



# The Left Bank Studio

Newsletter | May 2010

## “Gilbert” The Gnome Emerges: A peek into Jo’s creative process!

### Upcoming Events

May 4: General Open Studio and Mardi Market begin!

May 11: How Charming and Open Studio with Rhonda

May 18: Garden Party and Open Studio with Rhonda

May 22: Celebrating Lifelong Creativity at the Ames Public Library

May 21: Emerging Artists Exhibit at Wheatsfield

June 4: Art Walk at the Ames Main Street Cultural District

**The Left Bank Studio**  
125 Main St.  
Gilbert, IA 50105

Just 3 miles north of Ames

**Phone: 515-233-1405**

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The gnome begins life a little bland.



Jo adds some of her characteristic color. She dons her own mustache for inspiration. Jo’s secret to creativity—always have fun!



Gilbert is finished and ready for his residency at Reiman Gardens. Be sure to check out the details on his hat and tool belt—he has all his essentials (like his coffee cup)! Visit Gilbert, the huge gnome, and all the other gnomes now through October at Reiman Gardens.

## Tuesdays in a Small Town!

### Mardi Market Returns Gilbert's Outdoor Market

Begins Tuesday, May 4, 4 -7 pm

Visit Mardi Market on Tuesday nights and see vendors showcasing Gilbert's best! Come and see—baked goods, rescued junk, antiques, architectural salvage, vintage items, collectables, flowers, handmade crafts, jewelry, furniture, and handmade children's clothing. Who knows what you will find! Maybe even a Mother's Day gift. If you are interested in setting up a booth to sell your wares, contact Jo. The cost for vendors is \$5 per week.

### Open Studio at Jo's

When you are in Gilbert for Mardi Market, come on into the Left Bank for Open Studio! Watch art in action: demonstrations in watercolors, glass bead making, plastic slumping—see how it's done! Join the fun and create your own work of art for \$20 (a supply fee may apply).



**All the shops on Gilbert's  
Main Street will be open until  
8pm on Tuesdays.**

### See what the neighbors are up to!

Check out [www.jbknacker.blogspot.com](http://www.jbknacker.blogspot.com) to see what **JB Knacker** has in store.



### Café Close-Up

Jo is learning new watercolor techniques from the lunch crowd, while they paint on their placemats and enjoy one of Wanda's deserts. Come in and show Jo a thing or two. Or just relax and have lunch under the palm tree.

Congrats to Becky B. winner of a cherry pie from Wanda (*Sweet Traditions*). Come in and sign up for a chance to win **scotcheroos** in May! Yummm!



## Classes – Classes – Classes

### Watercolor Classes with Jo

Now available--

“Watercolor Classes One at a Time”

**Tuesdays, 6-8pm or Thursdays, 9-11am**

Come and try out a class with Jo. Find out what the excitement is all about. Take them all or as many as you like. Classes end May 18<sup>th</sup>. Cost per session: \$25. Call now for information or to register: **515-233-1405**



Jo has been teaching her classes about backlighting with still life. Note the several colors in the elongated shadows.

**New classes begin Tuesdays, May 23, 6pm and Thursdays, May 25, 9am.**

**Did you know that Jo is now on Etsy? Etsy is a website where you can purchase handcrafted artwork. You can find Jo at:**

**[www.etsy.com/shop/theleftbankstudio](http://www.etsy.com/shop/theleftbankstudio)**

### Emerging Artists of the Left Bank Reception at Wheatsfield Cooperative

**May 21, 6 – 9pm**



Mary, one of the emerging artists, is painting a still life during one of Jo's watercolor classes. She is getting ready for the show on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Come and see Mary's work along with the other talented artists. You will be inspired!



**The Left Bank Studio  
& Write Brain Café  
Tuesday -- Friday 11am – 5pm &  
Saturday 10am – 3pm  
Lunch 11am – 2pm**

## Jewelry Classes with Rhonda

Try a PMC class this month! No experience is necessary. For a complete list and description of the Winter/Spring classes, please visit [silverleafshop.com](http://silverleafshop.com).

