

IMPRESSION OF NATIONAL PARK ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

I have been involved with many artist-in-residency programs in state and national parks, museums, visitor's centers, wildlife refuges and more for over two decades.

In all cases the art programs are very popular with visitors. It gives folks a chance to see professional artists at work. Children especially enjoy it. They have a million questions. They can see and observe the natural world from a new perspective, learn new things and perhaps become inspired to appreciate and protect the natural world more, plus learning about one of our national treasures...The National Park System. The United States has the best park system in the world and we need to protect and support it. It should never be allowed to be controlled by commercial interests.

The National and State Park environment allows people to relax, learn and enjoy through interpretive programs and even workshops. I have taught both watercolor and photography classes in various parks, refuges, interpretive centers and more.

This is a win, win, win situation for all. The parks benefit, the public benefits and the arts benefit. It is the right kind of thing for our society to do. I have been gladdened to see arts in the parks programs expanded over the decades in which I have been involved. I deeply hope it will continue to grow and flourish.

-Burt Calkins

Biography

Burdette (Burt) Calkins is a longtime award winning North Dakota artist and writer. He has been roaming the American West for decades capturing images with pen, brush, and camera.

His work has been featured at shows and galleries from Alaska to Cozumel. You might find his work in Sedona, Taos, Palm Springs, Manitou Springs, Mustang Island and varied galleries and museums.

He also teaches watercolor workshops around the West and writes for various publications such as the North Dakota Outdoors and the Elk Foundation's "Bugle Magazine". He has done Artist-in-Residencies in state and national parks and at a variety of venues such as the Lewis and Clark Visitors Center and the National Buffalo Museum.

To view more of Burt's work please visit: <http://perceptionwest.webs.com/>