

Volunteers of the Month

Linda and Tom Warnock

Jane Reichhold: How and when did you become involved with Gualala Arts?

Tom Warnock: When we first moved to Sea Ranch on a full time basis Gualala Arts was in the final stages of construction. I have always been interested in building and construction projects so I joined the regular volunteer work crew that met each week.

Linda Warnock: I became involved shortly after we moved here in 1998. I joined the quilt guild, and subsequently was asked to join the Gualala Arts Board. I served as Secretary for the GA board for, I think, about four or five years. It was 1998 through 2003, I think. In 2003, I served as president of the Pacific Piecemakers Quilt Guild.



JR: Tom, you were in charge of the construction of the set for "Beauty and the Beast" and others. How did you get this job?

TW: Some of the work that the work crew performs is associated with various theater productions. As I became more and more involved I took on added

responsibility and eventually directed the construction of several sets. Phil Atkins, with whom I share a lot of responsibility on set construction, was very involved as an actor with Beauty and the Beast, so I was asked to lead this effort.

JR: Linda, you are also involved with theater with the Sea Ranch Thespians. How do your several jobs combine?

LW: The Thespians and Gualala Arts ACT negotiate schedules to avoid overlapping productions. I find time to support The Sea Ranch Thespians in late spring and early fall. Then, I especially like to work on the December musical productions at Gualala Arts Center. It's a fine balance, and variety of theater.

JR: Were the two of you interested in theater before you came here? Or who brought whom to the theater?

TW: I worked a little on set painting in high school but really had no association with the theater before moving to The Sea Ranch.

LW: I worked on some plays in high school. When we moved to this area, I took an acting class taught at The Sea Ranch, and then volunteered to be "on the book" during one of their first plays. That's when it all started. I think that was in 1999.

JR: Tom manages the drawing sessions with the live model. What kind of artwork do you prefer to do and to show?

LW: Watercolor, oil, and pastel drawings.

JR: I hear you have been regular volunteers in the Sweet Shoppe for Art in the Redwoods for years. How do you explain that?

TW: Doris Buck created the Sweet Shoppe as a fund raiser and asked us if we wanted to help. We met Doris through our association with The Posh Squash and The Quilt Guild.

JR: Any comments you wish to make about Gualala Arts or volunteering?

LW: It's a great way to meet new people and make friends. Some of the friendships we have developed through the theater at both The Sea Ranch Thespians and Gualala Arts ACT are central to our lives here on the coast. Both Tom and I have spent our retirement since 1998 actively volunteering and enjoying the lifestyle here. In addition to theater, we are both avid gardeners and serve on the steering committee for the posh squash community garden. Tom is a village tutor, and I also serve as a volunteer and board member for Community Resource Connection.

TW: I think that volunteering in our area is a great way to meet people, create new interests, and get important things done; I think it is an integral part of our life style.

JR: Would you like to tell readers how you came to live at The Sea Ranch?

TW: We came up to the Gualala area with friends for a weekend in early 1970 and fell in love with everything about it. Over the years we made numerous trips with our family and friends and rented various places at The Sea Ranch. In 1979 we purchased a lot at The Sea Ranch with the expectation we would build one day. In 1993 we built our house and in 1998 moved here permanently and don't intend to leave anytime in the foreseeable future.

