



MIDWEST
WATERCOLOR
SOCIETY

Clear Choices

Spring 2003

TIME FOR A CHANGE

The italicized words you are about to read represent my report to the Board at our March meeting.

I have been thinking long and hard about MWS- -where it is and where it is going. I think we would all agree with where it is today- -something of which to be very proud. During our last Board meeting I talked about the idea of a name change for this society. After some discussion, it was agreed that we shelve the idea for a future meeting. Well, guess what? The future is now! What I am about to share with you are my convictions regarding this future. What I hope to accomplish today is to set the wheels of change in motion. Everything has a beginning, so let it begin.

Our organization has grown to become a reputable watercolor society. In our early days, that was a pretty respectable goal. Today, I feel we are laboring under the umbrella of the implied regionalism provided by our name. I know that those who came before us worked hard to build, and live up to, a name that was given to this society, a name that has served us well. But now I feel we are faced with the irony of the need to break free from the restrictive nature of that very name- -Midwest. It is my opinion that it has become an anchor, not a sail.

Everyone here knows that today we are a national society. Yet, we continue to struggle with an image that falls short of that fact. Our own

museum search committee has told us that they have to explain our national scope to museums in order to help sell our product. When you have to do that, you can be sure, something is lost in the process. However, I find myself doing the same thing whenever I am talking to someone who wants to know more about us. I always feel compelled to sneak in the fact that we are national. If we were truly content with the implied nature of our name, would we work so hard to educate otherwise? I believe the reason we do so is quite simple. We have to! It is all about prestige and we are obviously looking for more of it.



Message from the **President**

So why do we persist in advertising Midwest? Why continue calling it something we are not? I think the time has come for us to stand up and get the recognition we deserve. We will never get different results if we continue to do things the same way. And we are never going to really get that recognition unless we make a change. I believe that change must begin with our name. As I see it, the choices are simple. We can continue to allow our name to assert an area of origin or we can work to create a new name, one that declares the extent of our reach! We are big. I think it is time we help people become more aware of that fact. We need a name that says we are national!

Now, there will be those who will call it sacrilegious that we would even

consider this. I say, "So be it". At one time, I was one of them. I imagine there were those who thought the same thing in 1967 when the 47 year old California Watercolor Society decided to change its name to the California National Watercolor Society and again, in 1975, when it finally was voted to become the National Watercolor Society. We all know where that decision has taken them.

No one has a monopoly on success. I would like to see this organization succeed in the next 25 years like it never has before, and I see changing our name as the most direct route to that level of success. Our exhibitions are second to none! Our prospectus says national, our website says national, our exhibition catalog proclaims national, yet our name always holds dominion in distinctive bold letters, continuing to contradict. Change is needed and there is never a better time than the present.

*When your name says you are big, people take notice. It says you are the standard by which all others are judged, and that is worth something. Everyone takes notice of the big boys, the artists do, the museums do, the press does, the public does, and, most importantly, the **award donors**. It is as simple as that. Of this, I am convinced!*

I think we stand with an opportunity at our doorstep. It will require a bold and decisive leap on our part, but you cannot cross a chasm with small steps. If we want to be big,

Cont. Page 3 **Time for a Change**

Have you marked your calendar for June 21st, 2003?



Vicki L. Morley
Vice President
Exhibition Chair

Plans are well underway for our 27th Annual Transparent Watercolor Exhibit at the West Bend Art Museum in West Bend, Wisconsin. The field of entries totaled 928! After previewing so many magnificent slides, I could easily see that the challenge for our juror, John Salminen, AWS, MMWS, was an awesome one. This promises to be a spectacular exhibit and a real tribute to the art of Transparent Watercolor.

Besides viewing the transparent watercolor exhibit, the visitor to the West Bend Art Museum will be equally entertained at seeing the permanent collection of works by American-German artist, Carl von Marr (1858-1936). Carl von Marr was born in Milwaukee but received his art training in Munich. He earned quite an artistic reputation evidenced by the fact that leaders of three European Kingdoms knighted him.

