LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY

Dust in the Wind

November 2026

LCPS Mission Statement

We seek to unite artists from beginner to professional who are interested in the pastel medium and to serve their needs by encouraging artistic growth and development through education and sharing. We also work to create public awareness of pastel as a unique and beautiful art form.

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From the President



Hello Members,

This particular letter addresses the issue of our economy. There are many types of economies and ours is currently based on the monetary economy. However, I recently read a book by author Robin Wall Kimmeror that was titled: "Service Berry." Robin is known for her work in blending indigenous wisdom with scientific knowledge. The book was about how nature creates grows, and exchanges everything it has with all creatures and the plants themselves. It is called the "gift economy." Humans do have similar examples of this gift economy, such as celebrating birthdays, or exchanging gifts over holidays. But these are on a personal level and you know the individuals. On a larger scale we have a "free" block sale, whereby neighbors give away what they don't want. We also have food shelters and even blood donations. These are good examples of humanity's gift economy.

Now let's take a look at our paintings. Do you have too many? Are you emotionally attached to all of them? Are those earlier ones not selling as quickly as your current ones? Why not practice using the gift economy and give some of them away. The holiday's are coming up and even non-profit organizations have walls that need decorating. It's also another way to promote your work in the community, like free advertising or marketing. Our community even has "time sharing" whereby the electrician would repair your lighting for two hours and that time is counted as currency. That person could now have a plumber come in and work for two hours – no monetary exchange, just time. So donate your time as an artist in exchange for something else you could use. This is also part of the gift economy. As I have been saying all along, our organization helps to spread our joy and love for painting with pastels, even beyond our sales and exhibits. Enjoy the time you have off in the weeks ahead to do some wonderful art work. Have joy in your journey.

Steve Budas
LCPS President
Minneapolis

JANUARY CRITIQUE SESSIONS

This coming January will be another opportunity to have your painting(s) critiqued. Painters who are interested in getting their works reviewed and critiqued, based on your level of experience, can fill out the application that follows this article. The artist giving the critique is our very own board member, Amy Fichter. Arrangements will be made through her after she contacts you directly.

Amy Fichter has been making art with soft pastels since her college days in the early 90s. Soft pastels are the medium she feels most at home with. Historically, she has made figurative drawings and paintings but is starting to branch out into landscape. She often incorporates Pan pastel, pastel pencils, and soft pastels into a painting. This enables her to play with various color interactions and characteristics of marks.

Amy is self-taught in soft pastels but has formal training in classical figure drawing, which she teaches at UW–Stout Polytechnic in Menomonie, WI.

Amy feels comfortable providing feedback on drawings and paintings in regard to subject matter, composition, scale, value and color relationships, structure, pastel application, substrate choices, and presentation. She can also speak specifically about artistic anatomy if requested to do so and always follows the artist's intent in conversation about the work.

Amy's art is in the collections of the Birmingham Museum of Art, the Columbia Museum of Art, and the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte, NC. Her photographs were exhibited in the Wisconsin Triennial at MoCA in Madison in 2016 and she has an upcoming solo show at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, WI in March 2027. Her drawing, "Luna" won 1st place in the 4th quarter of 2024 and in the 2024 year-end emerging artist category in Dakota Pastels' Pastel Competition.

BLICK art materials

DAKOTA PASTELS

PAINTING CRITIQUE MEMBER APPLICATION

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

WHAT LEVEL OF ARTISTRY DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE? (Notice of this will be given to the Artist giving your critique, not anyone else.)

BEGINNER _____ INTERMEDIATE _____ ADVANCED _____

IS YOUR DIGITAL COPY: UNFINISHED _____ UNFRAMED _____ FRAMED _____

WHAT ONE TO THREE ELEMENTS OF YOUR PAINTING DO YOU WANT CRITIQUED?

_____

_____

_____

MAIL APPLICATION TO:
Steve Budas
3609 - 14th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Further instructions will be sent to you via email, or if you prefer, texted by

phone: _____

The critique session will be scheduled by Amy Fichter herself after contacting you directly.

Meetings Lake Country Pastel Society

"From Field to Studio" and beyond...thinking in terms of how ones' body of work builds a theme. Choosing your colors and sticks, preparing your background, and ways to build confidence en plein air. How you set-up, and keep within the "picture plane". Is there a best or better posture for arm and eye advantage to keep your focus within the plane and not get lost? How best to get back to your picture plane. Practical information including changing sun patterns, dressing for conditions, carrying gear, time frame in weather compared to time in the studio. Perhaps, the materials and set-up in your studio as compared to in the field. These kinds of questions bring us to learn more from one of our members who has extensive experience painting outdoors.

