

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

TEMPUS FUGIT ...

IT DOES, DOESN'T IT? TIME DOES FLY. I KNOW IT DID IN 2014.



One of the objectives of the Mountain Brook Art Association for 2014 was to move the organization from a "club" status to an "association" status. And we did that, didn't we? We rewrote the Constitution and By-Laws, completed converting to a non-profit tax status, corrected some tax reports, obtained the type of liability insurance we needed, and did some other stuff that some people might find boring.

What we really did was to expand our presence in the community – people know who we are even more than they did last year. What we really did was to reach out to newer artists and artists in neighboring communities. What we really did was have fun while we learned from each other. What we really did was have informative newsletters, amazing artist demonstrations, two successful shows, and even managed to throw a party for ourselves.

All of this was done by volunteers. They worked hard. They worked for free. They worked with wisdom and wit. They worked from their hearts. The "THEY" is "YOU!" Thank you all so much for a successful year.

So, let's do it again in 2015. Ready, set, go! Fun!

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April 18, 2015

34th Annual Spring Art Festival

*Registration forms and information available
by the end of January. Watch for it in your emails!*

*Contact Janet Sanders, Show Chairman
at mtnbrookartassoc@gmail.com*



*"Promoting interest in art across the community
and encouraging the professional development of area artists"*

MBAA 2014 Holiday Show Review By Janet Sanders

Our third show at Brookwood Village was another success, continuing to gain more in sales and in recognition in the media. Our partnership with Hand in Paw was a good fit. They started out the show with emails to over 14,000 of their followers, followed by another group email towards the end. We had many comments about these emails from visitors, and we even had a large group come to shop while we were still setting up for the show.

Sales of our work were as predicted, with price points of \$70 to \$100 selling most frequently. Many \$500 paintings were purchased, with a few priced much higher. The hand-painted ornaments and gift cards were a huge hit again as everyone coming in the door left with something. These buyers frequently left with \$150 to \$200 in ornaments alone, enough for all the teachers and neighbors on their shopping list. Those sales really amounted to huge checks for the artists who participated.

Of our 80 exhibitors, 15 had no sales. At every show that we produce we have artists who will have no sales. This is not because they are not good at their work. Figuring out what the public wants to BUY and adjusting the work to that takes a lot of effort and a fair amount of luck, so please do not get discouraged. We recommend that you all continue to enter juried shows to reaffirm your talent within the art field. Attend other shows to see what is selling there. For instance, we do know that, currently, frames are a hindrance to selling. Gallery-wrapped paintings were what the buyers wanted. Many customers would bring a painting to our desk to ask if they could buy without the frame. In the January club meetings we will address the art of selling, as compared to the art of creating. See you there!



Left - Carol Carmichael during demo; Middle - Janet Tillery; and Right - MBAA Show Chairman Janet Sanders and President Mary Weir, Therapy dog Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Abby with her owner Director of Volunteers Terri Jones of Vestavia and Lab-mix therapy dog Bella with handler Beth Leonard of Hoover.

Next Meetings January 15 & 27

You will want to take notes! Our January meetings will be brimming with useful information as we talk about the “nuts and bolts” of the business side of our art work! During the day meeting at Canterbury Methodist Church on Thursday, January 15th, at 12 noon, **Tom Findlay** will share a lot of great tips with us from his book, “How to Make Money with Your Artwork”.

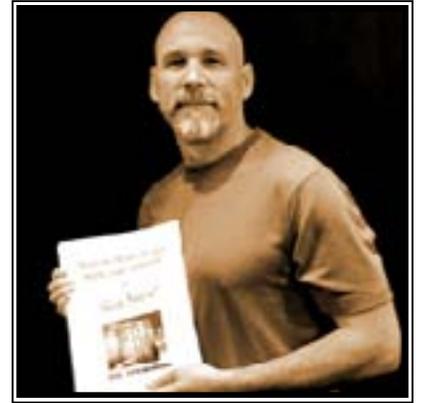
Our evening meeting at Emmet O’Neal Library on January 27th at 6:00 p.m. will feature several of our talented artists who will discuss selling artwork online as well as tips for photographing our work to show it at its best for prints or online use. We hope this will inspire discussion on other aspects of the business end as well, and we will all come away with some great tips we can use!

Other 2015 MBAA General Meeting dates are:

March 17, 6PM, Emmet O’Neal Library, Program TBA

March 19, Noon, Canterbury Methodist, Program TBA

May 14, Noon, Canterbury Methodist Church, Program TBA



Welcome New Members!