The West Bend Art Museum also prides itself on the permanent collection of prominent

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Wisconsin artists dating from the mid-19th century. This museum is small in structure but large in artistic and cultural vitality. Please visit their website at wbartmuseum.com

For those of you who have never traveled to the Milwaukee/West Bend area of Wisconsin and are able to do so this summer, I strongly urge you to set aside half a day for a stop in Milwaukee to experience the magnificent Santiago Calatrava designed Quadracci Pavilion at the Milwaukee Art Museum. This building is an architectural masterpiece not to be missed. Please visit their website at mam.org

The schedule of festivities for our day of celebrating watercolor is as follows:

1-3pm Gallery Walk by John Salminen, AWS, MMWS

3-4:30pm Reception Hosted by the West Bend Art Museum

5:30pm Cash Bar and 6pm Awards Dinner at The Bog Restaurant

We will once again have a Silent Auction of paintings from prominent signature members. There will also be a drawing for those "in demand Kurecki Centerpieces" which was such a huge success last year. Enclosed in the newsletter is a dinner reservation form.

I look forward to greeting you in West Bend.

then we have to start thinking big. If we want more attention and respect, if we really want to be measured against the best, then I believe it is time for us to seize the opportunity and grow. I think, after 26 years, the time is right for us to slip into bigger shoes, ones that fit us. And so it begins.

The Board of Directors has consulted with our corporation attorney regarding the name change issue. He recommends that we change the corporate name by amending the Articles of Incorporation on file with the Secretary of State in Minnesota. Both the Articles of Incorporation and the bylaws of MWS are silent on the procedure to amend the Articles of Incorporation. The Not-for-profit Corporation Act of Minnesota requires that if members have a vote in corporate matters and if neither the articles nor bylaws specify the procedure for amending the articles, then the action must be approved by a majority vote of the members at a meeting at which a quorum is present in person or in writing.

The statutes authorize corporations to process the vote on amending bylaws by a written ballot similar to the process for electing directors of the corporation. The Board of Directors has carefully considered the name change issues as well as many suggested names. We agree that it is not feasible to conduct an actual meeting of the members since they live all over the United States and Canada. We feel strongly that the will of the full membership should be consulted and allowed to

determine the decision in this matter.

The Board Members had a list of ten alternative corporate names. Three names emerged for closer consideration.

Our corporation counsel investigated the three names and determined that one name: "The Transparent Watercolor Society of America (TWSA)" would be the most likely to be protected under the Federal Trademark laws and least likely to cause problems with other existing organizations with similar names. Therefore the Board of Directors recommends to the members of MWS that the preferred name be approved and that the Articles of Amendment be approved and filed with the Secretary of State to change the name of the corporation.

As President of the Midwest Watercolor Society, I hereby make a motion in writing that the voting members of MWS approve the amendment changing the name of the corporation to The Transparent Watercolor Society of America.

Attached to this newsletter, which is being sent to every current member, is a double-sided ballot. On one side, you are asked to vote for three names to serve as Directors on the Board. On the other side of the form is a written ballot for you to cast your vote regarding the name change. We ask that all members sign and return the form. We need at least 2% of the members to constitute a quorum and a majority of the persons who sign the consent form must approve the recommendation of the Board of Directors in order for this proposal to pass.

Thank you .

Your President,
Tom Francesconi, MWS

Midwest Watercolor Society John T. Salminen AWS DF, MMWS Transparent Watercolor Workshop June 16 - 20, 2003

The Midwest Watercolor Society is delighted to offer the opportunity to attend another exciting transparent watercolor workshop. This year we will gather among the art works included in the MWS 27th Annual National Exhibition and actually paint in the lovely West Bend Art Museum's Upstairs Studio. Our extremely accomplished artist/instructor, John T. Salminen, NWS, MMWS, AWS.DF will make this an extraordinary MWS Workshop. John's passion for painting and his adept teaching skills will offer strong design information, positive and instructional critique, charming humor, and wonderful stories interwoven throughout. John imparts the enthusiasm and confidence of a truly professional artist. We have 3 more spaces left for this exceptional 2003 MWS workshop!

