

## Interview with Bruce Jones, President of Gualala Arts Board

### \* Why did you take on the job of President of Gualala Arts?

I felt someone had to do it, and maybe an artist would be able to make a difference. There was nothing I particularly wanted to change; I liked the directions my predecessors, Bob Hocker and Cliff Putnam, had taken and I've loved working with both Karel Metcalf and Sus. I have enjoyed getting more artists onto the Board though, and I really enjoy working with the people on the Board and volunteers to see what we can do to make arts happen here – very fun. When I had a real job, one of the things I enjoyed most was working in teams, and I enjoy it a lot here too.

### \* Are you running for re-election? If so, why?

Yes I'm up for re-election for one more year. Things I've enjoyed during the past couple of years include:

1. Watching Gualala Arts Center Theater, digital photography, culinary arts, and Local Eyes musical performances get started and go big time, and now Gerda's basketry group.
2. Seeing the results from our changes in Art In The Redwoods this year – I thought it was the best one ever.
3. Seeing all Barbara Pratt's workshops blossom, from sculpture to basketry and pyrography. Taking the course in stone carving was the best thing that's happened to my personal artistic development in the past few years.

### \* Have your goals for GA changed in this past year? If so, why and or how?

Most of my goals haven't changed much. The basics remain: (1) increasing the number of people who want to be members and participate in arts programs, (2) having an active Board and lots of volunteers who are making arts happen, and (3) continue incubating new arts programs.

On the other hand, there are three things we need to focus on much more in 2006: (1) putting together a steady, effective fundraising program since that's the only way we can keep the art center

going in the long range, especially when it is time to replace the roof and siding, (2) thinking out a long range plan for the art center that defines a path toward improvements in both community participation and quality of art, (3) improved lighting in the gallery, foyer and upstairs. Also I'm hoping that we'll be able to start the DiPrima classroom and storage area in 2006, and I'd like to see a wood carving group get active. Neither is a new focus, but both would be valuable.

### \* How has your being an artist changed the vision or the work of GA?

I think it adds to my depth of involvement, especially in landscaping. In 2000, when I first got involved, the art center was not landscaped. Art Dreyer had done some plans, but there was really just the building. Along with a lot of other people, I've spent a lot of time making the art center itself more of an artistic place, where people can get into beauty. With Art Dreyer as the boss, we have pulled off quite a transformation during the past few years and I love it – lots of beautiful plants, areas like the meditation grove, and beautiful trails – the art center is becoming art.

### \* Can you give us a sneak preview of the coming membership meeting?

The annual meeting is especially important for election of new Board members and officers. The nominating committee has half a dozen slots to fill and could use some more candidates, so people should let Jim Grenwelge know if they have ideas for nominations. I would like to find some more people who love being active in the arts and have some time to volunteer, especially if they can help with fundraising or lighting improvement projects. We haven't thought up anything else for the annual meeting yet, but there is still time to cook up some interesting surprises.

See you at the Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Coleman Auditorium.

