



Maryland Pastel Society Summer Newsletter

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MPS Board & Volunteers

Co-Pres: Dawn Capron and Joyce Lister

Treas: Mary Anne Warner

Corr.Sec: Linda Light

Rec.Sec: Barbara Steinacker

Membership: Kathleen Risk

Workshops: Joyce Lister

Exhibition Chair: Susan Gleason

July 2015

From the President's Easel

Hello All!

Summer brings mixed blessings to the Mid-Atlantic. I hope you are finding shady spots for plein air work or enjoying the refuge of your studio.

ART DESTINATION EVENT, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1
The MPS board recently visited the Chesapeake Fine Art Studio on Kent Island in preparation for our Saturday, August 1st General Meeting. The studio is located in a stunning, light-filled building just minutes past the Bay Bridge. The owner of the facility and our hostess, Hai-Ou, couldn't be more gracious and we are very appreciative that she is loaning MPS her studio for the day at no cost. David Lawton will provide a figure drawing demo for the whole group, followed by small group instruction with live, clothed models. David also is not charging MPS a dime for his time. Thanks David! The only cost to MPS will be the models' fees.

The meeting will begin at our usual time, 12:00 noon, and end with a critique that will run from about 3:30 to 4:30. David is inviting attendees to bring work from home to be included in the critique. Easels will be provided as will floor coverings. If you have a portable side table to put next to your easel, please bring it. Some are available, but quantities are limited. You will need to bring your pastels, supports, etc. That said, David noted during the planning session that members who would rather watch than paint are welcome too. If you haven't yet signed up to attend the meeting, and

SOP 2015**Chair:** Susan Ellis**Web:** Mary Boeh**Planning
Calendar**

July 15: Deadline for receipt of "Shades of Pastel" entries

Jul 8 - Aug 23: "Pastel Viewpoints" Members-only show at Quiet Waters, Annapolis

Aug 1: Summer Meeting at The Chesapeake Fine Art Studios, Stevensville, Maryland

Oct 5- 28: SOP show at the Hill Center, Washington, DC

Oct 24: Fall Meeting at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood

would like to, please send an email soonest to mdpastels@gmail.com.

MPS BOARD: WORKING FOR YOU and IN NEED OF A RECORDING SECRETARY!

This is an especially busy time for the MPS board. Coming up fast on the calendar is the "Pastel Viewpoints" exhibit at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, opening July 8th, reception July 12th. Linda Light and Susan Gleason have been preparing for months to nail down the site, acquire the juror, prepare the prospectus, work with the juror on the selection process, plan the reception, and coordinate volunteers to hang the paintings. Likewise, Susan Ellis has been going through a similarly taxing process for the 2015 SOP. Submissions are due July 15th.

The exhibit reception and opening are on October 5th at the Hill Center Gallery in DC. Updates with details for both exhibits follow in this newsletter.

Of course, the board's duties do not just begin and end with exhibits. We're planning now for guest presenters and workshop leaders for 2016, and we are scouting the area for the best 2016-2017 exhibit venues. Most of this effort is coordinated at quarterly board meetings held one month prior to each General Meeting. The person who kept us on track by way of her reliable note-taking skills (not to mention her kind-hearted manner, winning personality, talented artistry...) is Barbara Steinacker, our recording secretary. Unfortunately for MPS, Barbara is moving to North Carolina soon. If you are a Signature Member and have an interest in serving in this position, PLEASE contact a board member ASAP. We are in a bind for sure. Not a trained secretary? Doesn't matter a whit! Willingness to serve is the main qualification.

Happy Painting!

Dawn

Next Meeting

As noted above, our Summer General Meeting is August 1st on the Eastern Shore.

As always, please remember to bring

- lunch for yourself.
- food to share so you can put your name in the box and perhaps win a prize.

- samples of your recent work.

See you on Saturday, August 1st at the Chesapeake Fine Arts Studio.

