

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dragons As Life**

I have finished the spring gardening, even though this year I had more ambitious plans than usual. This is due to applied visualization techniques, clean living, and a young man willing to help. We won't go into the order of those reasons.

We're not just talking about strong backs here. He had several helpful suggestions and sometimes more practical knowledge than I possess, at about one seventh my age. He also had a livelier sense of the moment.

*Me: Where's the box cutter?*

*Him: You put it in your pocket.*

*Me: Oh.*

He then went back to his own task, without giggling, at least openly.

People of his barely-teen age develop sudden and unaccountable passions. This is not a bad thing – it's good practice for his near future, when those passions become more or less the norm. We ate lunch in my office, and he showed some interest in some of the calligraphy I have done, enough that I sent him home with a practice pen and some books. But his real passion right now is for dragons.

This young man made my life easier, so I decided to paint him a dragon, with a little calligraphy thrown in.

Since dragons are not native to the US, at least south of the Carolinas, I looked on the net for examples. Most of them are quite fanciful – not very realistic at all. They range anywhere from fluorescent lime to winsor green (blue tint), colors that would make even a chameleon throw up his claws in horror. Many of them have large ears, and I have yet to see a reptile with large ears, or any exterior ears at all. A young man with agricultural knowledge would dismiss them.

Most reptiles of my acquaintance are mostly a dusty gray-green, with the gray sometimes deepening toward black. I didn't know what a dragon looks like, but I knew what color I wanted it to be. Not a very direct approach.

After some stumbling around, I found what I wanted. The photograph showed a komodo dragon. It was in a cave, fast asleep on a rock, with its chubby legs akimbo and the tail parked on a rock behind the first. It was almost perfect.

I'd have to make changes of course. There'll have to be a row of fin-like growths down the length of the body, perhaps wings, and the dragon would have to be at least partially awake. Dragons that sleep a lot don't last very long. You never know when some dolt in shining armor will come along and assume you've either kidnapped a maiden or hoarded a stash of gold. They usually try to do you in for it, innocent or guilty. I haven't quite figured out the use of either maidens or gold to fire-breathing reptilians. Shining armor sorts

*continued*

## President's Message, continued

usually assume that you are subject to the same sudden and unaccountable passions as they have.

The first step was sketching the dragon. I had trouble with the mouth – this particular dragon did not snore and the mouth was firmly closed, a vague set of lines and shapes above the jaw. I also had trouble with the wings – I'm not sure exactly how scaly wings fold over an inert dragon body. I spent almost as much time with my trusty white eraser as I did with the pencil, and the eraser eroded more than the pencil did. That's pretty typical of my work, but it prevents me from having a brilliant idea after it's too late. Sometimes. The sketch is done now, and it's time to break out the watercolor. I like the sketch, and a decent sketch survives my painting process better than a vague one.

But maybe that's art. There's the initial brilliant idea, then there's shaping it out and adding a bit of detail. And then there's fixing the errant lines, the ideas that don't go with each other, the colors that dry a different value than they were when wet, and the rest of it. And the happy mistakes that people always talk about – they show up too. It won't ever turn out the way you expected, but maybe it will have virtues you didn't anticipate.

But how is that different from life?

*Ed Eckstrand*

The **Bridges exhibition at the Savannah Airport** was a huge success. Thank you to all of the artists who participated!

Here are a few of the judge's comments:

*"A wonderful exhibition that showcases the diversity of art we find in Savannah through a theme that is ideal for the city and the location of the exhibition."*

*"I enjoyed all the work, and found the decision tough."*

*"The images I selected for recognition stood out to me because they made me think about how a bridge might be used formally as a compositional element to create or define space as well as illustrate the concept."*



*Winner of airport show "BRIDGES"  
Tybee artist and SAA member, Beth Hageman*

## SAA BOARD MEMBERS

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# mark it on your calendars . . .

