

## Message from the PRESIDENT



*Tom Francesconi*  
President

There often seems to be a feeling of emptiness or a kind of let-down, if you will, after a long-awaited event comes and goes. Have you ever noticed? First comes the planning and anticipation. Then there is all that busyness that goes on beforehand. Now, the big moment arrives and, hopefully, lives up to all the expectations. Of course, like some kind of cruel joke, it is over in, what seems like, a blink of an eye. I suppose the degree to which one feels this is in direct proportion to the time and energy one spends on the preparations. That is probably why I am experiencing this feeling--big time!

As I write this, the MWS 26th National Exhibition is on display at the Kankakee County Historical Society. It is an outstanding exhibit of contemporary transparent watercolors. Before it closes, I hope many of you will have had the opportunity to see this exciting show. Communing with great art can be profound and rewarding. This show offers just such an experience.

Our 2002 Workshop, Gallery Walk and Awards Dinner may be history, but the memories linger on.

*As they headed for homes and studios scattered far and wide, I thought how much I looked forward to seeing them again, along with all their enthusiasm for watercolor!*

The week leading up to the Awards Dinner is always a wonderfully exciting time and this year was no exception. As the workshop participants started to arrive in Kankakee, our juror and painter extraordinaire, Frank Francese, had already chosen the award-winning paintings. The air was charged with the expectation of a workshop that promised to be a watercolor sensation. Indeed it was! Once it was under way, there just seemed to be no stopping the creative buzz that continued all week long.

At week's end, Frank Francese conducted a Saturday morning Gallery Walk with over 100 people in attendance. This is always a great opportunity to share in the juror's thoughts regarding the show selections. After lunch, Frank performed two full-sheet watercolor demonstrations. What a grand event this was and a fitting finish to a fantastic painting week! This year's MWS Awards Dinner was held in the museum galleries, which allowed everyone to dine among the paintings--a truly memorable affair! It is a special treat to mingle in a room with creative people and renew old friendships while making new acquaintances. Our reception and dinner program always affords an opportunity to do just that. What fun it was! The following day, as the hotel lobby was bustling with the morning checkouts, I wondered about all the artists and where their personal creative journeys would take them. As they headed for homes and studios scattered far and wide, I thought how much I looked forward to seeing them again, along with all their enthusiasm for watercolor! I know it will happen next year, in an environment that resonates with the images of another MWS National! Until then, I will just have to wrestle with this empty feeling.

*Thanks for the memories.*



## Message from the VICE PRESIDENT



**Vicki Morley**  
*Vice President*  
*Exhibition Chair*

What a thrill it was for me to be at the annual dinner meeting and say, "See what we have accomplished for our 2002 Exhibit!" We honored the achievements of 77 artists, which was just a small percentage of the 785 slides that were submitted for competition. Every submission to each of our annual exhibits helps to build a broader foundation of quality that advances our Society to the forefront of the American art world. Thank you to all artists who entered and continue to enter annually.

The planning, preparation and execution of so many exhibit tasks comes together relatively smoothly because of the commitment and dedication of the MWS Board members. In the seven years that I have performed volunteer work on behalf of the MWS it never ceases to amaze me how many wonderful people unselfishly help make this Society the success that it is. This year as exhibition chair the amazement continued. I would like to recognize the special efforts of certain individuals.

Each year MWS seeks out a new venue for its annual display of transparent watercolors. The Society has been fortunate to have museum hosts in many wonderful places across the Midwest. We have been excited about exhibiting with the Kankakee Historical Society Museum ever since Jan Boelte brought MWS in touch with them several years ago. There were some anxious moments not only from the Society's point of view but also from the Museum. After the former director suddenly resigned, the fate of

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the MWS show seemed in jeopardy. But alas, there was a person who from her position on the Museum Board stepped up to take the MWS exhibit under her wing. Almost single-handedly she made it her mission to bring this artistic opportunity to "her" museum. This was a first two dimensional original art opportunity for the Kankakee Museum, an exhibit that had never been done before. She saw the potential exposure for the museum...this was an opportunity to not only be a host for the MWS show but to put the Kankakee County Historical Society Museum "on the map". She jumped in with both feet and

developed a plan of attack. Tom and I were immediately impressed with her very experienced skills. In no time at all, she had compiled a list of "must do's" in order to have a successful art exhibit. We were amazed at her enthusiasm and determination. She went before the Kankakee Museum Board and told them what was needed. They were aghast but it is my impression that they also fell under her spell of resolve. A game plan was put in place; the members and community were approached for financial support. Funds were raised; goals were met through an awesome response from the community. Galleries were painted, a Walker hanging system installed, extra lights, enormous sculptures were delicately moved, landscaping improvements with benches were added, post-

cards, posters and brochures were printed to just name a few of the efforts that were put in place for our 77 paintings. I know for a fact that she had a team of exceptional people who were equally dedicated to the Museum and committed to helping with all the tasks at hand.

