



The Ohio Plein Air Society Newsletter

Fall 2006, Volume 4, Issue 3

We Painted the Hills!

For the third consecutive year, the fourth weekend in September offered members of OPAS a great opportunity to gather in the hills of southern Ohio, paint, learn, compete, begin new friendships, deepen old ones, and share the challenges of plein air painting. Regardless that it's a competition, artists support and encourage each other to do well and give each other valuable advice. Although some artists attended earlier workshops, the main event kicked off Friday evening with pizza and drinks, art demos and a critique. Many thanks to Karen LaValley, Jack Lieberman and Carolyn Lewis for sharing their expertise.

Despite forecasts of rain, we had a record attendance of eighty painters. Canvases were stamped both in Nelsonville and Logan. I overheard breakfast conversations of artists discussing the best spots to paint in case of rain. The best story, I heard later, was from Susi Havens-Bezaire. Like the rest of us, Susi went out Saturday in search of a sheltered spot. She drove out past Lake Logan, and happened upon a great vista with an overhang on the barn that was perfect in case of rain. She politely asked permission to set up her easel. It turned out she chose a location that would place her, later that day, directly in the middle of the Elks' picnic! Not only was she welcomed to stay and paint, she was served freshly cooked barbecue and cold beer! Delighted with her good fortune on finding the ideal painting spot, she stayed there all day, changing only the direction of her easel.

On Saturday night, artists gathered in Nelsonville for a great meal and a fun raffle drawing. Some were luckier than others, but isn't that always how it goes!

Sunday brought better weather, the new addition of the Quick Draw and the final judging by Shawn Dingwerth of Richmond Indiana (11). Congratulations to winners, who tied in the Quick Draw and shared the profits, Jack Liberman (13) and David Smith (14). Congratulations to competition winners, Fred Doloresco (2) (Best of Show), Carolyn Lewis (16) (First), Barbara Chenault (10) (Second), Mark Gingerich (17) (Third), Mary Ann Davis (8) (Award of Merit in Oil), David Smith (14) (Award of Merit in Water Media), Leslie Rohr Scherer (9) (Award of Merit in Pastel), and to Honorable Mention Winners Karen LaValley, (3) Cindy Nixon (not pictured), Jan Milhan (5), Ray Hassard (not pictured), Seth Hill (not pictured), Jimmie White (1), Chuck Marshall (12), Jack Liberman (13), Eunice Bronkar (4), Sandra Davison (6) and to Purchase Award Winners, Debra Dawson (7), Karen LaValley (3) and Tom Harbrecht (15).

C.Cosgrove



2006 Competition Survey Results

Sixty-two (62) artists registered to paint in the 2005 OPAS Competition.

Eighty (80) artists, a 29% increase over last year, were registered to paint in the "2006 Paint the Hills" main event, while 35 artists painted in the Quick Draw Competition. 35 of the participants returned their surveys. Below are the highs and lows of the competition in the opinion of that 45% responding.

OPAS gained eleven (11) new members as a result of the 2006 competition.

By far, old and new members named the two top "best things" as the camaraderie of the people, followed by the scenery. The overwhelming worst thing was listed as "the weather". When asked what you liked or disliked about the raffle, the percentage was split: #1 item for "liked it", was the high quality of the prizes (thanks to Karen LaValley); #1 item for "disliked it" was the multiple wins by the same person.

On the receptions: the majority said the Friday night food was great; the #1 complaint was that people couldn't hear what the demo instructors were saying. The Saturday night reception was voted an overwhelming success with great food; #1 negative was that the raffle took too much time.

Use of the site maps was a 50/50 split: most prefer larger print and better maps. The greatest number of participants traveled 50-75 miles; the greatest number of miles traveled was 326.

The majority of respondents favor a workshop in conjunction with the competition, and OPAS is scheduling one.

What people liked most about Nelsonville was the "variety of choice" of subject matter.

