

CONVERSATIONE

River Region Art Association Newsletter



March 2009

From the President

Spring has sprung,
The grass has riz,
I wonder where the birdies is.
They're on the wing? Why, that's absurd!
I thought the wing was on the bird.
Sorry.....I put that in the faculty announcements every year for 24 years at Gables, and I just couldn't help it.
Let's all SPRING FORWARD and refresh the gallery with new art by all our artists. How about starting now on something for the
Around the World exhibit in April.
Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any ideas for or concerns about our gallery. And remember....
Art is Good for Your Heart!

Betty

TREASURER POSITION ACCEPTED BY ALMA SHOLMIRE



We are thrilled that one of our members, Alma Sholmire, offered to take over our unfilled position of Treasurer! Welcome to the Board as an officer! A great big "Thank You" to Alma! She's already on the go and doing a super job for us purging the membership list of non-members! She's a keeper!



MANY, MANY THANKS TO LINDA SIMMS, OUT-GOING TREASURER!

Linda has been a much-valued treasurer for the past two years, and we sincerely give thanks for her gift of time. She has worked faithfully in the Gallery every month since becoming a member. She is one of our best supporters of the arts. A big applause for the lady with a great sense of humor and a loving heart! Thank you!

WINNERS FOR "THINGS I LOVE" FEBRUARY COMMUNITY EXHIBIT

Patricia Hunter won 1st place for "Red-Headed Stranger," Peg Carbo won 2nd place for Cowboy,; Tasha Kelly won 3rd place for "Fabric Diva," and Kenneth Taylor won Honorable Mention for "Flamingos." The artwork will remain on exhibit until February 28. Congratulations!

2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRS and CO-ORDINATORS FILLED WITH VOLUNTEERS

Awesome Art—Jan Hebert and Donna Braud
Art Workshop/Classes—Jan Hebert
Public Relations/News Media—Donna Braud
Grant Writer—Donna Braud
Newsletter—Shirley Russell
Artist-of-the-Month—Shirley Russell
Website—Gene Ferguson
Supply Co-ordinator—Gene and JoAnn Ferguson
Housekeeping—Mary Crochet
Hanging Fees—Jan Hebert, Betty Marks, Mary Crochet
Telephone Committee Chair—Darla Nixon

2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CO-ORDINATORS NOT FILLED

Monthly Community Theme Exhibits (like Click Art and Red Hot Night in June)
Scrapbook Co-ordinator (can do from home)
Art Gumbo Community Market (this is telephoning and organizing; ask friends to help you; this is for a gregarious fun-loving person and her friends)



PAID RRAA MEMBERS ARE INVITED to . . .

Louisiana Arts and Artists Guild (LAAG) has invited us to a "Paint Out" (plein air painting) at the Houmas House on April 1, from 9 a.m. till! Alan Flattmann (oils and pastels) will be there. We will be exempt from the Houmas House entrance fee, but we are expected to eat lunch at the restaurant. If you plan to go, LAAG wants a head count, so call the president, Betty Marks at 647-0595 and RSVP by March 20. Please be responsible and call by the date indicated. Remember that this free excursion is for paid members only!

"A Greener World" ART SHOW AT TANGER MALL

River Region Art Association will join with Tanger Outlet Mall and Harry & David's to present a Community Art Competition on April 4 from 11-5pm. This show is open to three divisions: Adults (18+), Youth ages 12-17 and Youth ages 11 and under. The Title of the show is "A Greener World". Art should represent agriculture, nature, food harvest, farming, orchards, flower gardens, and trees. And anything pertaining to making our world GREENER! So let's all get the GREEN SPIRIT and show your creativity!

There will be three categories for each division: Painting, Drawing, and Three-Dimensional. Take in for the art will be at River Region Art Gallery in Gonzales from March 27- April 3 only Tuesday thru Saturday from 10am-4pm. **No Fee To Enter**. Paintings and drawings must be framed and have wire on back for hanging. Each person is allowed two entries per category. This will be a judged show and will be displayed along the shopping area for public viewing. .

In the adult division there will be a Tanger Outlet Gift Certificate of \$50 and Harry & David Deluxe Gift Basket for 1st place. 2nd place will receive a \$25 Tanger Outlet Gift Certificate and Harry & David Gift Package and 3rd place will receive a \$10 Tanger Outlet Gift Certificate and Harry & David Gift Package.

