

Ohio Watercolor Society

November/December 2025 Newsletter

In this issue:

- OWS Awards Banquet Photos
- Message from the Executive Board
- Paul Jackson Workshop Recap
- News from Around Ohio

A Look at the OWS Awards Banquet

The Awards Banquet for Watercolor Ohio 2025 was held September 20, 2025 at the same place as the exhibition: Springfield Museum of Art. As usual, the evening started with a social hour, then dinner and awards. The Museum is in a lovely setting with windows and natural light. It was a great opportunity to see this year's exhibition and mingle with friends as we celebrated new signature members, the lifetime achievement award, and juror awards. *See the link at the bottom of this page for Springfield News Sun article on the OWS exhibition.*



<https://www.springfieldnewssun.com/news/springfield-museum-of-art-celebrates-watercolor-in-new-exhibition/TZRGJBLJ45CRNKCPQWEQSV5A2A/>

Message from the Executive Board

There's a saying that the only constant in business is change.

The same applies to groups such as the OWS. Many opportunities exist to promote artists' work and those options have become more readily accessible because of online technology. Ohio artists therefore have many choices now that were not readily available in the past.

The Executive Board met in late October to assess the programs and finances of our Society as they relate to its mission, and it was clear that several changes are needed. Some are relatively straightforward while others will take work (and time) to implement.

At its core, the OWS has a stellar reputation among peer organizations. Artwork exhibited each year is exceptional; and many of our members compete successfully in national and international competitions, become members of other well-respected watercolor societies and have widespread reputations as excellent teachers. Our history is filled with innovative ventures such as the Creativity Seminars that have been recognized nationally. These are traits we don't want to lose.

Funding the Annual Juried Exhibition

Expenses for conducting Watercolor Ohio have increased in recent years—much like everything—yet we have not increased our income or trimmed spending. You should have received an email recently about donating to support the OWS, and we hope members will take to heart the urgent need at this time to adequately fund our undertakings.

The income sources (dues, fees, donations) to fund the exhibition are used to compensate the juror, pay for the venue/reception, furnish awards and print/mail the catalog. The workshop and banquet are meant to be self-supporting.

In order to bring income more in line with expenses, the Board approved two motions so far:

1. *Institute a fee for submission to the annual exhibition.* The fee for the first entry this year will be \$30 and the second will be reduced to \$10. We are probably the only competitive exhibition in the country that has not charged an entry fee in the past.

2. *Print the exhibition catalog in a smaller format.* With the ability to display online, we can supplement the catalog by presenting images, videos and even the catalog itself to viewers everywhere. For those who like viewing a hard copy, printed images will be sized like those in previous catalogs.

Elimination of the Travel Exhibition

At its July meeting the Board approved a motion to eliminate the Travel Exhibition. Though serving as a form of outreach for many years, the travel show has become too isolated (all recent venues have been only in western Ohio), too expensive to transport and dependent on too few people to move it. With use of technology, we can display images and videos of the entire exhibition online and the Board will explore other ways to promote the artwork displayed in the annual exhibition.

Exploring Outreach and Other Exhibitions

The Board began a preliminary discussion of ways to increase our footprint among watercolor/art organizations. In lieu of the travel show, for instance, the Board discussed displaying works in the Permanent Collection at sites around Ohio. These exhibits could last for longer periods than a typical travel show stop, and they could also be used to draw viewers to a venue to interact with our members by way of painting demonstrations or classes.

Another option under consideration is to hold additional exhibitions, notably online. Such shows could encourage entries from beyond our State's borders, although we would continue to hold the annual exhibition in the usual manner (Ohio residents) since it forms the basis for granting signature membership in the OWS. There is a larger world out there, but we cannot ignore our base within Ohio.

