

# The Chaparral Sketch



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**Show Committee – Raini Armstrong, Ron Churchwell, Vickie Culver, Julianne Koza, Nancy Miehle, Bruce Miller, Jean Towle-Pliss & Janice Westfall**  
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## President's Palette

Patricia (Pat) Quandel

It always amazes me when I hear that there's nothing to do in the Morongo Basin. My problem is that sometimes there is just too much to do. For instance the first weekend of November I attended the reception at the 29 Palms Visitor Center and Gallery and on Saturday I went to the Yucca Valley Gourd Art Festival. On Sunday I went to the Southland Show reception at the 29 Palms Gallery and the Weed Show at the Old School House Museum in 29 Palms. I had planned to go to the Chalk Fest but due to the rain on Sunday it ended early. I had also planned to go to Reach Out Morongo Basin's Craft Fair and Bake Sale at the Senior Center in 29 Palms but truthfully I forgot.

I ran out of steam this month and was a little under the weather and wasn't able to attend Chaparral Artists fall themed reception. It's a great show and I hope everyone gets a chance to see it. I want to thank the members of our show committee who helped put this show on. Committee members who worked hanging this show were Raini Armstrong, Julianne Koza, Nancy Miehle, and Janice Westfall. I especially want to thank Nancy Miehle for taking my place at the reception and taking pictures during the reception.

A big thank you goes out to Red Toph who has volunteered to be our Webmaster. (Now I need to find time to get with him to discuss how we want to set up the site.)

Chaparral Artists and Morongo Valley Art Colony will have their combined Christmas party at the Joshua Tree Community Center on December 12. Also, don't forget that "winter" will be the theme of

the new show which opens at A Roadside Attraction Gallery on December 18.

There won't be a raffle this month.



Chaparral Artists member Chuck Caplinger was the judge at the 29 Palms Art Gallery's Southland. Here he's explaining how he made his selections.

## Art from the Soul

Jean Towle-Pliss

I have been involved in the arts all my life. I am from Massachusetts but have lived all over California and Arizona most of my life. I love nature and love photographing nature in its raw form. I enjoy painting sculpting and quilting and have one of my quilts hanging in the South Street Seaport Museum in New York City. This year I entered my first photography show.

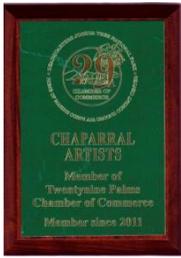
## Odds & Ends

Editor

Did you know that there is now a **Farmers Market in Twentynine Palms**? It's held on Sundays from 10 – 3 near the Historic Plaza.

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Congratulations to Chaparral Artists members Sharon George and Marci Vanderbilt who both received an Honorable Mention at the 29 Palms Art Gallery's Southland Show. Other members who had entries are Carolyn Eads-Blaker, Cindy Daigneault, Bruce Miller, John Quandel, Patricia Quandel, and Tami Roleff. (I think this was all of our members who had entries.)



\*\*\*\*\*  
**Chaparral Artists is now a member of the 29 Palms Chamber of Commerce.**  
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The **29 Palms Visitor Center and Gallery** is currently showing artwork by local artists depicting scenes at Bill Key's Ranch in Joshua Tree National Park. Among the artists who have work on display are Chaparral Artists members Chuck Caplinger, Dennis Hofelich, Patricia Quandel, Tami Roleff and Brian Strader.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Earth Through a Lens (ETAL)** is pleased to announce its **third annual juried photo competition** and display. A professional jury will select 30 - 50 images for public display in Rancho Mirage, CA from April 1 - June 30, 2012.



Digital images will be accepted from photographers living in North America through the web portal [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org) from late October 2011 until January 7, 2012 (closing time January 6, 2012 at midnight MST).

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**Desert Art Center Plein Air Painting Days** are the first Thursday and third Saturday of each month from 8 - 3. All Skill levels welcome. Painting sessions are free but some locations have an admission charge.

