



ART ON THE WIND

*Newsletter of the
Wind River Valley Arts Guild*

Wind River Valley Arts Guild
P.O. Box 26
20 Stalnaker Street
Dubois, Wyoming 82513

President's Message

As many of you know, the Art Guild has been without an Executive Board since May 2020. To hopefully resolve our situation, we sent out a letter announcing a general membership meeting in January to discuss our alternatives and course of action to save the art guild.

The good news...we have formed an Executive Board and several volunteers to help out with projects. If you would have asked me in December if we were going to have an Executive Board and revive the art guild, I would have said "not likely".

We have an excellent mix on the Board...three individuals with plenty of art guild experience, as well as three new individuals with lots of energy and ideas. We had our initial board meeting in February to layout and prioritize some objectives for the coming months ahead. There is a lot of work to accomplish in order to get back on our feet.

The organization has been following the same "blue print" established many years ago and needs creative ideas, along with bold action to move the organization forward, making the WRVAG more inclusive and adaptable in meeting the needs of our artists, artisans and non-artist members.

We are going to reorganize the WRVAG Gallery to better display our permanent collection, as well as Joe and Mary Back's artwork. We are going to return to having a featured artist/artisan with a reception and light refreshments to introduce the artist. Further, we are exploring the possibilities of themed exhibits, "Art in the Park" and workshops in the future as well. These projects are our immediate focus.

On a more challenging note, we have been without a Headwaters Director since last May as well, which meant the WRVAG had no office manager...no one to answer the phone, emails, manage websites or Facebook pages. Fortunately, this situation has been recently resolved; however, the individual will not be in place until mid-May...please continue to bare with us. To this

end, we are going to send out our newsletter frequently, as well as re-establish our own website in the very near future.

In the mean time, you can call the WRVAG phone number and leave a message (455-3404) or email us at wrvag@wyoming.com. We are trying to check voice mail and emails every few days.

In closing, this organization was created by artists and artisans for the purpose of furthering art in our community. This organization needs the support of our regional artists and artisans, as well as our non-artist patrons in order to grow and educate our community...art, in all its disciplines, speaks to our soul...our humanity...and, in these trying times, it is needed more than ever.

Stephen Jay Lunsford
President
WRVAG Executive Board

Stephen Lunsford	President
Karyl Bush	Vice President
Mallerie Albright	Secretary
Leigh Tuckey	Treasurer
Christine Snow	Art Committee/ Assist Treasurer
Twila Blakeman	Member at Large

Board meetings are every third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 PM and open to the public.

Subject to Change without Notice

Joe & Mary Back Sculptures: A Rare Gift

Ona-Kai and John Young III, who are related to Mary and Joe Back, contacted the WRVAG concerning several of Joe's sculptures they had discovered while cleaning out their attic. It seems they wanted to return them to Dubois, and was wondering if we would accept them as a donation.

We contacted them, telling them that we would be delighted to receive their donation and that we would add them to our permanent display of Joe and Mary's art work.

Ona didn't want any reimbursement for the shipping. Only that "if you could list my mother's name, Ellen Cooper Hudak, Mary's and Joe's niece, as the donor." She continued "that her mother absolutely loved Wyoming, telling me stores about the ranch and hiking in the mountains."

The sculptures are in need of repair and John Finley has volunteered to make those repairs. Once he has completed the restoration of the sculptures, we'll add them to our Joe and Mary Back's permanent collect.

Susan Kathleen Black Foundation Workshop

September 12 - 18, 2021 Headwaters Conference Center

<http://www.susankblackfoundation.org>

In the Gallery

We are beginning to repurpose our gallery upstairs at the Headwaters. We will be taking down the permanent collection, categorizing and grouping the collect into small, rotating quarterly exhibits. We will then designate a specific wall space for the rotating permanent collection.

At the same time, we will be cataloging the permanent collection, then uploading the catalog to an "off site" database with images and descriptions of each work of art.

Further, there is a vast amount of Mary and Joe Back's artwork in storage which needs to be cataloged as well.

After cataloging the Back's artwork, we will establish a permanent exhibit of their memorabilia, as well as their artwork.

We are going to revive our featured artist program starting later this year. We will work with the artist to set up the exhibit in the gallery. We will announce the exhibit and provide a reception with light hors d'oeuvres to formally present each artist's creative vision.

If you're interested in being a featured artist, please begin to evaluate your work and prepare for a "spot" on the list. If you feel you don't have enough work, you may combine with another artist to complete your exhibit.

WRVAG Artists Database

As stated in the President's message, we want to make the WRVAG more inclusive and adaptable in meeting the needs of our artists and artisans members. What do we mean by artists and artisans? The list is long, but a short list includes painters, photographers, potters, sculptors, fine handcraft leather, scrimshaw, fine handcraft wood working, silversmiths, antler craft, graphic design, quilts, musicians and the list could go on.

Currently, our database of member/artists needs a lot of work and updating. If you know a local artist, and they are not involve in the Art Guild, please encourage them to contact us; they do not have to be a member of the WRVAG to be in our database. We will keep them informed of events through our newsletter and website.

If you are an artist and, through happenstance, find yourself reading this newsletter, please consider contacting the Art Guild to be added to our database. We will keep you informed of events through our newsletter and website — you do not need to be a member.

Contact the President directly at stephen@westernlightphoto.com

Never Sweat Needlers Quilt Guild

25th Annual Quilt Festival

Headwaters Conference Center

August 13 - 15 2021