Contact our workshop coordinator Carole Burval, MWS at **1-847-840-7731**.

Membership Secretary

We are in need of a new membership secretary. This important volunteer position requires a knowledge of Excel (as well as the computer and program.) Here is a chance to get involved and you don't have to live in the Chicago area. If you are willing to volunteer, please call Nia Pirnat-Dressler at 309-527-0234 or email her at nia@dtnspeed.net.

Prospectus Requests

Robin Berry of Minneapolis, is our new chairperson to contact for prospectus requests. She can be reached at 612-824-5488 or tberystudio@mn.rr.com

ANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO HELP FUND OUR AWARDS PROGRAM ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Awards

Awards are made possible for our yearly National Exhibitions because of the generosity of our donors gifts of prize money and merchandise. Memorial awards keep alive the memory of individuals who have contributed their time and talent to make our society what it is today.

This year, there will be a Randy Penner Memorial: Randy was a past President of MWS, 1985–87. So far, donations in his name total \$445; anyone wishing to add to this memorial may send their charitable donations to:

Carol Shahbaz, Awards Chair

5573 Alpine Ridge • Stevensville, MI 49127

Endowments

An endowment is a tax deductible donation. A donor gives a specified amount of money/working capital, and the interest earned from the endowment becomes the cash award presented at each national exhibition. An endowment is a legacy that continuously supports.

If you are interested in creating new awards, Memorial Awards, or an Endowment, please contact me to discuss the possibilities. MWS has grown and evolved to what it is today because of the never-ending dedication, vision, and generosity of its members, past, present and future. Thank you for thinking about how to keep our National exhibition as great as it has been, is, and will continue to be.

Note: Our Past Presidents' Award has been increased from \$450 to \$700.

Exhibit Report

Over 900 entries were received for this year's exhibit. The breakdown of entries are as shown

CATEGORY	SUBMITTED/ ACCEPTED
Figure/Portrait	199 / 22
Streets/Bldg	96 / 8
Still Life	88 / 6
Abstract	109 / 5
Water/Marine	62 / 5
Floral	84 / 4
Fantasy	19 / 3
Landscape	133 / 2
Transportation	20 / 2
Nature/Garden	48 / 1
Birds/Animals	36 / 1
Interior	11 / 1
Misc	1 / 0

VOTE



Jack's Family

Bring Your Check Book!

Joan Hasselman, Hospitality

The fund raising auction for the "People's Choice Award" at the 27th Annual Awards Dinner may be silent, but your reaction to the donated paintings will be "Wow, I want one!"

This is the second year we have asked recent award winners and/or members to donate a quarter sheet or smaller original watercolor for a silent auction to fund "The People's Choice Award". This \$250 cash award is given to the painter who is the "Peoples Choice" of our Annual National Exhibition of Transparent Watercolors. Additional money raised helps MWS to host this premier event. Russell Yerkes MWS has made a monetary donation.



Elephants Undecided



Alla Jablokow
MMWS, Howard
Kaye MWS, William

Lee and Susan Young MWS have donated fabulous original watercolors to the auction. Wendell Mohr MMWS, Sharon Crosbie MWS, Tom Lynch MWS, and Judi Betts MMWS have promised their donations. Their generous donations have made this a much-anticipated event. Join the fun and make your reservations now for the awards dinner, June 21, 2003, at "The Bog". Maybe luck will be with you, and you will be one of the high bidders to take home a painting by an award-winning watercolorist.



