

# “DRAWN TO LEARN”

by Chris Flagg

Saturday, June 20, 2026

9:30 am - 4:00 pm

## Workshop Statement:

JWS is offering this 1-day workshop for **Members Only** for \$65, to be held at the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society building. You can register online after April 15. A great drawing leads to a great painting! Yes, the ability to sketch or draw is foundational to any successful piece of artwork. As watercolor artists, oil painters or pastel artists, drawing creates the framework, or roadmap, to ensure that proportion, value, perspective, contrast, all work in harmony to bring your art to the next level. The only magical secret to this success is to practice! Whether you are a writer, a doodler, a sketcher, designer or artist of any kind, your “brain to hand” connectivity is the creative catalyst. In this workshop, we will learn how to confidently capture the essence of a scene through sketching and let that sketch become either a stand alone artistic expression, or be the “skeleton” of your final painting.

By understanding the basic techniques, all of us can learn how to draw. We will look at composition, line, diversity of strokes, tone, value, texture, proportion, perspective and contrast, and see how each are best developed to give you the confidence to “Always be drawing, and never waste time”—Michelangelo—

## Subjects:

A variety of subjects only make us more keenly aware of their details, compositions and values. We will look at how to quickly draw people, vegetation, architecture and various objects that comprise street “entourage”.

## Tools:

You will learn how to adapt your tools to the various subjects using pencils, markers, waterproof pens, felt tip pens and water brushes, all contributing to your ability to observe a subject and confidently respond by drawing what you see, or what you want others to see.

## Exercises:

- How best to “warm-up”
- Sizing up your subject
- Simple perspective
- Composition is key
- Inform with texture, contrast, line
- Shadows
- Let’s draw!
  - Cars
  - People
  - Trees
  - Buildings
- The art of the quick sketch to build confidence
  - With pencil
  - With pen
  - With gray markers
  - With a water brush
- Putting it all together
  - Quick sketch exercises on one subject (building confidence)
  - Choose your favorite “weapon”...pencil, pen, marker and use each to quick draw
- The value of a Sketchbook!
  - Examples, different sizes and uses

## Supply List:

- Mechanical pencil- .07mm, 2B lead or similar pencil for sketching, but not too light!
- Sketchbook size should be large enough to be expressive confidently! 8.5"x11" preferred, but any similar size will work.
  - Preference is a fine tooth surface, acid free, 50lb, 80lb paper works fine.
- 3 Gray tone markers, Copic a good choice, cool gray is my favorite, a light, medium and dark tone., ie: cool gray #1 or 2 for light, cool gray #5 or #6 for medium and cool gray #8 or #9 can work. The objective is to have a nice difference in foreground, middle ground and background value studies.
- A larger lead soft pencil, example, #314 pencil, or lead holder (clutch pencil) with a wider, 4B lead, for darker tones, or similar to ensure that a lot of lead can be laid down for darks.
- A felt tip pen, (Flair works well) water soluble for pen and wash techniques
- A water brush pen (inexpensive and only holds water) for felt tipped pen and water brush sketching.
- A water proof pen (microns are good, various sizes to diversify lines from light to broad stroke) or for you brave souls, a fountain pen, fine or medium nib for sketching,