



photo submitted

LOCAL WATERCOLOR ARTIST GIA CONTI DELIGHTED THE WESTERN WAYNE ART GROUP and guests at their October meeting. Conti (www.giaconti.com), is a mostly self-taught artist who values high quality materials in her work. She likes to paint amphibians and other childhood “friends” that most artists overlook, such as turtles and snails. Using a 12x16 sheet of Arches 140 lb. cold press paper, Conti began the demo with a pre-drawn outline (to save time) that she had drawn with most of her typical materials – her own photos of amphibians, insects or underwater creatures, pencil, and a kneaded eraser. She also had her paint palette ready – she always places paints in the same location so that she can access them without looking, such as a piano player does when locating the right keys. Conti often paints upside-down to see shapes rather than the animal she paints, and starts from light to dark. Conti uses a transparent watercolor technique, layers of color, and a glazing technique to create her vibrant works. She also splatters colors on for a unique look, and notes how unpredictable watercolors can be. She creates highlights with Chinese White, and by scrubbing out color from completely dry paper. Conti, who has won several awards and can be found at many local art shows and festivals, is pictured here with her evening’s work 95 percent done. WWAG typically meets from 7-9 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Walworth Town Hall (off Route 441) in Walworth, and guests are always welcome. The group will have a Holiday Sale at the town hall Nov. 12-14, and the Nov. 17 demo will feature Kristina Hutch Matthews for a pen and ink demo.