

As planning for another Art in the Redwoods is well underway it makes me think of the all the past volunteers, board members, staff & founders who helped shape the festival into what it is today. It boggles the mind to think about how many people this festival has touched and will continue to affect in the future.

Literally hundreds of volunteers each year spend months creating their art, and then they clear parking lots, hang posters, make food, receive, hang & sell the art, put up tents, sell food tickets, set dinner tables, sell drinks, play music, park cars, tend to first aid, secure the grounds, make art with children, face paint, story tell, stitch quilts to give away, set up sound systems, empty trash, recycle, judge art, make awards, set up & break down, docent galleries. That only begins to name a few of the jobs so many take on so willingly.

I am a firm believer that this event is at the core of Gualala Arts mission statement, "To promote public interest and participation in the arts," and we have been meeting this mission and doing this festival since 1961! If you would like to be a part of history in the making and share your time and energy, please call 884-1138. One of our dedicated staff will find an appropriate team for you to join.

Thousands of attendees each year roll up to our coast and the Arts Center to see what our friends, family and neighbors have been creating by viewing the approximately 400 fine art pieces on display in this magical volunteer-built 15,000 square-foot building.

Outside they stroll through 50 tents where artisans are selling their handmade wares, and enjoy food prepared using the freshest local ingredients possible. This year, as a thank you for all the local community support, we have a coupon for half-off admission for Sunday in this issue of *Sketches*. Please take this opportunity to treat yourself and your family to a great day of art, music, food, culture, and sharing!

Hope to see you there!

David Sus Susalla
Executive Director

Sketches Newsletter of Gualala Arts Center

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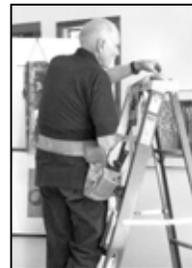
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Enrich your Life by Volunteering at Gualala Arts

The cool foggy weather already has a pleasant hint of autumn. Perhaps in the midst of all the summer visitors and activities you have begun to long for autumn. Have you been thinking about looking for that activity that will add new zip and zest to your life?

What talent or interest do you have that you would be willing to share with the members of Gualala Arts? How can you add to the diversity of this community?

Volunteers are loved and pampered here, first of all because they all are such great people, and secondly because the center would not function without them!



Right now there is a need to train a new crew of show hangers. These are the people who gauge the height (using laser equipment), pound the nails, and hoist the artwork to new levels on the walls.

Do you have a great idea for a new activity or service for Gualala Arts? Would you be willing to volunteer your services and your expertise? Call Sus with your plan and get started.

Remember this arts center is yours and it is here for you to make good use of it. If you have not already found a place for the center in your life, you are missing out on a huge thrill and much fulfillment.

Do not think that the arts center is only for artists, either. Yes, the visual arts are part of it, but so are the music and performance arts, as well as the most vital and practical cooking and gardening arts. There are classes to keep your body in shape, book clubs to expand your mind, and classes to teach you almost any new skill you would like to learn. Weekend workshops by famous and near-famous artists can immerse you into concentrated whirlpools of inspiration and experience. What are you letting hold you back?

Web Report

In June the Gualala Arts website had 10,151 visitors for a daily average of 350. That number is up from 310 for the month of May. Do bookmark the site so you can check it often: <http://www.GualalaArts.org>

A Reminder for Thespians!

Auditions for the musical, "The Secret Garden," are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, August 12 and 13, at 1 p.m. You will be asked to read from the script and, if auditioning for a singing role, to sing. If call-backs are required, they will be August 14 at 5 p.m.

Deadline for information for *Sketches* on events in **September** is **Friday July 30.**