



Lake Area
LAAG
Arts Group
JOURNAL

2021-22 Annual Fall/Winter Edition Volume 1 No 1

Cover story

Quest creates yields of artistic bushels



Greetings to each and every one of you who have been with the *Lake Area Arts Group* since its lofty beginnings as well as those who have participated in LAAG's cultural and educational programs in service to the Arts in Mercer County, Ohio, including beyond its borders.

As you page through our newest communication asset, *Lake Area Arts Group Journal*, editorially its initial focus is only to provide an overall view of LAAG's *who, when, where* and *what* our art organization has been primarily doing during its first seven years. Of course, there is much more that has not been recorded from ago as well as today in this inaugural edition, but the main role of the *LAAGJ* is one of historical documentation in print.

In 2014, I returned to my Celina hometown and reconnected with **Ralph** and **Janie Stuckman**. It was during this time, Ralph and others were in the beginning stages of the forming (known as now) the *Lake Area Arts Group*, which consisted of individuals whose main objective was to not only share ideas, but also promote the visual arts.

They have succeeded through art education classes and workshops for area youths as well as extensive *Artist Talks/Exhibitions* throughout the county at a host of public locations. To make a long story much shorter, in 2019 Ralph passed the leadership reins to me. I continued to perform my other tasks related to electronic communications to and for the group.

It was during this 'changing of the guard', the Board adopted a formal operating format to open the gateways to state grant programs and other private and public financial support. Earlier this year, LAAG was a recipient of funding from the *Ohio Arts Council* to be use for art classes, workshops and the 2021 *Grand Lake Arts Exhibition*.

During this few short years, I have had much progressive suggestions, and I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who generously helped us make them all come together to become a success. Over the next few months, you will be learning about our 2022-23 different initiatives being planned where you will be able to join in and get hands on experiences.

Now back to the *Lake Area Arts Group Journal*. I am so proud to present to you this limited print document, which will be also catalogued at our county libraries, however it will also be available online to download for your electronically reading.



Artfully yours,

Sherry Chandler
Executive Director
Lake Area Arts Group

*"A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter: he that has found one
has found a treasure.
There is nothing so precious as a faithful friend,
and no scales can measure his excellence."*

THE BIBLE {KJV} APOCRYPHA, ECCLESIASTICUS



Support the Arts

Lake Area LAAG Arts Group JOURNAL

VOL I NO 1
2021-22 Fall/Winter Annual Edition

The **first** mission of this inaugural edition of the *LAAG Journal* is to serve the organization/ the Lake Area Arts Group, the members, the supporters as well as all the creative minds of all art forms within and bordering its Mercer County, Ohio roots.

Its **second** mission is to carry forward the LAAG's objectives to:

- Provide appreciation of the visual arts.
- Displaying works of area artists.
- Providing opportunities for youth.
- Inspiration to beginners and professionals.
- Encouraging comradery among area artists.

And the **third** mission of the LAAG Journal: To editorially highlight the rewards that come from an active participation in the Arts.

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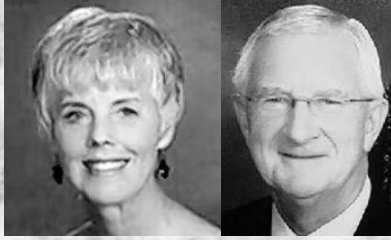
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COVER SECTION LEAD FEATURE

Quest creates yields of artistic bushels

Come along with us and read about a pair of exceptional people, Thomas and Ann Knapke who has left their mark for the Arts in Mercer County.



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COVER SECTION

Touching upon our travels

It was in 2014, a group of patriots banded together in their ride to birth new life into the community with the Arts. This read highlights, in a time capsule format, a good portion of the educational and cultural programming staged throughout the Mercer County/Western Ohio region to 2021.



On the cover . . .

"Sunset on the Grand" photo, 8 x 10 inches by Celina resident Amelia Goff.

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MAIN SECTION LEAD FEATURE

Commitment to the arts for rural western organization is flourishing

The arts has and is succeeding for this rural western Ohio County with talented residents and the formation of a much-needed art organization, the Lake Area Arts Group. On exhibit, throughout this 18-page spread are the award-winning works from the Grand Lake Arts Exhibition.



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LAAG PAINT BOX LEAD ARTIST FEATURE

One huge homegrown talent

As American as apple pie, Debby Gregory's artworks takes the viewer back to those good old days, reassuring whether you are in Maria Stein, Coldwater, Rockford or even San Francisco-you did not leave your heart behind.



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LAAG PAINT BOX ARTIST FEATURE

Creator inspired by people and nature

Diagnosed with dyslexia, learning was difficult and he dreaded school. To escape his frustration, Educator-Artist **Todd Buschur**



would console himself by drawing and coloring, which he found later in life, *“I like the spiritual side of that, of where you are going in life.”* Artwork above by Buschur, *“Until We Meet Again”* acrylic on birch panel, 12.75 x 21 inches.

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LAAG PAINT BOX ARTIST FEATURE

What Makes An Artist?

Upon retirement, **Shirley Wenning** took her leap, feeding her artistic side with the knowledge on what it takes to create dazzling paintings and jewelry.



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MAIN SECTION

Youth art education builds character

All aboard the ‘LAAG Choo-Choo Art Education

and Cultural Train,’ taking those who choose to

board and to make the journeys to experience the fun on what comes from an artistic and academic education.

**Youth + ART
= SUCCESS!**



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Give Thanks for Artistry Under the Dome

She is not a Sally Field, but it is suspected through much determination and pray, Sister **Martha Bertke** made her dream fly. Read about her so-far journeys and the cultural and spiritual connection of art.

On the back cover . . .

Annie Lefeld was awarded 2nd Place in the Grand Lake Arts Exhibition in the Youth category. *"That One Peaceful Night"* is an acrylic, 12 x 16 inches. Annie is a 7th grader at New Bremen Schools.



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A pulp full of art in those grains

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Fabric Media Mania

Marilyn Stall has the skill of turning fabric into delicious pictures of nature-enhanced art.

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LAAG PAINT BOX SECTION

Mudding your way into pottery

"... As a ceramic artist, my passion is ignited by my love for mud and the personal desire I have to spread more creativity to those around me" Braelen Bader

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Miniature artistic sentiments

Sonnie Bernardi specializes in designing customized greeting cards...known for her *"Vintage Ladies"* cards depicting 1920s fashions...

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BULLETIN BOARD SECTION

Shooting the best of times

Formed over 20 years ago, the Celina Area Photo Club continues to capture the joy in photography.

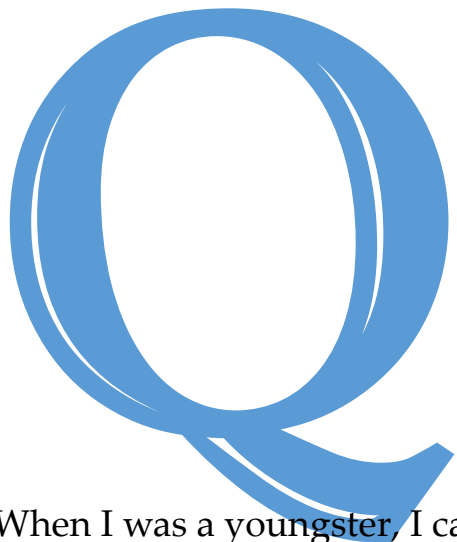
C
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SECTION



Lake Area
LAAG
Arts Group







Quest creates yields of artistic bushels

When I was a youngster, I cannot recall using in my speech as well as knowing what the word **philanthropy** meant, yet alone knew I was practicing it, but I suspect most of us in our single digit age years; we found that sharing was a good thing because

we discovered that giving to other people or important causes made us feel good.

The fact is the way we were talked to and taught about giving matters provided a clear, concise path that encouraged us to be generous and caring.

Today's philanthropists of yesterday were not much different than they are now. They all have a driving desire to share what the world has graciously given them, not expecting a reward or recognition.

Many of us may know, such as the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*, *Ford Foundation*, *Walton Family Foundation* are recognizable on the global scale that contribute heavily to the Arts,

Culture and Education sectors, but there are those right in one's own roots that leave an indelible mark, even though on a smaller fiscal scale.

A fine example of giving back as well as can be termed as paying forward is the *Thomas A.* (1941-2018) and *Ann K.* (1941-2013) *Knapke Art Fund* through the Mercer County Civic Foundation that was formed in 2010. Daughter **Beth Westgerdes** has vowed to fulfill the legacy and mission of her parents for the *Lake Area Arts Group/LAAG* quests. *"My parents were both educators who cared deeply about the artists and arts in our local areas."*

Ann had a lifelong enthusiasm about education in general, but specifically art education. She was an avid promoter of the Arts in Mercer County. Ann also took great pleasure in producing canvas paintings and hoped to inspire others to create art as a means of self-expression.

Alternately, Ann possessed many more special skills. Educated

and engaged in the nursing field, explains her other interests in revolutionary methods of healing and health and wellness.

Beyond her initial medical career path, Ann became a special education teacher, but her greatest love was foremost her family, which also explains her other artistic abilities to include the culinary and fabric arts.

So what is the real meaning of philanthropy and what is its origin? Greek playwright Aeschylus coined the term philanthropy in the 5th century BCE and it meant *"love of humanity."* The purpose of philanthropy is to improve the well-being of humankind by not only improving social issues, but also bringing proven, such as cultural and educational programs to the forefront.

Knapke Art Fund has provided a much longer list that doesn't include just the monetary support, such as to employ professionals to conduct artist workshops with middle and high

Continued next page

school students, exhibition showcases and related public relations fixtures.

I am confident LAAG's first chairman, **Ralph Stuckman** can attest to this, whose also goal is to see LAAG housed in its own downtown location to stage on-going exhibitions, more regular art classes and other venues that carry out the organization's missions.

To effect positive change, regardless of one's status or net worth, philanthropy means generosity is often defined as giving gifts of time, talent and treasure to help make life better for other people. The past and the present leadership, including all those in supporting roles of the *Lake Area Arts Group* have and are doing it for the Grand Lake region.

Per an English proverb, it has also been said when "*Birds of a feather, flock together*" share similar interests and values, including backgrounds, ideas; they tend to stick

together in the goal(s) as effective, powerful change agents in their communities.

Tom's professional history is a *Who's Who in America* with a wide-range of contributions not only in education, which he was a firm believer in higher education and lifelong learning, established the *Thomas A. and Ann K. Knapke Scholarship* through the Western Ohio Educational Foundation at Wright State University Lake Campus,.

His many other involvements range across the local community sectors such as Director of the Small Business Enterprise Center; committed to ensure future generations have the opportunity to enjoy our natural resources, where solutions were formed to improve all inland water quality and in addition became the first facilitator of the Grand Lake St. Marys Restoration Commission.

There are many more national, regional and local roadways Knapke has travelled; thusly leaving trails of Goodwill as a beacon of positive change.

Definitely the *Lake Area Arts Group* has benefitted from the Knapke's generosity, but moreover are those who took advantage of the activities conducted, since LAAG's formidable beginning which are talked about in *Touching upon our travels* on the following page.

In conclusion, I am awestruck on what these patriots have created, reminding me of a quote by Mike O'Neil, "*It is the diversity of our knowledge, experiences, opinions, personalities and spirit that makes us strong. It is the balance that we bring to this team that frees us and enables us to be great! It is each individual's contribution regardless of size that allows us to achieve.*"

Ben Rayman

#



Father and son John R. and John T. Irmischer are a team with over 75 years of combined experience in the food service industry, who provide quality, family oriented restaurants throughout Western Ohio.



Touching upon our travels

Have you ever asked yourself why geese fly in a V-shape formation? Humans may consider this a silly game of following the leader, but it is much more complex than that. Achieving a common goal of reaching a warmer climate each year takes strategy, planning and

communication. Understanding this process may be difficult if you are not a member of the Audubon species, but all living things have their own special way of merging in a common denominator. Human beings are no different in taking on ventures that unite in sharing, learning and growing.

In 2014, a small group of Mercer County, Ohio residents, **Glen Hux, Tom Knapke, Judy Brewer, Barbara Vorhees, Ralph Stuckman** and **Phil A. Long** felt a missing link in their community and set out to right it. Their goal was simple. Create an

organization that offers community comradery in the arts, hosts visual art shows, and extends a hand in teaching the beauty of art and nature.

This group held a visual art show to the public on September 5, 2014 at

Java Nation/The Potter House in Celina. Twenty artists participated with funding from the *Tom A. and Ann K. Knapke Art Fund* which was established to continue the work and legacy of Ann Knapke, an avid

Continued ►



The workshop consisted of a demonstration by Braelen Bader on the wheel and then the youth participants soloing.

promoter of the visual arts in Mercer County.

Informal-style monthly get-togethers were conducted at various county-wide locations by these initial dedicated leaders. It was near the end of 2014, when in a meeting in Rockford, *Lake Area Arts Group* became the chosen organizational

name, suggested by **Mike Sovinski** and adopted by the leadership, and soon later, the LAAG logo was designed by **Jamie Regendanz**.

Entering into 2015, **Sr. Martha Bertke**, the founder of "Artistry Under the Dome" accepted to become part of the new LAAG Planning Committee that also consisted of **Ralph Stuckman, Tom Knapke** and **Carol Hone**. In their meetings, they set forth plans to stage events to give rise to not only to LAAG, but also the arts throughout the Grand Lake region.

The *Tom and Ann Knapke Art Fund* bequest is to promote art activities for area youth beyond their normal school settings. The *Lake Area Arts Group* organization delivered with a host of workshops, such as conducted by **Virg and Jane Bertke, Talei Fisher, Sandra Kennedy, Virginia Burroughs, Wade Hawk, Lindsey Schulze, Ralph Stuckman, Kristi Schwieterman, Doug Fiely, Jane Dippold, Jane Suzuki, Bob Hart, Terry Nelson, Brad Cull** and **Braelen Bader**. (Pictorial exposé on pages 16, Main Section 38, 39, 40)

Much more changes continued as LAAG's stay on a solid track with artistic venues like a trip to area wetlands that offered creative inspiration; Outdoor exhibit in Eastview Park by 13 artists; YouTube presentations hit the airways; and more monthly workshops expanded to include all ages.



KENNEDY WETLANDS was the site where Sandra and son Ryan Kennedy conducted an educational hypertufa workshop and tour. Other Page 40.

To touch upon one programming, it is when LAAG wrapped its arms around in a Mercer County with their rotating art exhibits in local libraries. **Sherry Chandler** was not only given this task, but also took upon the "LAAG Ride" in the presentation of recording the programming via the LAAG social Facebook communications.

As time went on, other events included exhibitions at *CJ Highmarks*, permanent art installations in the *Richardson-Bretz City Building*, launch of a website by **Lindsey Schultz** and personality interviews

on Spectrum WCSM Radio as well as the Planning Committee expanded in 2017 with **Sonnie Bernardi**.

Artist Talks and Exhibitions throughout Mercer County flourished such as, at Brew Nation, Celina with **Ralph Stuckman**, covering topics: **Hear the Beginning of his Pottery Works, *Learn the Nature*

*of a Pottery Studio, *Know Some Functions of his Kiln Firing Processes* and an exhibition of his ceramic bowls, hanging pottery and horse-haired works. In Fort Recovery, at Trusty Woods Restaurant, an Artist Talk with **Bob Hart**. He spoke on the how to do word turnings and a showing of his artworks.

Doug Field held an Artist

Talk/Exhibition at *CJ Highmarks*, who spoke on artistic prints; *Moeller Brewery*, *Maria Stein*, Artist Talk/Exhibition with **Brad Cull's** presentation entailed the making of copper cups at *Moeller Brewery*, *Maria Stein*; and multiple venues were staged in Rockford and other county locations.

