

Love of watercolors revealed in 'Earth, Sea and Sky'

Trail's End Art Association features artist Jane McGeehan during September

GEARHART — Jane McGeehan is the September featured artist for Trail's End Art Gallery. Her show, "Earth, Sea and Sky," will include some of her landscapes and collages.

The opening reception will be from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5 during Gearhart's Art-Walk.

During the reception, ask McGeehan any questions you might have about how she develops her paintings. The gallery is located at 656 A St. For more information, visit www.trailsendart.org.

Painting with watercolors is magical, totally engrossing, and a pure delight for McGeehan. Having loved drawing since childhood but with essentially no formal training, she discovered watercolors one summer shortly after beginning her teaching career. Her first teacher, Joseph Wrobel, introduced her to the joys and challenges of watercolor painting. Her career in education resulted in placing the dream of painting on hold.

Retiring to Camano Island, Washington, McGeehan pored over books about watercolor painting. She realized that direct instruction was going to be a vital way to get started. A class in watercolor painting offered at the local senior center was just right. Coleen Allen, regional watercolorist, patiently demonstrated the basic techniques and provided the essential coaching.

Next, McGeehan challenged herself further by studying for an intense week with Camano Island artist Jack Dorsey. Her classmates were established regional artists, so the learning curve was a steep one. Soon McGeehan was painting meadows, gardens, and the scenic Puget Sound with steady encouragement and coaching from a growing circle of artist friends. Among them was Camano Island artist Molly LeMaster. Under her excellent instruction and coaching, McGeehan further developed her skills and her passion for watercolor painting.

When McGeehan and her husband moved to the North



"Moment of Awe" by Jane McGeehan.



"In the Garden" by Jane McGeehan.

Coast of Oregon, the richness of the surroundings continued to inspire her. Joining Trail's End Art Association provided opportunities to expand her knowledge. Classes with Fealing Lin demonstrated that there can be great excitement as images are revealed through color and freedom. A focused week with Gerald Brommer brought design elements to the forefront. A series of classes taught by Astoria artist Shirley Dahlsten increased McGeehan's awareness of styles of art and the dynamics of creativity.

An enthusiastic lifelong learner, McGeehan believes that watercolor painting will provide challenges and joys for the rest of her life.

McGeehan answered some questions about her artwork:

Where do you gather most of your inspiration for

your work?

Nature inspires me. My camera is a big help and I organize photos I've taken by categories. When I paint,

I can create new images to reflect a mood by choosing elements of various photos and combining them in new ways. Landscapes and flowers especially fascinate me as sunlight plays on each at different times of day.

What is a fun experience you have had with art?

This spring I entered the Astoria Music Festival poster contest. I was thrilled to be notified that my poster was a finalist to be displayed at the music festival office. Music is a special joy to me along with the visual arts, so creating a visual product with musical symbols was very enjoyable.

How and where do you like to work?

My favorite place to paint is outdoors, which I do during the summer with Trail's End Art Association plein air group. There is no end to fabulous scenes up and down the North Coast to inspire me. When the weather prevents painting in those settings, I love to be in my studio at home with its view of sky, seagrass and pine trees.

What do you like best about your work?

The best part is becoming so completely absorbed in painting. I love the idea of starting with simple materials and creating something of beauty and interest.



Submitted photo

Thin Rail will perform alt-country Americana Friday, Aug. 28 at the Big O Saloon.

Thin Rail plays Big O Saloon

OLNEY — Alt-country Americana band Thin Rail will perform at the Big O Saloon at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28. The saloon is located at 89523 Oregon Highway 202. There is no cover, and the show is 21 and over.

Thin Rail reminds one of a smoky honky-tonk bar on the edge of town, populated by interesting characters drinking bottom-shelf whiskey and conspiring about their desperate lives in coarse whispers.

This Portland-based band revels in blending genres: the literate folk of Mitchell, the

Thin Rail

8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28

Big O Saloon

89523 Oregon Highway 202, Olney

21 and over

No cover

haunting blues of Hopkins, the country howl Prine, the rock snarl of the Truckers and the soulful moan of Pickett.

It all adds up to a little bit of self-reflection peppered with the spice of a rollicking good time.

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