

Ohio Watercolor Society

March/April 2026 Newsletter

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Changes to the 2026 OWS Annual Exhibition

Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio — the scheduled site for Watercolor Ohio 2026 — has been slated to close on May 15, 2026. The art department will remain open through the summer months, so take-ins of the paintings as well as Juror's Workshop will still be held at the Canticle Center, 5335 Silica Dr, Sylvania, OH 43560

On the other hand, the site of the exhibition has had to be moved. Thus, the 49th Annual Juried Exhibition of the Ohio

Watercolor Society will take place at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts, 200 W Main Cross St, Findlay, OH 45840.

The exhibition dates are Saturday, September 26 through October 30, 2026. The exhibition, opening reception and banquet will all take place at the Marathon Center. Details will be made provided as they become available



Timeline of Events in 2026

Entries due: 11:59pm on Friday, April 3, 2026

Notification of entrants: Late April or early May

Deadline to apply for signature membership: Saturday, June 20, 2026

Delivery of accepted works:

Saturday, July 18, 10am-2pm

Sunday, July 19, 10am-2pm

Ratindra Das Workshop: Tuesday, July 21 through Friday, July 24, 2026

OWS Reception: Saturday, September 26, 2026, 1-4pm

OWS Banquet: Saturday, September 26, 2026, 5-7pm

Closing date of exhibition: Friday, October 30

Painting pick-up and delivery: Early November

Message from the Executive Board

March 2026

As the OWS approaches its half centenary mark, it seems a good time to assess and—if necessary—make changes to the Society’s operations to meet the opportunities and demands of artistic events in today’s world. As noted in the last Newsletter, opportunities to promote artists’ work have become more accessible because of online technology and many choices exist now that were not available in the past.

At its March meeting, the Executive Board began discussions about the next phase in the life of the OWS.

Some of the ideas proposed:

1. Establish an Affiliates Program

There are many watercolor (and mixed-art) groups in Ohio whose members are not members of the OWS. Interacting with these groups could take many forms such as allowing them to enter the annual exhibition without joining the OWS or arranging for local demos, paint-outs and other activities. These pursuits could effectively grow the Society and its influence on watermedia based art within Ohio.

2. Inaugurate an Associates exhibition (online)

Many organizations have instituted this type of exhibition to give their associate members more opportunities to develop their skills and to gain confidence to compete more effectively in all exhibitions.

3. Open the annual exhibition to artists in neighboring states

While this option creates some logistical challenges, it also opens the door for more support and involvement from artists who view inclusion in Watercolor Ohio as a prestigious objective.

4. Host a national exhibition (online)

In 2001, the OWS held what was dubbed “the 1st Ohio National Watermedia Exhibition,” which was held at the Canton Museum of Art. With the increasing use of digital media, hosting an annual (or biennial) online exhibition could raise our status in the watercolor community.



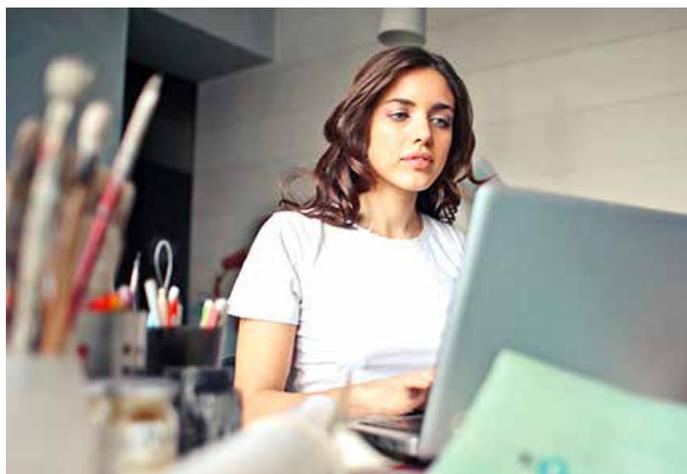
5. Make use of the Permanent Collection

Displaying works in the Permanent Collection at sites around Ohio could be used to draw viewers to interact with our members by way of painting demos or classes. Along with an Affiliates Program, this connection might help grow the influence of the OWS.

As the Board continues to examine these ideas, it asks for ideas and feedback from YOU, the members of the OWS.

Please use the contact form on the website:

<https://www.ohiowatercolorociety.org/contact>
to let us know your thoughts.



Register Now for the 2026 OWS Workshop

Watercolor by Design

Ratindra Das

Tuesday, July 21 through

Friday, July 24, 2026

Design is a deliberate choice, a thinking process that leads to creating a vision of your painting's subject, not just rendering a visual copy or pretty picture.

Those who are ready to step beyond their standard way of working will benefit most from this inventive workshop.

The workshop will have discussion and demonstrations every day with audiovisual aids and illustrations. Guidance will be given to students during hands-on painting along with critique sessions. Painting subjects will be from the objective world seen in a personal way: primarily landscape in a broad sense (anything that touches land) and not figures, portraits or animals.