Then 2020 COVID-19 put a halt on many in-person activities, however workshops were also livestreamed on the social network the workshops.

Continued next page



Touching

Continued from previous page

The happenings about these events and activities are recounted on LAAG's electronic sites recording the art organization's programming.

Leadership changes began in 2018 when Thomas A. Knapke passed and well as in 2019 when Ralph Stuckman turned the reigns over to **Sherry Chandler**, whereas in December of 2019 the Planning Committee changed to Board of Directors format, naming Chandler, Co-Chairperson; **Sonnie Bernardi**, Co-Chairperson; **Carol Hone**, Treasurer; **Mary Rampe**, Secretary and board members: **Sr. Martha Bertke**, **Beth Westgerdes**, **Kathy Miller**, **Ann Puthoff**, **Jill Parris** and **Kris Winget**.

Establishing a Board with officers opened up the pathway to apply for funding through available grants such as with the *Ohio Arts Council*. Recently, Bernardi and Miller ended their tenures and **Carol Smith** accepted to fill the vacancy.

If you are wondering about the geese, they fly in a v-shaped formation in order to reduce air drag for those behind them. They honk loudly to keep companions awake and motivated. When the lead Goose grows tired and starts to struggle, another one from the back swaps to give their companion a break. The result means that all members of the flock work and recover equally.

So it is with all living things, those that have a purpose are destined to increase in number and reach their final journey.

(Pictorial exposé continued in Main Section on pages 38, 39, 40)

WADE HAWK presented a program which participants learned about photography, their cameras, including how to take more interesting pictures.



ANNA TALEI-FISHER presented a program where youths Ft Recovery, Celina and Marion Local Schools worked with air dried clay.



TERRY NELSON presented a program on the technique and process of silk screen painting. Students created colorful patterns and designs.

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SECTION

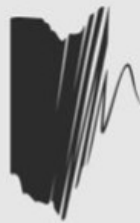


Margaret Green, 1st Place, Photography/People, 12 x 16 inches

The Veteran

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Commitment to the arts for rural western organization is flourishing

Life in rural Ohio was hard during the 1800s. The focus on life was a necessity: food, clothing and shelter. One-room schools provided some interaction with others from the isolation of farm life but far, far away from life, as we know it today.

Art was almost non-extinct to most households. You couldn't wear or eat a painting, so what was the significance? A metaphysical painting of a young girl above the parlor furniture, those eyes following you everywhere, was just about as close to art as one could hope to come.

Commitment to the arts has succeeded for this rural western Ohio County with talented residents and the formation of a much-needed art organization.

In 2014 a small group of area residents was informally discussing the need to bring increased and organized attention to the Arts in Mercer County. Included in that group were **Glen Hux, Tom Knapke, Judy Brewer, Barbara Vorhees, Ralph Stuckman and Phil A. Long.**

This group held a visual art show at Java Nation/The Potter House in Celina on September 5, 2014, in which 20 artists participated.

Continued next page



Aging

Charcoal, 32.5 x 38 inches

1st Place and People's Choice, Youth category by Ashtyn Huber

The show was funded by the *Tom A. and Ann K. Knapke Art Fund*. The Knapke fund was established in 2010 to continue the work and legacy of Ann Knapke, an avid promoter of the Arts and to support visual art in Mercer County.

As time went on, the group continued to meet and by the end of 2014 had a chosen name suggested by **Mike Sovinski** and a logo created by **Jamie Regendanz**.

Fast-forwarding to the 2021 *Grand Lake Art Show*, held an opening reception for the artists and guests was on July 10 which attracted around 125 and was staged at the *Brew Nation*. The exhibit was directed by **Sherry Chandler** of the *Lake Area Arts Group* and **Peggy Green** of the *Celina Area Photo Club*.

“The work that was displayed at Grand Lake’s first art show was very impressive. It was a very difficult job to select winners in each category,” said Judge **Kathy Place**. “Please keep up the good work and keep doing art. You have something to be proud of here. Congratulations to each participant.”

There were 161 works submitted by 58 artists with 121 being juried in 10 different categories: **Oil and Acrylic, Water/Alcohol Inks, Drawing, 3 Dimensional, Miscellaneous, Youth up to age 17 and Photography categories for People, Animals, Landscapes and Black and White.**

Thirty cash awards along and also eight Honorable Mentions winning artworks were recognized.

An * besides the following listing of all exhibitors indicates their

Continued Page 35



Molly Christian, Honorable Mention, Oil, 32.5 x 25 inches *Pouty Girl*

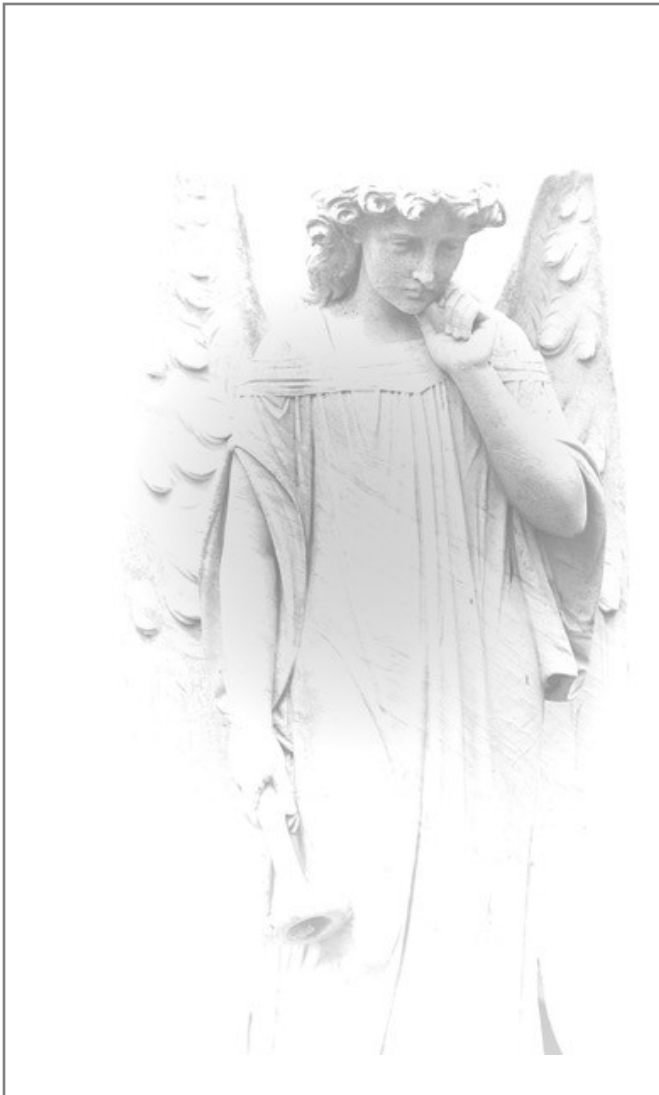
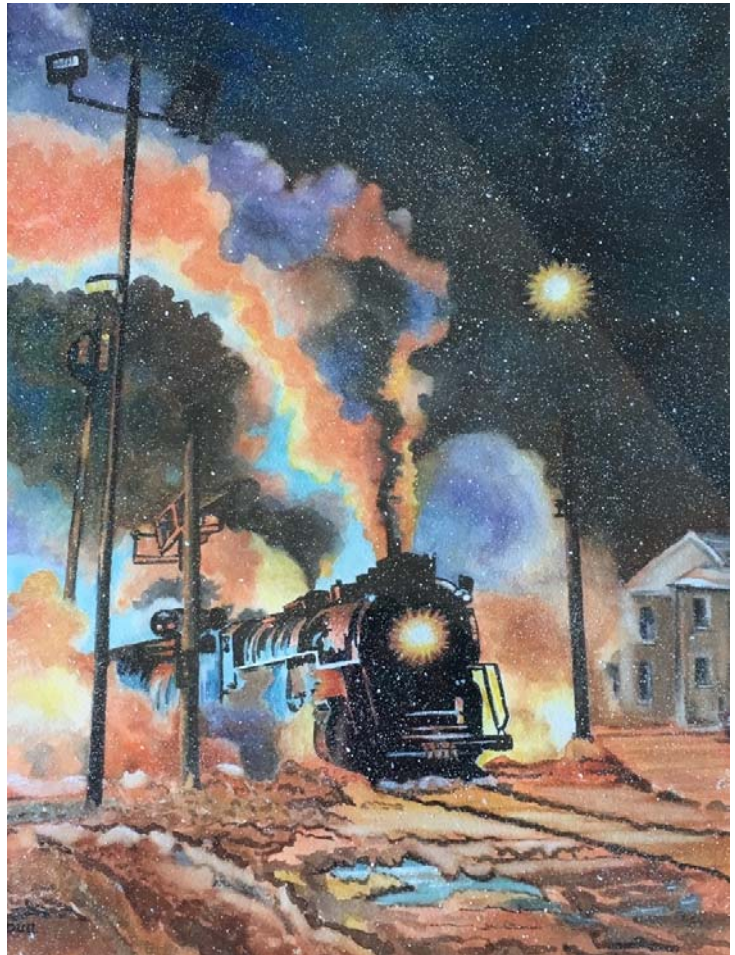


Marilyn Stall, 1st Place, Miscellaneous, Fiber, 16 x 20 inches *Fish Family*

Becky Dull

2nd Place, Alcohol Ink, 12 x 16 inches

The Winter Express



Kris Winget

3rd Place, Photography/Black & White, 8 x 12 inches

Angel

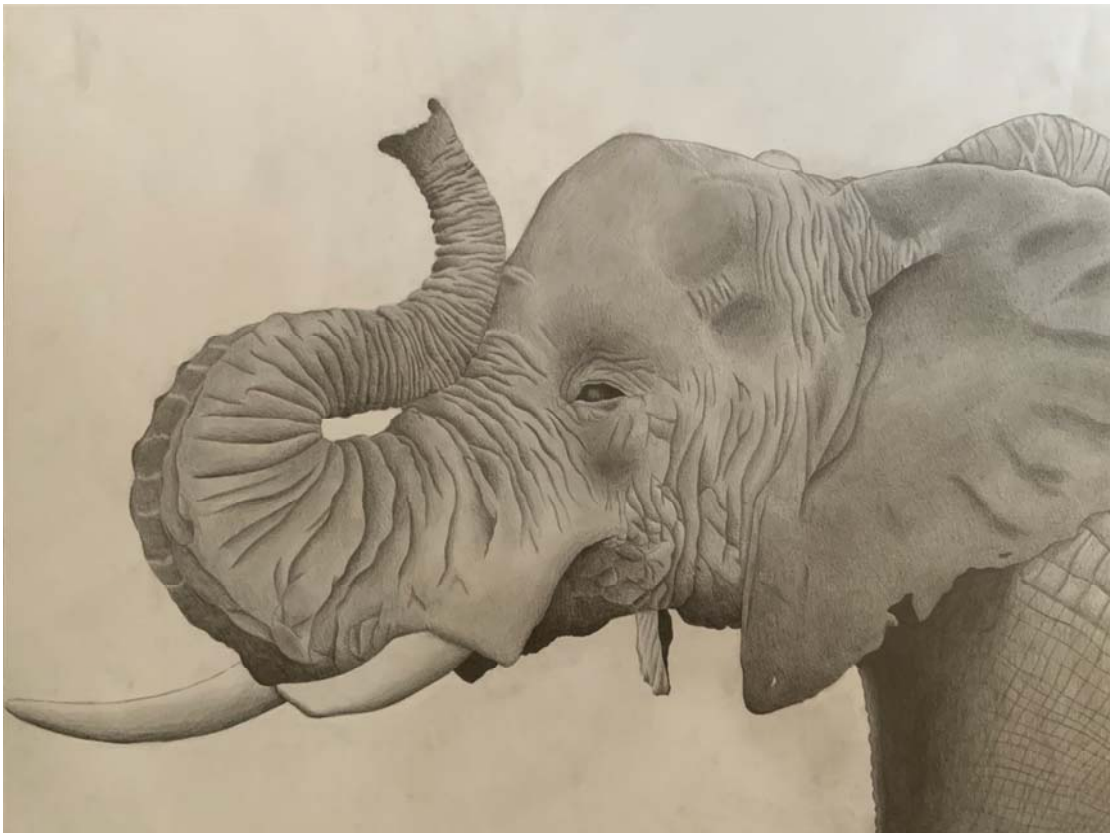
Phil Wood, 1st Place, 3-D, Ceramic, 26h x 16w x 9d inches *Wise Council*



Pat Rayman, 3rd Place, watercolor, 10 x 16 inches *Delphos Elevator*



Diane Wagner, 1st Place, Photography/Landscape, 11 x 14 inches *Mercer County Sunset*



Kale Sudhoff, 3rd Place, Youth, Graphite, 18 x 14 inches *Gentle Giant*



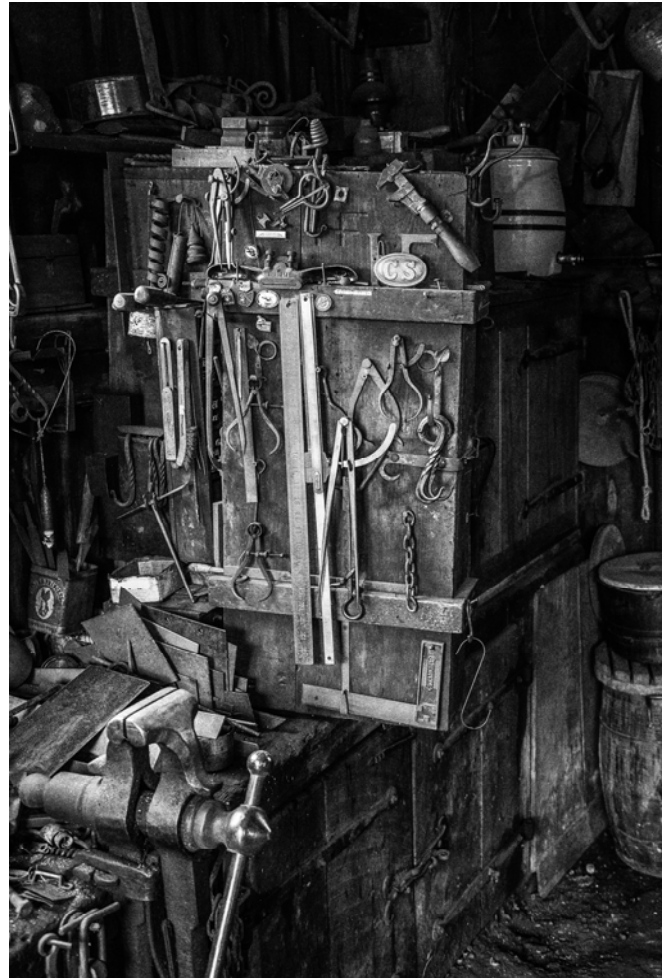
Shirley Wenning, 1st Place, Alcohol Ink, 16 x 23 inches *Sunshine Yellow*



