

## Art Scene

Cont'd from Page 30

every 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday (June through December), featuring paintings (all media), photography, pottery, pine needle baskets, intarsia (wood designs), prints and cards created by talented artists. Admission is free. Information on Facebook at Cloudcroft Art Society.

### Cloudcroft Summer Art Workshops —

Cloudcroft Art Workshops hosts its annual fine art workshops at the "Old Red School House" (Public Library), 90 Swallow Place in Cloudcroft, N.M. Five-day workshops are

offered 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays **June 4-Aug. 17**. Cost per workshop varies (\$400-\$525). Information: Linda Shiplett, (915) 490-5071, cawregistrar@gmail.com, CloudcroftArt.com or on Facebook.

The Village of Cloudcroft has hosted the summer art workshops for more than 60 years. Workshops offered for all levels, led by accomplished area artists.

• **June 4-8:** Motivational Drawing with David Barranti.

• **June 11-15:** at Master Drawing with David Barranti and Plein Air with Rich Gallego

• **June 18-22:** Mixed Media and soft pastel with Mira M. White and watercolor with

Michael Holter.

• **July 9-13:** Watercolor with Ken Hosmer

• **July 16-20:** Acrylic and watercolor with Laurie Goldstein-Warren

• **July 23-27:** Oil and pastel with Alan Flattmann

• **July 30-Aug. 3:** Watercolor and mixed media with Cathy Lubke

• **Aug. 7-10:** Oils with Qian Huang

• **Aug. 13-17:** Watercolor with Joey Hicks.

**Deming Arts Center** — The Deming Arts Council gallery and gift shop is at 100 Gold in Deming, N.M. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Admission is free. Information: (575) 546-3663, demingarts.org or on Facebook.

Showing **June 2-28:** Mata Ortiz Potters of Chihuahua, Mexico will bring their work for display and sale. Works by landscape painter Steve McCluskey also featured. Artist reception

is 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, **June 3**.

**Purchase Prize Award Show** — Entries for New Mexico artists ages 18 and older **through Aug. 2** for the Grant County Art Guild's 33rd annual Purchase Prize Award Show at Hearst Church Gallery in Pinos Altos, N.M. (6 miles north of Silver City on Hwy 15). This year's theme is "The Enduring West." Information: (575) 590-1588, gcag.org or on Facebook at Grant County Art Guild

**Rio Bravo Fine Art** — 110 Broadway in Truth or Consequences, N.M. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Information: (575) 894-0572 or rio-bravofineartgallery.com.

Showing **through July 17** are works by Ricky Padilla. Padilla's vibrant paintings include landscapes, portraits, animals, and Spiritual Navajo and Apache subjects.

## Terlingua trip offered great 2-day adventure

We had a fun 2-day adventure, my wife Cecilia and me, in her new Toyota van. Heading for Terlingua Ranch in the Big Bend of Texas, we passed McDonald Observatory on our first stop, Fort Davis. There we did the tourist things, seeing the old fort and eating lunch. The restaurant was packed, but, a couple waved at us asking if we would like to share their table. We did and had a wonderful visit with them; Jim and Nancy, from Arlington, Texas, by way of Illinois where my dad was born and the University of Missouri, where my Dad graduated with his journalism degree. Small world!

Then back into the van and on to Alpine. Cecilia showed me where she stayed with friends every weekend while working on her master's degree at Sul Ross State University. We also made the saddle shop rounds, Big Bend Saddlery and Spriggs Boots and Saddles — me trying to sell stuff and Cecilia buying stuff.

Then to Highway 118 down to the ranch. Terlingua Ranch is a large parcel of land that a conglomerate bought to make money as a place for people to hunt. People like us buy some acres in a cooperative arrangement, with access to the main ranch house and surroundings.

We got there about 5p.m. finding the cabin rental office closed. We talked with the horse wrangler but he had no clue as where the office manager was. So, I walked around the cabins until I found one that was open, but it had a 1960s green shag carpet. Cecilia didn't like that, so we found better, more modern room, then went for a walk.

We topped out on the mountain behind the cabins and looked out over what had to be a 1,000 square mile expanse, all beautiful. Next morning, I went to check with the office. They were okay with us just moving in and "making ourselves comfortable." I went ahead and settled our bill for our two-night stay.

We then drove out to our 27-acre parcel some miles north and west of the main headquarters. After finding it we were again reassured of our purchase. The property was perched alongside a deep canyon, with views in front and up the side of the hill going west, and down toward the valley we had come up from. Some people had already started building small houses across another, shallower

canyon. Interestingly, they all had tanks to collect rainfall. There is no other water source except to haul in your own water.

Years back my brother and I hunted deer on that deep canyon near our parcel. I shot an 11-point buck. The next morning my brother got a smaller four-pointer. We were camping out and only had to drag the deer a mile up to the road to get them back to camp. A good trip.

Back to the trip with Cecilia and me. We walked around the property some more, had a picnic and a nap in the sunshine and fresh air. We went back to the ranch headquarters where we walked around visiting with people around the stables, gift shop and small café.

The next morning, we went to the café for a ranch breakfast before leaving to drive to the actual town of Terlingua where there is a lot to see and do.

Terlingua is mostly a tourist spot today but back when it started in middle 1800s it was mining that brought workers from Mexico to the area. The first post office was started in 1899 and by 1900 the population was 3,000. Today's count may be only 58, except once a year for the annual chili cook-off when hundreds show up.

We then drove west to Lajitas a spot in the road alongside the Rio Grande, where for years people from Mexico just walked across the river or took a flat-bottomed boat across to visit this very small village. The town was bought some years back by a guy from El Paso hoping to make it the Palm Beach of Texas. He put in a small airport, a fancy hotel with a golf course. We walked the tourist spots wondering about it all.

The rest of the trip home was fast. The road to Presidio was up and down some steep canyon roads, scaring Cecilia. But, well before Presidio it flattens out to Shafter with not much to see or do. The drive to Marfa and Highway 90 then I-10 led us westward back to El Paso.

I've since sold my property at Terlingua, feeling lucky to get what I paid for it. We did hunt some there and took a few trips that way, but the price of gasoline and growing in age made it seem farther away. But I still have fond memories of the times we did make it down there.

*John McVey Middagh is a former saddle shop owner. You can reach him at [jmiddagh@yahoo.com](mailto:jmiddagh@yahoo.com).*

## Taking a Look Back

by John McVey Middagh



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