The address and phone number for the studio are:

609 Thompson Creek Road, Stevensville, MD 21666
(410)-200-8019

Directions to the studio, from the web
[page](http://www.chesapeakefineartstudio.com/)<http://www.chesapeakefineartstudio.com/>:

The location is centrally located just 15 minutes from Annapolis, 45 minutes from Washington DC, 40 minutes from downtown Baltimore, 2 hrs from Philadelphia and 3hrs from New York city.

From the western shore (i.e. Washington D.C.); travel east on Rt. 50 and cross over the Bay Bridge. Take the second exit (Thompson Creek Rd.) and go through the traffic circle. Follow Thompson Creek Rd. approximately 1/2 mile to 609 Thompson Creek and turn left onto a long gravel driveway to the studio.

From the eastern shore (i.e. Ocean City); travel west on Rt. 50 and exit at Rt. 8. (This is the last exit before the Bay Bridge, so be careful not to cross it by accident). Turn left onto Rt. 8 and then again to get onto Rt. 50 east. Take the next exit (Thompson Creek Rd.) and go through the traffic circle. Follow Thompson Creek Rd. approximately 1/2 mile to 609 Thompson Creek Rd. and turn left onto a long gravel driveway to the studio.

Upcoming Workshops & Opportunities

The MPS workshop with Doug Dawson in October IS NOW FULL.

The three-day workshop is October 1-3, 2015 at Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC.

If you wish to be added to the waiting list, please contact Joyce Lister.

Please visit the [MPS web page for additional information](#).

We post information about other local workshops and activities in our membership area that our members share with us. Please check our website for these other local

activities. They can be found under the [Artist Opportunities](#) section of the MPS web page.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Members Only show at Quiet Waters

It's here! Our members-only juried show, *Pastel Viewpoints*, opened July 8th. The reception is Sunday, July 12th from 2-4pm. Don't miss it!

The show is at the Willow Gallery, Quiet Waters Park, 600 Quiet Waters Park Road, Annapolis, Maryland, and runs from July 8-August 23, 2015.

The Galleries at [Quiet Water Park](#), located in Annapolis, MD is the venue for our Members Only show. The park offers a Visitor Center, formal gardens as well as the art galleries. Situated between the South River and Harness Creek, Quiet Waters offers a wide variety of activities. Visitors can walk, jog, or bike on over 6 miles of paved trails winding through hardwood forests and past grassy fields, enjoy the vistas of the South River promenade and scenic overlook, or picnic among 340 acres of beautiful park land.

The Maryland Pastel Society is pleased to announce its
2015 "Members Only" Juried Exhibition
at the Quiet Waters Park Gallery, Annapolis, Md.
July 8 through August 23, 2015

FEATURING 65 WORKS BY LOCAL ARTIST MEMBERS OF THE MARYLAND PASTEL SOCIETY,
CREATED IN SOFT PASTEL, THE UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL AND OLDEST OF FINE ART MEDIUMS.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ARTIST'S RECEPTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY
WITH OUR DISTINGUISHED JUROR, MARY PRITCHARD
SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM



DAVID LAWTON: "TRANSFUSED" SUSAN ELLIS: "ONIONS" MARY ROEH: "NIGHT MAGIC"

THE MARYLAND PASTEL SOCIETY'S 2015 JURIED "MEMBERS ONLY" EXHIBITION IS SPONSORED BY THE
FRIENDS OF QUIET WATERS PARK, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS QUIET WATERS PARK
THROUGH VOLUNTEERING, FUNDRAISING, AND ADVOCACY

QUIET WATERS PARK, LOCATED AT 600 QUIET WATERS PARK ROAD, ANNAPOLIS, MD,
IS A FACILITY OF THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS.
GALLERY HOURS: 9 AM TO 4 PM, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, & FRIDAY; 10 AM-4 PM
WEEKENDS; CLOSED ON TUESDAYS.



