

**Lees Slips**  
Please Save Lees Slips!

Thank you to our members who donate their slips to us. Lee's will donate 1% of the total. We received \$370.45 from the Lee's program for a total of \$742.18 for 2014.

Lees will send us money if YOU:

- give them to a board member or art class student
- mail them to WAG, PO Box 157, Westport Point, MA 02791

NOTE: Please don't circle anything on the slips!

**The festive December Board meeting!**

Left to right: Nancy Nagle, Sharlie Sudduth, Emily Sutton, Mary Sexton, Judy Keeley, Sharon Connors, Mary Benefiel, Bruce Hubbard, June Roche, Peter Lenrow, Heide Hallemeier, Paul Vien, Barbara Healy, and Sarah Brown



**BrushStrokes Deadline**

Friday, February 20 for the March/April 2015 issue. Send info to: Mary Sexton 66 Peaceful Way, Tiverton RI 02878, 914-217-7900 or email [info@westportartgroup.com](mailto:info@westportartgroup.com).

**Members Gallery**

All members are eligible to have their Artwork shown in the Members Gallery. Send 4 or 5 digital images with titles, plus a brief bio or artist statement to Mary Sexton at [info@westportartgroup.com](mailto:info@westportartgroup.com) for inclusion. It's FREE! Please participate.

**Board Meetings:**

Thursday, January 15, 1:00 PM  
Thursday, February 12, 1:00 PM

**2014 – 2015 WAG OFFICERS**

**Mary Benefiel**, *President*  
**Paul Vien**, *Vice President*  
**Heide Hallemeier**, *Treasurer*  
**Peter Lenrow**, *Recording Secretary*  
**Nancy Mackay**, *Corresponding Secretary*  
**Sharon Connors**, *Membership Secretary*

**COMMITTEES**

<b>BUILDINGS &amp; GROUNDS</b> <b>Bruce Hubbard</b>	<b>NEWSLETTER</b> * Mailing, Toni Keavey
<b>GALLERY MANAGER</b> <b>Sarah Brown</b>	<b>PROGRAMS</b> <b>June Roche</b>
<b>EXHIBITIONS</b> <b>Sue Prideaux</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY</b> <b>Nancy Nagle</b>
<b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b> <b>Doris Magovern</b> Nancy Mackay	<b>YOUTH EDUCATION</b> <b>Emily Sutton</b>
<b>WEBMASTER</b> <b>Mary Sexton</b>	<b>EVENTS</b> <b>June Roche</b>
<b>CLASSES</b> <b>Barbara Healy</b>	<b>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</b> <b>Madeleine Ferraz</b>
<b>MARKETING &amp; PRESS RELATIONS</b> <b>Christina Glaser</b>	<b>MEMBERS AT LARGE</b> Judy Keeley Sharlie Sudduth

\* Position is open.

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**WESTPORT ART GROUP**

**January/February 2015**

**President's Letter**

**SHINE BRIGHT IN THE NEW YEAR!**

Bare branches, snowy fields, and chilly winds – this is the time of year that encourages reflection and provides an excuse to settle in and read, write or create artwork. It is also an opportunity to put plans into action. In December, construction of our new wing and renovations got underway. When spring comes around, just see how we have grown!

Thank you to our members for your loyalty, dedication and generous donations that help make WAG's growth possible.

I am especially grateful to our Board members who faithfully support WAG and dedicate many volunteer hours.

Although our building will be unavailable for a few weeks during construction, the Board will be working during this transitional time to plan events and art education opportunities that will start in the spring. WAG extends its thanks to the Westport Point United Methodist Church for graciously allowing us to conduct our Drawing and Painting classes in Howland Hall. We are grateful to the Westport Library for loaning the use of the Manton Community Room for our Holiday Fair and monthly Board meetings. Thank you!

May all of you and your loved ones shine bright in the New Year with renewed light.

Always be inspired  
Mary Benefiel  
*President*



Above: Construction is underway!

Right Front: Ground Breaking with Heide Hallemeier, Paul Vien, Bruce Hubbard, Mary Benefiel, and Peter Lenrow.

Background: Emily Sutton, Sharlie Sudduth, Nancy Nagle, Sharon Connors, June Roche, Mary Sexton, Sarah Brown, and Barbara Healy



**Dates to Remember**

January 5, 12, 19, 26	Monday Essential Drawing	February 2, 9, 16, 23	Monday Essential Drawing
January 7, 14, 21, 28	Wednesday Figure Workshop	February 4, 11, 16, 23	Wednesday Figure Workshop
January 8, 15, 22, 29	Thursday Painting Session	February 2, 18, 25	Thursday Painting Session
January 25	RISD Nature Lab Drawing Session		

## Plein Air Painting on Monhegan Island

August 1 to August 8, 2015

Cost: \$375 per person

WAG has reserved two Monhegan cottages with great views.