For each of the Youth Divisions 1st will be \$25 Tanger Outlet Gift Certificate and Harry & David Deluxe Basket, 2nd a \$15 Tanger Outlet Gift Certificate and Harry & David Gift Pack, 3rd a \$10 Tanger Outlet Gift Certificate and Harry & David Gift Pack. There will be ribbons awarded in all divisions.

The public will also be given a chance to pick their own winner and vote for the People's Choice award of the whole show. A Tanger Outlet gift card and Harry & David package will be awarded to the People's Choice.

River Region artists will present a children's free art activities at the Mall on April 4 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Any artist willing to give a few hours to play with the kids, let Betty Marks know (647-0595). We will also need a few members to help watch the art and greet the customers. We can let them know about River Region's gallery...a good opportunity to relate with the public. Also we will need help in setting this show up and taking it down. The winners of the show will be on display at River Region Art Association's gallery for viewing from April 7-18, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

ARTIST-OF-THE-MONTH FOR FEBRUARY 2009

The Artist-of-the-Month for February 2009 was John Robbins. (We didn't have his biography for the last printing so we're including it this month!) His photography will be displayed until February 28. All members and their guests are invited to come by and view the new display. Several of his photographs are now on display at the River Region Art Gallery in Gonzales.

John is an avid photographer who began working in digital restoration of old photographs and then branched out into his own photography business. Now he has a complete in house digital studio. He is able to print his own work. His artworks are of professional quality and are beautifully framed.

He has been published in regional newspapers and magazines. His photographs can be found in homes, many businesses and institutions both nationally and internationally. John captures the charm and beauty of the old south using modern methods and materials. In addition to his extensive Louisiana scenes in his portfolio, he adds a few scenes from his travels. He claims to never go anywhere without his camera.

John has received numerous ribbons for his work in black and white photography. But he also is experienced in color as displayed in some of his commercial work. He created excellent albums of photos representing Awesome Art in Autumn Gardens which were used for grant purposes to both the Baton Rouge Arts Council, the Louisiana Division of the Arts, and the Lt. Governor's Office & Department of Recreation, Culture, & Tourism. RRAA received accolades for

these albums. John is an active member of the River Region Art Association and presently serves as Parliamentarian on the RRAA Board.

ARTIST-OF-THE-MONTH FOR MARCH 2009

Joe Harden, a self-taught sculptor, has been chosen Artist-of-the-Month for March 2009 at River Region Art Association. His background is in engineering design and construction. About five years ago, searching for a creative outlet, he started carving wood. Soon he expanded into stone and about three years ago, started working in clay.

He finds his engineering design knowledge is useful in his art. He is a member of the Louisiana Art & Artists Guild, River Region Art Association, and the International Sculpture Center. He performed sculpture demonstrations at the Awesome Art in Autumn Gardens Arts & Cultural Festival in 2008. A display of his sculptures will be available for viewing at the River Region Art Association's gallery in Gonzales from March 3-31.

ART GUMBO MARKET AT NEW LOCATION!!!

Donna Braud reports that the Ascension Fresh Farmers' Market has decided not to return to the Hwy621/Airline Hwy. location for the Market. The Farmers are looking into the governmental area in Gonzales, which could be a great spot. But River Region artists will plan to have the Art Gumbo Community Market at our Gallery under the trees from 9 p.m.-1 p.m. each third Saturday of the month unless a better location comes up with the Farmers.

We have invited the Farmers to join us but have heard no word from them. We plan to open our Art Gumbo Community Market to the community with free booths for selling their original made items and/or home grown items. We will need someone with good people skills to organize and set up the market each month. Please contact Betty Marks if you are interested.

All items included in booths for the ART GUMBO COMMUNITY MARKET must be original made or home grown by the vendor. The River Region Art Association Advisory Board has the authority to refuse any items or exhibitors. There will be no fee for booth space. Assignments of space will be on a first come, first served basis based on when application is received and approved by the board. Application can be found online at www.artgumbo.org or picked up at the Gallery.

Thank you, Donna, for your hard work trying to keep this going!

