

APRIL 2024

## MasterWorks of New Mexico Awardees



FIRST PLACE  
"The Tomboy"  
Todd Tibbals



SECOND PLACE  
"Yellow Chile"  
Semiramis Novak



THIRD PLACE  
"Serene Black Hmong Girl"  
Jane Fritz



HONORABLE MENTION  
"Somewhere Out There"  
Lonnie Shan



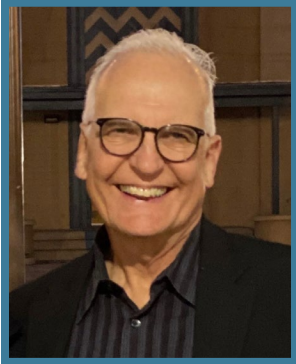
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE  
"The Cows Are Out"  
Dave Cook



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE  
Non-Representational  
"Tasseography"  
Susan Weeks

# Prez Sez

## ALBUQUERQUE



Recently I've been toying with the idea of how I can take my art in a new direction. Then a funny thing happened while my wife and I were visiting friends. As we were sitting in their home I noticed one of my paintings hanging on their wall. I was quite

surprised that they had purchased two of my paintings from a gallery that sells my work. One of the paintings was of a narrow street scene I painted after visiting Florence, Italy. Our friend said she loved the way the painting made her feel with all the detail and the light and shadow. Interestingly the "detail" she was referring to was more implied than actual and is a result of the play of light and shadow in the painting.

Soon after I came across an article about the late Robert Wade, a well known and much admired watercolor artist. The article quoted Wade as saying, "...my main concern is to create an expression of my emotion through light, form, and movement. To be able to translate these feelings of excitement from my mix of imagination and reality, and then put them down on paper, takes much intense observation and interpretation. I call my process "Perceptive Observation," which I define as 'seeing with your BRAIN, feeling with your EYES, interpreting with your HEART.'"

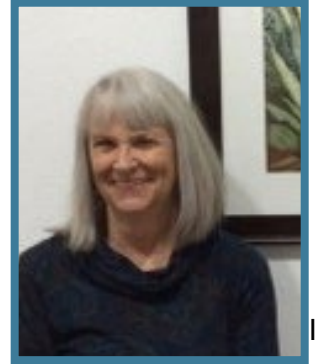
This quote captured what I want from my own work and what my friend saw in my painting. I realize now that I don't need to take my art in a "new direction" but rather focus on how I can better capture "a sensation that will flow through to the viewers of my work".

Tom Cassidy

2023-2024 NMWS President (Albuquerque)

## SOUTHERN CHAPTER

When meeting up with new or old friends, the conversation gets to 'what have you been doing lately?' It doesn't take me long to proudly talk about New Mexico Watercolor Society, and I suspect it's the same for many of you. I love that we are a



statewide group, where the arts matter and that every member can be as involved as they want to be. Despite our many and varied interests, NMWS provides something new and often challenging every month.

In the SC we were delighted to see most of our members renew along with 20 more who were new or renewing after a break. At our March meeting, we honored some of our longest members - seven members who have 20 or more years of membership, and 22 additional members who have 10 and 19 years of membership. That's a third of our membership who have been members for more than 10 years. So we seem to be doing well attracting and retaining members, and finding ways to keep our long-term members interested. We have an amazing group of people working on outreach and publicity, scheduling interesting demos at each meeting, planning and executing workshops at all levels of learning, and organizing outstanding exhibitions of our members' work each year. Without all this effort, we would not be the organization that we are today.

I'm grateful to everyone who joins this growing community (we did hit 91 members in March, as Georgia predicted!!), and to every Board and Committee member who makes all our activities possible. And I'm very grateful to all our fellow members in the North who share their talents and resources, and help support our activities here in the South and make us all truly proud of this statewide organization.

Karen Steinberg

2023-2024 Southern Chapter President

# NMWS Chapter News

## Albuquerque April 6 meeting

Please join us in welcoming the New Artists who have joined the NMWS this year!

**NEW MEMBERS:** You are invited to bring one to two of your recent watercolor paintings as a way of introducing yourself to your fellow artists. This is hardly a critique, but a way of sharing what subjects and styles interest you, and a bit about your artistic journey. If you're interested in showcasing your work please contact Shelly Brown at [shelly@alayainteriors.com](mailto:shelly@alayainteriors.com) so she can get a head count. And please stay for the potluck after the presentations. We look forward to meeting you!



