From the President...

It is an honor to become our new Watercolor Society of Alabama President. I am humbled to receive your confidence and support. Having recently spent time at Talladega’s Heritage House Museum for the WSA Alabama Showcase (AMS) workshop, exhibition setup and opening reception, I realized what a talented and vibrant membership we have. With your help and the continued strong leadership of your Board of Directors, I hope to increase the visibility and prestige of our organization. We have a strong Board that has and will continue to serve it’s members and the entire art community. We need a continued strong membership participation as well. Members actively volunteering make for a successful future.

A huge “Thank You” to Tora Johnson as our outgoing President for her dedication and service to WSA. Please be sure to let her know how much she is appreciated.

The AMS workshop with internationally renowned artist, Judi Betts AWS, was a fun enjoyable learning experience for all. Judi’s many years of teaching were apparent as she gave positive feedback to all attending. Her intimate, open style make learning a joy.

Continued...
This workshop group was surprised one afternoon with a special group of visitors. Thirteen middle school students from the Talladega School for the Blind and Deaf dropped by to observe the artists drawing and painting. Judi used her charm and talent to mesmerize everyone with her special artist communication skills. She generously donated her art greeting cards to each visitor. She then surprised and touched all of us by donating a large print of one of her paintings to the teacher of the group. This gesture was such a warm example of how art can communicate to everyone!

The Opening Reception for the exhibit followed on Sunday at the Heritage House Museum. The support of the staff, especially the Director, Valerie White, made the event an overwhelming success. We were glad to see many artist members attending. We were also so very thankful for the excited support of a large number of Talladega residents. Their enthusiasm for WSA art was appreciated. The AMS continues until early November. I encourage you to stop by to view the excellent art in the exhibition.

We will begin to plan for our next National Exhibit within the next few weeks also. The exhibition will be held at the Eastern Shore Art Center in Fairhope, AL. We are very excited to have Laurin McCracken as our workshop visiting artist.

It has been a long, hot and busy summer. We are about to move into the even busier holiday season. As we saw with our special guests at the workshop, remember that art can be used in many special ways to bring joy to others. Keep being creative. Keep painting. We never fully know how someone else might be touched by our art.

Personally, I again thank everyone for their hard work and support. Together we will continue to be a strong growing organization.

Walt Costilow, WSA President

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Thank you, Thank you, Thank You...

There aren’t words enough to express the gratitude I feel for the years I have had the pleasure of working with members of WSA, especially with your Board of Directors. Each has given his/her “all” in so many ways; each has made my job easier and blessed. You will benefit greatly in the future from the continued leadership of the Board members under the direction of Walt Costilow. Remember this is your society, your organization. Hopefully a good number of you will enter the upcoming national exhibition to be held in Fairhope. Continue to paint and “increase” in ability; continue to work with each other and enjoy every opportunity you have to participate in and with the Watercolor Society of Alabama.

- Gratefully yours, Tora
The WSA Alabama Members’ Showcase at the Heritage Hall Museum Reception on September 15, 2019 was really a magnificent experience for everyone. We hung sixty-three paintings by fifty-three artists that were juried into the exhibition by David Smith and judged by Judi Betts. The exhibition is strong and it is a great display by talented Alabama Artists. WSA President, Tora Johnson and the AMS Showcase Director, Walt Costilow, presented thirteen awards.Honorable Mention Awards went to Shirley J. Tucker, Maritza Jauregui-Neeley, Lyn Gill, Deborah (Deb) Garst, and Helen Thurber. Awards of Recognition were presented to Chuck Jones, Steve Garst, William C. Morris and Heike Covell. Marsha Nelson and Cescilia Llorente Fowler received Merit Awards. The Board of Directors’ Award was granted to Gina McGee and the Award of Excellence was presented to Jaceena Shepard.

And that is not the only awesome experience I had this past week. The Judi Betts Workshop was held from Thursday through Saturday (Sep 12 – 15) at the Heritage Hall Museum. That was one more terrific workshop! Judi Betts was a grand instructor who shared so much with us all, plus she kept us laughing with her great stories. Judi’s teaching methods were fantastic and her results were inspiring. Every artist attending said they had a great time and learned so much…..WSA workshops get better every year! Thank you Judi for sharing your expertise and giving us the opportunity to meet your delightful Dale. WSA does hope to have you back.

