



Genesee Valley Plein Air Painters, Inc., a not-for-profit artist association, promotes and inspires quality plein air painting while providing socially pleasant painting opportunities for its membership throughout the year.

December 1, 2006 E-LETTER

**Don't forget...GVPAP 2nd Annual Plein Air Art Show
preregistration (postdate) deadline is 12/13/06!
You may submit up to 5 paintings.**

MEMBER NEWS:

Congratulations go to the award winners in the Rochester Art Club Show at Barnes & Noble: **Kathleen Hanney** *Balance* (Best of Show), **Phil Bliss** *Pultneyville Shoreline* (Merit), **Bob Keim** *Back Road to Conesus* (Jurors) and **Barbara Jablonski** (Jurors) *Adirondacks at Bog Falls I.*

Holiday Treasurers Art Show... Landscape Paintings by the Plein Air Painters of Western N.Y. at the 1570 Gallery at Valley Manor, 1570 East Avenue, Rochester. The show runs until January 8th. Gallery hours are 9 am - 5 pm Monday through Friday. PAPWNY includes plein air artists **Kathy Bolin**, **Barbara Jablonski**, **Dick Kane**, **Bob Keim**, **Diane Lochocki**, **Guy LeClair** and **Chris O'Handley**.

Gail Kellogg is showing plein air paintings at the Vagabond Gallery in Canandaigua until January.

Congratulations to these GVPAP members who won awards in the Pittsford Art Group Holiday Show: **Kathleen Bolin** for *Lakeville Scene* and *Braddock Bay Morning*; both of which won Juror's Awards; **Barbara Jablonski** *Fall in Beatty Park*, Merit Award; and **Rona Poss** *Still Life with Cactus*, Merit Award. The show is at the Pittsford Credit Union and runs through January 18th.

Members Going South for the Winter Remember to leave your paintings that you are submitting for the **2nd ANNUAL GVPAP ART SHOW** at Barnes & Noble in January with a GVPAP friend or with Colette Savage, GVPAP Art Show Chair. She will help you arrange storage, delivery and pickup for the Show. Leave up to five paintings. Email: cmsavage@frontiernet.net.

Articles of Interest:

Definition of Plein Air Painting. Sources: "Plein Air Magazine", November 2004; William Gerdtz, "American Impressionism" via Ask/Art

Derived from the French word "en plein aire," the term means painting in the open air and not in the studio. It first came into general use in the mid-19th century in France when landscape painters at Barbizon, a village near Paris, used the method for their depictions of the landscape. Shortly after that, it was adopted by the French Impressionists led by Camille Pissarro and Claude Monet. The method was facilitated by newly developed oil paint that was sold in tubes, which meant it did not dry out quickly and could be easily transported. Plein-air painting was a major break in tradition from the prevalent method of working only in studios.

Plein-air painting can be traced back to the seventh century and forward for about two-hundred years when European artists did outdoor sketches to sharpen their skills but not for exhibition. In

1630 engravings were done in Europe that show artists working in the open air. Also an illustrated catalogue titled "A Brush With Nature: The Gere Collection of Landscape Oil Sketches" refers to the painting in nature of Salvador Rosa (1615-1673). Plein Air oil painting evolved into fully finished paintings with Frenchman Claude Lorraine (1600-1682) and then moved forward through the Barbizon School and Impressionists. In the United States and Canada, plein-air painting was practiced by the first-generation of American impressionists such as Robinson, Hassam, Chase and others in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The method also took hold in a major way in Southern California from the time of the state's first Impressionist landscape painters including Guy Rose. In that warm climate combined with bright sunlit days and diverse mountain, water and land views, plein-air painting was popular.

Other Notes about Plein Air Painting. Sources: "Judson's Almanac No 3" p. 7

A less common term sometimes used in English for paintings done outdoors is "alfresco," but in Italian it apparently has different meanings; including "to be in the cooler" (in jail). The Impressionists believed in the merits of painting en plein air. Originally a French movement, it quickly spread to the rest of Europe, America and Russia. Among the many famous 19th century painters who painted extensively outdoors before and after the Impressionists are Constable, Turner, Corot, Manet, Cezanne, Gauguin, VanGogh, Whistler, Cassatt and Sargent. Georgia O'Keefe, Edward Hopper, Rockwell Kent, Fairfield Porter, Alex Katz and Wolf Kahn are a few examples of the 20th century painters.

