

▶ **THE VOGEL GALLERY**
"Plein Air Art Gallery Show"



▶ **THE VEEDER GALLERY**
"Plein Air Quick Art Gallery Show"



▶ **THE GIFT GALLERY**
Multiple Artists
'Updated look'

Red Wing Arts Association

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July/August 2010

Arts *flash*

Red Wing Arts Association is committed to a focus on the arts by creating strong support of, and being a catalyst for, an expanding and dynamic arts community in Red Wing and the surrounding area.

"Guggenberger Awarded at Salmagundi Institute"

"View from Barn Bluff" by Len Guggenberger has been juried into the 56th Annual Exhibition of the National Society of Painters in Casein and Acrylic and was awarded the Shiva Award for Casein Painting at the historic and prestigious Salmagundi Club in New York, NY. The Shiva Award is one of the top four awards given the juried artwork. This painting is a fine example of realistic-impressionism and has earned Guggenberger national acclaim once more.



"View from Barn Bluff" by Len Guggenberger. Photo submitted

This painting had humble beginnings in Red Wing, MN when Guggenberger took an evening walk on Barn Bluff. Guggenberger strayed from the established path along the bluff and viewed the valley below from a different perspective. This perspective, along with the "sun hitting just right" combined to inspire Guggenberger to take the photo which later became "View from Barn Bluff."

Guggenberger paints his impression of what he sees based on field notes taken along with photos. His medium is casein, a milk-product based paint somewhat like sour milk. He has chosen this medium because it is versatile, has good covering power, is relatively fast

drying and is non-toxic; most importantly, it provides a matte finish. He utilizes four extremely fine brushes ranging in size from 000 - 4 to compose his painting with pointillism and cross-hatching. The one exception to this technique is the sky in his painting, which he applied with two larger filbert style brushes.

Guggenberger started his career at the Cold Spring

Granite Company primarily designing cemetery features. He took correspondence courses in art from the Minneapolis Art Instruction School and then moved to a position at Jostens where he designed and drew diplomas, certificates and awards. Throughout his career, he always painted and spent many years selling his paintings at art fairs. A member of the Red Wing Arts Association (RWAA), he has won several awards including a competition by American Artist magazine.

Guggenberger now enjoys the freedom of retirement and the ability to paint according to his muse. He sells his paintings through galleries including the RWAA Depot Gallery in Red Wing.

Of his accomplishments he says, "It's a nice place to be!"

Plein Air Arts Festival 2010

“Ninety-Nine Paintings of Red Wing on the Wall”

Display Dates: June 26 - August 29, 2010

Public Reception: June 26, 5:00 - 7:00 PM



“SailAway” by Sue Wifp
“Best of Show” 2009 Plein Air Arts Festival

Ninety-nine paintings of Red Wing on the wall! This year we have thirty-three artists participating in our *Plein Air Arts Festival* and we face the wonderful dilemma of hanging ninety-nine paintings in our Vogel Gallery. During the festival, Red Wing will be overflowing with artists and the Depot Gallery will be overflowing with paintings of Red Wing for our Gala Reception and Plein Air Arts Exhibit.

Plein Air artists are tasked with a different theme to paint each day of the festival. Monday is “**Paint the Valley**”, Tuesday is “**Paint the Downtown**”, Wednesday is “**Paint a Park**” and “**Evening Paint in Central Park**”, Thursday is “**Sunrise/Sunset**” and the Friday theme is “**Off the Beaten Path**”.

Wednesday evening, artists will set up easels around 6:00 PM in Central Park and paint as “The Back Channel Blues” band kicks off our *Concerts in the Park* series for 2010. Artists will be introduced at 8:00 PM.

A special event for Plein Air on Saturday is our Quick Paint Competition on the Mississippi Riverfront. At 10:00 A.M. artists bring a new canvas to the Depot Gallery and they have only 2 hours to complete a painting. This painting is then part of the “Quick Paint” competition and is eligible for the “Quick Paint” award of \$250.00. “Quick Paint”

Get Involved, Join the Fun and Volunteer!

Volunteers are needed for:

Concerts in the Park,

Garden Tour Greeters

Docents

Setting up exhibits and taking them down

The Art Extravaganza on July 24

artwork will be on display in the Veeder Gallery starting June 26th.

Each painter will submit up to three paintings for consideration for the remaining awards during the festival. Judge Robert Hodges Bonawitz, oil painter, will determine the winners for Best of Show (\$750), Best Downtown (\$250) and other awards. The artists determine the winner for the Artists’ Choice Award (\$250).

The awards ceremony takes place during the Gala Reception at the Depot Gallery, Saturday, June 26, 6:00 - 9:00 P.M. The public is warmly invited to the gala to watch the awards ceremony, to meet the artists and to view this incredible artwork. Light refreshments will be served and the art will be available to purchase at that time. The Plein Air Art will remain on exhibit in the RWAA Depot Gallery’s Veeder and Vogel Galleries until August 29th.

