

Techniques for Successful Plein Air Painting, the HP Way



Instructor:	Deanna Skokan
Date:	Monday, September 15, 2025
Time:	10:30 am-1:30 pm (Bring a sack lunch)
Venue:	Easter Lake Shelter #1, Des Moines, IA
Experience:	Beginner to advanced in all mediums
Cost:	\$25 per person (FREE for Iowa Artist Members)

Plein Air painting is one of the largest art movements sweeping the world. The masters all recommend painting from life to make your studio paintings better, but how can you get started or how can you advance your current plein air paintings? Learn how to create a successful plein air painting using techniques (including Deanna's fun HP way) which will help you capture the light of your outdoor scene. During this hands-on workshop, we'll discuss how to get started plein air painting on a budget while also checking out some cool art tools for those who want to advance farther in the world of plein air painting. This workshop is great for everyone, from newbies to more advanced plein air artists and is open to use of all mediums. Tips for traveling light with plein air gear and quick framing for plein air competitions will also be discussed. Participants will learn how to find a good subject to paint and how to build a good foundation before painting in the area of Easter Lake's beautiful covered bridge (Shelter #1). Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during this fun and exciting workshop while you learn some new tips to help you become a successful plein air artist!

*To help artists get the most out of this workshop, there is a preworkshop challenge – sketch every day for a week prior to class. Bring your 7 sketches to the workshop for a chance to win a special prize. (Not mandatory but you'll be amazed how this challenge helps you grow quickly as a plein air artist.)

If any questions regarding this workshop, please contact Deanna at fineart@deannaskokan.com.

Supplies: (preferred but some optional*)

Pencils

Eraser

Notebook/sketch pad

Canvas/panel/paper (attached to solid board for WC, pastels or graphite, etc.)

Palette

Palette knife/small spray bottle of *Windex to clean palette

*Wet panel carrier (or clean pizza box) for slow-drying mediums

Brushes/brush carrier (bring 4-6 brushes of your choice, flat, round, fan, etc.)

Preferred medium (oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, graphite, etc.) – 5-6 tubes**

Plein air easel (*not required but very helpful)

*Chair (you may stand at easel, although there are picnic tables in shade at Shelter #1)

Water container/solvent container

Paper towels/hand wipes

*Plastic gloves if desired

Bug spray or dryer sheets (Tip #1 - put in pocket to keep bugs away)

Layered clothing and hat (Iowa weather changes a lot)

Any other plein air equipment you enjoy using

**Mainly, I plein air paint with acrylics and prefer to pack light with paints, bringing a cool and warm of each color such as 2 blues, 2 reds, 2 yellows, a black and titanium white, although I do enjoy bringing 2 of my favorite colors listed below.+ For pastels, bring a good assortment of “outside” or landscape colors. For watercolor I prefer the W&N Cotman 12-piece set and use watercolor pens and a small sponge.

Preferred Paints: Liquitex Heavy Body or Golden Open

Raw Sienna (to tone canvas)

Prussian Blue

Titanium White

Lemon Yellow

Cad-free medium red

+ *Hookers Green permanent*

Cerulean Blue

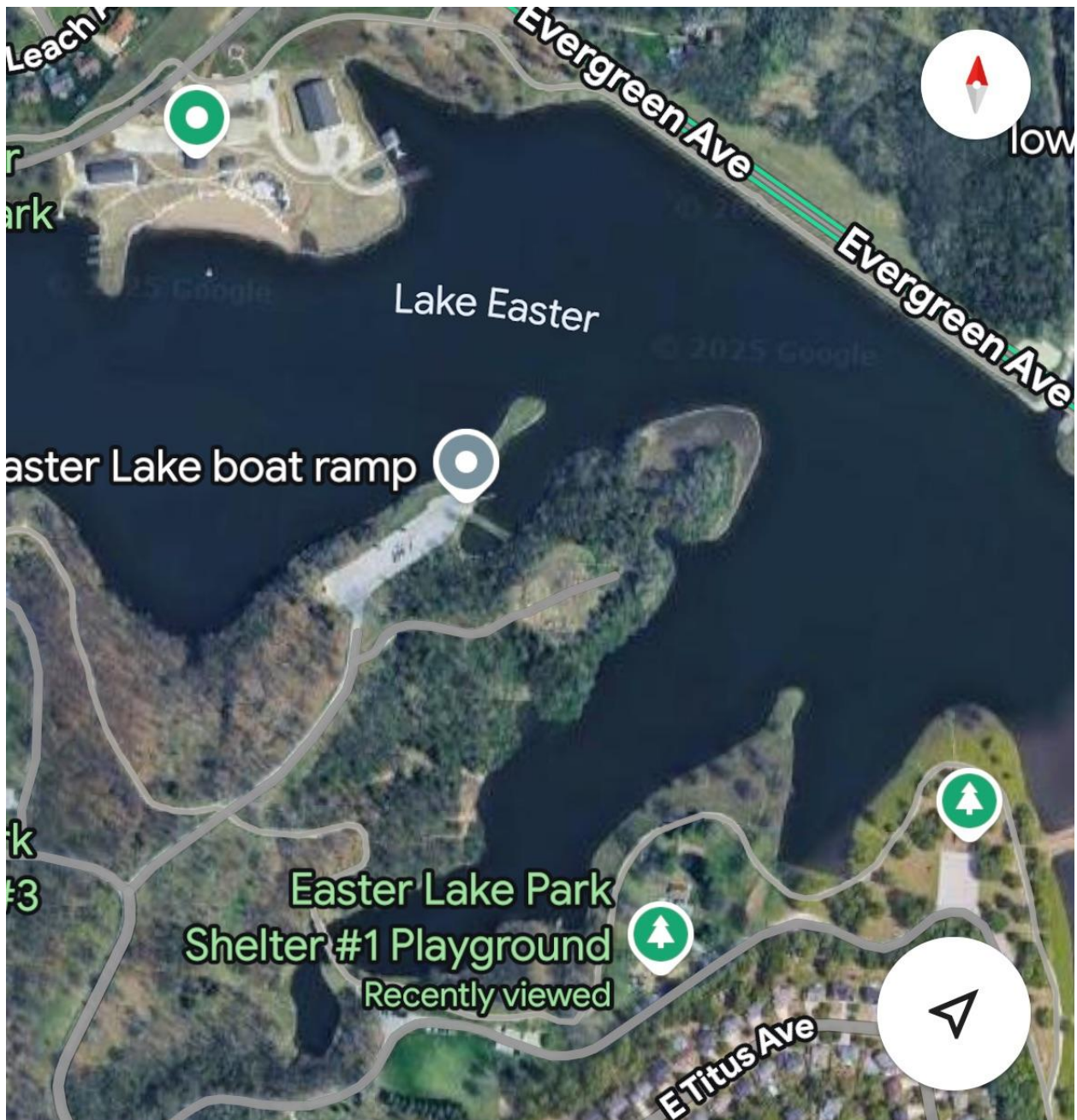
Phalo Blue (red shade)

Ivory Black

Cad-free medium yellow

Alizarin crimson

+ *Dioxazine purple*



The plain air workshop will be at Shelter #1 on the south side of Easter Lake in Des Moines, IA. From Highway 5 take the Highway 65/69 exit and go north. Take a right on E. County Line Road (which turns into Indianola Avenue) and drive north 1.7 miles until you reach Easter Lake Road. Take a right turn onto Easter Lake Road and drive 0.8 mile until SE 28th Street. Take a left turn at SE 28th Street and stay to the right of the Y intersection. Shelter #1 will be on the left-hand side of the road and the first shelter you come to. (Note: it is slightly past the red covered bridge.)