



December Newsletter

APS Member Program: Saturday, January 11

Marsha Savage video: Commentary on Black Mountain Exhibition paintings

Marsha Savage, our juror for the Juried Member Exhibition at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts, recorded her thoughts on the paintings and we will be airing her comments.

This will be followed by a

Panel Discussion with APS artists Carol Morrow, Deborah Squier, Suzi Karnatz and Susan Sinyai. Jim Hefley will moderate a panel discussion and Q&A about painting surfaces, methods, materials, and other topics as come from the floor. There will be a demonstration easel for hands-on descriptions.

Refreshments will be served at our new venue, Grace Church.

When you come to our meeting bring a friend!

The meeting will be held on January 11th at 10:00am

New Venue for our meetings! Grace Church

We are pleased to return to Grace Church for our bi-monthly member meetings and programs. Grace Church was the first meeting place when the Appalachian Pastel Society was created, and they have a wonderful facility and are arts-friendly! Thanks to Minty at Grace Church for facilitating our move! It's an easy access from I-26 . We'll see you there!

DIRECTIONS TO GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

ADDRESS

Grace Community Church
495 Cardinal Road
Mills River, NC 28759

DIRECTIONS FROM ASHEVILLE AIRPORT & AG CENTER

--I-26, Exit for the airport

--Go West past the airport and past the Ag Center on NC 281

--Go approximately 1 ¾ miles west towards Mill River

--Turn Right on street between the Land Rover dealer and Grace Church

- which is Cardinal Drive (the church is 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 (*)
- Go into the hall and go left past several doors
- Our meeting room is on left

Many thanks to the Black Mountain Center for the arts, Susan Sinyai and Bev Kies for hosting and chairing our member exhibition this October!

NEWS

The Appalachian Pastel Society National Exhibition will be taking place at the Bascom Center for the Visual Arts in Highlands, NC in October. Our juror and workshop instructor is Stan Sperlak. Thank you Stan!

STAN SPERLAK PSA

ABOUT THE ARTIST



Stan Sperlak was born in Denver, CO in 1960. He spent many years traveling the country as his parents were transferred by the military from Hawaii, Minnesota and New York to finally settle in Cape May, NJ in 1974. Sperlak showed an early interest in drawing and photography, and was also involved in music and poetry during and after his high school years. He has resided in Cape May Court House and Goshen NJ Since 1985, marrying and having two sons.

Sperlak attended The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts during 1995-1998 studying with Al Gury, Jill Rupinski, Maggie Gilboy and others. During 1998-99, Sperlak studied at the home of fellow artist and noted landscape architect William Frederick of Hockessin, DE who had arranged for private classes by Academy teacher Patrick Arnold. These classes were conducted outdoors at Frederick's garden. Sperlak also studied from 1997-2003 with Patricia Vanaman Witt, founder of the Barn Studio of Art in Millville, NJ. This study focused primarily on plein air landscape painting at the Burcham's Farm on the Maurice River in Port Elizabeth, NJ. Sperlak also studied with Louis Sidney Mohollen, a student of Hobson Pittman who

taught Sperlak monotypes in 1998.

In 1997 Sperlak purchased 37 acres of farmland, forest and marsh in Goshen, NJ along the Crow Creek and started work on a studio and future teaching facility. In 2003 with the encouragement of Pat Witt, Sperlak embarked on carrying forth Witt's traditions of plein air teachings and style. Crow Creek Farm is now the main facility for his teaching. Sperlak has also taught in Maine, Colorado, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Maryland. He has been invited to teach and speak at art centers across the US.

Sperlak's overall emphasis on teaching has been a continuation of the lineage taught at the Academy and Witt's work, where painting outdoors should be an exercise in "note taking" with color and gesture from life, to capture the light and essence of a place, and to establish the basis for future works from these studies. But to also remember that as artists, one must synthesize their self and subject to truly express and create works of interest, that compel others to think beyond what might be just pretty, to what becomes a truth.