Still, the majority said that OPAS should "try new locations". Only 10% wanted to keep the competition in Nelsonville for another year. Rural/farms was the #1 choice of preferred subject matter, followed by water.

Five paintings were sold (that we know of) during or before the competition. Gayla has sold at least one competition painting at her Studio 4 Gallery as of this writing.

37% said "NO" to serving on the committee for the coming year; another 37% said maybe or "not this year".

Over 90% said they planned on returning to the competition next year. Out of 35 responses, at least 35 different answers were given on how to improve the upcoming competition for 2007.

The survey was compiled by Martin and Debra Dawson with additional input from Acting Treasurer, Edie Dean and Gallery Owner, Gayla Parks.

Treasury Report

	Beginning Balance	Closing Balance
Jan	\$10,977.66	\$12,704.80
Feb	\$12,704.80	\$14,413.11
Mar	\$14,413.11	\$12,572.83
Apr	\$12,572.83	\$12,961.01
May	\$12,961.01	\$13,119.84
Jun	\$13,119.84	\$13,440.68
Jul	\$13,440.68	\$13,440.68
Aug	\$13,440.68	\$15,649.51
Sep	\$15,649.51	\$14,443.73
Oct	\$14,443.73	\$14,007.71

2006 SPONSORS:

OPAS would like to thank the following for their sponsorship of this event.

Classic Gallery Frames
Frame Warehouse, Reynoldsburg, OH
Great American Art Works, Cincinnati, OH
Harper Management Co. Inc.
McDonald's, Lancaster
Jack Richeson & Co., Inc.
Top Cat Concrete, Westerville, OH

Purchase Awards:
Browning & Cooke, Columbus, OH
Jeffery McNealey
Athens Pathology

Raffle Prizes:
Thanks to Karen LaValley for her hard work in coordinating this.
Carolyn E. Lewis Book & Video
Used Open Box M
Dick Blick Gift Certificate
8x 10" Frame, Frame Warehouse
Prizm gift certificates and easels
Utrecht
Slide Service
McCallister's
Hackman Frames
Michael Orr Gallery
Paint Ohio, LLC
Golf Package
Shadow Box Cabaret
Columbus Museum of Art
Kroger

New Members

Welcome to OPAS!! We remain diverse and well represented from all over our state. We have 23 new members from 14 different Ohio counties and the states of PA, IN and WV.

Welcome to Rosemary Bunea (Wayne Co.), Mary Ann Sedivy (Geauga Co.), Margaret Cutter (Cuyahoga Co.), Joseph D. McCabe (Licking Co.), David B. Reed (Pickaway Co.), Cindy Nixon and Margaret Duvall Schrimpf (Hamilton Co.), Kay Preston (Clinton Co.), Marty Husted, Josephine O'Malley, and Maria White (Franklin Co.), Carolyn Heffelfinger (Delaware Co.), Marsha Elliott (Miami Co.), Jeff Risner (Athens Co.), Kenneth Snouffer (Clermont Co.), Dave Smith (Lucas Co.), Jeff Swarts (Knox Co.), Seth Hill (Clarksburg, WV), Fred Doloresco (Ft. Wayne, IN), Bud Gibbons (Lower Burrell, PA) and Dianne Capoccia; John & Marlene Ottersbach, (all three from Franklin Co).

Motorist Mutual Exhibit

From September 18 - October 19, thirty nine plein air paintings by fourteen OPAS artists, hung on display at the Motorist Mutual Building in downtown Columbus. The gallery is on the second floor of the building, and is a very nice hallway- gallery space that we have used several times over the past few years. Thanks so much to Elaine Freeman who coordinated this year's show and to Chuck Harris and Joan Zeller who helped with the hanging and take-down of the show.

