



**In This Issue** *Bringing Plein Air Back to Mount Mitchell • Lucas, KS • Tips from the artists April Meeting Minutes • Member Announcements • Swogger Gallery Art Exhibit*

# BRINGING PLEIN AIR BACK TO MOUNT MITCHELL

The Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards will be celebrating their 15th anniversary at their annual celebration on June 20, 2015 at the Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie and the Mitchell Farmstead.

Activities will begin at 9 a.m. with a docent led wildflower walk at the park, 29377 Mitchell Prairie Lane, and an open house at the farm, 29213 Mount Mitchell Rd. Both are Wamego postal addresses.

Beginning at 9 a.m., docents from the Kansas Native Plant Society and Konza Prairie will be at Mount Mitchell to identify wildflowers and plants for visitors.

The Missouri Valley Impressionists Society and the Columbian Artists Group will hold a “paintout” encouraging artists to come for the day to paint plein air, the practice of painting out doors on location. Maude J. Mitchell, Captain Mitchell’s daughter, painted many local scenes using this technique.

Michael Stubbs, local historian and president of the Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards, will give a talk at the farmstead about the Mitchell family at 10 a.m.



*Columbian Artist member Susan Rose painting plein air at the Mount Mitchell homestead in 2014*

Local musicians who call themselves The Haymakers will perform at 11:30 a.m.

A catered lunch will be served at the Beecher Bible and Rifle Church, three miles west of the farmstead at 1 p.m. We will need to have an approximate number for the caterer, so if you plan to attend please notify us at [info@mountmitchellprairie.org](mailto:info@mountmitchellprairie.org)

The public will be able to view the log cabin that William Mitchell built in

1856, which soon after was used to hide escaping slaves seeking their freedom in Canada. The home has been recognized by the National Park Service Network to Freedom program as a documented Underground Railroad site of national significance.

The Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie Preserve is also a Network to Freedom site, as well as a Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area Star Attraction. The public is invited to explore Mount Mitchell and

*continued next page*



*Maude J. Mitchell (1875-1957)*

its trails, including a path to the ruts of the Topeka-Ft. Riley Road, which was the local route of the Underground Railroad. Visitors can now stand in the very “tracks” of this important trail. The park is open from sunrise to sunset year-round. It is owned by Audubon of Kansas and managed by the Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards.

For more information visit:

<http://mountmitchellprairie.org>

## MAUDE J. MITCHELL HER HISTORY & ART

**M**aude Josephine Mitchell was the daughter of early Wabaunsee County pioneers Captain William and Mary Mitchell. Captain Mitchell was a leader of the Beecher Bible and Rifle Colony who came to the area in 1856. He operated an Underground Railroad station at his home three miles east of the town of Wabaunsee.

Maude Mitchell received her early education at district school number two in Wabaunsee County. She attended the New York State Normal College at Buffalo, New York. After graduation, Mitchell taught district school near Manhattan, Kansas. She then went to New York City to study art at Columbia University. She also studied at the Art Students League in Manhattan and Woodstock, New York.

Mitchell served as art supervisor in the public schools of Dubuque, Iowa. She led the art department of the Platteville State Normal School in Wisconsin for thirteen years.

In 1915, her mother passed away, and she returned to Kansas to take charge of the Mitchell Ranch.

Continuing to paint, Mitchell became a well-known Kansas artist. She exhibited her work in regional exhibitions, including those in Kansas City and Topeka.

Many of Mitchell’s paintings present views of Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee counties. The artist sought to preserve the architecture and landscape around her in impressionistic watercolors and oils. Her favorite subjects were the farms and outbuildings of her neighbors and Flint Hills landscapes. A few of the artist’s works

touch on the story of black settlement in post-Civil War Wabaunsee County. Three known works depict the homes of former slaves.

Many area residents took art lessons from Mitchell. Some of her former students are still painting in the Wamego area.

Occasionally Mitchell traveled to Florida to spend the winter with her brother, Raymond, at Clermont. These journeys inspired several Florida landscapes.

