



# River Region Art Association Newsletter

July 2011

## From the President's Desk:

Hi everyone. The General Meeting to be held on Sunday, July 10 at 2:00 PM could make a huge difference in the life of our gallery. Yes, we have a location for you to hear about. I have contacted the realtor to see if he will let us go in and tour the place on Sunday afternoon. Our meeting will be chock full of interesting things and serious discussion. We want everyone to have an equal voice in the decision about moving, we need to discuss what the move will mean in terms of involvement from each of us, please come hear the plan, voice your opinion, and help us get beyond this issue as quickly as we can.

We have a lot of other important things to work on including the Scarecrow contest and Awesome Art, we need volunteers, we need people who can get others involved, we need to make this a big deal because the "big guys" in Gonzales feel like it has nowhere to go but up and larger, our art can become a focal point for a major event in Gonzales, we need it and Gonzales needs it. We need help and I am asking all of you who want to help but do not always have the time to start planning now to pitch in either in getting sponsors or setting up scarecrows or posing challenges to employers and neighbors or other organizations.

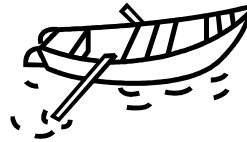
As a member who has a full time job, I fully understand the challenges to participate as much as we want, heck we don't have enough time to work on our art! Even though I appreciate what it will take I must still ask for your help, we need everyone to pitch in and help get Awesome Art in full swing, you can find out at the meeting on Sunday what you can do to help.

I believe we have the ability to fulfill our mission, get our work out and seen by a lot of people and I think our work will draw people to us not only in the form of new members but as customers; but it takes exposure, it takes commitment (even small allotments of time) and it takes teamwork. Let's show this area what a strong team can accomplish, I believe in US!!!!!!

I would like to thank Donna Braud this month, she has been involved with our group in a big way for a long time, she helps with everything from sweeping to organizing Awesome Art, she has a lot of experience with the politicians and the politics it takes to keep us going and she works hard for us. I appreciate her very much!

Don't forget Art Gumbo Market, CC's Coffee and the Galleries, we are THERE, we need to be.....HERE.....THERE.....EVERYWHERE!!!!!!!!!!

## AWESOME AWE ON THE BAYOU



Awesome Art on the Bayou is just about three months away! Lots of background work is going on now. Just want to give you a timeline and a few details. Get involved in our biggest event of the year! This is a family-friendly community affair! Dates to remember:

- Sept. 9 .....Deadline to turn in form and fee for Scarecrow Contest
- Sept. 24 & 25...Scarecrows to be erected in the Jambalaya Park/City Hall area in Gonzales
- Oct. 6.....Take in of art for Awesome Art competition from noon until 7 p.m. at City Hall in Gonzales
- Oct. 7.....Art is judged and preparations made for Awesome Art on the Bayou.
- Oct 8.....Awesome Art on the Bayou Festival from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the City Hall/Jambalaya area and along the Francois Bayou
- Oct 9.....Awesome Art on the Bayou Festival from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the City Hall/Jambalaya area and along the Francois Bayou

- Awesome Art Show will remain three (3) entries for \$25 for adults or one for \$9 involving painting, drawing, photography, and 3/D art
- Youth may enter at \$3 per entry in painting or drawing
- Over \$1,500 offered in prize money/ribbons ...judged show to be displayed in Gonzales City Hall /Awards on Sunday, Oct 9
- Arts & Crafts Booths will be \$50 for members for the weekend and \$75 for non-members.

Pass the word!

- Literary Artists may have a book signing table for \$25 for the weekend.
- There will be an Interactive Art Area for Children.....volunteers will be needed.
- Food Booths will be added this year since we are at a new venue in Gonzales. This will be juried by the Board.
- Non profit information booths will be offered to selected groups.
- The stage at the Jambalaya Park will offer musical entertainment Oct 8 & 9 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. DAF State Grant written.



## ARTIST OF THE MONTH AT RRAA

**Betty Marks** is our Artist of the Month who has served as a past president of RRAA. She has work displayed at the Art Center on Magnolia Ave. and Houmas House in Darrow. Come by and see it! We will have a reception for her after our monthly meeting, Sunday, July 10 at 2 p.m.

Read more about Betty on our website members' page at [www.artgumbo.org](http://www.artgumbo.org)

## BARNES & NOBLE FEATURED ARTIST



**Donna Marie Montagino** has been selected to exhibit her artworks at Barnes & Noble bookstore at Perkins Rowe in Baton Rouge the month of July. She also has her art displayed at Houmas House in Darrow.

