

October letter from the president

Hello everyone!

Mother Nature sure made October an exciting month for SC with Hurricane Matthew. I hope that everyone has been able to get back to life as normal after the storm. It certainly seems to have blown some cold autumn temps our way. One great opportunity for you due to the storm is that we had to reschedule the Dianne MunKittrick Wildlife and Nature Workshop Oil (or Acrylics). It will now be held Friday and Saturday February 3 & 4 - 9am to 4pm. You can learn more about her and her work at <http://www.diannemunkittrick.com/>. If you were previously scheduled into the workshop you still have a slot. Please contact Al Leitch if either the new dates no longer work for you OR if you'd like to be added for the new dates. Remember that to ensure that we don't end up with empty seats; the board has adopted new guidelines which allow us to sell unfilled seats to non-CCAL members during the last two weeks preceding the workshop. If you are interested, be sure to get your registration and deposit to Al Leitch as soon as possible.

I'm sorry I wasn't able to be with you at the general meeting last Monday, but I have been happy to hear that it went well and that you saw a great presentation by Scott Penegar. Thanks Dan for arranging yet another great presenter for us! Our attendance for the first two meetings of this year have been lower than normal for us. We have had some great presenters and I hate that some of our members have missed them! I hope that everyone will renew their commitment to being an active member; attending our meetings and taking advantage of the great benefits of being a part of the CCAL. Mark your calendars now to attend with us on November 21st!

Here are some of the key things happening in CCAL right now:

Juried Show: The dates have been set for this year's Juried Show. Delivery of artwork will be February 18-19. The awards reception will be on Monday, March 20 and non-awarded artwork pick up will be March 25. Remember that participation is open to members who have 1) paid their annual dues and 2) attended at least three meetings since March of last year. In response to numerous questions in prior years, the board adopted clarifying language following the model of the State Fair requirements as follows: "A Professional Exhibitor is defined as anyone who has earned \$1,000 or more during a calendar year by either selling their items, teaching the subject, doing extended exhibiting, or involving themselves in other professionally related activities in a capacity that would give the entrant unfair advantage over an amateur." Todd Baxter will be the juror for our show. You can learn more about Todd at www.baxterfineart.com. If you attended the State Fair this year you probably saw that Todd was the recipient of several awards there.

Publicity: Thanks to the hard work and organizational mastery of Claudia Zeigler, CCAL was an exhibitor at the First Annual Chapin Fall on October 15 at the Coffee Shelf from 9-5. Thank you so much to everyone that helped out! We are always looking for other PR opportunities for CCAL and its members so if you have any requests or recommendations for publicity, please let Claudia know.

"Let's Paint Chapin": As a reminder, Ann Peake has planned another fun yearlong activity for us all. "Let's Paint Chapin" will be a chance for us to paint some of the great historic houses, old filling stations, barns, churches, bridges, trees, old Chapin Theater, water towers, river/ponds, Chapin lake side scenes, old buildings, streets and faces of the community from Chapin, Prosperity and Little Mountain. Paintings, which must be no more than 8x10, are due by April 15th and will be first shown at the May

meeting. Winners will be selected by an impartial judge. I hope everyone is out there finding just the right iconic scene as inspiration an entry in this competition. If you have any questions about this special project, please contact Ann Peake.

Website Update: The Website Committee has been working on exploring options for vendors, webmasters and hosting solutions for our new updated website. I'm excited to say that we hope to have the new site ready very soon and that it's looking great! Please let us know any news we can share about your art successes.

CCAL Logo Contest: We received 3 entries from a single person for the new logo contest. While this was not as large as we were hoping for, our selection committee is hard at work reviewing the submissions so we can put forth the best option for CCAL. If you have any questions about the contest, please let me know.

Current Artist Exhibits

In October, The Artist's Place (TAP) Gallery will feature fall scenes. Please consider adding some of your art to the exhibit – we'd all love to see it!

