

GENESEE VALLEY



PLEIN AIR PAINTERS

The Rochester New York
Chapter of New York Plein Air Painters (NYPAP)

Genesee Valley Plein Air Painters, an artist association, promotes and inspires quality plein air painting while providing socially-pleasant painting opportunities for its membership throughout the year.

January 1, 2006 E-LETTER

Editor, Brande Arno, Charter Signature Member

Oh the weather outside is frightful...

Should we let cold air keep us locked inside our studios? Well of course not! The only weather conditions that cancel trips outdoors are active thunder and lightning storms, active ice storms and/or heavy falling snow. "Wait," you say "what about heavy rain?" Well rain does not build up on the roads and we have found much success with painting inside a pavilion on rainy days. Note to self: Paintouts affected by falling rain may be held at a protected location like an open-air pavilion in Mendon Ponds.

Dressing in layers is the key to maintaining comfort when painting outdoors as temperatures drop. Here are some suggestions that we know to work (listed from the feet upward):

Ground and feet:

1. Bring a car mat or door mat that has rubber on the bottom to stand on. This goes along way in stopping the cold from tormenting your feet.
2. Purchase boots that are two sizes larger than your known shoe/boot size; insulated and waterproof. (Stephanie Kelly uses ice fishing boots.) Wear two pairs of warm socks. The first pair of socks should be cotton or a "wicking" sock; and the second thick wool or other winter sport type material such as polar fleece.
3. To be fully prepared, buy instant (chemical) hand and feet warmers to use as needed.

Legs and lower torso:

1. Buy thermal long johns and jeans or other pants that have a flannel liner. First layer is the long johns which may be purchased at ski shops or outdoor sportsman store. Second layer is flannel lined pants or ski/snow pants. Make sure your skin is dry and protected.

Torso:

1. Buy long-sleeved thermal undershirts or ski "undeeds," flannel shirts, polar fleece vest, windbreaker or ski type jacket with a hood. First layer is the thermal underwear, then the flannel shirt or wool sweater. Add the vest and your jacket. You know how quickly you get cold. Add more layers of shirts and or sweaters if you chill quickly.

2. Bring another sweater and a small blanket with you to be safe.

Hands and face:

1. Two pairs of gloves may be needed. The first pair should be thin ski-type liner gloves. The second pair may be fingerless but have a mitten flap to use to cover your fingers.

2. Brande Arno has a polar fleece helmet that opens only in the eye area. Because it's black, she looks like a terrorist but it keeps her super warm. Barbara has a Russian Flap Hat (alias, Mad Bomber hat). A hooded jacket is your second layer. On a sunny day, you may want to bring a visor or ball cap for your eyes. Don't wear sunglasses as they taint nature's palette. Bring and use hand lotion, lip balm and Kleenex.

Painting Supplies:

We generally stay out for one 2- to 3-hour session in winter weather. You may wish to use a smaller canvas and perhaps limit your palette a bit. Bring Stand or Linseed oil. Linseed oil may be mixed with white oil paint to keep it useable. Aluminum foil clamped in a tent like fashion to shield your palette, can go along way to prevent sharp wind from freezing your colors. For wind gusts, bring a weight of some sort to bungee tie on the leg of your easel. This can be your packed painting bag if it's heavy enough.

Body Core:

Bring a thermos of hot beverage. By the way, being out in the cold burns calories! Yeah!

GVPAP'S FIRST SHOW!

Many of you have submitted pieces for competition in our first show. Even if you have not, please plan to come to the opening on Saturday, January 7 from 4- 6 P.M. This will be a great time to fellowship in the comfort of the Pittsford Barnes & Noble in Pittsford Plaza on Monroe Avenue. Publicity has been sent and we hope to get a few articles written about us in the near future.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE 85% RULE?

We have already received some questions about the 85% rule. Artists are very accustomed to total freedom in their studios and have possibly broken some rules to create the pieces they love. However, plein air painting may come with "definitions," particularly for art shows and competitions. For example, the dictionary definition reads: *plein air - 1. of or being a style of painting produced outdoors in natural light.* Then looking further, *The National Academy of Professional Plein Air Painters*, a respected artist organization, has a stipulation that 90% of a painting is to be finished on site. For our art shows, competitions or contests, GVPAP has set our standard for the definition of plein air painting to be 85% of the painting must be produced on site in plein air (open air; natural light).

This 85% standard does not mean that artists may not join us or participate in our painting sessions if they cannot produce paintings that quickly. Every artist may benefit from painting with others, painting from life, and viewing one another's art. We encourage our members to grow in their plein air skills and goals. Our 85% standard will be used for GVPAP exhibitions and competitive events. Also, remember that your "re-worked" paintings which do not meet this 85% standard may be exhibited in community art club competitions or other art club's exhibitions.

WHAT IS OUR FUTURE?

In our early months as an artist association, we already have a small treasury. This is a big feat because we do not collect dues! Shortly, we will plan a paintout and spend our treasury on lodge rental.

Stay tuned as we plan to offer painting workshops when the snow melts.

As plein air painters, we are doing something different and we hope the Rochester community notices and seeks our paintings to collect. Until then, we plug along, easel and view finder in tow.

FOR THE 2006 CALENDAR:

Remember our first GVPAP show which opens on Wednesday, January 4, at Barnes & Noble, Pittsford. The artist and public reception is on Saturday, January 7, from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M. Treat yourself and attend! Bring your friends. See the first *exclusively-plein air* juried and judged show in Rochester!

The next day, Sunday, January 8th, we are all invited to the art show reception for Jeanette Musliner at the Association of University Women, 494 East Avenue, 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. Let's support Jeanette!

WE SEEK YOUR NEWS AND INPUT:

If you have plein air art news, painting tips or other related news, send it to Brande Arno at: artistbrande@msn.com

NEW WEBSITE:

See GVPAP news, photos, members gallery and information at our new website: www.gvpap.com GVPAP now has its own website. Due to the vast amount of material that we have on our pages and will have in the future, we decided to get our own site. We were using up all NYPAP's space. Instead, we will be "linked" to the New York Plein Air Painters website: www.nypap.com

Put www.gvpap.com in your "favorites" and check it often. Any member who has not sent in his/her two painting selections is encouraged to send the jpegs (.jpg) to Chris O'Handley at: cohandle@rochester.rr.com Also, if you take pictures at paintouts, e-mail them to Chris as well.