UPCOMING November Member Meeting Presentation

We would love to see more people attend in person.

Many of you know Becky Jokela, but maybe not of her study of the tributaries of Cannon Falls. En Plein Air color studies led to finished studio work as a part of her Grant application. Come learn with Becky as she shares her pastel process to study the landscape through the seasons.

Becky Jokela presents "From Field to Studio" as she shares her vision for a body of work.

Put November 10th on your calendar and plan now to attend in person. Bloomington Center for the Arts, 2nd floor in the Bloomington City Hall on 98th Street, Bloomington. We will also make presentation available on ZOOM.

Dawn Lees

PAST Meeting

"Experimenting with Pastels"

September's Member Presentation was led by Sue Rowe at the Hastings Center for the Arts. Sue came late to her love of soft pastels. Sue earned her 1981 Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. Pen and Ink was her primary focus.

Decades later, a chance purchase of a wooden box at a Metro yard sale changed her mind – and a large part of her artistic life. Sue discovered pan pastels, on velour mat board is very forgiving. Hard and soft pastels work together on ordinary sketchbook pages, She began to form a vocabulary and learn techniques as she explored abstract designs. Sue learned about what played together nicely and what did not. "The point is to find out; not make a thing." Sue joined the Visual Journey Collective at Wet Paints and continued to build layers of pastels on a variety of substrates.

With our small audience and Zoom participants, Sue opened her sketchbooks that were filled with colors, textures, shapes, layered pieces of other paintings and designs. When asked if she could talk more about composition, Sue exclaimed it isn't a composition until it is finished and when is that? Experimenting is more about the process and finding one's flow. There was excitement in the air. Pastelists leaned in to feel and sense the exquisite imagery presented.



Sue shared her pile of magical papers. Some were thin and perfect for layering, others were heavier and could become covers for hand stitched journals. Sue referred to notes written on the back side of what materials she used. From tea bags stitched together, paper towels, tissue papers, Strathmore watercolor, Masonite and pumice, acrylic and water, clear Gesso, last page in a spiral bound pad, graph paper, legal pad paper, parchment, and the possibilities abound. We were left with an eagerness to go home and start gathering our bits and pieces in our art spaces and PLAY.

Sue Rowe knows her materials. From an academic background and an ever present curiosity, Sue is able to loosen up and create spaces within her "picture plane" to connect with others. Sue visits with others as she intentionally puts her art making into the community. She finds joy in working with Memory Care doing Improvisational Drawing. Sue often gets the viewer to name a thing or choose a color to start from her box. For our group, Sue drew a cow (called out by an online viewer) and a pastel stick chosen from participant. Everyone agreed Sue knows her cows. Sweet Red factor cow. "Play can be fun. Goofing off is good!"

Dawn Lees

WORKSHOPS

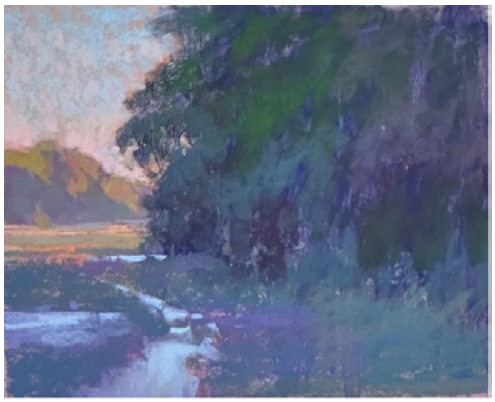
Barbara Jaenicke ~ Oct. 2026 Workshop

We were honored to host guest artist Barbara Jaenicke for our Fall, 2026 workshop. Barbara is a master pastelist and oil painter, specializing in capturing the magic of light in "painterly, impressionistic" landscapes.

"I strive to paint experiences, effects, and emotions, rather than 'things'. " To do this, I need to push beyond the basic mechanics of creating the work. No painting is ever easy for me. Each one challenges me to create that magic that goes beyond just a painting of a thing. That magic doesn't always happen in every single attempt, but it's those euphoric instances when the painting 'hits' that make it worth going through all the painful 'misses.'"



Her three-day workshop focused on five lessons. The first, in simple thumbnails, using value shapes to evaluate source scenes and create a compelling composition. This becomes the blueprint for the painting. The second, using the thumbnail to guide the underpainting and seat the compositional shapes as the first layer of the painting. The third, capturing light, shadow, shapes and depth with color choice and impressionistic mark making. The fourth, expressing light, shadow and color in scenes with snow. And the fifth, using the constraint of a limited number of marks and pastels to create a loose, vibrant, impressionistic painting.





