



Chaparral Sketch

August 2026

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Presidents Palette

We still need a Vice President. I cannot tell you how . The primary responsibility is to act as a backup when the President is unavailable. While I do my best to schedule travel around our meetings, that is not always possible, and it is important to have someone ready to step in when needed. If you have considered becoming more involved with the organization, please give this position some thought.

General Meetings

We are still in summer break from our meetings, no meeting was held in July and no meeting will be held in August!

Our **next** meeting is SEPTEMBER 14 at HDA. Let's all plan on starting strong by storing up those recommendations, the summer art stories you've collected, and then bring them in and share them all

with your adoring fans! We will provide the most pressing organization updates and move into a quick activity where we hope to sketch on, doodle, and mark up bookmark sized paper - remember that even the speediest of hands-on creative experiences makes us think about our own creative aspirations in other mediums! Whether it ends up being a quirky experiment, a quick study, or a fun 'letting loose' moment of creativity, it all adds up to building a great mindset of creativity. We hope to see you in September!

Board Meetings

Our Board meetings are held on the same day as our general meetings to keep things simple. The September 14 meeting will be at 11:30 AM, also at HDA in Yucca Valley. Remember that members are invited to join these meetings as long as they don't mind listening to a few things twice!

Group Outings

We are definitely on a break from official group outings during the summer months, but we still want to hear from YOU about places you would like to go or attend with a few artistic friends along the way. Please get a hold of us via email or phone to put in your recommendations!

Gallery Displays

Previous Exhibit - "Shapes & Mood"

Our members presented their take on the theme "Shapes & Mood" at Rainbow Stew from mid-July to mid-August, creating another delightful compilation of talent. The exhibit features 19 entries by six

participating artists, each exploring the theme in a unique and thoughtful way.

I always enjoy the diversity that comes with open-ended themes, especially when an artist takes the idea in a direction I might not have expected. Sometimes a single shape dominates a piece while a whole scene unfolds around it. Those are the works that make me pause and think, “How does this fit the theme exactly?”—until it suddenly dawns on me.

That isn't to say I don't love the entries that make perfect sense right away! One particular piece by Anthony had several of us fawning over it. “Samples” is such a poignant example of the theme, with its subject matter featuring cut blocks of all kinds, from wood to marble.

I enjoy our themed exhibits because they tend to do one of two things: entice our members to create something entirely new, or invite them to look back at something they have experimented with before and realize it fits the theme just right.

We hope visitors enjoy discovering these different perspectives and perhaps leave inspired to pause, look around, and notice something beautiful they might otherwise have passed by.

Next Exhibit - “Flowers”

Our next themed exhibit invites Chaparral artists to explore and present their depictions of Floral Scenes!

Flowers are a favorite subject for many artists. They can be gorgeous or strange, delicate or dramatic, and they carry so many feelings with them. They bring bold color, interesting shapes, and an uplifting presence to our creative work.

We welcome our members to share their representations of flowers in any creative style or medium you choose. We love the diversity of approaches our artists bring to each theme, and we

can't wait to see how you capture the beauty, character, and imagination of the floral world.

Chaparral members may submit up to 5 pieces. Bring us your blooms, your wildflowers, your unusual botanical forms, and your imaginative interpretations—we want to see them all!

Artwork Intake:

Thursday, August 13 (4:30–6pm)

Friday, August 14 (12:30-2pm)

Opening Reception:

Saturday, August 15 (4–6pm)

The exhibit will remain on display for one month at Rainbow Stew in Yucca Valley.

As always, participation is open to all current Chaparral Artists members. We look forward to seeing the many creative displays of this classic theme!

Information about upcoming shows can be found on the Chaparral Artists website. Navigate to “About Us”, then click “Our Exhibits”, and locate the show paperwork you're interested in. Be sure to check back regularly for updates. AND if you notice any missing information, please contact an officer to let us know.

Artists of the Month

We are happy to feature multiple artists at both of our Featured Venues - Desert Hills Presbyterian Church and AquaFit Activity Center for the yearly SUMMER GROUP SHOW. Excellent submissions were provided at the beginning of July and you still have a few weeks to swing by and see the collection before we transition to featuring YOU, if you so wish.

Remember, we do not control when these venues open, so if you are bringing your friends in to see the exhibit, please call ahead to make sure the location will be open.

Creative Opportunities

Workshops and Paint-outs

Mil-Tree Writers Group meets Monday evenings, online via Zoom, 7-9pm. This writing group welcomes individuals of all writing levels and fosters a relaxed and friendly environment. The primary expectation is that members are open to providing feedback on their peers' writing, but all are encouraged to share their own written work as well. Interested in joining? Contact info@mil-tree.org and ask questions OR signup.

Open Arts & Crafts Workshops are offered at the Yucca Valley Community Center bi-weekly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 10-12:30pm. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$3, and are able to work on whatever they are interested in.

Watercolor Workshops are offered at the Yucca Valley Community Center most Thursday afternoons, 1-3pm. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$5, and can work on their own watercolor projects or follow along with the instructor.

Watercolor Workshops are offered at the AquaFit in Yucca Valley most Friday mornings, 9-11am. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$10, and can work on their own watercolor projects or follow along with the instructor.

FYI, for the remaining SUMMER month of August Raini only has one official workshop on the 13th and 14th! Please visit instagram @watercolor.yv or Facebook by searching for watercolor.yv or contact Raini directly to confirm workshop days, as she has a messy couple months ahead!!

