

A Letter From The President

November, 2019

Hello all,

The new Board of Directors of Earth Arts has elected me, Jim Williams, to the Presidency. Not to worry - there won't be any Fireside Chats or Inflammatory Tweets. However, I will try to get out a quarterly letter to keep everybody up to date on what's going on in your organization (there may be a hint of my sometimes odd sense of humor or a minute touch of my personal bias - so it goes). Perhaps with some member input, this can become a regular newsletter?

FIRST AND FOREMOST, let me announce the CALL FOR ARTISTS for the Spring Art Tour 2020! Please print, fill out, and return the attached Artist Application. We are holding the line on fees - no hikes!

Today, I'll try to give you some idea of: 1) Where we art, 2) What it means to be a member, and 3) What we are looking at for the future.

Let me emphasize that the Board is not here to dictate what Earth Arts should be. It was created to better respond to the wants and needs of the membership, to find consensus, and to direct the regular operation of Earth Arts to try to meet those needs.

That means hearing from you, the members. The following is in response to what we have heard so far.

WHERE WE ART NOW:

We have a new, more comprehensive set of Bylaws (viewable on our website).

We have a new Board of Directors with Officers:

- Jim Williams - President - <jim@irongoartworks.com>
- Jack Route - Vice President - <jon@jonmichaelroute.com>
- Earl Duckert - Treasurer - <ducknest1@gmail.com>
- Paul Supplee - Secretary - <Boghouse1534@gmail.com>
- Joyce Halvorson <jlhalvor58@gmail.com>
- Sally Klevgard <paperworx@amerytel.net>

Thanks to Michael Jekot and Jean Egerman for hosting our Board meetings at Balsam Arts.

Earth Arts is a Wisconsin, non-stock corporation. Roughly speaking, this is a Wisconsin "not for profit" but not a Federal one - we do not, as yet, fit all of the Federal criteria.

Earth Arts supports:

- The Spring Art Tour - work has begun on the Tour for Spring 2020.
VOLUNTEERS would be appreciated. Please contact Jack, Joyce, or Sally even if you can give us only a couple of hours of your time.
- The Fall Salon - With all of the changes going on, the Salon didn't happen in 2019, but we will be exploring it and other options (see below What we are looking at for the future).
- A website with Earth Arts information, member links, and organizational links

- A members email list
- Member meetings

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER:

Benefits -

As an EARTH ARTS MEMBER, YOU have a PLATFORM to CHANGE THE WORLD, enrich the community, enhance the rural experience, promote civic engagement, promote diversity, and build cultural bridges by:

Creating Art,
 Finding new opportunities,
 Exhibiting your work,
 Selling your work,
 Networking with other artists,
 Collaborating on new projects,
 Developing new art events,
 Supporting existing art events,
 Expressing yourself,
 Teaching others, and
 Learning new skills.
 One artwork at a time.

Responsibilities -

You must be an artist or artisan creating your own original work or an art entity accepted by Earth Arts.

You must pay your dues.

You are responsible for acting in the best interests of EA in all EA activities and all advertising where EA is mentioned or is in anyway responsible.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING AT FOR THE FUTURE:

Earth Arts is exploring a number of possibilities for future activities and benefits. We will, of course continue to support and enhance the Spring Art Tour.

For next year, we will also be looking at:

- A Fall Tour/Event - this could involve the Fall Salon, beginning a new Fall Art Tour, and/or partnering in an existing Tour or event
- A Holiday Event
- Artist websites - we are looking at the cost/benefits of allowing members to have a full page that might include: contact info, a small gallery, about, and directions to studio or gallery
- More social gatherings - Earth Arts began as much as a social and networking organization as an economic one. We seem to have lost a fair amount of the former and feel we need to get it back.
- A quarterly newsletter - this could include not only the Board's reports, but also focus on upcoming member activities, who is showing where, opportunities, suggestions on where to get tools and materials for your work, art business info/article reprints, etc. Any editors out there?

WE HAVE a lot of members with a lot of creativity, imagination, and skills. With your help, Earth Arts can be a great place to put it all together.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND HELP - Jim Williams