This workshop is likely the final one of Das's long award-winning career.

The 2026 OWS workshop will take place in July at the Canticle Center – Lourdes University (5335 Silica Dr, Sylvania, OH 43560). The total cost for members is \$350 (\$375 for non-members) for the four-day workshop. Registration is open and the spots are starting to fill (10 as of March 15), so make sure to reserve your space.

To preregister, use the link on the Home page of the OWS website to access the Workshops and Classes page and follow the instructions there.

Register online:

<https://www.ohiowatercolorociety.org/workshops>

Pre-registration fee: \$50 (non-refundable—pay by June 1, 2026)

Fee (total): Members: \$350 / Non-members: \$375

Early Bird discount— pay by May 15, 2026:

Members: \$325 / Non-members: \$350

Signature Membership Applications

Any artist who has been accepted in two OWS annual exhibitions is eligible for review for Signature membership. For details of the procedure and to apply, go to the Apply for Signature Membership page, which is under "OWS Member Information" on the OWS website. ***The application deadline is Saturday, June 20, 2026.***

GROW OWS

Stay connected with the Ohio Watercolor Society!

Check out our Instagram page:

<https://instagram.com/ohiowatercolorociety>

Are you on Facebook?

Follow the Ohio Watercolor Society page:

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



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

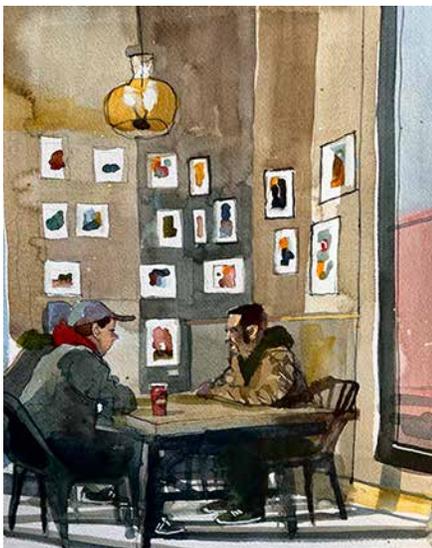
Mary Pat Oliver reporting

Nancy Notarianni had two of her watercolors, *Old Woman* and *Colorful Cool* juried in to the Bayarts Annual Juried Exhibition at the Sullivan Family Gallery at Bayarts in Bay Village. The opening reception was held on March 13 and the show is open until April 4. For the month of March, Nancy is the guest instructor for the Aquarelle Society in Rocky River. She will also be giving a figure demo for the Evergreen Artists at the Independence Library on Sunday, May 3 from 1:30- 4pm (free and open to the public).



Mary Pat Oliver will have a solo exhibit at The Moses Art Gallery at The Gathering Place West in Westlake, Ohio. *More Than Ready For Spring!* will be on display from April 1 through June 30. An artist's reception will be held on Thursday, May 28 from 4:30 to 6:30pm.

Jeff Stahler just finished giving a one-day watercolor workshop in Littleton, Colorado and will be having another one in September. He had a watercolor accepted into the Western Federation Watercolor Society's Annual Exhibition, which runs May-June 2026.



Rick Surowicz is featured in a 6 page article titled, *Imaginary Cities, Real Mastery*, in the latest edition of the international magazine *The Art of Watercolor*. Rick's painting, *Winter Barn*, has been accepted into the 159th Annual International Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society and has been awarded the Frederick Wong Award. In addition, his painting, *Tangled Barn*, has been selected for the Transparent Watercolor Society of America's 50th Annual Exhibition. Rick has also had his painting, *Winter Tangles*, selected as a finalist for *Splash 27*.



NEWS from the NORTHWEST

Micki Ansberry Brown reporting

Jennifer Sowders had a feature in February's *American Art Collector Magazine*. She is currently a semi-finalist in the 2026 Engage Art Contest and has been accepted into Watercolor USA 2026. She recently won Best of Show for watercolor and acrylic on Yupo: *It was in Her Nature* (below), at the Findlay Art League's *Spaces that Define our Lives* show.





Thomas Schroeder reporting

The Greater Cincinnati Watercolor Society is hosting a two day workshop with **Chris Leeper**, OWS, on May 1-2, from 10am to 4pm each day. The workshop will be held at the Arts Connect building in Springfield Township, 9158 Winton Rd. Cincinnati, OH. Contact: **Star Shebesta** starr@artclecticgallery.com or **Deb Ward** debwardart@gmail.com, or call 513.522.2108.

Shirlee Bauer, OWS, held a solo exhibition at the Fairborn Art Association Gallery in November. (shown below)



Carol Edsall had three paintings accepted into the Germantown Public Library show for the month of January.

Fairborn Art Association is hosting a workshop with Steve Rodgers – *Boats and Reflections in Watercolors*, from May 4-6.