The WSA Prospectus for our 2020 National Exhibition in Fairhope will come out early November. Please download it and enter. This is another tremendous opportunity to exhibit your work beside other nationally known artists. The Eastern Shore Art Center is a great venue and you will enjoy being at this “artsy” town. Chris Krupenski will be the Selection Juror; Laurin McCracken will Judge the awards and hold a watercolor workshop. The workshop space is limited to fifteen people so enroll early after the prospectus is posted on the website.

WSA is still seeking additional volunteers. A desperate need is for someone in the South part of Alabama to spearhead the Awards Reception in Fairhope on Sunday afternoon, April 5, 2020. A detailed outline of things required will be provided. WSA also will need volunteers to help unpack and repack the shipped items. The unpacking will begin on Saturday, March 28th and repacking will begin on Saturday, May 30. These two dates are when hand-carried paintings are delivered and picked up. If you can help in any of these areas, please send a message to jaeshep@aol.com or call 256 810 9240).

Jaceena Shepard
WSA Exhibition Director
2019 WSA Alabama Members Showcase

Award Winners

Award of Excellence - Jaceena Shepard, “Nesting Wren”

Board of Directors' Award - Gina McGee, “In Training”

Merit Award - Marsha Nelson, “Sebastian”

Award of Recognition - William C. Morris, “Preening”

Award of Recognition - Chuck Jones, “Kimbrell Church”
Award of Recognition Steve Garst, “Under Cover”

Award of Recognition Heike Covell, “Near Monterey III”

Honorable Mention Shirley J. Tucker, “Practice”

Honorable Mention - Maritza Jauregui-Neely, “Free Spirit”

Honorable Mention - Deborah (Deb) Garst, “Carolina Winds”

Honorable Mention - Lyn Gill, “Firecracker (Canna)”

Honorable Mention - Helen Thurber, “Discarded”

View the complete AMS gallery on the web www.watercolorsocietyofal.org
On my first job interview while still in college, I told the employer “I have to be challenged mentally every day, or I can’t get up and come to work”. I was hired on the spot. After retiring from a 25-year career of science and engineering, I needed another channel for analyses, decision making, and creative activity. The discovery of watercolor painting satisfies that innate need that I have.

I was always interested in art but never had the opportunity to pursue any talents. Retiring from one profession at age 55, I began formal art courses at a local college, including studio classes in drawing and painting in opaque and transparent mediums. Assignments included study of the old masters, and I found Winslow Homer to be my watercolor soul mate.

Studying and copying Homer’s work helped to reduce the frustration factor of watercolors and aided in advancing my skills. From these exercises I developed the seven-color limited palette that I still use today. Each tube paint can be mixed with any one of the other six colors without making “mud”. I prefer to use traditional transparent, semi-transparent and non-staining colors, taking care to save the white of the paper.

Although all subjects are compelling, I most enjoy painting people, an effort which provides challenges on so many different levels. My objective is achieving “expressive” work which has personal meaning for me in re-creating family memories. I strive for a dynamic design and original expression of my beloved subjects by using the aqua quality of watercolor.

A major asset in my artistic development is learning and participating in the watercolor competition process. Since I began that journey six years ago, I have served full time on the WSA Board of Directors, which left little time to paint. However my involvement in the activities; e.g., the exhibition venues, the workshops, and interaction with the artists, is reflected in the improvement of each new painting. I am honored to have achieved the privilege of adding “WSA” after my signature.

I hope to see more people involved with WSA as volunteers. The job and experience is what you make of it; artists of all ages and artistic levels can benefit. This is in addition to the personal sense of purpose and accomplishment in learning, growing, and giving back to the art community.
Jane Fritz had three paintings juried in the 6th Annual New Mexico Painters Exhibition at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, NM, and won the Purchase Prize. Her paintings in the exhibit are “Squall Over Hermit’s Peak”, “Secret Garden” and “Yangshuo”. The exhibit runs through October 31st.

She also will be exhibiting two paintings, “Twilight” and “After a Rain in Cuenca” at the Fall 2019 New Mexico Watercolor Society Annual National Exhibition, which was juried by Laurie Goldstein-Warren. The exhibit runs through October 26th.

