Summer is in full swing and natural beauty surrounds us. There are plenty of drawing, painting, and photographic opportunities out there to take advantage of.

The Nature Conservancy’s Emiquon Preserve is bursting with life. Exciting new discoveries are being made nearly every day. The lake has been re-established and water plants are beginning to emerge from seed beds long buried in the earth. Significant quantities of birds, fish, and other animals are beginning to reappear. Many opportunities for the artist can be found at Emiquon.

Arts Council membership is strong and we have received several new members. We presently have received 56 paid memberships thus far this year. Dues for 2008 were payable beginning in January but you can renew your membership at any time. Your continued support is important and appreciated. To check the status of your membership check the date at on the back of this issue below the mailing label.

In May, we welcomed Evelyn Mitchell, of Canton, to the board of directors. We thank Evelyn for her willingness to serve. There are still openings for board members if anyone is interested in serving. As always, members are welcome at Arts Council Board Meetings.

Planning is underway for our annual “Art in the Park” program. This year the program will be held at Lakeland Park, in Canton, on September 6. To honor area servicemen, an special invitation is extended to their families. See the enclosed flyer and watch the local newspapers for details.

This issue also contains an article submitted by John and Ruth Loebach. The article tells of their experiences photographing bears and other wildlife in the Tongass National Forest, in Alaska.

To submit items for the newsletter please contact me directly at 309-645-7109 or email ksampson2@winco.net.

2008 Membership Recognition

We thank the following individuals and businesses who have provided additional support for 2008.


Kelvin Sampson
GALLERY NEWS

"Artists Choice" Theme Show

The Fulton County Arts Council’s Theme show closed on July 8.

Awards and cash prizes were given in two categories. Due to low participation only one award was given in each category. The winner in the student/amateur division was Brandy Kessler with a pencil drawing titled “Scarlett.” In the semi-professional division: the winner was Lois McCoy for her painting titled “Memories.”

Popular vote awards were also given for this show. Voting was carried out by Graham Hospital employees. The results were: First Place, Max Latimer, “Twin Cathedrals”; Second Place, Max Latimer, “Dust to Dust”; Third Place, Gilbert Krock, “Untitled”.

The Fulton County Arts Council congratulates these artists on their awards and extends thanks to those who participated in this years theme show.

Current Show . . .

“Art of Photography”

Entries from Fulton County photographers for the Arts Council Annual Art of Photography Show are presently on view at the Graham Hospital Atrium Gallery. This show will be on view between July 8 and September 9, 2008.

Awards and cash prizes were given in two categories. The winner in the student/amateur division was Max Latimer, “Twin Cathedrals”; Second Place, Max Latimer, “Dust to Dust.” In the semi-professional division: the winner was Crystal Hardesty, “Father & Son.” Popular vote awards were also given for this show. Voting was carried out by Graham Hospital employees. The results were: First Place, Max Latimer, “Twin Cathedrals”; Second Place, Max Latimer, “Dust to Dust”; Third Place, Gilbert Krock, “Untitled”.

The Fulton County Arts Council congratulates these artists on their awards and extends thanks to those who participated in this years theme show.

Upcoming Shows . . .

“Clothesline Project”

An exhibit produced by the Fulton/Mason County Crisis Center addressing the issue of violence against women. Exact dates to be announced.

“Annual Membership Show”

Check in: November 11, 2008, 6:00—6:30 p.m. at the Graham Hospital Atrium Gallery. Open to all mediums.

ARTS FEATURED IN FULTON COUNTY VISITOR’S GUIDE

After more than a year of collecting photographs, researching and checking facts, writing text and editing, and planning the 2008 Fulton County Visitor’s Guide are now available. The 32 page color guide was a joint project of the Fulton County Tourism Alliance, Fulton County Board Tourism Committee, and the Fulton Democrat newspaper.

The project was funded by a grant from the Illinois Bureau of Tourism. That grant to Fulton County, along with sales of advertisements in the guide, paid for printing of more than 20,000 copies. Seventy five percent of the guides will be distributed outside of a 50 mile radius to attract visitors to the area. The remainder will be distributed among tourism related businesses and advertisers around the county.