Participation of Members

No matter how we proceed, members need to be involved. We are fortunate that volunteers step up to do the tasks when exhibition time rolls around, but we are lacking in leadership and expertise in areas that are crucial to our future success. For example, a member with previous experience in marketing and/or fundraising would be a godsend at this time to identify and contact people, businesses or organizations to provide financial support for our programs.

continued on page 4

Paul Jackson Workshop Recap

Sharon Stolzenberger

Entries were accepted at the Springfield Museum of Art on July 26 and 27. The process went smoothly due to Tom Sorrell's organizational skills and in spite of a storm and power outage.

Paul Jackson's demo was in the afternoon on the 27th accompanied by a thunderstorm. Undaunted, he completed a painting in the two hour time frame.

Paul was accompanied by **Connie Gifford** as he made his award deliberations on Monday.

On Tuesday, Paul began his four day workshop with witticisms, stories and instructions. It was an intense workshop of directed, step-by-step painting procedure and process working from his reference material which was sent to us before the workshop. His reference drawing which we were to have transferred to our painting before the workshop looked like a topographic map of squiggles. But, all became clear as Paul guided us through the process, and everyone came away with a workshop painting they could be proud of.

He is a prodigious painter and loquacious speaker regaling us throughout the workshop with his adventures as a result of his career as an artist.

Thanks to the efforts of **Aileen Cave**, our workshop chairperson, the workshop experience was excellent and went smoothly.

Thanks to our volunteers during the weekend of delivery of paintings, jury day, Paul's demo, packing and moving the show for storage at Aileen's house, workshop and all the myriad details that need doing for our annual event: **Tom Sorrell, Janealla Killibrew, Aileen Cave, Connie Gifford, Sharon Stolzenberger, David Yeamans, Tessa Kalman, Rosemary Burkhardt,**



Above: Paul Jackson with his workshop painting



Left: Paul Jackson's Sunday demo painting

Right: Demonstrating the water holding capability of a sable brush



Left: Workshop group photo



Message from the Executive Board

continued from page 2

Another deficiency is administrative leadership, which has shrunk to a handful of people, some of whom have served more years than is healthy because it leads to tunnel vision and complacency. We added three new trustees this year to the Board, but we still lack a President and someone to conduct the annual exhibition after 2026.

While Associates can serve as trustees or as chairpersons for the annual exhibition and related programs, the officer positions must be filled by Signature members. Soon we will need

to identify someone to serve as webmaster and others as registrars for membership and exhibitions. It might be necessary to hire someone to maintain the website, but that of course will require additional funding.

The challenges that the OWS is facing are affecting other art organizations but that cannot be an excuse to sit back and hope for better. We need to confirm our mission and then act to pursue it.

Reminder

Pay your dues before December 31

Associate dues: \$35

Signature member dues: \$40.

Go to the page "Renew Your Membership"
nested under "OWS Member Information"
on the website.

Be a Watercolor Angel

"Get me! I'm giving out wings!"

—Nick the bartender in 'It's A Wonderful Life.'

A wonderful life it is for Watercolor Ohio 2026, to be held September 26 through October 30, 2026 at Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio. Get YOUR wings by donating to the Awards Fund as a Watercolor Angel (\$25-99) or as a Patron (\$100 or more).

Your contributions will be used to endow the medals (Gold, Silver and Bronze) as well as the awards for Excellence, Distinction and Merit. You may also designate a Memorial Award in an individual's name (\$150 minimum).

Donors receive recognition in our catalog and on our website.

Your generosity is sincerely appreciated.

<https://www.ohiowatercolorsociety.org/support-ows#!form/Support>



Member News:

News which may be included: awards, publications, solo or small group shows (*other than our OWS exhibitions*), serving on juries, additions to permanent collections, signature membership in *other art societies*, participation in art festivals and other unusual art adventures. Please make sure news is briefly and clearly expressed...but please send news to your reporter!



NEWS from the NORTHEAST

Mary Pat Oliver reporting

Brian Asquith just had a watercolor painting of a small tortoiseshell butterfly (found in the UK) accepted for the 86th Area Artists juried show at The Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown. He will also be having a solo show of his watercolors at The Cleveland Botanical Garden in May-September 2026.



