

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS NEWSLETTER

January 2010 | Volume 3, Issue 1

Edited by Katie Whipple, MT-BC, Creative Arts Coordinator



2ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

By: Jennifer Vickery

Since our first Christmas Open House was such a success, we decided to host a 2nd Annual Christmas Open House. The second open house was held in our new location, next door to the Life Enrichment Center, on Saturday, December 12. Once again it was a hit despite the cold weather and rain and many people came out to support our artists. Even some of the artists including Mike Hall Jr., Anthony Davis, Cedric Renfroe, Walter Norman Jr., Brad Williams, Brenda Stewart and many more came to hang out with us throughout the day. This year our CE artists have been working hard to make more angel okra pods ornaments and the jewelry class has been working on bead ornaments. They have also produced a great deal of other types of art all year long.

CE was also excited to show off our new gallery, which was all set up just in time for the open house. If you haven't seen it yet we would love for you to come over and check it out. CE would like to thank everyone who came out to the event. **A big Thank You** to the CE Staff, Brenda Douglas and Harriett Whipple for making some great snacks for us all to enjoy.

EXHIBIT AT BLACKBIRD COFFEE SHOP

By: Jennifer Vickery

Creative Expressions artists exhibited their artwork at Blackbird Coffee in downtown Milledgeville from October 12, 2009 until November 19, 2009. Fourteen of our artists at CE participated in the art exhibit, which included Anthony Davis, George Furlow, Dee Weimer, Shawn Greene, Steve Dotson, Rena Johnson, Latrice Cooper, Nick Lanthrip, Karl Eakins, Mike Hall Jr., Selena Wiggins, Brad Williams, Mark McCook, and Walter Norman Jr. The artists exhibited a wide variety of artworks from paintings and collages, to clay pieces and even a large zebra mural by artist Walter Norman Jr.

The art exhibit was seen by all who ventured into the coffee shop. Many of the customers left us



Anthony Davis, Walter Norman Jr. & Cedric Renfroe at the Christmas Open House.

(Photo by Katie Whipple)

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comments about the show.

"Love the work, great stuff" -David Weissman

"Me too" -Bill

"It all looks wonderful Katie and Jenn. You guys are doing good things." -Caroline Heidt

Creative Expressions staff and artists would like to thank Blackbird Coffee and Jennifer Noice for allowing us to exhibit our artwork. We would also like to thank Tommy Schie and Ashley Burdette for volunteering and helping us get all of the artworks hung.



WHATS DIGGIN' IN HORTICULTURE?

By: Pat Black

In December, the nature explorers planted collard seeds into small containers and put them under the light to germinate. The seeds came up as collards and we planted them in the garden. They are growing and will soon be ready to eat! We fertilized them and watered as needed.

It's been so cold we have stayed inside and planted peas, radishes, and onions in small containers. They will be ready in several weeks to replant in the garden. The nature explorers love to feel the soil and enjoy planting the seeds into the soil and seeing them grow.

On Tuesdays from 9 - 11 Greg, Katie, and their new intern Kirby, from Lockerly volunteer to help us with the projects and are great with the explorers. On this day about 9 -10 earth lovers can enjoy the projects. On other days we meet from 9 - 10 and 4 -5 people participate in the garden and keeping the grounds clean. It is truly a group effort!

Booth at the Heritage Festival at Lockerly Arboretum



*Nature Explorers: Lockerly Intern Kirby, Pat Black, Katie Schmitt, Greg Eilers, Melissa Garner, and Tracy Burton
(Photo by Katie Whipple)*

FALL FESTIVALS & FUN

By: Katie Whipple

This year Creative Expressions participated in two fall festivals including the newly titled *Deep Roots Festival* formerly *Sweetwater Festival*, and the *Heritage Festival* at Lockerly Arboretum. Both festivals were a lot of fun, and helped gain Creative Expressions exposure in the community and sell some artwork!

This year at the *Deep Roots Festival* we saw returning customers who look for our booth every year and enjoy purchasing the unique artwork we offer. The most popular items sold were the ceramic animals and vases, Santa gourds, Christmas ornaments, watercolor cards, jewelry and original drawings.

The *Lockerly Heritage Festival* was a new addition to our festival schedule! The festival featured Civil War reenactments, a plant sale and many different artisan booths from photography to wood sculptures. The weather proved to be unbeatable as the cold and rain eventually got the best of us. However, festival goers shopped the early morning and we met a few new supporters for our studio and gallery.

