



# The Ohio Plein Air Society

## Newsletter

Winter 2005, Volume 3, Issue 4

### Paint Out Dates 2006

Below is what we have lined up so far, so you may mark your calendars to save these dates. More info will come by email and snail mail, and most up-to-date info will be placed on the website in a few weeks.

#### Saturday Schedule

##### January 7th — Franklin Park Conservatory

1777 East Broad St., Columbus, OH

Adults \$6.50 Seniors \$5.00

Paintout begins at 9:00 but the park opens to the public that day at 10:00. OPAS members will be allowed early admission. They gave us no ending time, so we may possibly paint till 3:00, our normal paintout hours. Parking is free. [www.fpconservatory.org](http://www.fpconservatory.org)—their site is good, with maps, events and pictures.

##### February 11—The Three Museums

Columbus Museum of Art, Toledo Museum of Art, and Cincinnati Art Museum

Confirmed: Columbus, must pay admission and painters will have to fill out a permission form. (See inside)

Tentatively confirmed: Toledo and Cincinnati, both no admission

<http://www.columbusmuseum.org>

<http://www.toledomuseum.org>

<http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org>

March 11 - Annual Meeting

April 8 - OSU Wetlands, Columbus, OH

May 13 - Pine Tree Barn, Wooster

June 10 & 11 - Marblehead

July 15 - Springfield area paintout

August 27 - Lima (tentative date)

September 22, 23, 24 - OPAS Nelsonville Competition

October 14 - 15 - Henney Farm, New Philadelphia

November - to come

December - to come

Weekday Schedule: (to be updated as dates become firm)

Friday, Sept 8 - Prairie's Edge, South Vienna, OH

Ohio Plein Air Society Logo Hats & Aprons  
Just in time for Holiday shopping!  
Aprons \$18.00 specify black or tan  
Hats \$20.00 specify black or tan  
Shipping and handling \$4.95

Place your order today  
quantities are limited!

Don't get caught out standing in your field without proper attire.  
Please make checks payable to OPAS and mail to  
Bridgette Turner Treasurer 215 Piedmont Road Columbus OH 43214  
or e-mail: [btumer@columbus.rr.com](mailto:btumer@columbus.rr.com)

*And don't forget IPAPA's First Brush of Spring at New Harmony, IN April 13-15*

### OPAS Member News

A warm welcome to our newest members: The Indiana Plein Air Painters Assoc (IN), Tom Durnford (Lucas Co.), Larry Golba (Lucas Co.), Susan Doster (Warren Co.), and Sharon Weaver (Crawford Co.)

Please make these changes in your rosters:

Susan King new email [kingsusie@hotmail.com](mailto:kingsusie@hotmail.com)

Elaine Freeman new phone 614-939-0021, new email [elaineart@insight.rr.com](mailto:elaineart@insight.rr.com)

Correction: In the last issue, Owen Foster, shown painting with Mark Gingerich on page 3, was incorrectly identified as Owen Findlay. We apologize for the error.

# Exhibitions need Chairmen:

OPAS needs someone to step up to the plate and take the responsibility for this upcoming exhibition. It is my goal for the future to get more members involved in planning and taking responsibility of OPAS activities. Exhibitions Chairman, Paul Reif, has informed me that there are two outstanding exhibitions on the books that need attention. Please consider how you may help your organization! Many thanks from the President.

**1st Exhibition: Curated All-Member Exhibition at Motorist Mutual Insurance Group Building  
471 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio.  
September 18th - October 19th 2006.**

This exhibition is in the Central Area of Ohio, in downtown area of Columbus. At least half of our 150 members lives in this central area, so it should be easy for someone to come forward and take this on. It is one of the easiest jobs to do for OPAS, involving a few emails or phone calls, and two mornings of time.

There are no awards with this exhibition, just an opportunity to have your work displayed. Sales have been made at this venue. It is a beautifully-lit and busy office building across from the Columbus Museum of Art. High visibility for sure!

A small hanging committee might be needed as well, so don't hesitate to say what you can do for OPAS.

## What is involved?

Contacting Mark Dobner (email and phone below)  
coordinate a time with Mark for intake of work  
hanging the exhibition (including numbering it on the wall)  
making a total list of all works, along with contact info, and getting it to Mark  
liaison for any sales made during the exhibition  
setting up a date and time for take down of work  
setting up the next date for a future exhibition (you don't have to be chair of that)  
Please read the info below carefully and contact Debra at [debra@ohioleinairsociety.com](mailto:debra@ohioleinairsociety.com) if you can help.  
If no member comes forward, this exhibition opportunity will be cancelled, and most likely lost for the future.  
Time to decide how important these opportunities are to you.

