

# Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative

A not-for-profit organization and land trust

Working across state boundaries to enhance Wolf Lake

October 11, 2019

14<sup>th</sup> Greening of the Arts  
Features local artists

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## *Immediate Release*

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Greening of the Arts Reception, Show & Concerts opens at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18 at the Bernard Gallery, Calumet College of St. Joseph (CCSJ), 2400 New York Ave., Whiting.

Sponsored by the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) and CCSJ, the show features local artists through November 22. As in the past, the Greening of the Arts show features artists who use recycled products or who focus on nature and the environment.

Works include paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs.

This year's artists include Claudia Charo, of Hammond, painting; Pat Hansen of South Holland, painting; Rebecca Moss of Oak Lawn, photography; Tom Mullins of Whiting, photography; Robert "Piro" Ramirez of Chicago, abstract paintings in acrylic; Roman Villarreal of Chicago, sculpture; and Jennifer Young, who works in digital photography.

Participating in the student competition are entries from CCSJ.

The art show opens at 5:30 p.m. with a wine and cheese reception and live music by Abigail Pennanen of Hammond. There will be a book signing session for *Over the Line*, the 20-year history by Michael Boos of AWLI's 20 years as an organization.

Scheduled at 6 p.m. is an artists' forum with opening remarks by Professor Walter Skiba, associate professor of arts and humanities at CCSJ.

The program begins at 6:30 p.m. with acknowledgment of volunteers, funders and donors to AWLI in 2019. Funders include Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust, Ford Motor Company Fund, Indiana Humanities, and the Legacy Foundation of Indiana.

At 7 p.m. there will be a concert by the alternative rock band, The Brave Day, It features Bryan Pirosko, Roye Robley, and Kevin Mackowicz. The group has played together since 2002..

Formed in Hammond, The Brave Day has played throughout Indiana and Illinois. The band has released a handful of EPs, including one in 2012, titled *Fast*, and one in 2014, titled *Act II: The Crossing*.

Winners of the student competition will be announced at 8 p.m. at the end of opening day.

A concert series on the *Nexus of Art and Nature* will enter its second season as benefit for the art program at Calumet College and AWLI. Subsequent performances will be held at the same time on Fridays through the run of the show. All but the second concert will be held in the Barbara Goodman Black Box Theater, adjacent to the art gallery.

On Oct. 25, organist Br. Benjamin Basile, C.P.P.S. and oboist Kathryn Brtko will give a recital featuring the recently restored 19th century Kimball pipe organ in the Bernard Gallery at CCSJ.

Brother Ben is associate professor of mathematics at CCSJ. Kathryn is principal oboe with the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra and participates in music ministry with a number of churches in the NW Indiana/ Chicago area..

Guitarist Ron Skertich of Hammond will perform on Nov. 1.

David Dolak of Hammond will perform on Nov. 8, playing a mix of classical, classic jazz and pop music. He will add some folk songs of the region.

Dolak is a professor of instruction at Columbia College, Chicago, and teaches a course in instrument making.

The Brilliant Estesian Ensemble will perform on November 15. The woodwind group includes Lupe Esquivel,

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bassoon, Park Forest, IL; Ken Carlborg, clarinet, Chicago Heights, IL; Niki Juarez-Cummings, flute, Steger, IL; Larry Meschi, soprano saxophone, clarinet, and bass clarinet, Highland, IN.

The Ensemble is composed of musical friends who met through the music program at Prairie State College. Its repertoire is an eclectic mix of original compositions and dedicated arrangements, which runs the gamut from classical to jazz, pop to rock.

Tyler Bush is curator of the Bernard Gallery and serves as assistant professor, digital and performing arts, at CCSJ. Jack Walter is president of AWLI.

More information is available by calling AWLI at 219 933-7149 or 312 220-0120.

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**Note to Editors.** Below is a list of artists with additional information:

**Claudia Charo** of Hammond, IN

She will exhibit an oil painting.

**Pat Hansen** of South Holland, IL

At the show, she will be exhibiting two oil paintings. Hansen has dedicated more than 40 years to creating realistic landscapes, still life, florals and animal portraits. She is a former director of a Montessori classroom and trained child care workers at Purdue University Calumet. Hansen also taught art at all grade levels in the East Chicago public schools.

Past president of Illiana Artists, she has won numerous awards during her career and her work is in corporate and private collections.

**Rebecca Moss** of Oak Lawn, IL

Moss is a naturalist with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. She is a former AWLI director.

**Tom Mullins** of Whiting, IN

Mullins is a nature photographer who has exhibited locally.

**Robert “Piro” Ramirez** of Chicago

Ramirez paints abstracts in acrylic.

**Roman Villarreal** of Chicago, IL

A former steel worker and founder of Hammond’s Warehouse Studio and co-founder of Under the Bridge gallery in Chicago, Villarreal sculpts multi-figured expressions of the human experience. He places an emphasis on the experiences of the Mexican-American community and people of color.

He recently created an 11-foot bronze statue erected at Steelworkers Park in the South Chicago community.

He has exhibited nationally and internationally. One of his stone sculptures is part of the National Museum of Mexican Art collections. Other works are among the collections of Chicago’s Field Museum.

**Jennifer Young** works in black-and-white digital photography to capture subjects with unique textures and details.

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