Jodi Knoch
2nd Place, 3-D, Needle Felting
18 x 9 inches
Balancing Act



Jamie Regedanz
3rd Place, Photography/ Animals, 16 x 20 inches
Eagle #



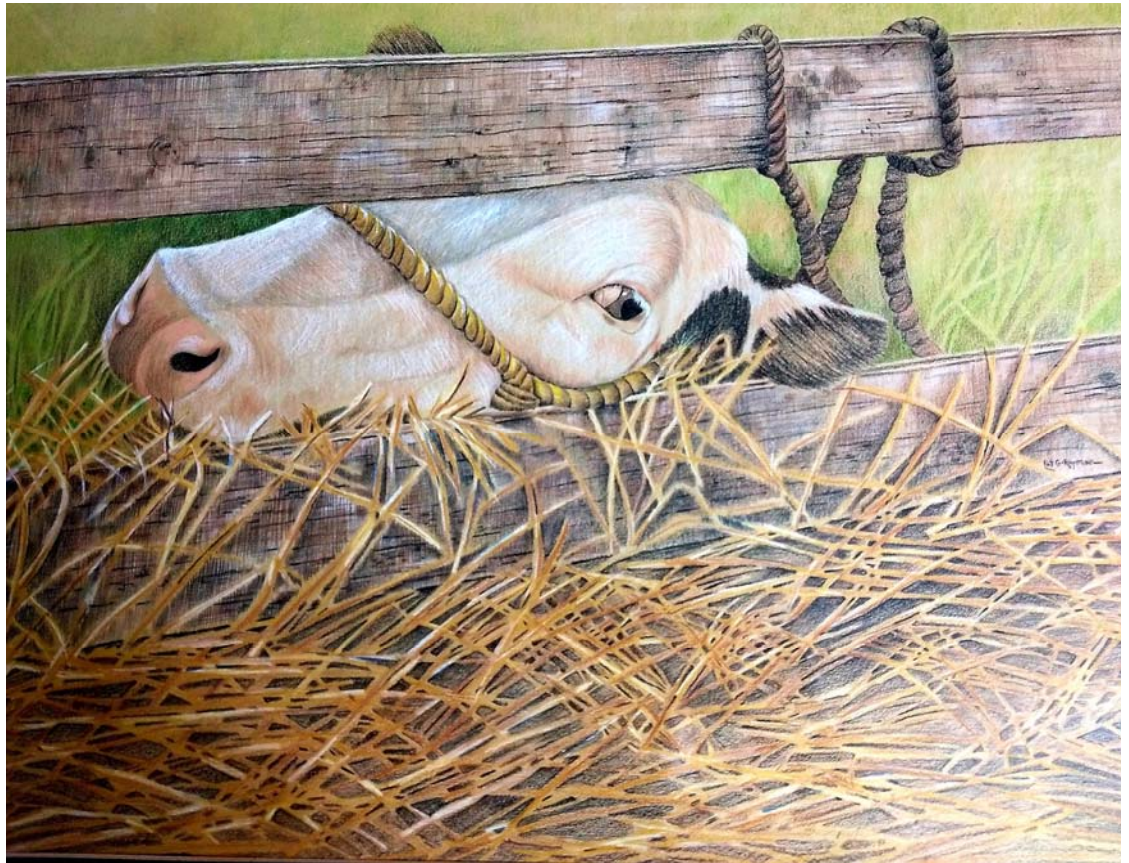
Ken Maggi
2nd Place, Photography/Black & White
13 x 9 inches
Black Smith Shop



Carla Niblick
3rd Place, Photography/Landscape
16 x 20 inches
Karla's Sky



Rhonda Hager, 2nd Place, Acrylic, 24 x 36 inches *On Grand Lake*



Pat Rayman, 3rd Place, Drawing, Colored Pencil, 21 x 17 inches *My Fair Lady*



Rondell Fisher

3rd Place, 3-D, Ceramic

9 x 8 1/2 inches

Beginnings



Ken Bigham, 2nd Place, Photography/Landscape, 20 x 30 inches *Memorial Day Lighthouse*



Ken Maggi

3rd Place, Miscellaneous, Photography, 11 x 14 inches

Locomotive Gauges



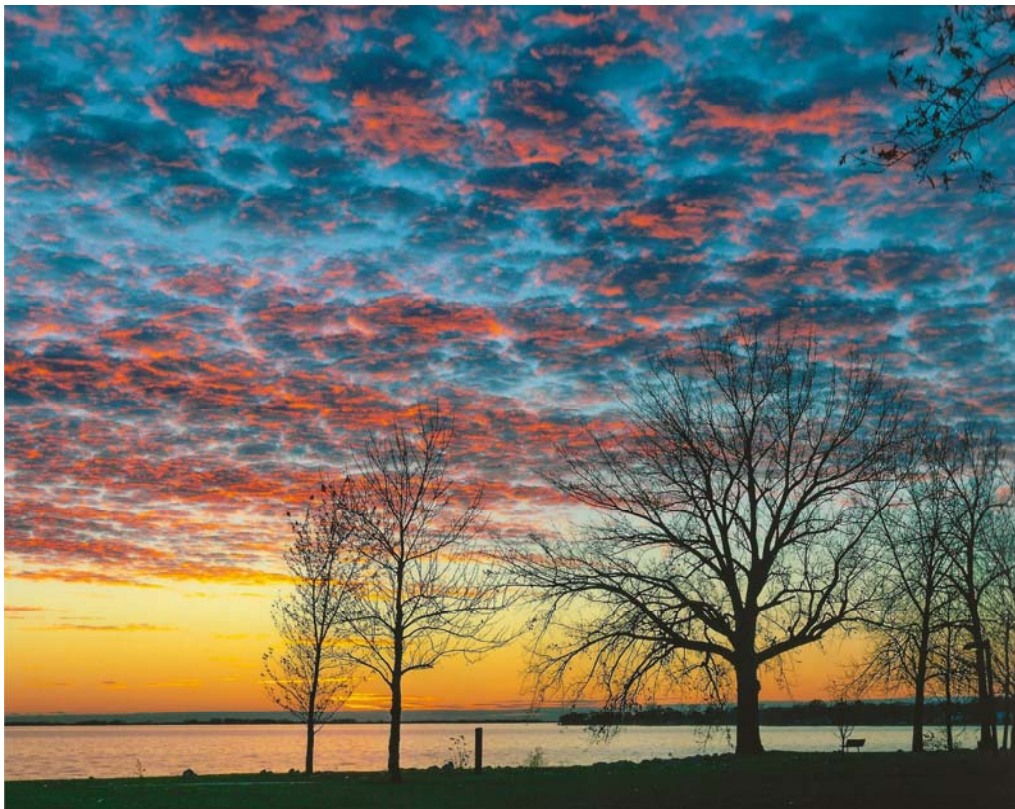
Jodi Anderson, 2nd Place, Photography/Animals, 11 x 14 inches *Hello*

Phil Wood

1st Place, Drawing,

Pastels, 24 x 18 inches

Tatsiana



Diane Wagner,

Honorable Mention

Photography/Landscape

11 x 14 inches

Grand Lake Sunset

Kris Winget, 2nd Place, Photography/People, 8 x 12 inches *MUSIC MAN*



Twyla Hayes, Honorable Mention, Acrylic, 12 x 16 inches *Garden Path*



Jane Westfall, Honorable Mention, Drawing, Pastels, 9.5 x 7.5 inches *Water Catching Fire*

Debby Gregory

Honorable Mention, Watercolor

Watercolor, 11 x 12 inches

Catchin' Some Rays



Virginia Burroughs, 2nd Place, Miscellaneous, Mixed-Media Photography, 11 x 14 inches *Bears Mill*

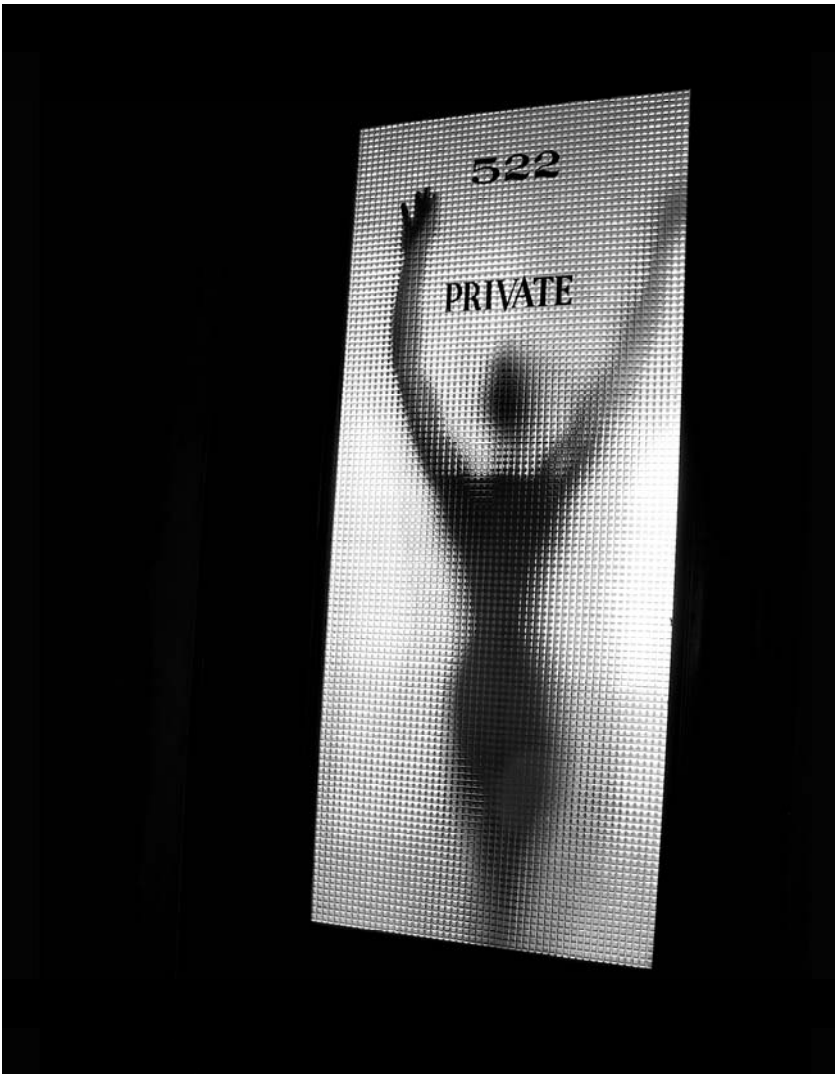


Beverly Rampe

1st Place

Photography/Animals, 13 x 19 inches

Listen to the Mockingbird



Jodi Knoch, Honorable Mention, Photography/Black & White, 11 x 17 inches

Private



Jamie Regedanz, 3rd Place, Photography/People, 11 x 14 inches *Determination*

Phil Wood
1st Place
Oil, 28 x 24 inches
Jacqué



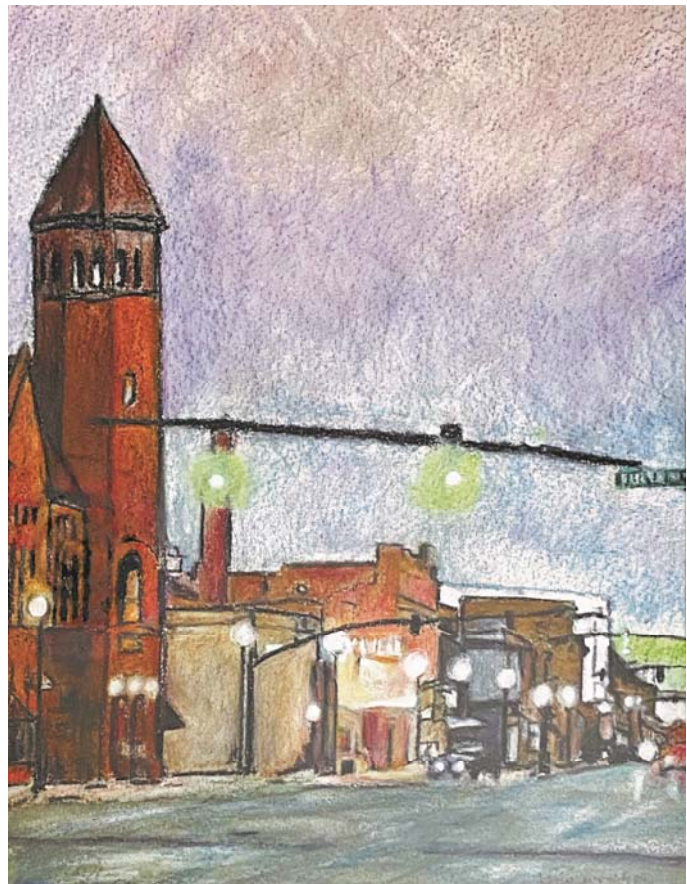
Becky Dull, Honorable Mention, Watercolor/Gouache, 12 x 16 inches *Old Farm In Winter*



Louise Davis

3rd Place, Oil, 12 x 12 inches

Bloom



Jane Westfall

2nd Place, Drawing

Colored Pencil, 9.5 x 7.5 inches

Evening Stroll



Commitment

Continued from Page 20

winning works are presented throughout the Main Section.

*Jodi Anderson, Ann Asher, Merrill Asher, *Jane Bertke, *Ken Bigham, *Virginia Burroughs, Sherry Chandler, *Molly Christian, *Louise Davis, *Becky Dull, Anna Talie Fisher, *Rondell

Fisher, Marilyn Frank, Blake Fullenkamp, Jocelyn Fullenkamp, Macy Fullenkamp, Rachel Gehrlich, Amelia Goff, *Margaret Green, *Debby Gregory, *Rhonda Hager, *Twyla Hayes, *Ashtyn Huber, Cathy Huber, Staci Kaufman, *Judy Knoch, *Annie Lefeld, *Ken Maggi, Robert Makely, Billie K Marsee, Elgarda McGee, Joan McPherson, Mary Miller, Thomas Minutolo, *Carla Niblick, Ann Puthoff, *Beverly A. Rampe, *Pat Rayman, *Jamie Regedanz, Darren Slemmons, Kay Sluterbeck, Carol Smith, *Marilyn Stall, Alexander

Stewart, *Kale Sudhoff, John Sutter, Vicki Sutter, Bella Wagner, *Diane Wagner, Erin Weirrick, *Shirley Wenning, *Jane Westfall, *Kris Winget and *Phil Wood.

The *Lake Area Arts Group* displays and promotes art activities for all ages. Inspiring programs and camaraderie among area artists help keep the appreciation of visual

arts and cultural growth alive and well.

For more information on how to contribute to LAAG's mission to the *Tom and Ann Knapke Art Fund* or the Mercer County Civic Foundation for the Lake Area Arts Group, contact the Mercer County Civic Foundation at 419.586.9950 or see: mercercountycivicfdn.org.



Ashton Huber, Honorable Mention, Youth, Graphite, 18 x 14 inches *Childhood*



©JODI ANDERSON

Jodi Anderson, 1st Place, Photography/Black & White, 11 x 14 inches *What My Eyes Have Seen*



outh art education builds character

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up," said celebrated Spanish painter Pablo Picasso on the creative ability that each child possesses and how the society fails to nurture this intellectual and artistic repository.

There are several reasons why children should be introduced to art and music at an early age. While most parents focus on vocabulary and numbers, the arts fulfill a great learning purpose. It helps students stay in school, increases motivation, improves attitudes and attendance, and improves academic performance.

It also has been proven, art programs build character in community's youth. In its "Arts Education Navigator," Americans for the Arts includes statistics about the importance of arts education and says, "The arts teach students innumerable lessons. ... They teach children that there are several paths to take when approaching problems and that all problems have more than one solution."

Learning shapes and colors becomes a game of memory, creativity and discipline in finishing a project that they are proud of. Young people will look forward to entering contests, showing off their work and striving to improve their skills. **Who doesn't remember seeing their handiwork on the refrigerator door and the joy that it brought?** By giving our young people the opportunity to draw, paint or play a musical instrument; we are furthering their learning capacity by up to four times.