Contact: Marc E. Dobner  
Senior Graphics Specialist  
The Motorist Insurance Group  
614-225-8290  
fax:614-225-1487  
[marc.dobner@motoristgroup.com](mailto:marc.dobner@motoristgroup.com)

## **Second exhibition - HIGH ROAD GALLERY - OPAS Juried Exhibition**

12 East Stafford Avenue, Worthington, OH 43085  
614.781.6454; [www.highroadgallery.org](http://www.highroadgallery.org)  
Wed. – Fri. : Noon to 4:00 PM; Saturday : 12:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
Opening reception: first Sunday of the month, February 6th from 2 to 4 p.m.  
The exhibition continues through all four weeks of February.  
Juror : to be announced

This exhibition will require a little more time and planning from someone.

## What is involved:

- Coordinating the dates and times with the gallery director.
- Securing a juror for the exhibition.
- Preparing the copy for an exhibition card. (If you don't have computer experience we have members that do.)
- Funding a hanging committee. The director usually helps with this.
- Numbering and preparing a list of all works and providing this list to the gallery director.
- Getting award ribbon
- Organizing members to sign up to gallery sit. (This is done with a sign up sheet when members drop off their work.)
- Organizing members to bring food for the reception. (Again, members sign up to bring food for the opening.)

—Debra Joyce Dawson

## Schumacher Gallery reminder

Don't forget to submit slides for jurying into this very important exhibition. Slides and completed application forms must be received at the Schumacher Gallery by January 27, 2006. Note, this is not a postmark date; they must have the materials in hand by that date. For further information and application forms, see the previous newsletter or go to the OPAS Website. Let's all do our best to make this a high quality show.

# Columbus Museum Permission Form

Below, please find the Columbus Museum of Art's regulations regarding the copying of artworks in the galleries. We hope you will read over them carefully and understand the need for each requirement. Please sign this form and return it to Brian Smith, Head of Security so that it will be on file before you arrive. When you are ready to set up an appointment to paint, please call Mr. Smith, at 629-0317

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned agree to the following conditions before I begin painting in the galleries of the Columbus Museum of Art.

I will contact the Head of Security to make an appointment to paint for each and every visit.

I will provide suitable photo identification, eg. current driver's license or passport.

I agree to allow security to check my materials, painting supplies, & baggage upon entrance and exit.

I understand that the work I create on premises may not be removed from the building without approval from Security and Curatorial.

I will paint no closer than four (4) feet from any work in order to avoid any unintentional damage to artworks on view.

I will provide a drop cloth under the working area. This cloth will sufficiently shield the floor from any spilled or dropped paint within the working area. Also, I know the use of sprays and fixatives is prohibited.

I understand that I will be financially responsible for the conservation needed to repair any damage to artwork, objects, walls or floors that occurs due to my painting.

I understand that the Museum reserves the right to restrict the length or frequency of my visits.

I agree not to paint in galleries which house temporary exhibitions. The museum also reserves the right to deny access to any object not owned by the museum.

I understand that no copy may exceed 40 inches in either dimension, regardless of the size of the original.

I realize that I am not allowed to seek sales for my work while on Museum property.

I will defer to Docent and Museum led tours and temporarily cease my work while they talk.

I understand that the Security or Curatorial Department may cancel my privileges in the galleries for conduct detrimental to the works of art.

The piece I will be copying is  
(Artist)

(Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed)(date)

## Sharing a chateau with Kevin Macpherson

(OPAS member Susan Astleford took part in Kevin Macpherson's *Plein Air Masters Mentor Workshop* from September 17-24, 2005 at the Chateau du Soudun, Neons-sur-Creuse, France. Here is her account of that unique experience.)

It was just the chateau I was anticipating!

The drawbridge led us across the 'moat' through the red door and into an impeccably restored six-bedroom chateau of beautiful appointments and unusual proportion. And the 71 spiral steps leading to our bedroom helped to balance

out the three delectable meals per day. The views from our bedroom were spectacular at sunset and when the mist rose over the Creuse River. Kevin and Wanda Macpherson were absolutely delightful hosts. While Kevin painted with us and suggested improvements for our paintings, Wanda was behind the scenes making sure that all went smoothly. The box lunches that Wanda delivered were especially welcome while painting en plein air. Wine flowed at the welcome party in the round turret room with its six plush sofas and ottomans, at the dinner tables and regular critiques in their apartment. Kevin has a hilarious sense of humor and at least three alter-egos, which all kept us entertained! It's rather unusual for 'outsiders' to be readily accepted in France, but we saw that both Kevin and Wanda have made warm friends in the villages.

