

December 2011

West Virginia Watercolor Society



## President's Letter

What a show, what an opening! Our All-Member Exhibit had a spectacular opening with six sales on opening night.

The Parkersburg Arts Center has great community support and this was evident in the huge turnout at the opening. Our thanks to Abby Hayhurst for taking such good care of us. The PAC is a great space with great lighting. I hope you can go to see the show in December. And for a holiday touch, Abby added some great Christmas trees each with famous artist themes.

Congratulations to Jerre Watkins (best of show); Linda J.C. Turner (award of excellence); Katherine Crim (award of merit) and Virginia Killian (honorable mention).

A special thanks to Don Getz, our judge for the exhibit. I enjoyed spending time with him on the day of the judging. We also included one of his paintings in the show.

Webmaster Kristen Colebank has embedded a video of the show on the WVWS website that captures most of the exhibit, which includes 55 paintings.

We had a lot of participation of new members including members from the Eastern Panhandle. I appreciate the extra effort they made in getting their pieces to this show. Please support the PAC and WVWS by seeing this

and other exhibits.

Our next juried exhibit will be in June 2012 in Morgantown. Be looking for a prospectus at the end of January with an entry due date in late March.

Attention signature members! Jeanne Brenneman has suggest a paint out at The Greenbrier Resort in 2012 with a show and sale at the end of the paint out. What do you think? This is being considered in lieu of a signature member exhibit. It is not out of the question to have a signature exhibit but we are thinking about a different format rather than a gallery show.

The Randolph County Community Arts Center will be



All-Member Exhibit award winners who were able to attend the opening reception included Virginia Killian (from left), Linda J.C. Turner, and Jerre Watkins

the site of the 2012 All-Member Exhibit during November/December. The paintings will go up after the extended Forest Festival Exhibit and will coincide with their annual Christmas Market, which draws a large crowd.

I hope the winter is kind to you. It definitely is a good time to get some paintings done.

*Linda Elmer, president*

**Reminder:** Renewal forms for WVWS were sent out several weeks ago. Please make sure you send in your renewal form and \$30 dues payment by December 31st. Dues paid after Dec. 31 shall include a \$10 late penalty, for a total of \$40. Dues must be paid by Feb. 15 to retain Juried or Signature status, unless you are a charter member or the Executive Committee finds "just cause" for the later payment. Questions? Contact Jeanne and Bruce Brenneman at [bjbrenneman@gmail.com](mailto:bjbrenneman@gmail.com), or call 304-645-3050.

# WVWS Member News

## Region I - Lou Riffe Gates



**Debbie Lester (right) stands next to her Best of Show painting, "Coal Tipple Memories," with Lynn Creamer, artistic director at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg. Debbie won both Best of Show and the Purchase Award at the 22nd Seasons of Color exhibition.**

Debbie Lester of Shady Springs won Best of Show at the Seasons of Color Exhibition at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg. Her winning painting, "Coal Tipple Memories," also won the Purchase Award at the show.

Rita Montrosse of Princeton won the Maynard Stetten Award at the Kentucky Watercolor Society Aqueous USA 2011 for "Mystic Intersection."

## Region II - Patricia Roberts

Sharon Harms of Charleston tells us that one of her paintings on exhibit as part of the state Division of Culture and History's Inspired series was purchased for the permanent collection of the State of West Virginia.

The exhibit, *Inspired: West Virginia Wildlife*, will be on display in the Commissioner's Gallery at the Culture Center in Charleston through Feb. 5, 2012. "It is a beautiful show and I am thrilled to receive this purchase award," Sharon said.

Sharon also was recognized by the W.Va. Department of Agriculture for winning the WVDA Centennial Art Contest. Sharon created a poster for WVDA that includes four of her watercolor paintings featuring fresh produce on display at Charleston's Capitol Street Market.

## Region III - Joy Cooper

Laurie Goldstein-Warren of Buckhannon has learned she's won some prominent awards in nationally juried shows, including the Charlotte Huntley Memorial Award in the California Watercolor Society National (for her painting "Morning in Times Square"); and the Painted Toe Society Award in the Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Exhibition (for her painting "Standing Room Only").