For information contact Elaine Mathews at 760-898-5453 or [elaineartist@yahoo.com](mailto:elaineartist@yahoo.com)

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Team HDMC will host a **holiday craft bazaar** from 8 - 3 Saturday, Dec. 17, in the Helen Gray Education Center. The event will include holiday crafts, baked goods, and jewelry. Vendors are sought for this event. Tables are \$25 and all proceeds benefit Relay for Life

through Team HDMC.

To participate in the event or for more information, contact Jeanne Wheeler, at (760) 366-6179.



**Guila Gilmore and her daughter-in-law, Jackie, mugging for the camera at the Gourd Festival.**

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**Chaparral Artists & A Roadside Attraction Gallery** each received certificates of appreciation from the California Art Education Association for their efforts in promoting youth art.



## Hilary Sloane Autobiography

Growing up between New York and Los Angeles, I have always been interested in the visual arts. I went to the School of Visual Arts in New York in 1975 and continued taking classes at Arts Students League, and Fashion Institute of Technology. In Los Angeles I studied at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles and Chouinard School of Art in Pasadena.

I have been a wardrobe stylist and make-up artist since 1977, working in film, commercials, theater and television, starting my career in New York and moving to Los Angeles in 1979. While traveling in Europe, South America and the United States



**Hilary with some of her photographs**

for work, I developed a passion for journalistic and documentary photography. Currently living in Joshua Tree, California, I began working on a personal project photographing small town America.

I have shown my drawings in a group show at Chouinard School of Art in Pasadena, California in February 2005, and my photographs in a group show at the Julia Dean Studio in Venice, California in July 2005.



**Marilyn Forrest with some of her gourds at the Yucca Valley Gourd Festival.**

## Fall is the theme

*Editor*

If you like fall then this is the show for you. Artwork by nineteen members of Chaparral Artists is currently on display at A Roadside Attraction Gallery until December 14. Since the theme



**Photo by Nancy Miehle** of this show was fall you can see everything from falling down fences, New England in the fall, fall in the desert, Oktoberfest in Germany, and other colorful sights.

Exhibitors are George, Antis, Raini Armstrong, Suzanne Burton, Brooke Commentz, June Drane, Ed Keesling, Julianne Koza, Deane Locke, Barbara Matheney, Nancy Miehle, Bruce Miller, Sharon Nieters, Earl Pealstrom, Patricia Quandel, Tami Roleff, Hilary Sloane, Beverly Schmuckle, Brian Strader, and Marci Vanderbilt.



**Painting by Sharon Nieters - Photo taken by Nancy Miehle**

## On the road with Pat, Nancy, & Flat Stanley

Editor

Nancy and I decided to hike to Barker Dam in Joshua Tree National Park on September 10<sup>th</sup>. I wanted to see if I could get some shots of a big horn sheep so we made arrangements to meet at Park Headquarters in Twentynine Palms at 6:00 a.m.

Trips to the park almost invariably lead to at least one conversation with a stranger. This trip we met several people, many from other countries, and we even met one person that I knew. The first person that we met was Desmond, a local, who goes to the park and takes photographs several times a week. We met him in the parking lot and he showed us several pictures of big horn sheep that he had taken. Next we were in a wash north of the dam where we met up with Ray Roberts. Ray and his wife Barbara are members of Chaparral Artists and Ray is an avid hiker. He hikes several miles on his trips while Nancy and I aren't nearly as ambitious. Compared to Ray; Nancy and I would be considered strollers. We don't travel very fast or very far and we stop a lot to take pictures and enjoy the scenery. As a matter of fact I took over 650 pictures in about four hours on this trip. A lot of my pictures were of animals that were moving so it took several tries to try and get just the right shot. Another person that we met was a gentleman from London, England. He works for Google and was attending a conference in Los Angeles and had a couple of days to spare so he was visiting Joshua Tree National Park.

I was surprised to find several different types of flowers blooming. We found a few that we didn't recognize and we even encountered some wildlife that was new to us. Besides seeing antelope squirrel, quail, turkey buzzards, and numerous other birds we found a

blunt-nosed leopard lizard. Up until this year I had never seen one even though I've spent most of my life in the desert.