"The more we can engage our youth in the arts, culture and history of our state, the stronger our future becomes," said **Randall-Reid Reid-Smith**, now West Virginia

Department of Arts, Culture and History curator. *"When we give them opportunities to be creative, we give them skills that will serve them well."*

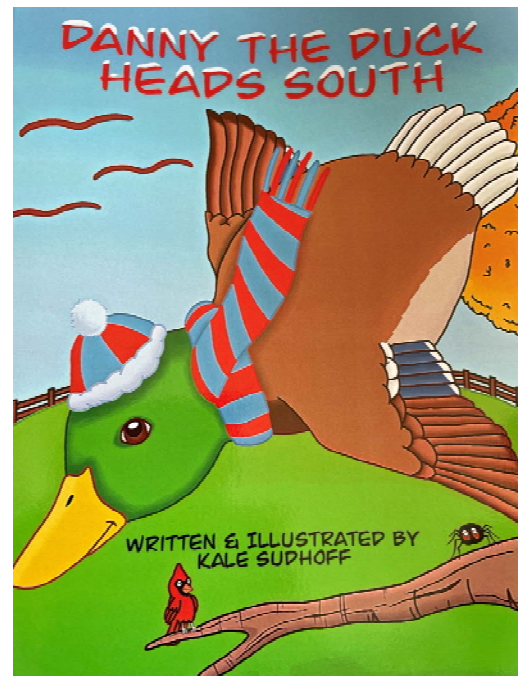
A prime example in the *Lake Area Arts Group* is **Kale Sudhoff**, now a junior in Celina Public Schools, loves writing stories



and then he figures out how to do the illustrations, and **he has!** Being released this

September 2021, "Danny The Duck Heads South" will be on the bookshelves.

The storyline is about Danny



the duck on his seasonal trip south. He is left alone and unable

Continued on Page 56



JANE SUZUKI presented a Quilt workshop where students from St. Henry learned about the *Art of Making Quilts* as well as complete a quilt coverlet.



DOUG FIELY conducted a painting workshop that focuses on his unique style, techniques as well as briefs about artists ago in a storyteller style.



VIRG and JANE BERTKE presented a workshop on glass blowing. Students took part in the creation of a blown glass bowl or vase. They learned about the equipment required for glass blowing, the science of the different kinds of glass, how it can impact your creation, including how the placement of color and the shaping of the glass can make each object unique.

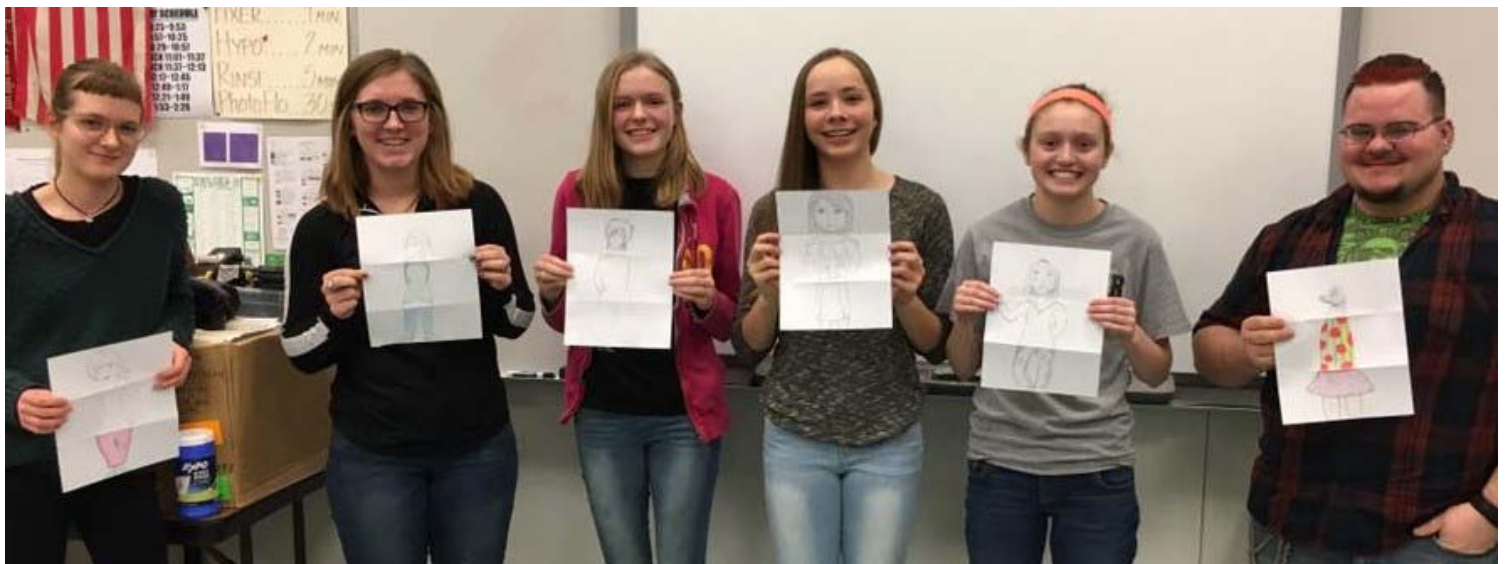




BRAD CULL conducted a program on copper, its history and forming copper using the ancient's method. The process uses a specially shaped surface of a tree stump and hammers to form simple shapes, such as the bowls which the created.



JANE DIPPOLD presented a mixed-media program on the art of collage painting.



KRISTI SCHWIETERMAN presented a drawing program.



LINDSEY SCHULZE presented a program where the students were shown how to create a landscape painting using acrylics.



SANDY KENNEDY Workshop was also filled with much fun for the participants while working on the hypertufa project. This and others workshops were funded by the Tom and Ann Knapke Art Fund.

the LAAG

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SECTION



Sully oil on panel, 16 x 20 inches by Debby Gregory is a painting, one that presents her signature style of her niece's newest member, which portrays not only visually, but also captures a quote by Cher, "If grass can grow through cement, love can find you every time in your life."



One huge homegrown talent

It's always amazing to watch how one's talent can transform into an area of expertise with passion and determination. One great example is **Debby Gregory**, a fine artist from St. Mary's, Ohio. Born and raised in Dayton, Ohio, she found herself in awe of the old Master's paintings in the Catholic school that she attended as a child. The contrasts of light and dark mesmerized her and the style stayed with her throughout her adult life. *Continued next page*



Pencil drawings became a part of her world and landing a job as a graphic artist was just what she needed to keep her passion alive. For 29 years, Debby met the challenges of calligraphy, photography, painting, typography, computer graphics and bindery. They contributed to her love of art and soon she found herself focusing on color in paints.

She met her husband, Dave, in a bait and tackle store in St. Mary's and her taste for wildlife, mainly fishing, blossomed, as well. Together they traveled the Eastern coast on ventures of fishing, the outdoors, and a love for everything natural.

Five step-children rounded out a large active family which continues today with grandchildren, fishing, playing pool and just staying close.

Gregory has never traded in her love of fishing, but is learning more about painting in oils, acrylics, watercolors,

pastels, pen and wash. She creates unique works for clients and galleries across the Midwest and plans to expand her sights.

She has an uncanny way of capturing the beauty and emotion of nature by using shadows and highlights of the surroundings.

Artist Gregory has been featured on Fine Art Studio Online and has done numerous private commissions.

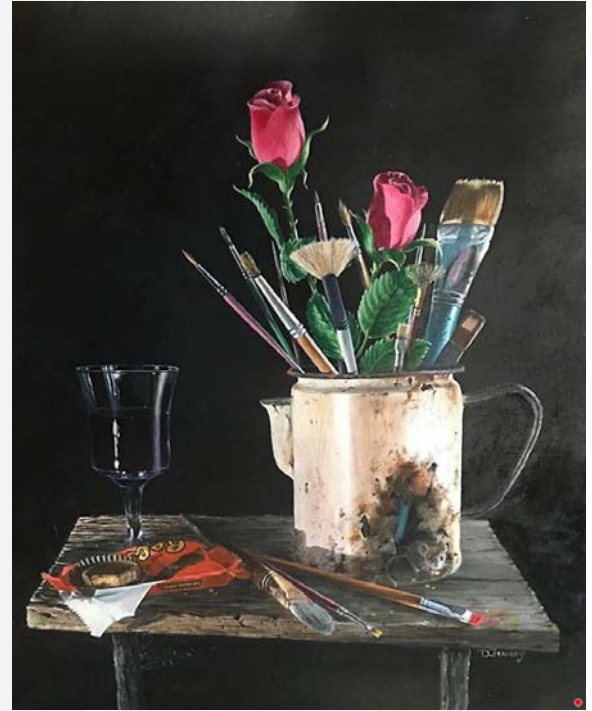
The distinction of Debby's work stems from colors, shadowing, and lighting. Mixed with the subtle subjects of nature, she is able to capture the reality of life within the backdrop of nature.

Whether the painting is done in acrylics, oils, or pastels, she is able to deliver the exact media

that expresses each scene with intrigue.

The 12 x 24 inches acrylic work on panel of *Waitin On*

While The Artist Is Away (acrylic on panel, 20 x 16 inches)



Gramps displayed below shows the calm and peaceful setting of a rural property with little ado of a

Continued next page





A Walk With Vicki (oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches)

family waiting on Grandpa to come home from a tough day in the fields. The understanding and the solace gave this picture mix emotions of worry, safety, and protection into one loving

painting. Gregory is excellent in portraying this feeling of love and joy within her paintings.

Although only an associate member of the *Ohio Watercolor Society* and the *National Watercolor*

Society, she has spent the last 13 years gaining the respect of the art community and is a valuable member of these organizations.

The passing of her husband and favorite art critique just one short year ago, Gregory continues to

pursue her painting skills as a way of seeing the positive in life. The beauty, the peacefulness, and the emotion that speaks wonders will always be her base for presenting the best work that she can for herself and others.

You can find her most days at her lakefront home on Grand Lake St. Mary's fishing with one of the great-grandkids or contemplating her next painting.

Kate Eglan-Garton



faith

Not So Amusing (watercolor on paper, 12 x 18 1/4 inches)



WHY SOME PEOPLE THINK

VIRGINIA WOOLF

IS THE STATE'S OFFICIAL ANIMAL.

KIDS DON'T GET ENOUGH ART THESE DAYS. Sort of explains why some might think Britain's most influential novelist is an East Coast predator. For the record, Virginia Woolf is not a fierce carnivorous mammal. Nor is she from Virginia.

Adeline Virginia Woolf was born in London in 1882. While her brothers attended school, she was educated at home. Only when



Virginia Woolf wrote legendary novels with opposable thumbs.

the boys brought friends home from Cambridge University was the famed Bloomsbury Group formed with Virginia as the cornerstone. Here she escaped the conventions of society to freely explore philosophy, religion and art. With this freedom, Virginia went on to create the modern novel.

During the Post-Impressionist movement, Virginia was influenced to reject linear writing. Her most well-



One of the world's most influential writers, Virginia Woolf. Novelist, writer, not *Canis lupus*.

known novel, *Mrs. Dalloway*, is a masterpiece in her "stream-of-consciousness" style. And still, more than three-quarters of a century after her death, she continues to inspire readers and writers around the world. Other than William Shakespeare, she is perhaps studied by more college students than any other author.

Art like Virginia Woolf's can transform lives. It pays off

in more ways than you can imagine. In fact, the more art kids get, the more knowledgeable they become in subjects like math and science. The end result is that your well-rounded kid will become a well-rounded adult. For the *Ten Simple Ways* you can help instill more art in kids' lives, please visit AmericansForTheArts.org.



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Creative Insecurity

your own value to it. When you like it, you feel pleasure, pride, self-worth -- your time is well spent. On the other hand, if the result is a "failure," you may think, "How could I have created such an embarrassing mess? I have wasted all this time on this failure -- I may as well just quit. I am not a good artist."

At this point, I was reminded of **Dr. Phil**, who tells his audience that "reality" is not as important as "perception." In other words, how could I better perceive my failures? In my head I knew that becoming good at

something required much practice. Learning requires discomfort, mistakes, and failures. Instead of dreading discomfort, mistakes, and failures, I could welcome them as signs of growth. I could focus on the positive successes and use them as capital -- encouragement for "dry spells."

Success can also be relative. I am often surprised at people's differences in taste and appreciation for art and writing -- how unpredictable and varied. A piece can be rejected in one situation but receive accolades in another. How incredibly wonderful! It would seem good for each artist to remember that if he or she likes it, there is someone else in this world who can relate to it and enjoy it too.

Recently I attended a concert with a band that had been popular in the 80's. Many of their most famous band members had left to play with other more popular bands. Only a couple original band members remained. They were older, and I began to wonder why they would

Editor's Note: There is something I believe is given to me by Donna Rice, author of "Water Girl" and other poetry and storyteller works. I tend to fall in love again with the written word, especially on how Donna spins the thoughts of validity where it is impossible for me to end up feeling a void. There is a secure certain of uncertainty in this writing all embraces when at the fork in the road. Indecision can be a bitch, but then I strongly believe in the words by St. Paul, "We walk by faith, not sight." Ben Rayman

By Donna Rice

Why do I spend time creating things -- writing, painting pictures, arranging a collage? Sometimes I think I am wasting my time. My work seems mediocre compared to others, even inferior. Should I be doing something "more

worthwhile?" These are questions I've been asking myself lately. I wonder if other artists have the same doubts, yet keep on going. I want to fight my fears. I want to keep creating, but I don't know why.

I started thinking about a recent experience I had at a painting workshop with the artist **Cheng-Khee-Chee**. Cheng-Khee told us that he was always trying to paint "the perfect painting." He said that he knew that that was not possible, but with each new painting, he always tried. I wondered, is this the nature of an artist -- to strive for perfection, despite the fact that you never quite get there?

I noticed traits in myself that were not specific to creativity -- feelings of inadequacy, self-doubt, and envy. Perhaps it is because creating is so personal -- the creation is so much an extension of yourself -- that you run the risk of attributing

continue to tour and play. They had not been one of the most popular bands, even in their prime. Of course, for them, there was the money, their livelihood. But when I saw the enthusiastic reaction of the crowd -- how they swayed, clapped to the beat, and mouthed the words to the old songs, I began to understand. Both the people and the band were excited and happy to be there. The band's past successes had carried them to this place, where they could continue to get and give pleasure and have fun. Both were devoted.

Why do artists spend time doing their work? Perhaps for them -- for us -- creating is not a choice. If left alone for too long, we miss it. There is something lacking in our lives without it. We have successes as we learn and grow. Others enjoy and appreciate our work, even though it is not "*perfect*." Art requires devotion and time -- time that passes without notice -- like play. *Donna Rice*

Editor's comments:

Metaphorically, after reading author Donna Rice's writings, I can relate them to a few words from the song Evergreen, "...soft as an easy chair" reads as well as a similarity to the final scene in movie, "Way We Were" when Hubbell aka Robert Redford recalls his time with Katie aka Barbra Streisand, the same dynamic drama, a heart no longer shy to express intimacy openly and telling the story using all the right mechanics.

Poet Rice weaves her words in an unclothed fashion that pulls a reader of prose inside a woman's soul, one drenching with desires of Should I or Should I not.