A little closer to home, she was also awarded Best of Show in the Randolph County Community Arts Center Gala Exhibition in Elkins for "Blues Guitar No. 2."

Laurie also reports that she's been awarded Third Place in Watercolor Artist Magazine's Watermedia Showcase competition. Her painting, "My Brother's Keeper," will be published in the February 2012 issue of the magazine.

Laurie has had work included in the following national exhibits: Catherine Lorillard Wolf National Art Exhibit NYC, the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society National, the North East Watercolor Society International, the Kansas Watercolor Society National, and the Watercolor West International.

Her current series is inspired by the energy of New York City's streets, and Laurie traveled to the Big Apple in late October on a photo excursion. While there she visited with her daughter and attended the Catherine Lorillard Wolf Art Club's National Awards dinner.

Member F. Dennis Clarke of Martinsburg had a solo exhibit at The Washington County Arts Council, at 14 W Washington St., Hagerstown, Md., from Nov. 4 through Dec. 1.

The opening reception was Friday, Nov. 4. About 25 abstract (non-objective) paintings as well as 10 representational watercolors were displayed in two gallery spaces at the art council's headquarters.

Wardensville artist (and newsletter editor) Kristen Colebank finally got up the gumption to show paintings at Tamarack as part of the "Architectonic" show at the Dickirson Gallery early in 2011.

She also had two pieces accepted at the 8th annual Art at VMRC exhibition in Harrisonburg, Va., a multi-media show that ran through June.


Kristen was also recognized at the Randolph County Community Arts Center annual Gala Exhibition with a First Place award for a portrait, "One Moment."





**“Z-90 Degrees” is one of the non-objective pieces F. Dennis Clarke included in his recent solo show at the Washington County Arts Council in Hagerstown, Md.**

## Region IV – Katy Crim

 **Linda J.C. Turner** of Jane Lew has been recognized with a Merit Award for “Flags and Windssocks” at the 17th biennial West Virginia Juried Exhibition, currently on display through Jan. 2, 2012, at the The Stifel Fine Arts Center at Oglebay Institute, 1330 National Road in Wheeling.

The exhibition is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday. It is closed Sundays.

 **Jeannine Romano** of Lost Creek was invited to exhibit in the David L. Dickirson Gallery’s “Still Life: Objects on Display” show running from August through October at Tamarack in Beckley.

On her invitation, Jeannine remarked, “I think this is a good stretch for me, because I am basically a portrait artist. By exploring the still-life genre, I have been able to add another dimension to my portrait painting by including fabrics, textures and objects that help to tell the story and make my portraits more interesting.”

After the show’s conclusion, Jeannine also sent us an update, and reports that three of her six paintings sold at the show! Congratulations Jeannine!

## Region V – Janet Hart

 Paint Oglebay Plein Air (Sept. 30-Oct. 2) was a great experience, reports **Janet Hart** of Wheeling – except that it was bitterly cold and damp. Lots of artists took up space inside Wilson Lodge and painted out the windows because of the inclement weather.




**Jeannine Romano is stretching into new artistic areas with her still life compositions. “Grapes and Gravy Boat” was one of the paintings she recently exhibited at Tamarack’s Dickirson Gallery.**

As part of the organized activities, Janet took a “watercolor plein air class” where the artists all sat on the porch of Burton Center (outdoors). Janet painted one of the beautiful lampposts with a hanging flower basket, but, she notes, “I finished it at home because it was miserable outdoors. And not only that, but the paper wouldn’t dry.”

On Saturday Janet painted two small landscapes from the shelter of her car and was happy to report that one of them sold in the exhibition that evening.

Janet said she met many artists from the surrounding areas – Wheeling and Moundsville, and Ohio and Pennsylvania. “Even though the weather was nasty,” she said, “there was great participation throughout. This event grows every year.”

## Region-at-Large – Robert W. Smith

 Participating in a Wyeth-themed exhibition is **Kathy Caudill** of Rock Hill, S.C. Kathy has two watercolors in the show, “In the Tradition of Wyeth,” at the Vero Beach Museum of Art, in Vero Beach, Fla. It includes five Andrew Wyeth paintings and the work of 10 nationally known watercolorists, and is up through Jan. 15, 2012.