But it takes leadership and initiative to bring it all together. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mardene Hinton!

How did these 77 paintings arrive here? How are such a select few chosen?

That was the task of our juror and judge, Frank

Francese, a signature member of seven prominent watercolor organizations. Deciding which paintings would be given the privilege of being apart of the MWS 26th exhibit was a responsibility that Frank took very seriously. MWS has played an influential role in Frank's artistic development. This was an opportunity for him to give back in the most sincere manner possible his gratitude to the Society.

Frank began painting when he was 27 years old teaching himself what he wanted to learn. He was his own best instructor. A livelihood of carpentry and etching glass gave way to full time painting. It did not take long for him to realize that his joy in life is painting. He attacked his painting passion at full speed ahead and in a very few years received his first signature membership from MWS. To date he has been accepted into eight MWS Shows. For the past several years he has devoted himself not



only to producing quality paintings but has openly shared his talents with many watercolor artists by teaching workshops. The MWS weeklong workshop was a testimony to his leadership as an instructor. Not only is he a very capable and expressive instructor, he does make the experience one that you won't forget. Any of the participants from the workshop will give a lengthy review of his abilities as an instructor. Frank's desire as a juror, judge and instructor is to instill an enthusiasm and good feeling towards the well being of ones self.

I also owe a big debt of gratitude to the slide receiving committee headed by Nancy Rayborn with the help of Tina Wassel Keck and Jacque Thomas. They did an excellent job of processing nearly 800 slides.

It was very exciting to have 27 of the exhibiting artists in attendance. They were:

**ROBIN BERRY, MINNEAPOLIS, MN**  
**WILLIAM D. LEE, AMES IA**  
**JOHN SALMINEN, DULUTH MN**  
**THOMAS FRANCESCONI, HOMEWOOD IL**  
**CARROL PRAY, VERONA WI**  
**GRAYDON CAFARELLA, GLENWOOD, IL**  
**DICK SHIPLEY, GLEN ELLYN, IL**  
**RUTH BREMNER, NORTHFIELD, IL**  
**RICHARD HELLAND, PALATINE, IL**  
**BETTY MORLEY, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL**  
**JULIE WENDT BRUNDAGE, OAK PARK, IL**  
**BRUCE HANDFORD, RENSSELEAR, NY**  
**LINDA KELLY-FOSSE, HARVARD, IL**  
**DOROTHY ZARUBA, LAKE IN THE HILLS, IL**  
**LORI FRONCZAK, BENSENVILLE, IL**  
**JAMES RECZEK, MT PROSPECT, IL**  
**ALLA JABLOKOW, LAGRANGE, IL**  
**TOM SMITH, WINTHROP HARBOR, IL**  
**TED NUTTALL, PHOENIX, IL**  
**ROSE EDIN, STAPLES MN**  
**LUCILLE DRAGOVAN, JOLIET, IL**  
**CATHERINE WILSON SMITH, ELGIN, IL**  
**ANDREW BENNETT, PEORIA, IL**  
**DICK GREEN, BLOOMINGTON, MN**  
**LINDA RINEHART, COLUMBIA, MO**  
**CATHERINE NASH, ANTIOCH, IL**  
**RATINDRA DAS, WHEATON, IL**

This is my opportunity for a personal expression of indebtedness to a very special person. The sentiment comes not just from me but also, from everyone who has been associated with Thomas Francesconi. I know that he'd rather not be given the credit for all that he does to make things really happen at the MWS. And it is very true that a tremendous amount of work is accomplished through our Board of dedicated volunteers; but, Tom's enormous efforts and concern that all goes well, often comes in the form of "behind the scenes activities". And these efforts, be they low or high visibility to others has continued in earnest throughout the entire year, not just for the annual dinner meeting. He not only works hard for all of us, he does it with style, with integrity, with sincerity, with humor and with that creative force that is evident not only in his artwork but in all his endeavors. Thank you, Tom, and we thank your family for the sacrifices that have been made in behalf of MWS.