**MEMBERS:** If you'd like to share your culinary skills here's a quick guide on what to bring: If your last name begins with A through H bring a main dish; I through P bring a side dish or salad; and Q through Z please bring a dessert.

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## NMWS Volunteer of the Month

Beginning in April, NMWS will be presenting a NEW award for NMWS Volunteer of the Month. The award is a \$30 Gift card to Artisans ABQ, who matched our contribution. Please email Sally Harris at [taki888\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:taki888[at]yahoo.com) if you would like to recognize any of our volunteers going above and beyond their duties to help out with anything involving NMWS. Sally is collecting your votes as they come in. Sally and Shelly Brown will determine the awardees. Awards will be given at the monthly meetings except July and December. In addition, we will be sending you a survey to track your NMWS volunteer experience. Remember to thank Artisans ABQ by stopping in and telling them we appreciate their support!

## April Volunteer of the Month

NMWS would like to recognize Jim Terry as our first Volunteer of the Month Awardee. Jim is a retired Air Force fighter pilot and an extremely organized landscape painter. He has been involved with NMMS for well over a decade and has served in these positions as a volunteer: President (2 y), Facilities and EXPO coordinator (7 y), Permanent Collection Chair (10+ y), AV (3 y), Insurance Liaison (6 y), Holiday Party Facilitator (5 y), and Church Liaison (4 y). He is one of the key volunteers who has kept this organization running smoothly and we want to thank him for his efforts with a gift certificate to Artisans ABQ at the April meeting.





## Jay Leutwyler is NMWS's New Treasurer



Good news! We are delighted to announce that Jay Leutwyler, NMWS, a long term ABQ member, who also runs his own book-keeping business for artists, has stepped up to become our new Treasurer.

Thanks Jay!

## Video Editor Needed!

NMWS needs a volunteer with the proper software to edit the monthly meeting videos into a viewable MP4 format. Barbara McGuire will show you how to upload the edited video to the NMWS YouTube channel. Ideally, the volunteer owns and uses a free or low cost video editing software program: Free-DaVinci Resolve, iMovie or Professional-Final Cut Pro, Power Director, or Adobe products. If you are interested please contact Barbara McGuire at [bmcquire \[at\]swcp.com](mailto:bmcquire@swcp.com) or Tom Cassidy at [tomcassidy45\[at\]comcast.net](mailto:tomcassidy45[at]comcast.net).

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## March Meeting Public Art Program

Kent Swanson, the Bernalillo County Public Arts Project Coordinator gave an excellent overview of the Public Art Program founded in 1992. The intent of the program is to promote and encourage public awareness of the arts and cultural properties and to integrate art into Bernalillo County facilities and structures. The program currently

boasts over 500 works and is funded by the one percent of the county's general obligation bonds.

Kent explained how artworks are selected by a 10-member appointed advisory board, and encouraged NMWS members to submit their art for the twice-annual "unsolicited proposals process" which is completed online. Click [HERE](#) or call 505.350.0144 for more information.

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## Update on the Permanent Collection

by Jim Terry

We are pleased to announce that Housing New Mexico (the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority) has accepted our offer to maintain the Permanent Collection on display in their newly remodeled facility at 7425 Jefferson NE. After Housing New Mexico completes a major remodeling of the building, expected to be completed in

September, the Collection will be put back on display in the common areas. Housing New Mexico has also offered to reimburse us for the floater insurance premium that covers the Collection.

We are looking forward to beginning a mutually beneficial relationship with Housing New Mexico. We are confident that the Collection will add to the professional environment that they are hoping to maintain in their new facility.

# Southern Chapter

## April 14th Meeting - "Birds, Birds, Birds!"

Join us Sunday, April 14th for three mini demonstrations of art techniques.

Marie Siegrist will demonstrate monoprinting without a press using watercolors. A monotype is a type of print made by transferring an image from a "plate" to paper which can then be enhanced with many art media. She will demo using watercolor and other water-soluble mediums on various types of plates.

