



A Partner in Education

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April 3, 2006

Stuart and Scott Gentling
4801 Harley Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Dear Stuart & Scott,

Thank you so much for your generous in-kind contribution to Artist Boat of a full set of prints from the elephant folio *OF BIRDS AND TEXAS*. Please accept my apologies for my tardiness in formally acknowledging this contribution, which was made in October 2005. Your support allows us to continue and expand our programming, combining the arts and sciences for exploration and appreciation of our coastal habitats.

Artist Boat first had occasion to use one of the prints just a couple of weeks ago. We presented the landscape entitled "Red Oak" to Susan Walker, a supporter who sponsored a wonderful seated dinner at her home introducing Artist Boat to almost sixty local residents who were previously unaware of our activities. Susan owns property near Eagle Lake, of which the "Red Oak" landscape is very reminiscent, and she was thrilled with the gift. Just yesterday, the Galveston Daily News featured the evening in its Lifestyle section, and I have enclosed the clipping for you.

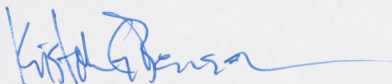
Of course, your contribution of a set of prints to the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council has also received much attention locally of late. The exhibition of prints at the Galveston County Historical Museum, as part of FeatherFest 2006, opened on Friday, March 31. The exhibit was very well received by the almost 250 attendees. I have also enclosed a reprint of the Galveston Daily News article about the exhibit.

On a personal note, it was a great pleasure to tour your studio/gallery with Stuart last October when Karla and I picked up the prints. I have since read the text accompanying the images in the book *Of Birds and Texas*, as Stuart recommended at the time, and very much enjoyed learning more about your personal histories and about the images. Should either of you travel to the Galveston Bay region, I hope that we can extend the same hospitality to you.

With your help, Artist Boat is able to deliver Eco-Art Workshops and Adventures, Eco-Art Residencies, and Student Environmental Arts Council programming to over 3,000 student and adult participants annually. These activities provide participants with hands-on environmental education activities focusing on the valuable coastal resources of the Galveston Bay region, and with the opportunity to express themselves through art. The programs give students and other participants the ability to have a personal experience in coastal habitats and develop their artistic expression, developing in participants a stewardship ethic and giving each participant a sense ownership over these critical public resources.

With your support and the support of others like you, we will expand our programming in coming years to reach out to even more participants. We will continue fulfilling our mission of promoting awareness and preservation of coastal habitats and the marine environment through the disciplines of the sciences and the arts. Thank you again for being a vital component of Artist Boat's success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kristopher Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kristopher Benson
President