



Genesee Valley Plein Air Painters, Inc., a not-for-profit artist association, promotes and inspires quality plein air painting while providing socially pleasant painting opportunities for its membership throughout the year.

NOVEMBER 2013 E-LETTER

Snow Day! Tips for Plein Air Painting in the Snow

by Kathleen Dunphy on 2/18/2013 3:24:59 PM
(reprinted from website www.kathleendunphy.com from her blog)



"Change of the Season" 8x10

Who doesn't love the look of freshly fallen snow? A good winter storm can turn even the most mundane scene into something spectacular to paint. But the first time I bundled up and hauled my gear out in winter conditions, I learned just how challenging painting in the snow can be. It's always tempting to just take a few photos and use those as reference to paint from in my warm, comfortable studio, but one thing's for certain: you have to get cold to paint snow convincingly. Almost more than any other subject matter, snow requires direct observation to help the artist convey its subtle beauty. After years of trial and error, I've developed a system for painting in the snow that minimizes my personal discomfort and allows me to paint outside in the winter. Here are a few tips for your next snow day:

Layer up! It almost goes without saying, but always start out a little *too* warm to begin with. Leave your vanity behind and dress like the Michelin man! I have a poofy down coat from the last century that serves me well when I'm outside and tops off a couple other layers of more modern outdoor wear. Most importantly, make sure to **keep your feet warm**. The best way I know to do this is to stand on a mat or a bare section of ground instead of standing directly on the snow. I take a bath mat with me and stand on that---it gives me traction and provides an extra barrier between me and the snow. I've also been known to stand in the bed of my truck to paint - it gets me out of the snow and helps me see over the berms at the side of the road. I wear fingerless gloves and tuck "Hot Hands" warming packs into the back of my gloves. These chemical warming packs don't provide a whole lot of warmth, but just enough to keep my hands moving. **Use more sunscreen than you think you'll need.** Light reflecting up off the snow means you'll get twice the exposure and sun coming in from all different angles.

Avoid glare. All that light reflecting off the snow can literally be blinding and make painting very uncomfortable. If at all possible, set up in the shade or use an umbrella to cut down on the glare that comes even on an overcast day. I also bring along a dark blanket and lay that out in front of my easel to cut down on light reflecting off of the snow directly in front of me.

Keep your paint warm. I usually keep my plein air gear in my car, but I always bring my paint in the night before a snow-painting day to make sure it's not too cold and stiff to use the next morning. White paint seems to take forever to dry in cold weather, so I'll sometimes use a white alkyd or Gamblin Fastmatte to speed up the drying time.

Take advantage of the in-between seasons. I have to admit it: I'd rather paint snow when it's 50 degrees than when it's 5 degrees outside, so I always take advantage of that first storm to get a head-start on the season. Chances are there are still some bare patches of ground to set up on and the snow isn't too deep to hike through. Late April is a beautiful time to paint snow in the Sierras - the days are warm, the grasses are starting to grow, and the rivers are thawed and flowing...a wonderful time to gather source material for next winter's studio paintings!

Bundle up and get out in the snow to paint this beautiful winter season!



"Mid Winter" 20x24

Plein Air Competitions and Festivals

3rd Annual Plein Air Painting Conference & Expo

Where: Monterey, CA at the Monterey Conference Center
When: April 7-11, 2014

Kevin Macpherson, one of the top plein air painters in the world, will be the keynote speaker and a field painter at the Conference. Kevin agreed to return from teaching in China to share information with convention attendees about his painting techniques, travel adventures, and professional experiences.

Kevin is one of the country's leading plein air painters, and is highly respected among collectors and fellow artists. He served as President of the Plein-Air Painters of America; and he is a popular instructor, guest lecturer, and art juror. His book, *Fill Your Oil Paintings With Light and Color* (North Light Books), is now in its ninth printing



"Coastal Colors"



"Spring Break"

The event will feature a multitude of the top plein air artists in the world, doing demonstrations and leading discussions, and artists will paint together around the Monterey-Carmel area. The convention will be held at the Monterey Conference Center, with the Portola Hotel as the host hotel. Attendance is limited to 750 people.