Mitchell was also a musician and composer. Among her published works were such tunes as “Prairie Roads a Winden” (recorded by Roy Rogers), “The Dance of Romance,” and “Ridin’ in the Rain.” The artist’s other accomplishments include a series of murals for Columbia University and the design for the stone gateway at the Wabaunsee Township Cemetery. Mitchell’s poetry, editorials, and cartoons were published widely. She had an interest in public affairs and a wide circle of friends. Mitchell was a leader among those who have sought to preserve and make vital the history and culture of Wabaunsee County.

INFORMATION AND PHOTOS  
COURTESY MOUNT MITCHELL  
HERITAGE PRAIRIE & MICHAEL STUBBS



*Harvest ~ Maude J. Mitchell*

# FEATURE GALLERY



photo courtesy Patricia Adams

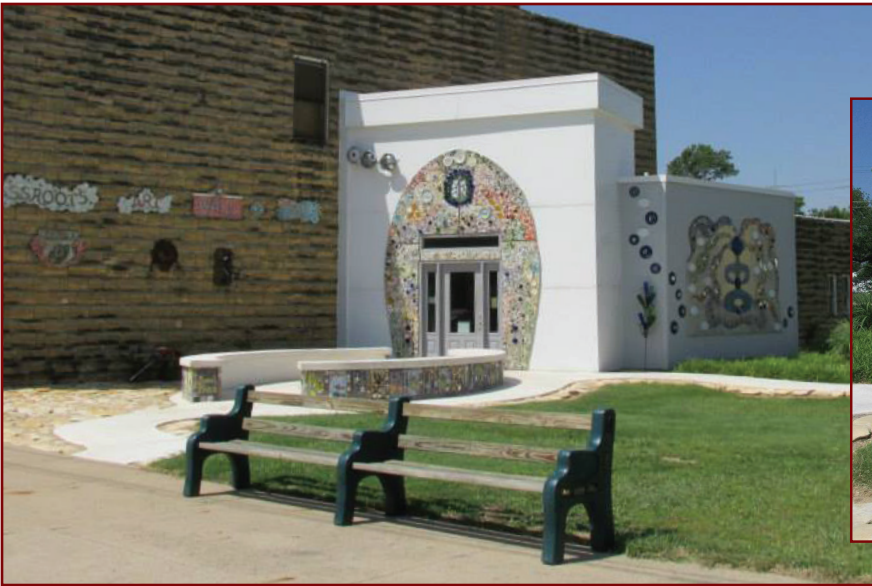
## LUCAS KS, THE GRASSROOTS ART CAPITAL OF KANSAS.

This month I have decided instead of featuring a gallery, I would focus on a feature art community. Many of you already know about the community of Lucas Kansas, and have taken the time to visit, but others have yet to have the opportunity to explore this creative mecca nestled in the heart of Post Rock country in the Smoky Hills region of Kansas. Lucas was the last home of one of the Columbian Artist Groups most eclectic members and Grassroots Art Center Vice-President Eric Abraham (deceased September, 2013) and his Flying Pig Studio & Art Gallery, but also the following:

The world famous outsider art environment Garden of Eden, one of the top 8 Wonders of Kansas Art, has been an attraction since 1907, built by Civil War Veteran S.P. Dinsmoor. Over 150 three story concrete structures show the pioneering spirit of this town that embraces art by everyday people.



*continued next page*



photos courtesy Patricia Adams

*Bowl Plaza, voted the 2nd best restroom in the United States*

The Garden of Eden is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, also consists of a stone log cabin home and a mausoleum where Mr. Dinsmoor and his first wife are buried.

The Grassroots Art Center houses the work of more than 20 untrained artists of the region.

While in Lucas don't miss The World's Largest Things just south of the Garden of Eden. Be sure to see the World's Smallest Mural and also remember to bring a chair for Erika's "Chairy" Tree.