Henney Farm Paintout 2006



A group of hearty artists in search of autumnal inspiration gathered at the Henney Farm in New Philadelphia in October. Our gracious hosts, Jon and Pam Browning (and son Spencer), supplied an array of goodies to fortify us as we created scenes of rolling farmland, barns, streams, autumn color, and yes, cows. As artists (and sherpas) arrived the first thing we noticed was a festive yellow and white canopy tent, which later showed up in a delightful painting by Debra Dawson. The bonfire was burning for the duration of the event, allowing at least one warm side against the crisp fall air. The weather started out cold and windy, but by Sunday afternoon warmed to become one of the best fall days we've seen and also perfect for Spencer to fly his kite!

Jack Liberman (above) gave the critique for a large number of paintings. About 30 people were there for various lengths of time. A warm 'thank you' is extended to our hosts for all their planning and preparation. And remember, next year's September competition will be held in New Philadelphia!



Lima—Paint Out Extraordinaire

The August 26th and 27th paint-out days in Lima were two of the best weather days a painter could ask for. David Cottrell, owner of Art Space/Lima, hosted the paint-out extraordinaire. It was one terrific event, starting with a juried show. Slides or photos were sent earlier, juried, and the accepted ones were delivered. The paintings were exhibited on the first floor with all the lighting and ambience of a New York gallery that we read about in the art magazines.

When we got to Art Space, David greeted everyone with printed maps. A huge map on an easel displayed several good painting spots. Some of us painted at Joe's Ranch with its beautiful misty lake, building, and tree lines. Other artists painted at the Steiner stock farm, the Quatman farm, the round barn at Montooth's, the Simms' home, and street scenes in downtown Lima.

Painters are appreciative eaters too. A delicious box lunch was given out at check in. On Saturday evening, David put on his apron and grilled a complimentary delicious rib dinner. The opening on Sunday was well attended. The juried art was on the first floor and the art from the weekend hung on the second floor and was called the "Wet Paint" show. Yea for that paint-out, it was one of the best! Let's go to Lima again sometime!

Thank you, David!



Edy Martin

Dressing for Winter

By Frank B. Dean, Artist's Sherpa

On a recent October weekend I saw many artists shivering at the paint-out in New Philadelphia, Ohio. But why? It wasn't that bad! Then I noticed an artist wearing about a dozen cotton sweatshirts and tennis shoes, and realized that many of the people didn't know how to dress for cold weather. If you know the basic principles, it is possible to stay warm in extreme conditions, and without spending a king's ransom on fancy gear.

Lets begin by looking at the early Antarctic explorers. In *Shackleton's Boat Journey*, the author, F.A. Worsley, describes what they wore after their ship was crushed by the ice and sank off the coast of Antarctica in 1914:

“Our clothing was, first a suit of what had been heavy Jaeger (wool) underwear. It was now, after five months' continuous wear, rather light. Over this an ordinary pair of trousers .We wore heavy Jaeger wool sweaters, with an eight-inch blanket patch-pocket across the bosom—very chic. Over the aforesaid rig we had Burberrys instead of furs—a blouse and trousers fastened securely around neck, wrists, and ankles, so that no air could get in. The Burberrys, being windproof, surrounded us with an invisible garment of warmed air, but, not being airtight, did not make us perspire as furs would have done. Our footgear was a heavy pair of socks (wool) in felt-lined Shackleton boots, now the worse for wear. On our heads we wore woolen “Balaclava helmets,” and on our hands a pair of woolen mitts with loose overall Burberry mitts.”

From this we can derive “Frank's Laws of Fabrics”, which states: “Cotton is Cold; Wool is Warm; Silk and Synthetics are Swell”. The key feature in the fabrics we use (wool, silk, and synthetics) is that they retain body heat when they are wet, cotton doesn't. That is why a wet cotton t-shirt is cold on a hot summer day.

We next need to find out where we loose heat. Most people are aware of their core, in the sense of the central body mass, but they are not aware of their feet, hands, neck and head until they are freezing and it is too late. For me, if my feet are wet or cold, I am MISERABLE! It is *essential* to have a good pair of boots. This means they should be Gore-Tex lined to be waterproof and large enough for you to wear a good, thick pair of wool socks, or a silk sock layered under a wool sock. (Wool is Warm; Cotton is Cold) NO COTTON SOCKS! You can get a good pair of Gore-Tex lined boots for under a hundred dollars. This is the one item where you can't get off cheap. Bite the bullet and get good boots—they will last for years. Tennis shoes are only good for summer, and then only when it is dry!

