



River Region Art Association Newsletter

October 2010



AWESOME ART in the AUTUMN GARDENS

Come to the Gardens at Houmas House Plantation October 9 and 10, 2010 from 10 a.m.- 4.p.m. and you will find a lively fest of Louisiana artisans, craftsmen, musicians, and dancers sprinkled throughout the 34 acres with lush greenery, elaborate fountains, lagoons and even a tea house. The "Awesome Art in Autumn Gardens" Arts and Cultural Festival, the biggest art event in Ascension Parish this year, will display over 300 artworks in the Neptune Pavilion of both Youth and Adults in competition for prizes and the famed blue ribbon. If you want to be a part of this competition, the take-in day for art is Thursday, October 7 from 1 p.m. --7 p.m. at Houmas House. Adult divisions are painting, drawing, photography, and three-dimensional. There is also painting and drawing for youth...so you may want to encourage your children or grandchildren to enter.

In addition at the Festival, there will be a gathering of the Louisiane Vintage dancers and The Baton Rouge Cajun Dance Company. Music ranges from the sweet sounds of acoustic mix by Lester Kenyon to that of jazz by the Jazz Nurse Prescription during the weekend for lunch in the dining room. On Saturday you can tap your feet to the music of the The Jemini Venture Band with bluegrass and easy listening or the sounds of the Fugitive Poets with their contemporary, upbeat music. The Jubilee Trio will bring a German Oktoberfest sound to the Plantation. The Lagniappe Dulcimers will entertain with a soft mountain music sound. Then Sunday afternoon, The Hot Pepper Cajun Band will give you something to dance about around the Neptune Fountain or you can sit a spell in front of the mansion and enjoy the music of the Baton Rouge Concert Band.

This year the Gonzales Cultural Committee has generously added to our Aweome Art program. They will provide an "artifacts" booth featuring the cultures of Lebanese, Spanish, Asian, and African American. They will bring performers in addition to our grant program. They have scheduled a belly dancer, a Vietnamese Lion Dancer, African American dancers, drummers, and storytellers, Gospel groups, Center Stage Broadway performers, and the Odyssey dancers and Tri-parish ballet group.

There will be numerous arts and crafts booths representing fine arts and folk arts all along the path throughout the Gardens. There will be literary artists signing books and telling experiences. River Region Art Association, sponsored in part by grant funding from the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Baton Rouge Arts Council will present this program celebrating art, culture and creativity amidst a backdrop of rich history and lush gardens of Houmas House.

This lively art program involving over 200 talented artisans, is also sponsored by Cox, Eatel, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Ascension Wellness Center, and Chip's Grocery and will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day. Admission to the elaborate Autumn Gardens of Houmas House is \$10 and includes the Awesome Art extravaganza. There will be an Art Fest Buffet offered in the restaurant on site or you may

order from the menu. Mint Juleps and other cool refreshments will be available at the Turtle Bar set right in the middle of the Gardens. Guided mansion tours will be available all day. Tell your neighbors and friends to come see it all!

With Awesome Art in Autumn Gardens, River Region Art Association's all volunteer members are striving to bring culture and community together with this arts and cultural festival. We want to show everyone the immense talent right here in our state. It is our mission to promote artists and enhance the arts in the community. What a lovely way to do both!



Scarecrows Swamp the Gardens...2010 Winners Announced at Awesome Art on October 10

Our first Annual Scarecrow Contest will be set up October 2 and 3 in the Houmas House Gardens. We are happy to announce 23 scarecrows will Swamp the Gardens for 2010. They will remain up until October 31. If you have a chance, try to visit the gardens to see all the adorable ideas that came forth. Prizes will be awarded on October 10 at the Awesome Art in Autumn Gardens Festival. Below are the creative crow creatures: Thanks to all who helped and all who created! Next year we will have even more to crow about!

Youth Division

Shayna Rudolph of Ethel, LA....."Lucinda, Queen of the Garden"
 Gonzales Baptist Academy 4-H Club....."Recycle Man"
 Gage Mongesku of Prairieville....."The Mother of all Scarecrows"
 Brownie Troop #10504 Prairieville....."Brownies Celebrate Louisiana"
 Spanish Lake Primary 4-H Club Geismar....."BOB"
 Caroline Crain of Prairieville....."No Name"
 Faith Academy Art Club of Gonzales....."Paper Boy"
 Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, B R..."Rosie & Billy Boy"
 Ethan Smith of Prairieville....."The Rocker"

Adult Division

Joe & **Robin Rotolo** of Gonzales...."Bird Man"
Mary Demarest of Gonzales...."Jambalaya Joe Cooking up Crow"
 Gonzales Garden Club....."Garden Flora Dora"
 Marty & **Betty Marks** of Gonzales...."They're Everywhere!"
 Gaynell Bourgeois of St. Amant....."Hummu"
 Craig Black of Darrow....."Untitled"
 Bowman family of Prairieville....."Awesome Artist"
Alvis Young of Gonzales....."Cypress Pete"
 Krewe of Poseidon of Denham Springs.....Poseidon's Mardi Gras Mama"
 Polly Smith of Prairieville....."Scare Dat"

Business Division

St. Michel's Day Spa of Prairieville..."Serenity the Spa Crow"
 Country Roads Magazine of Baton Rouge....."Loup Garou"
 Legacy Center of Louisiana LLC of Prairieville...."Brainless Boudreaux"



OCTOBER ARTIST OF THE MONTH IS Loreta Godwin

My education and appreciation for art began while growing up in the mountains of Virginia surrounded by writers, artists and musicians. My parents took me to the Smithsonian National Art Gallery before I turned ten years old. I was given children's art classes in painting and various crafts. I painted, created handmade cards for family and friends, played with any type of art or craft that I could get my hands on or dream up. I doodled and cartooned through many junior and high school classes. I concentrated on playing the flute during high school and started as a music major at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge while taking art electives in drawing, watercolor and oil painting. Graduating with a BS in education, I taught elementary school and started a family. I continued to utilize my talents for friends and family painting fantasy wall murals. Upon returning to school, becoming a registered nurse, raising my two children and working many years as a nurse, I finally had the opportunity to pursue my art "full time".