Fairborn Art Association (FAA)
presents

"Boats and Reflections in Watercolors"

Steve Rogers
May 4-6, 2026

Steve Rogers is a nationally-known watercolor instructor conducting workshops all over the United States as well as in Europe. He is known for his breathtaking landscapes and marine paintings.



Tessa Kalman had 3 pieces exhibited in the Teacher's Show at the London Arts Center (London, OH)

At the prestigious "Works on Paper Juried Exhibition 2026" held at the Kettering Arts Center, these OWS members' works were accepted: **Billie Dickson**; **Connie S. Gifford**, OWS; **Yuki Hall**, TWSA, OWS, WPA; **Tessa Kalman**, **Roger Kimmel**, and **Donna Pierce-Clark**, OWS. Donna's painting, *Spanish Lace*, won one of the four awards bestowed by the juror.



Donna Pierce-Clark



Yuki Hall

Connie S. Gifford, OWS was very active this winter, as she exhibited paintings at the Germantown Public Library in December, and in February she held a solo art show, *My Colorful World*, at the Fairborn Art Gallery, held a combined watercolor and photography show with her photographer husband, Jim Gifford, at the Charles L. Lathrem Senior Center in Kettering, and participated in the 2026 Miamisburg Art Gallery member's show.



Connie S. Gifford

Andrea Walker had her painting, *Autumn Harvest*, juried into the 2026 American Watercolor Show (AWS).





Pam Hartford reporting

Suzanne Accetta has had a busy year. Now living in Birmingham Alabama, she continues to paint and enter in national and international exhibitions. Painting a bit smaller due to the high price of shipping, like all artists she has some acceptances, some rejections, and a few awards. Her biggest news was getting accepted into her 3rd AWS exhibition (painting below) and receiving signature status. She can now die a happy artist.



Suzanne had a one woman exhibition of 30 paintings that opened in September at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC. The show was titled *Mending a Heart, One Brushstroke at a Time*. It is about dealing with grief. It is now published as a book <https://store.bookbaby.com/book/mending-a-heart-one-brushstroke-at-a-time>. She is hoping to find other venues to host the exhibition. "Grief is a subject we avoid and don't talk about. But it will happen to everyone." says Suzanne. She hopes the show opens a discussion of the subject.

Suzanne continues her involvement with Mary Whyte's Patriot Art Foundation. She currently facilitates two Art Muster groups of 30+ veterans and meets with them weekly through Zoom. In May she will be joining Mary for her opening of *We the People* and help with a live class for veterans in Milwaukee. It is supposed to be covered by CBS Sunday Morning and aired on Veteran's Day Weekend. Suzanne says, "If I'm in it at all, it'll be a where's Waldo... in the far background. The piece is about our veterans, their service and how art heals."

Suzanne says, "I miss you all but certainly not the snow and the gray."

Linda Coe, Ed Kitchen, Howard Wood, Katrinka Hagovsky, and Pam Hartford won awards in the Central Ohio Watercolor Society 2026 Spring Show held at the Westerville Community Center, 350 N. Cleveland Ave, Westerville, OH from March 1- March 31, 2026.

1st Place: *The Goldenrod Field* by Linda Coe



Honorable Mentions:

***Morning Along the Stream* by Ed Kitchen**



***The Old Railroad Bridge* by Katrinka Hagovsky**



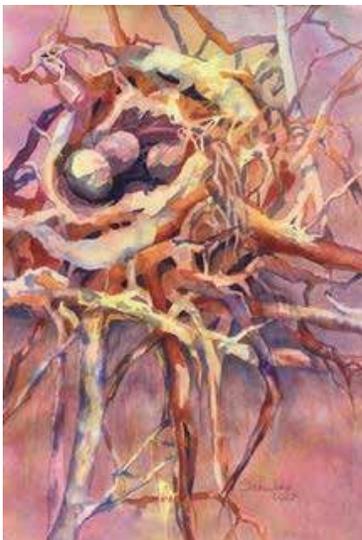
Finding Shade Under the Bushes by Pam Hartford



Fan Favorite: *In Lavender Fields* by Howard Wood



Susie Schreiber won a Merit Award for *Expecting Many #7* in the Central Florida Watercolor Society Associate Member Online Show 2026. The show can be seen at <https://centralfloridawatercolor.org/congratulations-to-the-2026-amos-accepted-artists/>



Moving? New phone number?

Even though a "Master List" of members is maintained by the Membership Registrar, you are responsible for making any changes to your address, phone number or email address by updating the profile in your microsite of the OWS Members Directory on our website.

The Registrar will download the online listing every month or so in order to keep the master list up-to-date.

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

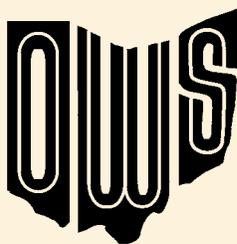
Northwest

Micki Ansberry Brown

Central

Pam Hartford

**Next Newsletter – July/August 2026
Deadline: July 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.ohiowatercolorssociety.org