Naked in her thoughts, exposed and spread eagle, she bears all in her writings; tales of times ago, tales of now, but most of all, tales that will heighten your imagination with heartfelt softness or even bring forth a "whew" with a moistened brow. Ben Rayman



WATER GIRL

(Ovid, The Metamorphoses – "Jove and the Arcadian Nymph")

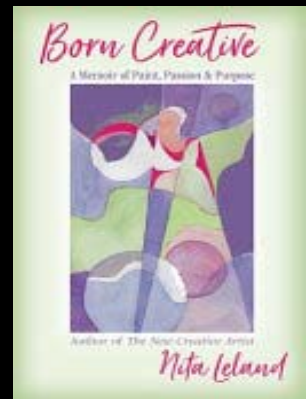
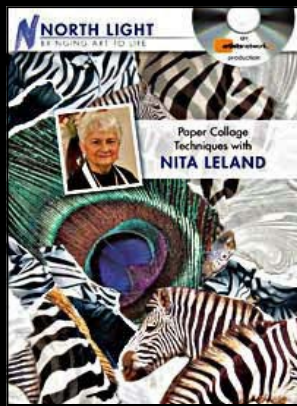
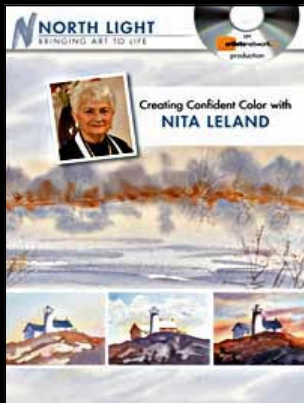
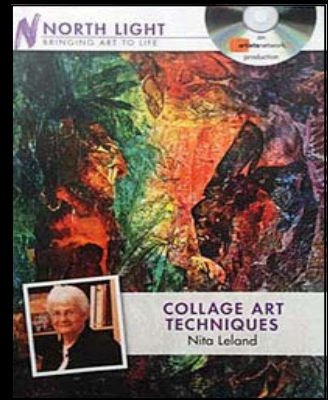
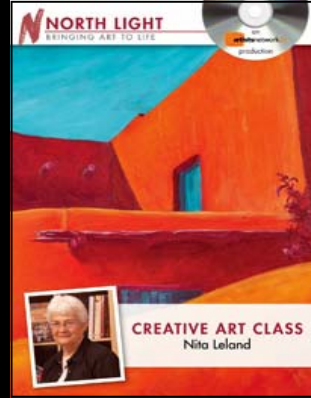
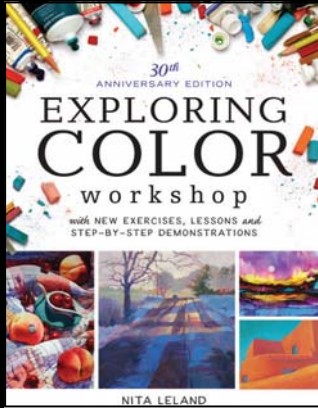
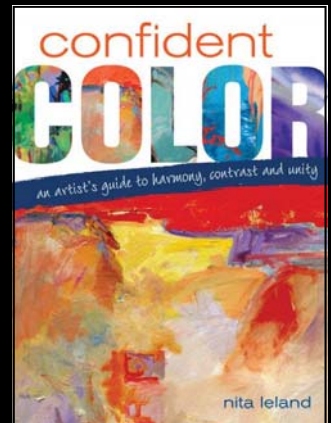
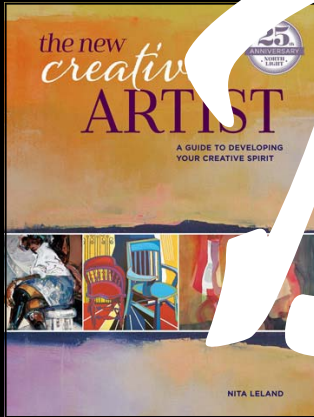
I carried it to the field
in a green Mason jar,
wrapped in white muslin
to protect the clinking ice
from melting to my warm touch.
A virgin, bearing drink to men in fields.

A drink of that same kind
I took to the barn — to father,
high on a mountain of hay.
Leaning down, head up,
the vessel clutched between my legs,
I thrust with hands, arms, back,
and thighs to toss the water up,
so not to spill its contents,
break the bottle on a beam.
He'd catch it, smile and say,
"My little water girl."

Pleasing father, pleases "self,"
that first young "self,"
defined, kept, and loved by him.
Fearful girls might bind their breasts,
but even that cannot repress the woman.
At nature's will, in place of fathers,
we take men, and then, like Jove's
Callisto, her vessel broken,
we are cast out
(duped by squirming fate —
man or woman)
to live life, lonely, longer,
inheriting wealth, yet ill-prepared
to delegate our power...

I will, I swear it,
learn and share the plan;
master toil, a vial of water
strapped 'cross my breast. And then,
again, like that Arcadian nymph,
I will discard my vestment,
hurl myself toward heaven,
on my own,
to breed with fire
a galaxy of girls.

Born creative . . .



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Lighting can make an ordinary subject look exciting

Have you ever watched an old-time movie in which an actor lights a small candle -- and a big dark room is immediately filled with light? This never seems to work in real life; if the electricity

goes off at night and we light a candle, the room is still plenty dark. However, for some reason we're willing to accept this odd lighting effect in a movie. The same thing can happen in a painting.

The director of a motion picture can decide to use lighting in many ways to set the mood. Artists can also use lighting effects to jazz up or tone down a painting.

One way is by using light to express mood. If the lighting is high-key we think "bright, happy and cheerful." Low-key lighting makes the mood somber and dramatic.

The angle of the light and the handling of reflections can signify snowy or rainy weather. If the artist likes a scene but not the "real" lighting, he can change day into night by adjusting shadows and colors.

There only limitation on light is -- light itself. Too much light is really no light. If the artist uses white or light spaces uniformly throughout a picture, it doesn't offer much to look at. If the picture has the same light intensity throughout, without dark shadows or bright highlights, the painting

looks flat and dull. It is the contrast that makes a picture come alive.

There is an old saying about painting: "You must have darks to have light." In other words, the light and white spaces in a painting must be set against dark areas to "see" light. The greater the contrast between light and dark areas, the more brilliant the light will appear.

Another thing to consider is the



A Light In The Forest, watercolor, 16 x 13, Pat Rayman

direction the light is coming from. If the shadows on various objects go in different directions, it gives the viewer the nagging feeling that something is wrong. Some artists lightly sketch a tiny sun symbol or light bulb on the picture to help

them remember direction the light is coming from, so they can keep shadows consistent.

A painting can be made more interesting by lighting the subject in different ways. **Backlighting** can be very dramatic. For example, visualize a person sitting in front of a window in a room. The light is coming through the window, throwing the figure almost into silhouette. This is known as backlighting. Sometimes this includes "rim lighting" in which one edge or both edges of an object are light against the darker shape.

Side lighting is one of the most common formats. Strong side lighting can produce exciting shadows.

Frontal lighting, in which the light shines on the subject from the artist's viewing position, can provide a kind of pleasant flat lighting. A figure facing a strong light source with a light window background can be a nice high-key solution to lighting problems. The light source could be another window, strong room reflections, or artificial light.

Like the director of a movie, the artist can call the shots. He or she can change anything about the light that she or he chooses. Shadows can be changed in intensity or direction, or new shadows can be added. Colors can be changed and made lighter or darker. A daylight scene can be turned into night. In short, the artist can use light as a tool to add impact, flow, and interest to a painting.

Kay Sluterbeck



#*The Gathering* acrylic on canvas, 27 x 44 inches

Creator inspired by people and nature

Born in Ft. Riley, Kansas in the late 1960s, **Todd Buschur** grew up in rural west central Ohio farming community. As a youngster, he was diagnosed with dyslexia, which made learning difficult. Throughout most of his childhood, he dreaded school;

therefore, he would often escape his frustration with school by drawing and coloring.

Because he grew up in a rural community, exposure to art museums and galleries were not readily available which has given him a much greater of his

appreciation for art and especially creating artworks. His further inspirations came from observing his uncle make technical drawings and by watching his father construct model cars.

In the fall of 1985, Buschur enrolled at *Bluffton University* in



passions and deep appreciations for art from his professors, **Jaye Bumbaugh** and **Gregg Luginbuhl**.

Soon after graduation, Buschur was hired as a high school art instructor for *Graham Local Schools* in St. Paris, Ohio, located northwest of Dayton. While teaching, he began working on his Masters of Fine Art at *Antioch Midwest*, which he obtained in 1988. During this time, Todd also studied at the *International School of Art* in Umbria, Italy. The immersion in Italian art and art history has proven to have a lasting impact on Buschur's painting and teaching.

"Creating art is something

I must do. Art is part of what makes me whole. While I am in this world, I, too, need to share my experiences, which I do best through painting.

My approach to the process of painting is a form of prayer and worship to a Creator who is much greater than I am.

Through my daily interactions with people and nature, I receive my greatest inspiration to paint and to glorify the great Creator."

Over the years, the Buschur artworks have made their way in various shows such as, "State of the Arts" juried exhibition

conducted by *Ohio University School of Art + Design*. "**Until We Meet Again**" and "**A Timeless Journey**" are oil and acrylic paintings juried in that depicted train and train tracks as well as "**The Birth of a Line**" which holds a special annual visual reminder for Todd on the 25th day in May.

"The train or, more so, the railroad line, represents a journey – my journey," he said. "I like the spiritual side of that,

of where you are going in life."

Among many other art travels, his association with the *Lake Area Arts Group* led him back to the *Rockford Community Days*, where his passion for the arts flourished as a youngster in the Parkway schools.

During this festival, Todd demonstrated his Plein Air painting techniques and there was an exhibition of his works. More on this event can be found at youtube.com/watch?v=l6zFS60hJ80 and toddbuschurstudios.com. ∞



"The Bird of A Line" oil on canvas, 19.5 x 19.5 inches #

the# Paint Box

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

TRUE TEXTURES

A different approach to creating true foliage is to dip a piece of crumpled newspaper in acrylic paint. The newspaper can be wiped or dabbed on watercolor paper or canvas, beginning with the darkest values, and working up to the lightest.

DUSTING WITH CHALK PASTELS

Brush a mixture of equal parts of water and acrylic gel medium on paper. Using a knife, scrape pastel color over the surface while wet. Spray with fixative when dry. This produces an interesting background or the results may be used as part of a painting.

SGRAFFITO EFFECTS WITH OIL PASTELS

To create an interesting engraving, try randomly applying various colors to a smooth surface paper or cardboard. Cover over these colors with black oil pastel. Using a xacto knife or scratchboard tool, scrape in a design or image.

EGGSHELL TEXTURE

To produce an out of the ordinary texture, try crushing up eggshells and applying to paper using acrylic mat medium. When dry, watercolor paint over the surface. This is a neat technique for abstracts, beach scenes, rock formations etc.

PAINTING WITH A TOOTHBRUSH

To create the effect of grass with Watermedia, try dipping a toothbrush in a couple of paint colors, then brush on paper to suggest grass.

TEXTURING WITH GESSO

Dropping watercolor into wet gesso on paper or board, and covering with cellophane until dry produces a rocklike

texture. Sand and other materials can be added while the gesso is still wet.

INK TECHNIQUE

To produce unusual effects in drawing or sketching, try dipping a wooden toothpick in a bottle of ink, and applying to various papers by drawing with the tip and/or the side.

USING SOIL FOR TEXTURING

Mixing dry ground up soil with gesso and applying to a surface, produces an interesting texture for acrylic or oil paints.

WARMING UP TO OIL PASTEL

Use an electric frying pan to warm up a piece of paper. Remove from pan and apply oil pastel to the warm paper. Rubbing with your fingers allows you to blend colors easily.

TEXTURING WITH A FACIAL TISSUE

After applying thin color washes of oil paint to canvas, dab the wet surface with a crumpled up facial tissue.

MARBLING ON FABRIC

Pour some liquid laundry starch in a pan. Mix up a few acrylic colors with water to a thin consistency. Drop the colors onto the starch. With an eyedropper, move the colors around using the handle of a brush, fork, or some other object to create an interesting pattern. Place the fabric on top of the acrylic design for a few seconds, and then lay it out flat to dry.

BLOWING MASKING FLUID

To create unique effects, try blowing masking liquid fluid around a piece of watercolor paper using a straw. After the paper is dry, you can paint over with watercolors or inks. When dry, the

masking fluid can be removed by rubbing it with your finger.

SUN PAINTING

Spray hot pressed paper with water, then drip and/or pour water based inks onto it. Place objects, such as, leaves, shells, grasses etc. on the inked paper, and leave out to dry in the sun. After the paper dries, an impression will be left on the paper.

CREATING A RESIST WITH WAXED PAPER

Place a piece of waxed paper over dry watercolor paper. Using a pencil or ball point pen, draw lines, squiggles or a design on the waxed paper. Remove the waxed paper, then paint on the watercolor paper. The wax from the paper will create a resist, leaving that part of the paper white.

CREATING WITH FIBERGLASS

You can create grasses, weeds and reeds with unusual effects in a collage by using fiberglass strands, available in hardware stores. Glue down the fiberglass to paper with acrylic matte medium. Let dry, and then watercolor or gouache over it.

DRAWING AND PAINTING WITH OIL STICKS

An oil stick can be used as a drawing instrument as well as for painting. When dipped in Liquin, it produces a slippery feel on the surface of paper or canvas. Oil sticks are compatible with oil pastels because they contain oil and wax.

USING GLYCERIN IN WATERCOLOR

If you want to slow down the evaporation of water in a painting, try using glycerin. Used in small amounts, it is very useful when you need to keep an area of a painting wet for a longer than usual time.

TEXTURING WITH WALLPAPER PASTE

Mix up wallpaper paste to a jelly-like consistency, and pour in a small tray or pan. Drop solvent based inks onto the paste with a dropper. Place a piece of glossy paper on top of it for a few seconds, to pick up color. The results will create unusual effects.

More Tips & Techniques on Page 61



"Enchanted Pinks" alcohol inks, 18 x 24 inches

What makes an artist?

Many people pose the question, *"How do you become a great artist?"* This can be compared to asking why someone can become a great pianist or a great architect. A combination of skill, determination and study is the start of any desired field.

Some of the great masters had very little formal training, like Albert Dorne, Vincent van Gogh or Paul Gauguin, but they understood what they were born to be, and succeeded.

Outside her 26-year career in Human Resources, **Shirley Wenning** fed her artistic side acquiring knowledge from viewing demonstrations given by William Alexander and Bob Ross, however Thomas Kincaid was a favorite artist and she never lost sight that painting was her true calling. For 40

years, Wenning dabbled in self-taught methods and upon retirement, was ready to dive headfirst into art.

Today, Shirley is a member of the *Lake Area Arts Group/LAAG*, sharing with others how being positive and pushing forward on your dream can



"Tropical Paradise" oil, 16 x 20 inches

be the beginning of humbleness and happiness.

"Enjoy what you do whether work or hobbies and thank God

every day for the opportunities."

A self-taught artist and creator of many paintings in oil, acrylic paints and inks, she works with alcohol inks, forming abstracts of flowers and sea and landscapes. She also creates necklace pendants from the bi-product of the acrylic pours and alcohol inks. But her true passion is painting realistic and impressionistic seascapes,

landscapes, lighthouses and floral paintings.

Artist Wenning spends much of her time painting, doing art shows/vendors and art competitions. Within the last 5 years, she has started doing more acrylic paintings and experimenting and having fun with acrylic pours. More of her works can be viewed at lakeareaartsgroup website.

Successful self-teaching can require self-discipline and

reflective capability, but also it can also lead down exciting new paths in forming a positive life.



ABCs of Color *By Nita Leland*

Achromatic--lacking color, neutral; gray, white or black

Basic palette--based on red, yellow, blue or magenta, yellow cyan primaries

Color scheme--a logical relationship of colors on the color wheel

Dominance--having larger color area or brighter color for emphasis

Earth color--low intensity color created from natural earths or synthetic equivalents

Fugitive color--color that fades or changes over a short period of time

Granulation--sedimentary or settling characteristic of pigment

Hue--the name of a color (red, yellow, blue, etc.)