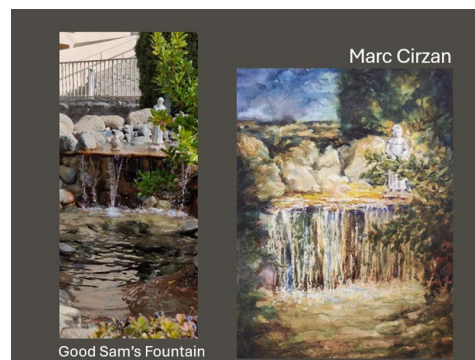
Sue Davis will show the process of linoleum block printing. It can be used in conjunction with watercolor which can be painted in on top of the print, or a "rubber stamp" can be created from the linoleum and applied to the watercolor painting.

Kay Gross will demo how to use a straw to blow watercolor paint, creating a loose and lovely effect. She uses this technique to create "whimsical birds", and will demonstrate how to make your own unique bird.



## March Meeting

At our March 10th meeting, members got a better insight into exactly what Plein Air painting is all about. Nancy Tipton, chair of the NMWS-SC Plein Air group, began by introducing her supplies for getting ready for an excursion. Nancy said that "plein air can be just sitting at home, looking out your window, and painting. No need to go outside if you don't want to." Our plein air painters were Nancy Tipton, Kay Gross, Ann McPhee, Mark Cirzan, Rob Sheldon, and Arlene Tugel. Each person presented their paintings with a background story and photograph of the location. They discussed topics such as their hesitancy to begin, tips for useful composition, the joy of experimenting with new materials, the transition from oils/acrylics to watercolor, the fun and advantages of painting small, sketching in public, and encouragement. The group said that even though on some days they encountered problems such as rain, wind, etc., they would do it again as the incredible light and shades that you get from painting outdoors is worth it.



# NMWS (SC) Workshops

The Soon Warren SC February workshop was challenging, informative and fun! Many of us hadn't painted rippled water scenes or glass reflections with much success, let alone on such a large format. But Soon had us painting immediately, and at the end of three days with two finished paintings, we agreed that we had learned a lot. Participants especially

mentioned that the multi-layer glazing techniques (especially the demonstrations of how to use this technique to get really dark and even background washes), the management of leading edges especially on dry paper, and how to use masking effectively are all skills that will be used often in the future.



The Southern Chapter is currently seeking nominations or volunteers for

the 2024-25 program year. A slate of officers and committee chairs will be voted on at our April meeting. We've had some nominations in March, but there are still lots of opportunities to help!

We are especially in need of nominations/volunteers for the following: VP/meeting program coordinator (this could be split between 2 people) and Exhibitions Chair.

The Southern Chapter Executive Board has 7 voting officers. They are President, Vice President/Programs, Secretary, Treasurer, Workshops Chair, Membership Chair, and Exhibitions Chair. Officers meet September-May for one hour by Zoom on the Saturday before the General Meeting as well as attend most of our meetings. Some of our current

officers have agreed to continue for another year if needed, all would love to have someone who could take over a meeting for them now and then!

If you are not ready to be an officer yet, we have standing committees that need additional volunteers to help with hospitality (including meeting/workshop greeters), publicity (including photographers and posting info to social media sites), exhibitions (intake, hanging, etc.). Committee volunteers help officers and chairs keep their areas of responsibility running. Let us know if you have interest in any of these areas or if you would like to nominate yourself for any of the Officer or Committee Chair roles! If you have questions about roles and responsibilities, or how you might help, contact Karen Steinberg at: [kjsteinberg\[at\]aol.com](mailto:kjsteinberg[at]aol.com) or Rachel Murphree at [rcmurphree\[at\]outlook.com](mailto:rcmurphree[at]outlook.com).



# Paint Outs

## NORTHERN AREA by Michael Hill and Joy Hill Brinkley

The April 13th paint out will be at the Elena Gallegos Open Space, 7100 Tramway Blvd. NE, from 10 am to 12 noon. Click [HERE](#) for a map and directions. We will meet at the Cottonwood Springs Trailhead (follow the road to the left behind the visitor's booth). Parking is \$2.00 per car.

We had sunny weather and beautiful clouds for our March paint out at the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. Local media KOB Eyewitness News 4 also came out to interview us and film our members painting for a story.



