



Letter from the President

HO HO... Whoa! December is becoming a blur and suddenly the Holidays are upon us! However and wherever you celebrate, I hope you will find inspiration in the music, scents, twinkle, and memories of this magical time.



Have you made a list of Resolutions? How about, "Clean up my painting space and get rid of stuff I no longer use or want?" If that one is on your list, then APS is making it easy for you! Call Kitty Williams and reserve a table at our January meeting. Go through the closet, pull out the "stuff", and bring it to the meeting. We will set up in the big gallery at the Grace Church and trade, barter, and sell from 10 am until noon. One artist's "stuff" is another's treasure!

Have you made a Resolution to do more plein air painting in 2015? Well then Gary Rupp is going to help you keep that one! Gary is the APS Vice President and loves to paint out of doors. He is working on setting up regular plein air opportunities for us. He had his first plein air experience in college on a painting trip to the banks of the Mississippi River. After college he pursued a career in the helping professions, and taught counseling for over ten years. In 2005 he decided to renew his interest in art and signed up for a pastel workshop in Maine which ignited a passion for plein air and pastel painting. He has participated in workshops with Maggie Price, Michael Chesley Johnson, Albert Handell, and Terri Ford. He really enjoys the energy and challenges of Paint Outs, and participates in two or three each year. Just recently, he was

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The APS general meeting is scheduled every second Saturday of the month i.e. Jan, Mar, May, July, Sep. Nov, from 10 am - 12 pm and those interested in pastel are welcome.

Appalachian Pastel Society

January 10, 2015

10 am - noon

Grace Community Church Exhibition Hall

495 Cardinal Road

Mills River, NC 28759

“Swap, Shop and Save A Lot” Meet

**Well known landscape artist, Paul deMarrais,
will be demonstrating his unique oil pastels
and will have available a supply of his
buttery handmade soft pastels.**

Paul deMarrais has spent over thirty five years as a pastel artist. After early study with master pastel artist Albert Handell, Paul moved to Tennessee and became a dedicated plain air landscape painter. These days find Paul more of a studio painter. He has long made pastels for himself and for other pastel artists while trying out as many innovations he could with the pastel medium. Presently he is involved with producing his own line of oil sticks and unique soft pastels. “My pastels are loaded with pure pigment and contain very little in the way of fillers or binders. I prefer a thicker, larger pastel that can make a good variety of marks and can handle broad painterly applications. They are truly hand made and I think you will enjoy them.” Paul is a popular workshop instructor and exhibits his painting in galleries across the southeast.

“Made some pretty colors today....very deep olive, deep ultramarine with a bit of unbleached titanium, super looking purple with Ultramarine and a bit of quincacridone magenta. None of these colors will turn up in any sets.”Paul



January 10th Program continued on p. 3

It's A Steal Of A Deal
Save the Date
APS Meeting January 10



**From *Pastel A* book by Daniel E
Greene available for \$5.00**

**Members will be offering an array of art materials and supplies, as well as paintings
by a variety of artists including oils, acrylics and pastels
at bargain prices.**

Come see for yourself.

**Pastel Library and refreshments for members will be
available in our regular meeting room.**

Artist of the Month - Alec Hall

Animals, both domestic and wild, have always been a major force and focus in my life. For as long as I can remember, I have had a special, unexplainable connection with animals that would draw me to them regardless of where I was or what I was doing. Because of this connection, I became a veterinarian and enjoyed a career working with animals for 32 years. In 2003, I retired from my veterinary career and embarked on my new profession as an animal artist.

My art education started 19 years ago with an evening class in oil painting at the Kalamazoo Institute of Art (KIA) in Kalamazoo, Michigan. My interest in art soon became a passion that was too strong to ignore and I continued to pursue it with additional evening classes & workshops. While still working full time, I entered into a 3-year apprenticeship with a local professional artist who greatly expanded my knowledge of various mediums including pastels. Over the years I have taken workshops with wildlife artists Nancy Glazier, Carl Brenders, Paco Young, and Rod Lawrence; and pastel artists Jim Markle, Jane Lund, Daniel Massad, Clark Mitchell, and Cindy House.



Sleek & Shiny



Just Havin' Fun

In 2004, the director of the art school at the KIA asked if I would fill in for the pastel instructor who needed some time off. After doing so for 2 months, they offered me the position of full-time pastel instructor which I held for the next 8 years. During that time I was a member of the Great Lakes Pastel Society, the Allegan Area Arts Council, and the Plein Air Artists of West Michigan. My artistic career has included 9 one-person shows at various venues in Michigan. Over the years, I have been fortunate to have my artwork juried into many local and national shows and I have been honored to win a

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number of awards. Most recently, one of my pastels won the Silver Award at the Great Lakes Pastel Society's 2014 National Competition.

This summer my wife and I sold our 80-acre farm in Allegan, Michigan and moved to Hendersonville, NC in early October. We had been contemplating a move to a more moderate climate for years, but last winter's encounter with the Polar Vortex convinced us that the time to do so was now. We set our sights on the mountains of western NC and so far we are very happy with that decision not only because of the climate but also because of the vibrant arts community that we have found here.



High Three!



