

brochure, which will be helpful guidance and information to visitors. The signs will mark a number of historic grave sites and the entrance to the Cemetery and are funded in part by a gift from Jo Wallis in 2013. Additionally, iron aisle markers are planned, and the Association will assist the Vestry with funds from a foundation grant. The signage/brochure/marker project should be completed this year.

3. Four 19th century tombs are in the process of restoration by Pierre Masonry of New Orleans. Mr. Pierre should be completing the work this spring. The church vestry has asked the Association to assist with payment, using funds from the Wallis gift and two small grants.
4. The Association has budgeted for creation of a web site in 2014, with assistance from one of the senior Nicholls art students who worked on the sign designs. The web site will allow any one to gain access to extensive information about the Historic Cemetery.
5. Early in 2013, the Association applied for extensive funding from a local foundation. The application was declined, but the Association was encouraged to re-apply and has done so in January. If we receive what has been requested, the money will be applied to several uses which the St. John's vestry wishes to pursue: A. Continued tomb restoration of damaged, abandoned tombs. B. Development of a detailed plan for the church campus renovation, including parking and entranceway for Cemetery visitors. C. Installation of an iron safety fence along the top of the lawn crypt to the rear of the Cemetery, and a renovation of the gates, the four corner posts, and the front portion of the old fence which surrounds the Cemetery. No doubt these particular endeavors will take more than one year to complete, should the money become available.
6. Finally, uncooperative weather and the lack of appropriate contractors has held up completion of a drainage improvement project in 2013. The project should alleviate some flooding in the Cemetery.

## ART AT ST. JOHN'S ON APRIL 5

To be held on Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m. to 3p.m., "Art at St. John's" is an outdoor event, free and open to the public. Designed to showcase and support local fine artists, the show will include works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, ceramics, photography, and more.

Artists will participate by invitation, and they are encouraged to demonstrate and share their techniques with each other and visitors. Visitors may roam the grounds of the historic 1843 Church and Cemetery, enjoying a spring day under the oaks. Original works and prints will be available for purchase with a portion of the proceeds and the booth fees returning to help maintain the Cemetery.

"Art at St. John's" will be promoted through various media. Nicholls State will include the show in the "Spring Jubilee" calendar of events and in promotional materials. In the event of inclement weather, the show will be cancelled.

## WORK DAY

The semi annual work day has been set for Saturday, March 8. It has special importance this year because of Art at St. John's. Volunteer are welcome. Normally work is underway by 9 a.m. and lasts until 1 p.m. Bring rakes and pruners, shovels, trowels, and gloves. Water will be provided. Call David Plater for more information, 985-446-8908.

## TREE ADOPTION FUND

A small beginning has been made in creating the fund for tree replanting, protection, and repair in the Cemetery. The fund now stands at \$250. Please remember that should you wish, you may designate some of your regular member donations to the Fund; or you may wish to make a special gift for the purpose. It will be set aside strictly for tree work, which is one of the more expensive recurring challenges in the area of Cemetery upkeep.

[Your membership contributions help to pay for normal maintenance to the Historic Cemetery. Please mail donations to St. John's Historic Cemetery Association, 718 Jackson Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301. The Association is a 501 (c) (3) organization founded to preserve and inform about the Historic Cemetery. Donations are deductible to limits provided by law.]

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