MBAA welcomes these new members who have joined since our last newsletter:

Jeff Hughes

James Hope

Katherine Anne Hicks

Kevin Webster

Joan Perry

Jane Reed Ross

Returning Members:

Kathleen Stack

It’s Membership Renewal Time!

What a great holiday season we had with such a successful show! It’s a great time to be a member of Mountain Brook Art Association. With that in mind, we are at that time of year again when we need to renew our memberships. Don’t forget that you can do this for just \$35 through mail, by check or through PayPal online. Please note that there is a \$10 late fee for dues paid after January; and if dues aren’t paid on time, you won’t be listed as an artist on the MBAA website until the August update. (Due to time constraints, the artist listing is corrected/added to only twice a year.) If you wish to pay through PayPal, click this link or copy and paste into your browser (be sure to designate whom the payment is for, if your PayPal account is NOT in your name):

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=WBU2LX5SJDDVE

If you are mailing your check, please send it to:

MBAA
c/o Membership VP Jan Grant
P.O. Box 531194
Birmingham, AL 35253

DON'T FORGET TO ENTER!



Energen Corporation's prestigious annual art competition is open to 2 dimensional artwork from any artist residing in Alabama. Have you set aside your best work for this? We usually have several dozen of our MBAA artists accepted.

Energen has sponsored its annual Art Competition at its Birmingham headquarters for 16 years, displaying about 200 paintings by a wide range of Alabama artists. The exhibition is usually two weeks in the Spring. The five winning entries are purchased by Energen and become part of Energen's The Wonders of Alabama Art Collection displayed at Energen Plaza, the company's headquarters in Birmingham.

The following text is cut and pasted from their web site. There are many more details available at "art.energen.com" about what can be submitted, how to submit, dates of delivery, exhibit and pickup.

2015 Energen Art Competition

Energen Corporation will hold its 16th Annual Energen Art Competition in the spring of 2015. The art competition celebrates the Wonders of Alabama Art and features Alabama artists. The five winning entries will be purchased by Energen and will become part of Energen's "Alabama Collection," which is displayed at Energen Plaza, the company's headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama, or at one of the offices of an Energen subsidiary. Since it began, the art competition has grown over 10-fold. The first year, Energen received only 29 entries. In past years, Energen's art committee has had over 400 entries to review to select the pieces that appeared in the exhibit.

The competition is open to artists 18 years of age and older who currently reside in the state of Alabama or who have lived in the state. Artwork must be original and have been painted no more than three years prior to the date of the competition. Eligible work must be two-dimensional and in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastels, pen and ink or mixed media.

A non-refundable entry fee of \$35 is required for each entry. All applicants must first submit a completed entry form, entry fee and CD containing an image of the artwork for preliminary judging. Entries must be received by 5:00 PM on February 6, 2015. (Can be dropped off at their offices across from the Tutweiler, and next to the main library downtown.)

Purchase Awards

Grand Prize	Landscape	Non-Rep	Wildlife	Employee Choice
\$7,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000

MEMBER SHOWS AND EXHIBITS

Visit your fellow artists' receptions. Get to know them and enjoy their work!

FEBRUARY

Mara Jambor will be solo exhibitor the month of February at the Leeds Arts Council. A reception will be held on Sunday afternoon, February 1 from 1:30-3:30 at the Leeds Theatre and Arts Center, 8140 Parkway Drive, Leeds, Alabama. The exhibit will run February 1-26.

MARCH

Congratulations to **Cesci Fowler** who will be solo exhibitor during the month of March at Shelby County Arts Council storefront gallery in Columbiana, 104 Mildred Street, as part of her first-place win in the Shelby County Arts Council's annual juried show. The gallery is open Monday-Friday, 10:00AM-5:00PM.

MAY

Esther Levy will be solo exhibitor the month of May at the Leeds Arts Council. A reception will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 3, 1:30-3:30 at the Leeds Theatre and Arts Center, 8140 Parkway Drive, Leeds, Alabama. The exhibit will run May 3-28.



MELANIE MORRIS TO BE FEATURED AT HOOVER'S SOUTHERN VOICES

Congratulations to MBAA member Melanie Morris for being chosen as the featured artist for this year's Southern's Voices Festival. There will be a reception honoring Melanie on February 24th.

"I have no choice but to paint – it is like breathing for me," Melanie Morris says. Melanie has painted in oil and watercolor, but prefers the versatility of acrylic. "After a trip to Big Sur, California, I became frustrated when I couldn't capture the feel of the area with a brush. It was then that I switched to a palette knife and never looked back. I love the interesting textures and looseness that I achieve with a knife." Melanie's contemporary landscapes and florals are in several corporate collections including Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, The Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau, Energen Corporation, Peace College and Southern States Bank. She was recently named an Emerging Artist by Art Galleries & Artists of the South magazine. Her work has been featured in Cottage Journal magazine and Birmingham Home & Garden magazine.