County Fair

Louie's Pasture

I believe that all artists are in pursuit of their own personal truth and that their art is a reflection of this pursuit. Because of my life's work with animals, I am most passionate about my art when I am painting the animals that continue to inspire me. In order to be faithful to my own personal truth, I have chosen to represent each animal in a realistic style. It is my hope that when you look at my paintings, you will see the beauty and grace, and sense the strength and character, of every animal that I portray.

Alec Hall



Letter From the President (Continued from page 1)

elected a studio member of the McRae Art Studios in Winter Park, Florida. Gary says, "Over the past few years I've learned life has a way of pushing away the soul and art reminds us we have one."

I hope you have at least one more Resolution: to continue to support the APS by attending our meetings and volunteering to help with our Exhibitions or in some other way. We are a small group with a big mission and from time to time we all need to pitch in. Thank you!

The lights are out in my studio while I wrap and bake and decorate. However, I am looking forward to the days when I can get my fingers dusty with pastel and to seeing you in January!

Best wishes, Sparky Nelson

**DIRECTIONS TO GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

495 Cardinal Road, Mills River, NC 28759

From I-26, take exit for the Asheville Airport.

Grace is located 3 miles west of the Asheville Airport
off 280 toward Mills River.

Turn right on Cardinal Drive, between the Land Rover dealer
and Grace Church (up on the hill) Turn left at the top of the drive
into the church parking lot.

Go to the left side of the building to the green awning entrance.

Member's News

**Ward off those post-holiday blues - see Pamela Winkler and Suzanne Nelson
at Asheville Gallery of Art in January
Opening: Friday, January 2, 2015 - 5 - 7:30 pm**



"Fall Color Still Life" by Marion Vidal

You're cordially invited
Opening Reception
Friday, January 2, 2015
5:00 - 7:30PM

Exhibition Dates
January 1 - January 31

"New Kids on the Block"
Asheville Gallery of Art
16 College St.
Asheville, NC 28801

*Featuring 3 new artist members
Marion Vidal, Pamela Winkler and Suzanne Nelson*



"Santa Fe Railyard" by Pamela Winkler



"Green, Orange, Violet" by Suzanne Nelson

www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com
www.pamelawinkler.com
www.marionvidalart.com

CALL FOR ENTRIES

DEADLINE: MARCH 2, 2015
2015 NC Statewide Juried Pastel Exhibition at The Art Shop, Greensboro, NC, May 16 - June 16, 2015.
Juror: Teresa Saia. Over \$6,000 in awards. \$1,000 Best of Show. Online digital entries only.
Prospectus: pastelsocietyofnc.com

Many Thanks to our Presenters

Thanks go to Susan Sinyai for giving the presentation "Growing Radiant Flowers in Pastel" in September 2014.



Thanks go to Karen Margulis for giving the presentation and workshop "Expressive Pastels: Loosen Up and Add Some Spice to Your Paintings" in November 2014.

An article on APS meeting and program in November with Karen Margulis will appear in the Hendersonville Times-News on Sunday Dec. 21. You can view it online at blueridgenow.com



Board Members

Officers

President:

Sparky Nelson

sparkynelsonpaints@gmail.com

Vice President:

Gary Rupp

glrupp11@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Jim Hefley (temporary)

jhefley@charter.net

Treasurer:

Maggie Whitney

maggiwhitney10@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President:

Suzy Hart

suzyhartfineart@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

NC Statewide Show:

Karen Chambers, karenpaints@hotmail.com

2014 APS National Show:

Jim Smythe, jamesesmythe@gmail.com

Carol Rollick, cbrollick@gmail.com

Membership/Communications:

Suzy Hart, appalachianpastelsociety@gmail.com

Programs:

Kitty Williams, bk@btes.tv

Public Relations:

Jim Hefley, jhefley@charter.net

Non-juried Shows (co-chairs):

Nancy Clausen, nancy@clauseninstrument.com

Deborah Squier, squierd@bellsouth.net

Elise Okrend, elise@eliseokrend.com

Hospitality:

Sheryl Daniels, stdaniels@embarqmail.com

Paint Outs:

Gary Rupp, glrupp11@yahoo.com

Library:

Anne Allen, annekallen@gmail.com

Newsletter:

Sydney Wilson, wilstu@charter.net

Website:

Kay Gordon, kgordon@main.nc.us

Juried Exhibitions:

Appalachian Pastel Society Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Alt Telephone _____

E-mail _____ Website _____

Renewing member _____ New Member _____

Artist ___ Art Supporter ___

Committee Interests:

Exhibitions ___ Programs ___ Hospitality ___ Telephone ___

Newsletter ___ Membership ___ Clerical ___ Workshops ___

Other _____

Awards/Experience/Comments/(or, what are your expectations from APS):

Our new membership year begins September 1st, 2014. If you have not renewed yet, please print out the form below and send it in as soon as possible. This helps us keep our records current, keeps you in the loop for announcements about our awesome programs, shows, exhibitions and member news.

The new membership year promises to be an exciting one, with plein air events, great demonstrations and workshops, and the wonderful company and support from your fellow artists.

We are planning an art supplies swap meet in January. So stay in the loop, stay involved, and renew now! Please call me or email me if you aren't sure of your current status.

Send your \$25 dollar check and the Membership Application to:

Suzy Hart
122 Broome Lane
Easley, SC 29640

More information: www.appalachianpastelsociety.org

Or contact Suzy at: appalachianpastelsociety@gmail.com 845.986.3653