Stop by for a taste of traditional recipe Czechlovakian bologna from Brant's Meat Market, now in its third generation, and experience the quirky wonderful things Lucas has to offer.

With lots of "Bling" inside and out Bowl Plaza, voted the 2nd best restroom in the United States, is said to be the most favorable spot to rest your area.

The city of Lucas is home to two of the 8 Wonders of Kansas and another 8 Wonders of Kansas finalist. The entire city of Lucas and the Garden of Eden are one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Art. Brant's Meat Market in downtown Lucas is one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Commerce and the Post Rock Scenic Byway was a

finalist for the 8 Wonders of Kansas Geography.

The next time you are driving west on I-70 take exit 204 and travel the Post Rock Scenic Byway around Wilson Lake to little Lucas KS, it's a small, but busy, town that is home to over 30 businesses and citizens who work hard to keep the community dynamic and growing.

By Rodney L Hoover with excerpts from the Lucas Kansas website and photos by Columbian Artist Group member Patricia Adams and the city of Lucas.



*Columbian Artist past member Eric Abraham's Flying Pig Art Gallery*

## Tips from the Columbian Artists



**Terry Mulhern:** If you have not shopped Dollar Tree for odds and ends you might check it out. Travel containers work well for plein air kits, pill containers can hold small amounts of paint, make up brushes, water containers and spray bottles are only a few of the useful items of many, all for \$1.



# MINUTES FROM THE THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH MEETING

## TIME

6:30 p.m.

## LOCATION

Swogger Gallery-  
Columbian Theatre,  
Wamego, KS

## ATTENDANCE

18 current members and 1 new member present

## MEMBERS

Patti Adams, Linda Asbury, Carl Brothers, Margaret Buie, Curt Compagnone, Tara L Dean, Kellie Dillinger, Penny Hasenkamp, Rodney Hoover, Terry Mulhern, Deborah Hanes-Nelson, Susan Rawson Pickett, Susan Poitevin, Susan Rose, Connie Schlageck, Alicia Stott, Linda Shoults, Dennis Southwick and Devi Wilbur

## GUEST

No guests present

## OLD BUSINESS

- Kellie Dillinger asked for a list of artist willing to plein air paint at the Kansas Sampler Festival. Passes will be available at the opening for individuals painting on that weekend. T-shirts will be available at the May Opening.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **THE NEXT COLUMBIAN ARTIST GROUP MEETING**

**Buffalo Tour Meeting  
(bring your cameras!)**

**Tuesday, May 19 - 6:15 p.m. at the Lazy Heart D Ranch, 17455 Pauling Run Road. Westmoreland, KS 66549**

**The address of the farm is 17455 Pauling Run Road, Westmoreland for GPS-ers. Directions from Wamego. Take Hwy. 99 towards Westmoreland, after you get through Louisville you will take the second right just before the curve. This road is Wheaton Road and the Pott. Co. dump signage should be there. Follow the Wheaton Road for about 6 miles. At the top of the hill will be a sign to your right, turn and the farm is the first on the left.**

**The club will supply burgers, condiments and paper products. Individuals can bring something to go with the burgers as well as lawn chairs.**

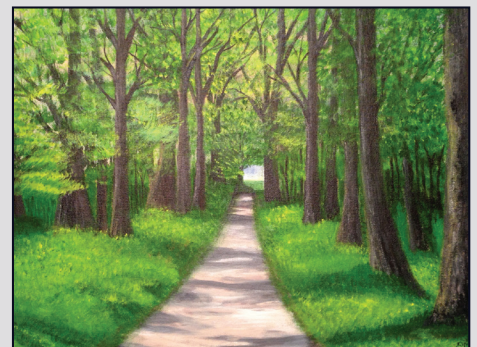
**Please RSVP. to Kellie by end of day May 17th.**

## NEW MEMBER



**Susan Rawson Pickett**

I am a native Kansan, born and raised in Wamego. Growing up on a farm, I quickly realized the beauty only nature could provide. In every project, that beauty is combined with my personal touch to produce a work of art. My hobbies include stained glass, fused glass, knitting, boiled wool, gardening, and most recently, acrylic painting.