For the hands, there are a lot of good ski-gloves that will keep you warm, but it is hard to hold a brush wearing ski-gloves. Consider wool gloves with the finger-tips missing or putting a wool sock over your hand and sticking the back of the brush through the wool sock. They also make chemical hand warmers that you can put in a jacket pocket.

For the neck, I am a big fan of wearing turtle-neck, or mock turtle-neck shirts or sweaters, and putting up the collar of my jacket or hood of my parka. You can also wrap a scarf around your neck. The key here is to keep in core heat while keeping out the wind.

Your head is where you lose the most body heat, and requires a hat or a hood. You'll have a “bad hair day”, but you won't be cold! Some wear just a headband while skiing, but that is an aerobic exercise and painting isn't—you really *do* need the extra warmth while standing at your easel. For really cold, windy days, you can still get Balaclava liners for use under a hood or hat. (A Balaclava is like a big sock you pull over your head and neck with a hole in it for your face.)

Now, with the peripherals out of the way, let's apply Frank's Laws of Fabrics and start to layer!

Shackleton's Antarctic expedition wore heavy wool long underwear as a base layer. Wool is Warm. But, lets face it; wool is scratchy. That is where Frank's Law says: “Silk and Synthetics are Swell”. Synthetic fibers like capeline wick moisture away from the body, retain heat when wet, and aren't scratchy. But, for some of us, they itch anyway. That is where silk comes in. They make silk and synthetic “long johns” in various “weights” from light, (the weight of silk lingerie), to expedition weight, (a light sweater). You can layer a light weight silk under an expedition weight synthetic or fleece and be toasty when it is freezing outside and still not feel scratchy or itchy.

The various cotton long johns that are available at the stores don't follow our law (Cotton is Cold) and are to be avoided.

A pair of pants, preferably wool or synthetic, comes next. On the top, a silk or synthetic turtle-neck shirt, followed by some combination of wool shirt, wool sweater, fleece vest, fleece jacket, down vest, down jacket, or parka.

Again, avoid cotton.

The last layer is the outer shell. A nylon windbreaker or Gore-Tex outer layer is used instead of Shackleton's Burberrys. There are also new products like Tech-2 fabric and wind-bloc fleece. Jackets, parkas and pants made of those wind-block fabrics are available. The concept is to provide the “invisible garment of warmed air” Worsley mentioned above so the wind doesn't steal your body's heat. That is also why you will be cold even if you “layer” a dozen cotton sweatshirts—the wind blows right through them.

So, the key to layering is to have a good base layer of silk or synthetic long underwear and wool socks, then to add or subtract appropriate layers to stay warm without perspiring, and have a good outer wind block layer when needed. If you do perspire, the fabric will still retain your body heat when wet and you stay comfortable.

The layers will vary with the season and locale. Using Frank's Law of Fabrics you can design a layering system where you will be comfortable in the harshest winter, or in climates like the Adirondacks and Maine in the summer, where damp cotton clothing is the main cause of hypothermia on the hiking trails.

Where do you find the synthetic long johns, wind-block pants, and good boots? Camping, fishing, hunting and sporting goods stores are a good place to start. Some places you can shop, in person or by catalog, are: Dick's Sporting Goods, Gander Mountain, Rocky Boots, Big Bass Pro Shops, LL Bean, Eastern Mountain Sports, Recreational Equipment, and the big daddy of them all, Cabela's. Get good gear and it will serve you well for years. (Don't worry; you are going to get paint on it anyway!)

Let's face it. If you are wet, cold, and miserable, chances are you are not going to be in the mood to create Art. If you are appropriately dressed, warm, dry and comfortable, you at least have a chance. Happy painting!