Three workshops are offered to the public for a small fee during the festival: Painting with Oils, Painting with Watercolors and Painting with Pastels. For more information about the Plein Air Arts Festival or to register for workshops, go to our website at www.redwingartsassociation.org or see the Red Wing Arts Association Depot Gallery page on Facebook.

“This is the best train depot in the U.S.! Art, history and the Great River - what a great shop!” A quote from Lynne of Mankato, MN.

Dan's Doodling: Reflections on Priorities

by Dan Guida, RWAA Director

Several years ago, Zoran Zoranowski contributed a large, white stone sculpture for our sculpture garden. I asked him, "Zoran, what is it?" His response, "What is it to *you*?" So it is with art. A person's response to a piece of artwork may have an emotional connection, unique and powerful.

At one level is refrigerator art, those beloved paintings and drawings that our grandchildren present us. We gush over them, certain of the obvious creative genius. At another level, they are honest expressions of the world through the eyes of a child.

These past weeks, my wife Sandy and I have been in Sugar Hill, Georgia, with our daughter and her family as she fights a particularly aggressive strain of breast cancer. Our four-year old granddaughter, Gabrielle,



Photo by Chap Achen

loves to color and paint. If I haven't mentioned, she is extremely talented, beautiful and bright – stop in the office I have the pictures to prove it!

Next to their refrigerator is one of Gabrielle's most recent creations - white paper, bold scribbles in black color crayon, rolling black circles with jagged, downward zigzags striking down cover the top of the paper, a large, dangerous black something covered over with many strong black lines dominating one side of the page, and on the other two primitive figures tightly holding hands, one small - one larger. "Gabby, what is it?" "It's Mommy and me" was the very direct and honest response.

A huge white stone sculpture (an angel to me), a beautiful painting of Barn Bluff, or a child's creation special to those who love her - all art, expressions of the world as experienced by the artist and interpreted by others.

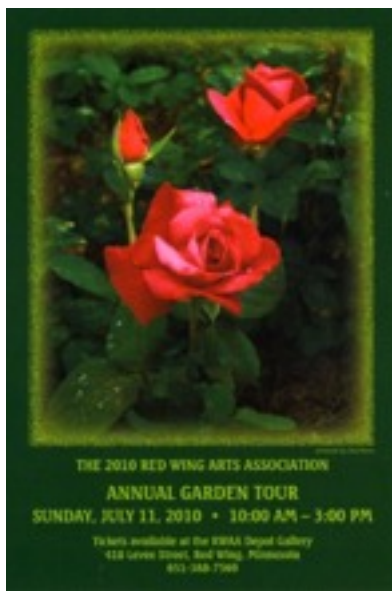
11th Annual RWAA Garden Tour

The artistry of the gardener and garden design along with the artistry of painters and musicians will be showcased during the 11th Annual Red Wing Arts Association's Garden Tour, July 11th from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The Goodhue County Horticulture Society has aided in the arrangement of this event which offers a variety of garden styles including container gardens at the Depot, five additional garden settings, master gardeners, music, artists and, new this year, photography.

Garden Tour Passports (tickets) are \$10.00 (12 and under are free) and can be purchased at the Red Wing Arts Association's Depot Gallery, Sargent's Nursery, Hallstrom's Florist and Greenhouses, and at the garden locations. Proceeds benefit the RWAA.

A free photography workshop has been added to the Garden Tour this year. Kick off your Garden Tour by bringing your camera to the Depot on Sunday at 9:30 AM and join Sandra Borgen, photographer, as she divulges the secrets of beautiful floral photography. The registered workshop photographers will then proceed to the gardens to apply what they have learned. The tour photographers are invited to bring their best picture from each garden to the Depot for a July 24th "Art Extravaganza" and will be eligible for an award.

The artwork produced by the RWAA Member Artists located in each garden will be donated to the RWAA and sold by silent auction concluding at 4:00 PM the Art Extravaganza.



Presidential Ponderings

by Sandy Giles, RWAA Board President



Photo by Rooney-Rongitsch

In the last issue, I called the Red Wing Arts Association a living organization. Has that ever proven true during the last month or so! While we had the good sense to hire a very good director, we couldn't protect him from harm, and Dan's been gone more than here during the past six weeks to be a caregiver for his daughter, Emily, in Georgia. But did we fall apart here? No, we did not! In fact, the membership pulled together so well and did what needed to be done, Dan now worries we may not need him anymore. NOT TRUE!

