



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.

October 1, 2006 E-LETTER

MEMBER NEWS:

Don Cooney is home recovering from surgery and hopes to be painting again with us soon.

Phyllis Bryce Ely won a merit award at Sonnenberg Garden's "Arts at the Gardens" this year.

Kathy Bolin is a first time proud grandma of new baby Mason Patrick Bolin, 8 pounds, 4 ounces; 21 _" long. Congratulations, Kathy.

Gloria Betlem is having a show entitled "Water...Unrestrained" at Ock Hee's Gallery, Lehigh St., Honeoye Falls Opening reception 2-5, Oct 28 through Nov. 25. In addition, Gloria is on the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts Artists studio tour Oct 14 and 15.

NEWS YOU CAN USE: We have published most of this information before, however, we want to remind members and inform new members about these subjects. We have paintouts in both remote and populated areas; rural, suburban and city locations. We want to keep everyone safe and happy while participating in paintouts.

Handling the Public You will have curious bystanders and youngsters approach you while painting. Moms love to tell you what little artists their children are. Many folks will have an aunt that paints. Mostly, they want to watch and will ask if they can. However, some will want to talk excessively. Be honest -- if watching and/or talking makes you nervous or distracted, tell them so (politely). They will understand. Of course, be polite – they may be a customer.

Please realize that talking to the public may disturb other nearby artists. We recommend that conversations be quiet and courteous, but minimal. These conversations may break other artist's focus as well as yours. If the viewer presents himself or herself as a potential buyer, continue conversations on the phone or move to a quiet spot and discuss business. You may wish to take advantage of a wet canvas sale!

We have experienced problems with street/homeless persons and persons with mental health issues. They tend to stop to talk and talk. If you have ever had trouble discouraging these people from conversing endlessly with you, try these techniques:

1. Don't make eye contact when they approach or when they talk to you. *Don't even smile* or say "good morning" when they approach. Eye contact, a smile and/or a greeting opens the door for them to have a lengthy conversation with you. If you talk first, chances are they will linger and chat.
2. Look focused when you paint. If you look deep in thought and appear intensely focused on what you are doing, you may not be bothered. A comment about "drying paint," "changing light," or you have "difficulty talking and working at the same time" will often be a signal to an onlooker that you need quiet to paint. You may have noted that one member uses a radio with earphones; even though the radio may not be on. It is another technique in looking intensely focused by pretending not to be able to hear the talkers. However, this member hears perfectly if a comment about paintings being available for sale is made.

Handling Very Bothersome Persons If these techniques are not working and a fellow painter is obviously in distress with a bothersome person (can't get an individual to move on), it is

helpful if other painters nearby sense the problem. If you see a "painter in distress" -- painter is not talking; giving wide-eyed glances to others; trying to ignore the person and other signals --- leave your easel, walk up to the painter and say to him/her ... "Hey, I have a problem painting. Would you come over to my painting and tell me what you think may help me out?" The distressed painter may politely excuse himself/herself and walk back to your easel with you. The bothersome individual will leave. This technique works. This situation happens to both men and women painting. Please be aware of your surroundings and members in the paintout group. We want everyone to be safe and happy.

Crime Prevention and Personal Safety Tips One objective in painting with a group of artists is preserving personal safety. "Safety" refers to sudden illness and accident assistance as well as crime prevention. Please work in close proximity of others (viewing and/or shouting distance). Use good judgment regarding your working location when painting out of view of others. If you are out of sight, please inform someone of your location in the event of distress. Carry a whistle. If we are painting at a "questionably" safe site (such as the High Falls area), we will only setup and stay IF A MINIMUM of three painters is together. In addition, when folks are starting to leave at the end of the paintout (when there are three people left and another person wants to leave) ---EVERYONE NEEDS TO LEAVE. In other words, we will not paint in high risk areas with less than three persons.

Parking Concerns Please make sure you lock all your car doors. Shut off your lights. Do not leave anything visible that looks valuable in your car (including attaché cases, bags of various types). Do not cover anything with a blanket since thieves use that as an indication that something valuable may be hidden. In short, leave valuables at home and carry a small clutch; include your ID, cell phone and a small amount of money. Always be aware of who is around you and have your keys in your hand when you return to your car. We will do our best to park as a group and set up where we can see our cars.