(This article was slightly trimmed for space; for the complete text, go to the OPAS website.)



Paintout Schedule

December 2nd, 2006—German Village, Columbus OH

Paintout 9:00 AM - NOON Lunch Art Talk till 3:00 PM
German Village Meeting Haus, East side of 3rd St, Columbus, OH
Host: Edie Dean - please email Edie with an RSVP pdfgrp@earth-link.net
9:00 AM : Coffee will be ready at the Meeting Haus. Start painting whenever you wish.
NOON : Lunch
Until 3:00 PM : Art Talk - topic(s) to come.

2005's December program was similar to this, but held in Worthington, with lunch following at La Chatelaine. It was so popular that Edie Dean decided to plan it again. This year Edie has booked us into the German Village Meeting Haus, coffee and bathrooms available. Members will be painting from 9:00 AM to NOON. Lunch will follow—it will be either a Pot Luck or people can buy their lunch at Katsinger's Deli up the street from the Meeting Haus. Cup O Joe's is across the street, as well as Starbucks's Coffee. Updates on the lunch part of this as time gets nearer.

This year's art talk will be divided into smaller groups so folks don't get scared about giving their thoughts and opinions. Remember the Impressionists met weekly in a Paris caf, on the Left Bank to talk about their ideas and working methods. They were passionate about what they were doing, and heated discussions were common.

January 2007—Museum Paintouts, Multiple Counties

Info to come!

February—Homestead Park, Franklin County

Host : Carol Cosgrove; info to come!

March 10, 2007 Saturday—Annual Meeting, Franklin County

Loy Hall Studio, Capital Univ, College and Main, Columbus, OH
Speakers: Jennifer King: *Getting Noticed—Promotion for the Emerging Artist*; Greg Moulin: *Demystifying Giclees*

We have Michael McEwan to thank for the privilege of using his studio/classroom space, and Michael is working to get OPAS in to see a show at the Schumacher Gallery on that date. The show is an invitational show of pieces from galleries around Columbus and it promises to be interesting. In addition to the speakers, there will be a business meeting with election of officers. If you want to nominate someone to serve as an officer, please contact Debra Dawson for details. The board is still working out the nominating process, but she will be the key to announcements on this issue.

The meeting will start at 8:30 with coffee and donuts, and we hope to conclude around 1:00 or so, without a lunch break. Those attending may "brown-bag" a lunch if they wish.

DIRECTIONS: Get yourself to I-70.

From the south & west & if you are coming south on I-71:

I-70 East Exit at Main St. Bexley - go straight until you dead-end at a traffic (Kroger in front of you). Right onto Main St. Right onto College Ave. Loy Gym is the building at the first left you see (1/2 block) into a small parking lot which is on both sides of the building. The double doors to enter are at this first left turn (not the front of the building). A sign will be on the door.

From the East: I-70 West, Exit Livingston Ave. Left at end of ramp (Livingston Ave.) Right at first light (Alum Creek Dr.) straight until it dead ends (Kroger in front of you) Right onto Main St. Right onto College Ave.

April—Westerville/New Albany

Franklin County
Host : Elaine Freeman

May—Fredericktown

Host : Dede Dufrense

June 16 & 17, 2007—Marblehead Peninsula—Paintout & Sale

Marblehead, OH
Ottawa County
Planned & Hosted by Rick & Mary Dziak at 9163 E. Bay Shore Rd
Marblehead, Ohio
dziak@cros.net 419.798.4994 or 419.494.4445
Area Information: Links for more information about the area
Marblehead Chamber of Commerce - www.marbleheadpeninsula.com
Lakeside, Ohio - www.lakesideohio.com
Ottawa County Visitors Bureau - www.lake-erie.com