## Our New Slide Rental Chair, Susan Webb Tregay

Welcome Susan Webb Tregay to the "members with a job" group. She has kindly volunteered to be our Slide Rental Chairman.



*Susan Webb Tregay*  
NWS, MWS, NFWS

Susan has exhibited works in museums and galleries across the country, winning seven national and fifteen top regional prizes. Articles and paintings have appeared in seven books and numerous magazines. She is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, Midwest Watercolor Society and the Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society. Susan says of herself "I'm a painter! My hobby became my profession about 20 years ago. That, teaching and juggling galleries is pretty much all that I do. I do live in Buffalo, NY where we are currently enjoying a fabulous summer, but spent last Christmas shoveling seven feet of snow. It breaks up the painting. Check Susan's website [www.tregay.com](http://www.tregay.com)



Kaaren Oreck, Historian





## Recipe for a Perfect 2002

- *Super Energetic, Highly Creative, Extremely Personable Watercolor Workshop Instructor named Frank Francese*
- *Fabulous Watercolor Paintings by Frank Francese*
- *5 Empty Tubes of Cobalt Blue*
- *Amazing 20 – 40 minute Full Sheet Demos by Frank Francese*
- *97 Reminders to add more darks to bring out the light*
- *Eager, Enthusiastic and Gifted Female MWS Watercolorists*
- *Eager, Enthusiastic and Gifted Male MWS Watercolorists*
- *12 Pounds of Peanut M & M's (courtesy of Carol)*
- *Wonderful Mirror loaned to MWS from Des Plaines Art Guild*
- *MWS Mirror christened by our instructor with great vigor*
- *Lee's Inn Kankakee Hotel with friendly staff and great breakfasts*
- *Great Server named Bev*
- *Yummy lunches from "Chef's on Call" catering company*
- *Official cocktail party complete with food, beer, wine, a bottle of scotch and lots of artists*
- *Unofficial artists cocktail parties*
- *Continuously filled cooler of refreshments (courtesy of Lynn)*
- *1025 Tubes of Watercolor Paints*



### People's Choice Awards

Don't miss the results. The 26th annual Exhibit closes August 18th. By then we will have the tally of votes for the People's Choice Award. Full details will be in the next issue. Watch for it.





# MWS Watercolor Workshop

*(assorted colors)*

- 207 Sheets of Watercolor Paper
- Lots of Helping Hands ~ Thanks to Everyone!
- Stunning Designer Clear Plastic Rain Poncho

Enthusiastically mix these ingredients together and splash in tons of smiles and jokes and friendly conversation. Sprinkle liberally with sensitivity, creativity, and artistic spirit. Set aside and allow to blossom over the course of a week with old and new artistic friends. Place all of the above in the midst of friendly Kankakee. Then surround the entire recipe with a beautiful MWS Transparent Watercolor Show at the spectacular Kankakee County Historical Museum and you truly have a perfect workshop!!!

**Carole A. Burval, MWS**  
*MWS Workshop Coordinator*

PS: As our instructor stated: "If a picture is worth a thousand words, then here are a few thousand words for you!"



*Thank you Dee Kurecki for these lovely centerpieces which were raffled off.*



Watch for the winners of the **Midwest Watercolor Society's** annual competition in print! Pick up *International Artist*, Issue 27 (October/November '02) at bookstores and art-supply stores near you. Or subscribe now to make sure you receive this special issue featuring the Midwest Watercolor Society. Write to *International Artist*, P. O. Box 469068, Escondido, CA 92046 or call 760-743-6730 today!

*Photos throughout this newsletter courtesy of Kaaren Oreck, Carole Burval, Vicki Morley and Mary Merz*

## 2002 Workshop with Frank Francese a Creative Success

Artist Frank Francese, MWS, NWS claims that once he gave up on the idea that he would ever paint the perfect painting his painting style was set free and his work improved rapidly. We, the MWS Workshop attendees concur! However, we do believe that he has formulated the recipe for a perfect MWS workshop!

Thanks, Frank, for a wonderful, creative, inspirational week!!!!



## The Antioch Fine Arts Foundation

is proud to offer a three day painting workshop by noted artist **John Salminen**. The workshop will be held in Antioch, Illinois, October 12, 13, 14. The cost is \$100 for Foundation members, \$120 for non-members. Enrollment is limited to 20. If you are interested, please email Suzi Hetzel, ezl-rdr@execpc.com, or call 847 838-2274 to request an application. Come join us for a truly exciting and memorable three days!

