

Northern Indiana Pastel Society

Member of International Association of Pastel Societies, IAPS
NIpastelsociety.org • Find us on Facebook

October 2022

Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 29, Francis Branch Library

52655 N. Ironwood Road, South Bend

11–11:30 a.m. Meet and greet social time

11:30 a.m. Presentation and announcements

1 p.m. Clean up

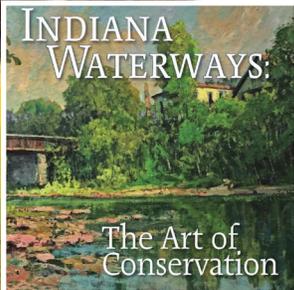
Members are invited to bring an appetizer, fruit, or light brunch item to share.

Meeting organizer Dee Thornton (deelthorn@att.net) would appreciate assistance in organizing the room and setting out the refreshments.

Presentation:

Artist Avon Waters will talk about his two-year project painting the waterways of Indiana in preparation for his new book, "Indiana Waterways: The Art of Conservation," and the exhibition of 60 paintings he created with five other Indiana plein air artists to call attention to the importance of protecting the state's water.

The exhibit is on display at the Indiana State Museum from Oct. 16–Dec. 11 and features stirring images of 25–30 different locations in the 62,000 miles of rivers, streams, and tributaries in Indiana.

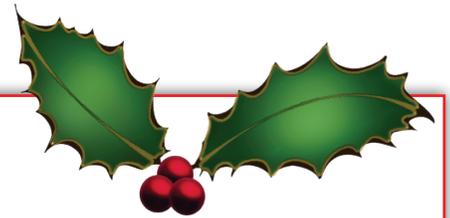


Avon will describe his experiences in painting the waterways, organizing the project and how to purchase the book. It is available at Circa Arts Gallery, South Bend.

"Indiana Waterways" is a result of the combined efforts of artists Avon Waters (from Converse, pastels), John Kelty (Fort Wayne, watercolors), Curt Stanfield (Rosedale, oils) and brothers Dan and Tom Woodson (Muncie, oils). All are members of the Indiana Plein Art Painters Association.

They initially decided they would all paint scenes from the top 20 largest Indiana rivers, but by October, they noticed that many of the paintings looked alike. They decided to open up their options to other locations, like the Seven Pillars near Peru along the Mississinewa River, two Raccoon Creeks (near Terre Haute and in Parke County), and a stone bridge on the Rapid Creek near Orleans in Ripley County. "There's a sign that says Ripley County has 11 stone bridges remaining," Waters said. "You hear about Parke County and the covered bridges, but who knew there were that many stone bridges in one county still surviving?"

Continued on pg. 2



Holiday Potluck Luncheon

**Friday, Dec. 9, Pinhook Park Community Center
2801 Riverside Dr., South Bend**

Please bring your items for the potluck at 11:30. Luncheon will begin at noon. Please bring a pastel artwork: a new piece, an old favorite or something in progress. Please bring an easel to display your art; a few extra easels will be available. Please let **Dee Thornton** know you are coming and what you plan to bring for the potluck. deelthorn@att.net. Help setting up and cleaning up will be appreciated also. Please let Dee know if you can help.



Waters said each artist has a different technique and used different materials for the viewer “to see the different artistic interpretations of the same waterway. Because they turned out very different.”

The artists had planned to finish 100 paintings, find a place to exhibit the work and that would be the extent of the project. But when they sent emails seeking sponsors, they found an enthusiastic partner in the Izaak Walton League, a national conservation organization, which came through with a \$5,000 grant.

The artists had been considering putting out a 100-page picture catalog of the exhibit. With the Walton League grant, that became a 227-page hardbound book containing pictures of 100 paintings along with three essays on water conservation. The essays were written by Jason Goldsmith (creative non-fiction story on the White River), Carson Gerber (an essay on the history of the Izaak Walton League in Indiana and their conservation programs), and Jerry Sweeten (an essay on the 20-year-plus effort to restore the Eel River).

“As this grew and we included the essayists, the purpose of this exhibit became to bring awareness of the need for conservation of our waterways,” Waters said. “Conservation is our goal – using pretty pictures to make people aware of the underlying need for conservation and restoration of our waterways.”

The artists then began applying for more funding, and what might have been a one-time exhibit became a traveling exhibition that wraps up at the end of 2023. After “Indiana Waterways” leaves the Indiana State Museum, it will travel to the Fort Wayne Museum of Art from January to March, the Oakhurst house at Minnetrista in Muncie from April through Labor Day and the Hoosier Salon in New Harmony from September through December.

“It started as a simple little project,” Waters said, “and turned into something way more than we thought it would be.”