LYN LAVIANA: "NIGHT LIGHT" JO ANN MARION: "HILLTOP HOUSE"

Shades of Pastel National Show - Entries Due by July 15th!

Tick tock, tick, tock.... Is time flying by as fast as I think it is? It is down to a scant few days until the July 15th submission deadline for our Shades of Pastel Show 2015. In the meantime, we have met with the wonderful people at the Hill Center Galleries multiple times to iron out all the details. We are very excited for what surely will be a fabulous show. Our Exhibition opening on Monday, October 5th, is shaping up to be a great art-filled day!

At the Hill Center Galleries, we have rented the John Phillip Sousa Room - a beautiful light-filled room - for the demo by our juror, Doug Dawson. We suggest signing up for the demo which will be from 1- 4. Afterwards, you'll have time to grab some dinner at one of the many restaurants and cafes

nearby before returning to the gallery for our reception and presentation of awards 6 - 8 pm. The demonstration by Doug Dawson will be a wonderful opportunity to watch his technique up close and personal. Doug is an energetic instructor. He is a founding board member for the The Art Students League of Denver, where he presently teaches a Plein Air class and a Studio Landscape class. He teaches 8 to 10 workshops around the country each year. We are very excited to have the rare opportunity to host him on the East coast for our show. I know I am eager to glean any tips I can about the magical color harmony so apparent in his paintings.

To reserve your spot please email me at sop2015info@gmail.com and send a \$35.00 demo fee to our treasurer Mary Ann Warner, 504 Lloyds Lane Alexandria, VA 22302. We will also accept checks or cash at the door.

After the demo we can recommend many enticing restaurants and cafes for dinner and drinks. The Hill Center Galleries is excited to announce that Chef David Guas opened doors to his second restaurant, Bayou Bakery, Coffee Bar & Eatery, on the grounds of Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital on Capitol Hill. Located in a historic Carriage House, Guas restored it to showcase its original accents - from exposed brick to herringbone-laid stone grounds, wooden hay chutes and feeding troughs. This New Orleans native outfitted the eatery with furnishings and Southern touches that speak to its era and his heritage. Guests enjoy favorites that have become beloved signatures at the Arlington location, such as Beignets, Biscuits, Muff-a-lottas, and nightly "Chew Dat" suppers reflecting the authentic flavors of Louisiana. A strong organic coffee program helmed by Director of Extraction Kyle Pool grounds the menu. Libations range from custom cocktails, boutique wines, and bottled or draft beers from both Louisiana's own Abita Brewing Company and local DC Brau. Other recommendations for eateries within walking distance are:

- Banana Cafe & Piano Bar
- Belga Cafe
- Senarts Oyster and Chop House
- Nooshi (open at 4:30 pm)
- Ted's Bulletin
- Matchbox Capitol Hill
- Pizza Boli
- Ambar
- Spring Mill Bread

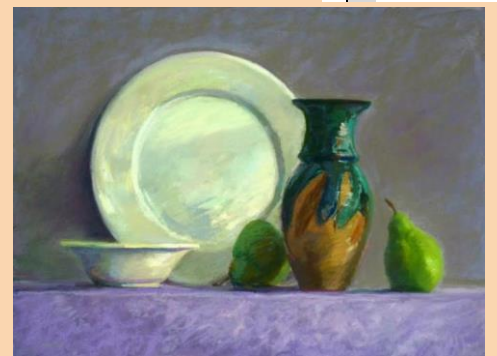
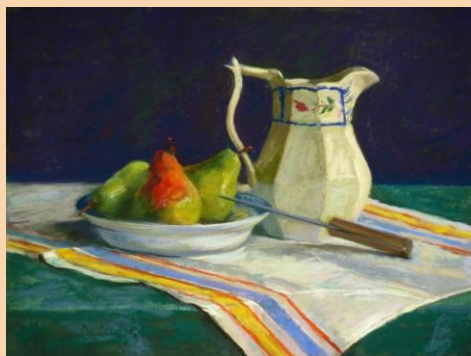
So many choices and all of them open Mondays! At 6 PM, we will start our reception and Awards Presentation. Hill Center Galleries will be providing wine, soda and assorted nuts as we roam the multiple floors of this historic beautiful building and enjoy what will inevitably be a fabulous showcase of pastel painting. The first steps, however, are to get those paintings finished and submitted and sign up for the exciting demonstration by Master Pastelist Doug Dawson!