The guides share information and fun facts about the history of the county and its communities as well as information on festivals and visitor services. Special attention is given to the Arts and outdoor recreation. Two pages of the guide are dedicated to arts venues and activities.

The Visitor Guide project was a team effort coordinated by Kevin McGuire of the U of I Extension. Graphic design and layout of the guide was done by Fulton County Arts Council president Kelvin Sampson. Other individuals who provided assistance were Gayle Blodgett, Joan Johnson Blackwell, Ester Keefauver, Mark Lynch, Victoria Harper, Jeff Harris, and Doreen Shaw.

The guides are free and may be obtained by calling 309-547-3721.
Anan Creek is located in the Tongass National Forest, approximately 30 air miles southeast of Wrangell, Alaska. That's measured in air miles since there are only two ways to get there, floatplane or boat.

We were taken there in August of 2006 by Roxanne Yancey of Breakaway Adventures by jet boat. The business is operated by her husband, Eric, and herself. They provide access to this place and other wilderness areas within range of Wrangell.

Anan Creek is a dynamic example of the fragile cycle of life. Up the falls of this creek struggle the pink salmon, eager to return to their birthplace in order to spawn and die, to renew their life cycle. Their presence draws the attention of other species that also depend on the returning salmon for life.

Of most interest to us were the bears found all up and down the creek, catching and eating salmon to store energy for their winter sleep. Waiting for the leftovers are eagles, gulls, ravens, otters and harbor seals. And, of course, there were plenty of mosquitoes, big hungry mosquitoes.

The most secure vantage point is the observation deck, with its blind, located a half mile from the boat mooring and trailhead, through a temperate rainforest that reminds one of Jurassic Park.

As we enter the lagoon to moor the boat, a harbor seal came close to say hello. A bald eagle posts sentry along the trail. But the eagle is not alone. The creek “boils” with salmon, eagles sit in the trees like signposts, gulls flit here and there. And there are bears everywhere. They’re difficult to count because they move in and out of the brush and caves in the creek bank. They are all around, and under the observation deck. There are photo opportunities at every turn (No flash, please!).

These photos are but a few that were taken during the four hours we spent there, and they may not be the best, but they sufficiently document and relive our memories of the experience. Anan Creek is noteworthy because it has both black and the brown grizzly here to commingle to fish, as evidenced by a female with her cubs. Being followed by a male with an apparent love interest she aggressively repelled him while protecting her young.

A favorite moment was witnessing and documenting the near-miss of a black bear and the salmon. On our return to the boat, we came across a scene that tells the lifecycle story that could only be described as “lunch with friends.”

We have been to Alaska several times and made many animal encounters. This trip to Anan was one of our earlier visits and continues to be a one of our most memorable experiences. We hope that you enjoyed it also.

The Bears of Anan Creek—John and Ruth Loebach
EDGAR LEE MASTERS DAY A SUCCESS

Lewistown once again honored it hometown poet Edgar Lee Masters on June 7. The event was sponsored by the Lewistown Chamber of Commerce. The poetry contest and prizes were co-sponsored by the Lewistown Chamber of Commerce and the Fulton County Arts Council.

One hundred and ten poems were entered from poets in Illinois, Iowa, Georgia, Washington, Kentucky, California, Wisconsin, and Nebraska. The Edgar Award for the best poetry submitted for the contest was a tie between Caitlyn Welker of Lewistown for her poem “Blaze Iron Lee,” and Rich Hanson of Monmouth for “Reverend Isaac Sinfield.” This was Welker’s first time to enter the contest.

A new category was added for best set of poems. Winners in this category were: First Place, Rich Hanson of Monmouth; Second Place, Rodney Reeves of Burlington, Iowa; and Third Place, a tie between Kenneth Morey of Bushnell and Tiffany Davis of Lewistown.

In the youth division the winners were: First Place, Dezaray Sheets, Lewistown and Caitlyn Welker, Lewistown; Second Place, Haley Funk, Manito, Mark Kline, Lewistown, and Louren DeBeers, Lewistown; Third Place, Raine Carman, Gilson, Emily Valencia, Lewistown, and Tiffany Davis, Lewistown.