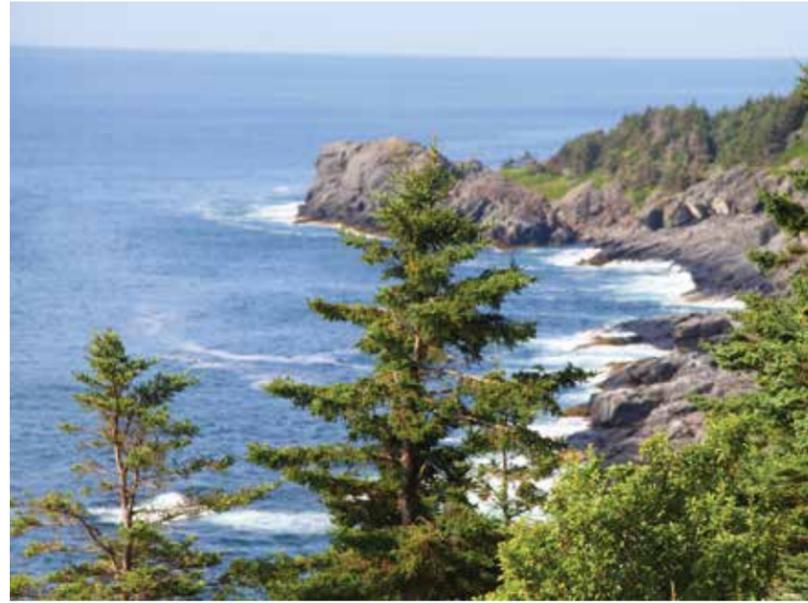
Not included: transportation to Port Clyde, Maine; Ferry to Monhegan Island (\$35); and food.

For details and registration, contact Mary Benefiel: [marybenefielart@gmail.com](mailto:marybenefielart@gmail.com) or [info@westportartgroup.com](mailto:info@westportartgroup.com).

**Reserve with payment by March 1.**

Limited Spaces: First Come, First Serve!

You can also reserve your own accommodations at one of the many cottages or B & B hotels on Monhegan Island, Feb. at the latest for availability.



Deadman's Cove, Monhegan

## Drawing at the Rhode Island School of Design Nature Lab

Sunday, January 25, 2015

12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

13 Waterman Street, Providence, RI

The Nature Lab has an extensive collection of preserved, real animals, including birds, butterflies, mammals and reptiles. The collection also includes a skeleton room – human and animals, across the street. Artists are welcomed to draw or use water based media.

The gallery is free and open from 2–4 pm on Sunday afternoons. The RISD art stores are within walking distance and the art supply stores Dick Blick and Jerry's Artarama are in the area.

If you would like to carpool or need transportation from Westport, contact Barbara Healy at [edlundhealy@comcast.net](mailto:edlundhealy@comcast.net).



Above: Bruce Hubbard serving Lobster Newburg for the Dec Board Meeting

Right: The Monday Drawing Class

Recent WAG events:  
Right: The Children's Winter Workshop  
Below: The bus trip to Newport



## From the Classes

### Please Note:

The Monday Drawing and Thursday painting classes are being held at Westport Point United Methodist Church's Howland Hall during construction.

The Figure Workshop is being held at Sandywoods in Tiverton.

### Essential Drawing

Mondays at WAG, 9 am–12 pm

Learn the basics of drawing!

\$15 per session

\$40 per 4-week month

\$50 per 5-week month

### Thursday Painting

Thursdays, 9 am – 12 noon

We are painting indoors. The class is usually smaller this time of year so you get more instruction time and get to see what the other artists are doing. Robert is a great teacher, his passion for art is contagious. We usually have a still life, or you can bring a photo or sketch to work from. You can also bring a painting you have started. We will have a model the first Thursday of the month. Our WAG Facebook page will have our location and any other information about class. If you are not already on the Thursday email list and would like to added, email Barbara at [edlundhealy@comcast.net](mailto:edlundhealy@comcast.net).

Call Barbara Healy at 508-636-6773 with questions.

\$15 per session

\$40 for a 4-week month

\$50 for a 5-week month

### Figure Workshop

Wednesdays at WAG, 9 am–12 pm

The fee is \$10 a session if paying monthly or \$15 a class. No instruction. Call Carolyn Winter at 401-316-8272 for more information.

Visit [www.westportartgroup.com/classes](http://www.westportartgroup.com/classes) for more information about our classes.

## Robert Abele's Atelier:

### TOP TEN NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR ARTISTS

- I'm going to use my sketchbook more. I can't think of better advice for an artist but I'll bet 80% of WAG members don't carry a sketchbook. I think of mine as a visual diary where there are no rules just beautiful loose sketches. I create drawings of people in restaurant, standing in line to see a movie or sitting in a doctor's office. I can go back 25 years with my sketchbooks; Sketching is an amazing time machine.
- Set aside time every week to work on developing your ideas. These ideas come from your sketchbook or just something you have wanted to create in an artwork. Start with a sketch or photo, making some notes to start the process will help to get it done
- Allocate at least a half hour a day to do something creative. We can all find at least a half hour a day, can't we? Make a sketch, start a painting or read up on your favorite artist.
- Regularly, do one painting in a size or shape that is outside your norm. There is nothing worse than getting to accustomed to working in a certain size. If all you are working on is a square shape, you are missing out on so many opportunities.
- Do more plein air sketching or painting. This is an easy one for me because, over anything else, I would always prefer to be outside painting. It is the most important training you can do to improve your work.
- Treat yourself every once in a while to a luxurious art supply item. Okay, we all know I'm guilty of this one, but really, nothing feels better than buying a new easel or set of paints. I'm waiting for my second Craig Young palette as we speak.
- Join a painting forum online. This is a great way to connect with artists all over the world. My favorite is Wet Canvas. Check it out; you'll love it.
- Continue working on an identifiable painting style so people looking at your work will recognize it as yours. It's very important to start developing a style so your work begins to take on it's own visual personality. This is a hard thing to do but usually it starts by identifying traits in your work and compositions that you like – grow those ideas.
- Try a new medium. This is a very simple resolve, but also very important. There could be a medium out there with your name on it and you will never find it if you are afraid seek it out.
- When I was in college, I got some useful advice to buy myself a nice art book every three months. By following that advice, I have now accumulated a beautiful library of art books that I reference all the time.



Spring Summer House (Block Island), painting by Robert Abele