Some famous examples of accomplished amateur outdoor painters are: Winston Churchill, President Eisenhower, Prince Charles and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

"Just to paint is great fun. The colours are lovely to look at and delicious to squeeze out. Matching them, however, crudely, with what you see is fascinating and absolutely absorbing. Try it if you have not done so – before you die.
Winston Churchill

[NEWS YOU CAN USE:](#)

2nd Annual GVPAP Art Show Judge: Neil Berger will be the judge for our Second Annual GVPAP Plein Air Show in Barnes & Noble. Neil is a professional artist and has been plein air painting for 30 years. His studio is in Ithaca NY. We are also planning a members' critique as well as a painting demonstration by Neil in January. Plans are being made at this time. Stay tuned for this information.

Our Show Reception: opening reception on Saturday, January 6th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at B&N. After the reception, we'll go to Hawthorne's Restaurant on East Avenue for drinks, appetizer or dinner. Spouses or significant others are very welcome. We'll have an opportunity to really get acquainted.



Neil Berger

[MEET THE MEMBERS](#)

This month's artist is GVPAP's Signature Member **Roland E. Stevens III – "Chip" Stevens.**

Pultneyville's **Chip Stevens** has drawn historical renderings for 30 years. He graduated with a Masters of Architecture from Syracuse University in 1973. As an architect, he worked for Bero Architects and then DeWolff Partnership. In 1993, Chip focused on watercolor painting and studied with Val Larson. Later, he also studied with Fred Graff from Stonington, Maine.

An avid watercolorist, Chip loves landscapes. His love is painting when traveling. He has plein air painted in China, Peru, Normandy, New England, South America as well as England. Since 2003 Chip has competed in numerous watercolor competitions throughout the Northeast US. Additionally, he is a



Chip Stevens

"Signature Artist" member of several art organizations including: National Watercolor Society, Whiskey Painters of America, Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society and the CNY Watercolor Society. Locally, he is in RAC and PAG.

What's very interesting about Chip is that he has been a bagpipe player for 30 years; playing in the City Pipe Band. He says, "I need to start practicing again because I'm playing for a wedding soon." Although, he doesn't do moguls anymore, Chip also loves skiing – fast skiing. He was on the Bristol Mountain Ski Patrol for 15 years. "I loved *ski jumping* in college, too," says Chip. He and his wife of 36 years, Georgia, enjoy skiing together in the winter months.

Artistically, Chip's goals are to do watercolor demonstrations as well as become a Signature Member in American Watercolor Society (currently he is a Sustaining Associate Member).

WINTER PAINTING TIPS

Keeping Warm: It's time to wear your long, warm underwear, layer your wool sweaters and wool socks. Wear a wool or insulated winter hat with a peak and dark under bill. (Note: mad bomber hats are now in fashion and come in a variety of colors—red, black fur, white, brown -- but be sure to get one with a peak.) Don't forget to layer your gloves too. Tip-less finger hunting gloves work well with thin, insulated gloves inside. Using chemical heaters in your gloves and boots keep the extremities warm too. Standing on a mat or carpet keeps your feet warmer and dryer when outside in the snow. Your boots should be waterproof and insulated.

Palette: Preparing your palette while in the house before you go outside to paint makes it easier than trying to open tubes with gloves on. Adding a little linseed oil to your titanium white and raw ochre helps keep it soft. Add some rubbing alcohol or salt to your water to do watercolors in freezing temperatures.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Holiday Luncheon We'll have a holiday luncheon after our morning Irondequoit Bay paintout on Tuesday, December 12th. We'll meet at Nutcracker Restaurant on Empire Blvd. All members are welcome, even if you do not attend the morning paintout.

Painting Excursion to Paris and Provence, September, 2007: A 12-day plein air painting excursion to France September 24th to October 5th, 2007 is planned. For more information, email or call Barbara Jablonski at bjablons@rochester.rr.com or 585.381.3980.

Interesting Art Quotes

Even in front of nature one must compose. ([Edgar Degas](#))

Before you compose your picture it's a good idea to ask yourself why you're doing it.
([Anonymous](#))

Next E-Letter Deadline December 25th Send your news and stories to info@gvpap.com
See the new information on the website: WWW.GVPAP.COM

CHECK OUT THE LATEST EVENTS POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.GVPAP.COM