Learn more about our SOP 2015 show. [Click here to watch this short video.](#)

If you have any questions please email me at sop2015info@gmail.com

Susan Ellis SOP 2015 Chair.

Featured Artist: David Lawton



David Lawton particularly enjoys pastels for not only the immediate gratification that they offer but David believes they are the perfect bridge between drawing and painting. This is because they can be handled either linearly, as one would do in drawing, or more broadly, as a mass similar to painting.

David has had the opportunity to study with several of today's most renowned artists, including portraiture with Cedric and Joannette Egeli. After studying with the Egeli's he continued his education at the Art Students League in New York City. Believing that continuous study is essential to perfecting technique, David still attends workshops with outstanding artists such as Albert Handell, a master pastelist who has had significant influence on David's art.

As far as subject matter, David enjoys doing portraits, still life and plein air painting with pastel, as each offer a unique

challenge which enhances his growth as an artist. David's work has been featured in several magazines such as the "American Artist", "The Pastel Journal", and "The Artist Magazine". He is currently president of the Maryland Society of Portrait Painters and past president of the Maryland Pastel Society as well as a member of several organizations such as the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association and The Pastel Society of America. He continues to exhibit his work in national competitions, where he has received numerous awards.

David currently teaches both privately, and for Anne Arundel Community College. His work is represented by the McBride Gallery in Annapolis Md.

Visit his web page to see more of his paintings www.lawtonfineart.com



Inspiration Corner

Presidential Pointers

The Maryland Pastel Society has a legacy of wonderful, dedicated leaders. Here is part 4 in our series of tips from our presidents, past and present:

What Artist Inspires You? Why?

Deborah Maklowski

If I limit my response to artists working in pastel, then I'd have to say (in no particular order): Liz Haywood-Sullivan, Terri Ford, Colleen Howe, Tony Allain, Barbara Noonan, Jennifer Evenhus, Frederick Somers, Barbara Jaenicke - and there are many more. I am particularly drawn to abstract painters and to those whose work, though representational, is clearly grounded on the principles of excellent abstract design. I also admire painters who seem less concerned with

making things LOOK like something and far more concerned with making things FEEL like something. Among non-pastelists, I especially like the work of oil painters Marc Bohne and Charlie Hunter.

Dolores Andrew

I am not inspired by any one artist. I like several. For example, I like the drawings of Michelangelo and early Picasso. I absorb all of the Impressionists at every opportunity, especially Mary Cassatt and Claude Monet. I study Sargent whenever I can, and I have a soft spot for Vermeer.

Jean Hirons

I have always been a devotee of Duane Wakeham. Seeing his work for the first time in an early issue of the Pastel Journal made me say "WOW". No one else's work has impressed me the way his did. I loved the big shapes of harmonious, layered color in his landscapes. To me, they have just the right amount of abstraction and representation, as well as beautiful color. They are the types of landscapes that people emotionally relate to and want to live with. I've wanted to emulate him for years, but I'm a different painter. We have to be true to ourselves. Among younger painters, Barbara Jaenicke's work has become very popular for her beautiful, painterly color. Her paintings are more quiet and introspective than Duane's. I've also always been a big fan of Susan Ogilvie for her strong compositions and color usage.

David Lawton

Many artists inspire me for different reasons however if I had to choose one artist that probably would be Cézanne. Years ago when seeing his blockbuster show in Philadelphia I saw painting after painting done with the same objects. This impacted me because even though he used the same objects each painting was unique and wonderful. That experience gave me permission to paint the same scene or use the same objects over and over. But most importantly I realized the value of painting the same subject matter over and over.