We found one animal that I was lucky to get a picture of it because it was moving pretty fast. I told Nancy

that it looked like a squirrel and she said that it had



stripes so it **Dusky Chipmunk** couldn't be one. Once I got home I looked it up on the Internet and found that it was a dusky chipmunk. It was new to both of us.

We were walking past some big horn sheep droppings and I could have sworn that I saw one of them jump. After a closer look I spotted a small toad about the size of a dime. It was one of several red-spotted toads in the area and I can only imagine what people would have thought seeing us trying to take pictures of them as they hopped all over the place.

Nancy always carries a hiking stick and I have a cane with me when we're hiking. Besides using them to aid in walking they are also good for disturbing low growth in your path so that you don't accidentally step on a snake or other animal. On this hike Nancy startled a rattlesnake. He was under a rock that she walked past and she would never have known he was there if he hadn't rattled at her. He was just letting her know that he was there. Like most wild creatures; if you leave them alone they'll leave you alone.

We didn't spot any big horn sheep on this trip but we enjoyed ourselves.



Flat Stanley at Barker Dam

## Irene Scoggins Bertrand

Editor

Irene began her career as a commercial artist and later worked in costume design for MGM studios. Later she had her own costume design business. She eventually became an art teacher and was one for more than 25 years.

In 1963 Irene Scoggins was one of a group of friends who got together to form what they dubbed "The Theater". In 1965 the group reorganized and became "Chaparral Artists".

Irene became a very popular and respected artist and in 1981 she was one of three artists chosen to judge the very first Chaparral Artists judged art show. In 1978 Irene donated signed prints of her painting "Proud Heritage" which were sold to help raise funds to build the Hi-Desert Playhouse. In addition, limited

edition prints of her painting were donated to Chaparral Artists. A framed copy of one of these prints was recently



**Proud Heritage**

won by Chaparral Artists' president during the Harvest Show. (Unframed copies of these prints will be available for purchase at A Roadside Attraction Gallery beginning in 2012.)

Besides being a founding member of Chaparral Artists; she belonged to the Yucca Valley Art Association, Twentynine Palms Artists Guild, and Shadow Mountain Palette Club. She was also a life member of the Women Artists of the West.



**Pam Redhawk with one of her creations at the Yucca Valley Gourd Festival**



Marci Vanderbilt's Honorable Mention entry at the Southland Show

## Winter is coming to A Roadside Attraction Gallery

Editor

Winter will be the theme for this month's Chaparral Artists display at A Roadside Attraction Gallery. All members of Chaparral Artists are encouraged to submit from one to twelve pieces of their art work that represents this month's theme.

I've already seen some of the work that will be on display and I can tell you that you're in for a treat. Some of the art you may have seen previously but you will also see many new pieces.

Members who would like to display their work can either bring it to the December meeting of Chaparral Artists on December 12 or take it to A Roadside Attraction gallery on either December 15 or 16 between 10:30 – noon.

The reception will be on Sunday, December 18, from 1 – 3. The exhibitors will be providing the refreshments and everyone is invited to attend and meet the artists.

## Christmas Party

Editor

It's the time of year that Chaparral Artists and the Morongo Valley Art Colony come together for their joint

Christmas party. It will be in the Joshua Tree Community Center on Monday, Dec. 12, at noon.

Chaparral Artists is sponsoring this year's Christmas card contest and Morongo Valley Art Colony is sponsoring the ornament contest. Cash awards will be given to the first and second place winners.

Everyone is asked to bring at least one gift for a silent auction. (Pig In a Poke) Your contribution should cost \$10.00 or less and should either be in a bag or wrapped. It can either be new or slightly used. You can wrap your item nicely or funky; anything to get more bids. To make it more fun it's suggested that you provide a hint as to what's inside. The money collected will be split between the two clubs so come prepared to bid on several items.

Nancy Miehle has a fun project that she wants to show everyone. So she will be presenting it during the party.

Since this is a potluck; everyone is asked to bring their favorite holiday dish.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.



Sharon George's Honorable Mention entry at the Southland Show

## Editor's Note

I have to apologize to everyone for the delay in getting the December issue of the Chaparral Sketch out.