Added features for 2013:

- FULL-TIME TRACK for WATERCOLOR
- FULL-TIME TRACK for PASTEL artists
- ART SHOWCASE to show and sell your artwork

Early Bird Admission (After May 15, 2013) \$795
Available from May 13 12:01 AM to Feb 14 11:59 PM

Regular Admission (After February 14, 2014) \$995
Available from Feb 15 12:01 AM to Apr 11 11:59 PM

www.pleinairconvention.com

3rd Annual Finger Lakes Plein Air Competition & Festival



Where: Canandaigua, NY
When: June 4-8, 2014

The 2014 Finger Lakes Plein Air Competition and Festival will again be held under the auspices of the Ontario County Arts Council. The event will feature as many as forty-five talented artists from across the country to paint the beauty of Canandaigua and the Finger Lakes, and will bring in art lovers and collectors, as well as those who want to participate in the community-centered events planned for downtown Canandaigua. **An exhibition and sale will be held on the final day of the event at the historic site of Sonnenberg Gardens in Canandaigua.**

Bookmark their new web address at www.FingerLakesPleinAir.com. The new site is being built to be more easily accessible from various electronic devices such as tablets and smart phones, and will include several new features. Keep checking back to see what's new!

A Facebook page has also been established at www.facebook.com/FingerLakesPleinAir. Share photos, memories, impressions - and please "Like" to help spread the word!

5th Annual Adirondack Plein Air Festival

Where: Saranac Lake, NY
When: August 21 - 24, 2014

Plans are already underway for 2014, including a promise to add some major cash prizes to the Awards. Watch for updates next spring!

Artists are invited to the historic mountain village of Saranac Lake for the 5th Adirondack Plein Air Festival, August 21 - 24, 2014, part of the summer long "Great Adirondack Days" celebration. Optional artist workshops and events are offered on Aug 18-20 for those who would like to come for the entire week! Check website later for details.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION will be added by February 1, 2014.
<http://saranaclakeartworks.com/pleinair>



Genesee Valley Plein Air Painters Members News

Dick Kane will be having a solo exhibition at **Williams Gallery at First Unitarian Church**, 220 S. Winton Rd., Rochester.

Opening Reception: November 15 from 6:00-8:30 pm

The show will remain open until January 6, 2014

Monday-Friday from 10:00-2:00 & 4:30-8:00. Weekends variable. Please ring bell.

Visitors are advised to call ahead 585-271-9070 to confirm hours.

Diane Bellenger received a merit award for a graphite drawing done in Maine. Congratulations!

Diane recently had 3 paintings juried into the Rochester Art Club show at Barnes and Noble in Pittsford Plaza. The show will run from:

November 3 – December 4 during book store hours.

Photo Collage of GVPAP 2013 Annual Meeting



Officers & Coordinators:

President:	Barbara Jablonski
Vice President:	Steve BonDurant
Treasurer:	Anne Jurgens
Secretary:	Stacy Kirby Steward
Paint Out Coordinator:	Nina Rapp
Newsletter Publisher:	Fran Blied:
Attendance:	Dawn Livingston
Website:	Chris O'Handley
Educational Workshops:	Jan Davidson & Carolyn Parker



TO SCHEDULE A PAINTOUT: CONTACT

Nina Rupp at nmrupp@yahoo.com

Remember to include the full address + zip of the paintout location

The host notifies those who responded on the day of paintout of changes in time, date, or location. Please check before you go. If you can't come and have sent a RSVP to host, please contact them so they aren't looking for you.

Hosts, please include your cell number so you can be reached.

Attendance is sent to **Dawn Robinson** anglirob@hotmail.com.

Please notify Dawn & Nina if the paintout is canceled.

E-LETTER DEADLINE: This is now a quarterly **newsletter**.

Please have news for the **February** issue to me by **January 25**.

- Send jpg files of your paintings, or photos of you receiving an award or at a Plein Air outing
- Send news and articles of interest pertaining to plein air painting or member news about yourself or other members.

Send information to Fran Blied at fblied@comcast.net. Thank you!