Pine Woods

Catherine Wilson Smith
Watercolor Workshops May 2–4
Janesville, WI L'Atelier Gallery
(608) 754-3358

May 19–23 Gainesville, GA
Quinlan Art Center (770) 536-2575
June 9–13 Bloomington, IL
Bloomington Art Assoc (309) 888-9099

Aug 17–23 Lac Du Flambeau,
WI Dillman's Creative Wksp
(715) 588-3143

**Exciting Horseback Pack
Trip!** Paint with watercolorist
Susan Blackwood and oil painter
Howard Friedland in the majestic
Rocky Mountains near Bozeman,
Montana. Five days of painting and
riding at the height of the wild-
flower season. Our professional
outfitter provides horses and
facilities, including wonderful
gourmet meals. This is a deluxe
trip! July 16–20, 2003. Cost \$2000.
For more information contact
Susan Blackwood at (406) 586-
4484 or e-mail
sblackwood@mcn.net. Website:
www.susanblackwood.com.

Member Workshops *trips &* *tours*

Thomas Trausch will be
teaching a five day plein air work-
shop, "Springtime in the Smokies",
May 9-13, 2003. Also September
8–18 he will lead a *plein air* work-
shop "A Painter's Tour of Paris and
Normandy". For a brochure and
information please call 815-338-
0389 or email
thomas@trauschfinearts.com.

Tom Francesconi, MWS, NWS
April 7–11 Peoria, Illinois. Jeanne
Ledbetter at (309) 674-2714

July 21-23 L'Atelier Studio,
Janesville, Wisconsin. Marilyn
Keiting at (608) 754-3358

September 8-12 Rhode Island
Watercolor Society, Pawtucket,
Rhode Island. Mary Lou Moore at
(401) 726-1876

Upcoming Workshops featuring
Joye Moon: Plein-air along Lake
Butte des Mortes – August 25–29
Sedona Art Center – September

15–19. Booth Bay Harbor, Maine,
October 6–10. Davidson, NC –
November 10–14

FRANCE – Oct, 2004 Contact
Joye Moon, 4974 Lansing High
Point, Oshkosh, WI 54904 (920)
235-4429; www.joyemoon.com

Jan Boelte will be conducting
these workshops in 2003:

June 28th and 29th in Kankakee,
IL A Garden Painting Workshop to
be conducted on location and in
studio. Call (815) 694-2842 for
information.

July 13–19th at Dillman's
Creative Arts Foundation, Lac Du
Flambeau, WI, Glorious Gardens
and Landscapes in Watercolor.
Contact Dennis or Sue Robertson
at (715) 588-3143.

Sept. 13th Rural Landscape
Workshop in the Kankakee area.
Contact (815) 694-2842 for more
information.

Marian Alstad, will be teaching
Watercolor/Ink and Wash, October
26–November 4th in Antiqua. For
information please call (612) 825-
0747 or email info@artquat.org.



The Bog

A view of the dining room in Saukville,
where the Midwest Watercolor Society
dinner will be held.

SIGNATURE STATUS

*Just a reminder of the requirements for
signature status.*

To receive your MWS **Signature** letters you
must have three paintings accepted within a ten
year period. No time limit for Master status. For
Master status you must have paintings accepted
into ten MWS exhibitions.

PATRON MEMBERSHIP

It was the decision of the Board of Directors to
discontinue the category of "Patron"
membership. The two choices of membership
will remain: Participating Member \$25 per year
and Life Member, a one time payment of \$300.

**Summer Newsletter Deadline is
August 15, 2003**

Member News

awards &
publications

Grace Haverty was invited to exhibit her painting "Flowers in a White Pot" the Pastel Society of America Invitational Exhibition held at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio, March 9th through May 4th. Grace was accepted into the Arizona Aqueous XVIII Annual National Watermedia Exhibition to be held at the Tubac Center of the Arts, Tubac, Arizona February 15th through March 23rd. She won Best of Show for her painting "Wall Street" at the spring exhibition of the Arizona Watercolor Association.

A watercolor painting by **Jeanne Dobie, AWS, NWS**, was selected for a movie titled "The Notebook", due to be finished in March 2003. Jeanne says her painting of a coastal dock scene plays a part in a story about a son trying to revive his mother's lost memories due to Alzheimers disease. Jeanne has learned that her book "Making Color Sing" is featured at the National Gallery shop in London, England.

