



APS Newsletter - July, 2026

From the President:

Instead of the usual letter from the President, I would like to share with you IAPS's vision for the future.

IAPS exists to promote the pastel medium worldwide, and it always will. Like many organizations, we are evolving in response to advances in technology and the changing needs of the societies and the artists we serve. Our mission has not changed, but what is evolving is how we do it.

IAPS is focused on the following key initiatives that will guide our work as we move forward.

Increase Grant Opportunities

We are expanding grants that help societies fund educational programs, community outreach, and projects that promote pastel art within their communities.

Expand The IAPS Honors Program.

IAPS is developing a new honors level above Eminent Pastelist, creating an additional level of recognition for artists who continue to achieve at the highest levels of IAPS exhibitions. Details are still in development and will be announced once they are finalized.

Grow Our Educational Programs

We are building a [library of educational content](#) on YouTube featuring demonstrations, interviews, presentations, and instructional programs. Artists will be able to access demonstrations, conversations, and instructional resources regardless of location

Continue Our Online Exhibitions

Our online exhibitions, such as the [Fall Online Exhibition](#), remain one of the best ways to show your work to an international audience and build toward honors status. Artists can participate from wherever they live, with no travel required. (See details about this year's upcoming exhibition later in this newsletter.)

Society-sponsored Gatherings

IAPS is introducing a new society-hosted event model called Gatherings. Gatherings will bring artists together for in-person workshops, demonstrations, paint-outs, exhibitions, and other shared experience. IAPS will support approved Gatherings by sponsoring the Best of Show Award. Gathering exhibitions will also give artists opportunities to earn points toward Master Circle and Eminent Pastelist status.

FALL 2027 – Enchanted Places Gathering

The first scheduled gathering is in October 2027 with the Enchanted Places Gathering, hosted by the Pastel Society of New Mexico in Albuquerque. This international event will feature six workshops, excursions to destinations such as Santa Fe and the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, and plein air painting in the New Mexico landscape.. Registration opens in spring 2027, and more details are coming soon.

Building on what makes IAPS Special

Technology has transformed how we learn, connect, and share our art. Rather than replacing the relationships that make IAPS so special, these initiatives will complement our in-person events while making educational opportunities and resources more accessible to artists around the world. As we move forward, we remain committed to listening to our member societies. Your ideas, feedback, and partnership are essential as we shape the next chapter of IAPS together.

Thank you for your continued support, leadership, and dedication to the pastel community. We are excited about the future and look forward to working alongside you to ensure IAPS remains a vibrant, innovative, and valuable organization for years to come.

Caprise

A Proud Week for the Arkansas and Ozark Pastel Societies

Members from both the Arkansas Pastel Society (APS) and the Ozark Pastel Society (OPS) traveled to Albuquerque, and our region had a lot to celebrate. Shirley Anderson, Caprise Cooper, Clint Howard, Susan Hurst, Charles Peer, and Cindy Rowden were accepted into the PastelWorld show.

Several of our own members, many active in both societies, were recognized with top honors during the event: (see pictures in the following pages)

- **Susan Hurst** (APS/OPS) received her Master Circle Honor
- **Charles Peer** (OPS/APS) received his Eminent Pastelist Honor
- **Clint Howard** (OPS/APS) received his Master Circle Honor
- **Margi Tucker** (OPS/APS) received her Master Circle Honor

A New Chapter of Leadership for Arkansas

Arkansas' presence in the international pastel community goes beyond the exhibition hall. Two of our members now serve on the IAPS Board of Directors:

- **Shirley Anderson** (APS/OPS), President of IAPS
- **Caprise Cooper** (APS/OPS), newly elected Vice President of IAPS



Congratulations to Shirley and Caprise on these leadership roles. Having two Arkansas artists on the IAPS Board is a wonderful reflection of the strength and dedication of our local pastel community.

PastelWorld Exhibit at IAPS



Echoes of the Evening –
Charles Peer -Silver Award



Clint Howard – The
Weight of the Sky –
Award of Excellence

Caprise Cooper – The Test of Time



Susan Hurst – The Second Flush

Susan Hurst (APS/OPS) and Margi Tucker (OPS/APS) were awarded Master Circle/



Charles Peer awarded Eminent Pastelist



Browsing the Candy Store at IAPS



From Diana Harshbarger at OPS:
Winner of the 30 piece “Dawn” set of EarthBerry pastels was Tobi Clement , of Sante Fe, New Mexico. Tobi is a Nationally and an internationally well know artist. She is

recognized by her vibrant and exciting skies, in her landscapes. She thanks OPS, APS and , of course EarthBerry pastels for this lovely set. The winning ticket was drawn from 264 participants trying to win this set! I attach this photo of Tobi Pointing to skies because it looks like one of her skies. Is was just meant to be.



Shirley Anderson, Charles Peer and Richard McKinley at the IAPS awards banquet.

