

Volunteer of the Month Walter Guenther

Every Tuesday morning at 9, there is a group of men that are the Gualala Arts maintenance crew. To say how valuable they are to this organization is an understatement. Everyone knows what the labor costs of a plumber, electrician, landscaper or handyman are. What this crew saves for Gualala Arts is astronomical in dollars. The coffee, tea and pastries waiting for them is only a small token of appreciation for their work. There is a special camaraderie between the men sharing the logistics of a current problem. Somehow they manage to solve it all. And, most importantly, have fun doing it

We are highlighting just one of them this month - Walter Guenther. Walt has been an active Building Committee Member of Gualala Arts since 1996, when construction of the new Arts Center broke ground (proving that one must work a long time before receiving recognition!).

Walt received his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering in 1951 from the University of Utah. After 38 years, in 1989, he retired as Fellow Electrical Design Engineer from Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Walt and his wife, Joanne, moved fulltime to The Sea Ranch from Saratoga, California in 1991. Soon after settling in, Walt became an active member of the Sea Ranch Volunteer Fire Department and a First Responder with TSRVFD and still serves! In 1992, Walt worked on the Knipp-Stengel Barn restoration and maintenance. In 1998, the Stabilization & Restoration of Del Mar Schoolhouse in TSR was a benefactor of Walt's expertise.

Walt and Joanne were awarded "Sea Ranchers of the Year" in 2001.

Walt is also the electrician for both local community theaters - Gualala Arts Center Theater and The Sea Ranch Thespians.

As evidenced by his long tenure as a volunteer, Walt is the one who will stick with you until the end of the day. Self-effacing and modest, he will predictably be embarrassed by this award! So serve him a beer quickly!

Art Dreyer, Landscape Committee Chairman

Walt's a great person! He is the guy I look for when we have a difficult task to accomplish at the Arts Center - he is the first one I call for electrical, plumbing or any task!

Ben Klagenberg, Culinary Arts Committee Chairman

Walt is our Go-To Guy. He is multi-skilled. And, he makes our projects easier! He has volunteered at the Arts Center since its start. We value his help!

Jim Grenwelge, President of GA Board of Directors

I cannot even count the number of times that Walt has helped me out here at Gualala Arts! He has used his wizardry to save Gualala Arts literally tens of thousands of dollars in landscape, electric, wood, tile, plumbing, the list is too long to cover it all! There has not been an Arts Center challenge yet that he couldn't solve. Seeing Walt and his faithful partner Art Dreyer here week after week is truly inspiring. There are not enough kind words in the dictionary to describe how good of a volunteer Walt is. We are honored to have him on the Gualala Arts Team!

David "Sus" Susalla, Executive Director