## Member WORKSHOPS TRIPS AND TOURS

MWS signature member **James Wisnowski** will conduct a watercolor painting workshop in the vineyards of the Napa Sonoma Valley during the Fall harvest of 2002. Instruction is geared to all levels. Beginners welcome. For cost, dates, and detailed information, visit his web site at [www.jameswisnowski.com](http://www.jameswisnowski.com) or contact James Wisnowski at 312-944-5833.

## The Wustum Museum of Fine Arts

of Racine, Wisconsin, announces the next artists featured in its continual Master Watercolor Workshops series.

## John Salminen to Teach 2003 Workshop



I hope that you were able to view the award winning painting by John Salminen, MMWS, AWS, AWS Dolphin Fellow, at the beautiful MWS Transparent Watercolor Exhibition at the Kankakee County Historical Museum this summer.

I had the pleasure of viewing this wonderfully detailed painting and spending some time with this fine artist! His many award-winning paintings are filled with distinctive

values and textures incorporated into incredibly strong designs in both abstraction and realism.

The Midwest Watercolor Society is especially honored that John has agreed to be our instructor for the 2003 Transparent Watercolor Workshop in coordination with our 27th Annual Transparent Watercolor Show at the West Bend Museum of Art in Wisconsin. Mark your calendars now for June 23rd through June 27th, 2003! More information in the next MWS newsletter!

This is one MWS Transparent Watercolor Workshop you won't want to miss.

*Carole A. Burval MWS, MWS Workshop Coordinator*

## 2003 Exhibit to be held at West Bend Art Museum

### Discover an enchanting and Engaging Cultural Experience

The West Bend Art Museum located at 300 South Sixth Avenue in downtown West Bend, Wisconsin, was established in 1961. The museum exhibits an extensive late 19th century and early 20th century collection of paintings and drawings, and holds 10-14 challenging and diverse annual exhibitions. A broad spectrum of events complements the exhibitions and events throughout the year.



### NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOVEMBER 15, 2002

The 2003 Prospectus is available on our website-[www.watercolors.org](http://www.watercolors.org)

- Fall 2002, **Jane Burnham**, AWS, SWA, NWS, WCWS, September 16-20, 2002, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.
- Spring 2003, **Judi Betts**, NWS, AWS, June 2-6, 2003, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

- Fall, 2003, **Barbara Nechis**, AWS, September 15-19, 2003, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. The museum is located at 2591 Northwestern Ave. in Racine. Phone 262-636-9177 for brochure and information.



## 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 25th Anniversary.

**\$10<sup>00</sup>** for Members

**\$12<sup>50</sup>** 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

**\$18<sup>00</sup>** plus \$5.00 shipping

### 2002 MWS Show Catalog now available

**\$12<sup>00</sup>**



*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.*

*These Catalogs are still available*

2001 Anniversary Show Catalog ---- **\$10<sup>00</sup>**  
 2000 MWS Show Catalog ----- **\$8<sup>00</sup>**  
 1999 MWS Show Catalog ----- **\$5<sup>00</sup>**  
 1998 MWS Show Catalog ----- **\$5<sup>00</sup>**

2001 Cheng-Khee Chee video -- **\$25<sup>00</sup>**

*Reduced prices on older videos*

2000 Gerald F. Brommer video **\$20<sup>00</sup>**

1999 Joseph Bohler video ----- **\$18<sup>00</sup>**

1998 Stephen Quiller video ---- **\$18<sup>00</sup>**

1997 Tony Van Hasselt video --- **\$15<sup>00</sup>**

MWS  
Membership  
Pin **\$5<sup>00</sup>**

1999 MWS  
Exhibition **\$12<sup>00</sup>**  
Computer  
Screen Saver

for PC or MAC



MWS Stickers **4 for \$1<sup>00</sup>**

## MWS SPECIAL PROMOTIONS

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**Midwest  
Watercolor  
Society**  
Box 253  
126 E. Wing St.  
Arlington Heights, IL  
60004-6064

## Officers & Directors

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708-799-8161  
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**Dee Kurecki, Secretary**

**Sue Ison, Treasurer**

**Carole Burval, MWS, Workshop Coordinator**  
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**Nancy Rayborn, Slide Receiving**