Plein Air meetups, organized by Krista Wargo, happen in the desert almost every month. Scheduled bi-weekly for as long as the weather permits, they will be listed on the Chaparral calendar online. Participants bring their own art supplies, prepare for weather changes, and bring enough food and water for painting outdoors. Locations chosen by Krista have basic amenities like restrooms, but you need to bring everything else you need.

Contact Krista directly if you plan to attend and/or to receive her announcement emails.

Chaparral Collage

Orchid Inspiration Day 1 - what a delight!

by Victoria Sebanz

Inspiration Day 1 at Gubler's Orchids was a party in itself! Painters, photographers and mixed media artists were in attendance.

I enjoyed seeing artists in their element, totally focused on drawing, painting and photographing their favorite orchids. We took food breaks and gathered together to chat in between communing with the flowers. A few of the artists had never been to the nursery and gift shop and were amazed at how large it was. Some commented that it was so peaceful they didn't want to leave! A few said that they had a good idea of what they might create for the Gubler Orchid Festival.

Just a reminder, all of this is open to all artists. You do not have to be a Chaparral Artist to partake in the Inspiration Day or the judged art show at Gubler Orchids in October. If it resonates with you we will welcome you with open arms!

I want to give a special nod to Kelsey and Jane at Gubler Orchids for creating a very welcoming space for the artists and to Myrtle and Krista for teaming up with me to make this such a fun experience.

And.....

Just a reminder: the second Inspiration Day is on Tuesday August 18 from 10-3pm.

Please make sure to bring any art supplies you need and wear closed toed non-slip shoes.

Bring any nutritious foods for when you get hungry! You never know how long you will want to stay!

Feel free to check out our website for any more information! www.chaparralartists.com

Joshua Tree Art Expo 2026 reminder

There's still time to submit your Joshua Tree-inspired artwork for the 2026 Art Expo! If

you've been meaning to enter a piece (or two!), finish those creations and head over to jtnparts.org to submit your work.

The opportunity is fantastic: your art could hang at the 29 Palms Art Gallery for a month, be included in a beautiful catalog, and become part of a wonderful weekend celebration. Selected artists also have their work featured on the JTNP Arts website for an entire year!

This has always been one of my favorite celebrations, and why wouldn't it be? It celebrates the beauty of a place so dear to my heart — Joshua Tree National Park. The art inspired by this incredible landscape, and the love each artist brings to it, is truly mesmerizing.

If you've been hoping to enter, this is your nudge! I hope you get the chance to share your work and be part of this wonderful celebration.

Don't miss the online submission deadline — visit jtnpARTS.org and enter today!

Ongoing Invitation to Share

Share your artistic accomplishments, stories, poetry, snapshots, lessons learned, or creative advice. Short and simple is perfect. Your voice can inspire fellow artists, and it belongs in this newsletter.

We welcome brief write-ups on any creative form — painting, abstract art, sculpture, music, dance, writing, theatre, and more.

Worried about length or grammar? Don't be. We'll review, format, and make sure you're properly

credited. Send submissions to our email or call Raini Armstrong at 760-383-3005 to arrange sharing by phone or in person.

Administrative Assembly 2026	
President	Raini Armstrong
Vice President	Volunteer NEEDED
Treasurer	Nancy Miehle
Membership	Myrtle Cassell
Secretary	Krista Wargo
Marketing Advertising	Rainbow Stew
Historian	Victoria Sebanz
Newsletter	Raini Armstrong
Shows Committee	Raini + available Board members
Sunshine	Julia Terpening
Communication (Email, Website, Socials)	Raini + Myrtle + Meilani
Publicity	<i>All members needed to talk up Chaparral!</i>
Hospitality	Donna Webb

Events Calendar - August 2026

August 1

29 Palms Art Gallery Reception, 4-6pm
29 Palms Art Gallery, 74055 Cottonwood Drive, 29

August 8

NO MEETING IN AUGUST - SUMMER BREAK!

August 13 & 14

Chaparral Artists - "Flowers"
Members only Exhibit

Drop-off Day 1 - August 13 at 4:30-6pm

Drop-off Day 2 - August 14 at 12:30-2pm

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway, YV

August 15

Chaparral Artists Reception
"Flowers", 4-6pm

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway, YV

August 15

Hi-Desert Artists Reception
 Multiple exhibits celebrated, 5-7pm
HDA, 55635 29 Palms Highway, YV

August 18 (Tuesday)

Orchid Inspiration Day 2

Closed toe shoes required, bring your drawing/painting/camera supplies and your amazing self! 10am-3pm
Gubler Orchids Nursery, 2200 Belfield Blvd, Landers

September 1

14th Annual Joshua Tree Art Expo DEADLINE
 Online entry submissions deadline for the 2026 Art Expo show. Do not miss out, finish those pieces and get over to their website to submit. The opportunity is fantastic, your work potentially hanging at the 29 Palms Art Gallery, listed in a very nice catalog and a delightful weekend celebration to bring it all home. jtnpARTS.org

Chaparral Artists, a non-profit organization, is one of the oldest artists groups in the Morongo Basin. Its mission is simple, to promote arts and culture in the Hi-Desert through accessible, affordable, friendly programs and demonstrations that inspire and educate.

Chaparral Artists

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Website www.chaparralartists.com
Facebook facebook.com/ChaparralArtists
Instagram instagram.com/chaparralartists
Bluesky chapparralartists.bsky.social
YouTube youtube.com/@ChaparralArtists