Hot Press News

August 2026 No. 8 P.O. Box 984, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971 delawarewatercolorsociety.org

Message from DWS President, Brad Hastings

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer so far. It's hard to believe it's August. As we head into fall, it's appropriate to have a quick look back and ahead for what's happening for DWS. We've had a great year so far. The ALOC and Lewes Library Exhibitions were both well attended, had some sales, and showed the high level of work being done by the membership. We had a great in-person workshop with Dan Marshall, with several attendees coming from out of state. We've got another great workshop in September with our own Christine Heyse (still time to sign up) and our final exhibition of the year at Nassau Valley, which is always a nice evening to gather and have a glass of wine and enjoy the work and camaraderie.

All of the above events were and are brought to us due to the hard work of our Board of Directors and other willing volunteers. I am continually amazed at the great things we're able to accomplish working together as a team to provide our membership with worthwhile learning and exhibiting opportunities, while promoting the arts in Delaware and beyond. We are in the midst of some personnel changes that I want to touch on. First, I want to publicly thank Pat Hoey, our Treasurer for the past 10 years, who's going to be moving back to New Jersey. Pat has overseen our finances in stellar fashion and given tirelessly to DWS. We're fortunate that Judy Olsen, a longtime member, has agreed to step into the position and bring her financial background to help keep us moving forward. We are also losing Kath Cropper, our exhibitions director, at the end of the month. Kath has done a great job the last few years and leaves big shoes to fill. Wendy Leddy will also be stepping down at the end of the year, and her efforts as our Workshops director have been stellar. We all owe them a big round of applause, and I will reiterate this in December when we have our annual meeting.

With all that said, we welcome anyone who's so inclined to think about joining the board and giving back to DWS. We work together to ensure the workload is shared, and we welcome new ideas and initiatives. DWS has a long history of active membership, and we need your help in continuing that. Jump in, the water's fine! And keep those brushes busy.

-Brad

Member News

Mitzi Harp's submission has been accepted into the Rehoboth Art League's 12th Regional Biennial Exhibition.The piece is titled "Cotton Candy Concerto" and measures 9x15 inches.Congratulations Mitzi!



Cotton Candy Concerto
by Mitzi Harp



Armistice Day by Leo Kahl

Leo Kahl's painting "Armistice Day" was awarded "Best Watercolor" by the Delaware Watercolor Society at the 2026 Rehoboth Art Leagues annual member show. The show runs through August, check it out if you are in the area Congradulations Leo!

Anne Cry's painting Red Rose #1," has been accepted into the RAL's juried biennial show. You can find information about the show on their website. Out of 271 entries, 113 works were chosen.Congradulations Anne!



Red Rose #1 by Anne Crown-Cyr

Member News

Thank you to my DWS friends for taking the time to vote for me. I am incredibly grateful for this recognition! Join me at the Lewes Art Gallery on August 7th for the "First Friday" reception from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. I will be the featured artist and will be showcasing my figurative watercolors. I hope to see you there!

Leslie Lesko



DWS artists to hold Solo Show at Nassau Vineyard

Anything Goes" Art Exhibition at the Nassau Winery During August

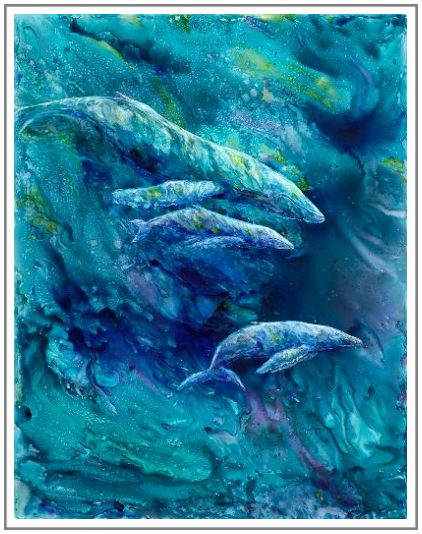
Award-winning, signature-level artists Anne Crown Cyr, Ruth Ann Kaufman, and Joan Fabbri will display their artwork in the gallery at Nassau Valley Vineyards and Winery, August 1-31.

"We appreciate the opportunity to show our work again in the lovely winery gallery," says Crown-Cyr, a Rehoboth Beach artist who paints in watercolor, gouache, and oil. Her art focuses on everyday objects or scenes by emphasizing saturated color, distinctive shapes, and design to promote a different point of view. She is a former copyist at the National Gallery of Art and founding member of the Delaware Watercolor Society. Her paintings are frequently in the Rehoboth Art League, the Art League of Ocean City, and in private collections throughout the U.S.. For more of her art, go to www.annecrownstudio.com.

