



President's Message June 24, 2016

This is it! The grand entrance. This is the premiere issue of Iowa Artists online newsletter. Like other organizations, our group faced dwindling resources while our costs have gone up. At our annual state show meeting, board members voted to eliminate most of the printing and postage costs by going to an online newsletter. The plan is to publish two or three online newsletters but continue to print and mail the issue which contains registration materials for the regional shows. The editors are Gail Larson and Jane Shank, who work along with webmaster Marcia Kruse. All of these ladies are ambitious and working diligently to maintain the quality newsletter to which you are accustomed.

The 2016 State Show was just like all the previous state shows. Fantastic!!! The quality of the work displayed was top notch and the show was well attended. In total, six blue ribbon winners, six red, six white, six yellow, Best of Show, the Heggen and Frandsen ribbons were awarded. And nearly half had a monetary award in addition to their ribbon. There were enough entries to even have a separate three dimensional category! Besides judging the show, John Preston did a demonstration on composition that kept everyone spellbound – except for those times that the auctioneer in the next room shattered that spell with his over-amplified voice! Yes, that really did happen. Check out the photos of the winners in this online edition.

Other newsworthy items include one addition and two changes to the board. The addition is Cristen Decious, our newly elected vice president. Cristen won Best of Show this year with an impeccably painted still life. The two changes are board members who have resigned. Mary Ann Gloe's position as State Coordinator Chair has been filled by Gail Larson. Ann McCullough's position as Treasurer and Membership Chair, has been filled by Delayne Segar. Many thanks to Ann and Mary Ann for all their great work. And welcome to the board Cristen, Gail and Delayne.



A Message from the Newsletter Editors

Welcome to the new Iowa Artists Web-based Newsletter! We are looking forward to receiving articles, interviews, book reviews and items for the What's the Buzz... column. One advantage of moving largely to the web site is having so much room for photographs of the fantastic work all of our artists. We are looking at several possible ways to show them off, so stay tuned!



CONGRATULATIONS!



Left to Right: Flo Hayes, Region 5, Urbandale, "Orange Marbles"(Pastel); Jean Johnson, Region 5, Boone, "Fruit of the Vine", (Oil); Marvella Bloome, Region 2, Thompson, "Loyal Fans", (Watercolor); Barry Ross, Region 12, Fairfield, "Windsong", (Wood Sculpture); Kirk Hovenga, Region 7, Dumont, "Stream", (Oil); Margaret Ertz, Region 12, Burlington, "3rd and Valley", (Acrylic)



Best of Show

Cristen Scott Decious, "Harvest", Oil

I have always been a very visual person and perceive that most artists are visual! Looking inward I purpose to illustrate with pen, pencil, or paint what I observe. Then there are times when just the opposite is true. I want to record a peaceful or a grand moment that surrounds me. Placing it on paper or canvas gives me an opportunity to share an experience with others in a new and special way. Placing items together that may not fit neatly and pulling them apart to show their connection for a still life gives me purpose! Showing a moment in everyday living

2016

IOWA ARTISTS STATE

SHOW

WINNERS!

2016 Board

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through a figurative setting and looking at traditional life from a new angle gives me a sense of duty! Demonstrating through paint on canvas what a photograph cannot capture gives me excitement.

I attended a college in Pennsylvania where I received a B.A. in Vocal Performance. Soon after I went to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary where I received a Masters of Divinity. Using my talents and creativity, I have been a pastor teaching love, peace, and reconciliation for over twenty-five years. Only within the last ten years have I come back to taking time to paint seriously. It seems that I am still growing into my world of art. I am a self-taught artist with no formal training outside of a few art classes and private art lessons. Looking for a voice in the art world representation, I have only recently begun to seek out gallery representation. I was accepted and showed my paintings at the Figge Art Museum in Davenport, Iowa art show in 2011. 2016 was the first year that I submitted paintings into the Iowa Regional Art show placing two blue and one red ribbon. I then submitted my two blue ribbon paintings into the 2016 Iowa State Show in Fairfield, Iowa. I was pleased when my still life "Harvest One" won Best of show.

About Harvest one: Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. It always puts me in the mood for leaves, apples, pumpkins, gourds, canning, and decorating with Indian corn. I enjoyed painting this series of four harvest paintings and had endless ideas flowing for arrangements of these still life paintings.



As an Iowa boy at heart, corn and corn husks bring to my mind the staples of provision, life, and living. The harvest gives the fulfilled promise of the waiting, anticipation, (and dare I say hope) that time brings. This particular painting was the first in the series of four. I just loved the white pumpkin. A rare find that cried out to be painted. The powder blue mixing bowl was from the late 1800s found at a farm auction under a pile of jars that I picked up for two dollars! I put the blue bowl in three out of the four paintings. To have survived that long represents its sturdy endurance through time. A common bowl that has seen many harvest dinners.

