



Hot Press News

April 2024 No. 3

P.O. Box 984, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

delawarewatercolorsociety.org

Special Newsletter Edition Celebrating DWS 20 Years

Juried Exhibition at Nassau Valley Vineyard and Winery will be Kicking Off the 20th Anniversary Year

The Opening Reception for the DWS Juried Exhibition at Nassau Valley Vineyards will be held on Thursday, May 2nd from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. The exhibit will run May 2-30, 2024.



Lewes Antiques by Christine Heyse

Even if you are not participating in this exhibition, please come out to support your fellow artists.

Monetary awards and ribbons will be presented for First, Second, and Third Place. Steve and Wendy Leddy will be sponsoring the First Place Award in memory of Wendy's mother, Doris Provencher.



Treasury of Color by Joan Judge

Please check the website for the Prospectus. Mark your calendar: Artists will be notified April 1st of accepted paintings. Framed paintings are to be delivered to Nassau on Wednesday, May 1st between 10am and noon.

Survey Results are In

DWS held a survey to evaluate our members wishes concerning workshops and demos. We received over a 50% response! Thank you for contributing. The results showed many members preferred demos and have expressed an interest in short events where members can get together in person. In addition DWS received many wonderful suggestions for artists to hold these events.

How It Began

By Anne Crown Cyr

All art begins with an idea, a vision, of what can be. Nancy Alexander had such a vision. In early 2003, Nancy, then Director of the Rehoboth Art League, invited Anne Crown Cyr to her office to discuss an idea she had. Nancy thought it would be a good idea to start a local watercolor society, a Delmarva Watercolor Society, and enlisted Anne's help in setting it up. Thus began a series of year-long discussions, research, and development of bylaws and requirements for registration of the society with Sussex County. Anne reviewed materials from other organizations and the IRS in drafting the mission statement and bylaws for the society, which she shared with Nancy for her consideration, input, and feedback. Nancy also shared some names of artists she thought might be interested in working with and joining the watercolor society.

A year later, Anne registered the society with Sussex County as the principal member, along with five other artists — John and Margaret Bayalis, Julie Baxendell, Donald Blow, and Lesley McCaskill. That marked the true beginning of the society as an organization.

In May 2004, a call was put out to local artists about the first meeting of the watercolor society. That meeting was at the Village Improvement Association in Rehoboth, thanks to Nancy arranging the space for us. We had a large turnout and there was much interest in going forward. Our first board of directors included Anne Cyr (President), Julie Baxendell, Donald Blow (Workshops), Lesley McCaskill (Membership), and Dale Sheldon (Treasurer).



Biggs opening night. From left to right: Ryan Grover, Curator, C. Terry Jackson II, Board President; Linda Danko, Interim Director; Anne Cyr, President DWS; and Earl Abott, local artist and Best in Show winner

Early on, the board had decided on making the organization a mid-Atlantic regional one, accepting members from outside of the state. After this meeting, we hit the ground running. Many “firsts” were achieved in 2005:

- Juried Exhibition at The Biggs Museum of American Art in Dover, November
- Partnership with the Rehoboth Art League for a Juried Show in The Tubb’s Gallery, May
- Published the First Issue of Hot Press News
- DWS Logo Developed (Carolyn Riley; Anne Cyr)
- Got Domain Name and Launched Website (Pat Coluzzi)
- Three Paint Outs — September, Lewes Historic Complex; October, Mirror Lake Park, Dover; November, Gordon’s Pond (Earl Abbott, Paint Out Chair)

In 2006, we had our first workshops. One plein air workshop with Ross Merrill from the National Gallery of Art, one in-person watercolor workshop with Ken Hosmer from New Mexico, and one with watercolorist Carol Gawarecki, NWS and PVW.

In 2011, we introduced our signature level artists member status and had a first signature artists show in 2012. During the same period, we began our Second Tuesday program at the Glade. This was very successful and gave members social and educational opportunities to come together to paint, view videos and demos, and hear lectures. This same year, we began a partnership with Lewes library through a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, to introduce first-time painters to watercolor. Dorothy Harrison Braun, Elizabeth Collard, and Isabel Pizzolato were the first instructors in the “Come Paint with Us” program. The program later expanded to include South Coastal Library, in Bethany. Other DWS members instrumental in assisting with this program included Pat Hoey, Pam North, Robi Cavagnaro, and Charlotte Hughes.

In 2014, DWS began the process toward nonprofit status. Although the original board had this in mind early on, they were informed that it would cost a considerable amount of money because of consultation with attorneys and accountants.

In 2015, DWS obtained nonprofit status. From 2015 to 2019, we continued our activities, meetings, and workshops at the Glade clubhouse. That ended with the beginning of Covid and since then we have not had any in-person meetings. The society has continued to provide workshops via Zoom and in-person exhibitions each year.