Sperlak's latest works focuses primarily on the landscape of the Mid Atlantic. Shorelines, marshes, fields, skies, boats, fisherman and night scenes are often explored while there are examples of figures in the landscape as well and to a lesser extent, figurative paintings. His strongest influences are Robert Henri, George Inness, William Lathrop and NC Wyeth.

Since 1998 Sperlak has been showing professionally, taking the traditional route of entering shows and street fairs in the greater Philadelphia/South Jersey area. He is currently represented by SOMA Gallery in Cape May, NJ, William Ris Gallery in Stone Harbor, NJ, Main Line Art in Philadelphia PA, Hardcastle Gallery in Wilmington, DE, Main Street Gallery in Annapolis, MD, Laura Craig Galleries, Scranton PA and Bishop's Stock Gallery in Snow Hill, Md, His works are also in the permanent collection of the Noyes Museum in Oceanville, NJ

Sperlak is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America, the Maryland Pastel Society and a member of the Pastel Society of Colorado. He is also a member of the Mid Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association, having served on the Board of Directors since 2005. He is a member and past President of The Cape May County Art League.

See Stan Sperlak's work at
<http://www.stansperlak.com/>



The prospectus will be available on Cafe online (callforentry.org) at the end of February. Applications will be accepted until July 22, 2014. There will be an email announcement when the call opens. Members are encouraged to paint, paint, paint, and enter! There will be technical help for anyone who needs assistance with photo sizing and uploading, the main thing is to flex your creativity and sense of color! Your fellow artists love seeing your work!

The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts is hosting the annual Regional Arts League Exhibition

Regional Art Leagues: Selected Works, January 11 – March 30, 2014. For the first time this year, the Bascom is presenting \$750 in awards, including a People's Choice Award. The closing reception and awards announcement will take place on March 29 from 5 to 7pm.

Note from your president: There is an awesome figurative works on exhibition this winter, if you are in the Highlands area, make this a must-see!

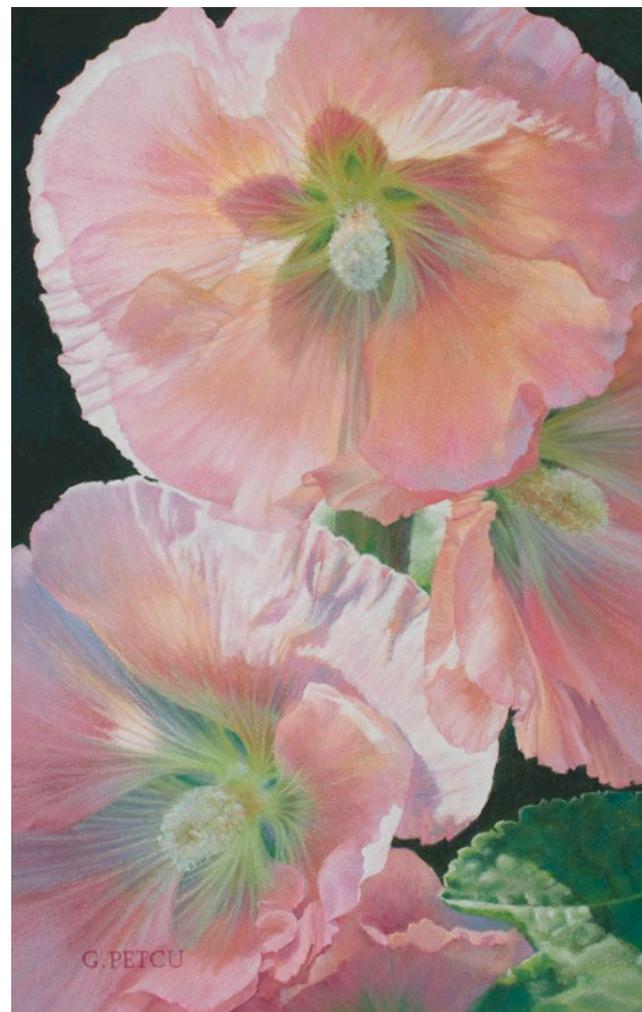
[American Art Today: Figures](#)