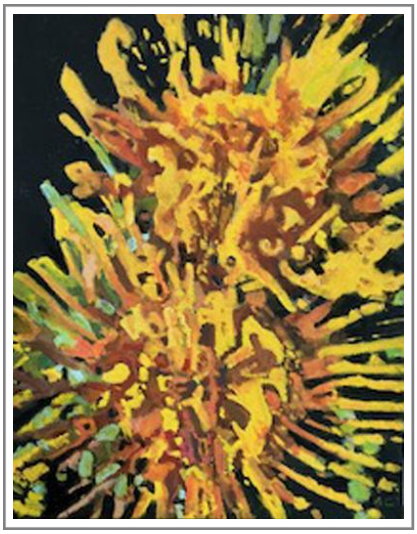
Lewes resident Joan Fabbri has an extensive portfolio of realistic works, emphasizing colorful and detailed subject matter whether it is local scenes, shore birds, florals, still life, or figures. Her compositions convey a strong sense of place, idea, or emotion. This year, she was one of 11 artists from the United States whose work was chosen for an online international competition hosted by Watercolor Golden Brush. You can find her work at local shows, at the Shore Market Place on Route 1, and at the Lewes Art Gallery. Go to www.joanfabbri.com to see her paintings.

Ruth Ann Kaufman, a Lewes-based artist, paints primarily in watercolor and watercolor combined with other media. She likes to experiment with a variety of techniques and materials such as acrylic inks, illustration board, and Yupo, a synthetic surface which produces interesting, watery effects. She is inspired by nature, animals, sea creatures, and color. Her paintings have won numerous awards in various juried competitions. Her work is often in the Rehoboth Art League, the Art League of Ocean City, and the Lewes Art Gallery. To see more of her artwork, go to www.ruthannkaufmanart.com.

The opening reception is Thursday, August 6, 2-4 p.m. in the winery gallery at 2165 Winery Way, Lewes, DE 19958. Stop by and meet the artists after enjoying wine tastings in Claret Hall. All are welcome. For more information, call 302-645-9463 or visit www.nassauvalley.com.



Whale Watch by Ruth Ann Kaufman



Whirling Pincushions by Anne Crown-Cyr



Gordon's Pond by Joan Fabbri

Upcoming Exhibition Nassau Vineyard

Nassau Valley Winery Exhibition is scheduled for October 2026

- The call for entry to the show will be opening up soon!
- Juror Deborah Conn will review them by August 24, and we'll let the artists know the results by August 28.
- If your painting is accepted, we'll be in touch!
- The paintings will be delivered from October 1 to October 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and we'll hang them that afternoon.
- We're planning a reception on October 8 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Please remember to pick up your paintings on October 31, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.



DWS is pleased to have Deborah Conn as juror for the Nassau Valley Vineyard Exhibit



Hiding in Plain Sight

Watercolorist Deborah Conn's paintings have been shown throughout the region and in national and international exhibits. Her solo shows at the Art League Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center and at the Barns of Rose Hill in 2018 featured large-scale works of women, and she is engaged in a series on unhoused men and women. In May 2023, Deborah completed a paid, two-week artist residency in rural Pennsylvania painting portraits of local residents. She frequently paints commissioned portraits of people and pets.

Awards include
Published finalist in Splash 25: Best of Watercolor
American Framing Award, Philadelphia Watercolor Society, 2025 International Exhibition
Honorable Mention, 2025 Women in Watercolor International Exhibition
Edward Longley Memorial Award, 2023 Baltimore Watercolor Society Mid-Atlantic Show
Award of Merit, Virginia Watercolor Society, 2023 Exhibition
Kenneth R. Hetzel Memorial Award, Transparent Watercolor Society of America 2022 Exhibition

She is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, Northwest Watercolor Society, Women in Watercolor, Potomac Valley Watercolorists, the Baltimore Watercolor Society (Watermedia Master Elite), and the Virginia Watercolor Society.

Deborah teaches all levels of watercolor at her home studio in Falls Church, Virginia.



Glory by Deborah Conn



Morning Sunshine



Immersion

Christine Heyse Workshop-Loosen Up!
Sept 16-18, 2026 10am-3:30pm

This three-day workshop with award-winning artist Christine Heyse, AWS, NWS, DWS, will show you how to paint fresher, livelier, and more confident watercolor with that “wow” factor. Learn how to plan the right way so you can paint faster and with more confidence, create mood and atmosphere that grabs your viewers’ attention and gives a sense of mystery. Paint loose, but not sloppy.
If you’ve ever wondered how you might change a painting to make it better or what it needs to take it from good to great, this workshop is for you!

Christine is a Signature Member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, the Baltimore Watercolor Society, Potomac Valley Watercolor Society, and the Delaware Watercolor Society. She has been painting in watercolors and teaching for over forty years. Her work has won many awards, and her painting, *Ferry Ride,* was recently acquired by the Biggs Museum of Art for its permanent collection.

The price of the workshop is $225 for members and $275 for non-members.







Sign up Here!

DWS Executive Board and Board of Directors
President: Brad Hastings
Vice President: Jane McElvey Coonce
Secretary: Charlotte Hughes
Treasurer: Judy Olsen
Communications Director: Melissa McLean
Workshop Director: Wendy Leddy
Signature Review Chairperson: Isabel Pizzolato

Please submit all member news and recent achievements to
Melissa McLean
mclean.melissa@rocketmail.com
by August 20th