Jack Pardue

I can't name just one artist, so they are Edgar DeGas, Albert Handell, Burton Silverman, William Hosner, and Harvey Dinnerstien. They are all different from each other, but I feel that I have learned great things from all of them. They are all consistent in their work.

Dawn Capron

No, no, no. I'm not coming up with just one pastel artist whom inspires me. It all depends upon whose workshop I'm attending at the time, whose class I'm in, whose demo I'm attending, whose book I'm reading. I'm easily inspired, and I consider that a very fortunate circumstance.

DO YOU TEACH?

If you are, or have been a teacher, of pastel painting or art in general, please raise your hand! We'd like to ask you a few questions -- yes, we want to mine your minds for *Inspiration Corner!* We'd love to have your advice to help inspire other MPS members on their pastel journeys. Please send an email to mdpastels@gmail.com and we will contact you via email.

Member News



Susan Percy was a Demonstration Artist as a promotion for the upcoming "Easels in Frederick" in June. She painted the above pastel at that event. Susan also participated in



Empty Nest, 20x16

Bob Russin's painting was accepted into the Salmagundi Club 37th Annual Juried Painting/Sculpture Exhibition for Non-Members. The show is on display May 26 - June 5, 2015 at the



Dennis Young's pastel painting was awarded Best of Show by Hai-Ou Hou and the People's Choice award in the Quick Draw at the Chestertown Paint The Town competition in

the Barns of Sugarloaf event sponsored by the Frederick County Landmarks Foundation. Susan produced several pastels at the Carrera Farm.

Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Ave. NYC

April. Dennis was also one of 60 national artists juried into the 22nd Annual Carmel Plein Air Festival. He also painted in Plein Air Annapolis in early June.



Help Wanted



Country Creek Crooner



Deborah Maklowski's "Help Wanted" was juried in to the International Guild of Realism's 10th Annual Exhibition, which opens at the Principle Gallery in Alexandria, VA, on August 18, with the artists' reception scheduled for Friday, Aug 28, from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. The show runs through Sep 18.

Susan Klinger's pastel painting, "Country Creek Crooner" received an Award of Excellence at the Courting Art exhibit sponsored by the Montgomery Bar Association. The show was at the Fine Arts Center of Montgomery County Community College, in Blue Bell, PA. Susan's award winning painting will be reproduced for permanent display in the Montgomery County Court House, Norristown, PA. For the remainder of the summer, Susan has two pastels on exhibit at the Community Music School in Trappe, PA.

Libby Stevens is showing about 30 paintings at Hillsborough Vineyard during July and August. If you happen to be in Loudoun county, VA touring the vineyards, come out and share a bottle of their wonderful wine and enjoy an incredible view! For those of you who participated in Richard McKinley's workshop here a few years ago, you will remember the location!

At last count, five MPS members are among the artists juried into the plein air event in *Ellicott City, Paint It! 2015*. They are **Brian Gray, Deborah Cole, Mary Boeh, Greg Johannesen, and Maria Marino.**

Artists will be painting all day Friday - Sunday, July 10-12 with the opening reception Monday July 13, 6-8 PM. The exhibit runs through August 21 at the Howard County Center for the Arts in Ellicott City.

Link to Howard County Arts Council exhibition webpage: [Howard County Center for the Arts: Arts Council](#).

Eve Miller's painting " Nightfall Hunting Island " received a Merit award at the First Coast Pastel Society Member exhibition. Eve was juried into the " For Pastels Only" National Juried Exhibition at the Pastel Painters of Cape Cod. Also, she is juried in the 11th Annual Mile High International Pastel Exhibition, Pastel Society of Colorado.

Joan Howe will have a show at Ginger Cove Retirement Center in Annapolis for six weeks beginning on August 1st. She is entering 30 works--mostly pastels, with a few oils.

