.

MnWS calendar

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

Sept 10 Demo

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:

Carol Wingard, Membership Chair
10427 Fawns Way
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

MnWS Membership Dues:

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

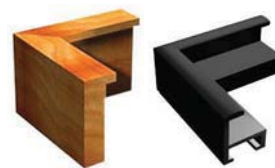
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And the winners are ...

Karen Knutsen and Joyce Tibbs were the winners of the Mini-Show drawing at the May 14 meeting. Thank you to all for bringing your self portraits. We had a great turn-out! Lots of interesting work.

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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

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