



OUR PEACE RIVER NATIONAL ART FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!

The 3rd Annual Peace River National Art Festival, presented by the Visual Arts Center, drew large crowds to Punta Gorda's beautiful Laishley Park on February 28th and March 1st.

The many unique works of art, by over 100 artists from across the nation, thrilled the festival attendees who also enjoyed tasty treats and a variety of special musical entertainment.



Photo by Brenda Berdnik



Photo by Debbie Fread

Congratulations to Steve Adams, winner of the glicée by featured artist Ben Essenburg.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who made this event a huge success, particularly our Volunteer Organizer Janice Murphy, Cathy Lindenauer, Nancy McGrath and Denise Henry.

Lindenauer, Nancy McGrath and Denise Henry.

On EXHIBIT here

PrimaVera Member Exhibit ... April 8 - May 5

Receiving: Monday, April 6, 9am-12noon

Reception: Thursday, April 9, 7pm

Removal: Wednesday, May 6, 9am-12noon

In Goff Gallery ... March 27 - April 24

Barbara Granaudo, Sandy Poore, Maggie Stewart, Ann Tuttle

REDRAWING YOUR ESTATE PLAN

On March 11th, Guy Emerich and Christine Hause presented a workshop on estate planning at the Visual Arts Center. Attendees learned how to minimize tax burdens, provide support for family and leave a legacy through charitable giving.

As a key point for your planning, they focused on Charitable Remainder Trusts as a main tool to provide income to the grantor and to provide a remaining gift to the charity of your choice. Here is an example of a Charitable Remainder UniTrust:

- **An irrevocable trust with a fixed percentage payout** based on two lives. Cash to be distributed at least annually to a non-charitable beneficiary with a remainder to a qualified charity. Example is based on the lives of a husband who is age 73 and a wife at age 72.
- **Value of \$2,000,000 in assets fund the trust and the assets are sold without triggering a tax event.**
- **\$100,000 payout to the beneficiary (5%) with a tax benefit of \$911,540.**
- **You could optimize your annual payout to \$320,000 to you then your beneficiary.** The goal is to provide a 10% minimum remainder interest to charity while still providing a 16.249% payout percentage. The tax benefit would be \$200,020.

For more information about the specifics of a planned gift strategy for a non-profit organization that has the mission, vision and values that you share, please call Christine Hause (624-1917) or Guy Emerich (639-1158).

Annual Member Meeting

Thursday, April 9 - 6pm

Proposed Slate of 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



Join us immediately prior to the
PrimaVera Awards Reception

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.

many THANKS

I want to thank each and every one of you for volunteering at the 3rd Annual Peace River National Art Festival.

It was a fabulous event, and with the help of volunteers like yourselves, the Visual Arts Center can continue its wonderful contribution to this community as well as this annual festival.

This was a first for me in helping to organize the volunteers — it went very well, it was great meeting all of you, and I hope to see you again real soon.

Jan Murphy



Photo by Brenda Berdnik

artist news

Please note the following correction to an article in last month's newsletter: Starr Zachritz has opened "The History Park Art Gallery" in the Trabue House, located at 501 Shreve Street, in the heart of Punta Gorda. Starr says there will be a variety of different, interesting artistic items available for sale. The Gallery/Gift Shop is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-4pm and Sundays (during season) from 12-4pm.

VAC MEMBERS AND NEWEST VAC TEACHER WIN AWARDS AT "FIBER 2009" SHOW

Fiber Arts 2009, held at the Venice Art Center March 12-28, featured two VAC members and our newest teacher as prize winners. **Sue Pollaro** won 3rd Prize for her stole "Ray of Light-Sunshine" which was also a prizewinner at the VAC Made by Hand Exhibit in 2008. **Roxy West** won Honorable Mention for her Beadwork-Interlaced Off Loom Woven necklace called "Goddess."

New VAC Bead teacher, **Karen Johnson**, from Sarasota, won Honorable Mention for her Victorian Flower Cuff bracelet, also in the Beadwork-Interlaced Off Loom category. She taught this project during the January Adornments workshop week at the VAC. Karen is now teaching a six week Beginning Beading class (see Session 5 Class Offerings on page x).



We look forward to more classes and workshops here with Karen.

