

Nature can be inspiring

By SALLY ENGLE
Cedar Bog Association Volunteer

Artists have long represented our world and recorded our history through different media. One of the most intriguing things about art is that each artist can look at one object or view and, through their artistic rendition, give it a new flavor or new perspective.

Cedar Bog has long been fodder for artists, and today artists working in many different media will come and walk through the fen looking for a new inspiration to capture. Amateur and professional alike can find much inspiration on a walk through the Bog. Is it the changing habitats along the boardwalk? Perhaps it's the light diffusing through the trees to sparkle on the morning dew? Maybe the bountiful wildlife species that call Cedar Bog home? Yet again, it may be the constant changes that regular visitors note as they walk through every week. Cedar Bog is a unique spot in nature's landscape, well-noted in art for many years.

Many of the earliest drawings that survive are those that were made to document species of animals and plants. These detailed drawings are treasured as records of the species of the Bog, some that remain and some that have long been extirpated due to dredging or climatic changes that caused their demise at Cedar Bog. Today's researchers use digital photographs to document finds, but many still create those wonderful drawings to capture the nuances of the plants or animals. There is something about a drawing that gives an individual flavor to the representation. Of course, with the advent of digital photography the resulting photos can also be astounding!

Some of the artists who use other media will use digital photographs to record their subjects for a future piece. The photograph may then go back to a studio where the artist will use it to create a watercolor, pastel or acrylic painting. Fabric art, sculpture, carvings engravings and other forms of art may result from photographs that inspired them. They may also be inspired by memory or from the artist being present to view the subject.

Several local artists, local members of the Plein Air Society, have made frequent trips to Cedar Bog to paint their subjects in the outdoors in natural light. The resulting work has produced many outstanding records of the flora of Cedar Bog. I doubt that anyone in Urbana is unfamiliar with the Marsh Marigold painting of Linnae Wilson or the various pastels and acrylics of Paul Reif. Plein Air Society Artists Chuck Burgert, Diane Hoke and Eunice Bronkar create outstanding representations of Cedar Bog.

The Plein Air Society will be gathering at Cedar Bog on June 12 to work together in the Bog and members from around the area will meet to paint at the fen throughout the day. Some of the members will be local artists and some will come from a distance to record moments in Cedar Bog as only they can. For more information about this event, you can look on the Internet at the www.ohiopleinairsociety.com, where you



The endangered Fringed Gentian as captured by photographer Dave Berry, who would many times sleep over at the Bog (with permit) to capture the early morning light on his subjects.

April Bog Happenings

Second Annual Earth Day Art Show, April 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Join us to celebrate Earth Day with a nature-focused art show. See regional artists with unique wares, earth friendly information and the beginning of the blooming season at Cedar Bog. Local artist and long-time Cedar Bog supporter Paul Reif is among the artists featured at the event. Special Art Prints by Catrow and Ruthven will be available for sale. Guided walks through the fen will be given throughout the day. Admission to show is free. Jaworski Memorial Walk: Sunday, April 25, 1-3 p.m. - A leisurely stroll along the boardwalk with pauses at the various platforms to share our favorite memories of long-time and much missed Cedar Bog manager Terry Jaworski. Admission for this memory walk is free.

will find information on this wonderful organization that welcomes artists at all levels of their career.

Photography is also well-represented at Cedar Bog. For 20 years, photographer Dave Berry slogged through the muck and the mire to photograph every species of plant he could at the fen. These amazing pictures can be seen on the Cedar Bog website at www.cedarbog.org.

Dave has also created CD's of these photographs for those who want to study the flora of the Bog or for those who just love great photography. Prints of amazing animals and plants of the fen are also available.

When highlighting photography, Alex Howell - the *Urbana Daily Citizen's* own photographer - must be mentioned. Her photographs of the Bog have captured some amazing moments. Though busy with her assignments, Alex can occasionally be found at Cedar Bog taking photographs throughout the year. She has shared some of these amazing photos with the group Cedar Bog Fen Fanatics on Facebook, where they can be seen by anyone who would like to join the group. Of course, you will have to wade through some of the photos by the devoted amateurs, too!

At the Cedar Bog gift shop you will find



This recent painting of a Jack-in-the-Pulpit by local artist Paul Reif is one of many depicting the varied landscape of Cedar Bog.



In this photo by Alex Howell, a female black Swallowtail butterfly feeds on purple coneflowers at Cedar Bog during July of 2009.

fabric art, traditional and otherwise, inspired by Cedar Bog. You will also find carved gourd bird houses that show the influence of the fen. One of the young members, Brie Boltz, wanted to help the Bog raise money and created beautifully engraved earrings and tags depicting the Showy Lady's Slipper Orchid, Spotted Turtle and other denizens of the Bog.

On April 24, the Bog is inviting the com-

munity to come and visit. On that day the Bog is holding its Second Annual Earth Day Art Show featuring nature inspired art. There will be many artists displaying wares in the Education Center, something for everyone. There will also be free guided tours on that day. Perhaps you might take a walk and become inspired to make art of your own? On April 24, admission AND inspiration is free.

County Right To Life will host 5K run

Citizen Staff Report

Champaign County Right To Life will hold the 2010 Simon Kenton Pro-Life 5K run on Sunday, April 25 at 1 p.m. starting at the north end of Community Drive (near the YMCA).

The path loops around the Urbana City Park and runs through a scenic wooded area typical of west central Ohio.

All runners will receive a shirt and a medal. Prizes will be given for first, second, and third place overall (men and women). Recognition for winners in each age group will also be provided. Timing will be provided by Premier Sports of Columbus.

To learn more or to register go to <http://premieraces.com/2010Races/Pro-Life.html>.

Registration on April 25 begins at 11 a.m. with parking available at the Y.

All proceeds will go to the CCRTL Pro-Woman Pro-Life Education Fund with a portion going to the Ohio Right To Life Organization.

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