We were transported in a van every day to two painting locations, all spectacular. There were rivers, boats, villages, bridges, cows, cottages, bistros and gardens to paint. One afternoon a model posed among the water lilies in a green boat on the Anglin River, and on the last day we were treated to a painting day (and tea!) at the chateau of the very hospitable Madame Jourdan, complete with gardens, orchard and vineyard.

The four other students were good artists and comrades—all were accomplished painters. (I would think that a beginning student would be frustrated, as Kevin does not help with the basics.) Kevin painted with us and invited anyone to stand next to him and paint from his viewpoint. My husband Paul enjoyed his week by playing golf, taking photos of the group and generally losing himself in the Poitou-Charente countryside. And another spouse, a writer, recited a poem of his impressions of the week at our au revoir dinner.

FYI—The program now includes six students instead of five, breakfast only (with dinner supplements) and will be located in a different (but I'm sure equally beautiful) chateau. Also, the Macphersons are the creators of the program and other mentors may not be as connected to the locale as they are.

What did I gain from the Workshop?

I now have a greater sense that "I'm okay," that I'm traveling in the right direction and at the proper speed with my art. I appreciated the networking especially. And I enjoyed the opportunity to paint with my peers and to spend a week with the Macphersons and my husband in a peaceful and charming part of France.



Susan pays close attention as Kevin critiques her work.

## Plein Air Painting Not for the Thin-Skinned

In lieu of what some have come to think of as our traditional December paint out at Lynd's Orchard, followed by a luncheon get-together at the Dawson home, the OPAS December paint out happened this year on the streets of Old Worthington. Along High Street, the storefronts were filled with decorations for the coming holiday. Old fashioned street lights wrapped in greenery and red bows, porches with sleighs, trees with lights and wreaths on the doors gave the artists much to choose from.

OPAS painters who own thermal underwear and "tootsie toes" were sure to put their cold weather gear to good use on this bitter cold day in early December. The earliest painters were hard at work by 9AM. Many artists painted while others came just to make sketches to use later back in their studios. We had an excellent turnout that included 33 artists, spouses and friends. It was exciting to see a few of our newer member joining us, as well as many "old" familiar faces. By noon, most were finished painting and headed to La Chatelaine on High Street for lunch and conversation about art. We gathered together in a cozy back room and were grateful for the warmth and friendship of fellow artists.

A few topics for open discussion were suggested on handouts to stimulate a dialog about painting, such as "What is a good painting?" and "Should I push my color?" A few other topical questions and advice were brought up about plein air painting as well as questions about the show criteria scheduled in March at the Schumacher Gallery at Capital University.

Thank you to Edie Dean and Brian Johnston for planning this one!

# The Miami Valley Plein Air Belles History

It began with a watercolor class Donna Pierce-Clark was teaching at the Troy Hayner Cultural Center in Troy, Ohio ..

One of my students, Marsha Elliott, asked me if I'd like to get together sometime to just paint for fun—not as teacher and student, but just friends. After we mentioned in class that we were going to paint on the levee in Troy, several other students joined us for that first paint-out. It rapidly snowballed from there. After the levee paint-out, I casually suggested we have a name so Marsha and I



Four of the Belles at a recent exhibit.

emailed, tossed some ideas around with some of the others, and within a week, we came up with our present group name. From there we have grown to a small group of 10 women, with a schedule for multiple paint-outs, paint-ins, and several shows for 2006!! Our first major plein air show will be at the Night Sky Coffee Shop, a large, many walled shop in downtown Troy, in April of 2006. We paint sometimes every Saturday, sometimes every other Saturday. Interest is high and our focus is enjoying one another's company, encouraging and learning from one another.

We are mostly of the baby boomer generation, in the "grandmother" stage of life, with one member we lovingly refer to as our "daughter" who is expecting in May. We are of varied backgrounds and training:

Donna Pierce-Clark, a new member of OPAS, and a longtime member of WOWS (Western Ohio Watercolor Society), holds a Masters in Education and is a former teacher, in both art education and special education. After teaching art in several local high schools, teaching special education, and home-educating her son (now a senior at OSU in architecture),

she has taken several watercolor workshops: Cheng Khee Chee, Pat Dews, Joseph Fettingis, and Paul St. Denis. Her most recent, Pat Dews, may possibly be her last, as Pat said, "There comes a time to stop doing workshops, and that time is for you to paint." Since dedicating her time to painting, Donna was delighted to receive the 2005 BEST OF SHOW in the Winter Show of Western Ohio Watercolor Society.