This is an annual show sponsored by four fiber organizations: Venetian Society of Basket Weavers, Manasota Weavers Guild, Florida West Coast Bead Society, and Surface Design Guild Sarasota. This year there were 199 entries ... what a feast for the eye! Congratulations to our representatives.

VAC MEMBERS WIN AT THE ART COUNCIL OF SWFL SHOW

Congratulations to four of our members for their accomplishments at the Art Council of SW Florida Spring Art Show: **Bruce Bagge**, 3rd Place for his mixed media piece "Asian Flavors;" Merit Awards to **Alberto Cruz** for his painting "Carnival Woman" and to **Anne Kittel** for her "Bits of Green" watercolor; and **Janet Mach Dutton**, Honorable Mention for her watercolor "Pecking Order & Harmonize Our Colors." The show runs through April 15th at the Harborside Event Center.

THANK YOU
Mary Cavanaugh and Eileen Banis
for Another Successful Spring Fling Gift Sale

DO YOU HAVE A VAC MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY YET?

Be sure to pick up your copy of the Membership Directory next time you visit the Center. The directory is free to all VAC members (one of the many benefits of joining the Visual Arts Center) and gives you quick access to addresses and phone numbers of fellow members, along with dates of scheduled exhibits, special events and other important information all in one convenient and handy location.

And when you pick up your directory pages, an official VAC binder is available for purchase in the Gift Shop for only \$5. Directory pages will be updated annually, each January, so you can replace the old with the new inside the binder each year.

GOFF gallery

The April show in Goff Gallery will feature works of four member artists, all newcomers to the Gallery. The exhibit runs until April 23rd.

Barbara Granaudo specializes in landscapes, portraits and pet portraits.

Sandy Poore will be displaying abstract and black & white photography.

Maggie Stewart will be showing painting, prints and collage.

Anne Tuttle works in colored pencil, graphite, charcoal and pastel pencil as well as alkyd oils. She is currently learning a new medium – metalpoint drawing – a revival of an old masters' technique.

An all abstract show is being planned for January 2010. If you would like to enter, please contact Dotty Mattoon at dottymattoon@comcast.net.

welcome newest members

*Cheryl Atkinson, Harry Bishop, Janet Brennan,
Gina M. Camarata, Gary Gunsher, Don & Nancy Hull,
Denise McGee, Marlene Motel, Judy Nicklyn,
Denise Otten, Doris Pearson, Skip & Ann Peerless,
Elaine Reeves, Wayne & Sylvia Rose,
David & Lia Schoman, Howard Spielman,
John & Darlene Steciw, Chaza Stuklin,
Diane Taubee, Melody Wright*



thanks for
joining us!

jewelry arts grp!

Our April meeting will be on Friday, April 17 at 2pm. Please be on time because we have the election of officers and we want to leave plenty of time for our program.

The April program will be gem and mineral identification for cabochons (not faceted stones) by Geraldine Vest, a certified gemologist who teaches classes at university and professional levels, and is a member of the Venice Gem and Mineral Club. She will bring over 100 different cabochons for us to look at and will talk about things to look for when we are trying to figure out what kind of "rock" we have. She will also talk (non-technically) about how to tell real turquoise and lapis from synthetics or dyed material.

Bring your "mystery stones" and Geraldine will identify them. She also recommends that everyone bring a 10x loupe (even the \$2-3 plastic ones from the flea market will work fine).

What an exciting afternoon! Hope to see everyone on April 17th!

VAC gift shop

It is with great pleasure that the VAC Gift Shop welcomes the following four new artists and their unique pieces:

Gina Camarata hails from Lancaster, PA where she did restoration work on precious colonial PA Dutch fraktur. Come see her whimsical folk art animals made from pine and cedar as well as her mini-frakturs. She won an award in the recent Sculpture Show.

Debra Purdy, from Ohio, is well known for her prize winning large copper sculptures on driftwood of Florida flora and fauna. Now you can have a smaller one for walls or tables at very reasonable prices. She has been torching or hand cutting copper pieces for a quarter century. Each piece has a finished patina suitable for indoor/outdoor.

Marie-Claude Maclachlan, formerly from Montreal now living in North Port, enjoys taking **Howard Hartke's** classes. She gets inspiration for her pottery pieces from living in Guatemala and Australia. Claude (as she prefers to be called) says studying at the VAC is paradise.