Intensity--purity or brightness of a color; sometimes called chroma or saturation

Juxtapose--place colors side by side for contrast

Key-- high key: light-to-middle values; low key: middle-to-dark values; full contrast: complete value range from light to dark

Local color--actual color of an object

Movement--direction: horizontal (serene), vertical (stable) or diagonal (energetic)

Neutral--gray, white or black

Opacity--covering power of pigment

Primary colors--colors that can't be mixed--red, yellow blue, magenta, cyan

Quality (paint)--characteristic of painted surface--for example, thin, velvety or overworked

Reflected color--colored light that bounces from a surface and falls on a surface nearby

Split Primaries--two of each primary color used to create bright mixtures

Temperature--the warmth or coolness of a color (red-orange is warmest, blue-green is coolest)

Unity--the purpose of design, when everything is working

Value--light to dark range of a color

Wheel--circular arrangement of colors used in color theory and selection

Xpert--what you can be if you explore color

Yellow--the top of the color wheel--(the lightest value and highest intensity color)

Zen of color--your color intuition, which should always be your final authority.

Editor's Note: **Color Kitty** is based on a painting by Pat Rayman's Gretchen Anne. "I decided to go beyond local color and experiment with the color wheel and go wild! This attempt brought out my pet's liveliness and energy." Mixed-media, watercolor, ink, acrylic, 12 x 16 inches on oriental washi paper.

Fabric

Media Maria

The look and feel of silk can pull at your heartstrings with pleasing desire while wool delivers a dreamy picture of warmth and security.

Fabric media tempts every part of your being with texture, sleekness and shadows of color. Combine these features with a talented seamstress and you have a Sewist, the newest term for creating art with fabric.

Also known as fiber art, the craft took on an entirely new meaning in the 1950s as this hobby was suddenly transformed into the realm of sculpture and installation art. Textile and fiber were turned into high art by known artists that delivered two and three-dimensional wall hangings. The overall cohesive images that are created is nothing short of amazing.

Marilyn Stall has the skill of turning fabric into delicious pictures of nature-enhanced art. Being a quilter and interior decorator, Marilyn lets her love of outdoor beauty shine within the media of fabric. Since the age of 12, she has been sewing and learning new techniques. When quilting joined her cascade of creating things out of fabric, a whole new world opened up.

|| My quilts are crafted using both traditional piecing and the technique of raw-edge fused appliqué. Using nature as inspiration, I create my art quilts from many layers of cloth- painted, dyed, or purchased, cut into pieces and reassembled;



Combining threads and fabrics with many colors and patterns to form beautiful, cohesive images. The quilts are made by trial and error, where I learn by doing and experimenting."

A fine example of Stall's work is demonstrated in her 35 x 35 inch quilt *Backyard Leaves*. A collage of leaves, grasses and fauna is woven together to create a snapshot of nature at its finest.

Leaves from her backyard were used for this wall-hanging. Artist dyed cotton and cyanotype prints with cotton batiks and free-motion quilted, shadows and colors display each breathtaking natural leaf in clarity.

Marilyn's fabric art has been on exhibit and juried in the area

Ohio shows such as, Auglaize-Mercer Arts Place, St. Marys, Lake Area Arts Group Grand Lake Art Juried Show, Celina, Maria Stein Shrine Art Show, Maria Stein, Artistry Under the Dome Art Show, Celina/Cartagena, Wassenberg Art Center 64th Annual Juried Art Exhibit in Van Wert and various other exhibition sites.

|| I have been sewing most of my life, and the passion for it never dies. I am constantly learning new techniques to advance my art quilts, and inspiration is always close at hand, whether in a book, garden, or backyard!"

More on the web at: artquiltsbymarilyn.com.

Youth

Continued from Main Section Page 37

to fly after an unexpected accident. He will not let his new disability stop him from finding clever ways to reach his destination. Will he get there before he freezes his tail feathers?



Of course, Kale's artwork didn't just one day go from the refrigerator to the publishing market;

he has been creating since his single age years, when he was in Celina Intermediate School, nabbing the Local Fire Prevention poster contest, which his work was also sent off to the State of Ohio contest level.

While in athletics at Concordia

High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, art education gave



Amelia Goff a needed creative outlet and way to relax. She was also awarded two Scholastic Gold

Key Awards for photography and currently attends St. Francis University, pursuing certification in graphic design and photography.

Today, she resides in Celina with husband and daughter, where she became involved in the *Lake Area*

Arts Group in the Mercer County library exhibitions. In addition, Amelia's "Grand Lake Sunset" graces the cover of the inaugural **2021-22 Fall/Winter Lake Area Arts Group Journal**

For 2022, Amelia heads up the committee for "Art Around the Square" which will be a chalk drawing competition.

Born with autism, **Daniel Brodbeck** to this day still has a real passion for drawing and colorations of chosen images. In addition, he writes a story about a lost mitten, which has the workings of a future publication.



Besides his showings with the *Lake Area Arts Group*, Brodbeck's cartoon artworks have been exhibited at the Auglaize-Mercer Arts Place and ArtSpace Lima.

Educationally, Dan graduated

from Celina Public Schools and studied art applications at Edison State Community College. Today, he is an associate of Cheryl Ann Programs in Celina, works at Pax Machine, and stays on track since 2015 of never missing a LAAG conference.

What more can be said about an education in the Arts?

Whether it be the visual arts like drawing, painting, sculpture and design works or the performing arts like dance, music and theater, the most accurate findings are through the arts, the human in us develops skills like: resilience, grit, a growth mindset, which to aids us to master a craft, achieve academically and succeed in life after our secondary education years.



Art of Story Telling

Have you ever tried to tell a story but the words get so twisted that the entire story becomes a disaster? There is an art to storytelling and it has been met by some of the greatest minds on earth.

Storytelling is the ability to communicate and connect with anyone and is an art that few people possess. Harder yet, is the ability to put your story telling abilities on paper and creating an awesome novel. Some great storytellers are as famous as Walt Disney, Steve Jobs or John Grisham. However, there are talented

people among us that can grab your attention with their dialogue in print, and one is **Jared Nathan Garrett**, who has been a Facebook friend of mine through a writing



site for well over 20 years.

Initially, I never read any of his work from cover to cover, but I was intrigued with his positive nature and enthusiasm with life from his posts. The latter spurred me to begin reading his work and I found it amazingly simple to relate to. Unlike some books that lead you deep into a boring encounter before finally getting to the point, Jared's way with words captivated me from the beginning.

Garrett's first novel, Beyond the Cabin takes you on a journey inside

the cult and what life is like for the children forced into this way of life. You see, Jared spent many of his adolescent and teen years in a commune in Texas.

"I don't remember not being able to read. I've been reading non-stop since before I was five. When I was eleven years old, I was put in a very hard living situation that was relentlessly unstable and unhealthy, and I turned to stories for comfort," said author Garrett.

Jared is credited for writing several other books, including the best-seller. Beat series. His imagination and storytelling abilities are a great combination for losing yourself in that perfect novel.

"I read every fantasy, science fiction, horror, thriller and romance book at the Oak Lawn branch of the



Dallas Public Library. And as I read, I began to crave what I was reading: true love, heroism, fighting against tyranny and evil, and never giving up," said Garrett.

He escaped the cult when he was 17, finished high school in Utah and went on to study at *Brigham Young University* and earned a Bachelor's in Linguistics and a Masters in English Teaching and Instructional Psychology.

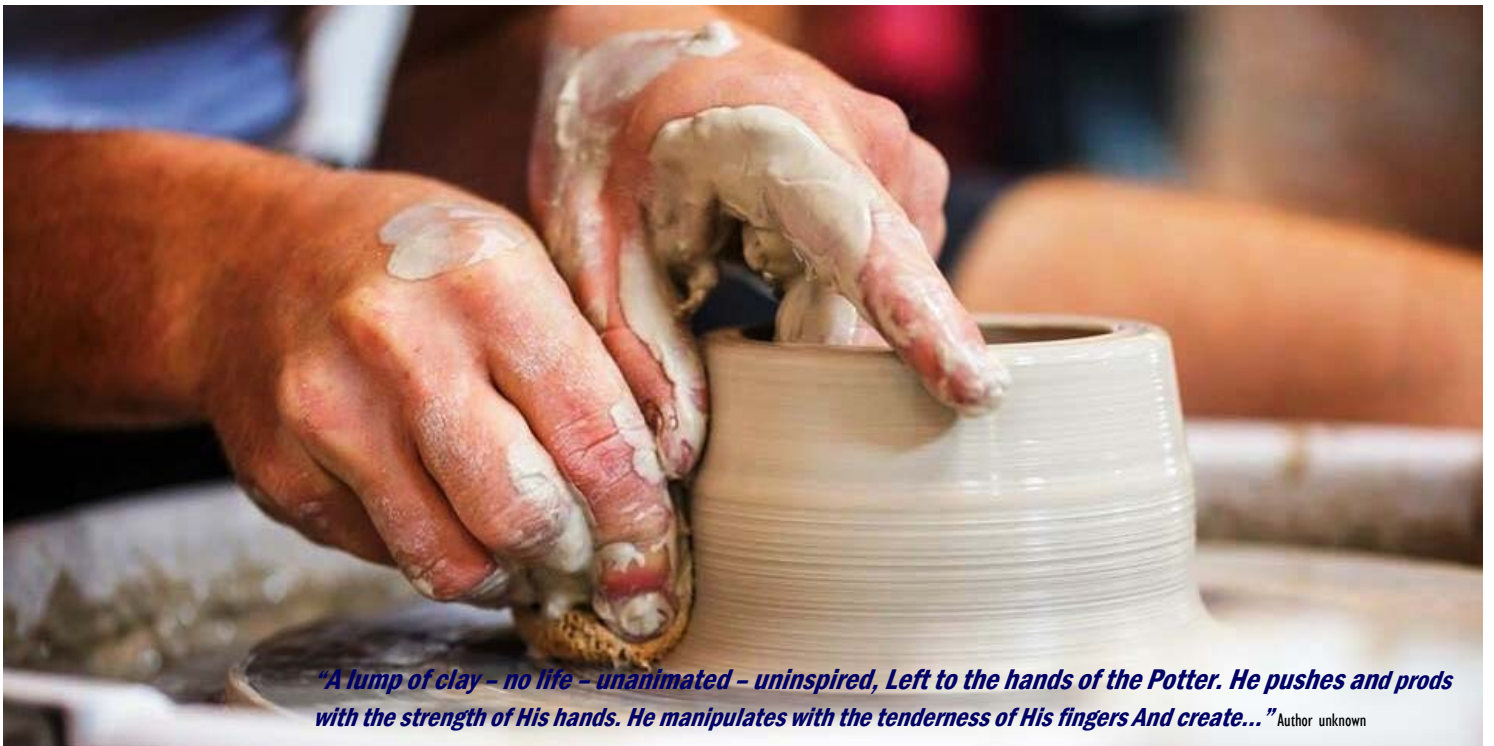
Jared has taught in Yamagata, Japan, Kaohsiung, Taiwan and a high-risk high school in Anchorage, Alaska. The list goes on with coaching executives at worldwide Amazon locations and serving Mission for two years in Brazil.

"Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson made me cry and lifted me and carried me away. I wanted to do that to other people. Stories are my hobby, preoccupation and career focus," says Garrett.

In 1998, Jared married his college sweetheart, Annemarie. They have 7 children and reside in Utah. He has traded in the full time teaching jobs for working from home as a consultant, freelancer and a full-time dad while Annemarie practices law.

Not all childhoods are perfect, but you can make your life matter with a good attitude, perseverance and a belief in your Higher Power. For an updated listing of all his books and more: jaredgarrett.com.

By Kate Eglan-Garton



"A lump of clay – no life – unanimated – uninspired, Left to the hands of the Potter. He pushes and prods with the strength of His hands. He manipulates with the tenderness of His fingers And create..." Author unknown

Mudding your way into pottery

Some of the most fulfilling and productive endeavors involve getting your hands dirty. Take pottery, for instance. Pick up a decorative ceramic vessel and feel the history, the culture, and the skill of the artist that was able to produce something so exquisite from dirt. The results are not only miraculous, but soothing for the builder.

Braelen Bader is one such artist that took a wheel throwing class in his senior year of high school. In that short span of time, something told him that pottery was in his blood.



He continued on to *Siena Heights University* in Adrian, Michigan where he studied pottery and completed with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.



Wheel throwing is a process where a ball of clay is centered on a turntable that rotates by electric motor. While the clay revolves, the operator uses his/her hands to carefully mold and shape the ball into a vessel.



Continued >

It takes a skill, patience and perseverance to control and mold the piece. Not unlike a sport where the anticipation of achievement is met, the potter ends with a purposeful goal completed.

There is much more to creating ceramics than wheel throwing and Braelen was so passionate about his love for pottery, he returned home the Celina and vowed to teach his knowledge to others. The small shop is located on Main Street behind the Olive and Branch Boutique. In addition to making custom and personalized pieces, Bader and his life partner, **Brooke Kranz** hosts different types of workshops for interested parties of all ages.

“*Together we strive to excite others, reaching to build a more positive environment among one another,*” says Bader.

In addition to live demos and tips and tricks of the industry, workshops may be themed or focused on learning particular aspects of ceramics, like wheel throwing. Bader feels that everyone has to find a way to master clay according to their own level and speed.



“*As an instructor, I think it is important to give others the freedom to discover. I usually set them free for the first 5-10 minutes on the wheel so they can find their own way.*”

If you are looking for an outlet of self-expression or an exciting new challenge, pottery could be the answer. Stop by the *Nite Owl Studio and Design* for upcoming workshops as well as view more of their works of art. You can also contact Braelen at 419-953-9292.

“*Too often we are constrained to think that there is only one way to get from point A to point B. Art does indeed give you that freedom to express, uncovering new and different ways of doing and thinking.*”

In Bader’s closing words in the above, the AAPJ Editorial Board agrees wholeheartedly with his platform. Regardless of where one is chronologically, when our plates are overflowing and caught in a storm of decisions, we must remember ‘haste makes waste’ and it is time to shut down and simply smell the roses.



Tomorrow is another day.

Nonetheless, the pursuit must not only be ferrous in our quests, but also never losing sight of the fine details in the big picture of things – for it is written “*...As the clay is in the Potter’s hand, so are you in my hand.*” Jeremiah 18:6.



M iniature artistic sentiments

Messages of goodwill were first established by the Chinese in the 15th century. How precious and personal these rolled-up scribes were to the receiver. Egypt picked up this tradition and transformed scribes into cards. By the time Europe was introduced to card making, the process was still handmade with the employ of local artists to create a professional sentimental front. Card making was a skill that costs a pretty penny until mass production was introduced.

Those days are gone now and card making is presently considered a hobby, of sorts. Often compared to scrapbooking, flowers, doilies and stencils are used to create an amateur handcrafted greeting to others.

Wouldn't it be awesome to bring together skilled artists to rekindle the special sentiment of history's fine masters? The entire meaning of card making would come under a new light and that special meaning could be once again preserved.

Sonnie Bernardi grew up in the St. Marys area and specializes in designing customized greeting cards. She is known for her

"Vintage Ladies" cards depicting 1920s fashions enhanced with gems, fur and hats with netting and feathers.

Sonnie became involved with the *Lake Area Arts Group* after retiring as an oncology consultant in 2014. She now concentrates on her creative goals with clients in California, Wisconsin, and locally where she has donated her custom cards to hospice families for special holidays. She has a passion for cards, *LAAG* and her

activities in the arts.

Not only did Bernardi serve on the Board of Directors of the *Lake Area Arts Group* for nearly

four years, but also she was active in coordinating art workshops for youth.

Demonstrating cardmaking and including children at the *Mercer County Fair* for three years, she showed many young people how their skills could make a difference in the lives of others.



"In the age of fast food, fast cars, speedy computers, texting, emails and Instagram, it is nice to sit down and carefully create a homemade card for a family member, friend or someone dear. Making a handmade card shows how much you care." ♥



TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Continued from Paint Box page 52

SHOWING TEXTURE WITH RICE

First apply a watercolor wash on paper. While it is still wet, drop some rice on the surface and let it dry. After the rice is removed, dark areas will remain on the paper. The result may be used as a background for a painting, or may be cut-up or torn for collage art.