Joye Moon has won the Marion Scott Memorial Award from the St. Louis Artist's Guild at the "Face It: Portraits" Exhibit. She will open a One Woman Exhibit in Savannah, GA., March 22, 2003 at the Dolphin and Mermaid Gallery. The painting, "Joye in the Morning" will be featured in "SPLASH 8: Discoveries" to be published October, 2004.

Donna Elliott, graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, has been chosen by Marquis publishers to be included in their 23rd edition of "Who's

Who of American Women". The collection catalogue is available at www.marquiswhoswho.com this year for the first time. Also, her painting "Eternal Hope" was selected by jury to be included in the Wustum Art Museum, Racine, WI exhibit "Watercolor Wisconsin 2002"

Ellen Jean Diederich MWS, has written and illustrated her first book "Where's Petunia?" You can preview 8 pages of her book on her award winning (2003 Addy's) website www.givinity.com For more info e-mail ellen@givinity.com or contact her toll free at 866-221-5860

MWS signature member **Ratindra Das AWS, NWS** recently received the following awards: 1. American Watercolor Society 2003- Margery Soroka Memorial Award; 2. Watercolor West Annual-Third Award; 3. Mississippi Watercolor Society Grand National-AmSouth National Bank Award

Catherine Wilson Smith MMWS, won the Cheap Joe's Art Stuff Award at the Watercolor West 34th Annual Juried Exhibition 2002 in Brea, California.

Dan Burt, MWS, AWS, NWS was elected to serve on the jury of awards for the 136th Annual American Watercolor Society International Exhibition in New York, February 2003. He won the St. Cuthbert's Mill Merchandise award at the 54th Annual Texas Watercolor Society Exhibition in San Antonio in March 2003. He also had an article published in the February 2003 issue of Watercolor Magic Magazine and a painting was featured in the Winter 2003 issue of the same magazine

Dick Green, MWS, WW, RRWS, was accepted in

Watercolor West for the third time, making him, now, a signature member of this transparent Watercolor Society. He also won an award of excellence at the Minnesota Artists' Association and an award of merit at the Minnesota Watercolor Society Members' Exhibition.

Lorraine Ptacek was accepted in LaGrange Art Guild and Gallery, LaGrange, Illinois, in the Chicago Artist coalition Exhibition, "Chicago Art Open 2002", Elk Grove's Art Center 2002 Exhibit; Community Art Partners Gallery, Glen Ellyn, Illinois; the "Best of Best" Show at Triton College, River Grove, Illinois and won an award in the Addison Art Guild Exhibition, Addison, Illinois. She was juried into the International Society of Experimental Artists Exhibition "Watercolor 2003" being held in Houston, Texas with the Watercolor Art Society of Houston. She received signature status in the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society and the Georgia Watercolor Society.

Donna Jill Witty, MWS, NWS, received the Elsie and David Wujekt Key Award at the American Watercolor Society 136th Annual International Exhibition currently on display in New York City. Her painting, "Aspetta il Palio" was also selected for the AWS Travelling Exhibit. Also, the Watercolor Art Society - Houston has juried her painting, "Cherries III" into its Challenge of Champions Exhibit which is a major feature of the Watermedia 2003 Expo in Houston, Texas.



25 Tips by the Best of MWS

A full color booklet with painting tips from some of the best MWS artists has been published to commemorate the MWS 25 th Anniversary.

\$10⁰⁰ for Members

\$12⁵⁰ for Non Members

Please add \$2.00 for shipping.

25th Anniversary MWS Watercolor Sketchbook

20 pages 12" x 9" 140 lb. Acid free paper.

For this item, we must charge shipping

\$18⁰⁰ plus \$5.00 shipping

2002 MWS Show Catalog now available

\$12⁰⁰



Gallery Walk Videos feature all paintings chosen for the show, narrated by the show juror. Hear unique insights into the juror's thinking and selection process.