Although I have never had formal training, I am constantly learning new techniques and strive for perfection. Life is beauty!

- The current show hanging in the Swogger gallery will be up till the 15th of July. Each artist will be responsible for changing out his or her own artwork 4 times per year. Schedule to be set and presented to the artist in the near future.
- As of now the Columbian Artist show at the Manhattan Arts Center is slated for Jan. 15th - Feb. 27th 2016.
- The Columbian Artist group is asking for as many of it's members as possible to participate in

the plein air paintout at Mount Mitchell the 20th of June. This is slated to be the feature article for the May newsletter.

- Penny Hasenkamp announced an opportunity for the group to have an informational booth set up at the Manhattan Farmers Market downtown location free of charge. She will be getting with Kellie to finalize details if anyone is interested in working the booth.
- Penny Hasenkamp also announced that she is now

exhibiting at the Pottery Barn in Paxico, KS.

- Kellie announced that she is in discussion with Clint at the Columbian Theatre about new hanging system options for the Swogger Gallery.

### ART AT THE WALL

There was no art at the wall due to the amount of time needed to hang the new exhibit.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The group adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.




**McNALLY**  
METAL DESIGN

**Pake McNally** ~ Artist, Blacksmith, Welder  
mcnallymetal.com | mcnallymetal@gmail.com



*Watercolors by Deb*

Deb Hanes-Nelson  
315 Annex  
315 John Riggins Ave,  
PO Box 177  
Centralia KS, 66415  
hanesnelson@yahoo.com  
785.294.1004



*penny's pics...*

261 124th Road,  
Baileyville, KS 66404  
ph. 785-336-6425  
E-mail: pennyone@bbwi.net  
Web: Etsy.com ~ shop name:  
pennysprizedpicks

*Landscape Photography  
by Penny Hasenkamp*




*Rodney L. Hoover*

**RODNEY L. HOOVER**  
**STUDIOS**

St. George, KS | 785.236.9459 | rhoover.studios@gmail.com

# MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

- **May 1:** The Columbian Artist will be having an opening reception at the Swogger Gallery in the historic Columbian Theatre, Wamego, KS. Reception will be 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with cash bar, hors d'oeuvres and live music by Kirk Drager.
- **May 2:** The Annual Marshall County Arts Cooperative "Palette and Palate" is Sat. May 2, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person. The black tie event will be held at the Popejoy home in Blue Rapids. There will be a silent auction of art donated by ten artists. Columbian Artist member Deb Hanes-Nelson is one of the ten invitational artists. Call Sharon Ekiss to RSVP at 785-562-4024.
- **May 2 & 3:** Columbian Artist member Pake McNally will have a demonstrational booth at the 2015 Kansas Sampler Fest. If you are there please look him up.
- **May 9:** Columbian Artist member Becky Drager will be at the 53rd Annual Hutchinson Art Fair on Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 9 - 4. The Ks State Fairgrounds Sunflower South Building
- **May 10:** Jennifer Schermerhorn's fiber sculpture "Sable" is in the Wichita Center for the Arts 2015 "National Fiber Directions Exhibition" thru May 10.
- **May:** Columbian Artist member Dennis Southwick's "Circus" collection is on exhibit in the front gallery of the Manhattan Arts Center through the end of May.
- **June 5:** Manhattan Watercolor Studio's annual show opening is Friday, June 5, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Several of our members are also members of the MWS.
- **June 5 - July 17:** Columbian Artist member Susan Poitevin will be a participating artist in the upcoming Bold and Bright 2015 Exhibition to be held at Warehouse 414, 414 East Second Street in Topeka. First Friday Opening Reception: June 5th, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Winners of this juried show will be announced at the opening night festivities and the exhibit will hang until July 17th. Susan's painting entitled, Prairie Splendor, will be one of her entries.
- **June 6:** Downtown Farmers Market, Columbian Artist Group will have an informational booth June 6th... Possible remote radio station there to broadcast as well. Contact Kellie Dillinger or Penny Hasenkamp for additional information.
- **June 6:** Columbian Artist Member Jennifer Schermerhorn announces that her fiber doll/sculpture, "Bonsai", will be at the Fantastic Fibers 2015 exhibit in Paducah, KY thru June 6.
- **June 6 & 7:** Columbian Artist members Becky Drager and Pake McNally will be part of the juried art show at the 2015 Mulvane Art Fair June 6 & 7.
- **July 2:** Columbian Artist member Rodney Hoover will have an exhibition of his collection titled Western and Rural Anamnesis at the William T. Kemper Art Gallery for the month of July. Opening reception will be announced at a later date.
- **Sept/Oct:** The Oz group was hoping for some oz artwork/representation at the gallery in Sept/Oct. This will be discussed at a later date. Be thinking if this is something that you may have art for.
- **October 2:** Columbian Artist member Rodney Hoover will have an exhibition of his collection at the NexLynx Gallery for Arts Opening will be October 2nd and the exhibit will be up to the end of the month.
- Columbian Artist members showing work at the Manhattan Oncology/Radiology Department in the upcoming months are as follows:  
May - Carl Brothers  
June - Linda Asbury  
July - Dennis Southwick