**Catherine Wilson Smith, MMWS**  
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**Kaaren Oreck, Historian**

**Carol Shahbaz, Awards Chair**

**Norma “Lynn” Zajicek, Dinner Reservations**

**Joan Hasselman, Hospitality**

**Catherine Savage**  
Webmaster/Catalog Designer  
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**Jacque Thomas, Photo Processing**

**John T. Salminen, MMWS, Nominating**

**Jane Stiker, Museum Search**

**Susan Webb Tregay, Slide Rentals**  
470 Berryman Drive • Buffalo, NY, 14227  
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**Michael P. Mosher, MWS Attorney**

**Information:** info@watercolors.org

**Special Promotion requests should be sent to:**  
(merchandise, videos etc.)

**Midwest Watercolor Society**  
Box 253 • 128 E. Wing St.  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-6064

**Note:** The Treasurer's report is also available  
on request at the above address.

## Member NEWS

### AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

**Al Stine, MWS, ASMA,** was chosen for the South Carolina Watercolor Society Show and received The Charleston Galleries Award and was included in the traveling show. He also made the American Society of Marine Artists show in Delaware this year, American Artists Magazine selected sixteen of the paintings for an article and included his painting with those selected. It also ran in US Boat magazine. His web page is alstine.com.

**John T. Salminen, MMWS, AWS-DF, NWS** has been awarded 1st Place honors in both the Louisiana Watercolor Society's 32nd International Exhibition 2002 and the New England Watercolor Society's 8th Biennial North American Open Exhibition, 2002. His work has also been awarded a 3rd Place prize in the Red River Watercolor Society's 9th Annual Art Exhibition and the Watercolor Art Society of Houston's 25th International Exhibition, 2002. John's work has recently been accepted in the Missouri Watercolor Society's 2nd Annual Open Exhibition, the National Watercolor Society/Philadelphia Watercolor Society's Side by Side Exhibition, 2002, the Salmagundi Club's 25th Annual Non-Members Juried Exhibition, the Watercolor USA National Exhibition, 2002, the Montana Watercolor Society's Watermedia 2002 Exhibition and the National Watercolor Oklahoma Exhibition. His work has been recently featured in the International Artist Publication *Expressing the Visual Language of the Landscape*, "The Urban Landscape" and in *Searching For the Artist Within*, by Karlyn Holman. He is the guest columnist for Artist Magazine's "Creativity Toolbox" in the August edition. He will be a juror for the Annual Exhibitions of the 2003 American Watercolor Society and the 2003 Midwest Watercolor Society. **Judi Krew** received the Award of Merit in the 8th Biennial North American Open by the New England Watercolor Society; Award of Merit in the Plano Arts Association National

Exhibition; Honorable Mention in the Texas Society of Watercolor Artist's 21st National Exhibition. She received signature membership into the Eastern Washington Watercolor Society.

**Tanya L. Haynes** was accepted into the Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Exhibition, August 31-October 27, 2002. She had a solo exhibiton "Waterscapes" hanging through the end of June at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. The show included 37 original watercolors.

**Susan Mansell, Ballinger, TX** won a merit award at the 25th Annual Watercolor Art Society-Houston International Exhibition in April, 2002. She also won an Honorable Mention in the Texas and Neighbors Regional Exhibition in Irving, TX, and second place in the San Angelo Fiesta in Realism. Her transparent watercolor, *The Welder* was accepted in the Midwest Watercolor Society's 26th annual National Exhibition.

**Heartha Whitlow, St. Joseph, Michigan** has been active in the development of a new multi-arts facility in St. Joseph - The Box Factory for the Arts is a renovated old factory building which today is a thriving arts facility with studio space for 15 artists and three commercial enterprises. It is located at 1101 Broadway near downtown St. Joseph. Its two galleries are open every day except Monday. It has facilities for concerts and plays and there is a coffee shop adjoining. Heartha last year shared Volunteer of the Year award for serving as historian at the Krasl Art Center for many years. **Dan Burt, MWS, AWS, NWS,** will be the juror of Selection and Awards for the 34th Annual Watercolor West Exhibition of Transparent Watercolors running October 19 through December 8, 2002 at the Civic and Cultural Center in Brea, CA. He will conduct a watercolor seminar there on October 5th.

**Lori Fronczak, Bensenville, IL,** was accepted into the National Watercolor Oklahoma, 28th Exhibition held at Kirkpatrick Galleries, at Omniplex, Oklahoma city, OK. She receives signature status in this organization.