Barbara was as generous a teacher as she is a painter. Watching her work was a joy. In just a couple of hours, she created luminous, beautiful pieces with a loose, thoughtful touch. Her approach was a reminder that less is more. During her demos, she shared her process, her knowledge, and her game-changing persistence which was so evident in the slideshow she presented of her journey as an artist. After demos she moved around the room to work with each attendee, freely offering tips and suggestions to help everyone improve and create a stronger painting. I believe that we were all in agreement that it was a privilege to learn from her and to see her art come to life.

Thank you, Barbara, for an inspiring workshop!

Craig Britton and Gwen Solberg

LCPS Workshop Co-Chairs



Spring 2027 Workshop with Nancie King Mertz

May 11, 12, 13, 2027 (Tues, Wed, Thurs)

New Brighton Community Center

We are excited to announce our Spring 2027 workshop with Nancie King Mertz! Nancy is the Pastel Society of America Hall of Fame Honoree for 2025. She is a Pastel Society of America Master Pastelist, Chicago Pastel Painters Master Pastelist, and IAPS – Master Circle Member and Eminent Pastelist, among other honors. Her art is exhibited in her own gallery in Rockford, Illinois, as well as exhibited in museums in the US, China and Europe. She teaches workshops and is invited to jury numerous art exhibits across the US and Europe.

Nancy is remarkably good at capturing the special feeling of places where we live, work, pass while we run errands, or visit on a vacation. It might be a church, barn, bridge or harbor … soaring skyscrapers or a quaint sidewalk bistro … a back alley, adobe home, or our own summer deck.

Keep an eye on the Lake Country Pastel Society website for more workshop details and the registration form which are all coming soon!



Exhibition



2026 Winter Member Exhibition - City of Woobury Central Park
8595 Central Park Place, Woodbury, Minnesota

Opening Reception Thursday, November 12 - 6:00-8:00pm - Central Atrium

Show dates: November 7-December 4, 2026

19 Artists will be showing 34 paintings

Exhibiting Artists - reminder - Drop off paintings: Friday, November 6 - 9:00am-1:00pm (show will be hung same day)

Questions: Email-Wendy at wlpeteking@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - 2027 LCPS EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Prospectus and Entry Forms will be available on our website soon! And will be included in the January newsletter.

2027 Spring Judged Exhibition

Lakeville Area Arts Center - City Hall
20915 Holyoke Ave, Lakeville, MN 55044

March 18-April 16, 2027
(Opening Reception is being finalized)

Deadline to Enter Feb 25

2027 Fall Non Judged Exhibition

Plymouth Community Center Art Gallery
3400 Plymouth Blvd, Plymouth, MN 55447

September 10-October 22

Questions: Wendy Peterson, Exhibits Chair - wlpeteking@gmail.com
****I am seeking a member interested in learning about the Exhibits Chair position with intent to take on this role in 2028.

GARAGE SALE!

This coming January our membership meeting will actually be a garage sale/swap. It has been years since we had our last one. Anyone can come to sell their extra supplies, swap what they have or give away what they may not want. Also, you don't have to have anything to sell. Just come because you want to buy something or find out what people are handing out for free. For sure we have the following items that will be available for those who decide to come: 1 original Sandy Dahl painting, 4-drawer wooden studio pastel box, sketch books, 15" easels, books, frames, art books and various papers. Chances are good someone will bring extra pastels as well. Bring something of your own and join the party! Swap stories about your experiences with these items and find out more from those who have used these items before.

The garage sale is going to be at May Pow Studio, located at 1620Central Ave. in Minneapolis. Go to suite 228. It is just north of downtown and there is street parking, but if you don't find any, their back parking lot has many open spaces. You can enter that parking lot by driving into the entrance that is literally just north of the railroad tracks, which is a bridge over Central Avenue itself.

Steve Budas

Lake Country Pastel Society Facebook Group

LCPS has a Facebook Group available to all members where you can post news and information about your art as well as art events within our member area.

Here is the link! https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BMk8JSpXu/

Wendy Peterson

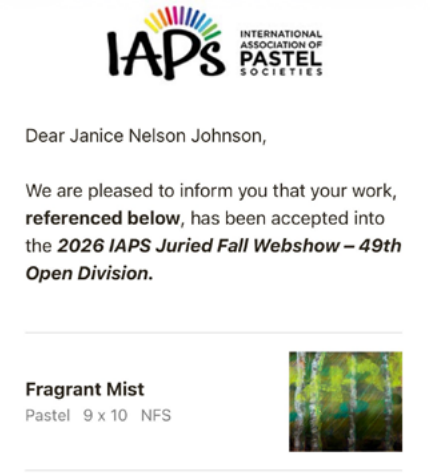
FREE GIFT CARDS!

