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# MNEWS

February 2024

## From Chris Tanner: **Tom Trausch Two-Day Workshop in April**

On 20 and 21 April (Saturday and Sunday), Lake County Art League (LCAL) will host a workshop conducted by Tom Trausch: inserting people into landscape paintings.

The workshop will take place at the Antioch Township Center, on Deep Lake Road in Antioch. Following a few introductions on Saturday, the workshop will take place from approximately 9 am to 4 pm. Workshop time on Sunday is TBD.

The next article shows how attendees can use summer's plein air events to turn such a useful detail into a recognizable signature.

Questions, contact [jimbrooksher@gmail.com](mailto:jimbrooksher@gmail.com).

*A separate e-mail is being sent to members with a request that it be forwarded to others who might be interested. This is the only way to develop a regional network of artists sharing information.*





## From Chris Tanner: **Remembering Lee Radtke and His Abstracted People**



Below is a memory of how one of our members, the late Lee Radtke, developed his own way of painting people quickly with his clever little abstractions. We of course understand that adding people can greatly enrich our paintings. Now, at the threshold of the 2024 plein air season, you can learn how it's done and then spend the summer developing your own style.

I probably painted 50 plein air landscapes and cityscapes with the late Lee Radtke, and immediately noticed how fast he would produce an oil painting. His procedures were very efficient: Find a man-made structure in a loose but recognizable setting, introduce a large dark shape to work around, build interesting contrasts, toss in a handful of people, and the next day add a few color accents in his studio. Energy and spontaneity came naturally from his speed, he sold a lot of paintings and he won a lot of awards. Lee loved to paint plein air, while I and others loved to paint with him.

If there was one thing about Lee that especially fascinated us was the way he used people in his work. They seemed real and natural, and they made the scene strangely familiar. Yet in his hands, these bodies were simply abstracted and deliberately obscured. Yet in our imaginations they almost seemed to move.

Above is a detail of one of his paintings of the shipyards in Sturgeon Bay, WI. Lee's suggestion of busy yard workers gives us the clanging of metal and the smell of diesel exhausts. So, too, a distant shout or beep-beep-beep of a back-up alarm. You notice that your hands are dirty and make a mental reminder to wash up before lunch break. Then the spell breaks and you wonder: How on earth did he manage that?

There are rules of course, rules about perspective, proportions, point of view, relative values and so forth. It seemed to me that Lee didn't follow them very carefully, though. Mostly he created patterns to suggest the rhythms of human activity, the poetry of a gathering of people. He usually did that with a few thoughtful dabs of paint, just enough to trigger your imagination, and he did it *en plein air*.



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## From Phil Schorn: February News

One month down already, and soon it will be summer!. But till that time comes, there is a lot happening before the outdoor season starts.

February 13th and 14th, I will be at Stevenson High School for their Art Odyssey Program. I will be presenting 8 color pencil technique workshops to the students. There will be over 200 artists presenting for this program. This is a huge event for the students and artists as well.

I have been burning the midnight oil to get art ready for my show at the Adler Arts Center that opens April 5: "The Fine Art of Color Pencil." I'm close to my goal of 30 pieces of art; 20-25 will be new, 2 of which are shown on this page.



"Succulent"  
28" x 16"  
color pencil on white bristol



English Marigold  
24" x 24"  
framed color pencil

### Upcoming Schorn Events in 2024

- **Adler Arts Center Member Show; Jan-Feb 2024**
- **College of Lake County Wright Gallery Member Show; Jan-Feb 2024**
- **"The Fine Art of Color Pencil", Adler Arts Center, April 2024,**  
Reception April 5th, 7-9 pm. This is a show of only my art!
- **Beer Bazaar in Grayslake; Feb 16; 5-8pm;** I will draw for guests that evening, and have 12 renderings on display thru the end of March. Stop on by to watch and have a cold one with me!
- I will have **2 other shows before summer;** details to come.

P. Schorn STUDIO

Questions? Go to [pschornstudio.com](https://pschornstudio.com)



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Color Pencil  
Crash Course



Black and white  
technique

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## From Phil Schorn: February News, cont.

### Classes

Classes have been great. I'm teaching 7 private lessons, and 2 classes that are at other locations every week. A note for potential students: for most classes, I record the project that we are working on, so even if you have to miss a class, you can still see the project.

My website is updated with several online class opportunities for February & March; all are listed and open for registration on my [classes web page](#). Zoom is also available for my [in-person classes](#).

### February

- Beginner Color Pencil: Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 6-9 pm Adler Arts Center, Libertyville
- Color Pencil Crash Course: Feb 10 9-11 am Zoom  
(This recorded session will show many techniques and drawing tips. Notes will be provided. You can ask questions, draw along, or just watch.)
- Beginner Watercolor Pencil: Jan 30, Feb 6, 20, 27 1-4 pm Gorton Community Center, Lake Forest

### March

- Beginner Color Pencil: March 5, 12, 19, 26 1-4 pm Gorton Community Center, Lake Forest

Classes are subject to change. Check website for additional zoom classes and videos.

### KITS and VIDEOS

The kits have everything that you will need to create your own color pencil piece. I have the reference, how-to-video, drawing paper, drawing tips and the pencils. Projects include: Grapes, Flower, Fall Leaf, Butterfly and a Winter Cardinal. A great gift idea.

I have also put together several videos on color pencil techniques (see image above) and the step-by-step workshops I have written for Color Pencil Magazine. All are available for purchase/download.