**Spring Special! Door prizes will be given away in the April and May classes.**

### Garden Party & Open Studio New! BronzClay

Celebrate the season! We will utilize garden elements (leaves, twigs, bark etc) and BronzClay. The result will be amazing, warm, golden bronze jewelry. No experience is needed.

**Date: Tuesday, 6 - 8pm, May 18**

**Cost: \$25 plus \$20 supply fee**

BronzClay work in progress: Rhonda made a mold of a small leaf. She pressed the metal clay into the mold to make a leaf impression. Next she cut a rectangle shape; by showing only part of the leaf, a more modern look is achieved. The metal clay was fired in a kiln. What's next? A patina will be applied to "age" the piece and make the leaf stand out more. Rhonda has plans to mold a small branch to add to the piece. Check in at Open Studio and see the finished piece.



### How Charming & Open Studio

Welcome spring by sculpting tiny fine silver charms inspired by your garden\*bird houses, flowers, vegetables, insects, even garden gnomes! We'll use a form of PMC that shrinks 30% when fired to produce sweet miniatures.

**Date: Tuesday, 6 - 8pm, May 11\***

**Cost: \$25 plus \$25 supply fee**

\*Note: Class date was changed due to supply issue.

### PMC Open Studio

*What would you make with a little lump of clay if you knew it would be fine silver when you were done?*



Want to create on your own, but don't have the tools and materials? Come to Open Studio. Rhonda will supply tools, finishing materials, and kiln firing. You supply the imagination! You are eligible to come to Open Studio if you have taken at least one PMC class and are able to work independently. **Sign up 24 hours in advance.**  
*Dates: May 4, May 11, May 18*  
*Cost: \$20 plus cost of PMC products. You may bring your own PMC. Open Studio is free for students completing a class project.*

**To register for a jewelry class or for more information, please contact Rhonda:**

- Call 231 - 1750 or
- E-mail [rhonda@silverleafshop.com](mailto:rhonda@silverleafshop.com)

## Jo and Rhonda "on the Road"

Summer's almost here—which means that Jo and Rhonda are on the art show circuit once again. We love to see old friends when we're travelling, so if you are in the area, stop by!

- Jo will be in Valley Junction (Des Moines) May 23
- Rhonda will be in Dubuque May 22-23
- Jo will be in Edina, MN June 4-6
- Rhonda will be in Oskaloosa June 12





## Celebrating Lifelong Creativity

Saturday, May 22, 2010

11am-4pm, Farwell T. Brown Auditorium

All ages are invited to celebrate Older Americans Month with a special event featuring local artists. There will be a variety of arts on display, demonstrations, and hands on activities.

Jo will be talking about painting with folks who are losing mobility (e.g., due to strokes) and who still want to be creative.



This watercolor was painted by a right handed woman with mobility issues—she used her left hand.

### Art Walk Downtown Ames, June 4

Stroll the streets of downtown Ames and see the local talent. Artists will be demonstrating their craft and showcasing their work. The Left Bank Studio and Friends will be showing at the Ames Public Library. For more information, see the Ames Main Street Cultural District website.

## Looking for unique and personal work of art?



Let Jo commemorate a special vacation by painting a scene of your favorite memory. This watercolor is on the back of Bernie and Linda White's front door. They can step into Provence any time they like!

## The Story County Trail

The Story County Trail is a collection of businesses in Story County that are working together to promote tourism and event planning. The Left Bank Studio is one of the businesses on "The Trail." MonteBello Bed and Breakfast hosted a ribbon cutting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more information and photos, see the MonteBello website: [www.montebellobandbinn.com/](http://www.montebellobandbinn.com/)

**Happy Mother's Day**  
from Jo and Friends at the Left Bank!