Petra Fields, a former teacher who has taught in New Hampshire and Illinois as well as many years on Pine Island, brings another colonial art medium – quilling – to the shop by way of her clever cute greeting cards. Petra can custom create cards for you as well.

Also available in the Gift Shop is the sweet children's book, "Marshall Mouse and His Green High Top Sneakers," by Camille Blue Amy. Micki, as she is known to her friends in golf and tennis, was born in Kentucky and has lived in Texas and Canada.

Make a point to stop by the Gift Shop to peruse our newest offerings on your next visit to the VAC. Mother's Day and graduation time is just around the corner!

plein air painters

Plein Air Painters from the VAC meet at various locations on Mondays, 9am to 12noon, 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*:

4/6 Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC)
(10941 Burnt Store Rd.)

4/13 Bayshore Live Oak Park (22959 Bayshore Rd., P.C.)

4/20 History Park (501 Shreve St.)

4/27 Nav-A-Gator (9700 SW Riverview Cir., Lake Suzy)

*Weather conditions are at the discretion of each artist. Please visit our website (www.vacpleinair.webs.com) for directions and further information or call Clare Harvey anytime (941-276-1339).

Start thinking, planning and painting so you are ready for our upcoming **Plein Air Art Show in the Visual Arts Center's Goff Gallery**. Drop off is April 24th and pick up is May 29th, with a Reception at 7pm on Thursday, April 30th. Contact clareharveyart@hotmail.com for entry information.

Congratulations!

THE MARCH SHOW



First Place \$150
People's Choice Award \$50
Boca Grand by Fran Hines



Second Place \$100
Acknowledging the Banyon
by Marion Majher



Third Place \$50
Sweet Innocence
by Shirley Blake

Merit Awards \$15

Gloriosa by Thelma Daida
The Mercantile by Karol Wyckoff
Sedona Cacti by Janet Dutton

Honorable Mentions

Along the Garden Path by Beverly Wilson
Sorrento Stroll by Kathy Ross
Remnants of Nelson, Antigua by Elaine Lague
Monte Carlo Garden by Sybil Robertson
Preparing the Sail by Jack Henry
Ibis and His Lily by Sue Kapuchinski

Bowles Portrait Award \$25

Made possible by the William and Suzanne Bowles Endowment Trust
to honor outstanding achievement in traditional 2-D mediums.

Rebecca by Jerry Haller

SCULPTURE EXHIBIT 2009



First Place \$200
3 Diamonds
by Peter Soley



Second Place \$150
Philodendron
by Angelo Pescatore



Third Place \$75
Holy Mackerel
by Gina Camarata

Merit Awards \$30

Turtles Nesting by Debra & Robert Purdy
Lacy River w/Stand by Judy Schnabel
Lightness of Spirit by Norman Bernstein

Honorable Mentions \$10

Fantasy Fish Double Take by Susan Shore
Inquisitive by Daniel Vall
Ragman's Holiday by Jeannette Toothaker

President's Award \$100

Bud by Shirley Harmon

VAC STUDENT~TEACHER SHOW

Jewelry

Penelope Sims
Carol Burch
Sandra Whitley

People's Choice Award

Delores Collado & Bunnie LaDuke

Pottery/Sculpture

Carrisa Paine
Angelo Pescatore
Jeri Webb

People's Choice Award

Maude Thompson & Nancy Frank

2D/Stained Glass

Delores Collado
Carolyn Halifax
Glynis Steel

People's Choice Award

Cindy St. Jean & Mary Brochtup

VAC Plein Air Artists'

Art Show

VAC Goff Gallery
April 24 - May 28

Receiving: April 23, 3-4pm or 24, 9-10am

Removal: May 28, 3pm or 29, 9am

Reception: April 30, 7pm

This show is for VAC Plein Air artists.
Art should be more than ½ plein air. Submit up to 6 pieces of art, let Claire know if you have more.
Art must be framed, ready to hang with wire.

In lieu of bio, include a paragraph about
"What IS Plein Air (to me)?"

Contact Claire by April 17 with the number/sizes of pieces you will have and any questions.

*No fee; contributions toward reception refreshments requested (wine, punch, cheese tray, cups, napkins). Commission to the VAC is 30%.

Help is needed with receiving and reception.

Contact VAC Plein Air Director Clare Harvey at 941-276-1339 or clareharveyart@hotmail.com or www.vacpleinair.webs.com.