In the adult division the winners were: First Place, Rodney Reeves, Burlington, Iowa, Rich Hanson, Monmouth, and Marcia Richardson, Pekin; Second Place, Lucia Haase, Spring Valley and Marilyn Carr, Maquon; Third Place, Rebecca Snodgrass Logue, Chillicothe, Ralph Montrone, Burlington, and Mariessa Dobrick, Madison, Wisconsin.

The senior division winners were: First Place, Lois Funk, Manito; Second Place, Larry Sprague, Canton, Jan Ball, Chicago, and Kathy Williams, Lewistown; Third Place, Jena Hausknecht, Burlington, Lucille Morgan Wilson, Davenport, Iowa, and Lois Funk, Manito; Fourth Place, Art Allen, Peoria and Larry Gillingen, Havana.

Many of the poets read their work Saturday morning at the First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown. Many of the winners were members of the Great Rivers Poetry group of Iowa. The scheduled performance of Spoon River Anthology at Oak Hill Cemetery was canceled because of the extreme heat.

LOCAL ARTS NEWS

WBYS, AM 1560 is looking for readers for the WBYS Books on Radio Program. There is nothing to it. We put you in a recording studio by yourself to pre-record a portion of our designated book. The reading takes approximately twenty minutes. It’s that simple! Call Mark if you are interested at 309-647-1560 to set up a time to read.

The Big Read project returns to Fulton County. Spoon River College, in partnership with Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library, has announced that it has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to host The Big Read in Fulton County again this year. The Big Read gives communities the opportunity to come together to read, discuss, and celebrate one of 23 selections from American and world literature. The Big Read in Canton and Fulton County will focus on “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” by Mark Twain. Activities will take place beginning in September and ending Oct. 31.

FULTON COUNTY PLAYHOUSE
COME BLOW YOUR HORN

August 8 · 9, 16 · 17

Starting Time: Friday & Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 3:00 p.m.

Doors open 30 minutes before curtain.

For tickets call the Playhouse at: 309-647-6032

Come Blow Your Horn was Neil Simon’s first play, which premiered in the United States in 1961 and had a London production in 1962 at the Prince of Wales Theatre. The play follows Alan and Buddy Baker, brothers who have decided to leave their family’s waxed-fruit business to experience the good life. In the beginning of the play, Alan is a typical ladies’ man, and his younger brother is inexperienced with women. As the play progresses Alan falls in love with Connie, but when she leaves his life, he falls apart. While he mourns the loss of Connie, Buddy becomes a ladies’ man himself. An offstage character in the play is Felix Ungar, later one of the protagonists of Simon’s The Odd Couple.

The play was made into a movie, with a screenplay by Norman Lear, starring Frank Sinatra as Alan, Lee J. Cobb as his father Harry, and Barbara Rush as Connie. Alan’s conflict over whether to lead a carefree bachelor lifestyle, or to settle down with Connie, has been seen as reflecting the social tensions of the early 1960s.
Spend some time enjoying the arts and entertainment on the Riverfront, one of the fastest-growing and most vibrant neighborhoods in Peoria. See the exhibits, take in some live music or take advantage of some of the classes offered through our educational program. Visit with some of the resident artists in their studios and shop for unique gifts and art objects.

For more information, call, email, or write to: Contemporary Art Center, 305 SW Water Street, Peoria, IL 61602, Phone: (309) 674-6822, E-mail: artctr@mtco.com, Gallery Hours: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Tuesday – Saturday.

Below is a sample of their regular events.

**LIVE AT THE FIVE SPOT**
*Every Friday Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m.*
Preston Jackson Gallery

Admission: Member: $7.00, Nonmember: $10.00

Live at the Five Spot is the Contemporary Art Center’s music event featuring the best regional talent performing jazz, blues and more. It is a smokeless, nightclub atmosphere that is a great way to end a busy week with your friends. While the music fills the building, one can stroll through our three fine art galleries. Consult the calendar to learn what bands will be playing.

You may order food & drink from the Rhythm Kitchen yourself and bring it up or bring your own food and drink. Remember to bring your own plates, silverware and cups. After the performance, go downstairs to enjoy more live music at the Rhythm Kitchen.

