



March 12, 2009

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PARA ANNOUNCES AMATEUR ART EXHIBIT AT MCABEE CENTER

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. -- The Tuscaloosa County Parks & Recreation Authority is presenting an amateur painting exhibition by a local artist at the McAbee Center located at 3801 Loop Road. The display and sale is on-going at the McAbee Center and is free and open to the public.

The paintings on display are an accumulation of four years of work by local painter Doyle Beams. Beams, now retired from Gulf State Goodrich where he worked as a Boiler Room Operator, has the opportunity to return to his lifelong passion of creating works of art.

"I've always had a certain amount of artistic ability," Beams said. In fact, Beams holds a degree in commercial art from the University of Alabama, class of 1964.

But even long-time artists such as Beams understands the benefit of continued instruction from experts such as PARA's Advanced Watercolor classes taught by instructor John Tilley, which he attends every Wednesday to continually refine his craft.

Beams paintings, mostly watercolors with a smattering of acrylics, reflect a lifetime spent carousing in the woods and time spent hunting and fishing.

"God created a beautiful world," he said. "I'm inspired every time I go into the woods."

Most of his pieces on display reflect this inspiration, with paintings of roosters, deer in the woods, and game birds. Other motifs range from scenic landscapes, seascapes and rustic barns to even a handful of floral paintings.

As another display of handiness and artistry, Beams constructs all of the frames for his paintings by hand. After completion of a watercolor he then completes his work with the

careful selection and construction of a frame. He pairs complementary textures and colors of wood with the completed art.

“For most of the wildlife I try to use a more natural, rustic looking frame,” he said.

Beams often derives his paintings from digital photos taken while in the great outdoors. He then takes the photos to his home studio or to PARA’s Wednesday night Advanced Watercolor class where he works with instructor John Tilley who helps guide him through the technical and creative processes of moving from pixels to canvas.

Tilley, whose own artwork is on display in the Phelps Center, teaches beginner, intermediate and advanced watercolor classes with PARA and is also their director of leisure activities. It was Tilley who noticed the walls of the McAbee Center were a tad bare and approached Beams about displaying and selling his paintings to the public.

“Everyone likes a little recognition,” Beams said. “This is something I do to utilize my talents and getting the chance to have the public exposure is great.”

After all, in these times of economic recession and unemployment, the livelihood of an artist is in a precarious position.

“We’re starving artists,” PARA Art Instructor John Tilley said laughingly while hanging one of Beams’ paintings of a Whitetail Deer.

While the Buck in the painting looks good enough to eat, particularly for ‘starving artists’ such as himself, Beams prefers the public to come to the McAbee Center and browse and buy his art work. Prices, including hand-built frames, range from 100 to 150 dollars.

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Live, Learn, Play! PARA. The Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority is a county wide non-profit agency funded by the city of Tuscaloosa, the city of Northport and Tuscaloosa County. PARA’s mission is to provide safe, clean, and beautiful facilities, parks and open space, along with professionally managed leisure activities for all people and to enrich the quality of life, provide economic value, and encourage long-term community stability and growth. Through strong partnerships, we achieve exceptional services and foster an atmosphere of cooperation, trust, and innovation to better serve our community.