

Isn't there a saying that's something about "the best laid plans of mice and men?" Well, we have to say that the flu bug has, and is still, turning a bunch of those best laid plans topsy-turvy. As many of you know, Becky Way caught one of the nasty strains of flu and, obviously, didn't feel like moving, much less presenting a demo at our February meeting. But never fear — Becky will do a demo for us at an upcoming meeting!

Arriving just in the nick of time — literally! — was the DVD of the latest Annual Juried Show of the Pastel Society of America, delivered the afternoon of the February meeting! With Jimi Layman, co-editor of "The Pastel Press," graciously providing the necessary audio/visual equipment and VP Stuart Johnson helping with the technical aspects, our members had front rows seats for the show. The many wonderful paintings could have had us drooling — but we're too polite for that! If you're interested in seeing the DVD again or if you missed the February meeting, check with President Jan Hutchinson about borrowing the DVD to watch at home!

Before telling you about the March PROGRAM, I need to tell you about a few new things we'll be doing at OPS meetings. But first, these ideas are copied directly from some of the things the Mid-Del Art Guild does at their meetings — thanks Mid-Del! (Hey, no need to re-invent the wheel — but we might tweak it!) The new things are:

1. One lucky meeting attendee's name will be drawn for a door prize!

(In order to win either of the following prizes, **you must bring ONE of your framed pastel paintings.**)

2. In addition to having an "instant" members' show, the painting receiving the most votes from the members — who have only one vote each — will be awarded the "Members' Choice" prize!

3. That meeting's program presenter will then select the "Presenter's Choice" prize!

Make sure you're at our March meeting and bring a framed painting!

March Program – Rick McClure

If you want to know what this award-winning *plein air* artist and teacher looks for when he judges an art show, you definitely don't want to miss this meeting!

Rick has been painting for more than 25 years and has worked in a variety of media. But, as he says on his website, www.rickmcclurefineart.com, painting cityscapes and landscapes *en plein aire* is a passion for him. He has received a number of honors and awards at such shows as the American Impressionists Society National Exhibition, the 71st Grand National Exhibition at the Salmagundi Club, as well as Best of Show at the Cincinnati Art Club's ViewPoint 2003 exhibit.

Rick is a member of the Oil Painters of America, a signature member of The National Academy of Professional Plein Air Painters and the American Impressionist Society. Many corporate and private collections include his works. Currently his time is spent painting, traveling and teaching ... and on Monday, March 10th, Rick McClure will share with us what his criteria are when judging a show.

This informative and fun OPS meeting will be Monday, **March 10, 2008**, at the Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 N.W. 36th Street, in Oklahoma City and **begins at 6:30 p.m.** If you need directions, please contact Sue Ann at sueann1022@cox.net or call her at 405-330-5467. Bring your beverage of choice; we'll have snacks to share at the meeting.

Future Programs – Lots of Great Stuff!

Besides re-scheduling Becky Way for her postponed program, we'll also have Dennis Parker returning to present another program for our group (probably relating in some way or other to portrait painting.) And at least two of the programs

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for Fall 2008 are set — Glen Thomas in September and Mitsuno Reedy in October. Other programs are in the “working out the timing” stage — as soon as those are set, you’ll know about them!

Show in Guthrie Is Going On Right Now!

At least 15 or more Oklahoma Pastel Society members have some wonderful art currently hanging at the **Owens Art Place Museum**, located at 1202 E. Harrison Avenue, in Guthrie. Mr. Wallace Owens hosted an opening reception on March 2nd; the show will hang through the end of April.

The Owens Art Place Museum is open Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. The museum is approximately 12 blocks east of downtown Guthrie. Mr. Owens has promoted the show but efforts by our members to get the word out are appreciated too. So invite all your family and friends to make that short drive to the Owens Art Place Museum in Guthrie!

Our NEXT show will be at the Paseo Art Space Gallery the first three weeks of May 2008 — and, as mentioned in previous editions of this newsletter, **we need a SHOW CHAIRPERSON!** Some of the work for this show, like the location and the dates for the show, is already done. So gather a small or large group of your OPS pals, divide and conquer the show responsibilities, then sit back and bask in the admiration of your fellow members! Any of us who have worked on past shows will share any expertise and knowledge we’ve gained from our experiences, too.