ART GUMBO COMMUNITY MARKETS FOR 2009

April 18, 2009	August 15, 2009	September 19, 2009
May 16, 20089		October 17, 2009
June 20, 2009		November 14, 2009
July 18, 2009		December 5, 12, and 19, 2009

NEXT MONTH A NEW WATERCOLOR CLASS!



Our own River Regions' watercolorist, Louise Hansen, is teaching--USE OF MEDIA--Saturday, April 25. Have you been wanting to explore a different art form or simply expand your expertise in another art form, but just haven't gotten around to it? Watercolors are vibrant and so easy to use! And they are incredibly easy to clean up. They are safe around pets and children. The feel of the silky color mixing with water excites the eye! The touch of the soft brush bristles gliding across the textured paper titillates the senses!

If you're just exploring the medium of watercolor, why not show up for class with the three basic colors and one brush. You'll be hooked!

Class is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$40. Beginners to intermediates will love discovering new ways to express themselves. Registration is until Friday, April 24 at the River Region Art Association's art gallery which is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10a.m.-4 p.m. Look online for her supply list at www.artgumbo.org

Louise Hansen began a career in commercial art after studying art and graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi. Later she was a graphic artist for the Mississippi Engraving Company,

and still later she became a fashion illustrator for Rubenstein's in Shreveport, Louisiana and McRae's in Jackson, Mississippi. After that she was an Advertising Manager for Gayfer's in Jackson, Mississippi. Louise is now retired and occupies herself as an artist entering art shows and as an instructor teaching watercolor painting and pen-and-ink drawing.



LAST NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE NOT RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS



We would like to sincerely thank those members who remembered to pay their 2009 Membership Dues! Thank you for staying with us in these economically unsure times! At the time of printing, we have about 50 paid members. We've lost a few, but not many because our Membership List was completely out of date for a long time with non-members still listed. Now the president has discovered that we have non-members using our gallery to display artwork and non-members listed on our website and non-members on our mailing list. The new president has addressed and has already made plans to correct this.

Only paid members have the right to display paintings in the gallery, but there is an additional Exhibit Fee (or Hanging Fee) of one cent per inch for each item recorded in the EAR Book. Membership Dues and Exhibit Fee (or Hanging Fee) are two different things. Docents, become familiar with the paid membership list of names, or at least look up their name in the EAR Book if they say they want to exhibit work. If their name is not on the list; they are not a paid member. The new list will be kept in the EAR Book, and the paid membership will be published next month in the Newsletter.

If any want-to-be member has not gotten around to paying Membership Dues or paying Exhibit Fees this is the last reminder in the Newsletter. You are getting tired of reading about this, and I am tired of writing about it. By March 15 a new Membership List will be created, non-member artwork will be taken down, and if not picked up, will become the property of RRAA.

We regret that this will be the last Newsletter for those who have not renewed their memberships. As a courtesy we are sending this last Newsletter to those non-members who have not paid 2009 Membership Dues because they may have good intentions of rejoining but just forgot to pay dues. We sincerely hope that you will choose to remain with us and will pay dues immediately.



WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT?

When an RRAA member wants to display a piece of art, that artist should immediately ask the working docent for the EAR Book and themselves record the date hung, size of work, name of work, etc. This important step is NOT the docent's responsibility; it is yours! Payment is due at that time.

Works should NOT be displayed before this important recording is done. All docents—please, be aware of this! Insist on the member paying at this moment! Give them the EAR Book to document and write them a receipt for their payment. Check the EAR Book information for accuracy, and if not complete, hand it back to them to finish.

DOCENT REMINDER

Docents, please feel comfortable asking the paid member to fill out the EAR Book with all necessary information on the new, easy-to-fill Exhibit Form. This is not your job! It is theirs! And do NOT let them get away not paying their Exhibit Fees! If they don't offer, ASK them! Then you write the receipt. We must help our new president who is trying very hard to make things easy and simple for us. This is going to be a great year for us! Thank you, docents!

USING RIVER REGION'S MEMBERSHIP MAILING LIST FOR PERSONAL USE

If anyone uses RRAA resources (e-mail, membership mailing list, RRAA venues) in any way to advertise their personal classes, the president said it is assumed RRAA will receive 20% of profits gained from that advertising since it is generated with our membership list. Call 647-0595 for further information.

MARCH 12, 2009 IS THE NEXT BOARD MEETING AT 6 P.M. AND THE GENERAL MEETING AT 7 P.M.