Her painting, “Pelicans at the Bosque”, is among the 15% of submitted paintings that were accepted by juror Sterling Edwards in the Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Exhibition in Evergreen, CO. The exhibit runs through October 26th.

Jane’s painting, “Secret Garden”, also won First Place Watercolor at Masterworks of New Mexico’s 21st Annual Fine Art Show in Albuquerque.

“Spring in the Mountains” by Elaine Henry Dawson
won 1ST Place at the 61st Annual Art Exhibition of Gadsden Art Association.
www.watercolorartbyelaine.com

Fargo artist Ellen Jean Diederich invites you to sign up for her “Painting of the Week” blog
www.givinity.com/blog/

“Squall Over Hermit’s Peak”
See more at www.JANEFRITZ.COM
Larry Hughes has completed a two-week term as Artist in Residence at Yellowstone National Park, sponsored by Yellowstone Forever. This highly competitive residency, which requires a proposal and portfolio, allows the artist to live in the Park literally right in front of Old Faithful, and thus be on the spot during the “golden hours” at sunrise and sunset. Larry did plein air painting along trails of Yellowstone’s landscape and fascinating geothermal features – sometimes in the company of bears, buffalo, and elk. As part of his residency, he taught two “Watercolor Without Fear” classes to children and adults, helping them develop a watercolor in ten minutes flat. This immersion in our beloved medium produced a keepsake for their time at Yellowstone, hopefully making them lifelong advocates of preserving our always-endangered natural resources. The residency also included an artist-to-artist meeting with the Second Lady, Karen Pence, who also is a watercolorist. Larry will use his plein air watercolor sketches to develop larger studio pieces in the coming months.

IAIN STEWART Watercolor Workshop is scheduled for FEBRUARY 21-23, 2020 in Columbus, Georgia. The workshop is jointly hosted by GALLERY ON TENTH & Columbus State University’s Bo Bartlett Center for the Arts.

LOCATION: Bo Bartlett Center 921 Front Ave., Columbus, GA
WORKSHOP FEE: $350 (Class is Limited)
CONTACT: Geri M. Davis
gerimdavis@outlook.com or gerimdavis@mchsi.com

Pat Patrick “Second Bloom” won a Best Floral ribbon at the Southern Expression exhibition in Bolivar, TN
Ann Pember has won the following awards: Upper Hudson Valley Watercolor Society Award; Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors; View Art Center, Old Forge, NY August-September; John Tatge Memorial Award; Hudson Valley Art Association Annual; Lyme, CT June; President’s Award & Sylvan Grouse Award with Bronze Medal; Pennsylvania Watercolor Society’s 40th International, PA. September-October. Her paintings have been selected for 18 juried national exhibitions this year.

Pember’s painting, “Homeless” was selected for the book Splash 21; Capturing Mood; to be released in 2020.

Ann Pember, AWS  www.annpember.com  https://www.facebook.com/annpemberaws/

Marilyn Johansen

”End Of Day” is included in Northlight book “SPLASH 20 Creative Composition”. This same painting was featured in an article in August edition of “Watercolor Artist Magazine”.

Her series Of 15 paintings titled “Soldier Stories” has been traveling around South Florida since 2016.

www.MarilynJohansen.com
Member Galleries Page - How to Participate

The WSA Member Galleries Page is available to all current members and provides an opportunity to get additional online exposure and introduce yourself to other water-media artists across the country. Currently 10 WSA members have created their own gallery page. The individual gallery page may be viewed either by clicking on the Member Galleries tab and then click on the member’s name or you can go to the Membership Directory listing below the Membership tab and click on View Gallery listed next to the member’s name.

Your members gallery page offers a direct link to your personal website. List your website address within your biography when you establish your gallery page. This will give viewers the opportunity to see more of your work and learn more about you.

