



Meet Our INSTRUCTORS



Jan Letson Forbes

Watercolorist and teacher, Jan lives the philosophy “to teach is to touch a life forever.” Having studied with professional artists from around the world, she balances her time between teaching and pushing the boundaries of her own art, experimenting with new materials and techniques combined with traditional watercolor.

Tom Kutschied

A successful professional artist with an art resume dating back to his youth, Tom taught oil painting in Arizona for 32 years, helping upcoming artists realize their potential. He is most proud of his art contributions to benefit wildlife conservation groups including Ducks Unlimited, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Foundation, and Pheasants Forever.



Barb Anderson

Stained glass goddess, Barb provides expert guidance to her glass art students as they build skills through hands-on projects. A long-time dedicated volunteer, she serves as Treasurer and grant writer overseeing the finances of the Longville Lakes Arts Alliance in addition to wearing many other hats in the community.



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Sandra Martell

Attorney- mother- mentor- art hound: Operations Manager Sandra found her own creative niche in her love of Inktense water media and mixed media. Giving generously of her time and talents to achieve the mission of the Longville Lakes Arts Alliance, she covers a lot of bases in her role at the LLAC.

Sara Schroeder

The cuteness factor of Sara's wool felted critters is over the top! In addition to teaching wool felting and wearing a variety of hats at the LLAC and in the community, Sara is the lead instructor for summer Kids Camp and free weekly summer kid's classes in our Youth Art Studio.



Melinda Schumacher

Formally with Hallmark Cards, Mel brings her eye for design and passion for fun to all her classes. Students love her classy up-north mobile designs and amazingly soft, tactile pop top purses, among her delightful creations. Mel helps keep calendars current and related duties for LLAC.



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Rose Riffle

Junk journaling, yes! Gelli plate printing, absolutely. Incorporating fiber art, sun printing, use of natural materials, you name it, Rose does it all. Her amazing creativity is a sight to behold!

Shannon Lucas-Westrum

Named one of two 2025 McKnight Fiber Artist Fellows, this one-of-a-kind honor recognizes Shannon's innovative work in basketry. As a graduate of Bemidji State University (BSU), she is dedicated to making art accessible to rural communities throughout our region.



Pam Manthei

Inspired while on vacation in Iceland in 2011, Pam and husband Joe's curiosity with the beauty and design of fish leather ultimately developed into the business they operate today, creating exotic durable goods using fish leather with a variety of skills and techniques. Pam shares her expertise in classes, art shows, and festivals across the region.



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Patricia Pagels

Patricia's start in pine needle basket weaving dates back to 2008 in Florida. As a snowbird, her passion soon blossomed into numerous pursuits around her craft. Her one-of-kind, exquisite creations show off her skills and creativity with the finest craftsmanship. Patricia continues to teach, shares her expertise with other basket weavers, and volunteers in the community.

Mary Nordeen

After 30+ years as an environmental educator with the US Forest Service and National Parks, Mary has taught a wide range of classes from pine needle basketry to camp cooking, nature journaling to fish printing. Mary follows northern lights, loves outdoor photography, drawing with her granddaughters, and is close to rolling the perfect lefse circle.



Sharon Anderson

Self-taught, watercolor became a favorite escape to her happy place from the busy pace of a career in county government. In retirement, she discovered a love of graphic design and no-rules mixed media sketchbook art. As a volunteer, she assists with graphic design and technology needs of the LLAC.