If you’re wanting still more possibilities for exhibiting your artwork, the **International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS)** has two different options for you. First is their 11th Juried Exhibition which will be held at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown Ohio. **Deadline for entries to be received: MARCH 19, 2008.**

Their second option is the **IAPS 12th Exhibition/Web Show**. **All entries for the Web Show must be received by August 8, 2008.** (This is also a juried show.) To get more information about either, or both, shows, call IAPS at 703-536-0308 or go to their website, www.pastelinternational.com and click on “Exhibitions.”

The entry information for the **Harness Tracks of America 2008 Open Art Competition & Auction** is as follows:

Eligibility: Open to all artists 18 or older. Art should be original work depicting the harness horse in any setting.

Entry Fees: \$10 for one entry; \$5 for each additional entry. Entries must be 4” x 6” or larger color photos; no slides accepted.

Entry Deadline is June 15, 2008. Acceptances and shipping information will be mailed in August 2008.

Awards: Best of Show: \$500/ribbon; First Place: Five \$100 awards/ribbons; Special Excellence: 10 ribbons.

(This is just a brief listing of major “things to know” from the prospectus for this show. If you’re interested in entering, you can contact Harness Tracks of America through their [website www.harnesstracks.com](http://www.harnesstracks.com) or email them at info@harnesstracks.com.)

The **Pastel Society of the Northern Rockies** is sponsoring a huge four-gallery national open, juried show in Loveland, Colorado. Over \$2,000 in awards will be presented; awards juror is Margaret Dyer, PSA Master Pastelist. The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2008. You can download the prospectus at www.psnr.net and for more info, contact show chair Heather Coen at heather@artintherockies.com.

This next show’s entry deadline is March 14th – yikes! **Prairie Plein Air** is an exhibit hosted by the Springfield (Illinois) Art Association. As you can guess from the title, the show will present works executed in full or in part *en plein air* and must depict the American prairie. Michael Chesley Johnson, PSA, PSNM, is the juror for this show. For more information, contact the Springfield Art Association at 217-523-2631, via the web at www.springfieldart.org or by email at office@springfieldart.org.

Workshops

Our workshop chairperson *extraordinaire*, Pam Brewer, is currently putting together several OPS-sponsored workshops. As many of you know from last month’s newsletter, Pam has been working with Colleen Brown about teaching a workshop for us. However with Colleen still recovering from that really nasty flu bug, she hasn’t felt much like thinking about teaching a workshop. Get well soon Colleen!

As soon as Missouri artist Jerry Brown receives his acceptance letter to be in the Paseo Arts Festival, he and Pam will be able to work out the details for his one-day “Painting Clouds in Pastel” workshop. Pam’s arranged for the workshop location; Jerry will let us know how many students he accepts for this class and then the cost can be determined. We hope to have all that info to you real soon!

Then, later in the summer, Terry Ludwig will be back in Oklahoma City for another 3-day workshop scheduled for August 15, 16 and 17! Once again Terry will be teaching in the wonderful facilities at The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Many of you will remember that Terry is a big advocate of awarding a scholarship to his workshop. Last

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year's scholarship went to a wonderful senior art student from a local high school. The OPS board of directors has talked about some ways to consider how the scholarship might go to an OPS member — things like attendance, participation, possibly even a multi-chance drawing. Let us know what your ideas are!

At the time of the writing of this newsletter, fewer than half of the spots for Terry Ludwig's workshop remain. So, get your registration form in SOON. As you'll remember from the February newsletter, the "protocol" for reserving a spot in Terry's workshop is changing. With so many members in OPS and only a limited number of spaces available (the number of students is set by Terry), here's how you'll get your name in for Terry's workshop:

First, you'll complete a registration form (attached to this newsletter.)

Second, you will MAIL TO THE OPS POST OFFICE BOX your completed registration and deposit.

Third, only mailed in, completed registration forms with the stipulated deposit amount included will be considered.

Also, Terry's workshop fees have increased for 2008. At this time it looks like his 3-day August workshop will be \$275 for OPS members and more for non-members.