APS Summer Members' Show at THEA Foundation:

Viewers' Choice Award: Virginia Miller for *Tribute* with 22 votes



Virginia wrote:

I am honored viewers liked my painting. Tribute was created to honor a beautiful Great Blue Heron that I watched on our daily walks along Tucker Creek.

In early February I found him deceased, and wanted to remember him and the joy he brought to many of us.

Cheers,
Virginia



Georgia Chastain came in a close second with 19 votes for Evening at Vino's.

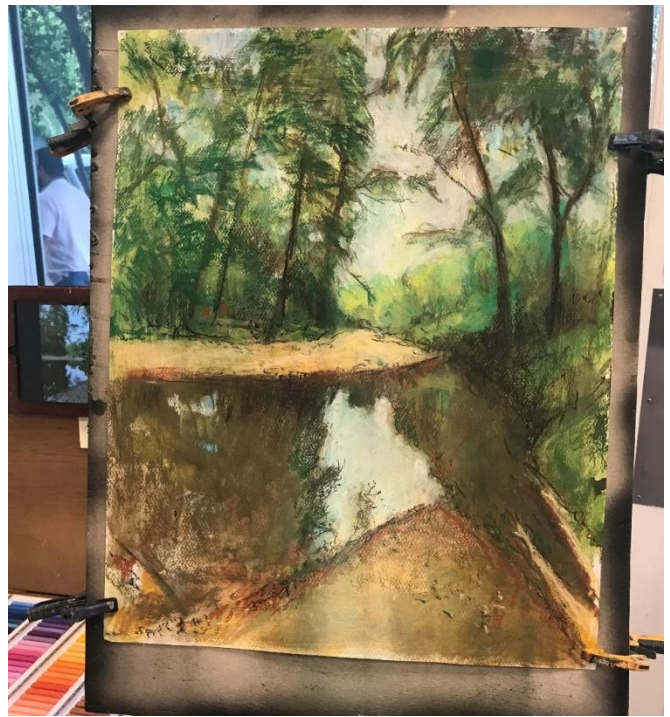
Susan Hurst's Early Morning Delivery and Georgia's Bath in the Brook were also well liked.

Anne Bleed sold her painting during the opening.

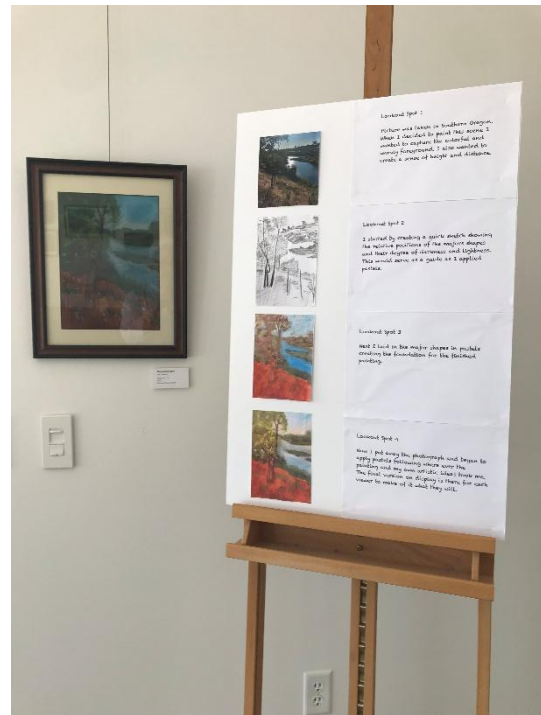
Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to help make this show and reception a success. And to all the artists who spent their creative time making the paintings on display!



Susan's demo



Clarence's demo



Clarence Cash, Susan Hurst and Shirley Anderson worked on demo paintings during the evening, and Roy Crawford created a storyboard showing the different steps in his painting process.

Susan and Clarence donated the demo paintings that sold at the silent auction and raised \$140 for the Thea Foundation's 25th anniversary fundraiser.

More scenes from the opening reception.



Shirley's demo, in process.



Hanging the Show:



Susan Hurst, Connie McCann, Dennis McCann, Claudia Spainhour, Nancy Martin, Anne Parat, and Greta Bleed, Ann Bleed's granddaughter.

When Ann asked Greta to choose her favorite picture of the show so she could take her picture with her favorite picture, she chose this one by Anne Parat.

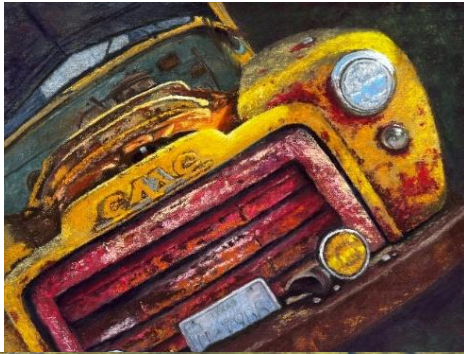
ALA to Host Annual Exhibition

The Arkansas League of Artists will host their annual art exhibit on August 14, 2026, from 6-8:00 p.m., on the second floor at the Layman Library in North Little Rock! Come browse original art while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

Presentation of awards is at 6:30 p.m.