September 7 through January 5, 2014. Bunzl Gallery, <http://www.thebascom.org/>

Meet the Artist of the Month: Gaylene Petcu

It took some time for me to realize that I'd been practicing for years to be where I am now, enjoying my work as a pastelist. Before moving to western North Carolina in 2007, I worked as a graphic designer for 25 years. Along the way, my skills in composition, color and design improved. As it turned out, those very skills are essential to my pastel pieces today. Making the transition from computer to pastels sticks was like coming full circle, back to the days when all my art was hands-on, sometimes a bit messy in the making, and always fun!

In 2012 I was the recipient of a Regional Artist Project Grant. I used the funds to purchase a complete set of 402 Unison Pastels. The range of hue and saturation is very good. In fact, I have yet to try them all out! With my new pastels I created 13 pieces for my one-person show, "Bloom!" at the Design Gallery in Burnsville, NC in May of 2013. The pieces shown here are from that exhibit.



In May 2013 I was featured in “All About Women” magazine and in June 2011 was the cover artist for the “Laurel of Asheville”. I am a member of the Toe River Arts Council and the Blue Ridge Fine Arts Guild. My paintings may be seen at The Design Gallery in Burnsville, NC, and on my website, www.gaylenepetcu.com.



(Artists of the month are selected by a drawing at our member meetings. Thanks you Gaylene!)

Report on Volunteer Needs from the President:

Dear Appalachian Pastel Society Members,

We are still looking for help in some departments. First, a giant thank you to Janet Hartmann for volunteering to be Program Co-Chair, and to Jim Smythe and Carol Rollick for volunteering to co-chair the National Exhibition. Special thanks to Cindy Lidd for continued help with Publicity.

We need a **Publicity** Chair or Co-chair: This task is to send out via email our program and show announcements to area publications and websites. Mostly email, so computer literacy is helpful. A template form is available for presenters to send to the Publicity Chair to facilitate the task.

We need a **Librarian**: This entails bringing a box of books, magazines and DVDs for members to check out at meetings. A small fee is deposited with the librarian and held until return of the borrowed books. We have a wonderful selection for building skills and knowledge.

We need relief for your humble **Newsletter Editor**, who is doubling as President. What's up with that? I enjoy both tasks, but...my laundry remains unfolded, dog is complaining about inadequate exercise, yours truly as well, and mom needs errands done. Help!

All kidding aside, we are a volunteer organization, and are stronger and more vital with active participation. Many hands make light work, and that is a truism because it's true. Our new board is busily lightening our load, getting us a good venue and insurance, finding program presenters, improving opportunities for learning, social support, and devising templates for officers and volunteers to follow. In other words, if you volunteer, we will not leave you with tasks that are too burdensome, we will find someone to support and guide you, as I have been guided and supported in my work as President by Kay Gordon, Karen Chambers, Jim Hefley, Sparky Nelson, Nancy Clausen and many others. I've mentioned before, that volunteering is an opportunity as well as a responsibility. It's opened up my world in many ways, and I'm grateful for the new friends and the inspiration. Thank you APS for the best part of my 2013!

APS Membership Renewal REMINDER...

The APS membership year starts on September 1, 2013. Have you renewed?

Send your \$25 check with the Membership Application that appears below in this newsletter.

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 _____

Newsletter _____

Other _____

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

Please include a check made payable to "APS" in the amount of \$25 for membership for one year.
APS membership year starts September 1st.

Send to: Kay Gordon
APS Membership Chair
2016 Upper Paw Paw Road
Marshall, NC 28753

More information: www.appalachianpastelsociety.org

Or contact Kay at: kgordon@main.nc.us

828.649.3363 or 828.206.0240