My primary interest is in oil painting. I choose subjects that inspire me. Color and contrast are emphasized in most of my work. I enjoy utilizing my imagination as demonstrated in my moonlight carousel fantasy painting of my granddaughter. Other paintings include flowers, fish and recently completed fire dog. In 2009 I created a series of whimsical Louisiana Christmas cards. Painting offers me the challenge to create what I see in my mind. My work continues to be for my own passion and pleasure.

Come by and see my art at Houmas House which is open seven days a week and at the Art Center open on Thursdays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jan Hebert EXHIBITS at BARNES & NOBLE



River Region Artist Jan Hebert is the artist in residence at Barnes & Noble Bookstores in Perkins Rowe, Baton Rouge during the month of October. A native of Prairieville, Louisiana, she always had an appreciation of Louisiana culture and wildlife in the swamps. She claims finding inspiration to draw and paint is not hard living in Louisiana, just stop and look around you.

The desire to paint was always in the back of Jan's mind. In 1992, she signed up with local artists Peggy Miller and Teddy Ruiz. By attending these classes, she learned about other workshops given by other artists. In 2001, Jan took her first workshop with Ann Warner. This was three days of mind-boggling elation. Jan claims she came out of the workshop with her mind swimming with the information she just learned but not enough hours in the day to paint. She realized the depth of what there was to learn about color and value. This led her to purchase books to read and study about value and color mixing.

With the desire to continue to learn new techniques and refine her skills, Jan has taken workshops and studied under numerous well known artists as Morgan Samuel Price, Libby Johnson, Billy Solitario, Pat Weaver, Judi Betts, Krista Roch, Norma Roy, Mary Jane Cox, John O'Neal, Elayne Kuehler, Billie Bougeous, Della Storm, Beverly Dudley, Renee Fletcher, Kathy Daigle, Mrs. Clark, Kathy Stone.

The reason Jan took so many classes is "Art, she claims," is so broad and versatile and there is always something to learn from each one." In each new workshop she learned one or two new things. This in turn helped her come up with new techniques and new ideas to express on canvas.

The classes also helped Jan to refine her teaching skills. I enjoy teaching children and adults. This is my way of giving back to the community and sharing what I have learned. Jan teaches ongoing classes for adults on Wednesday nights from 6 .pm. – 8 p.m. at the River Region Art Center in Gonzales. She also teaches in the RRAA Summer Workshops for Children.

"Someone once told me that painting is God's gift to me and that I must keep nurturing that gift. I will always thank her for that word of wisdom," states Jan.

Jan Hebert's art exhibit may be viewed during store hours at Barnes & Noble Bookstore in the Perkins Rowe shopping area in Baton Rouge during the month of October.

Welcome new members!

Alvis Young.....watercolor/acrylic on canvas and wood
Jeanne Billodeaux.....watercolors
Joan Chapman.....watercolors and oil
Marlene Anderson.....polymer clay characters
Donna Redmon.....jewelry



NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING MOVED . . .and . . . Boy Scouts and ...Voting...and

The next membership meeting of River Region Art Association is **October 17** at 2 p.m. at the Gonzales Art Center. The meeting was pushed forward a week due to our Awesome Art festival at Houmas House the weekend of October 9 and 10.

Those who are donating paintings for the Boy Scout Centennial in Clinton coming up on October 23, please bring them to the next membership meeting so we can forward them to David Breaux. The booth for the Boy Scout Centennial will be discussed at this meeting. RRAA is in charge of the silent auction for the Boy Scout Jamboree. We are set up under the porch of the dining hall right in the middle of all the action. We will not have a booth or sell anything for profit. It's October 23 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., and we need volunteers to be there around 8:15 a.m. to unload. Unload what, you say---the whole inventory of the silent auction is the art we donate, so I hope we have a lot to unload. Please, please donate something--it does not have to be a picture of a boy scout--maybe jewelry, something Louisiana, tiles, a gourd....anything. We did not know that we are the only donors for the auction. Please take your donation(s) to the Art Center. We don't want to look stingy with our contribution!!! I am meeting with David Breaux soon and will contact volunteers. It will actually be a really fun day--they will have coffee and donuts for breakfast and lunch and drinks will be provided, too. If you did not sign up to help, it's not too late. Just let me know. The Scouts are going to help us a lot at Awesome Art, so let's go help them!! Call or email **Betty Marks**, president, at **647-0905** or marks2000@eatel.net

We will also announce a new slate of Board Officers for 2011 and take any nominations from the floor. The actual voting will take place at the November 7 meeting at 2 p.m. and the installation of the 2011 officers will be held at the Christmas Party at the Art Center on December 5 from 5 – 7 p.m.



ART GUMBO MARKET FOR OCTOBER

We will have our monthly ART GUMBO MARKET on Saturday, October 16 from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. under the trees at Houmas House. If you plan to set up your art, contact **Donna Braud** at donnadidit@cox.net for your free booth.

NEXT BOARD MEETING October 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Art Center

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