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John J. Carlson Frandsen winner

“Present”, Oil

I couldn't be more pleased for having received the Dorris Frandsen award. After struggling to make time to be creative, to be recognized goes so far as to helping motivate me to complete another project.



Also, just to be included in The Iowa Artists show, with the level of professionalism displayed, is so inspiring for a production worker who can't always be an artist.

Doing what I do for a living, makes a person hungry for creative outlet to tell my stories. I try to keep the paintings narrative enough to provide a subject for the work, but on the other hand, they are very personal, and some of the elements have to be cryptic and open for interpretation.

My recent paintings are an attempt for me, as a middle age person, to convey my feelings about dealing with aging, reminiscing about my childhood, and my imaginings about what lies in store for me after I stop aging.

Using line and color to express my feelings, I present a split-second of my person represented by some obvious and some very personal associations, splayed to fill the flat surface of a painting.

Education

1990 Bachelor of Arts, Marycrest College

Awards

2012 “First Place Painting” 57th Annual Exhibition Keokuk Art Center

Exhibitions

2013 February Solo Exhibit Burlington Art Guild
2011 September “Recent Works” Southeastern Community College

Gallery

Selected Group Exhibitions

2014 April 38th Annual Rock Island Fine Arts Exhibition

2014 November Members Show Burlington Art Guild

2012 August 36th Annual Rock Island Fine Arts Exhibition

2012 August Members & Friends Galesburg Civic Art Center



Steve Russell, "Giraffe", Wood Sculpture Heggen winner 1953- Still Kickin

After growing up in Raymond, Iowa and working 37 years at John Deere, I retired and moved to Independence, Iowa with my wife Pam and two children. We now have two grandchildren, Cash and Sophia.



I have always been interested in art and in late 2008 I started doing some woodcarving. I have always had an interest in working with wood and my dad, Milo, had a great influence on me. In 2014 I became interested in painting and drawing.

Art gives me the ability to be creative and is very relaxing. I have taken a number of classes and am always eager to learn new techniques and work with different mediums.

I have exhibited for a number of years at the Iowa State Woodcarving Show and several other exhibits. This year is the first year I have participated in the Iowa Artists shows.



BLUE RIBBON WINNERS



Marvella Blome, "Loyal Fans",
Watercolor



Barry Ross, "Windsong",
Wood Sculpture



Jean Johnson, "Fruit of the Vine", Oil



Kirk Hovenga, "Stream", Oil



Margaret Ertz, "3rd and Valley", Acrylic



Flo Hayes, "Orange Marbles", Pas-

OTHER RIBBON WINNERS

Red Ribbons:

Delores Frederick, "Up and Away", Watercolor
Marcia Kruse, "Barn Quilt", Oil
Gail Larson, "Nostalgia", Assemblage
Caryn Kepford, "Morning Sheep", Pastel
Joe Lauer, "Gathering Grain", Oil
Chad Starling, "Untitled", Ink on Paper

Yellow Ribbons:

JoAnn Erickson, "Trinity", Quilt
Hope Wallen, "Sunset Track", Oil
Kris Grover, "Big Boxer", Paper
Marlene Michel, "Surprise", Pencil
Nancy Barsic, "Dogs", Paper Cutting
Annette J. Scieszinski, "The South of (Iowa)", Oil

White Ribbons:

Nancy Bainter, "Untitled", Fused Glass
Jim Updegraff, "Road to Edwards Station", Oil
Lauretta Kelley, "Rika", Oil
Robert Peterson, "Angel Palms", Acrylic
B. J. Grimmer, "Bell Rock", Acrylic
Helen Logan, "Nature Unchanged", Watercolor

An Interview with the Ames Brush Club



Left to Right LaVonne Clarke, Peggy Guran,
Bernie Pohm, Mary Mulford, Kay Outka

Patricia Robb
They Create and Critique in Ames

Monday morning blues are often driven away in Ames, Iowa, by the essence of world-famous Regionalist Painters Grant Wood and Thomas Hart Benton. Over 40 years ago, Margaret Loughridge Schuster moved with her family to Ames, started a group called the Ames Brush Club, and shared her extensive oil painting knowledge gained from Benton and Wood. Margaret Loughridge Schuster was always called "Locky", and Locky was "lucky" to have studied under Thomas Hart Benton at the Kansas City Art Institute, and then under Grant Wood at the University of Iowa in the 1930's. Until recently, the University of Iowa generally tried to hide the fact

that Grant Wood had been an art professor there, but Locky was always grateful to have studied under Wood and Benton, and enjoyed helping other artists with the knowledge she had gained from them. Though Locky passed away in 2009, the Ames Brush Club still meets Monday mornings in Ames, and fondly remembers her.