Marsha Elliott has been employed as a sign artist for 38 years, and has worked in various shops around the country. She has taken a 2 year correspondence course, 2 watercolor classes under the teaching of Richard Childs, and under Donna, an acrylics and a watercolor class using YUPO paper.

Karen Fahey studied under Don Kerr for several years in Piqua. A student of Donna's, Karen, has also taken classes from several other teachers: photography, drawing, composition and water color at Edison studying under George Crown, and as well, has earned an Associates Degree in Commercial Art from Sinclair.

Shirley Harbaugh, also a member of WOWS, and a former high school art teacher, her most recent workshops have been taught by Donna Zagotta, Mark Mahaffey, Charles Reid and Judi Betts.

Lori Larreategui, our "daughter," a financial consultant, and a very busy doctor's wife is soon to be a new mother, has been painting for 12 years. In college, Lori learned to love acrylic abstracts, but enjoys painting en plein air more and more! She also has had several classes at the Hayner with both Richard Childs and Donna.

Pauline Persing is a beautiful portrait painter! She has taken a few drawing classes from Curtis Barnes, Sinclair Community College, also taken oil painting and color theory from Ernie Koerlin at Wright State, and watercolor from George Crown at Edison. She meets with Donna every other month and says she is getting good pointers from her.

Jerri Smith, runs a carpet business with her husband in Troy, and also has had several classes at the Hayner with both Richard Childs and Donna. Jerri holds us together and keeps us in line. She is a dynamic person, has had a pacemaker put in this year, and just bubbles with energy!

Carol Strayer currently an office manager/accountant, has enjoyed photography for about 30 years and was a wedding photographer for 10 years. A master gardener, she has taken drawing under George Crown at Edison, a watercolor class from Barb Sailor in Sidney, Richard Childs and Donna in Troy at the Hayner Cultural Center, and a watercolor class at Fairborn Art Assoc. from Sue Brezine.

Sue Stratton, one of our beginners, has taken watercolor class under Richard Childs.

Jeanne Wenrick has taken workshops from Arleta Pech (2), Mort Solberg, and Pat Dews, and has been painting for 4 years. She enjoys watercolors and works realistically with much attention to detail and color layering. She is a certified senior instructor in Art Silver Clay and teaches classes on making silver jewelry at Troy Hayner Cultural Center and the Dayton Art Institute.

## OPAS Members Exhibiting

*Landscape*—January 9 – 25, 2006 Concourse Gallery, Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Rd., Upper Arlington, OH

Artists: Rick Akers, Betsy Arvidson, Malcolm Baroway, Debra Dawson, Michael Hoza, Stacy

Leeman, Edwin Shuttleworth, III, Rachel Stern

Opening Reception: January 9, 2006 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.

Art Speak Program: January 18, 2006 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.

Pataskala, OH 43062-0342  
PO BOX 342

THE OHIO  
PLAIN AIR  
SOCIETY



## OPAS Bank Statement as of Nov 30, 2005

StatementDate	Check/Withdraws	Deposits	Balance
1-1- TO 1-31-05	438.95	2434	8947.06
2-01 to 2-28-05	557.88	305	8777.06
3-01 to 3-31-05	433.42	330	8673.64
4-01- to 4-29-05	344.9	120	8448.74
4-30 to 5-30-05	350	210	8308.74
6-01 to 6-30-05	2003.39	2915	9220.35
7-01 to 7-29-05	1790.35	2896	10326
7-30 to 8-31-05	232.37	1382	11475.63
9-1 to 9-30-2005	6599.69	5968	10771.94
10-1 to 10-31-2005	2987.38	0	7784.56
11-1 TO 11-30-2005	351.14	2100	9533.42

## The OPAS Paint Out Chairman



OPAS Paint Out Chairman, **Susi-Havens Bezaire**, stands in Ohio's first 2005 snow at OSU Wetlands in November. Susi is in charge of lining up our monthly paintout events and is doing a great job of coming up with interesting and paintable locations.

Paintings must be looked at and looked at and looked at — they (the good ones) like it. They must be understood, and that's not the work either, through the eyes. No writing, no singing, no dancing will explain them. They are the final, the n<sup>th</sup> whoopee of sight. A watermelon, a kiss may be fair, but after all have other uses.

“Look at that!”

is all that can be said before a great painting, at least by those that really see it.

Charles Demuth

← The sign to the left was found hanging in artist Charles Demuth's Lancaster PA home, now a museum.