



APS Newsletter – February, 2026

From the President:

Dear Artists,

I hope you are all staying safe and warm. Maybe even getting a little more time in the studio during these frigid and icy days.

Please be sure to review the 2026 calendar; we have some fantastic events coming up, including mini workshops, monthly meeting guests, a juried membership show, and more! Watch the monthly meeting invites closely as some are virtual and some are in person depending on the location of the guest speaker.

We still have a few needs to round out our Committees Chairs and Members. If you have a passion for serving, organizational and computer skills, and a willingness to learn, we have a place for you. Don't worry — you won't be left on your own. Our current members are ready to work alongside you and pass the torch with full support.

- APS/OPS Joint Non-Juried Shows - reach out to Valerie McNee (vm5556@gmail.com)
 - APS hosts OPS at Thea in 2027

- National Show Workshop 2027 - reach out to Valerie McNee (vm5556@gmail.com)
 - Works closely with National Show Chair. Works through logistics with the artist on accommodations, price, number of days, location, etc.
 - Note that the coordinator attends the workshop to assist with any needs of the artist, members, and location. They can participate in the workshop as time allows, free of charge.
 - The Committee Chair may select any number of members they see fit to accomplish the tasks.
- Publicity Chair - reach out to Caprise Cooper (caprisecooper@att.net)
 - Coordinate with the Press Release, Newsletter, and Social Media members to ensure communications are going out for all our events.

In the Love of Art,
Caprise

Caprise and her daughter Evelyn Laurence announced two upcoming mother–daughter art shows titled Architecture • Rust • Treasures. Their work will be featured at the Argenta Library with an opening reception on Friday, March 20, from 5–8 p.m., and on display through April 2. A second showing will open May 21 at the Rialto Gallery in Morrilton during the first market of the year and remain on display throughout May

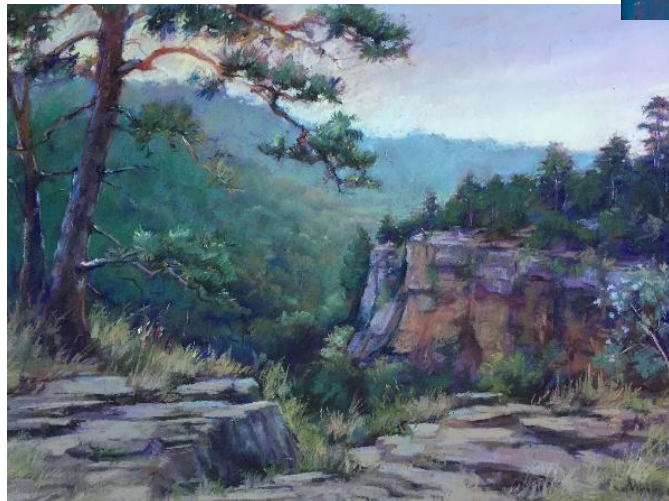
UPCOMING EVENTS: “ARKANSAS LANDSCAPES”

APS Workshop with Clarence Cash and Susan Hurst

Like to paint the Arkansas landscape in pastel? Join Susan Hurst and Clarence Cash as they share their studies of the Hudson River School artists and experiences painting the Arkansas landscape. Bring your favorite landscape photos or use one of Clarence’s photos of the Buffalo River.

Clarence Cash “Lost Spring” 16”x20” (right)

Susan Hurst “Vista at Petit Jean” 20”x27” (below)



Saturday, March 21 10:00 – 4:00
St. James United Methodist Church,
321 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little
Rock, AR

\$40 for APS members, \$50 for non-
members

Class size is limited to 15. Send
registration and check made to
“APS” to: Shirley Bowen, 42 Nob
View Circle, Little Rock, AR 72205

Questions? Call or text 501-339-5519 or email shirley.bowen@gmail.com.

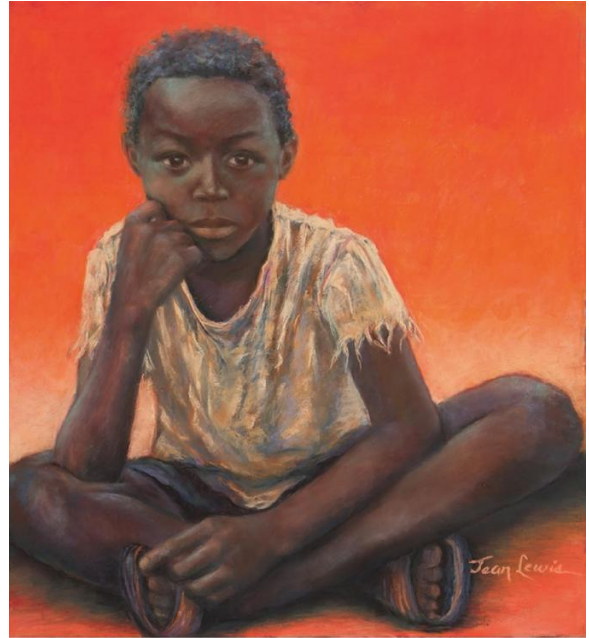
REMINDER: The Joint OPS & APS Members Exhibit will be held at Arts On Main, 415 Main St., Van Buren, AR, 72761, AR, May 8 – June 27, 2026 with an opening reception on Friday, May 15th, 6-8 PM. Show details will be forthcoming.