“Rubiginous”



“Rust”

APS Workshop with Caprise Cooper

Saturday, August 22, 10:00-3:00

“Nothing Runs Like a Deere”



Join the Arkansas Pastel Society for a special workshop with current APS President Caprise Cooper and learn about the techniques she uses to create her lovely paintings of old rusty vehicles. We will

paint on sanded paper using Golden Micaceous Iron Oxide and a metallic or pearlescent watercolor underpainting.

Caprise writes: I've taught this workshop in the past and have learned that this process can be applied to painting beyond rusty vehicles. It is about texture and mark-making, which has been used to create abstract and still-life paintings. I look forward to working with the artists who attend the workshop.

Location: Adolphine Fletcher Terry Library, 2015 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212

\$40 for APS members, \$50 for non-members. Class size limited to 15.

Note: Doors will open at 9:30 for set up. The workshop room is located on the east rear of the library, and there is ample parking near the door. Please use this entrance instead of the main entrance, which has a lot of steps.

Suggested supply list: Sanded paper, brushes and a container for water, variety of pastels, including gritty ones, olive greens, neutrals and metallic or pearlescent pastels if you have them, and pastel pencils. Metallic or Pearlescent watercolors and Golden Micaceous Iron Oxide Acrylic Paint if you have them. Reference photo of a car, truck, tractor, or military vehicle. Reference photos will be available if you don't have your own. Micheal's carries a set of pearlescent watercolors for \$5. Also, please bring an easel, drop cloth, and other materials you prefer, like baby wipes, gloves, paper towels, etc.

From Jenni Duncan: If you would like to attend any APS workshop, there are funds available. Contact Jenni Duncan, jduncan7400@gmail.com with questions or for an application.

Send registration and payment to:

Shirley Bowen, 42 Nob View Circle, Little Rock, AR 72205 501-339-5519 / shirley.bowen@gmail.com

Name: _____

Email

Address: _____

Phone: _____

_____ Member? _____ Yes _____ No

IAPS Fall Online Exhibit - this is your opportunity to showcase your work and potentially earn points toward your Master Circle or Eminent Pastelists Honors.

- Call for Entries on ShowSubmit and IAPS Website – Friday, July 24, 2026
- Submission Deadline – Monday, September 7, 2026
- Notification, Announcement of Awards and posting on IAPS Website – Thursday, October 8, 2026
- If you have any questions, reach out to Caprise, the IAPS Exhibition Chair, at caprisecooper@gmail.com.

APS Talk

For the past two years, we have been monitoring the activity on APS talk. The activity on our page is one or two post a month by the same 10 people. Earlier this year we sent a survey out to all members about social media and the use of Facebook. We received no responses. We also were unable to find any volunteers to manage the page.

Thus the Board voted to close the page and eliminate the administrative tasks to keep it going. You can find information on what's happening with the society on our website, newsletter, emails from the society, and the Arkansas Pastel Society Facebook Page.

RENCONTRE
l'artiste

CHARLES PEER

« Charles Peer décrit son évolution comme un cheminement continu de découvertes et d'affinements, guidé par des préoccupations qui sont restées constantes : l'interprétation de la lumière par la couleur et la touche, ainsi que la recherche de la beauté du quotidien. Des passions originelles qui servent de fil conducteur à chacune de ses peintures. Il revient ici sur les étapes et les tournants qui ont façonné le peintre qu'il est aujourd'hui. »

Charles Peer
À la poursuite de la lumière

UN JOUR DE LUMIÈRE ASSUMÉE
« J'ai commencé à peindre très jeune, mais c'est à l'âge de 40 ans que j'ai vraiment commencé à peindre. J'ai commencé à peindre à l'huile, mais j'ai vite découvert que j'aimais mieux le pastel. J'ai commencé à peindre à l'huile, mais j'ai vite découvert que j'aimais mieux le pastel. J'ai commencé à peindre à l'huile, mais j'ai vite découvert que j'aimais mieux le pastel. »

TRouver la VOIE
« J'ai commencé à peindre à l'huile, mais j'ai vite découvert que j'aimais mieux le pastel. J'ai commencé à peindre à l'huile, mais j'ai vite découvert que j'aimais mieux le pastel. J'ai commencé à peindre à l'huile, mais j'ai vite découvert que j'aimais mieux le pastel. »





The July 2026 "Pratique des Arts magazine", published in France, included an 8-page article on Charles Peer's pastel paintings. The article focuses on his use of light and color as well as how he selects his subject matter and his layering technique. This is the one issue each year when the magazine turns its focus exclusively to the medium of pastels.

2026 Calendar of Events and Key Dates

August

- 8/4 Member Meeting - Capturing Light - Charles Peer (In Person)
- 8/22 – 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)
- 11/17-11/19 Member Juried Show and Workshop with Aaron Shuerr •
- 11/20 National Show Reception

December - TBD Christmas Party and Annual Meeting