## SOUTHERN AREA by Nancy Tipton

The April 15th paint out will be from 10:30-12:30 all about spring irises at the home of Jacqueline Pountney, 4137 Oleta Drive (corner of Oleta and O'Hare.) There are irises in front of Jacqueline's house and lots in the backyard. She welcomes us and says she has two driveways for parking along with street parking. She has her fingers crossed that these irises will be fully bloomed by our paintout date as they most often are, but can sometimes bloom later in March, or even early April. Come join us and paint irises!

Here are some photos from today's paintout at Chihuahuan Desert Nature Preserve that shows some beautiful paintings can come from the harsh desert!



NMWS Gratefully Acknowledges Our "Contributing Members"  
Tamara Mendoza of the Southern Chapter

NMWS is a 501c3 certified charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.

# Exhibitions



Congratulations to the 79 artists who entered 257 very impressive paintings. Congratulations go to First Time Entrants eligible for the new Novice Award – Sue Hoadley, Claudia Zamora, Dottie Brockman, and Paul McGuire. In addition to our usual awards, Becky Lucas and Lyle Brown have solicited an additional 20 awards. Shelly Brown has stepped in as Small Works Hanging Chair. All the Small Works entered

will be in the show and will be sold as “Cash and Carry.” We promise this to be an easy straightforward process using credit card or cash. Violinist (and member) Elaine Johnson has stepped in to help arrange entertainment for the opening ceremony. Kerry Renshaw is posting a sitting sign up link. We hope everyone will sign up to sit at least at least one shift, and we will need 50 volunteers for this. If you would like you can [sign up for a shift](#) with nonmember friends, spouses, kids over 18, or potential members.

## 2024 SC Fall Juried Exhibition: "Five Thousand Years of Agriculture in New Mexico"

We are currently working on the prospectus for the NMWS Fall 2024 Exhibition hosted by the SC and plan to have it posted in the next month. Members will be notified by an eblast of key dates and registration opening on ArtCall.

The exhibition will be held at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces, October 11 - November 18. The juror is Lian Quan Zhen, and the judge is Kathleen Key.

The theme of the exhibition is “Five Thousand Years of Agriculture in New Mexico”. NMWS members will draw on changes in prehistoric, historic and contemporary agricultural practices and imagery to illustrate a beautiful timeline, supporting the museum’s mission to promote the arts while educating museum visitors about aesthetics and diversity in the artwork of historic and contemporary New Mexico.

Watch for eblasts and updates to the NMWS website for more information.

### **49TH Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Exhibition ~March 5-April 29, 2024**

Hosted by Arizona Watercolor Association;  
at FOUNDRE Hotel, Phoenix  
Juror: Stan Miller  
Workshop in Phoenix, March 14-16, 2024

Congratulations to the 14 NMWS artists selected to be in this year’s Western Fed Exhibition. There is a free reception for NMWS delegates and artists on Thursday, April 18th, and April 20th is the Gala/Dinner/Dance. Buy tickets [HERE](#). The hotel offers a WFWS “group rate” for slightly less than \$269/night. NMWS members attending the

show during the April 18-20 time window should let Jay Leutwyler and Dave Cook, the NMWS delegates, know of their plans, in case any impromptu gatherings are arranged. Click [HERE](#) to see the show, including other award winners, posted on the NMWS website/SmugMug.





It's not too late to take a turn sitting the MasterWorks of NM Exhibition. Members will function as greeters and will NOT have to manage any sales transactions. It's a time to study the artwork, meet other artists and greet new visitors and friends. It's FUN, EASY and INSTRUCTIVE. Please sign up for a 3.5 hour shift. Sitters will earn a FREE Parking Pass! Click [HERE](#) to sign up! And click [HERE](#) to see the show.

## NMWS Sponsored Workshops

### 2024 Spring Watercolor Workshop with Fealing Lin, NWS, TWSA, WW

The annual workshop in conjunction with the NMWS Spring Show will be May 1-3 from 9am - 4pm at the Fine Arts Gallery, EXPO New Mexico. The cost is \$300 due at the time of registration. The workshop is limited to 20 students on a "first come, first served" basis, with registration opening late January to NMWS members, all others in March 2024. Once registered, if you cancel, and the workshop is full, you will receive a full refund only if your space in the workshop

is re-filled. Click [HERE](#) to register.