Florida Watercolor Society

Call to Artists for

38th Annual Juried Exhibition

September 8 – October 26

Visual Arts Center

You are invited to become a FWS Member; membership is open to all Florida residents. In order to receive a prospectus by mail in May, you must become a member by April 30th. Entry into the show is by slide; deadline is June 19th.

To join FWS, or for further details, go to www.floridawatercolorsociety.org or send a check (made payable to FWS) for \$40 to Mary Alice Harley, 1st VP-Membership, 7400 Demens Drive South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712.

Attention Artists!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT AVAILABLE ARTISTIC OPPORTUNITIES?

Send your current email address to Michele at VAC@daystar.net to be included in notices about upcoming local, state-wide and national "call for artists" opportunities.



Peace River National Art Festival
Photos by Debbie Head



SESSION 5: Art Class Offerings by Subject

6-week courses begin week of April 20; end week of May 29, 2009

Class	Painting & Drawing	Instructor	Day	Time
5-105	Painting Studio	Bob Cassell	Monday	1-4pm
5-104	Watercolor—The 3 C's	Patt Bacon	Monday	9am-noon
5-115	Beginning Watercolor	Patt Bacon	Monday	1-4pm
5-202	Splish Splash—Beginning Watercolor	Barbara Albin	Tuesday	9am-noon
5-203	Watercolor & Exper. Water Media Studio	Barbara Albin	Tuesday	1-4pm
5-201	Oil Painting Impressionism	Peggy Egli	Tuesday	9am-noon
5-209	Portraits—Live Model	Peggy Egli	Tuesday	1-4pm
5-226	Beginning Drawing	Bill Gimbel	Tuesday	6:30-9:30pm
5-301	Advanced Watercolor	Kathy Bostwick	Wednesday	9am-noon
5-302	Intermediate Watercolor	Kathy Bostwick	Wednesday	1-4pm
5-303	Painting Studio	Bob Cassell	Wednesday	1-4pm
5-402	Acrylic & Oil Painting	Alberto Cruz	Thursday	9am-noon
5-403	Acrylic & Oil Painting	Alberto Cruz	Thursday	1-4pm
5-414	Design, Composition & Critique	Ann McCarty	Thursday	9am-noon
5-407	Drawing & Sketching	Ann McCarty	Thursday	1-4pm
5-411	Landscapes—Illusions of Space	Ron Sanders	Thursday	9am-noon
5-415	Building Form w/Lights & Darks	Ron Sanders	Thursday	1-4pm
5-410	Colored Pencil Drawing—Level 2	Gwen Slimp	Thursday	1-4pm
5-501	Mixed Media Studio	Fran Hines	Friday	9am-noon

Class	Specialty	Instructor	Day	Time
5-111	Beginning Wire Wrap Jewelry	Diana Reinhard	Monday	9am-noon
5-112	Advanced Wire Wrap Jewelry	Diana Reinhard	Monday	1-4pm
5-113	Introduction to Beading	Karen Johnson	Monday	1-4pm
5-235	Silver Jewelry	Belinda Duclos	Tuesday	6:30-9:30pm
5-306	Stained Glass	Bob Bayliss	Wednesday	6:30-9:30pm

Class	Art & Technology	Instructor	Day	Time
5-233	Photoshop Elements—Level 1	Norma Bradley	Tuesday	1-4pm
5-344	Page Plus Publishing	Norma Bradley	Wednesday	1-4pm
5-455	Vista—Beyond the Basics	Norma Bradley	Thursday	1-4pm

Class	Art Appreciation & History	Instructor	Day	Time
5-210	Reel Fun—A Film Class	Joan Levin	Tuesday	9am-noon

Indicates a NEW class!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

<p>Adult Members \$70 (supplies not included)</p> <p>Adult Non-members..... \$90 (supplies not included)</p> <p>Teens (to 18 yrs)..... \$50 (supplies not included)</p> <p><i>Instructor's permission is required</i></p>	<p>Register in person or by phone with credit card.</p> <p>Call for details on classes/teachers or visit our website @ www.visualartcenter.org.</p> <p><u>NO REFUNDS</u> are given once class has begun.</p>
--	--