The IAPS PastelWorld Exhibition associated with the IAPS Convention will be publishing the Call for Entries on February 1st. Check the IAPS website for information on both the Master Circle and the Open Divisions. The entry deadline for both categories is April 1.

March 3 Members Meeting

Jean Lewis, the Chicago-area artist who has traveled to Little Rock to take part in our two most recent national shows, will present the program for our March meeting, which will be online only. She will discuss “Inventorying, Organizing, and Shipping” your artwork. A link to connect to the online meeting, which begins at 6:00 PM, will be sent by email.

Shown at right is Jean’s painting “Chris Cross,” which was the Second Place winner in our 2025 national show.



A very important reminder from Jody Miller to APS members:

You must keep up your annual dues, paid and current for earned points to count toward Signature Membership. 2026 dues of \$25 are payable now.

Contact Jody Miller for more information on Signature Membership.

From Our Membership Chair: It's time to renew your membership in the Arkansas Pastel Society for the year 2026. Please send your name, any changes we should make to your contact information, and a check for \$25.00 made out to the Arkansas Pastel Society to: Ann Bleed, Membership Chair, 18 Cove Creek Pt. Little Rock, AR 72211

MEMBER NEWS:

From the Pastel Society of America's 53rd competition, Enduring Brilliance, Dr. Louis A. Zona chose 31 paintings to be displayed at the Butler Institute of American Art in the Flora B. Giffuni Gallery located in Youngstown, Ohio from March 8, 2026 to May 3, 2026. "Splish Splash" pastel painting by **Vic Mastis** was chosen.



Anne Parat needs you, APS Member, to volunteer to teach two two-hour demos at LifeQuest this fall. A few people have been carrying this program for many years now and they are getting burned out! You don't need to be a fabulous talent! You just need to share your experience and be able to talk about how you approach painting. This is only a four hour commitment (1:00-3:00 two consecutive Thursdays)! LifeQuesters are inquisitive nonjudgmental people who are anxious to learn. Many have joined APS and are contributing to our group. It's a win/win association! Please consider contacting Anne Parat, 501-343-5900 to volunteer!

Anne will also be coordinating member activities during the IAPS Convention in June. If you're looking for someone to room and/or travel with, check with Anne to see what might be available.

From Jenni Duncan: If cost is a barrier to taking part in one of our APS workshops, please take advantage of some scholarships that are available for interested pastelists. Non-member pastelists are eligible, as well. What better way to draw people in than to invite them to join us in a setting where they can get to know us and also paint, perhaps in new ways? Email Jenni Duncan, jduncan7400@gmail.com for an application.

Seis Puentes Hispanic Education Center is still offering art classes over two years since we led a pastel course there. One of the drawbacks for teaching is that students buy materials at dollar stores or other stores they are familiar with. These are not often what a teacher is using and makes it harder for their efforts to be as successful as they could be. If you have materials, especially paper, that you bought and don't like, we would love them! Contact Jenni Duncan at jduncan7400@gmail.com. Teachers are always welcomed, too!

2026 Calendar of Events and Key Dates

February

- No Member Meeting

March

- 3/3 Member Meeting - Inventorying, Organizing, and Shipping - Jean Lewis (Virtual)
- 3/21 Mini Workshop Clarence Cash - comparing the Hudson Valley Artists to Arkansas artists painting the landscape.

April

- 4/7 Member Meeting - Painting Mountains - Clint Howard (Virtual)
- 4/13 Board Meeting

May

- 5/5 Member Meeting - Use of iPad for Paintings - Tom Herrin (In Person)
- 5/8 OPS/APS Non Juried Member Show Opens (AOM Gallery Van Buren)
- 5/15 OPS/APS Non Juried Member Show Reception

June

- 6/2 Member Meeting - Sharing Techniques/Ideas - APS Members (In Person)
- 6/16 - 6/21 IAPS in Albuquerque
- 6/27 OPS/APS Non Juried Member Show Closes

July

- No Member Meeting
- 7/13 Board Meeting
- TBD Non Juried Member Show at Thea Gallery

August

- 8/4 Member Meeting - Capturing Light - Charles Peer (In Person)
- TBD – Mini Workshop – Rust – Caprise Cooper

September

- 9/8 Member Meeting - Composition and Fragmentation - Holly Tiley **Tentative** (In Person)
- 9/1 - 9/15 Annual Membership Survey
- TBD - Portrait Mini-Workshop

October

- 10/6 Member Meeting - Framing Paintings - Susan Hurst (In Person)
- 10/12 Board Meeting - Kick-off of solicitation of board members

November

- 11/17 Member Meeting - Demo by Member Juried Show Judge Aaron Shuerr (In Person)
- TBD Member Juried Show and Workshop with Aaron Shuerr

December - TBD Christmas Party and Annual Meeting