I seem to be suffering from writer's block and as consequence

this newsletter is a little smaller than what you are used to. I thought that by waiting a little longer I would break the blockage but it appears to have gotten worse.

Hopefully I will get back on track with the January issue of The Chaparral Sketch.

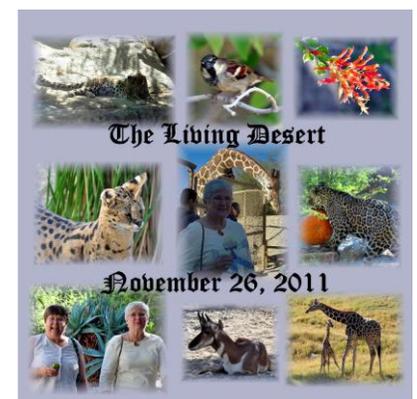
As always you are welcome to submit articles for the newsletter.

## Bridgett Walters

Editor



This picture was drawn by Bridgett Walters. From the looks of things it appears that Bridgett is already becoming quite an artist. It's her Flat Stanley who is a member of Chaparral Artists. As a matter of fact he was recently at the Living Desert with Nancy Miehle, her sister Terry, and I. He's posing with Nancy in the picture below with Pona, the giraffe in the background.



**Roadside Attraction Gallery hosts Chaparral Artists monthly shows and exhibits.**

Located in Indian Cove behind Acclaim Insurance  
69197 29 Palms Highway  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

**NOTE: The gallery is open for receptions and whenever the Acclaim Insurance Office in front of the gallery is open.**

**Event Calendar**

**Chaparral Artists & club member events are highlighted.**

**Nov. 1 – Dec. 31, 2011**  
Keys Ranch Show at the Twentynine Palms Visitor Center and Gallery  
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**Nov. 20 – Dec. 14, 2011**  
Chaparral Artists Fall Themed Exhibit at A Roadside Attraction Gallery  
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**Dec. 12 Noon – 2 p.m.**  
**Note the time change.**  
Chaparral Artists & Morongo Valley Art Colony Christmas Party in the Joshua Tree Community Center  
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**Dec. 15 & 16, 2011**  
**10:30 - Noon**  
Pick up artwork from the Fall Themed Show at A Roadside Attraction Gallery & drop of artwork for the Winter Themed Exhibit.  
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**Dec. 18, 2011 1 – 3 p.m.**  
Chaparral Artists Winter Themed Reception at A Roadside Attraction Gallery  
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**Dec. 18, 2011 – Jan. 11, 2012**  
Chaparral Artists Winter Themed Exhibit at A Roadside Attraction Gallery  
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**Jan. 9, 1 – 3 p.m.**  
Chaparral Artists meeting in the Joshua Tree Community Center  
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**Jan. 15 – Feb. 15, 2012** Chaparral Artists presents Artists on Display (everything except photographs) at A Roadside Attraction Gallery  
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**Feb. 19 – Mar. 14, 2012**  
Chaparral Artists & MBCAC's Youth Judged Art Show (K- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) at A Roadside Attraction Gallery  
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**Mar. 18 – Apr. 11, 2012**  
Chaparral Artists The Same – But Different Themed Exhibit at A Roadside Attraction Gallery  
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**Apr. 15 – May 16, 2012**  
Chaparral Artists Spring Open Judged Photography Show at A Roadside Attraction Gallery  
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**May 20 – June 13, 2012**  
Chaparral Artists Spring Open Judged Art Show at A Roadside Attraction Gallery  
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**June 17 – July 11, 2012**  
Chaparral Artists Flowers Themed Exhibit at A Roadside Attraction Gallery  
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**July 15 – Aug. 15, 2012**  
Chaparral Artists Landscape Themed Exhibit at A Roadside Attraction Gallery  
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**Aug. 19 – Sept. 12, 2012**  
Chaparral Artists Photographers on Display Themed Exhibit at A Roadside Attraction Gallery  
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**Sept. 16 – Oct. 10, 2012**  
Chaparral Artists Creatures Big and Small Themed Exhibit at A Roadside Attraction Gallery