Kathy’s work is also included in the South Carolina Watermedia Society’s annual exhibition at the City Gallery at Waterfront Park in Charleston, S.C. Her acrylic, “Raindrops Over the Catawba,” was awarded the Buddy Yancey Memorial Award (with \$350) and will be part of the exhibition’s one-year traveling show within South Carolina.

Kathy is also showing three paintings at the Providence Gallery, Charlotte, N.C., through Jan. 31, 2012.

# Signature Show 2011

WVWS made an impression in the Eastern Panhandle this summer with the WVWS Signature Members Exhibit, which ran from Aug. 12 to Sept. 18 at the Ice House Gallery in Berkeley Springs.

Signature members are juried members who have been granted the privilege of using the West Virginia Watercolor Society Initials (WVWS) in conjunction with their signatures by the Membership Jury after completing requirements as set forth in the WVWS By-laws.

The show was judged by Berkeley Springs resident Lynn Ferris, NWS.



**ABOVE:** Many visitors came to the Ice House Gallery in Berkeley Springs for the show.



## Best of Show

◀ Rita Montrosse – “Whimsical Connection”

## Award of Excellence

Linda J.C. Turner – “Goat Herd at Sant Andrea II”

## Award of Merit

Sandra T. Pealer – “Amber Pears on Silk”

## Honorable Mention

Linda Elmer – “Moving Manhattan”

## 2012 WVWS Workshop

Plans already are in motion for the annual WVWS Workshop, which is scheduled for Aug. 2-5, 2012, at Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center.

The 2012 workshop will be led by WVWS member Laurie Goldstein-Warren and she will focus on portraiture techniques.

Laurie is an award-winning artist who has achieved signature recognition in seven state watercolor societies. She will be featured North Light Books' upcoming Splash 13, is included the Best of Watercolor Artist Book – 2012, recently placed third in Watercolor Artist Magazine's Watermedia Showcase competition, and has exhibited in both solo exhibits and in national exhibitions.

Laurie will guide workshop participants through portrait painting while using a limited palette and will give daily demonstrations, plenty of painting time for students, and individual assistance.

Make plans now to attend this informative and exciting workshop. Look for a registration brochure to arrive after the first of the year.

– **Judy Mattson Reed, WVWS Workshop Chairperson**



**These are some examples of Laurie's recent portrait and figurative works.**



# News & Notes

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## Season of Colors winners

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Carnegie Hall recently announce the winners of the 2011 Season of Colors Juried Art Exhibit, including members of WVWS.

Works selected for the exhibit reflected the theme "Flight of Fancy." A panel of judges – photographer Michelle Kelly, art instructor Joan Montgomery, and gallery owner Donna Toney - selected winners in several categories.

**Deborah D. Lester** of Shady Springs was honored with both the Best of Show and Purchase Award for her oil painting "Coal Tipple Memories."

The West Virginia Watercolor Society Award of Excellence was bestowed upon **Mary Anne Hodson** of Beckley WV for "Double Exposure."

The Season of Colors Juried Art Exhibit was presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. Additional support comes from Paul and Ann Moran, The Hollowell Foundation and the West Virginia Watercolor Society.

## Forest Festival Juried Exhibition

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Several WVWS members were included in the annual exhibition at the Forest Festival in Elkins.

Among the honorees were Best of Show to **Laurie Goldstein-Warren** for "It's Showtime;" second place to **Kenneth Waddell** for "Structure;" third place to **Robert Wren Smith** for "Lee;" a merit award to **Betty Neely** for "Shepherds;" the Ralph Michael Memorial Award and the Davis Trust Purchase Prize Award to **Grace DePollo** for "A Rocky Stream;" the West Virginia Landscape Award to **Donell McCoy** for "Dryfork Shadows;" the WVWS award to **Linda Elmer** for "Moving Manhattan;" and the Talbott Frame Shop Award to **Deanna Gillum** for "Summer Leaves."