Bernie D'Ettorre will be in a group art show at the Medina Library from December 13 to January 1, 2026. There will be 2 artists' receptions — the first one on the first week of the show, the second one TBA. There will be 4-7 artists participating, with up to 100 images available for viewing.

Nancy Notarianni was recently interviewed by the editor of the Berea City Newsletter for an article in the November issue, which also ran in the Sun News newspapers throughout Cleveland. It featured a photo of her 2025 OWS Exhibition painting, *West Side Market Meat Man*. Back in September, Nancy participated in the Berea Art Fest at Coe Lake.

Joanne Robinson was recently in the North East Watercolor Show in Kent, Connecticut, which ran from October 5-25, 2025.

Mary Pat Oliver and **Patricia Sigmier** are both exhibiting at the Art Treasures Holiday Show at Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, Ohio. The show runs from November 10 through December 27, 2025, with an Artist's Reception on December 5 from 6-7:30 pm.

Rick Surowicz has been invited to be on the faculty of the top 20 + watercolor artists demonstrating in the 6th Annual Watercolor Live Online from January 21 to January 23, 2026. Go to watercolorlive.com to sign up and enter Rick's name "Surowicz" at checkout for a 10 percent discount.



Keith Williams recently had his painting, *Vintage Packard*, accepted into the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society's exhibition, Aqueous International 2025. He also juried in the Central Ohio Watercolor Society and will have 2 works in the Fall Show at the McConnell Arts Center in Worthington, Ohio which runs from November 13 through January 8, 2026.



NEWS from the NORTHWEST

Micki Ansberry Brown reporting

Jennifer Sowders won the Grand Prize in *International Artists Magazine*, "Landscape Challenge #149" for the second year in a row with an acrylic painting depicting a scene from Hocking Hills State Park. She will have a feature in an upcoming issue of *American Art Collector Magazine*. Jennifer had two works represented in the *Artists Magazine's*: "AcrylicWorks 12: The Best of Acrylic" and recently won the Sheron J. Dailey Grand Prize Award in the "81st Wabash Annual" (Terre Haute, IN), hosted by the Swope Art Museum.

continued on page 6



NEWS from the NORTHWEST

Tom Sorrell reporting

continued from page 5

Tom Sorrell's painting *Bridge Over Untroubled Water* received both Honorable Mention and Purchase Awards at the Red Bird Sylvania (Ohio) Plein Air Festival in July. (below)



Dennis Zimmerman had a one-man show at the Marathon Center of the Performing Arts in Findlay, Ohio. The exhibition ran from September 8 through October 24 and he sold 3 of the 32 paintings in the show.



NEWS from the SOUTH

Thomas Schroeder reporting



Keith Shebesta, won Best in Show, at the prestigious Viewpoint 57 Art Exhibition at Artclectic, in Cincinnati, with his painting, *A' Peeling Skins*. (above)

Gary Brooks won the Dr. Maynard Stetten Award at the 2025 Kentucky Aqueous Show.

Thomas Schroeder won the M. Graham & Co. Award at the 2025 Kentucky Aqueous Show.

Connie Gifford won first place with *Thick in the Thistles* at the B-W Greenway Community Land Trust annual "Landscapes 2025" Art Exhibition; **Rose Schultz** won 3rd place with *Dappled Sunlight* (and Judge's Merit with *Beyond the Boardwalk*); **Shirlee Bauer** received Judge's Merit Award for *Wetland Reflections*. **Tessa Kalman** won a Judge's Merit Award for *The Foundation*.

At the 2025 Miamisburg Art Gallery Juried Art Show:

1st place (mixed media) *Beyond the Boardwalk* by **Rose Schultz**

2nd place (water media) **Billie Dickson**

3rd place (water media) **Carol Edsall**

Yuki Hall, won second place for her painting, *Morning Light in Berlin*, at the Ohio Plein Air Society's Annual Competition. (below)



Roger Kimmel won an Honorable Mention at the 2025 Middletown Area Art Exhibition with his painting *Pharma in the Dell*.