MAY			
03	Wednesday	<b>SAA Board Meeting</b>	5 p.m. The Woods Clubhouse
06	Saturday	<b>Plein Air Group</b> Forsyth Park	9 a.m.
07	Sunday	<b>Drop off your art!</b> 15 spaces still available	SAA Art Gallery, Chippewa Square 12 - 4 p.m.
8 & 9	Monday/ Tuesday	<b>Art Change Out</b>	SAA Art Gallery, Chippewa Square 10 - 4 p.m.
13	Saturday	<b>Painting at the Mall with Kids</b>	
13	Saturday	<b>Playshop: Monoprints</b> with Grace Rohland, <i>Cost \$15</i>	Generation One 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
17	Wednesday	<b>SAA General Meeting</b>	6 p.m. SAA Gallery
JUNE			
1-3	Thursday - Saturday	<b>Oil Painting Workshop with Robert Isley</b> Basics of plein air painting	8 a.m. - 4 p.m. University of Georgia Aquarium on Skidaway Island Cost \$250 (Only 5 spaces still open)
05	Monday	<b>Plein Air Group</b> Ft. Pulaski	9 a.m.
07	Wednesday	<b>SAA Board Meeting</b>	5 p.m. The Woods Clubhouse
17	Saturday	<b>Playshop: Watercolor</b> with Phil Stark, <i>Cost \$15</i>	Generation One 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
19	Monday	<b>Plein Air Group</b> Fort McAllister, Richmond Hill	9 a.m.
21	Wednesday	<b>SAA General Meeting</b>	6 p.m. SAA Gallery



Originally from College Park, Maryland, Karen earned her BA in Fine Arts from the University of Maryland. For the next 15 years, she worked with the Maryland-National Capital Park service, creating murals and exhibits for their

many nature centers and historic sites.

In 2000, Karen and her husband relocated to the Savannah area. Here, she co-founded Pixelphish Interactive, a courseware and eLearning development company, where she still works to this day. In 2012, she completed her MEd in Instructional Technologies.

Although every workday since then has been filled creating art and animation in digital format, something was still missing. So four years ago, she dug out her paintbrushes and returned to the studio in the evenings, rediscovering her love of watercolors and figurative painting.

Early on in this “rediscovery” she started a bucket list of painting goals. So far, she has checked off the following: Studying with well-known figurative watercolor artists Ted Nutall, Fealing Lin and Janet Rogers.

This month, she will achieve the top of her study list when she works with Charles Reid, the “father of American figurative watercolors.”

In the past year, Karen was honored to win first place in the 2017 Georgia Watercolor Society’s Member Exhibition, and was recently accepted into the GWS national juried exhibition, which is currently on display in Atlanta.

## Karen Noll Schaaf



## SAA 4th Annual Plein Air Competition

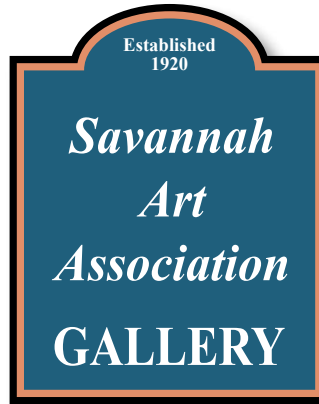


**October 10th though October 14th**

The competition is a series of events, workshops, and demonstrations, ending with the plein air competition itself.

Over \$2100 in cash prizes.

*We'll send more information as we finalize the events.*



## Come Hang with Us!

At the new  
**SAA GALLERY**  
*Chippewa Square*  
*232 Bull St.*

- SAA membership is required.
- 24" x 24" spaces (including frame) are rented for each 2-month show. \$40 per space.
- All art/photos must have a hanging wire.
- Commission on each sale is 25%.
- The commision fee is waived if you sit in the SAA gallery one time per month.

For more info, call Andrea: **912-663-3188**

## Paint with Larry Levow *in the ancient village of* **Montecatini Alto, Italy** **September 9th through 16th**


Spend a week painting the landscapes and intimate winding streets of this 15th Century village. Stay at the magnificent Villa La Maresca within walking distance of the numerous restaurants and shops. Take an 8 minute ride down the funicular to Montecatini Firme, home to grand baths and spas. Paint in oils and pastels with Larry Levow, (25 years of teaching experience, eleven one-man shows, selected as one of five Savannah artists to collect). Larry has been represented by five galleries. He recently hosted an SAA workshop.

Limited to 14 participants, and already over half booked.

Reserve by contacting Rhondda Netherton at (912) 507-9800 or [rhonddane@comcast.net](mailto:rhonddane@comcast.net).

Contact us to set up a personal art gallery through our website, or if you would like to help run things in the Association.

Check our website for ongoing exhibits and shows.

 912-232-7731

 [admin@savannahartassociation.com](mailto:admin@savannahartassociation.com)

 [Savannah Art Association](#)