July 2007—Loveland

Host : Deidre Dyson

August 2007—Toledo

Host : Dave Smith

September 21, 22, 23, 2007

4th Annual Plein Air Juried Competition

New Philadelphia, OH, Tuscarawrus County
Website : <http://www.neohiotravel.com/>
2007 Co-Chairs: Jon Browning: 614.464.3900 JBrowning@BrowningCooke.com
Debra Joyce Dawson: 740.927.3078 debra@ohiopleinairsociety.com

OPAS has secured lodging at the following locations:

The Schoenbrunn Inn, with rooms ranging from \$71.95 to \$81.95/night. Includes hot breakfast, indoor pool, hot tub, sauna, and fitness room. Reservations must be made by August 23, 07; 64 rooms now available; Telephone 800-929-7799
Super 8, \$65.00.night. 15 rooms available. Reservations must be made by August 21, 07; Telephone 330-339-6500;
Motel 6, \$42.99, subject to change; 20 rooms available. Reservations must be made by August 21, 07; Telephone 330-339-6446.

We tried to offer a variety of options in terms of cost, and all of these hotels are within a stone's throw of each other, so we can avoid the drive forced on us last year. The hotels are also within walking distance of the banquet facility that will be our meeting place. Also note that there are other hotels in the area, but those listed above have guaranteed special rates.

In response to your ideas and suggestions, we will make some changes to the competition this year. Changes will include awarding an Artists' Choice Award to the artist whose painting is selected by the members. And we will mark the winners clearly so that you each will know who won.

Rick Dziak is working on securing a judge for the competition, and this judge will also (we hope) present a workshop in conjunction with the competition. Details to follow. Among other changes will be awards for Best Architecture, Best Cow Painting, and Best Water Feature, again, details to follow. We will also revamp the raffle contest. The competition will see other changes in 2007, nothing major, but more interesting and more chances for more artists to participate in the awards. Stay tuned, and check the website for information as it is posted.

Pataskala, OH 43062-0342
PO BOX 342

THE OHIO
PLEIN AIR
SOCIETY



From the President

An eventful year for OPAS is closing on a high note. We have more members than we've ever had before, the 2006 Competition was a success, and our paint outs were well attended. More to the point, the quality of paintings among our artists is on the rise. So, we're getting better. Still, OPAS is looking ahead to 2007.

Planning for the coming year has begun in earnest. Special events to look for in 2007 include the High Road Gallery Exhibition in February, the annual meeting on March 10, the Fourth Annual Competition in September, and the Springfield Museum of Art Exhibition in November. Interspersed with these events will be the usual paint outs, critiques, and art discussions, including the famous Marblehead paint out in June.

Perhaps our most ambitious project for 2007 will be a comprehensive review of the Ohio Plein Air Society's bylaws by a select committee. The goal of the committee will be to review the bylaws with an eye toward ferreting out inconsistent or ineffective policies, and to suggest new policies to the board on how OPAS might revise or amend the bylaws to better serve the future needs of our members. In short, we want to prepare a young arts organization for the leap from childhood to adolescence. We hope to have first drafts of proposed revisions for review by this spring.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to again thank those who have helped make OPAS a growing success. In particular, Carol Cosgrove, Debra Dawson, Edith Dean, Rick Dziak, Susi Havens-Bezaire, Tom Harbrecht, Paul Reif, and Bill Westerman have worked hard putting together programs, exhibitions, and the competition. There are many others, including the unsung Sherpas, who deserve to be mentioned but space does not allow. Anyway, the next you see any one of these folks, tell him or her thank you. They deserve it.

—Jon

From the OPAS Board of Trustees:

The OPAS Board is accepting nominations for the appointment of Trustees.

Those wishing to apply are asked to please submit a letter of interest and any supporting documents or material that you may wish the board to consider. Submissions should be in writing or via e-mail to the secretary of the board, and must be received by November 30. The Board meets quarterly. The appointment is for three years.

Email your submission to the Secretary of the Board at: debra@ohiopleinairsociety.com ;

Snail mail to: OPAS, PO BOX 16264, Columbus, OH 43216