You have a chance to win some free gift cards simply by paying NOW for your 2027 membership. Just send in your $35 and notify Amy that you are paying now for your 2027 membership renewal fees. She will automatically include you with the next drawing of gift cards for free products. They could be from Dakota Pastels, Blick Art Materials, or even our own Wet Paint, located in St. Paul. The gift certificate could be up to $25, which practically pays for your membership. The drawing will be the first week of January. So do it now and let your friends know of this great organization that supports pastel artists.

Steve Budas
LCPS President
Minneapolis



Jan Johnson



IAPS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTEL SOCIETIES

Dear Janice Nelson Johnson,

We are pleased to inform you that your work, **referenced below**, has been accepted into the ***2026 IAPS Juried Fall Webshow – 49th Open Division.***

Fragrant Mist
Pastel 9 x 10 NFS

It came as a complete surprise! My painting Fragrant Mist was one of 100 accepted into the 2026 IAPS Juried Fall Webshow -49th Open Division. This piece was completed last April during my self-guided residency at the Grand Marais Art Colony. My poet/collaborator Kelly Travis had this to say about the painting: "…sultry greens, the veils of light, the deep shadows…the intoxicating scent of earth and leaves….a shimmering, living mystery."

I'm feeling very thankful and grateful to LCPS and IAPS for this wonderful opportunity.



Board of Directors

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Steve Budas

Vice President
OPEN

Treasurer
Kim Kang

Secretary
Tammy Lambas

Program Chair
Dawn Lees
(need Co-chair)

Exhibit Chair
Wendy Peterson

Workshops Co-Chairs
Craig Britton and
Gwen Solberg

Public Relations chair
OPEN

Mentoring Program
Eileen France

Membership Chair
Amy Fichter

Historian and
Newsletter Chair
Dian Dewi

Past President
Wendy Peterson

LCPS 2026 Calendar

November

1 - Newsletter Published

3 - LCPS Board Meeting

6 – Drop off exhibit paintings for the LCPS Fall exhibit, 9am - 1pm

8595 CenteralPark Place, Woodbury

7 – Beginning of the LCPS Fall Exhibit in Central Park ,Woodbury

10 – LCPS Member Meeting, Becky Jokela "From Field to Studio", 7 - 9pm

Bloomington Center for the Arts

1800 W Old Shakopee Rd

Bloomington, MN 55431

12 – Opening Reception for the Fall Exhibit in Central Park,Woodbury, 6 - 8pm

December

4 – Last day of the LCPS Fall exhibit, Central Park. Woodbury

5 – Pick up paintings from Central Park Exhibit, 9am - 1pm

January

1 - Newsletter comes out

5 - LCPS Board meeting 6 pm.

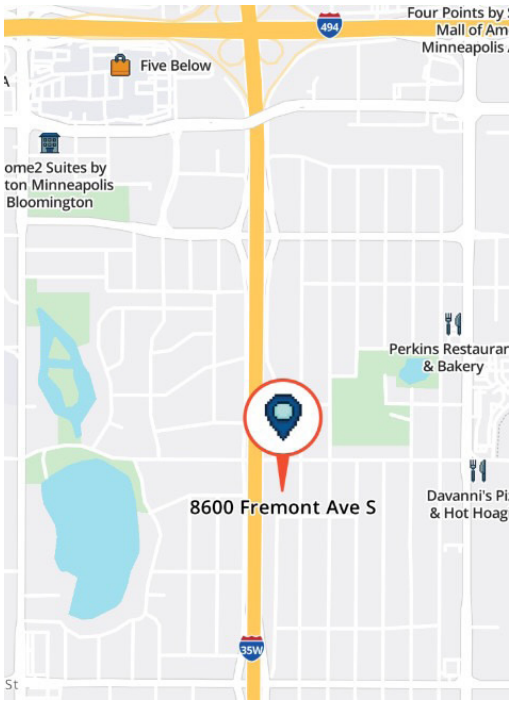
16 - Members' Garage Sale/Swap,, 1-4pm.

Mary Pow Studio

Thorp Building

1618 Central Ave. NE, Suite 228

Minneapolis (directions given in future newsletter)



Christ the King Church,

8600 Freemont Ave. S. Bloomington.

Find your way to 35W southbound The church is just beyond I-494.

Going south on 35W, take the 82nd St. exit. A left turn going East to

Fremont Ave. Then a right turn south to the church, 8600 S. Fremont Ave. The entrance is the West Chapel, the door to the left side of the building as viewed from the parking lot.

In case of bad weather .....

LCPS will email members by noon the day of the meeting and will contact people who don't have email.

If you have questions, contact

Steve Budas