Other Possible Workshops in the Future

The Oklahoma Pastel Society is definitely blessed to have so many talented artists who are not only willing but are also extremely qualified to conduct great workshops! Some of our members who might be teaching workshops for the group during the next 12 to 24 months are Becky Way, Dale Martin, Mitsuno Reedy, Ron Chapman and Marie Weltzheimer — to name just a few!

Local Workshop and Classes for ALL Artists!

Dennis Parker (yes, the same Dennis Parker who will be presenting a demo for us at an upcoming meeting!) is offering a Life Drawing Class beginning in March 2008. Classes will be held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. Dennis is also offering a Portrait Workshop on March 14 and 15. Starting with a demo on Friday evening, student painting will be in two 3-hour sessions on Saturday. The classes and workshop are open to both beginners and more experienced artists. Contact Julie McAfee at 755-5672 or painterly1@juno.com for all the details and to sign-up.

If You'd Like to Take a Workshop Outside Oklahoma...

Maggie Price will be teaching in a variety of places in the United States and overseas in 2008. Her workshop schedule along with contact information and a brief description is listed at www.MaggiePriceArt.com.

Well-known pastel artist **Doug Dawson** is also teaching workshops all over the United States. Go to his website, www.dougdawsonartist.com, where you can see a list of his scheduled 2008 workshops. Also you can email him at dougdawson8@aol.com or even give him a call at 303.421.4584.

Mike Mahon, a pastel artist from Amarillo, Texas, is teaching a 5-day workshop through the Cloudcroft Art Workshops, Cloudcroft, New Mexico. To find out more about this workshop, visit www.cloudcroftart.com, write to Cloudcroft Art Workshops, P.O. Box 1202, Cloudcroft, NM 88317, call Linda at 1-888-682-3601 or Jan at 1-505-682-2889; also email Jan at janrasch@zianet.com.

A Few Other Things You Might Like to Check Out

Pastel artist Paul deMarrais invites you to look at his newly-redesigned website at www.pauldemarrais.com. In addition to promoting his artwork, his site provides quite a bit of information about pastels.

Modern Renaissance, a fine arts publisher, has sent information about giclee prints made on canvas or watercolor. (A packet of samples is also on the way but I don't know if it will arrive prior to our March meeting.) Their web address is www.modernrenaissanceink.com and email is gferris206@embarqmail.com.

And the Winners Are...!

The April 2008 issue of The Pastel Journal is out ... and includes (as the cover of that issue says) "100 Exceptional Paintings from the 9th Annual Pastel 100." Several members of the Oklahoma Pastel Society have paintings that are included in that exceptional 100!

Both **Sheila Minnich** and **Dale Martin** received Honorable Mentions in the "Animal & Wildlife" category — Sheila for "Five's a Crowd" and Dale for "Mustang Herd." (Co-editor's note: I saw Sheila's winning painting at an art show last summer. Trust me, the image in the magazine, good as it is, doesn't do it justice!)

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Honorary OPS member **Clive Tyler** is a winner in two categories. His painting "Good Crossing" received an Honorable Mention in the "Landscape & Interior" category; "Winter's Break" is the Third Place winner and "Summer's Pasture" received an Honorable Mention in the "Animal & Wildlife" category.

A relatively new feature/column in The Pastel Journal is "Creative Spark" written by artist Carole Katchen. Included in the column is a challenge to pastel painters and prizes are awarded. WELL ... **Becky Way** accepted the challenge in the February 2008 issue — use a certain type of stroke (for an entire painting) to create energy — and WON! If you're familiar with Becky's work, the fact that she won doesn't surprise you in the least. Go to <http://blog.pasteljournal.com> and scroll down to the February 8, 2008 entry to see Becky's winning painting and her remarks!

And in the March 4, 2008 issue of "The Oklahoman," we discovered that OPS member Lindel Hutson will be inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame at the University of Central Oklahoma. Way to go, Lindel!

Congratulations to you all!

And One More Thing – the OPS Website!

The "tweaked and re-designed" OPS website is **this close(!)** to going online. If you have some specific suggestions about what would make the website more useful to you as a member, please let us know! You can email your suggestions to Sue Ann at sueann1022@cox.net. And don't forget to email one of your paintings, along with some biographical info, to Becky Way at beckyway@cox.net.

See you at the meeting!
Monday, March 10th, 6:30 p.m.
Will Rogers Garden Center
RICK McCLURE