We look forward to participating in the festivals next year and thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth. See you next year!

HELP!

Our A/C unit at the gallery was stolen over the Christmas break. If you know anyone willing to donate an A/C unit or money towards a new one please call Katie at 478-445-2270.



NO BOUNDARIES WEEK

By: Katie Whipple

This year Creative Expressions was invited to perform on the front campus of GC&SU as part of No Boundaries Week to showcase the talents and abilities that people with disabilities have. The Harmonettes Chorus performed a variety of songs as well as Music in Motion with the music therapy students at GC&SU. Creative Expressions also displayed an art booth to showcase the creative visual talents that many of our artists possess. Creative Expressions also created fall themed table centerpieces for the annual Empathy Dinner.

No Boundaries Week is a week long collaboration between Georgia College & State University and the Life Enrichment Center to educate students and the public about different disabilities and to demonstrate that we are more alike than different. During the week students are given challenges at different events to provide opportunities for them to experience what it is like to have a disability.

CHRISTMAS AT LOCKERLY

By: Katie Whipple

Christmas at Lockerly was truly a magical event. From Santa and his elves to the warm decorations, Lockerly provided Holiday Cheer for all during the festive season. Creative Expressions artists were invited to decorate Lockerly's Natural Christmas tree inside the mansion. This marks the third year that Creative Expressions has decorated the tree with handmade ornaments from the studio including corn shuck dolls, clay gingerbread men, gourd Santa Clauses, okra pod Santa Clauses, pine

BRAG BOX!

- * A big Thank You to the CE Staff, Brenda Douglas & Harriett Whipple for making some great snacks for us all to enjoy at our 2nd Annual Christmas Open House!
- * Thank you so much Tommy Schie for installing our business signs on our building!!!!
- * We are hosting a yard sale for a fundraiser to help support our arts programming- donate today!
- * Thank you to Maryllis Wolfgang, owner of *The Gallery* in downtown Milledgeville and Gloria Prance, Director of Events at Lockerly Arboretum, for your support and including us in local events!
- * Thank you Blackbird Coffee and Jennifer Noice for allowing us to exhibit our artwork. Thank you Tommy Schie and Ashley Burdette for volunteering and helping us get all of the artworks hung.

cone Santa Clauses, candy cane okra pods, yarn tassels, dried hydrangeas and cotton bales. Among the artists that decorated the tree were Brad Williams, Dee Weimer, Gabe Elder, Walter Norman Jr. and Latrice Cooper.

The Harmonettes Vocal Choir provided entertainment at the event on Dec. 11 and had a large gathering of supporters! The Harmonettes were excited to perform and wore Santa hats to add some fun to the occasion. Dee Weimer, Mamie Wells, Walter Norman, Jr., Anthony Davis, and Cedric Renfroe sang favorite holiday songs from Silent Night to Jingle Bells.

Donate your old treasures to Creative Expressions!

Do you have any used (but nice) dishes, toys, furniture, home décor, books, magazines, plants, craft items, yarn and other items that you need to get rid of? Well... we would love to have your old treasures to help support our Yard Sale Fundraiser, March 27th, 2010, 7:00am - 1:00pm to profit our arts program for artists with disabilities!

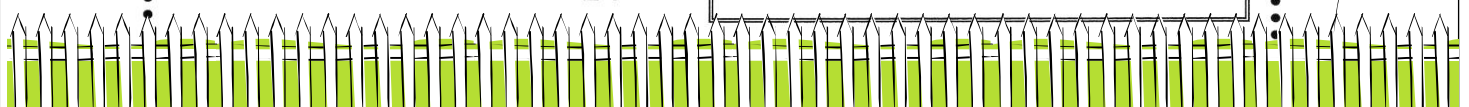
Items are tax deductible!
NO CLOTHES PLEASE!



Drop off donated items at
1131 N. Jefferson St.
Creative Expressions Studio & Gallery
(next door to the LEC)

Monday - Friday 9:00 - 3:00

Local pickups are available for large quantities or large items
Drop off items by March 19th, 2010
Call 478-445-2270



A NOTEWORTHY REVIEW

By: Katie Whipple

Creative Expressions was a blast from the past as they presented music from Bach to Broadway. Performers from the Life Enrichment Center teamed up with music therapy students from Georgia College & State University for another stellar performance. Performers worked on their musical selections for months in preparation for the event on November 13th, 2009 in the Arts & Sciences Auditorium.