Questions? Go to [pschornstudio.com](http://pschornstudio.com)



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## From Ernest Schweit: **Winter Storm Brings Art Together**

It was an amazing and unique night of art as a winter storm resulted in the back-to-back opening of two different art gallery shows on the same evening!

My wife, Maureen Ivy Fisher, and I had work at the Robert T. Wright Gallery, College of Lake County (CLC), and the Adler Arts Center in Libertyville.

The Adler opening had been scheduled originally Jan. 12, but a winter storm pushed it to Jan. 19, the same night as the previously scheduled opening at CLC. Officials at Adler deliberately scheduled their opening a bit later so artists and their followers could attend both events.

It worked out beautifully. I met friends and mingled at CLC before racing off into the winter night, 6 miles away, to do the same at the Adler. Fun time!

Many visitors at the CLC show did the same, creating wall-to-wall art lovers and artists at the more intimate Adler.

I, for one, wouldn't mind a repeat performance of this evening next year!

### Questions?

Contact me at Ernest M. Fisher Studios; 847 609 8070  
email: [ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net)

Also see my [website](#), social media accounts on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#); and my [blog](#).

Ernest J. Schweit  
FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY



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## From Ernest Schweit: **First Winter Shoot of the Year: Wet and Blustery**

The weather conditions were less than ideal along Lake Michigan the day I found the scene that was to become “Tumult.”



The temperatures hovered around a more-than-chilly 25 degrees; the winds made it seem much colder as I made my way along the shore; camera, tripod and bag full of gear on my back. This was my first time out shooting since a balmy day in October and the change from fall to winter made the cold seem even colder.

Walking was especially hard as my feet continually slipped along the tiny rocks that lined the sandy beach. It got even worse when waves lapped along the top of my shoes as I set my tripod down in front of a rusty iron break wall that jutted out into the undulating waves.

I tried to ignore the slowly spreading cold as it moved from my toes, to my instep up towards my ankle. Instead, I focused on how the break wall drew my attention from the shore out into a lake that moved back and forth in the wind.

More than once, the tripod sank in the wet sand as the waves crashed against my feet, making the task of dialing in camera settings a special challenge. None of this was helped by the tripod moving slightly from side to side as each wave rushed by.

I finally figured out their timing and managed to press the shutter between each onslaught of water. I clicked off 22 frames as I held one hand on the camera and one on the tripod, all the while trying to dodge the next attack. I must have looked like some insane, slightly soggy dancer moving about in the waves.

Welcome to winter!

“Tumult,” a new, limited-edition print, is available in a variety of sizes, as either a metal print or on archival paper.



## Other Member News

### From Clarese Ornstein

I will have watercolors on display at:

- The Adler Arts Center Members Exhibition Jan 12 - March 2
- The CLC Wright Community Gallery of Art Members Exhibition Jan 19 - Feb

**Questions:** Contact Clarise at [socoro@comcast.net](mailto:socoro@comcast.net)

### From Debbie Kalinowski

The AFAF February 2024 Invitational Art Exhibit

PEOPLE'S
CHOICE

Visit the Gallery in February to vote  
for your 2024 favorite!  
Voting ends 3:00 pm  
February 25th.



2023 Award Winner  
Anna Kubicka



Antioch  
Fine  
Arts  
Foundation  
Artists & Educators Center



2023 Award Winner  
Barbara Wagner

Reception and  
Award Presentations  
Sunday February 25, 2024  
2:00 to 5:00 pm

952 Main Street Antioch IL 60002

“Winter may be cold and dreary, but that also means it’s almost time for AFAF’s exciting annual “People’s Choice” Invitational Exhibit!

This show offers a great opportunity for home artists to display their work in a formal gallery setting.

You can vote for your favorite artwork until 25 February.

Visit the gallery or our [website](#).”

**Questions:** Contact Debbie at [artbydebbiek@gmail.com](mailto:artbydebbiek@gmail.com)



## From Jeff Harold: **Relieving the Winter Blues**



I'm fortunate to be surrounded by trees and wetlands. We recently had a visit from a possum which we haven't seen in years, and some flybys by some eagles and a Cooper's hawk. But it's the squirrels, birds and deer that are our most frequent visitors. We even named a squirrel "Stubby" because he lost most of his tail somewhere along the way. I like to imagine that he lost it winning a fight with a coyote (which we also have on occasion in our backyard) who limped away licking his wounds.

These friends are always around and, lately, I've relieved some of my winter boredom by taking pictures of them through the windows when I couldn't get outside for one reason or another. The pictures of the birds I've included here were taken from my den.



The buck photo was taken through our basement door. We call him "Daddy Buck" because he's the largest of a group that visits our backyard and, when I took this picture, he was with five does (I can only speculate on the relationships there). We also had fun watching him stand on his hind legs to get to the crab apples on the tree in our front yard (unfortunately I couldn't get a good photo of this pose).

I don't have much of an artistic point here, other than what you already know: whatever your medium, creating art should be a relaxing experience that can also get you out of those winter blues.

I always enjoy sharing my work with friends and family.

How about sharing some of your winter creative endeavors with the League?

Send them to: Jeff Harold at [artbydebbiek@gmail.com](mailto:artbydebbiek@gmail.com) or Jody Bennett at [jorbenn1@yahoo.com](mailto:jorbenn1@yahoo.com)