The Western Ohio Watercolor Society held it's 2025 Fall Members' Show at the Yellow Springs Arts Council Gallery; **Tessa Kalman** won 1st place with her painting *Bringing in the Beans*.

Donna Pierce-Clark and **Jeannette Ferguson**, joined with artist Kathy Moeller to hold *Brushstrokes of Brilliance*, a show at the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center in September.

Life as Art was a solo exhibition by **Shirlee Bauer** at the Centerville Police Department lobby, a frequent venue for local artist exhibits.

WOWS President, **Tessa Kalman**, held an October solo show, *Paint & Pixels*, at the London Arts Center in London, Ohio. Additionally, she has a solo show at the Beavercreek Community Library through the end of November.

Libby Rudolf has a show hanging through Dec. 14th at the Bruckner Nature Center entitled *Nature's Beauty* in Troy, Ohio.

Rhonda Sloan and photographer, Pete Dysinger, held a joint exhibition *Visions in Landscape* at the Champaign County Arts Council gallery during October and November.



NEWSfrom the CENTRAL AREA

Pam Hartford reporting

Tamar Rudavsky and **Nancy Clelland** are part of a three-person show titled "Painterly Perspective: People, Places, and Plein Air" at The Ohio State University Faculty Club, 181 S Oval Dr, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210 from January 12 - March 26, 2026. The opening reception is Friday, January 16, 2026, 6-8pm. The Faculty Club is open 9am-5pm Monday through Friday.

Tamar Rudavsky also has a solo show titled "TIME Captured: on the Olentangy and Beyond" at the Little Blue House at Sharon Weiss Gallery, 24 E. Lincoln St, Columbus, OH. The show runs through November 30, 2025.

Awards for the 2025 COWS Fall show were presented at the opening reception on Thursday, November 13. Laurie Goldstein-Warren was the judge for the show. Central Region OWS members receiving recognition were:

Honorable Mention:

Pisa, Italy by **Linda Coe**

Christmas at Ca d'Zan by **Nancy Clelland**

3rd Place: *Apple Cider Truck* by **Jim Gerkin**

2nd Place: *The Fork in the Road* by **Ed Kitchen**

1st Place: *Lounging Leopard* by **Pam Hartford**



First Place: Lounging Leopard by Pam Hartford



Second Place: The Fork in the Road by Ed Kitchen



Third Place: Apple Cider Truck by Jim Gerkin

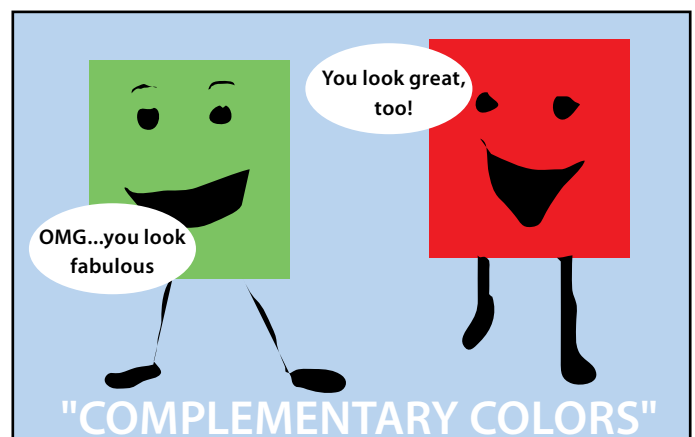


Honorable Mention: "Pisa, Italy" by Linda Coe



*Honorable Mention:
"Christmas at Ca d'Zan"*
by Nancy Clelland

Central Region OWS members are participating in the 2025 Central Ohio Watercolor Society (COWS) Fall Show. They are **Ana Lucia Araya Rodriguez, Kevin Buckland, John Cameron, Nancy Clelland, Linda Coe, Pat Edwards, Sandra L.L. Gaunt, Jim Gerkin, Pam Hartford, Ed Kitchen, Debbie Kopel, William Masters, Gayle McKay, Rick Mock, Vivian Ripley, Laura Sommers, Lavonne Suwalski, and Howard Wood**. There are 68 beautiful paintings in the show at the McConnell Arts Center, 777 Evening St., Worthington, OH 43085.