There will be a Public Painting Demo on Tuesday evening, April 30th, starting at 7PM, in the Fine Arts Gallery, EXPO-NM. Admission is \$10. Workshop Coordinator is Ray Prudhomme 505-296-0273



## Call for Entries

"Flora & Fauna" at the New Mexico Art League. Always a spectacular view of the beloved subject of the flower and this year we are adding a twist: both botanicals and wildlife for a spectacular view of the natural world. Deadline for entries is April 20, 2024, with the exhibit to be held from May 30 through July 6, 2024. The artists' reception is slated for June 15 from 4 PM to 6 PM. Click [HERE](#) for the prospectus and for more information.

# Plein Air/Fresh Air by Tom Cassidy

## Plein Air Painters Speak Out

I have written several articles about plein air painting and the other contributors have written many more about about sketching, composition, and equipment. I wanted to write this article for the artists who have never painted plein air or those thinking about it but haven't had the courage to give it a try.

To make a convincing case for plein air painting, I sought the opinion of plein air painters Dave Cook, Frank Fuchs, Jay Leutwyler and Toni Seidel. Here is what they offered:



1. Why do you paint plein air and what to you like best about it? "I love being outdoors," "I like painting as a group and seeing what others do" and painting outside "improves my observation skills." "I am more spontaneous and

the time constraints improve my work." Everyone agreed that observing a subject in natural light is much better than working from a photo and that plein air painting improves their artistic skills.

2. What do you like least about plein air painting? The answers were pretty obvious such as the cold (or the heat) and bugs, and the rapidly changing light.

3. What is your favorite medium of paint for plein air painting? Do you paint with only one medium, and if not, what other mediums do you use? One person paints with both watercolor and acrylic but for plein air painting they prefer acrylics. "Watercolor painting requires a plan whereas with acrylics you can just paint over the previous layer." Another periodically uses gouache

paint which is similar to acrylic. In addition they use graphite watercolor for sketching, and grey markers or grey watercolor paint for value studies.



4. How do you pick your subject to paint or what do you look for when considering what to paint? They look for shapes and contrast between lights and darks. Another chooses a subject with a vertical elements for added interest. All agreed that the values, not color, are what they focus on most. Using a limited palette was suggested, along with looking at the composition first and then the design.

5. How long does it take you to finish a painting and do you work on it when you return to your studio? The amount of time that the group said they like to spend painting outside varied from one to three hours. The light can change drastically in a short time making painting for long periods challenging. Everyone agreed that they rarely finish a painting in the field. Most of them work on a small painting outside and often use it as a study for a larger studio painting.

We talked for over an hour and what I shared here is only a portion of the discussion. We also touched on our preferred paint colors, paper and alternative surfaces, our equipment and much more. I find conversations with other artists fascinating and this one did not disappoint. If you're still thinking about venturing outside to paint, I would encourage you to try it at least a few times before deciding whether or not it's for you. My guess is that most of you will be "hooked" before you know it!

# Member Spotlight

**Susan Weeks**'s book *Demitasse: Point of Departure* won the New Mexico-Arizona Book Award for Poetry, New Mexico, 2023.

**Jane Fritz's** painting, "Touchdown" has been selected for the 2024 Montana Watercolor Society Signature Member Show. In addition, her paintings "Escape to Becker Lake" and "Balancing Act" are both published in the Top 100 of the Art of Watercolour Magazine, Spring 2024. Click [HERE](#) to see Jane's website more information.

**Robin Makowski** would like to recommend the shipping company [Pirate Ship](#), a third-party UPS company that is half the price of going straight to UPS. No subscription fees - just discounted shipping. If you ship paintings to be in a show, particularly large pieces, being able to save on shipping fees might make the difference between entering that piece or letting it sit in your studio.

## NMWS Turns 55!

In May of 1969, after several years of research and planning, Peter Walker founded the New Mexico Watercolor Society. Following an article in the *Albuquerque Journal*, the first meeting generated a large turnout. Those who joined during the first 60 days were considered Charter Members and almost 30 artists took the leap and invested funds in the new venture. The purpose of the NM Watercolor Society is "the elevation of the stature of watercolor as an art medium and to educate the public as to the significance of watercolor as an important creative permanent painting medium. The ultimate goal was to make New Mexico known nationally for its watercolorists."

