

COVER STORY VISUAL AID

BY JEFFREY A. BROWN

# Plein Art Festival continues this week

**H**osted by Peninsula Art School, the Door County Plein Air Festival, co-sponsored by Gannett Co., continues through Aug. 4 on the Peninsula.

The festival, which started July 23, celebrates the tradition of outdoor, immediate painting. Thirty-seven artists from Door County and across the country will take brush to canvas, capturing the summer light over the waters and fields of Door County. A festival guidebook is available to help visitors find event locations and other relevant information.

Beginning in the late 1800s with the European impressionists and invention of portable easels (and portable tubes of paint), the tradition of painting landscapes *en plein air*, or "in the open air" has allowed artists to capture fleeting moments in color.

Visitors will find artists painting on location through July 27, with a number of events to meet the artists and learn more about their artwork. An exhibition of the paintings will open to the public July 28, with a free reception from 5-7 p.m.

Fish Creek hosts a "Quick Paint" competition July 28, before a live auction of the art in Clark Park.

Ticketed events include an "Evening with the Artists" July 25, which offers the chance to meet and mingle at the private museum of Virginia and Tom Maher.

An art history tour of Fish Creek aboard Door County Trolley, with a picnic-style lunch at Peninsula State

Park's Weborg Point, is set for July 26.

Connoisseurs and new art collectors alike can sneak a peek and purchase paintings at the Collector's Preview Gala to benefit PAS July 27.



BY SAMUEL HERRICK PHOTO BY KELLY AVENSON

**JIM RICHARDS** paints en plein air on the shore at Whitetfish Dunes State Park July 23, the first day of the Door County Plein Air Festival.

For tickets or more information, call 868-3455 or go to [www.doorcountypleinair.com](http://www.doorcountypleinair.com).

Schedule:

**Through July 27:** Four towns and villages to find painters working from nature. Green and white flags mark painting spots throughout the county.

**July 25:** "Evening With the Artists" at Maarhaven, the home and private museum of Virginia and Tom Maher. Tour the museum and sculpture gardens, enjoy wines and light desserts and meet the artists. \$35.

**July 26:** Door County Trolley art history tours. Tours run every hour starting from Peninsula Art School, 3900 County F, Fish Creek, and stop at Weborg Point in Peninsula State Park, Fish Creek's Clark Park and Edgewood Orchard Gallery. Learn about the history of Fish Creek as a cultural destination, have lunch with artists at Weborg Point and watch them painting the gardens and grounds at Edgewood Orchard. \$45 includes box lunch.

**July 27:** Collector's Preview Gala from 6-9 p.m. in the Guenzel Gallery at PAS. This is the first opportunity to see and bid via silent auction on works created during the week. Artists will have their top paintings on display for jurying of awards. Proceeds benefit the school. \$50.

**July 28:** The "Quick Paint" competition, 9 a.m. in downtown Fish Creek. Artists have two hours to finish a painting, after which the completed works will be delivered to Clark Park for a live auction beginning at noon.

**July 28:** Exhibit opening reception, 6-8 p.m. in the Guenzel Gallery. View and purchase paintings from the festival. Wine and Wisconsin cheeses will be served. Free and open to the public.

**July 29-Aug. 4:** Exhibition continues in the Guenzel Gallery.

**Aug. 4-25:** Exhibition moves to the Link Gallery at Door Community Auditorium, Fish Creek, in conjunction with Peninsula Music Festival.