Looking Ahead to 2026



Tentative Timeline of Events in 2026

Entries due: Friday, April 3, 2026

Notification of entrants: Early May

Delivery of accepted works:

Saturday, July 18, 2026, 10am-2pm

Sunday, July 19, 2026, 10am-4pm

Ratindra Das Workshop:

Tuesday, July 21, 2026 through Thursday or Friday

OWS Reception: Saturday, September 26, 2026

OWS Banquet: Saturday, September 26, 2026

Closing date of exhibition: Saturday, October 30

Painting pick-up: Tuesday, November 2

Stay connected with the Ohio Watercolor Society!

Check out our Instagram page:

<https://instagram.com/ohiowatercolorsociety>

Are you on Facebook?

Follow the Ohio Watercolor Society page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ohiowatercolorsociety>



Lifetime Memberships Available

The Executive Board approved a motion to designate any Signature Member who pays a one-time payment of \$500 as "Lifetime Member."

Lifetime Members are no longer required to pay annual dues and they retain all rights and benefits of signature membership including one entry to the annual Juried Exhibition free of charge.

OFFICERS (Terms vary)

President	Vacant	Treasurer	Aileen Cave
1st Vice President	Tom Sorrell	Recording Secretary	Aileen Cave
2nd Vice president	Janealla Killibrew	Corresponding Secretary	Lynne Rosati
3rd Vice President	Jen Sowders	Membership Secretary	Lynne Rosati

TRUSTEES (Term Runs January 1 – December 31 of the given years)

2024-2026 TERM

George Kocar *Bay Village*

Rick Mock *Powell*

Tessa Kalman (AS) *Beavercreek*

2025-2027 TERM

Thomas Schroeder *Cincinnati*

Sharon Stolzenberger *Kettering*

Rob VanNatta *Walnut Creek*

2026-2028 TERM

Howard Wood (AS) *Dublin*

Kevin Buckland *Lewis Center*

Thomas Harwood (AS) *Niles*

PAST PRESIDENTS

Don Getz, 1978-1988
Homer Hacker, 1988-1990
Marilyn Hughey Phillis, 1990-1996
Jean Deemer, 1996-2000

Beverly Reiley, 2000-2004
Theodore W. Vassar, 2004-2008
Chris Leeper, 2008-2012
Barbara Rollins, 2012-2016

Tom Sorrell, 2016-2020

Immediate Past President:

Mike McEnroe, 2020-2024

Exhibition Travel Show Coordinator

George Kocar

Newsletter Editor/Exhibition Catalog

Nancy Notarianni

Permanent Collection Curator–Open

Angel/Patron Coordinator

Jeanette Bill-Cole

*Regional News should be addressed to the following correspondents.
Please use the reporting forms on the OWS website's newsletter page.*

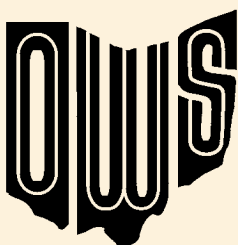
Northeast Mary Pat Oliver

**Southeast
and Southwest** Tom Schroeder

Northwest Micki Ansberry Brown

Central Pam Hartford

**Next Newsletter –March/April 2026
Deadline: March 15**



This Newsletter accepts NO paid advertising.

The Ohio Watercolor Society Newsletter is a publication of the Ohio Watercolor Society, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, and is mailed free to all members, patrons, art centers, museums, and universities in Ohio. The OWS Newsletter is published quarterly.

www.ohiowatercolorsociety.org