Welcome to New Members & Signature Members

We're happy to welcome two new members to the Maryland Pastel Society: V. Shamim Sisson and Richard Bitner.

Also, the board is pleased to announce that Douglas Tweddale is now a Signature Member of MPS. Congratulations!

Past Events

Chris Ivers' NightScape Workshop and Spring Demo Left Lasting Impressions



In April, Maryland Pastel Society was honored to host Christine Ivers for a 3-day Nightscapes workshop at the Howard County Center for the Arts in Ellicott City. The following day, Chris demonstrated her nightscape painting techniques at the Spring General meeting.

"I like to work on black," she explained as she introduced the class to her methods for painting vivid night scenes in pastel.

Chris prepares her own boards for painting. She uses black Gator Board and, with a good quality paintbrush from the hardware store (1 ½ to 2 inches wide), Chris paints black ArtSpectrum ColourFix pastel ground on the Gator Board. She likes the added texture of brush strokes, sometimes using parallel strokes, sometimes random, and on occasion, she will intentionally swirl the brush to create rounded brush stroke patterns. Why Gator Board? Gator Board doesn't warp, and once gessoed, it is archival. Additionally, if you don't like your painting, you can easily wash off the pastel and start over. Don't confuse Gator Board with Foam Core. Foam Core will buckle and dent easily.

After explaining the process, students had the opportunity to prepare their own black Gator Board pastel panels. While the boards dried, Chris demonstrated her technique for blocking out a grid to simplify the drawing process when using a reference photo as follows (see photo below):

1. Place the photo in the upper corner of the board, and

using a ruler (preferably a T-square) and a pastel pencil, draw a diagonal line from corner to corner of the photograph and to the bottom of the board. Where the line intersects the bottom of the board, draw a line to define rectangle of your work space. The resulting rectangle is proportionate to your reference photo.

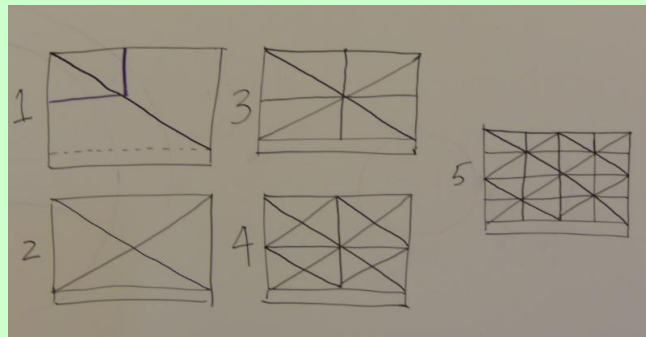
2. Next, using a ruler, draw in the opposing diagonal on the board (see diagram).

3. Once the two diagonals are done, use the T-square to add the vertical and horizontal lines that bisect the rectangle at the center point.

4. Create a "diamond" by connecting the ends of the vertical and horizontal bisecting lines as shown.

5. Using the T-square, add the vertical lines where the diagonals intersect; then add the horizontal lines as shown.

Chris draws the same grid on the reference photo with an ink pen. Then, using a pastel pencil of a different color than that which she used to draw the grid, Christine blocks out the drawing on the board. If she needs to make corrections to the drawing, she may use yet a third color.



While Chris uses this grid system to ensure her drawing is accurate, she emphasizes the importance of developing strong drawing skills, "The one rule I follow is to be a good draftsman. None of us draw enough. You've got to be able to draw. I don't mean sketching; I mean critical drawing."

Once Christine is satisfied with her drawing, she begins to block in the colors. She uses the sides of the pastels to block in the large dark shapes. To get depth in the darks, Chris uses both warm and cool of the same values. She applies the colors in layers. She takes her time. "Play that push and pull of warm and cool... it gives dimension... of going back in space." She quips, "I just want to have fun with it."