Honorable Mention winners included **Laurie Goldstein-Warren, M. Grey Darden, Linda Elmer, Carolyn Light, Donell McCoy, Robert Wren Smith, Kenneth Waddell, and Rema White.**

Maids of Honor Choice Awards went to **Judy Matteson Reed** and **Linda Elmer.**

WVWS members with work accepted into the extended juried exhibit include **Doris Bright, Katherine Crim, M. Grey Darden, Grace DePollo, Linda Elmer, Deanna Gillum, Laurie Goldstein-Warren, Michael**

**Ledden, Carolyn Light, Judy Matteson Reed, Donell McCoy, Betty Neely, Jeannine Romano, Robert Wren Smith, Linda J.C. Turner, Kenneth Waddell, Linda Walker Roberts, and Rema White.**

## MAA workshop

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The Morgantown Art Association is planning a four-day workshop with Stan Miller, AWS, from April 12-15, 2012, at the MAA gallery in Morgantown. Topics will include landscape and portraiture in watermedia. The cost of the workshop is \$200 for MAA members, and \$240 for non-members. Download the workshop registration form from the WVWS site (check the Opportunities page).

# 2011 WVWS Workshop



*The group gathers for a demo.*



*Rita Montrosse*

## Working in a Series: A step-by-step approach to transforming your style



series of paintings based on a roadbed drainage culvert?

I felt a little skeptical as Rita Montrosse started the 2011 WVWS workshop with that topic. There were several eye-catching paintings propped up against the wall in the conference room at Canaan Valley Resort State Park. But I didn't see a culvert in any of them.

My perception began to change as Rita explained her process and motivation for working in series.

"Working in a series affords the artist an opportunity to really explore a theme, concept or composition," Rita said. She also noted that many successful contemporary artists work this way. For the workshop, she said, her mission was to introduce us to strategies that could help us in developing our own series.

And as for the paintings on display, Rita explained she had noticed interesting textures and shapes while looking at layers of rock and sedimentary material beneath a roadway near a culvert. She said she also liked the notion of the box-shaped culvert framing a different scene beyond the roadway.

As Rita spoke, I began to view the paintings in a different light. I had assumed they were non-representational abstract works, but now I could see the elemental shapes, including the jagged and elongated horizontal bands, that had been inspired by the strata beneath our feet.

But – how do you move from a roadbed to an award-

A first-person account  
by Kristen Colebank



*Virginia Killian, Kristen Colebank, and Jane Cardi.*

winning painting? The journey is made in steps, Rita said. For the next three days Rita patiently walked 13 workshop participants through those steps, moving our work from the representational to the elemental.

We had been asked to bring photographs to the workshop and, using corners of matboard, we cropped into the photographs with an eye toward strengthening the composition. These cropped references became value sketches which were used as a reference for

a painting using a limited palette of red, blue and yellow.

Then, Rita asked us to crop into those sketches. In this step, since we were working only from the sketches, we had to look beyond the objects represented in the original photo and instead focus on value patterns and shapes. We attempted a few versions of these newly cropped sketches and then used the best composition among the set to develop a new painting – this time using an analogous palette of three colors, plus a complement.

I noted that several other participants had started out with photographs of flowers. As the compositions were cropped multiple times, they were not instantly recognizable as florals anymore. However, the dominant shapes in the pieces retained an organic feel – almost the essence of the plant. I think in this way I began to understand what Rita was stressing.

A final exercise with these pieces involved the addition of simple geometric shapes to the now nearly



# All-Member Show 2011



The All-Member Exhibition is currently on display through Dec. 31 at the Parkersburg Art Center in downtown Parkersburg.

A video slideshow of the show is available on the WVWS website.

At the opening, the awards, chosen by judge Don Getz, AWS, were announced. Jerre Watkins of Cross Lanes was awarded Best of Show for her painting, "Sandstone Reflections." Congratulations Jerre!

