

Greater Navarre Beach Arts Association, Inc.

Background: 2006-2011

2006 – Club formed to promote the arts and culture in Navarre.

-- First GNBAA beach based 'Fall Festival of the Arts', with artists' tents, food vendors, rides for children, music, business booths, and children's face painting, organized and run by six members. Friday Night was "Latin Night" with Latin music, dancers and a great crowd.

-- We successfully promoted this event for the second weekend of October, resulting in about 4000+ visitors to Navarre Beach.

2007 – Formed an association, started artist displays on Friday evenings, had members teach painting, pottery and photography adult classes, and put on the Fall Festival for the second year. (We used the 'Art Shack' on Hwy 87 for over a year for art displays and classes, however after the roof of the building fell in – we decided not to continue there.)

-- Again, the Fall Arts Festival was a success, with 65 artist booths, more food vendors and more musical entertainment offered to the public. We continued our "Latin Night" festivities and extended the hours. Our crowd of visitors increased due to extensive newspaper, radio and TV coverage of the event. It is estimated that we had over 5000 people attend the event.

-- We added a contest called, 'Paint Santa Rosa', open to painters throughout the county and had a show of the paintings at the Dragonfly Gallery in Milton, and on display at the Fall Arts Festival.

2008 – Our GNBAA group started gaining recognition, and we were asked to join the Chamber of Commerce, work with other groups in the community, and we began looking for other venues to sponsor.

-- We contacted local real estate companies to see if we could use a vacant space in one of the strip centers for a gallery/classes site.

-- The Fall Arts Festival was a monetary success partly due to grant monies from Boeing and the Santa Rosa Tourist Development Council. The number of artists and food vendors grew, plus we had a 'skate board demonstration area', a nice selection of carnival rides, a good children's learning area, better-known entertainment from our area, and more contributions and support from local businesses. "Latin Night" as our kick-off was a success. It was estimated that we had 10,000 people come to the beach for that festival.

2009 – Our calendar of events for the year, included:

-- September – "You Can Be a Star in Navarre" singing/karaoke contest finals.

-- Continuation of the chamber's "Music in the Park" with two evenings of music and entertainment.

-- Sponsored and assisted with the Parrot Heads PHUNfest in Navarre Park.

-- October Arts Festival in Navarre Park – a one day event with limited spaces (50) for artists and food vendors, children’s rides, and musical entertainment. We worked with the Santa Rosa County Extension Office Master Gardener’s Program, to have our event co-advertised with the Monarch Madness Event at the Butterfly House in the Park.

-- End of October – Recycle South Santa Rosa Event teaming with Santa Rosa Clean to use the Navarre Park for electronics recycling, food, several artists and music.

2010 - Because of the Gulf Oil Spill and all of the negative publicity generated by national media concerning Panhandle beaches, we decided to “shelve” the Arts Festival for 2010. But, we initiated our search for our next project, and began seeking positive response to our ‘vision’ for an Arts/Entertainment Complex in Navarre.

2011 - As the economy is improving, GNBAA is taking on more tasks to improve our area with art and cultural experiences. We have started by ‘mentoring’ The Navarre Youth Haywire Disaster Choir, a group of teens and 20-somethings who are interested in bringing contemporary music to Navarre. They, represented by Joshua Carroll on our GNBAA Executive Board, have planned new music venues for April and May plus an Earth Day Recognition Concert on April 23. They hope to continue with music concerts throughout the year that will target a younger audience.

GNBAA has assisted the Navarre Chamber with the 27th annual Fun Fest and this summer’s ‘Music in the Park’ concert series.

GNBAA is continuing the Annual Fall Arts Festival on October 7, 8, & 9, 2011. We have sent out our first publicity ‘call for artists’ release, and are seeking committee members to help with all the details of the festival. Again, we will cooperate with the Santa Rosa Master Gardeners as their ‘Monarch Madness Butterfly’ event will be the same weekend.

Connie Jones
Executive Director 2010 - 2011