But we have made some positive changes to help us cope. Earlier in the year, the Board had developed a three-year plan to expand and grow. Year Two called for hiring a part-time Administrative Assistant to pick up some of the day-to-day activities, freeing the Director to do more program development and grant writing. Given Dan's situation, the Board opted to move this up to Year One, and we have hired Robin Rooney-Rongitsch, one of our members, for this part-time position. Robin has been, and will continue to be, a huge help in getting us through this summer, the busiest time of our year. If you haven't yet met Robin, drop in and say "hi" the next time you're at the Depot.

You, the members, have rallied and let us know we can count on you to help keep things going, and I want to thank members, Board, and staff for keeping the RWAA alive and well. Keep Dan and his family in your prayers.

Robin Rooney-Rongitsch has accepted the newly created position of part-time (20 hours per week) Administrative Assistant for the RWAA. She will be assisting Sandy Giles and Dan Guida with events, special projects, office management, membership and communications.

Robin brings a multitude of office experience to this position including her recent volunteer experiences with the RWAA working on the Arts Flash newsletter, the RWAA webpage and on the RWAA Facebook page. Prior to joining the RWAA, she has done everything from research in Criminal Justice to interior design. She loves gardening and is looking forward to helping bring about the RWAA Garden Tour.

Of her new position, Robin says, "I like promoting the arts and artists! I love how art, in its many forms, can make such a profound statement and contribution to society. I am looking forward to helping the RWAA present our member's art in the best possible manner. As a volunteer, I have enjoyed working with many of you and, as administrative assistant, I am looking forward to working with more RWAA members. I am constantly amazed at how much the RWAA accomplishes and I am excited to play a larger part in bringing about our events."

...and then there were Nine Concerts in the Park



Experience patriotic band music complete with cannons by the **Sheldon Brass Band** during a traditional 4th of July celebration in Red Wing's Central Park this year. The Sunday, 4th of July Concert is the newest offering of our RWAA Concerts In the Park series, along with eight other wonderful bands throughout the summer.

The Concerts in the Park series has become a Wednesday night tradition for Red Wing and the surrounding areas. The extraordinary bandshell at Central Park is the location for this "bring your own seating/food/beverage" style event. The Presbyterian Church will have some food available to purchase.

Artists will be painting for our Plein Air Arts Festival during the first Concert, June 23rd, when Back Channel Blues kicks off the season. Their paintings will be available to purchase at the Depot Gallery starting June 26th. Please see the "Important Dates" for upcoming concert dates or go to our website www.redwingartsassociation.org

In case of rain, **most** concerts will be moved to:

- First Lutheran Church, 651-388-9311, 615 5th St. West,
- Back Channel Blues will be cancelled in the event of a major storm
- Jarfalla would move to: United Lutheran, 651.388.3583, 628 W 5th Street

“The Last of the Old School Artists: Dan Wiemer”

By Robin Rooney-Rongitsch

I've often heard Dan Wiemer affectionately called “Mr. Red Wing”; however, during the April 21st RWAA Volunteer Update meeting, Wiemer described himself as “the last of the old school artists.”

Wiemer grew up in a household where it was OK for a boy to be an artist. He went on to attend Iowa State where his undergraduate studies did not include the use of a computer. This lack of computer training is partially why he calls himself an old school artist. He graduated with a degree in Graphic Design.

Early in his career, Wiemer rendered ads producing marker comps. Wiemer was known as a “wrist” and would be called upon by corporations to draw ideas for committees with markers very quickly. This experience taught him how to deal with criticism, giving him a thick skin because the responses were immediate and both good and bad. More importantly, it taught him to produce art that meets the needs of a client and this drives his production and art making today.

Self-employed since 1989, some of his early clients were the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Old Log Theater, and Pillsbury. He said he has painted niblet corn in every way imaginable. Wiemer takes a “shot gun approach to earning money” with his art. He does workshops, illustrations and displays his art in art shows and galleries. He also makes prints of his work, not accepted by some “purists”. A select few demand originals, but many buyers in the midwest prefer prints.

Wiemer has, over time, developed a distinctive style. His watercolors have developed from representational to near abstract and he often incorporates a “no 90 degree lines.” Adding acrylics to his watercolors, he creates an intensity that is unlike a watercolor alone. One technique he uses is scratch boardwork; using a clay board and sharpie then shaving with an exacto knife to achieve a woodcut look. He has started to develop another faux woodcut technique that holds great potential for him.

Wiemer currently finds himself working on two commission pieces that set the bar high, requiring art that is on par with Norman Rockwell's. In 1964 Norman Rockwell did a painting for *Look Magazine*, titled, “*The Problem We All Live With*”, which dealt with the issue of school [racial integration](#), depicting a young African American girl, [Ruby Bridges](#), flanked by white [federal marshals](#), walking to school past a wall defaced by racist graffiti. (Wikipedia) Ruby Bridges has selected Wiemer to paint two pieces commemorating the 50th Anniversary of School Desegregation in the deep south. This is a daunting task and Wiemer said he spent many hours contemplating his designs, which are abstract and highly conceptual.