# SUPPORTING GALLERY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SWOGGER ART GALLERY

- Columbian Artist Group Exhibit  
May 1 - July 15, 2015

## MANHATTAN ARTS CENTER

- MAC Watercolor & Oil Painting Studios Exhibit  
June 6 - July 18, 2015
- Penny Cullers Exhibit  
July 25 - Aug 16, 2015

## STRECKER-NELSON GALLERY

- Eccentric Visions  
Thru June 6, 2015

Featuring: Aaron Morgan Brown, Joel Dugan,  
Gloria Baker Feinstein, Mick Jilg,  
Patricia Barry Levy, Larry Peters, Ann Piper,  
Gordon Sherman, Barbara Waterman Peters;  
Sculpture by: Jan Joosten, Sean O'Meallie,  
Matthew Zupnick

## FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER

- Save the Last Dance  
Thru May 17, 2015

The dance of North American grassland grouse, from the impressive courtship of prairie-chickens to the bizarre behaviors of sage-grouse, are known to nature lovers as one of the most impressive wildlife displays in North America. Save the Last Dance shares images by award-winning photographer, Noppaadol Paothong, from his dazzling book, Save the Last Dance—A Story of North American Grassland Grouse. The exhibition fosters knowledge and understanding of these spectacular birds and their diminishing habitats so future generations, too, can marvel at their grace and beauty.

## NEXLYNX GALLERY OF ARTS

- MAY: Shawnee Heights High School Art Students
- JUNE: Spencer Acker
- JULY: Cally Krallman

## YELDARB GALLERY

- First Friday Art Walk  
NOTO District Topeka, KS  
Friday, May 1st  
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

## BIRGER SANDZEN MEMORIAL GALLERY

- Thirty Years of the Prairie Water Color Painters  
May 3 thru July 19, 2015  
Reception on Sunday, May 3, 2015  
from 2 to 4 p.m.

Works from the Gallery's permanent collection and on loan. Extended essay: Prairie Water Color Painters extended essay and checklist

## CARRIAGE FACTORY ART GALLERY

- Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Jewelry-Making and Watercolor Workshop  
Instructors: Mary Lee McDonald, jewelry, and  
Susan Bartel, watercolor

Just in time for Mother's Day. \$45, all supplies included

Call to reserve your spot or for details...316-284-2749

**If you have upcoming gallery events that you would like to have listed please send your list to [rhoover.studios@gmail.com](mailto:rhoover.studios@gmail.com) and they will be added to the calendar of events...**

---

For article and feature gallery submissions as well as nominations for feature artist please contact Rodney L Hoover at [rhoover.studios@gmail.com](mailto:rhoover.studios@gmail.com)