Melanie shows her work at Bennett Galleries in Nashville, Tennessee, at her studio in Homewood, Alabama and online at MelanieMorrisArt.com or [Facebook.com/MelanieMorrisArt](https://www.facebook.com/MelanieMorrisArt).

LEEDS ARTS COUNCIL EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES

Although the 2015 calendar for artists' exhibits at the Leeds Arts Council is filled, Grady Sue Saxon, the Art Gallery Director, states, "I am always looking for talent. One never knows when an artist will get sick or be out of town or for some reason has to cancel during the year, and I have to hurriedly get a replacement artist."

If you would like to introduce yourself and your art for a potential future exhibit, here is what Grady Sue needs: First, photographs of three paintings. Second, contact information such as your email, phone number and website, if you have one. For further information, email Grady Sue at GSSaxon@aol.com. Visitors are welcome to come out to the gallery any Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm or come to the receptions on the first Sunday of each month.



WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

DAWN WHITELAW WORKSHOP

January 13-15, 2015 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm)

Location: Portraits Inc. Gallery

Cost: \$410.

Contact: MBAA member Laura Murphey, lmurph770@gmail.com or 678-642-9858

Dawn Whitelaw maintains a studio at "The Factory" in Franklin, Tennessee. The opportunity to paint landscape plein air with colleagues adds richness and honesty to her studio work. For over 25 years she taught basic principles of oil painting as an adjunct instructor at David Lipscomb University. Among her influential teachers are Scott Christensen, Cedric Egeli, T. Allen Lawson, Quang Ho and Jim Pollard, but most of her instruction and inspiration comes from nationally-preeminent artist Everett Raymond Kinstler. At present, she teaches workshops nationally.

Her ability to capture life in paint has been noticed. Her awards include the Certificate of Merit for her



portrait at the National Portrait Convention in 1991, Best of Show at the Portrait Society of America in Washington DC, and the Award of Excellence in the Oil Painter's of America exhibition in 2002. In 2010 Whitelaw was one of ten American women artists invited to participate in the "Inspiring Figures" exhibition at the Butler Institute of American Art.

PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR 2D AND 3D ARTWORK

(Sponsored by the Birmingham Art Association)

January 31, 9:30-2:30

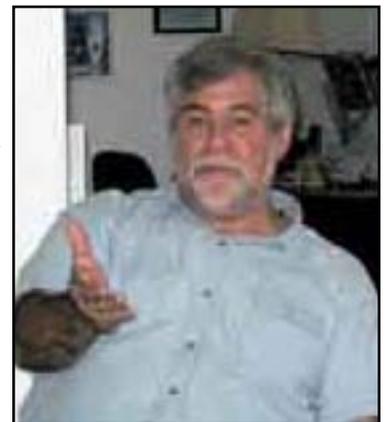
Instructor: Hank Siegel, award-winning Birmingham photographer and instructor

Location: TBA - Tentatively in the Homewood area

Cost: TBA

Contact: Sharon Gates, bhamartassociation@gmail.com

JUST IN TIME FOR ENERGEN ENTRIES!!! Your artwork is done. Now it's time to photograph it for submissions to shows, galleries and for your website!!! Space is limited! Wait list will be created.



PORTRAIT DRAWING CLASSES

Rollina Oglesbay is now teaching from her home basic drawing skills classes and portrait classes. Contact her at rollinaoglesbay@gmail.com.

WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES . . . CONTINUED

IMPRESSIONIST LANDSCAPE PAINTING

Saturday, January 10, 2015, 10:00-4:00

Cost: \$95

Forstall Art Center, 402 Palisades Blvd.

A few spaces are still available in David Nichols' one-day workshop. Though David paints with oils, acrylic artists are also welcome. Call Forstall Art Supply at 205-870-0480 to register. David is a member of the Mountain Brook Art Association and an associate member of the American Impressionists Society. He was published in the North Light Magazine. His paintings may be found in private and corporate collections in the USA and abroad. Further information about David can be found on his website: davidnicholsart.com.

ONGOING CLASSES

PAINTERLY IMPRESSIONS IN OIL WITH DAVID NICHOLS

Forstall Art Center, Mondays, 9:30am-12:30pm \$140 per month (4 classes)

Award-winning David Nichols has been a professional artist since 1986. His approach to impressionism is to create art that is just that, an impression. David's paintings capture the essence of the subject, the way it speaks to him. To register, call Forestall Art Center (205) 870-0480.

