

SOUTH CENTRAL ROUNDUP

SPRING 2013



Carolyn's Comments

I really hate writing my article this time. It seems we don't have enough members to warrant having our annual meeting so I will not be seeing you in Oklahoma. However, we still want to hear from all of you — what are you doing?

The South Central officers will be meeting in April to decide what needs to be done for the South Central Region. Hopefully we will come up with some new ideas to build the South Central Region membership. We would like for you to contribute any ideas. Send them to one of your officers.

Meanwhile, enjoy the spring and keep painting.

Carolyn

"Texture adds quality to a painting and makes it appear more realistic. Texture draws the eye of a viewer - drybrushing, sponging-on, spattering with paint-loaded brush... Spattered dots become the 'diamonds' that add sparkle even in the darkest shadows." (George Politis)

This will be your last printed newsletter. Any future newsletters will henceforth be sent by email. The lack of input from members and the fact that no South Central meetings will be held in the near future seems to make a newsletter an unnecessary effort and not worth the expense it takes to print it and send it out.

If Carolyn has announcements or news of upcoming seminars and workshops, you will be notified by email.

Be assured that any suggestions any of you might have for keeping South Central Region alive will be most gratefully considered.

You may contact Carolyn or me by email if any of you have something you want to contribute.



NOTE: If you wish to continue your membership in South Central please send your dues in the amount of \$20.00 to:

**JUNE HEAD
12341 WINGFOOT DR.
KANSAS CITY, KS. 66109**

The spring meeting is usually the cutoff date for members who have not paid dues but since we'll not be having a meeting this year, this will be your last newsletter if you do not pay your 2013 dues.



DOWN MEMORY LANE

In reviewing some of the newsletters over the years, I recall some of our more memorable meetings and, of course, the wonderful teachers we have had to lead us in our 2-day workshops. Among them are Valerie Stewart, Brenda Harris, Ruth Stewart, Jo Legg, Gail Ruth, the late Rita Huscher and of course, our president Carolyn Vandeventer, who has led us in a couple of workshops. Our members have done some beautiful paintings with these teachers and I believe everyone who has attended a meeting has had a great time.

We've had a lot of fun with the Silent Auction - not to mention we've made quite a lot of money from it over the years.

Our "Artist of the Year" contest started off slowly, but every year more and more of you have brought samples of your work to enter in the contest. They were all so great it was sometimes difficult to come up with a winner - and the difference between first and second place was often only one vote.

It hasn't always been easy to find enough news about our members to fill up a newsletter, so I have done a lot of research about the world in Art and have broadened my knowledge in the history of artists, the many techniques they've used and viewed a lot of gallery art on line. I hope you have all enjoyed the bits and pieces of information and helpful hints I've included over the years.

It would be a shame to completely lose the South Central Region and I hope enough of you are interested in continuing it that you will send your thoughts and suggestions for ways to preserve our South Central status. We also need suggestions for attracting people to our annual meeting. The decline in attendance at the meetings has severely affected our Region. What, in your opinion, can be done to make you want to attend the annual meeting? We can restructure our format if necessarybut we need to know what it is that you don't like and what would attract you . . . Please let us hear from you.

Carolyn has announced that Valerie Stewart will be in Dallas May 1-4, 2014 for a 4-day portrait seminar. More details will be announced later regarding cost, hotel reservations and seating limitations.

If you think you might be interested in this seminar, call or email Carolyn to find out more details and start making your plans to attend now.



RECIPE FOR BOOZY BACON JAM

This jam makes a wonderful gift at Christmas or Thanksgiving. You can serve it warm or chilled – both are really good. Use it as sandwich spread, in quesadillas, stirred into soups or, my personal favorite.....holding an open jar in front of an open fridge, eating it by the spoonful.

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. smoked bacon cut into 1-inch pieces
- ½ cup bacon drippings
- 2 large yellow onions, thinly sliced
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- 1 shallot, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup garlic minced
- 1 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 cup bourbon whiskey
- 1 cup brewed coffee
- ½ cup sherry vinegar
- ½ cup maple syrup (the real stuff)
- ¾ cup ketchup

Cook and stir bacon in a large saucepan over medium high heat until bacon starts to brown, about 10 minutes; drain grease, retaining ½ cup of the drippings. Stir onions into bacon and drippings; cook and stir until soft, about 10 minutes. Stir in brown sugar and cook until onions are sticky and browned, about 5 more minutes. Mix in garlic, cayenne pepper, cinnamon and nutmeg. Cook and stir until garlic is soft, about 5 minutes.

Mix in bourbon whiskey, coffee, sherry vinegar and maple syrup. Bring to boil, reduce heat to low and cook until the bacon jam is thickened but not completely dry, stirring occasionally to prevent burning – about 35 minutes. Mix in ketchup and cook 5 more minutes.

Remove from heat and let the bacon jam cool. Pulse in a food processor to a slightly chunky, spreadable consistency.

Bacon jam will store in the refrigerator, covered for up to 2 weeks.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE YOURSELF AS AN ARTIST? How do you know if you are creative?

According to a recent article in *Hidden River Arts* the best way to understand your own creativity is to associate with other artists. Turn off the TV, the computer and the smart phone. Surround yourself with live art each day. Go to an art museum for a day and study the art there. Carry a notebook in which you can sketch and write. Hang out with other artists. Get to know some of the people in your community who are involved in the arts, and spend time with them.

You will feel more alive. You'll realize that artists are all around you and that the world is filled with creative wonder.

Be imaginative. A teacher was giving instructions to a kindergarten class one day and said, "We'll be drawing pictures of apples today. And what colors are apples? They are red, green and yellow. There are NO purple apples, no blue apples. So let's be sure that we use the right colors." I wanted to rush into the room and tell the children, "YES, there are purple apples! There are blue apples! There are polka dot and striped apples. They are in your imagination! So draw whatever kind of apples you can imagine!"

It is impossible for a non-artist to teach creativity. So what we need today is an avalanche of artists, a flood of artists, entering all levels of the population, interacting with the youngest children and the oldest seniors – inviting them to see their own purple apples, to imagine their flavor, to smell their perfume. Our society needs its artists now more than ever!