Please view instructions on how to set up and manage your gallery on the WSA website below in the drop-down menu below the Member Galleries tab. It looks more complicated than it is. Note: If you do not have photo editing software on your computer, go to the free online editing tool at: www.resizeimage.net If you need additional help, please do not hesitate to email Heike at stuttgart80@knology.net

You may upload up to 10 images, edit your biography, delete and upload painting images at any time day or night. Images for your gallery page should be watercolor or water media. No nude images are permitted on your Member Galleries page because WSA is a family-oriented organization. The gallery page is available to current WSA members at a cost of $30.00/year which is due on 1 October annually. You have a grace period of 30 days after 1 October, same as for the membership dues. It is easy to pay online: Go to Member Galleries tab, then to the drop-down box How To Participate and you will see the Online Gallery Registration Form below. Fill it out and submit to PayPal (credit or debit card is accepted) or you may send a check payable to WSA to Heike Covell, 11012 Willingham Dr., Huntsville, AL 35803-2073. Upon receipt of online payment or check I will contact you by email.

Once you have established your gallery page it becomes even easier to make any changes. Login with your password, go to and click on Update My Profile, change or rewrite text in your bio, delete or add new painting images, scroll down and click on Update and then go to and click on View My Gallery. If you don’t like what you see go back to Update My Profile and make changes. Don’t forget to keep it at maximum 10 images, click on Update on bottom of the page and don’t forget to Log Out.

Happy painting, Heike Covell

Be sure to check out Sophie’s gallery page

www.watercolorsocietyofal.org

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Happy painting, Heike Covell

Be sure to check out Sophie’s gallery page

www.watercolorsocietyofal.org
WATERCOLOR SOCIETY OF ALABAMA
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dues are valid October 1st thru September 30th each year ... Annual dues are $40.00

Please make check payable to Watercolor Society of Alabama (or WSA) and mail to
Membership Director: Heike Covell, 11012 Willingham Dr., Huntsville, AL 35803-2073

___New Membership ___Renewing Membership Change of: ___Address ____Phone ____E-mail

NAME__________________________________________________________________________________

STREET________________________________________________________________________________

CITY_________________________________________________STATE___________ZIP_______________

EMAIL____________________________________________WEBSITE______________________________

PHONE (H)_________________________________          PH (Cell)_________________________________

Dues expire after January 1st of the fiscal year if you have not renewed.

NOTE: You will need to be current with your dues when you send entries for the WSA Annual National
Exhibition, which occurs after 1 January of each year.

Active members who are current with their dues have full voting rights, are eligible to be officers,
members of committees, and serve on the board of directors.

Benefits:

• Invitation to WSA activities including Exhibitions and WSA sponsored Workshops
• Discounts on WSA exhibition entry fees, Workshop fees, and art supplies
• Full-color catalogue of paintings from WSA National Exhibitions
• E-Notification as appropriate for current news, WSA quarterly Newsletters, etc.
• Earn points toward Signature Member status with privilege of using WSA initials after signature
• Option to have a personal art gallery page on WSA website

Dear Member, WSA is truly grateful for your support. We need you and your ideas to help WSA accomplish its goals of inspiring, growing, and networking artists. GET INVOLVED, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, GIVE BACK TO YOUR ORGANIZATION!
Board of Directors

President – Walt Costilow
President-Elect (AMS Director) - open
1st Vice President (Exhibition Director) – Jaceena Shepard
2nd Vice President (Membership Director) – Heike Covell
3rd Vice President (Publicity Director) & Newsletter Director (Editor) – Sondra Carlisle
Treasurer – Mary Fountain
Recording Secretary – Melinda M. Mathews
Corresponding Secretary – Diane D. Shepherd
Historian – K.M. McWhorter
Parliamentarian – Shirley J. Tucker

Directors at Large
Donations/Awards Director – Deborah Guy
National Online Showcase Director – Keith Jones
Webmaster/Facebook Director – Lyn Gill

Calendar notes...

10-1—2020 membership dues are due
11/8—AMS closes
11/9—Hand carried paintings to be picked up 10 am—1 pm
11/11—AMS paintings shipping begins (volunteers needed)
12/31—Last day to renew membership dues, renew online
https://watercolorsocietyofal.org/membership/join-wsa/

Have something to add? Please send announcements, events, etc. Sondra Carlisle, sonlynn33@gmail.com

We’d love to hear from you... to contact a Board Member visit www.watercolorsocietyofal.org/board-of-directors/

Thank you to our patrons for their continued support

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Southern Watercolor Society
Tallahassee Watercolor Society
Texas Watercolor Society
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Keep up with the latest news & events—Follow us @watercolorsocietyofalabama on Facebook & Instagram