PAINTING IN ACRYLICS WITH RON LEWIS

Forstall Art Center, Mondays, 6-8:30pm. \$125/4 weeks, ronbeckylewis@aol.com

Experienced artist and instructor, Ron Lewis, will begin a new four week class on the most versatile of all painting mediums, acrylics. You can paint thick or thin, realistic or abstract, and make them look like oil or watercolor. Over time Ron covers it all. This class, for the beginner through the experienced painter, will explore drawing, color and composition. A mixture of demonstrations and individual instruction, the goal of this class is to improve your painting skills while enjoying the process.

TUESDAY OPEN STUDIO LIFE DRAWING CLASSES

Forstall Art Center, 7:00-9:00pm for all Tuesdays EXCEPT for the last Tuesday of the month which runs from 6:30-9:30 to accommodate long poses.

\$7.00 per class. Beginner to advanced.

Drawing from life is one of the best ways to train your hand to do what your eye sees. The first Tuesday of each month is costume night. On the remaining Tuesdays models are nude, rotating between male and female. Only 18 year-olds and up are allowed on evenings that the models are nude.

RON LEWIS WEDNESDAYS

Mountain Brook Community Education Center, 32 Vine Street, Crestline Village

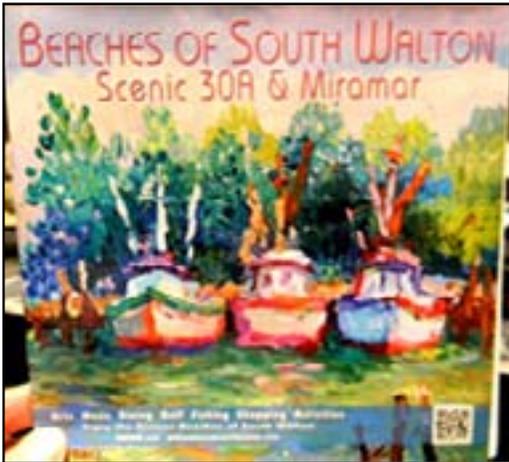
9:00-11:30am

Paint in watercolor, oil, or acrylics. Ongoing 6 week sessions are only \$85 for group and individual instruction, beginner to advanced. To register email ronbeckylewis@aol.com

CYNTHIA PARSONS THURSDAYS

Cynthia Parsons offers classes in watercolors as well as other art mediums at Alabama Art Supply. For further information contact Cynthia at cynthia@parsons.net.

MEMBER NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS are in order for two MBAA members who have their art on magazine covers. One of **Andrew Tyson's** beautiful paintings is on the cover of the *Birmingham Arts Journal*. **Janet Tillery's** lovely painting is on the cover of the *Beaches of South Walton* tourist brochure.



BOB MOODY'S BIRMINGHAM: A CITY IN WATERCOLOR

Bob Moody's newest book on watercolors of Birmingham was a huge success as all 1,000 copies sold out quickly. The Birmingham Historical Society handled sales of his book and posted the following:

If anyone can make Birmingham even more beautiful, even richer in texture, and elegant in design, it's watercolorist Bob Moody, whose newest volume, *Bob Moody's Birmingham--A City in Watercolor*, was released in late November under the auspices of the Birmingham Historical Society (BHS).



"Through a decades-long romance with our city, Bob has come to know buildings personally, as if they were beings with feelings and flair," says Marjorie White, BHS director. "The result of his talent meeting the classic nature of Birmingham is a book that will surely be passed down through generations to come. It's that special."

Produced on rich Japanese art paper, the sort that feels as lush as the works themselves, *Bob Moody's Birmingham* offers 107 watercolors in full color. For its cover, Moody stood behind Vulcan, peering out at the expanse of city below just as our famous icon does himself. This overview sets the tone for what awaits inside: Moody's subjects range from a 1967 view of Terminal Station to Sloss Furnaces, Morris Avenue's Peanut Depot, the Lyric Theatre, 16th Street Baptist Church, Oak Hill Cemetery, Dreamland, Bogue's, English Village, Mountain Brook's Old Mill, and so many more. Each image invites a swirl of memories and bursts of pride for today's Birmingham.

"Photographs of our buildings are one thing; Bob Moody's treatments are yet another," says White. "He paints skillfully with watercolors, yes, but the extra ingredient is the love he feels for each site. They are whispers of the relationship he's had with Birmingham since he first visited in the 1940s-- a relationship that, if anything, has grown even stronger since that first flirtation."

