



March 2009

IS IT TIME TO REDRAW YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

FREE WORKSHOP OFFERED AT THE VAC

Everybody is wondering just how the current economic conditions and the Estate Tax Repeal will affect their estate plan. The Visual Arts Center is happy to present a free workshop at 1:30pm on March 11 to assist you. Come and discover the advantages and disadvantages of different estate planning and charitable giving options. Let us help you assess changes to ensure your financial and estate goals will be met.

Attorney Guy S. Emerich (Farr, Farr, Emerich, et al) and Christine A. Hause (Vice President with Charlotte State Bank's Trust & Investment Services) will present timely information on the benefits of estate planning: keeping control of your assets, directing final outcomes, minimizing tax burdens, maintaining privacy, and leaving a legacy through charitable gifts.

Topics include some current estate planning ideas and developments: impact of H.R.436 on your estate plan introduced on January 9th in Congress, definitions of a will, revocable trust, and irrevocable trust. You will hear about steps to analyze, plan, and inventory; learn who to include on your team to properly execute your wishes and transfer your wealth—whether for self-support, spouse support, family or charitable intent. You will also learn where the estate tax law appears to be headed and what techniques are and are not viable in today's taxing environment.

Please RSVP for the workshop, by March 9th, to puntagordavac@gmail.com or call 941-639-8810 so we can prepare your information handbook.

FESTIVAL OF ARTS CELEBRATED



Executive Director Michele Valencourt presents Ronald Smith with the People's Choice Award for "Harriet."

The Festival of Arts Exhibit, sponsored by Charlotte State Bank, opened to a large crowd at the Awards Reception on Thursday, February 5th. Ronald Smith was recognized for his oil painting, "Harriet," with a Bowles Endowment Award for Portrait Excellence. This award is made possible by the

William and Suzanne Bowles Endowment Trust to honor outstanding achievement in traditional 2-D mediums. Smith was also the winner of the People's Choice Award.

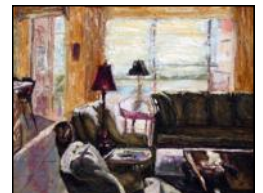
Other winners are pictured here. Congratulations to all our talented artists.



1st Place (\$200)
"Icicles"
by Karol Wyckoff



2nd Place (\$150)
"Carl"
by Peg Cullen



3rd Place (\$75)
"Morning Light"
by Kitt Moran

A busy month is on the horizon with both The March Show and Sculpture Exhibit 2009 on display March 2-26.

On Exhibit here

The March Show ... March 2-26

Receiving: Thursday, February 26, 9am-12n

Reception: Thursday, March 5, 7pm

Removal: Friday, March 27, 9am-12n

Sculpture Exhibit 2009 ... March 2-26

Receiving: Friday, February 27, 9am-12n

Reception: Thursday, March 5, 7pm

Removal: Friday, March 27, 9am-12n

The Goff Goes Global ... February 27-March 26

Sue Krasny, Dotty Mattoon, Claire Wally, Ann Shuey

VAC MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!

The new VAC Directory has arrived! Now you can quickly access addresses and phone numbers of fellow members, check dates of scheduled exhibits, special events and other important information all in one convenient and handy location. The directory is free to all VAC members (one of the many benefits of joining the Visual Arts Center) and you may pick yours up at the front desk/Gift Shop the next time you stop by.

And when you pick up your directory pages, an official VAC binder is available for purchase in the Gift Shop for only \$5. The pages will be updated annually, each January. You just replace the old with the new inside the binder each year. Hurry, available while supplies last.

VAC Officers

Denise Henry, President
Kristine Wishard, Vice President
Thalia St. Lewis, Secretary
Therese Zeman, Treasurer
Patt Bacon, Director
Bruce Bagge, Director
Bob Crispin, Director
Tom Hamilton, Director
Howard Hartke, Director

VAC Endowment Trust

Ingrid Carroll, President
Dorothy Strunk, Vice Pres/Secretary
Ron Olsen, Treasurer

Trustees:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Jane Brenner | Barbara Burnett |
| Rebecca Harbin-Durig | Guy Emerich |
| Glenn Frazee | Larry Hudson |
| Susan Krasny | James Lawson |
| Constance Robison | Roseann Samson |

VAC Staff

Eileen Banis, Gift Shop Manager
Ralph Bliven, Facilities Supervisor
Shelley Cunningham, Bookkeeper
Debbie Fread, Communications
Michele Valencourt, Exec. Director
Your comments, suggestions, story ideas,
and news about members are welcomed.