Above: Chris has used the grid method to ensure her drawing is accurate. To the right, she has begun blocking in colors. She is careful to cover the grid lines.

When asked whether she starts with hard or soft pastels, Chris noted, "I work more from what I see from colors than from anything else." She uses a mix of pastels. "Rembrandt has the blackest black pastel." She applies a bit to the black board to demonstrate. Once applied, the Rembrandt makes the black ground look like a dark gray. "The darkest color is Terry Ludwig's Eggplant." She likes Diane Townsend's Terrages. "I like the big fat ones for the backgrounds." Chris also singled out Sennelier for having terrific colors for depicting flesh in the dark; she especially likes the Sennelier neutral mauve color.

Students in the workshop really liked working on the prepared Gator Board surfaces. MPS member, Lyn Laviana explained, "Creating panels yourself using Art Spectrum Colourfix Primer created a great surface that is much better than Art spectrum paper. I had assumed it would be the same so I never tried it before. I usually use Golden Acrylic Ground for Pastel which can be quite a bit toothier than Colourfix." Joanne Lamm, from DC, agreed; after the workshop she said she was seriously considering buying large quantities of Gator Board for painting. Maria Marino added that the one new take-away from the workshop for her was "describing a nightscape on a surface that I've never

worked with before. More importantly - painting a nightscape in COLOUR!"

Kay Sandler liked Chris' method of preparing the grid. It's "better than the way I've been doing it, easier and more comprehensive - I am a convert!" Kathleen Risk also liked Chris' grid technique. When asked what her favorite thing was about the workshop, she responded overwhelmingly, "the Diamond Grid!" Ann Sieling noted that learning to grid efficiently was important and it was something that will help with accuracy in scale and placement. Lyn summarized it well, "Adding the diagonals to the grid system for transferring a photograph to the painting surface made the process much simpler and more accurate for complex subjects since you can keep adding more diagonals in the complex areas while leaving the simple areas alone."

Another favorite lesson from the workshop was Chris' approach to doing neon lights. She uses one of her lightest lights, typically a very soft pastel for the core of the light, and then goes around it with color. "It only takes three values to make it glow," Chris told her students. She also demonstrated how to represent other light sources in a nightscape. Joanne Lamm and Elinor Peterson both enjoyed creating "the glow" in the paintings. Judy Stevens from Pennsylvania, noted that she plans to use the newly learned technique to render neon as bright lights.



Above left: Chris demonstrates how color is affected by surrounding colors. On the right - The practice board. Chris used the practice board to show us how to do lights and tires. We were free to experiment on this

board as well.

Students also appreciated Chris' instruction on lettering. Chris was adamant: when you are painting someone's storefront or a place that has signage, if you are going to include the lettering, you have to be accurate. Take the time to do it right, and check your spelling in your draft stage, before you add the color! She also showed the students how to deal with perspective for lettering. One workshop student summed it up beautifully, "Chris taught an easy way to do lettering at odd angles."

This was Alice Neizert's first MPS workshop. In addition to learning about using the ColourFix primer on Gator Board and creating textures on the surface, she raised a point that was important to all the students who were new to nightscape paintings: She learned about selecting the reference photo and how to use a dark photo combined bright colors - a challenge that Chris helped several students to address.

Patricia Stuckert came down from Massachussetts to attend this workshop. Her favorite thing about the workshop was the light, fun, and enthusiastic atmosphere of the workshop. She enjoyed Chris' humor and enjoyed making friends with members of our pastel society. Judy Stevens from PA also found the atmosphere fun and relaxing. There was certainly a lot of laughter among the group. The participants enjoyed the company and painting process.

As one attendee summarized the workshop, "Christine Ivers was a very good instructor. She brought our art up to a new level. She taught us a variety of techniques to handle night time problems of light and shadow, and she assisted each artist as problems arose." And, to top it off, as Mary Ellen Simon put it (and this seems to have been the consensus of all the students), "I made a pretty good painting."

IAPS 2015 - What an Adventure!