2001 Cheng-Khee Chee video - \$25⁰⁰

Reduced prices on older videos

2000 Gerald F. Brommer video \$20⁰⁰

1999 Joseph Bohler video ----- \$18⁰⁰

1998 Stephen Quiller video ---- \$18⁰⁰

1997 Tony Van Hasselt video --- \$15⁰⁰

These Catalogs are still available

2001 Anniversary Show Catalog ---- \$10⁰⁰

2000 MWS Show Catalog ----- \$8⁰⁰

1999 MWS Show Catalog ----- \$5⁰⁰

1998 MWS Show Catalog ----- \$5⁰⁰

**MWS
Membership
Pin \$5⁰⁰**



**1999 MWS
Exhibition \$12⁰⁰
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Screen Saver
for PC or MAC**

MWS SPECIAL PROMOTIONS

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mail checks
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**Midwest
Watercolor
Society**

Box 253

126 E. Wing St.

Arlington Heights, IL

60004-6064

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708-799-8161
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vlmorley@attbi.com

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Nancy Rayborn, Slide Receiving

Catherine Wilson Smith, MMWS
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email: cwsmithart@aol.com

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Gretta Whitted, Final Screening

Robin Berry, Prospectus Requests
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Kaaren Oreck, Historian

Carol Shahbaz, Awards Chair
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(616) 428-2688

Norma “Lynn”. Zajicek
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815-273-3144

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Jacque Thomas
Photo Processing Committee

John T. Salminen, MMWS Nominating

Jane Stiker, Museum Search

Susan Web Tregay, Slide Rentals
470 Berryman Drive; Buffalo, NY 14227
817-833-8022 • susan@tregay.com

Michael P Mosher
MWS Attorney

Information: info@watercolors.org

Special Promotion Requests should be sent to
Midwest Watercolor Society
Box 253 • 128 E. Wing St.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-6064

Ann Dragovan

passed away on February 22, 2003, at the Villa Franciscan Nursing Home in Joliet, Ill. She was a life member of MWS and participated in many workshops during the 1990s.

Dolores S. Rogers, MWS, of Grand Island, New York, passed away in August of 2002. She very much enjoyed her membership in the Midwest Watercolor Society, especially recognition as a Signature Member

A longtime member, Randy Penner died on December 24. Other old timers will remember that both Randy and Lu were stalwart workers for the fledgeling MWS. Randy was a director on the first board.

His career started with commercial work and included a long stint as a staff artist for the Brown and Bigelow Calendar Company in the days when very large and prestigious illustrations were lavishly reproduced. In later years, and up to his death, Randy was still accepting free lance commissions from major corporations, mostly in the Twin Cities area. Another of his favorite affiliations was the American Society of Aviation Artists. He worked somewhat more loosely than other artist members.

A few years ago Randy authored a book titled, “A Harvest of Memories”, published by Reiman Publications. He illustrated the book with many full color paintings showing what it was like to grow up on a midwestern farm. Among these accomplishments by which we measure an artist, Randy was also proud of winning a major award in the MWS.

Vivian Chevillon has initiated a “Randy Penner Memorial Award”. Members and friends of MWS who wish to contribute should write to Awards Chairman, Carol Shahbaz, 5573 Alpine Ridge, Stevensville, MI 49127. (269) 428-2688.

The award is a fitting memorial for one who was dedicated to transparent watercolor.

Frank Webb

Robert E. Wood Tribute Tom Winans, a student of Robert E. Wood is endeavoring to set up a website as a memorial tribute to this revered artist and teacher. Anyone with memories, anecdotes, graphics and photos who is willing to share these with or without their name attached, please contact Tom at paintcrits@earthlink.net or write him at Tom Winans, 6202 Calle Bodega, Camarillo, CA 93012.

His phone number is 805-987-4489 and his website is www.home.earthlink.net/~orderonline/WinansWatercolorGallery.htm