

March / April  
2015

# *Brushstrokes*



CENTRAL VIRGINIA  
WATERCOLOR GUILD

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## From Our President

Dear Artist Friends,

All of you plein air painters have to be stalwarts to have gone outside to paint recently. I have been hibernating but have been happy to have my painting to keep me sane (well, from my viewpoint anyway.) I've been working to introduce more ambiguity to my paintings to lead the viewer to "fill in the gaps", something I think entices people when they look at art. I'm experimenting also with different color palettes to see what works for me. That is turning out to be a long, tedious process since I am doing paintings with each combination to see how they work out.

For those who made it to February's meeting, the broad view seemed to be that Steve Doherty did an excellent job that we could all learn from him as he spoke. He included so much information about art, about artists' work that he knew about and also about how to approach different types of painting. He has clearly had much experience with all kinds of work. You may want to look at his website [www.stevedohertyart.com](http://www.stevedohertyart.com) to see what he does with plein air.

You may want to consider the coming 4 day workshop in May with Williamsburg Artist Jan Ledbetter. She does her work on gessoed paper, which allows lifting off paint for interesting patterns. It might be something you'd want to try for the very reasonable cost of our workshops compared to many other places offering them.

Soon you will be hearing more about our annual show at McGuffey downtown in September. The prospectus is being finalized and will be available shortly on our website. Entries are due by early June. Check the prospectus for the exact date.

Best wishes for some sun in your life, literally and figuratively!

Your President,  
Judi Ely

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# Member News

## SHOWS

**Etta Harmon Levin** – McGuffey Art Center presents paintings by Etta Harmon Levin beginning March 3 and running to March 29, 2015. There will be an opening reception on March 6.

**Announcing the 2015 Baltimore Watercolor Society's Mid-Atlantic Exhibition at the Black Rock Center for the Arts, Germantown, MD.** It is open to all water media artists in the Mid-Atlantic States and D.C. **Juror:** Mark Mehaffey, AWS df, NWS. Entry online or by CD. **First Place** is \$1200. **Deadline:** March 21, 2015. For a prospectus and more information contact us at: [www.BaltimoreWatercolorSociety.org](http://www.BaltimoreWatercolorSociety.org)

**Julia Kindred** is the featured artist at the Loving Cup Vineyard from April 1 – 30. There will be a reception on the second Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30 pm, will allow you to meet the artist and try the organic wines of Loving Cup.

**Anne Hopper** is the featured artist at Patina in April. Anne sold six paintings in December in Patina, congratulations, Anne!

**Jane Matthews** is the featured artist at The Women's Initiative in April.

**Windy Payne** is the featured artist at the Cavalier Inn from February through April. Windy's show is titled "Plein Air and Beyond" and consists of acrylics and watercolors.

**Irene Peery** will have a show at the Cavalier Inn beginning 27 April featuring birds. People can come meet the artist on Saturday, May 2 from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Gallery

Is anyone interested in joining **Jean Botts** in a show at the Cavalier Inn next year? The theme is "Coastal Views/Seascapes." Please contact Jean if you are interested.

## CLASSES

**Jan Ledbetter, NWS, SDWS Workshop** will be held at Zehmer Hall from May 19 – 22, 2015. She will hold a four day painting workshop titled Watercolor: Energize Your Paintings by Working on Gessoed Paper. The workshop will be \$295 for members, \$330 for non-members. \$50 will hold your space. If you are interested in seeing Jan's work, check out her website, [janledbetter.com](http://janledbetter.com).

**Contact: Patricia Richmond, 434-296-2979 for more information.**

**The Shenandoah Arts Council** is hosting a class August 3-6, 2015 at Shenandoah University It is being taught by Jeannie McGuire, AWS and is titled Figurative Design Workshop. The price is \$375 for SAC members and \$400 for non-SAC members. Class is limited to 20 people. If you are interested in attending, please contact Amy Barley, Director Shenandoah Arts Council at [amy@shenarts.org](mailto:amy@shenarts.org) or call her on 540-667-5166

## JURORS/CURATORS NEEDED

Have you ever worked as a juror/curator for exhibitions or shows? The Louisa Arts Center is looking for people who have had some experience doing this. They want to compile a list for future shows. If you are interested in helping out, please send your name to Jane Williamson and she will forward your contact information to the Louisa Arts Center.

## PLEIN AIR PAINTERS

Plein air events are being planned for 26 March at 11:00am at the Pavillion in the number 3 garden at UVA and also on 17 April at 11:00am at the home of Chee Ricketts where we will be painting outside on her grounds. More information will be sent out later.

### Monthly Blog

*I was reading an art blog that talked about combining painting with another sense, such as sound, smell, even memories. I thought, wouldn't that be interesting to try. I promised myself I would stay loose, not painting pictures, but capturing the essence of what every I chose to paint. The paintings were, obviously, not terrific, my selection was the sense of smell combined with a lemon, a cookie, hot coffee. At best, they would be called representational, and very loosely so! But what I learned was more important than the paintings. I learned, you can correlate color with a smell and even capture some of the feeling as in the sharpness of the scent of lemon, the heat in the coffee, sweetness in the cookie was a bit more difficult. It's a fun exercise to try and maybe a new challenge for some of you! Give it a try, how about a different sense, such as sound or feel. Just something new to try in the pre spring month of March!*