SESSION 5: Art Class Offerings by Subject

6-week courses begin week of April 20; end week of May 29, 2009

Class	Clay Pottery	Instructor	Day	Time
5-110	Wheel—Level 2	Jack Vartanian	Monday	1-4pm
5-206	Wheel—Level 1	Jack Vartanian	Tuesday	9am-noon
5-208	Wheel—Mixed Levels	Jack Vartanian	Tuesday	6:30-9:30pm
5-308	Wheel—Mixed Levels	Jack Vartanian	Wednesday	9am-noon
5-305	Wheel—Mixed Levels	Howard Hartke	Wednesday	1-4pm
5-307	Wheel—Mixed Levels	Howard Hartke	Wednesday	6:30-9:30pm
5-401	Handbuild Pottery & Wheel—All Levels	Howard Hartke	Thursday	9am-12noon
5-420	Wheel—Mixed Levels	Jack Vartanian	Thursday	6:30-9:30pm

REGISTRATION INFORMATION for CLAY POTTERY CLASSES (includes 1-25 lb. bag of clay, glaze and firing)		
Pottery Classes for Adult Members.....	\$105	Register in person or by phone with credit card.
Pottery Classes for Adult Non-members	\$125	Call for details on classes/teachers or visit our website @ www.visualartcenter.org .
Pottery Classes for Teens (to 18 yrs)	\$85	<u>NO REFUNDS</u> are given once class has begun.
<i>Instructor's permission is required</i>		

CHECK OUT OUR NEW CLASSES!

Portraits—Live Model ~ Margaret Egli-Thompson

Discover the easy steps to portrait painting in oil and create your own beautiful heirloom to enjoy for years. Learn to sculpture on a flat canvas the three dimensions of a face, with light and shadow, and careful play on contrasts. Your canvas will become a fascinating colorful impression as I share some hard-earned short cuts to painting portraits in oil. Beginners and more experienced painters are welcome.

Beginning Drawing ~ Bill Gimbel

The word “draw” means to pull, so we will be pulling objects from the paper by means of proper perspective and shading, which should lay the foundation for any future artistic compositions. Learn to use simple geometric shapes to emphasize the illusion of depth. Beginning with perspective, we will then move on to value, ending with string and wire drawing, blind contour sketching and grid drawing.

Design, Composition & Critique ~ Ann McCarty

Unique new class! Bring old or uncompleted paintings or drawings that just never “worked.” Learn some design theory and composition techniques that can turn these pieces into successful art.

Building Form with Lights and Darks ~ Ron Sanders

This class will focus on how to avoid flatness in your work by building stronger value patterns. By limiting, and even exaggerating the contrast of lights and darks, a greater illusion of form and depth can be created on the two-dimensional surface of canvas or paper. Students will participate in foundational drawing exercises in charcoal, then expand to apply these principles to their favorite medium of color.

Introduction to Beading ~ Karen Johnson

The Beginning Beading and Design course is an opportunity for interested students to enjoy the art of beading. The class will allow students to advance one step at a time each week as they build a firm foundation for jewelry making. The only requirement is a little patience and a good sense of humor!

Hop on over to the VAC to sign up for a class or two!





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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Permit No. 129



Coming up NEXT

Middle/High School Art Show May 7-13

Receiving: Thursday, May 7, 9am-12noon
Reception: Friday, May 8, 6pm
Removal: Thursday, May 14, 9am-12noon

Children's Elementary Art Show May 16-27

Receiving: Friday, May 15, 9am-12noon
Reception: Saturday, May 16, 2pm
Removal: Thursday, May 28, 9am-12noon

Firecracker Member Exhibit June 1 - July 9

Receiving: Friday, May 29, 9am-12noon
Reception: Thursday, June 4, 7pm
Removal: Friday, July 10, 9am-12noon

Made by Hand Fine Crafts Exhibit June 1 - July 9

Receiving: Friday, May 29, 9am-12noon
Reception: Thursday, June 4, 7pm
Removal: Friday, July 10, 9am-12noon

Annual Volunteer Brunch

The VAC has the best volunteers in the world!
Please let us honor you at a special brunch
hosted by the VAC Board of Directors

Wednesday, April 22
11am at the VAC

Anyone who has volunteered their time
for any of our VAC projects, events, functions,
or daily operations is invited to attend.

You've earned it!

Please RSVP to 639-8810 by April 17.
Hope to see you there!