MONOPRINTING WITH OIL STICKS

Apply a small amount of Liquin {fluid medium used in oil painting to thin paints.} to a sheet of glass, and draw on it using a few of the oil sticks. Place a piece of paper over the drawing and rub the back of it using a roller or your hand.

MONOPRINTING WITH WATERCOLORS

First squeeze out some dish liquid in a tray and mix in watercolors. Quickly paint an image on a sheet of glass or plastic. {It takes a little practice to determine how much watercolor and dish liquid to give you the best results.} Lay a piece of watercolor paper on the painting and use a roller or press with your hand. Hot press paper works best, however for an unusual effect, try Yupo paper.

CREATING MOOD

Using horizontal shapes in a painting, nearly always suggest a calm mood. Strong verticals and diagonals imply action.

MARBLING ON FABRIC USING ACRYLIC PAINT

First pour some liquid laundry starch into a tray. After mixing the colors you want to use with water, to a thin consistency, drop them onto the starch with an eye dropper. Move the colors around with the handle of the brush or some other tool until an interesting pattern appears. Place fabric on top of the acrylics for a few seconds, to pick up the colors, then lay it flat to dry.

PASTEL DUSTING TECHNIQUE

A different approach to applying chalk pastel to paper is through a dusting method. Brush a mixture of equal parts of water and acrylic gel medium onto the paper. Then scrape pastel color over the surface, when dry spray on fixative.

“Drawing is the true test of art.” J.A.D. Ingres {1780-1867} French Painter

WATERCOLOR PAPER COLLAGE

Don't throw out that old watercolor! As many watercolorists, I have a large portfolio of old discards and unfinished paintings. I wait for the right moment to breathe new life into them, however sometimes that moment never comes.

One day, I decided to sort through my stash and tear apart each painting, making piles of various color values. I made a pile of **light, medium and dark greens**, and then

reds, blues and a host of others. Each pile was placed in a labeled envelope.

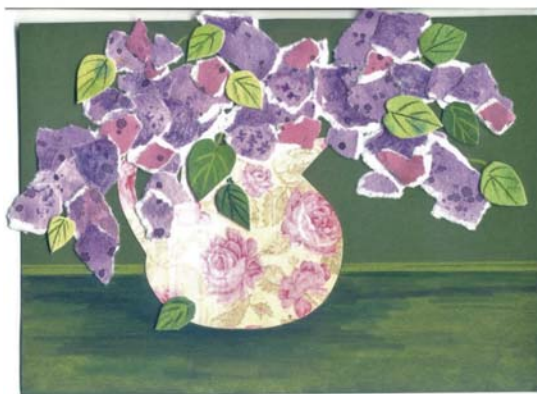
Since I recently taught a class on loose watercolor flower painting, I decided to try a gardenia watercolor I painted for my students.

After I studied the shapes of the leaves and petals, I began to tear paper. I was more concerned with values and shapes, then trying to reproduce the exact color. *I was after a more dramatic effect.*

I prefer collage to begin with, that I found the tearing process along with arranging shapes, so much fun. When you are having fun, the creative process just flows. Tearing paper rather than cutting with scissors, produces a more interesting edge.

I arranged my petal and leaf shapes on off white paper, and then I tried other background colors to see what worked best. Experimenting with different backgrounds is important before you glue down your final composition. I use a good brand of glue stick, however liquid glue works just as well.

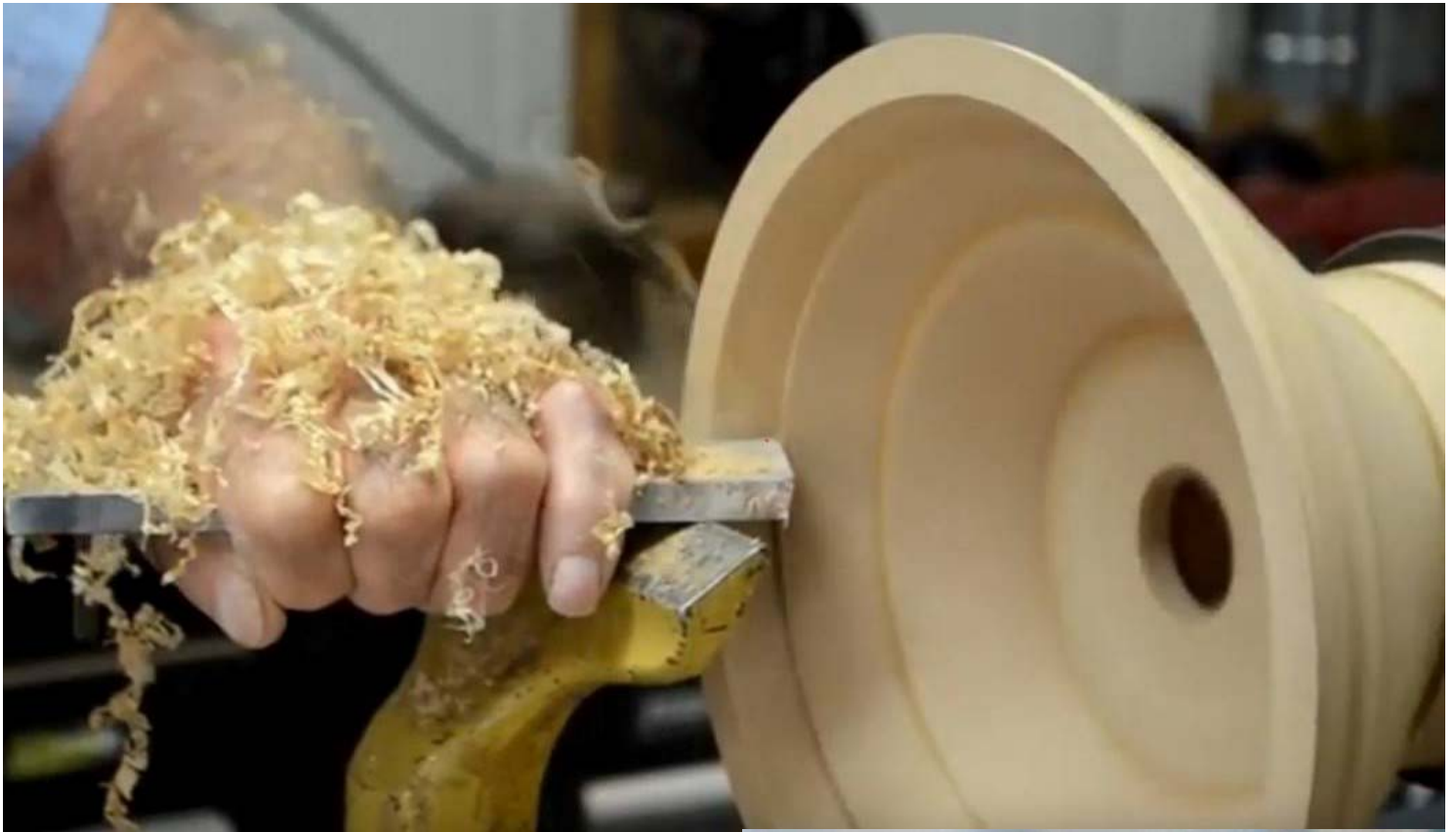
To create more drama, I used colored pencils to outline some shapes or added pencil shading to strengthen the color. I found scrap booking paper to be an advantage for creating various effects.



For example, I cut out {with a scissors for variety,} a watering can from scrap booking paper to hold my torn paper begonias.

There is no limit to what subject matter can be used. Sometimes just arranging a few paper shapes will bring forth a new idea or studying a photo.

Just remember to have fun! By Pat Rayman



A pulp full of art in those grains

When you are an artist and your primary media is wood, thousands of images can come to mind. Vessels, carvings, sculptures, and other types of decorative art can make an impressive statement when natural wood is the blank sheet. Working with wood can be delightful to your sense of touch and smell. These artists enjoy the earthy, natural, and soothing atmosphere of their chosen media and are mastering the trade.



Wood Turning began between 500 and 1500 A.D., turned wooden vessels served as the everyday bowls and cups in Europe. Even before then, turning on a lathe has been dated back to Egypt in 1300 B.C. Woodturning became a skill that molded wood through learned techniques to form different scales and designs.

Parting, planing, bead, cove, and hollowing were a few of the terms used to describe the delicate maneuvering of turning tools. As time went on, objects such as gavels, darning eggs, boxes trays, candlesticks, lamps, and legs for furniture were perfected for a host of residential and commercial uses.

Today, woodturning still resembles that of the 1400s in Europe. Turning

wood as an art form took place in 1480 A.D. as Leonardo Da Vinci made this breakthrough. Beautiful examples of natural and exotic woods are a treasure to display as authentic pieces of the craft.

Bob Hart of Fort Recovery, Ohio specialty is turned bowls of a variety of shapes and sizes. He has created over 1600 wooden art projects.

Recent wood art by **Ralph**

Stuckman was created using a nonfunctional method. He chose cedar because the smell adds to this



art form, which this turning included tooled indents into the wood as circular rounds, and a wire was placed into these dents to burn, producing black marks adding to this art form.

Wood Carving is a form of woodworking that has represented many traditions of countries. The oldest wood-carved sculpture, the Shigir Idol carved from larch, is around 12,000 years old. China and Africa still honor



carvings in certain ceremonies.

Noted as the queen of wood carving, **Louise Nevelson**, born 1899

in Ukraine to a Jewish family, moved to New York to study art. She took up wood carving and became known for creating works using painted pieces of wood. Her work often depicted femininity and relationships like *Dawn's Wedding Feast*. She drew inspiration from the trauma in her life, which was her source of creativity.

The tools are different than those of woodturning. Make to cause gouges and chips, the artist moves with the grain of the wood to create an equally strong indentation on all sides. Basswood and tupelo are popular hardwoods for wood carving. "*Grandpa's Shoe*" by **Pat Rayman** was craved using walnut wood and her wood burn (5



feet by 5 inches) was using a soft pine.

Woodblock printing originated in China in 220 AD. The idea changed the way that scrolls were used and started the evolution of paper. With printed woodblocks, mass production, of sorts was possible for distributing books. Art in books was even possible by using textiles and dyes that made books more interesting. The wood ink block print, "*Grain Stacks*" (7 x 5 inches) is by **Doug Fiely**.

Wood burning is a great way to develop your artistic skills. Burning designs into the wood by practicing pyrography, can create almost anything your heart desires. "*The Courtship*" (5 feet by 5 inches) by **Pat Rayman** is part of a burned pair. Those with a good imagination and learning the basics of the trade can become unique and skilled artists in not only wood-burning but other media, as well.

Raw and mysterious, wood continues to fascinate artists with its intriguing natural presence.





Give Thanks for *Artistry Under the Dome*

“Art touches people’s soul. It is very spiritual. When you think of churches and temples and synagogues, they all have artwork in them. Art connects to the spiritual part of our being.”

Spoken by **Sister Martha Bertke**, her interest in art began to blossom in the 1980s while serving in ministry as a director of religious education and pastoral associate. So profound was the cultural and spiritual connection of art to her that Bertke began

planning meaningful art events in her community of Mercer County, Ohio.

Artistry Under the Dome was carefully planned and committees

formed to showcase a broad spectrum of artwork: painting, photography, sculpture, woodworking, jewelry, pottery and many more. The work also represents a community of artists,

who all reside in or hail from Mercer and Auglaize Counties. The first show was held April 5-10, 2013. It has been held annually for seven years and the dates for the next art fair is planned in April 2022.



Considered as the area’s premier juried art fair, bringing a variety of artists to the Saint Charles Center in Carthagena, artists and area students share in the human emotion of creating feelings, religious faith, curiosity, interest, identification with a group, memories,

thoughts and creativity. Thousands of people attend the event and walk away with a new appreciation for art.

For forty years Sister Martha Bertke served at various parishes as either a teacher, DRE (Director of Religious Education), or Pastoral Assistant.

She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Dayton, a master's degree in education from the Webster University of St. Louis and a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry, and she attended many theology courses at the University of Notre Dame.



Retirement brought time to volunteer as a volunteer chaplain at Mercer Health Hospital and serve on several committees and Boards of Directors, including being a dedicated member of the LAAG Board of Directors. She loves being a Sister of the Precious Blood.

Sister believes, *"Art is intended to appeal and connect with human emotion. Artists may express something so that their audience is stimulated in some way."* **How very well put.** ♥

Value vs Color: Which comes first?

In 1970 my first painting teacher taught basic watercolor techniques. He claimed the most important principle in art was value. *I thought values were something you learned in Sunday school.* He explained that values create shapes and lead the viewer's eye through a picture. He made us paint value scales by diluting Payne's Gray to create gradual changes from dark to light. For five weeks we painted in Payne's Gray, everything from skies to trees to barns. We focused on value contrast, as we practiced our watercolor skills.

Eventually the instructor allowed us to work with Ultramarine Blue and Burnt Sienna to mix a variety of blues, browns, grays and black—Payne's Gray was now forbidden. His emphasis was still on values. Finally he allowed us to use a primary-color palette that included Alizarin Crimson, Cadmium Yellow and Ultramarine Blue.

I was thrilled to be painting in color at last. But something wasn't working. I raised my hand and asked, Am I doing something wrong? I can't mix a bright orange or green! He replied, *"When the values are right, the color doesn't matter."*

Being a total beginner, I accepted his words as gospel and learned to be a value painter. But the more I worked with paint, the more dissatisfied I was with my color mixing. I set about to study color. I emphasize color now when I teach, but I still acknowledge the importance of values. The emotional content of color and the visual impact of values together create many different moods.

For example, delicate colors comprise a high key plan, with very light to middle values. This plan suggests an optimistic mood in still lifes and florals, but can also be effective in portraits and landscapes to suggest a positive image. Strong darks would look out of place and spoil the mood.

A low key value plan consisting of colors in the dark to middle tones creates a dramatic mood, somber and austere. This plan may depict stormy weather, a brooding landscape, or a mysterious figure. Light, bright colors are out of place in a low key plan.

Color-key values expand your options for more expressive pictures. Before I start painting, I play with my paints, making small sketches or mingling colors on wet paper to compare different combinations to see what moods and value ranges I can create with the colors.

I'm convinced that if the values in your painting are right, the color just makes it better.



By Nita Leland

C alligraphy is more than just *Letters*

The art of beautiful writing is well defined by this following quote from an unknown author:

“Geometry can produce legible letters, but Art alone makes them beautiful. Art begins where Geometry ends, imparts to letters a character transcending mere measurement.”

Making marks to convey information (the original reason writing was invented) can be boring. It may be that the art of calligraphy was invented by scribes to relieve the boredom of hours spent hours transcribing information.

They found that pressing down or letting up on the quill pen point produced varying thicknesses in the line; or a slight change of angle gave a letter distinctive character, or that sliding over the wet ink with the corner of a quill produced a sensitive hairline. The scribes found pleasure in making their work not only more stunningly beautiful, easy-on-the-eyes, but also interesting.

The invention of printing with moveable type had a huge effect on society. The humble scribe was one of the first casualties of this invention. However, letters still had to be written, documents compiled and charters prepared. It took another 400 years before the activities of the scribe became obsolete with the invention of the typewriter at the end of the 19th century.

Calligraphy hit its lowest point at this time, but this is also the period when realization of the skills that had been lost began to resurface. In Victorian England, the industrial revolution brought about a nostalgic reaction; people looked back to what they saw as a golden age, unpolluted by noisy, smelly factories.