Yupo 1 workshop

Over the years, DWS has hosted about 50 workshops, lectures, and critiques by well-known signature level artists. In addition, since its first juried show in 2005, it has had 56 exhibitions for members and nonmembers. The society also introduced many innovative activities and programs, such as the watercolor note card competition, Second Tuesday program, slogan contest, Saturday mini-workshop program, library program, and various community outreach programs. Hopefully, in the near future the society will begin to initiate opportunities for new programs where members can get together, paint, and share ideas.

Presidents

2004-2011 — Anne Crown Cyr

2012-2016 — Elizabeth Collard

2017-2019 — Anne Crown Cyr

2019-2021 — Elizabeth Collard

2021-Present — Marjorie Wuestner

Upcoming Events

20th Anniversary Luncheon is Being Finalized

In May of 2004 the Delaware Watercolor Society was founded. We are very excited to be celebrating the 20th anniversary with a luncheon to honor the occasion. ***Save the Date May 15th.*** We will keep you posted about the details as they become finalized. It will be wonderful to get in-person once again to mark this special year.



Simple Treasures by Charlotte Hughes

Signature Jury Applications Due April 1, 2024

Has your work been juried into three exhibitions within the past five years? Does your work consistently demonstrate originality, creativity, sound compositional skills and strong technical knowledge of the transparent watercolor medium? Consider applying for Signature Artist Membership with DWS. Find detailed information about this membership level under the documents tab on our website delawarewatercolorsociety.org. The application is under the membership tab.

An anonymous jury panel will review the submitted entries and determine acceptance. For more information or any questions please contact Isabel Pizzolato, Jury Coordinator, 302-519-6934 text or phone, or by email to izpizz@comcast.net.



In-Person Workshop Coming

Our newest member, Leo Kahl will be conducting workshop for DWS.

Leo Kahl was exposed to not just visual art but creativity and inventiveness in general at an early age. Fascinated by the artistic creations of several older cousins, he was inspired to pursue an education in not only visual art but engineering as well. He would make use of his visualization, design and technical skills for the next four decades envisioning and marketing a myriad of commercial and industrial products for many large and small companies

His love for the visual arts however increasingly grew throughout his life. Working first in acrylics then oil paint, he created countless works depicting quiet moments of his family and friends on large canvases

At age 55, he began to experiment with watercolor to expedite some small projects. He quickly came to realize that the attributes of watercolor, namely spontaneity, unpredictability and simplicity, mirrored his own personality in a way that other mediums had not and could not. His artistic objectives are to always capture the abstract beauty of light and the honest essence of his subjects.

Leo is now a full time professional artist working in the Bethany Beach, southern Delaware area with his wife Robin, 3 cats and his dog/pal, Wyeth.

Welcome Leo!



"Make Way For The Trolley"

© 2021, Leo Kahl Watercolors



Members News

Annie Strack, DWS, was juried into Society of Watercolor Artists International Exhibit, Watercolor USA Honor Society National Exhibit, Illinois Watercolor Society 40th International Exhibition, Arizona Watercolor Association Exhibit, Georgia Watercolor Society 45th National Exhibit, and Northwest Watercolor Society Member Exhibit. She earned Signature Membership in AWA and GWS.



Every Which Way by Annie Strack

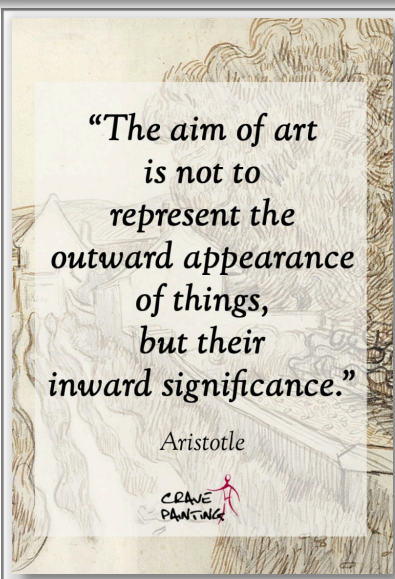
Member's Gallery Reminder

This is a reminder that the new website has a Member Gallery section where you can display your work. The website has a link for submitting your works. Please note that you can have an introductory/background/bio section under your name (see Isabel Pizzolato's gallery for a great example) and that any images you submit should have the painting's title and any other information you wish to share (image size, painting awards, cost if for sale). We hope more members will take advantage of this opportunity provided by the new website to display their work. Please contact Brad Hastings (nmcb23bee@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Welcome New Members

Rose May Durbin

Leo Kahl



DWS Executive Board and Board of Directors

President: Marjorie Wuestner

Vice President: Brad Hastings

Secretary: Charlotte Hughes

Treasurer: Pat Hoey

Communications Director: Melissa McLean

Exhibition Director: Joan Fabbri

Workshop Director: Wendy Leddy

Hot press news

Please send member news or article suggestions to Melissa McLean Communications Director at mclean.melissa@rocketmail.com or Delawarewatercolorsociety@gmail.com