Please submit articles by the 15th
of the month to Debbie Fread at:
VACcommunications@yahoo.com.

NEW VAC WEBSITE GOES LIVE

*The Visual Arts Center's new website
is now online!*

*With just a click of your mouse, you are
able to explore, create and share:*

VAC History

Class Schedules

Class Descriptions

Instructor Biographies

Upcoming Exhibit Prospectus

Special Event Information

Newsletters

*Ways to Support the VAC
through Membership, Volunteering,
Donations and Sponsorship*

*Check us out ... visit us at
www.visualartcenter.org*



artist news



VAC members, **Sarah Biggs** and **Starr Zachritz**, are opening a new art gallery housed in the "Trabue House" located at 501 Shreve Street in Punta Gorda. The quaint "Trabue House," in beautiful History Park, is the oldest home in Charlotte County. Current artists are featuring fused glass art, glass art jewelry, fine mosaics, Swarovski crystal jewelry, fine art prints, nature photographs, soy candles and more. Art offerings will be varied on a regular basis. All items are created by *local artists*. Please join us for our official opening reception on March 7th when we will be toasting the future of the "History Park Art Gallery" with free wine & cheese. Galley hours are anticipated to be Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-4pm. For more information, please contact Starr at 941-392-4446 or Sarah at 941-240-1768.

Sea Grape Gallery, an artist co-op, is still seeking 3-D artists. You must be a full-time resident and be able to work 3 days a month. Please pick up an application to submit, with 4-5 photos of your work, at Sea Grape, 113 W. Marion Avenue in Punta Gorda. For more information, call Karen Schneider at 941-697-7768.



welcome newest members

*Nancy J. Baker, Larry Beale, John Beane, Richard & Judy Beaupre,
Barbara Brooks, Mary Chamberlain, Dorothy Clarkson, Elaine Cunningham,
Mark DeLong, Bonnie Dove, Patsy Dunn, Janet Dutton, Carolyn Edge, Mary
Elguezabal, David Flank, Bonnie Fulks, Susan Gibson, Barbara Granaudo,
Terry Hudson, Nancy Jorch, Christine Kirby, Monica Lucey, Linda Mutiger,
Laurel Nelson, Rick Page, Molly Parks, Dorothy & Douglas Rogers, Linda
Rung, Marge Schemanski, Charlotte Todd, Gerry Wargo, Joanna & Robert
Waterman, Roselyn Wright, Barbara Young & Robert Gifford;
and Larry Hudson - Lifetime Family Membership*

thanks for joining us!



*Norma Bradley's
computer classes
are among the
most popular of our
Art & Technology
offerings.*

*Vista
PowerPoint
Publisher
Page Plus
Photoshop*

*Which would you
like to learn?
Sign up today!*

*Congratulations to the JAG group for the successful month-long
celebration of Adornments. The inaugural event was enjoyed by
the planning committee and all those who participated.*

*Good News! Adornments will become an annual event ...
so, watch for dates and details in future newsletters.*

GOFF gallery

This month, the GOFF GALLERY GOES GLOBAL! Four artists will have an exhibit of works of “anywhere but here!” Our member artists participating in this show will be Sue Krasny, Dotty Mattoon, Ann Shuey, and Claire Wally. The show will run from February 27 through March 26. There will be a reception open to the public on March 5th from 6:30-8:30pm to celebrate this “around the world show.” Come on down!!!

PEACE RIVER NATIONAL ART FESTIVAL '09 February 28 & March 1 ~ 10am-5pm Lashley Park

Peace River National Art Festival posters and t-shirts, featuring “Valentine '06” by Ben Essenburg, will be available for purchase at the VAC Booth at the Festival and then afterwards at the VAC Gift Shop. Get yours before they're gone!



porcelain artists

The Charlotte Porcelain Artists, who are all members of the Visual Arts Center, will hold their annual show and sale on Saturday, March 28, from 10am-3pm at the Visual Arts Center. There will be painting demonstrations, free refreshments, and hand painted items—painted by well known porcelain artists—offered as door prizes (a \$1 donation is requested for participation in the drawings). You need not be present to win. Approximately 20 painters will display their work and have many pieces for sale.