This performance showcased the musical skills and talents that have grown over the years. Jeffrey Carter blew the audience away with his premier performance of “Twinkle, Twinkle” on the electric guitar. The Harmonettes Handbell Choir directed by music therapy intern Andrea Johnson, “whooped” the audience with interpretations of classical wedding songs such as “Ave Maria” and Pachelbel’s “Canon in D”. Good Vibrations, led by music therapy student Stanisha Blackburn kicked it up a notch with traditional African songs and rhythms, including “Tue Tue” and “Funga Alafia”.

The Harmonettes Vocal Choir, led by music therapy student Kenya Mitchell, went all out in full choir dress robes loaned from Central State Hospital. The Choir sang traditional spirituals including “Peace Like a River” and “Children Go Where I Send Thee”. The Circular Motion Dancers featured two songs in varying



*Harmonettes Chorus singing their hearts out!
(Photo by Field Whipple)*

styles. The first piece was an “Air on a G String” by Bach and the second piece was “The Road to Lisdoonvarna” and featured a maypole dance. Last but not least Music in Motion, led by music therapy students Elise Ivey and Maegan Underwood ended the show in style with pieces from Broadway including “New York, New York” and “Dancing Queen”.

Stay tuned for our upcoming performance *Night at the Music Museum* on Thursday, April 29th, 7:00pm in the Magnolia Ballroom at GC&SU.

*Photo Below: Elizabeth Clayton, Gabe Elder, Jenna Watkins, Barbara Coleman, & Iris Littrell
(Photo by Field Whipple)*

*Photo Right: Steve Dotson, Sarah Seo, Miquel Garland, Brenda Stewart & Rasheda Root
(Photo by Field Whipple)*

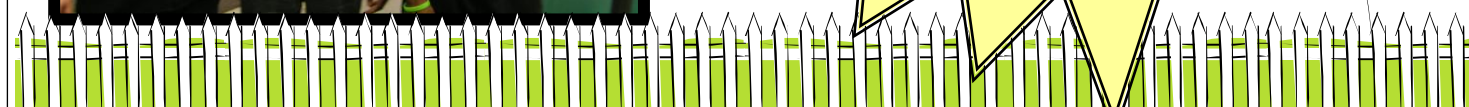


*Photo Below: Bobby Henslee, Mike Hall, Jr., & Chris Duncan
(Photo by Field Whipple)*



Wish List

- Pottery Kiln
- Art Supplies
- Digital Cameras
- Costumes
- Musical Instruments
- Computers
- Studio Renovation





Dee is an amazing artist! She has grown so much as an artist in her time here at the studio. Her jewelry has been become a hit among the ladies of Milledgeville and at local auctions. She has also shown a unique talent for arts and crafts projects through the use of collage on functional pieces. She has a wonderful way of bringing together aesthetics and functionality to an arts and crafts piece.

One particular piece in which Dee has spent a lot of time on is her handcrafted paper collage titled, *Butterfly*. *Butterfly* illustrates Dee's discipline and creativity as it was created over a period of weeks, as you can imagine how tiring it would become to complete in one sitting. The work is available for purchase the CE Studio & Gallery or online.

Dee enjoys working on group projects such as wreath making and she has also been working in ceramic based artwork for the past 2 years. She enjoys working on her artwork no matter what the medium may be. She has such a wonderful spirit about her and anyone can tell you that Dee is a joy to be around.

Come check out Dee's artwork at the CE Studio & Gallery or online at <http://www.creativeexpressionsstudio.org/dee-weimer.html>



Dee Weimer

Special Upcoming Events

Green Acres Music Performances

3:00pm - 4:00pm

February 4th, March 4th, April 1st

Oconee Regional Medical Center Music Performances

1:15-2:15

January 19th, February 16th, March 16th

Yard Sale Fundraiser

Front Yard of CE Studio & Gallery
Saturday, March 27th, 7:00 - 1:00

Night at the Music Museum

Music Therapy Performance

Magnolia Ballroom

Georgia College & State University

Thursday, April 29th, 2010

7:00 pm

Creative Expressions Studio & Gallery

1131 N. Jefferson St.
PO BOX 644 Milledgeville, GA 31059
Phone - (478) 445-2270
Kwhipple@CreativeExpressionsStudio.org

Check out our website!
www.CreativeExpressionsStudio.org