On Monday, April 11th, 2016, nine members were gathered in their meeting room at a church, busily creating and reminiscing. Sixteen people currently belong to the club, and most of them have worked in oil painting with Locky. Each week, she would set up a still life for them to



LaVonne Clarke

B y



Nancy Dobson

paint, and she was careful to advise them not to use turpentine, but instead use odorless mineral spirits, or some other safe solvent. They would paint all morning, eat the lunch they had brought with them, and have a “nice” critique, ending about 3 p.m.

These days, the lunch and afternoon sessions are usually not held, but the members still counsel each other about artwork. When Locky led the oil painting critiques, a friendly atmosphere was always stressed, as it still is now. There is nothing testy or disapproving in what is said, only positive advice and suggestions. Locky said it is just helpful to hear from other artists. And she often used to add, “The artist will do what she wants to do anyway!”

In the “doing what they want to do anyway” vein, now that Locky is gone, several members of the club have

changed to painting with acrylic and/or watercolor, because oil painting supplies can be cumbersome to carry from home to the club. They all feel grateful to have a gathering place for creating, and some are also able to work at home, often at the kitchen table or a card table. Some of the club members have college education in art, but they all have a strong interest and inclination in it. Now that they are branching out into watercolor and acrylic, many feel they have also benefited from art workshops in those media given by various well-known artists. Though they like Winsor Newton watercolor paint, they have also used the brands recommended in the workshops. They get their art supplies from Cheap Joes,

ASW, Daniel Smith and sometimes locally. Originally Locky sold the club Winsor Newton oil painting supplies, and they used no medium in their oil painting, just solvent, which was generally Turpenoid.



Doug Soren



Left to Right Nancy Dobson, La-Vonne Clarke, Peggy Guran

Our organization, Iowa Artists, was also founded in Ames, in 1972, so it's seems like Ames has a rich artistic history. The Brush Club members came to Ames from diverse areas, some from around central Iowa and some from farther away. Though now mainly retired, most had a husband who became a professor at Iowa State University, and so their families settled in Ames, and they happily discovered the Ames Brush Club. However, being “settled” in Ames is not what one particular member looks forward to. The only fully employed Ames Brush Club member is Doug Soren, a graphic artist who enjoys his job but also anticipates retiring. Then Doug plans to hook up a camper and travel to the national parks to paint. We certainly look forward to seeing those paintings!

WHAT'S THE BUZZ.....

Dee Fredrick

is having an exhibit of watercolors at the Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames, IA, in August and September, 2016.

Helen Logan

is having an exhibit of her watercolors at the Hearst Center for the Arts in Cedar Falls August 13 through October 2. The opening reception will be held on August 13.

Art Under the Oaks Art Festival Sept. 10

in Independence, Iowa. Please contact buchanancountyarts@gmail.com.

Paint 'Till You Faint

will be held October 11 through 14 at Pine Lake Bible Camp near Eldora, IA. It is time to make your reservation. For more information contact Jan Bernhard at rbernhard@mchsi.com.

Reinbeck Art Festival Sept. 24th

9 to 4... contact: Dana 319 788 6404.

From Cris Decious, new VP and Best of Show winner at State...

I have recently begun painting a new series that I call Cherokee. These paintings along with my other art can be seen at a one man show during the month of September 2016 at the Witter Gallery in Storm Lake.

Guttenberg Gallery and Creativity Center Fall/Winter exhibits call for artists:

Driftless Abstraction, September 23 – November 7:

Abstract artwork inspired by life in the driftless region. Programming may include artist-led conversations on abstract art, various art classes, and live music. Animal Artworks, November 11 – December 31: Share your furry, feathered, scaly works featuring creatures that walk on two legs, four legs, or even eight legs! Programming may include artist demonstrations, pet portrait classes, and a gourmet dinner.

Please consider submitting work and proposals for related programming you'd like to lead. Information for artists showing work in Guttenberg Gallery is posted online at <http://www.guttenbergcreativitycenter.com/artist-info.html>. You are welcome to share this information with other artists in your community.

Art in the Park

Elkader Iowa, August 20 and 21
<http://www.artintheparkelkader.com/>

The Left Bank Shop & Gallery
McGregor Summer shows <http://mmcenter-forthearts.weebly.com/>

The show opening July 1 includes work by Ann McCullough, Strawberry Point.

Mary Ann Gloe, Show

at Perfect Edge Framing and Coffee Shop in Decorah, month of July

Other Festivals

<http://www.artscraftsshowbusiness.com/shows.aspx?state=IA>
<http://www.traveliowa.com/events>

Iowa Artists Membership Form
Membership/Renewal Fee: \$25
Due Day: December 31, each year

Please Print: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cell Number: _____

New: _____ Renewal: _____ Region No: _____

Change of Address: Yes ___ NO ___

Please cut out and mail to the Treasurer:

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