Our Spotlight Artist of the Month for October is Sandra Wilkie with her lovely piece "Poppies Galore". Spotlight artists are recognized on our website and have a special exhibition of a select piece of their work at the Chapin Chamber of Commerce. Please congratulate Sandra and view her exhibited artwork at the Chamber office if you can.

Our special exhibit artist for October at the Chapin Library is Claudia Zeigler. We are fortunate that the Chapin Library supports the Arts and provides a very nice special exhibition space for a featured artist for CCAL to display multiple works each month. If you are interested in being an exhibited artist at the library, please contact Roger Wright.

A number of CCAL artists entered the SC State Fair. I hope that if you entered, you were successfully juried in or better yet won a prize! I hope that you get a chance to visit the Fine Art display at the fair and celebrate our artists. If you won or are exhibited in the Fair (or any other competitions or exhibits) please let me know! We want to congratulate our CCAL artists and celebrate their successes on our webpage.

Looking ahead

At our November 21st meeting, we have another great speaker: Amy Perrier from Hendersonville NC. She is an Acrylic painter that uses her fingers to paint. She will be doing a live demo during the meeting. Her website is amyperrierpaintings.com. In her own words, "My contemporary paintings are created by simply using my fingers as brushes. Occasionally, I will use graphite or a palette knife if I desire a hard edge or wish to reveal previously applied layers of paint. My inspiration comes from the world around me, both real and imagined. My passion to paint keeps me painting every day. The circles imprinted into the canvas [of her paintings] are an homage to my mother, artist Nancy Hunt. No longer painting due to illness, she still encourages me in my endeavors to be a contemporary artist. She gave me several jars of paints about 15 years ago that I have always treasured. As I paint in this interpretive style, I stamp the lid of one of her jars into the first step of my painting process; keeping her as well as her desire to be a contemporary artist, close."

The theme for the TAP gallery in November will be Winter Scenes. If you have some art to celebrate the season, please plan to hang it on the left side of the gallery. Since we will not be meeting at the park in December, any art in the Gallery can remain there until our January meeting. All sizes of paintings are welcome – bring some bigger pieces as well as some small if you have them. Even if you have some pieces that are not winter scenes you can bring them if you prefer so we can properly fill the space and showcase CCAL artists. The gallery is looking rather sparse right now so please consider making a trip to the park to hang something for all to admire. Our theme for January will be animals; dogs, cats, horses, birds, whatever strikes your fancy. So plan ahead! If you have any questions about hanging art in the TAP gallery, please contact Corey Ann Lacey.

Our November artist featured in the Chapin Library Artist Gallery will be Roger Wright. If you are interested in being an exhibitor at the library please contact Roger Wright.

Our November spotlight artist will be Anna Kay Singley. If you are interested in becoming a future spotlight artist, we will be drawing names again for new participants at the January meeting. Check with Ruby DeLoach for more details.

The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission will be holding their annual Holiday Market at Crooked Creek Park on Saturday November 12th. The Board is currently looking at how CCAL can support the park and participate in the fair. This would be a great forum for smaller less expensive pieces for holiday gifts. If you are willing to help with a CCAL exhibit, please let me know.

Helen Beacham will conduct a watercolor workshop for CCAL on November 4-5 from 9am - 4 pm at Crooked Creek Park. The title will be "Put Some Motion in your Ocean". You can see more information and examples of her work at www.helenkbeacham.com. This workshop is filling fast. Please contact Al if you are interested in attending.

Finally, the Annual CCAL Christmas Party is scheduled to be held on Monday December 19 at 6:30 at Ron Weathers lovely home again (thanks Ron and Carol!). Please mark your calendars now and plan to be part of the fun! If you can help out with this event please let me know! We need volunteers for decorations, food, activities, setup and cleanup. It should be a good time!

Thank you for your membership. We have so many exciting things happening at CCAL! I encourage you to share with all your friends who are interested in art about the benefits of being associated with the Crooked Creek Art League. Please invite them to our meetings.

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."
~ Thomas Merton

I'm hoping that we all get many chances to get lost in our art this month.

Until next time,

Barbara Teusink
President

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