At its inception, the NMWS also created a Permanent Collection to assure that "the public will gain a greater understanding, appreciation and awareness of watercolor painting."

In 1974, the NMWS President David Gale also founded the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies, intended to mount a prestigious exhibition each year, with hopes to "enhance public appreciation and acceptance of watercolor." Currently, WFWS includes over 5,000 artists in 11 societies.

NMWS is a member-driven organization and as such is fortunate to have quite a few loyal members who have supported NMWS for over 30 years, including (but not limited to) Lyla Garcia, Helen Gwinn, Sandra Humphries, Rebecca Johnson, Trisha and Jerry Love, Tyler Mason, Kathi Geoffrion Parker, Eloise Rogers, Sondra Schlotterback, Gayle Fulwyler Smith, Mary Sweet, Todd Tibbals, and Gale Waddell. Our members - creative, productive, engaged and generous - are essential to our longevity. So let's join together in commemorating our 55th year of success!



The Southern Chapter recently recognized longterm members. These included Helen Gwinn (32 years), Joan Smith (27 years), Pat Bonneau White (24 years), Phil Yost (23 years), Penny Duncklee (22 years), Flo Hosa-Dougherty (20 years), and Laurel Weathersbee (20 years). Pat, Penny, and Laurel were joined by 4 other long-serving members shown in the photo: Arlene Tugel (17 years), Marie Siegrist (18 years), Beverley Pirtle (15 years) and Alejandrina Nunez (15 years). Congratulations NMWS!



# And Everything Else.....

## WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

The New Mexico Watercolor Society (NMWS) was founded in 1969 as a statewide chapter of the Southwestern Watercolor Society of Dallas, TX. In January 1970, the NMWS became an independent entity with 501(c)(3) status.

**OUR VISION:** To Inspire a Passion for Watercolor Art

**OUR MISSION:** We will accomplish our Vision through support of the highest aesthetic standards in quality and presentation of art, education of the public regarding watercolor art, promotion of community engagement, facilitation of member artistic development through workshops, demos, etc.

## OUR COMMON CORE VALUES

- 1: Artistic Development Through Education
- 2: Participation and Volunteerism
- 3: Community Presence
- 4: Organizational Sustainability
- 5: Welcoming Culture

[See the website](#) for more details on these core values. NMWS Signature Member status is attained when a NMWS member in good standing has been accepted in five "eligible" NMWS juried shows within five years. Click [HERE](#) for more information. The NMWS is a member of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS).

## PAPER SALES (not available at Southern Chapter)

Ray Prudhomme sells watercolor paper at the meetings or by appointment at 505-296-0273 or raynjan1969[at]yahoo.com. CHECKS ONLY  
Prices (subject to change):

Arches 140 lb. Cold/Hot Press, Rough	\$ 8
Arches 300 lb. Cold/Hot Press, Rough,	\$17
Fabriano Artístico 140 lb. Bright White	\$ 7
Yupo 72 lb. White	\$ 5
Yupo 144 lb. White	\$ 6
Special order/special request watercolor paper:	
Fabriano 140 lb. Cold Press	\$ 7
Fabriano 300 lb. Bright White Soft Press	\$14
Saunders Waterford 140 lb. Cold Press	\$10

## NMWS OFFICERS ALBUQUERQUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Strategic Leadership 2023-2024

Chairperson of the Board: Barbara McGuire  
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President: Tom Cassidy  
Immediate Past President: Barbara McGuire  
Secretary: Traci Durgin  
Treasurer: Dorothy Brockman  
Membership Chair: Shelly Brown  
Satellite President: Karen Steinberg  
Members at Large: John Cormier & Lonnie Shan

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## LAS CRUCES - SOUTHERN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023-2024

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Past President - Rachel Murphree

For contact information and other officers, please see website at nmwatercolorsociety.org

## PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAY ISSUE OF BRUSHSTROKES

Please send news items, accomplishments  
and other contributions to

ctrotter [at] unm.edu

The information is due by APRIL 15

Caryl Trotter, Your Brushstrokes Editor