Bob Moody, a native of Boaz, Alabama, incorporated his watercolor abilities into his long career as a commercial interior designer, establishing the Moody & Associates design firm in 1974. Beyond that active practice, he and wife Rebecca not only appreciated Birmingham's architecture; they began to purchase buildings. (One of their first tenants was Frank Stitt, "a young man with passion and energy from Cullman, Alabama," who quickly

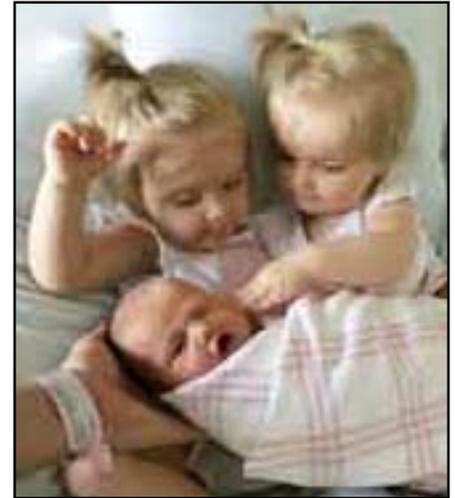
MEMBER NEWS . . . CONTINUED

became the highly-lauded chef/restaurateur known internationally today.)

<http://www.bhistorical.org/> is a link to use if you want more information about this beautiful book. You can contact Bob on his web site at <http://moodywatercolors.com/>.

BABY CONGRATULATIONS!

Emily Brown, our past editor of the MBAA Newsletter, announced that her daughter, Crawford Jane Brown (named for her great grandmothers) was born on Sept. 8, 2014 at 12:22pm weighing in at 7lb 14 oz. She was welcomed not only by her parents but also by her "older" twin sisters who were born the previous year! No wonder Emily had to hand over the reins of the newsletter to others! She certainly has had her hands full! We do hope Emily will be able to find some time to paint! Below are photos of baby Crawford and her sisters.



MBAA member A.K. Hardeman announced the birth of her son, James Casey Dewey Hardeman. Dewey was born on November 1, 2014, at 1:03pm. He was 6lbs 10oz and 21.5 inches long. Congratulations. Hopefully A.K. too will find time to pick up her paint brushes and paint!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

MBAA recently received news that member **Suzanne Stewart**, who splits her time between Austin and Birmingham, lost her husband the week before Christmas to a sudden, unexpected heart attack. He was only 67 and very active running several businesses. Cards can be sent to Suzanne at 26000 Hamilton Pool Rd., Cypress Mill, TX 78663.

Sam Collins is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

BOARD MEMBERS & CLUB STAFF

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who served on the 2014 MBAA Board and behind the scenes in jobs that are critical to a well run organization! One objective of our 2014 reorganization was to enable the Board to function more efficiently so with that in mind we changed the makeup of the board to be positions associated with governance of the club. However, since we still need all hands on deck we created a new category of "Club Staff". In this vital category we have our show chairman (Janet Sanders),

assistant treasurer (Sam Chiarella), parliamentarian (Kelly Alford), newsletter layout editor (Beverly Bates), newsletter content editor (Mara Jambor), web administrator (Rebecca Moody) club photographer (Andrew Tyson), and historian (Margaret Ann Berry). Without the coordinated efforts and productivity from all of the members involved in these leadership positions the MBAA could not function smoothly. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

2014 MBAA Board

President: Mary Wier
 VP Membership: Christi Bunn
 VP Programs: Barclay Gresham
 Show Chairman: Janet Sanders
 Treasurer: Vicki Denaburg
 Assistant Treasurer: Mary Mellon
 Secretary: Dee Falls
 Layout Editor: Beverly Bates
 Content Editor: Mara Jambor
 Parliamentarian: Kelly Alford

2014 Club Staff

Web Administrator: Rebecca Moody
 Club Photographer: Andrew Tyson
 Historian: Margaret Ann Berry

CLUB EMAIL - mtnbrookkartassoc@gmail.com

YOUR NEW 2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD



*President
Mary Wier*



*President Elect
Christi Bunn*



*VP Programs
Martha Fulghum*



*VP Membership
Jan Grant*



*Secretary
Dee Falls*



*Treasurer
Ed Wilson*



*Sr. Member at Large
Ron Lewis*



*Corresponding Secretary
Janet Sanders*

Your New 2015 Club Staff



*Show Chairman
Janet Sanders*



*Ass't Treasurer
Sam Chiarella*



*Parliamentarian
Kelly Alford*



*Layout Editor
Beverly Bates*



*Content Editor
Mara Jambor*



*Web Administrator
Rebecca Moody*



*Club Photographer
Andrew Tyson*



*Historian
Margaret Ann Berry*