Current Members’ Exhibit

Colfax Cultural Center, 914 Lincolnway West, South Bend, Ind.

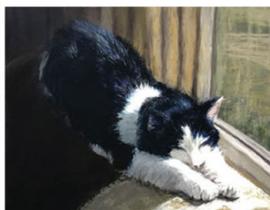
Sept. 9–Oct. 21, 2022.

Art released back to artists 3–5 p.m. FRIDAY, Oct. 21

**Gallery hours:
11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Monday-Thursday.**



Avon Waters, “River Morning Lights”



Sue Coultas, “Basking in the Sun”



Shandelle Henson, “White Pine Grove”



Elizabeth Kuntz, “Moondance”

Congratulations to prize winners **Sue Coultas, Shandelle Henson, Elizabeth Kuntz** and **Avon Waters**. Avon’s pastel was purchased by South Bend art collector **Steve Alpert**. The prize judge was **Justin Barfield** of the art faculty at the University of Notre Dame. The reception was Oct. 7. The show featured 24 works by 15 artists.

Thank you to these artists for their work in receiving the art for the exhibit:

Dee Thornton, Paul Thornton, Jude Phillips, Kay Londergan, and to **Dee and Paul Thornton** for organizing the reception.

Future NIPS Exhibits

> **MoonTree Studios, Donaldson, Ind.,
JUNE 13–JULY 31, 2023**

> **Buchanan Art Center, Buchanan, Mich.,
SEPT. 18 (HANGING) TO OCT. 29, 2023**

> **Heartland Artists Gallery, Plymouth, Ind.,
JULY 2024**

Classes

Registrations are still be accepted for *Continuing Landscapes in Pastel* Tuesdays 6:30–9:30 p.m. Oct. 16–Dec. 17, South Bend Museum of Art. Host: **Mary Meehan Firtl**. In this advanced pastel studio, class members must have attended the beginning pastel class and must be able to work on their own projects without formal assignments. They should be familiar with their supplies and the use of soft pastels. Critiques will be available. The beginning pastel class will not be offered this term. Register: southbendart.org/adult-classes or call the museum at **574-235-9102**.

Drawing II: Beyond the Basics, Thursdays 1–4 p.m. starting Oct. 20. South Bend Museum of Art. Host: Mary Firtl. Utilizing basic *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* techniques, this class offers an opportunity to expand your creative skills and proceed with weekly exercises that will offer further exploration by applying themes of Nature, Portrait, Landscapes, Still Life, and Personal Choice while delving further into values and color.

Class members should have basic drawing skills and wish to expand their abilities to create more creative imagery. Each class will begin with a short lecture and a warmup session with personal attention to areas students wish to improve upon. Registration is still open. southbendart.org/studio-classes

Member news

Artists in the 44th annual juried regional exhibit at Midwest Museum of American Art in Elkhart, to Dec. 23, include **Tami McNally, Phil Monteith, Mary Meehan Firtl, Steve Verace, Cathy McCormick, Carleen O'Connor Rivera, and Bill Healy** with an oil pastel.

Cathy McCormick's landscape, "Autumn in the Air," won first prize and



Gerrie Govert's pastel still life, "Seasonal Finale," won second prize in the 34th annual juried regional art exhibit Sept. 30–Oct. 29 at Heartland Artists Gallery, Plymouth, Ind.

Mary Meehan Firtl also has work in the show. See the art at heartlandartgallery.com

Mary Firtl's pastel was voted the second-



place winner for Visual Arts in the Copshaholm 125 Arts Competition. Her pastel "The Gardens of Copshaholm" was on

display at the annual fundraising gala Sept. 29 and will be featured at their *Gallery After Dark* on Nov. 7. A pastel by **Jude Philips** also is featured in the exhibit.

Brenda Ramseier will host an open house and show the first weekend of November at her studio, The Art Giraffe, 11063 N. 800 W, Silver Lake, Ind. Hours are 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

Info: theartgiraffe.com

Barbara Gentner

Stephenson's pastel painting, "Burgers in the Sky," was accepted into the 2022 Great Lakes Pastel Society Online National Exhibition.



Dee Thornton's photograph "Lily Pads and Koi" won first place in the still life category in the Through the Lens photography competition July 23 through Sept. 10 at the Box Factory for the Arts in St. Joseph, Mich.

Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan, Mich., will host a 100th birthday exhibition Nov. 22–Dec. 23 honoring the life and art of Shirley Roti Roti (1922–2020). Winter hours: Wednesday through Sunday noon–4 p.m.

Dues

Membership renewals were due in March 2022. Dues of \$25 can be sent to treasurer **Sue Coultas**, 519 Woodruff, Niles MI 49120. (suecoultas@comcast.net) Make your check to NIPS or Northern Indiana Pastel Society.