Every two years the International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS) holds its biennial convention. This year was the 11th convention, held the first week of June in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Sandy Askey-Adams described IAPS 2015 this way: "VERY FRIENDLY and WARM-HEARTED sharing group of pastel artists attending this convention!! The convention was always

aglow with kindness, and was like getting back in touch with long time friends."

"The convention provided wonderful opportunities to meet other pastel artists and hear what they are doing. It was fun just to be surrounded by so many people with common passions!" observed Fran Phillips.

The International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS) was founded in 1994 as a non-profit organization representing pastel societies worldwide uniting in the common cause to demonstrate the validity and quality of pastel fine art. This coming together of pastel societies provides a strong voice for pastel artists and the luminous medium of pastel. The foundation of IAPS is based on networking and sharing. Individual artists benefit and expand their knowledge through the IAPS Member Society of their choice.

The Maryland Pastel Society is a Member of IAPS.

This year, a number of MPS members attended IAPS. Stan Sperlak and Jean Hirons attended as instructors. Maria Marino, Lyn Laviana, Fran Phillips, Sandy Askey-Adams, Dot Stepenaski, Mary Boeh, and Mary Anne Warner were among the MPS members who attended this year. Mary Anne and Mary represented our MPS board at the President's Forum where they met with other pastel society officers, learned about pastel groups all around the world, and exchanged ideas. Wait - was that Maria with the PSA delegation? It sure was, and she seemed pretty busy! Dot volunteered at the convention and was often to be seen taking attendance and helping instructors at the various sessions being offered.



Jean Hirons at the IAPS exhibition (left) and Sandy Askey-Adams with IAPS founder Urania Christy Tarbet (right).

Maria's favorite event from IAPS 2015 was the gathering of pastel societies evening. She particularly enjoyed spending time with friends old and new.



Left: Maria with PSA - like IAPS, supporting and helping pastel societies is an integral part of PSA's mission. Right: Stan (in the black T-shirt) kept everyone entertained at the Paint Around event.

Lyn's got a kick out of the Paint Around. Sandy explains, "The IAPS Paint Around is a Fun Time ... and is very popular. Five artists bring a photo or sketch for their painting subject. IAPS supplies easels, pastels and surfaces. To increase the suspense, and difficulty, the artists have not previously seen each other's images, and the art materials are not their own."

Desmond O'hagan MC'd the event. Paint Around participants included Stan Sperlak, Marla Bagetta, Tony Allain, Terri Ford, and Alian Picard. Lyn credits Stan and Tony's interactions as making the event particularly fun -- Tony surprised everyone by adding sailboats to Stan's painting. The five paintings were auctioned off to support the IAPS scholarship fund.

Fran attended four demos: Tony Allain, Andrew McDermott, Deborah Stewart and Fred Somers. Her favorites were Tony and Deborah, and she notes that Deborah covered a lot of material that is contained in her book. Fran was inspired by Deborah and now plans to try her hand at abstracts.



Mary Anne gets up on stage to try her hand at abstract painting in Deborah Stewart's demonstration. Fran and Lyn watch as Mary Anne's team create a beautiful painting.

Want to learn more about IAPS2015? Sandy has written a two-part blog article about the convention. Full of great stories and photos, you really will want to check it out at <http://sandymaskeyadams.com/blog>

Many thanks to Maria, Sandy, and Mary for providing photos for this article.

Call For Volunteers

Call for Volunteers

MPS needs a new recording secretary. The Recording Secretary serves on the MPS board, maintains accurate, written minutes for all general, executive, and special meetings. if you are a signature member and want to get involved, please let us know.

Also, we are always looking for help with the newsletter. If you would like to contribute articles, book reviews, or recommend a museum exhibition, please contact mdpastels@gmail.com.

Parting Thought:

"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

- Walt Disney

Maryland Pastel Society | mdpastels@gmail.com | <http://www.marylandpastelsociety.com>

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