## Best of Show

◀ Jerre Watkins – "Sandstone Reflections"

## Award of Excellence

Linda J.C. Turner – "Monday by the Sea of Ionia"

## Award of Merit

Katherine Crim – "Calm of the Morning"

## Honorable Mention

Virginia Killian – "Vision II"



Linda J.C. Turner



Katherine Crim



Virginia Killian

## Series . . . . .

abstract compositions. The shapes could nest behind and in front of the existing elements, merely suggestive in some places and dominant in others. A third and final painting was developed using the best of these sketches.

By the end of the step-by-step exercises, I think we all had moved well beyond our original reference photos and could see the value in developing painting ideas from such a series.

Workshop participant Rema White described her impressions this way: "[Rita] clearly explained and demonstrated techniques for making a series so they were easy for us to understand. The students applied them to an amazing variety of subjects and in different degrees of abstraction. For me it was a wonderful, eye-opening experience."

In addition to the series exercises, Rita introduced us

to some new materials and tools, including Masa paper, which is a textured rice paper; a mouth atomizer, which can spray a textured mist of watercolor onto paper; and collage materials such as gold leaf and snips of colored paper, which can be adhered to a support, such as illustration board or paper, with acrylic matte medium.

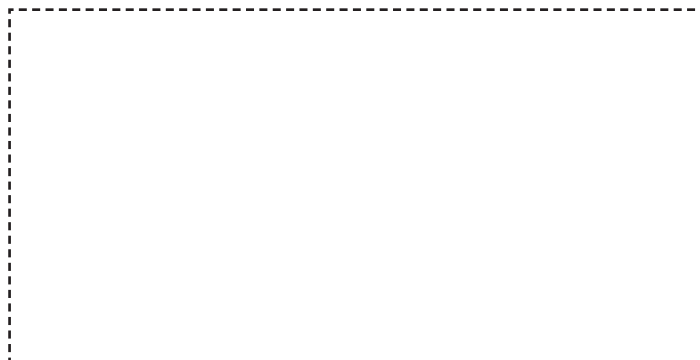
The WVWS group also enjoyed some painting breaks and made evening excursions to restaurants in the nearby town of Davis. We also had a wonderful visit with WVWS member Jane Cardi and her husband Vince, who hosted the group at their beautiful Canaan Valley cabin.

The youngest participant in the workshop, Rema White's 12-year-old granddaughter Katie Gatian, summed up the weekend: "I had lots of fun at this workshop. I liked interacting with the artists that were just like me. I had already known the teacher, Rita Montrosse, before the workshop, but I had fun learning her abstract way of doing her paintings. I'd like to thank her for having me in her class."





West Virginia Watercolor Society  
P.O. Box 66  
Wardensville, WV 26851



*Calendar Reminder!* Prospectus will be sent in late January

**Aqueous 2012: ArtsMonongahela Gallery in Morgantown from June 11-July 6**

Shipping dates – arrive after May 22 but no later than June 2 • Hand delivery – June 1 and 2

Reception – June 22 from 5-8 p.m.

Images on CD to Linda Elmer – postmarked by March 31

Notification of jury – by May 1

## West Virginia Watercolor Society

### WVWS Officers

**Linda Elmer**, president  
**Jeannine Romano**, past president  
**Jeannine Romano**, vice president  
**Bruce Brenneman**, treasurer  
**Katherine Crim**, recording secretary  
**Amy C. Post**, corresponding secretary

### WVWS Directors (Trustees)

**Lou Gates**, Region I  
**Patricia Roberts**, Region II  
**Joy Cooper**, Region III  
**Katherine Crim**, Region IV  
**Janet Hart**, Region V  
**Robert W. Smith**, Region-at-Large

### WVWS Committees

**Jeanne Brenneman**, membership  
**Doncia Franklin**, archives and video library  
**Judy Mattson Reed**, workshops  
**Joseph Sweeney**, videographer  
**Linda J.C. Turner**, publicity

The West Virginia Watercolor Society actively seeks new associate members. Applicants must be a West Virginia resident at the time of application. Dues are \$30 per year (January to December). Membership applications can be downloaded from the WVWS website, [www.wvwatercolorsociety.org](http://www.wvwatercolorsociety.org), or contact Membership Chair Jeanne Brenneman at [bjbrenneman@gmail.com](mailto:bjbrenneman@gmail.com).

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