GETTING TO KNOW THE MEMBERS:

This month's artists are **Signature Artist Member Don Grieger** and **Signature Artist Member Kathleen Hanney**.

Don Grieger started plein air painting in 1976. At that time, he was an engineer at Xerox. To paint more, he left Xerox and became an engineering mechanics professor at Genesee Community College for 17 years while studying with Charles Movalli, John Peisley and Roger Curtis. Living in Batavia, Don retired nine years ago and now paints full time. He had an art gallery in Rocky Neck, Massachusetts in the summer from '86—'92.

Don said, "I paint outside because that's where the landscape is." He adds, "in fact, it doesn't make sense to take a picture and bring it indoors." When asked what his favorite painting compositions are he says, "I don't like *pretty*. I like backyards, woodpiles, broken fences, barns and especially winter streams." Also, Don enjoys painting with the All Weather Gang. Says Don, "I like the Wyoming hills, Genesee County and of course Livingston County. We can find paintings everywhere."

"Winter," he says, "is my favorite time to paint. There's more color in the winter time; stronger patterns-- like dark patterns in the landscape." He adds, "My favorite painters are those who painted in the winter. Ed Redfield, Elmer Schofield, Carl Peters, Eldro Hibbard are my favorite; they loved painting winter."

Don's article *Go Where the Landscape Is* was published in the former Grumbacher magazine "Palette Talk." His biography will be included in the 27th edition of *Who's Who in American Art*. He



is represented by the Bryan Memorial Gallery in Vermont; G.C.Lucas Gallery in Indianapolis, IN; Union Gallery in Lambertville, NJ; and West End Gallery in Corning, NY. He is a member of the American Artists Professional League in NYC (Fellow); Salmagundi Club, NYC; North Shore Arts Association, Gloucester, Mass., the Rochester Art Club and of course GVPAP (Signature Artist Member); winning more than 30 awards from national and regional exhibitions.

As an added note, Don's GVPAP ID number is "002." As soon as GVPAP was launched, Don Grieger sent in his application.

Kathleen Hanney has been plein air painting since 2000. "The thing I enjoy about plein air painting," says Kathleen, "is that it makes me a better painter." Though she admits, "It's not because I particularly like painting out of doors; it keeps me on my toes." Painting outside is a challenge for her. "Bugs just love me so. But it's worth it for the excitement I see in my paintings that I do outdoors." She says, "They are more alive. There's immediacy and freshness that is reflected in my paintings -- that is exciting for me."

Kathleen spends a lot of time in Nantucket fighting the mosquitoes in order to stock her Nantucket gallery with plein air paintings. The photo shown is Kathleen standing in a salt marsh. She says her body is 90% covered with DEET.



Kathleen especially LOVES painting in New York State. "It's so lush and the landscape is so varied." New York colors are gold and browns and greens and reds --- such a variation of colors in my palette that I love it." However, Kathleen adds, "I am especially challenged with winter painting. My fingers go numb in the cold holding a pastel. Ironically," she says, "my best paintings are winter paintings, though I suffer for it."

Kathleen is represented by the Mill Art Gallery in Honeoye Falls, Gail Browne Gallery in Provincetown, Massachusetts and the Old South Wharf Gallery in Nantucket, Massachusetts. She's a member of the Rochester Contemporary, Rochester Art Club as well as Signature Artist for GVPAP. Kathleen received BS in Art Education and Fine Arts from Nazareth College and furthered art studies at RIT. She studied with Albert Handell and Steve Carpenter. She teaches pastels and drawing at the Rochester Art Supply; previously taught at the Rochester Parks and Recreation Department and at the MAG's Creative Workshop for four years.

Kathleen has been instrumental in this past year serving as Registrar for the GVPAP Signature Artist Jury Process.

OTHER NEWS

Attention: Members Going South for the Winter Please 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 four paintings. Email: cmsavage@frontiernet.net.

Brande Arno is taking a break from working on the GVPAP E-Letter. We are appreciative of her fine work and wish to thank her for all her efforts during this past year. For future E-Letters, email your plein air painting news, awards, adventures, art show reviews, and painting tips to: info@gvpap.com Deadline for November's E-LETTER is October 25th.

www.gvpap.com Check out our updated website