

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!

BrushStrokes Deadline

Friday, October 23 for the Nov/Dec 2015 issue. Send info to:
Mary Sexton
66 Peaceful Way, Tiverton RI 02878,
914-217-7900 or email
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 for inclusion. It's FREE! Please participate.

Watercolor for Beginners with Peggy Call-Conley Six-Week Session Starting Wednesday, September 16, 6 – 8 pm

If you are a beginner, this is the class for you! Learn the basic skills of watercolor techniques and possibilities. Explore the medium, value, color, intensity, mixing, glazing and brush application. Engage in simple exercises that will build skills, confidence and expertise. The exposure and practice of techniques, combined with experimentation will lead to success!

Peggy is an accomplished watercolorist and has over 35 years of teaching experience.

Board Meetings:

Thursday, Sept 10, 1:30 PM
Thursday, October 8, 1:30 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

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

* Position is open.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 6
WESTPORT PT. MA 02791

BrushStrokes

WESTPORT ART GROUP

September/October 2015

President's Letter: INSPIRATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Always be inspired. After three years at the helm of WAG, this is my final President's letter. Rather than end with this phrase as I usually do, it seems a good place to start.

There are questions I often ask myself. Why am I an artist and passionate about art? Why do I find peace surrounded by stacks of art books? Why do the colors on my palette awaken my spirit? Why is plein air painting by the bluest sea so gratifying? Why have I made my life's work studying, creating and teaching art? It's all about lifelong learning: nurturing, encouragement and inspiration from mentors, parents, teachers and fellow artists who share the same passion. The Westport Art Group offers a state of continued becoming with a goal in front and not behind.

As president of WAG, I found excitement in the process of doing. It meant to take on the challenges, work along side the Board, WAG members and our Community to discover magic! The new wing starts a new chapter in WAG's history. In 2016 we will celebrate our Diamond Jubilee or 60 years of inspiration and lifelong learning.

When Claude Monet stated his thoughts on inspiration, "It's fine and yet so terrible to stand in front of a blank



Sharlie Sudduth paints on Monhegan Island while inspiring a young onlooker.

canvas", he was letting us know staying motivated and inspired is not easy. There are ebbs and flows to a creative life. Much can be achieved through hard work and tenacity. Commit to lifelong learning by signing up for a class, joining a WAG committee, participating as a WAG Board member, exhibiting your artwork or suggesting new programs.

Momentum is powerful!

Mary Benefiel, *President*, Westport Art Group

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of the WAG artists who donated a small painting for the RAFFLE WALL 2015. It broke the previous record of 45 at a total of 50 paintings!!!

The following WAG artists donated paintings: Robert Abele, Phyllis Adams, Christine Belanger, Mary Benefiel, Mary Benton, Jean Borges, Sarah Brown, Hilary Burling, Peggy Call-Conley, Meredith Wildes Cornell, Liz Coxe, Wanda Edwards, Madeleine Ferraz, Maureen Hayes Fleming, Christina Glaser, Heide Hallemeier, Barbara Healy, Maryteresa Hicks, Toni Keavy, Judy Keely, Margaret Kennedy, Peter Lenrow, Charlene Mackiewicz, Nancy Mackay, Doris Magovern, Alita Marks, Christine Mathieu, Judy McLean, Linda Mitchell, Jill Moran,

Varick Niles, Robin Nunes, Tina Pacheco, Sue Prideaux, Mary Sexton, Alice Shire, Grace Stevens, Susan Strauss, Sharlie Sudduth, Paul D. Sullivan, Emily Sutton, Trish Tinsley, Paul L. Vien, Jacklyn William, and Denise Zompa.

Thank you to Paul L. Vien for cutting the mats for the watercolor paintings and to Doris Magovern for helping to hang the Raffle Wall. Thanks to all of you who helped to sell the tickets and those of you who purchased them. Thank you to Nancy Mackay, Doris Magovern, Mary Benton and Bruce Hubbard who helped with the drawing.

Congratulations to the winners! It could not have been done without all of you. —*Madeleine Ferraz*

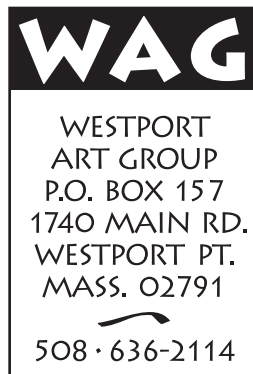
Dates to Remember

September 14, 21, 28
September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
September 3, 10, 17, 24
September 25, 26, 27
September 16, 23, 30

Monday Essential Drawing
Wednesday Figure Workshop
Thursday Painting Session
Plein Air/Graphite Show
Beginning Watercolor

October 4, 11, 18, 25
October 7, 14, 21, 28
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
October 7, 14, 21
October 19

Monday Essential Drawing
Wednesday Figure Workshop
Thursday Painting Session
Beginning Watercolor
Annual Meeting



facebook.com/
westportartgroup



"Pond Boat" by Sarah Desjardins

WAG's Annual Members' Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2015
5:30 – 8:00 PM

Brief Meeting starting at 5:30. Pot-Luck Supper at 6:00 followed by Entertainment. Bring a tasty dish to share and a guest! Celebrate the season! Come dressed in Orange or Black!