If you would like a discount on admission, become a member of the CAC. If you join during Live at the Five Spot, you receive a free pass for two for another night. One of the benefits of membership is to be able to reserve a table. The large rounds are $25 and the conference table area is $50. If you have a large party and you want to be sure to be seated together, this is a good option to consider.

**AESTHETIC UNDERGROUND**
*Open Mic: 2:30-4:30 p.m.*

Come with your talent or just to watch. Share a poem, dramatically read Shakespeare or perform your latest musical composition. Aesthetic Underground is now held once a month on a Sunday afternoon. Admission is free but donations are welcome.

**SALSA AT CAC**
*Every 3rd Saturday, 7-11:00 p.m.*
Preston Jackson Gallery

7-8:00 Dance lesson (Learn the basics of Salsa and other Latin Dances)
8-11:00 Open dancing to the music of DJ Ed Caballero, Cash Bar. Admission: $2.00 Members, $5.00 Nonmembers.

**Galesburg Civic Art Center**
The GCAC has a regular schedule of exhibitions. If you are interested in having a show, contact the exhibition committee to find out how to submit slides, resume and other relevant information. Contact the committee at the Galesburg Civic Art Center, 114 E. Main St., Galesburg, IL 61401. If you have a question e-mail the committee at exhibition@galesburgarts.org

**Upcoming Exhibitions**
*August 1 – August 30*

**Members & Friends**
Annual exhibition of all-media works by artists living within a 50-mile radius of Galesburg.

*September 5 – October 4*
Jennifer Casey
Pastels/Paintings
LOCAL ARTS NEWS . . . . . . . . . . . .

**Ponca Chiefs: Delegation to Washington, D.C., 1877**

Dickson Mounds Museum
Through September 28, 2008

In a time when Indian Wars were fought in the West, the Ponca tribe attempted to settle their quarrels with the government through peaceful treaties and by appealing to the humanity of people. The 10 individual portraits in this exhibit are based on a group photograph taken in 1877 of the Ponca delegation while in Washington, D.C. The portraits were created by Macomb, Illinois artist, Janice Rockwell who attempts to express, with deep respect and admiration, the pride and dignity of each chief, to honor each man’s spirit as she shares a bit of their story and history of their tribe. In addition to the portraits, a researched dialog accompanies the art work telling some of their story, culture, and the Ponca contribution to Native American civil rights.

**Prairie Thunder: 80 Years of Midwestern Railroad Photography**

Dickson Mounds Museum
Through November 3, 2008

With its speeding locomotives and long silhouette breaking the horizon, photographers have long been thrilled by and have attempted to capture the railroads’ image. As the photographer’s gaze meets the rails, the rail worker, his visage weathered by vigilant years of hard labor, steadily gazes back and is also captured by the camera. Prairie Thunder is a collection of 75 photographs that are not simply “train pictures,” but aesthetically captured moments of human and historical interest. This exhibit was produced by the McLean County Museum of History, in Bloomington, Illinois.

**Land of Color & Enchantment: The Southwestern Art Collection of Charles & Jeanette Gilchrist White**

Lakeview Museum, Peoria
September 20 - November 9, 2008

Southwest American art is increasingly popular with collectors and novices alike. This collection represents the wide range of subject matter and styles typical of the artists working since the 1950s: landscapes and portraiture, total realism to complete abstraction. A defining characteristic of this collection is the presence and celebration of color. For more information call Lakeview Museum at 309-686-7000.

**Peoria Art Guild 46th Fine Art Fair**

September 27-28

It’s like having a national art collection right in your own backyard as The Peoria Art Guild 46th Annual Fine Art Fair brings the works of over 150 national artists to the Peoria Riverfront the last weekend in September. As one of the oldest outdoor juried art fairs in the country, the Fine Art Fair gives everyone the rare opportunity to meet and talk with nationally-recognized artists, sample some of the city’s finest cuisine, and listen to some of Peoria’s best musical performers. And for the kids, they can have their own art adventure at the Kids Art Festival. It’s central Illinois’ signature cultural event. For more information call 309-637-2787.

The Art of Illinois
Fulton County Arts Council
P. O. Box 254
Canton, IL  61520

http://www.fultoncountyartscouncil.com

Membership expires: «exp»