Porcelain painting is a very old art form; however, in the United States, fewer and fewer artists paint in this medium. The association welcomes new members and provides a list of instructors currently teaching in the county. Meetings and paint-a-longs are held monthly from October through April. There are usually three 3-day seminars offered each year. Enrollment is limited and chosen by drawing names a month or two before each seminar. Teachers for these seminars are usually well known artists from around the U.S. and Canada, although we do have some renown teachers living and painting right here in Southwest Florida. All members of the Charlotte Porcelain Artist's Association are also required to be members of the VAC.

VAC gift shop

Exciting and varied art has arrived in the Gift Shop. Former Bostonian, **Clif Lundberg**, is selling his wild and crazy wooden sculptures. His very favorite “Homage to Dali” can be seen in the hall display case along with a smaller piece “Another Perfect Day in Punta Gorda.” Two lovely ladies from Nokomis are treating us to woven baskets. **Marge Schemanski** weaves delicate Nantucket style baskets while her friend **Elaine Cunningham** uses linen and wool yarn to style tiny baskets with little surprises woven into them. It's hard to believe **Barbara Simmons** has been studying the fine art of silver jewelry making for less than a year. Her classic pieces are expertly crafted and affordable. **Anne Tuttle** has her colored pencil 2D and 3D art available. The colors are soft and muted in the wooden box, pins and framed art. Anne joins a growing list of Sea Grape artists to display her work at the VAC. **Yvonne Meissner**, who hails from South Africa, brings colorful painted trays to the shop for functional use or display. The Gift Shop is thrilled to welcome these new consignors as well as steady Tuesday afternoon volunteer **Kathy Winkler**. Thank you to all who purchased art in the Gift Shop for making the fall and winter season very successful.

plein air painters

Join our FREE painting group! Plein Air Painters from the VAC meet at various locations on Mondays, 9am to noon, from November through April. All levels and mediums are welcome, just bring your art supplies, chair, etc.; no instruction and no fees. This month's meeting dates and locations:

- 3/2 History Park (501 Shreve St.)
- 3/9 Punta Gorda Nature Park (1555 Aquí Esta Dr.)
- 3/16 Elizabeth Park (Park Beach Circle, PG 33950)
- 3/23 Downtown PG (corner of Taylor & Olympia)
- 3/30 Gilchrest Park (400 W. Retta Esplande)

For detailed directions you can visit our website at: <http://vacpleinair.webs.com/>. For more information, or to suggest a meeting location, please feel free to contact Clare Harvey at clareharveyart@hotmail.com. Note: Please type “VAC PLEIN AIR” in the subject line.

Get ready for our Plein Air Art Show at the Visual Arts Center's Member Goff Gallery. Drop off is April 24 and pick up is May 29. Contact clareharveyart@hotmail.com for more info.

Call or stop by the VAC
to sign up for your
next class NOW!





Charlotte County Art Guild, Inc.
210 Maud Street
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
941-639-8810
Fax 941-639-0404
VAC@daystar.net
www.visualartcenter.org



COLOR WORKSHOP

Get it Right the First Time!

with Liz Hutchinson

March 12-13, 2009

9am-4pm; brown bag lunch hour

Cost: \$140

A MUST FOR EVERY ARTIST!

The workshop begins with a general discussion of color – from the Renaissance through Impressionism and then defines color, value, intensity, warm and cool colors.

You will be working on mixing colors accurately – the first time – with a limited palette of basic primary and secondary colors.

You will need to prepare a pattern chart before class. Supply list and preparation instructions will be given to you upon registration.

2009 SPRING FLING GIFT SHOW & SALE

Saturday, March 7 ♦ 10am-3pm

Over 30 artist/vendors selling jewelry, pottery, stained glass, handbags, cards, and original art. Gifts for birthdays, graduation, Mother's Day, Father's Day, any special occasion!

ANNUAL VAC FLEA MARKET

Saturday, April 4 ♦ 9am-1pm

NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS

Call 941-639-8810 to arrange for local pick-up of large items. Sorry, but we cannot accept clothing, large appliances, magazines, computer monitors or computer equipment older than Windows XP.

ALL interested workers are invited to the next meeting at the VAC on March 11 at 10am.