As an artist, Wiemer stated he “thinks more now” planning his pieces. He turns about 1/3 of his sketches into paintings and about 1/2 of his paintings into prints. He summarized by saying, “As an artist you paint for yourself, but as a professional, you make art to sell it.”

Gift Gallery Store: A New Look

By Ted Horn, Chairperson, Gift Gallery Store Committee

Those discriminating choices that need to be made so our Gift Gallery maintains its appearance and increases sales are made by the Gift Gallery Store Committee. This committee was formed more than a year ago with the goals of organizing all of the art pieces in the store, to fully utilize the potential of the space available and to maximize income.

With 15 years retail experience in jewelry sales, committee member and fine art photographer, Sandy Borgen, is our jewelry display expert. Along with Debbie Wells, another committee member and jewelry artist, they have some wonderful ideas on how to display all of the fabulous pieces of jewelry in the Gallery Store. They make sure each piece of jewelry is displayed “just so” with the right lighting to enhance each piece perfectly.

Tom Giles is our committee's Michelangelo! With spackling compound in one hand and a paintbrush in the other, he works high on a ladder taking down pictures, repairing old nail holes and then applying a new coat of paint before any art can be hung on the walls.

To create more excitement and bring repeat visitors to the gallery, existing art may be re-hung or replaced. The committee decides if new art is needed or if existing pieces would benefit from being hung in a new location. If art needs replacing, we contact the artist and have them replace it with something new. If an artist has multiple pieces on display, they will now be displayed in a group, to make them more readily available to docents and guests.

New art pieces I say? Yes, new artwork can be delivered to Nancy Becker, inventory specialist. An integral member of the team, she is the employee in the office who knows the artists and their art. She makes sure that each piece of art is coded and recorded on the day it is delivered. The committee will be working closely with her to assure a fresh look and that exciting new pieces arrive often in the Gallery Store.

As committee chairperson, I invite everyone to stop in at the rearranged, refreshed and renewed Gift Gallery Store to check out what's new and exciting. You just might be amazed at the new and old artistic talents we have discovered.

Bits and Pieces

We try very hard to bring you complete information in our "Arts Flash" newsletter, however, there is always more to learn. If you have additional questions, visit our website at www.redwingartsassociation.org. Here you can find a detailed calendar of events, membership information and you can even donate online directly to the RWAA via a link on our site to GiveMN.org. Also, detailed events information can be found on our Facebook page. Last, but not least, the office is staffed during the day and we love to answer your questions over the phone, too!

Current Shows

"Quiet Evening" by member artist, Jeanne Licari, has been juried in to the Second Annual Southeast Minnesota Regional Art Exhibit held at Winona State and St. Mary's University galleries. The show runs from June 18 to July 29, 2010 in conjunction with the Great Shakespeare

A REMINDER...Picking up a few fresh veggies, meat, breads, jams or salsa at the Farmer's Market Saturday mornings? The Depot Gallery is now open at 8:00 AM for your shopping convenience on Saturday.

Important Dates

- June 26: Plein Air Arts Festival:
"Quick Paint" 10 am - noon on the Mississippi River (artists meet at Depot 9 am)
Gala Reception Saturday evening 6 - 10 pm
- June 27 - Aug. 29: "Plein Air Art Gallery Show" and "Plein Air Quick Art Gallery Show"
- June 30: Concert in the Park: "Jarfalla", a Swedish band 7 - 9 pm
- July 4: Concert in the Park: "Sheldon Brass Band", a brass band 7 - 9 pm
- July 7: Concert in the Park: "Generation II", a swing big band 7 - 9 pm
- July 11: Garden Tour - Workshop: "Photographing the Garden" with photographer Sandra Borgen 9 - 9:30 am
Garden Tour 2010, 10 am - 3 pm
- July 14: Concert in the Park: "Colleen Raye", a family variety band 7 - 9 pm
- July 15: RWAA Board Meeting 7 pm
- July 21: RWAA Volunteer Update 9 am
Concert in the Park: "Three Mississippi Country", a blue grass band 7 - 9 pm
- July 24 - 25: "Experience the Arts Celebration" exhibit of 2010 Garden Tour Art
- July 28: Concert in the Park: "Fire/Spice", a pop/variety band 7 - 9 pm
- August 4: Concert in the Park: "Generation", a country band 7 - 9 pm
- August 11: Concert in the Park: "Slippery Elm", a blues and acoustic rock band 7 - 9 pm
- August 18: RWAA Volunteer Update 9 am
- August 19: RWAA Board Meeting 7 pm

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