Read more about Donna on our website members' page at [www.artgumbo.org](http://www.artgumbo.org)



### Something SCARY is coming.....



Guess what is coming to the City of Gonzales? They are coming soon...and some may be scary, but not all of them. They have arms, legs, and heads...but NO BRAINS! You are invited to join in the fun of the Second Annual Scarecrow Contest presented this autumn by River Region Art Association in the City of Gonzales in and around the Jambalaya Park and City Hall area. This will be a great community project full of excitement and fun to see the Scarecrows Swamp the City!!!

This is a contest of creativity open to all ages, individuals, families, clubs, groups, schools, civic organizations and businesses. The idea is to make a Scarecrow of your choice and erect it in the municipal area of Gonzales the weekend of Sept. 24 & 25. They will be judged and prizes awarded. The scarecrows must be durable and able to withstand the weather for they will remain on exhibit for everyone to enjoy during Awesome Art on the Bayou Festival and the Harvest season until Oct 23.

Divisions will be: 1) Adult individual or Adult groups...\$20 entry fee; 2) Youth (up to age 18) individual or Youth groups... \$10 entry fee; 3) Businesses...\$50 entry fee. Scarecrows may be traditional, whimsical, humorous, mischievous, lovable, or even scary. Designs may depict a Fairy Tale, fantasy figure, animal, team mascot, or just let your imagination run wild! It could be a politician, clown, a football player, a dancer, or a creature from outer space. Businesses may want to advertise their services with a scarecrow setting. All entries must be family friendly. Scarecrows should be life size but there is no limit on the height. Entries are only limited with an 8 foot width, including scarecrow and any props that are used. Each entry will be provided with a 12" x 18" sign to identify the entrant and name of Scarecrow. Businesses may provide their own sign the same size if desired to advertise with their business logo.

The Scarecrows will be judged and winners revealed at the Awesome Art on the Bayou Arts & Cultural Festival on Oct 8-9 in the city of Gonzales at the Jambalaya Park/City Hall area and along the Francois Bayou. Adults: 1st \$150; 2nd \$75; 3rd \$50 and HM. Youth: 1st \$75; 2nd \$50; 3rd \$25 and HM. Businesses: 1st place winner's plaque and Braggin Rights; 2nd and 3rd ribbons and HM.

There is an entry form online at [www.artgumbo.org](http://www.artgumbo.org) or one may be picked up at Houmas House RRAA Art Gallery or the RRAA Art Center in Gonzales. **The entry form and entry fee must be received by Sept 9.** Only the first 100 entries will be accepted. The entrants are responsible for bringing their fully assembled Scarecrows and installing them in the gardens on Saturday, Sept 24 from 10-5 or Sunday, Sept 25 from noon-4. For any information **call Donna at 225-328-7354.** Let's Swamp Gonzales with multitudes of Scarecrows!!!! Join in on the creative madness! Only two months to make your scarecrow come alive!



### SALES for June

June sales were a little bit better than last month. Seems as if the travelers are still coming in spite of the heat! First place sales person is **Diane Tygier** with **Carolyn Milner** running second. **Josie Young** captured third place in sales this month and these artists also enjoyed sales: **L J Mayers, Carolyn Bowman, Susan Rodrigue, Monica Landry, Jan Hebert, Kathleen Kuhnert, Shirley Schell, Mary Demarest, Helen Haw, and Sally Mc Connell.**



### CY RAWLS' COMMENTS ON CC

Great response from members wanting to participate at the Coffeehouse. All Saturday mornings in July are now booked but you can still sign up for Saturday afternoons or anytime on Sundays.

Just the thing to take your mind off the heat and escape the summer doldrums for a couple of hours: Invite a family member or friend and gather up samples of your art--whatever medium you are into at the moment, and spend a couple of hours one weekend in July at CC's coffeehouse on Airline Hwy in Prairieville. Sip an iced frappacino and chat with fellow-coffee (and Art) lovers about your work and River Region Art Association.

All members of RRAA have a standing invitation to show, discuss and/or demonstrate their art at the coffeehouse on any Saturday or Sunday mornings or afternoons. Artists set up a table in the sitting area (to the left as you walk in) and stay from 2-4 hours, your choice. Please display your name and that you are representing River Region Art Association.

The management and employees of CCs are welcoming and helpful. If you are doing this for the first time and are a bit apprehensive I will be happy to meet you at the coffeehouse and help you set up.

E-mail or call me, **Cy**, at **622-2872** if you are ready to chill out at CC's any weekend day this summer. I will reserve you a time and answer your questions.



**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Sunday, July 10 at 2 p.m. at Art Center**

**NEXT BOARD MEETING Monday, August 14 at 6 p.m. at Art Center**