Plein Air Painters and Graphite Group Exhibition

September 26 – 27, 2015 10 AM – 4 PM

OPENING RECEPTION
Friday, September 25, 5 PM to 7 PM

Open to all artists who participated in classes with Instructor Robert Abele on Thursday mornings and Tuesday evenings Plein air, and Monday morning drawing classes during the past year. The Exhibition will remain displayed through the Annual Meeting October 19. We want to show off what has been going on in our classes!

UP TO THREE WALL ENTRIES AND SIX (6) BIN PIECES

Non-refundable entry fee: \$5 for one and \$10 for up to three entries. Bin art must be matted with clear wrap. Stretched canvas or panels with finished sides are permitted as long as no staples show. No framed pieces are allowed in

the art bin. All bin pieces must have artists' identification on the back and price on the front.

DROP-OFF Hand delivered only. Entries may be dropped off at the WAG Center, 1740 Main Road, Westport Point, MA, on Thursday, September 24, from 5 to 7 PM.

PICK-UP Work may be picked up on Monday, October 19, after the Meeting, or Wednesday, October 21 from 5–6 PM. Works not picked up within 30 days become the property of WAG.

REGISTRATION / INTAKE FORM

A printable copy of the Intake Form is available on the WAG website: www.westportartgroup.com.

Robert Abele's Atelier:

STUDIO TIPS: PREPARING FOR THE UPCOMING WINTER

We've come to the end of an incredible summer of outdoor painting. How lucky we've been with unbelievable weather almost every Thursday. The same cannot be said for the Tuesday evening sunset class. Rain was in the forecast almost every week but we all pushed through and created some very strong images.

I always look forward to the studio in the winter months. I take the time to think about my work, breaking it down, finding the positive and negative sides to my process. This season, try to bring your focus back, encompass more of the scene. Many painters are pushing the narrative in their images in a more descriptive and passionate way. Paul Sullivan did a memorable image at the Acoaxet Chapel. By placing the horizon line higher and painting the Chapel smaller, the viewer is drawn into the



"Pulling Pots" by Robert Abele

larger sense of space. On that same day, Liz Coxe produced one of my favorite images of the season. She explored the principles of expanding the picture plane to include more, but at the same time, included only what was important to the integrity of the image.

Edward Hopper once said, "If I could say it in words there would be no reason to paint." That has become my obsession! Winter is a good time to explore new ideas and new ways to tell stories with images. One definition of art is that if it moves you, chances are you are looking at something special.

Winter is a great time to replicate artwork you admire. This gives you the chance to delve into artist's process and examine their techniques. The winter season offers studio time to hone your skills. Reach, explore and experiment! I look forward to working with you all this winter in the extraordinary and inspiring new wing at WAG.

From the Classes

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
Thursday class will be adding more outdoor locations in October as long as the weather cooperates. On rainy days and when it gets cooler we will be inside at the wonderfully improved WAG building. Fall brings new color for painting, giving artists a break from "all that green". Fall classes are usually smaller than summer classes, giving everyone more individual attention. WAG classes will be showing off our artwork at a show September 26+27th at WAG.

Check facebook.com/westportartgroup for class locations. If you would like to be included on the Thursday Painting email list, please contact Barbara at edlundhealy@comcast.net or info@westportartgroup.com. If you have questions, call Barbara Healy at (508) 636-6773.

\$15 per session
\$40 for a 4-week month
\$50 for a 5-week month

Figure Workshop

Wednesdays, 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 for more information about our classes.

Donate to the WAG Building Fund!

Send a check to P.O. Box 157,
Westport Point, MA, 02791.
Please make checks payable to
Westport Art Group, Inc.

Summer Camp 2015



Above: Plein Air Painting on Monhegan Island, August 2–8. Participants for 2015: Mary Benefiel, Bruce Hubbard, Carol and James Constantine, James Gallagher, Sarah Brown, Paul Vien, Sharlie Sudduth, Christine Mathieu, Heide and Juergen Hallemeier, Virginia Casey. If anyone is interested in participating in the 2016 field trip to Monhegan, please let us know if you would like to be included. Email info@westportartgroup.com.



Top: Thursday Painting Group critique at Nonquit



Left: Pastel Demonstration by Janet Gendreau



Left: First Drawing class (The Graphite Group) in the new studio