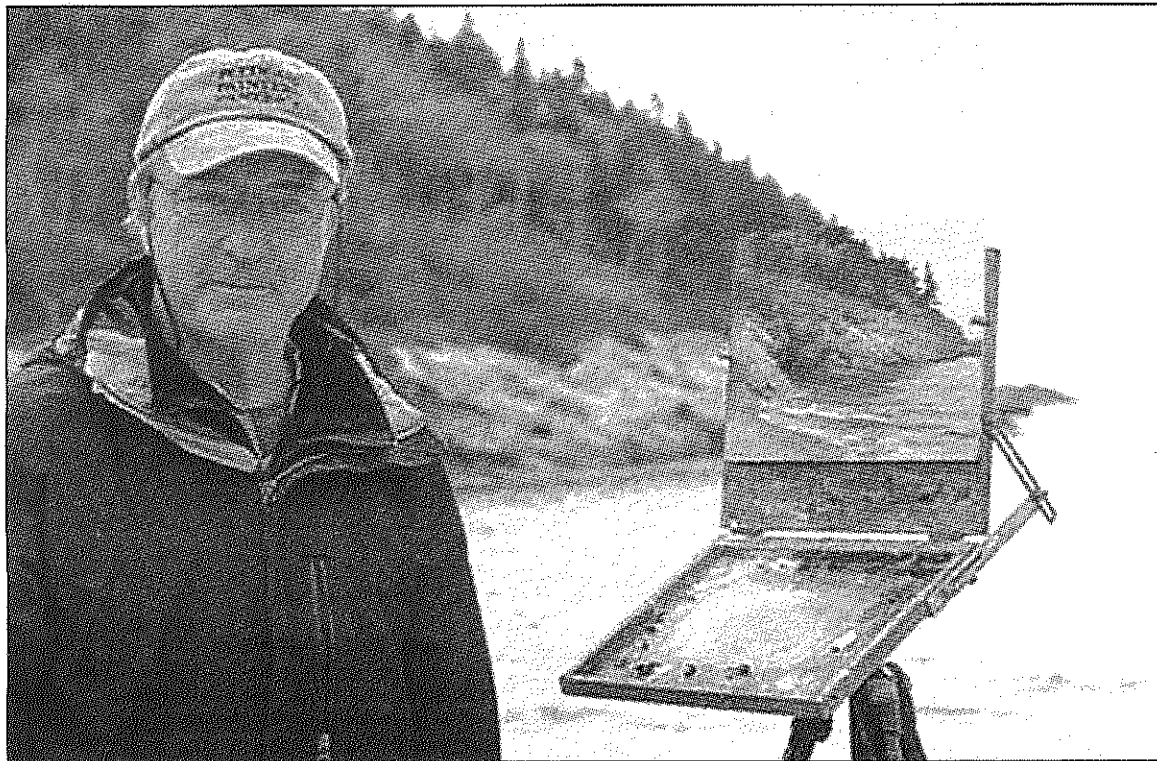


Don Demers One of the Artists in the Conservancy's Catalina: The Wild Side exhibit and sale



Don Demers one of the 10 plein-air artists participating in this year's Catalina: The Wild Side art show and sale, Sunday, October 23, at the Newport Harbor Yacht Club. Photo courtesy of the Catalina Island Conservancy

For over 15 years, the Society for the Advancement of Plein Air Painting (SAPAP) produced an art show on Catalina Island featuring works that told the story of the Island's everyday life. After many successful years, some members of the SAPAP Board of Directors decided to take a step in a new direction and in 2011 partnered with the Catalina Island Conservancy (CIC) to create Catalina: The Wild Side, a re-imagined art show that would bring attention not only to the much loved town of Avalon, but the thousands acres of land that lies beyond—Catalina's wild side. Proceeds from this new show benefit the Conservancy and are used to establish a permanent collection of plein air art that documents the Conservancy's conservation efforts and progress in habitat restoration. The paintings acquired during previous shows are currently on display for the public in the Conservancy's Nature Center in Avalon Canyon, and a rotating exhibit of pieces from the growing collection will continue to be shown to visitors.

The Catalina Island Conservancy invites you to join them for the 6th Annual Catalina: The Wild Side Art Show on Sunday, October 23, 2016 at the Newport Harbor Yacht Club. Featuring ten nationally-renowned plein air artists, the show features only works depicting Catalina Island, from Avalon to Two Harbors, and with a special focus on the lands stewarded by the Catalina Island Conservancy - the wild side.

The Wild Side show are Brian Blood, John Cosby, Don Demers, Kathleen Dunphy, Andy Evansen, Debra Huse, Laurie Kersey, Kim Lordier, Ron Rencher, and Matt Smith. The Avalon Bay News will feature each of these artists in up coming issues before the show and sale. This week's featured artists is Don Demers.

Don Demers was born in 1956, in the small, rural community of Lunenburg, Massachusetts. His interest in painting maritime subjects began while spending his summers on the coast of Maine near Boothbay Harbor. After finishing an exemplary high school art program, he furthered his education at the School of the Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, Massachusetts.

Don's maritime experience came about as a crewmember aboard many traditional sailing vessels including schooners and square-riggers. He continues to be an avid sailor.

His professional career began as an illustrator and expanded into the field of fine art. His illustrations can be found on many book covers and in national publications such as Reader's Digest, Sail Magazine, Field & Stream, Sports Afield, Yankee, and National Geographic.

Demers is a "Fellow" of the American Society of Marine Artists, an elected member of the Guild of Boston Artists, an elected member of the California Art Club, and a signature member of SAPAP (The Society for the Advancement of Plein Air Painting).

record seventeen awards at the Mystic International Marine Art Exhibition, Mystic, CT. including the Rudolph J. Schaefer Maritime Heritage Award in 2006. Demers' illustrations have been recognized by the Museum of American Illustration four times in their national competition representing the finest examples of work in the field. Recognized for his communication skills, Don conducts workshops for artists as well as producing instructional DVDs. He also lectures on his landscape and marine art. His audiences include museums, art associations, yacht clubs, historical societies and educational institutions.

The mission of the Catalina Island Conservancy is to be a responsible steward of its lands through a balance of conservation, education and recreation. Through its ongoing efforts, the Conservancy protects the magnificent natural and cultural heritage of Santa Catalina Island, stewarding approximately 42,000 acres of land, 60 miles of rugged shoreline, more than 200 miles of roads, as well as the Airport in the Sky and the Wrigley Memorial & Botanic Garden. The Conservancy works actively to keep Catalina wild by engaging in conservation and restoration efforts that have roots in sound science. By inspiring visitors to become responsible stewards of the living Earth, the Conservancy helps to ensure that today's children and future generations will be able to enjoy Catalina Island's abundance of natural beauty.