The Arts and Crafts movement encouraged the art of beautiful writing done by hand. The father of the English calligraphy revival was **Edward Johnston** (1872- 1944). He was training to become a doctor, but due to his health had to give up his practice. From then until his death, he decided to devote himself to the craft of calligraphy. His friends in the Arts and Crafts movement encouraged and supported him by asking him to teach a class in calligraphy in 1899.

At that time Johnston himself was still teaching himself by research and experiment, so he adopted the attitude of asking his students to share in his work. Together they made pioneering discoveries in the lost art.

Why is Johnston’s work so significant? During the 19th century calligraphers had been drawing Gothic letters with a pointed steel

nib and carefully filling them in. Masons cut Gothic letters and signwriters painted them.

Johnston realized that the shape and form of a thing must come directly from what is used to make it. In other words, the pressure ancient scribes put on the quill pen or soft-hair brush gave calligraphic letters their distinctive look, and the individual style of each scribe created unique beauty in his lettering.

Johnston harnessed the knowledge of the past to create a new future for the art of calligraphy. It is now over 100 years since Johnston made his first experiments in calligraphy. Unlike most art movements, **Calligraphy** remains alive and well.

In fact, the last 40 years have seen a dramatic increase in books and periodicals about calligraphy. Why is this? It may be because calligraphers realized that calligraphy had the potential to be more than just a craft, and this knowledge opened up new horizons.

Not all calligraphy is art, but the potential for art

exists within it. Many calligraphic pieces now being produced incorporate painting techniques and, indeed, some works become paintings that can hold their own in galleries. Legibility is no longer a must; for many calligraphers the idea is to produce something beautiful to look at using letterforms.

Calligraphy is like playing a very fine instrument to produce visual music. The art of writing has evolved from “making marks to convey information” to making marks that are visually handsome and stimulating to the eye.

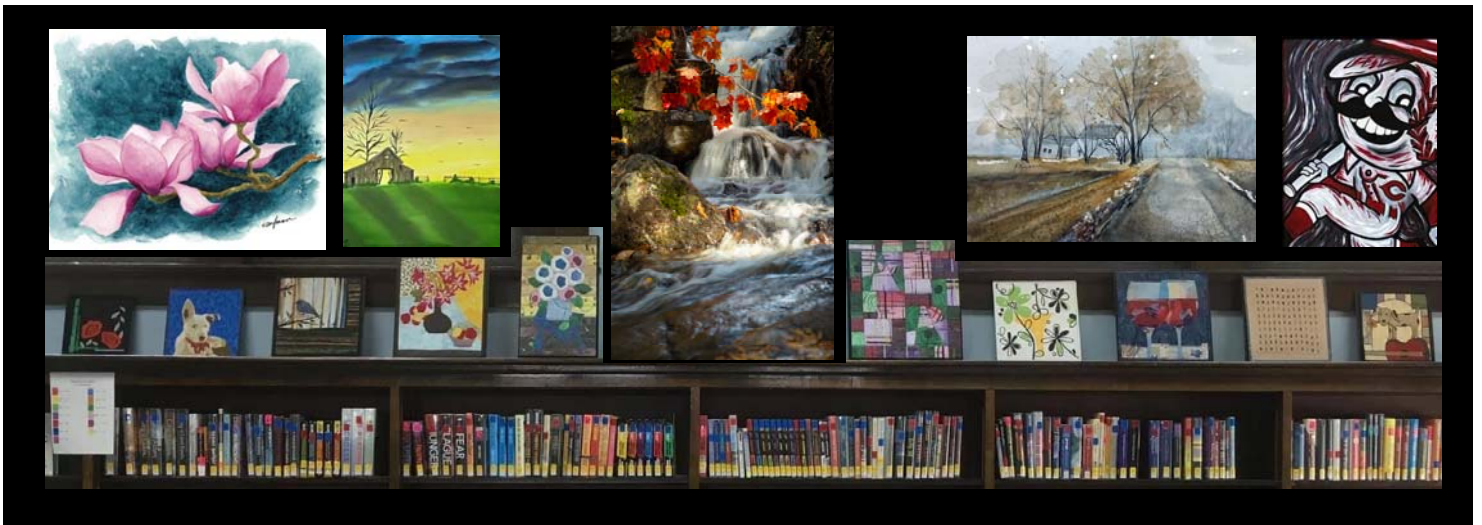


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Ohio Arts
COUNCIL





Trend of today's libraries

Almost everyone remembers their first memory of visiting the local library. The smell of paper, the quiet atmosphere and the dozens of books just waiting to be read. With all of the technology and simulation in today's world, do we ever forget about that first visit that manifested in our brain?

Libraries have a long-standing reputation for forming a positive attitude toward knowledge and learning how to use resources for academic advancement. Ever since libraries were formed some 5,000 years ago, they have offered

more than just storage and preservation for documents.

Ask any serious academic scholar why to bother with libraries when the Internet is so complete. The answer may seem simple and challenging, but all libraries represent order, structure and intellect, including they

tell the stories of a culture, individuals, communities, countries and the world.

In addition to having a commonplace for knowledge and familiar partners, a library offers a distinction between where we are and where we are going. A probe to promote the arts in the county between **Liz Muether**, Director/CFO of the Mercer County District Library and **Ralph Stuckman**, former Chairman of the Lake Area Arts Group/LAAG, has proven successful with an idea of art displays in the libraries.



That task was given to **Sherry Chandler**, now Executive Director of LAAG to recruit and organize artists for the seven public libraries: **Celina Main Library, Zahn-Marion, Chickasaw, Mendon-Union, St. Henry-Granville, Coldwater, Fort Recovery and Rockford.**

Beginning in March of 2015, artists began displaying their work

in the libraries. Each artist displayed their work in a library for one month and at the end of that month moved to another library until they had displayed in all seven Libraries.

Chandler said, *"The program was extremely well received and proved to be a great way for art of many different*

mediums and styles to be exposed to the public." The program ran for five years

through March of 2020 when the libraries were closed due to the pandemic.

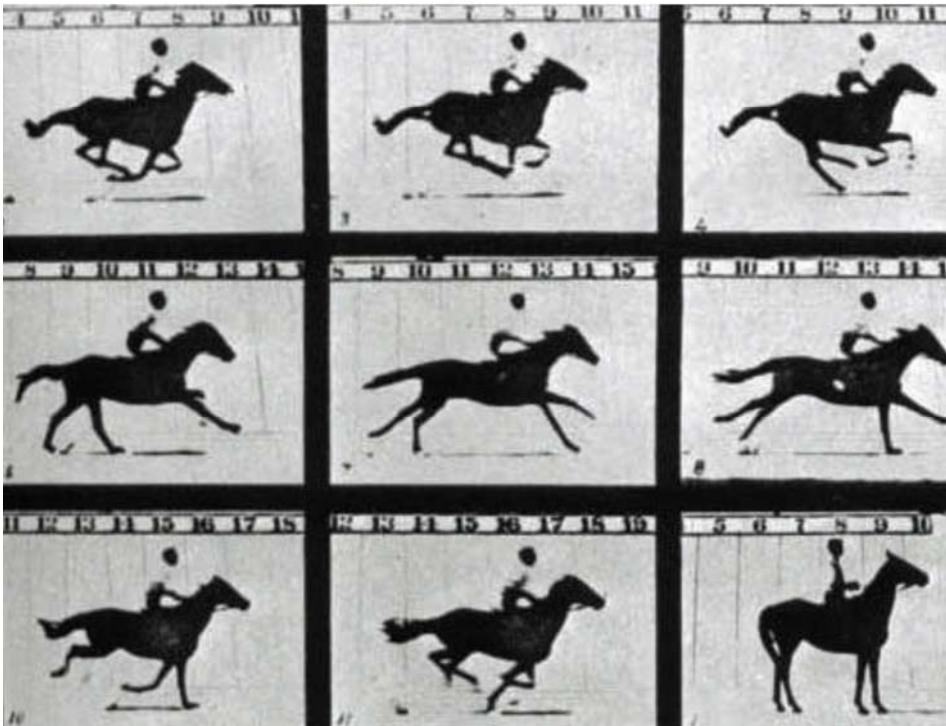
Libraries continue to be a focal point for learning, atmospheric, cultural and academic learning. What better way to bring together the cultural and academic qualities of life than through visual artistic aids.

Even to the layman, art displayed in a library adds new meaning to the order and structure. Whether you are a child or an academic student, the new adventures of art in libraries can bring a new meaning to your library visits.



Before photography, no one was really sure how animals and people moved during fast action. This resulted in a lot of racing paintings in which the horses looked like rocking horses with front and rear legs sticking straight out. It took a bet made by a wealthy man with a stable of horses to settle the question of exactly how a race horse moved while running.

Photography and Motion



“Horse in Motion” (1878) photograph by Eadweard Muybridge. These photographs are the first successful ones of a moving horse, Sallie Gardner, owned by Leland Stanford, is running at a 1.40 gait over Palo Alto track.

In 1872, Leland Stanford, a former governor, bet a friend \$25,000 that a race horse had all four feet off the ground at one time at some point during its running gait. He hired photographer **Eadweard Muybridge** to photograph *Occident*, a famous trotting horse in Stanford’s stable in San Francisco.

Although Muybridge invented a special fast shutter and covered the track with white sheets to provide

extra light, the wet-plate photo process of the time was too slow to give proof. However, the photos taken indicated that Stanford was right, so Muybridge was asked to continue.

The process was postponed for a few years, first because Muybridge was photographing the *Modoc Indian War* at the California-

Oregon border and then again because Muybridge shot and killed his wife’s lover. He was acquitted by a jury, but felt it wise to leave the country for a while.

In June 1878, Stanford invited the media to witness Muybridge photographing a trotting horse and racing mare, using a new technique with which they hoped to capture the animals with all four legs off the ground.

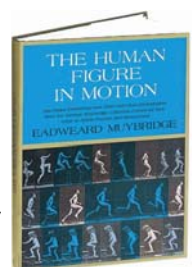
To photograph the trotter, twelve cameras were set up, each fitted with a drop shutter triggered by a spring or rubber band. From each camera a fine wire was stretched across the track, activated by the iron rim of the wheel of the sulky, which closed an electrical circuit, releasing the shutters one after another.

To photograph the mare *Sallie Gardner*, fine black threads were placed across the track at intervals of 27 inches, striking her breast high and releasing the shutters. The resulting photographs proved conclusively that the four feet of a galloping horse are all off the ground at one time only, when they are bunched together under the animal’s belly.

Photographing animal and human locomotion became Muybridge’s main interest. With support from the *University of Pennsylvania*, he took more than 100,000 photographs from 1872 to 1885. These showed not only people in motion, but also domestic dogs, cats and horses as well as moose, elk, bear, raccoon, lion, tiger, monkey and birds.

He published eleven volumes showing animal locomotion and in 1901 he published *“The Human Figure in Motion.”*

Muybridge’s books are still used as reference by educators, anatomists, students and artists.





IN THE CENTER is Chuck Haney, professional photographer, formerly of Defiance, Ohio and now resides in Whitefish, Montana, gave a presentation to the Celina Area Photo Club. Haney conducts workshops around the country. Some of the CAPC members shown at this time in the photo (l-r) are: Jerry Deitsch, Randy Shellenbarger, Cheryl Stambaugh, Deb Nutt, Diane Wagner, Kris Winget, Peggy Green, Deb Borns, and Virginia Burroughs.

*S*hooting the best of times

Photography never comes easy. Even the skilled and gifted spend hours learning the art and perfecting the techniques and compositions. Getting comfortable with certain subjects, light

settings, and the fundamentals of your equipment is just the beginning of a career in photography.

The one crucial part of expanding your knowledge of photography is to appreciate critique and surround yourself with like

-minded people. The years of effort will turn into one of passion, pride and being able to notice small beautiful details in everything on earth.

The *Celina Area Photo Club* (CAPC) was founded well over 20 years ago by a group of one-minded

photographers in the Mercer County region. A central purpose of the organization is to expand knowledge of photography and experiencing the fun all that photography offers in capturing Mother Nature in her purest form

Over the years besides CAPC's monthly meetings, in their excursion programming beyond the local Grand Lake area, members have taken photo shoots



regionally such as in and around Dayton, Columbus, Cleveland Fort Wayne, and the bi-ways to and from these areas. However, many members have traveled great distances, being Africa, Iceland as well as in US states of Montana, Michigan, West Virginia, Utah, North Dakota participating in workshops, learning from some of the very best photographers.

During CAPC meetings, they may exhibit their photos based on a past monthly theme and critique each other, offering different perspective ways to improve techniques. In addition, other outside the club professionals have given expert talks on various topics ranging from how



Photo by Peggy Green of a section in downtown Celina on US 127.

to take good portraits and landscape photography.

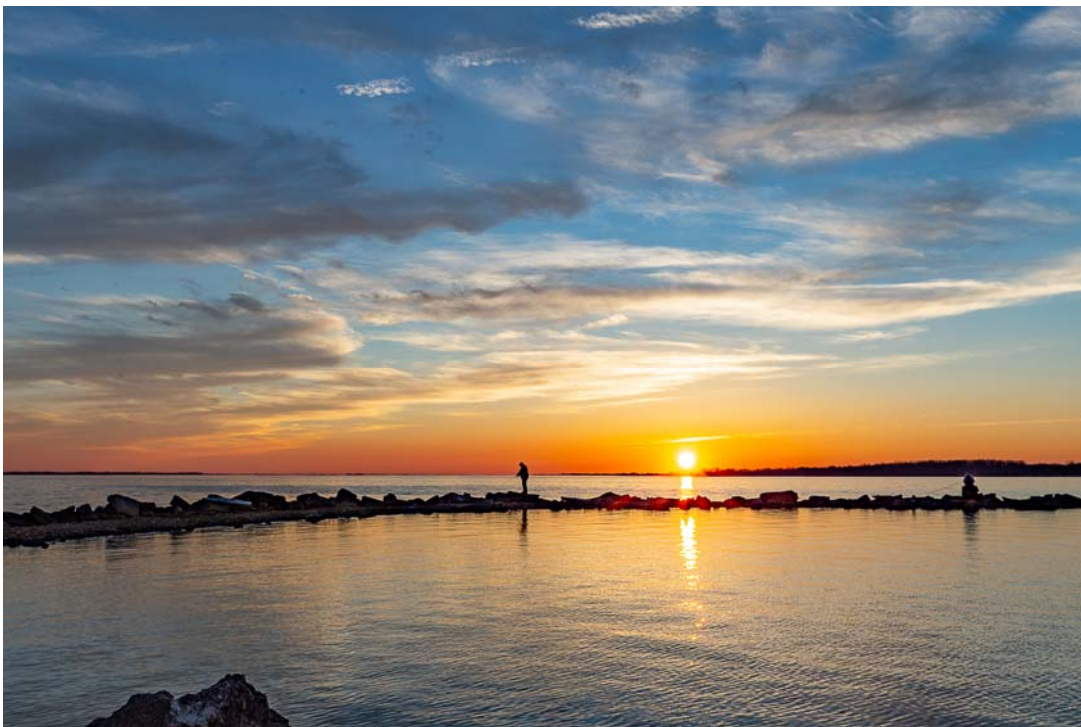
A brief history of Mercer County reports it was part of six different

counties and was included in the Northwest Territory until 1824.

The powerful Miami tribe called this area home until the government forced them to reservations in Kansas. German settlers found this section of Ohio perfect for farming and setting up homesteads.

Today, past and present residents enjoy the lake for fishing, boating and share with thousands of visitors to the area. Festivals, concerts, and art attractions bring thousands of visitors to this special area.

CAPC meet monthly and for more information, call **Diane Wagner** at 419.733.1526. Regardless of the level of skill, membership is open to anyone with an interest in photography.



Fisherman by Diane Wagner taken around Grand Lake St. Marys.

