

Art Work On Display At Gallery Thru Nov.

Southport artist Pat Pittenger's "David's Shoes" won best in show honors in the Brunswick County Art Show and is among the entries on view throughout November at Franklin Square Gallery in Southport.

Ken Buckner, artist and owner of Doe Creek Gallery in Supply, judged the show. An exhibition of his work is also on display.

In the painting division, Raymond Del Peso took first and second places respectively with "Raccoon Reefers" and "Flamingo Road". Third place went to Jane Flynn for "Farmer's Market Flowers."

In 3-D, first place went to Ellen Jones for "Neptune," second to Susan Karpenski, "Treasure Box I," and third to Carol Aweeky, "Maia I."

Merit Awards went to Doris Redwine, "Rose"; Cherki Skaggs, "South of the Border," and Row Selman, "Bouquet of Colors."

Redwine also received honorable mentions for two portraits, "Erin," and "Sally."

Other honorable mentions went to Loretta Zderad, "Under the Leaves," Tollie Davis, "Golden Rod" and "Street Scene Southport"; Row Selman, "Flower Study," Joyce Martz, "Once Upon a Time," Nell Moretz, "King of the Covey," Dolly Wilkens, "Elegant Irises," and Phyllis Riley, "Getting Ready."

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information call the gallery at 910-457-5450.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL third-graders Jennifer Haley, Brandon Todd and Teniesha Knight use their imaginations last week to decorate boxes for the Brunswick County Literacy Council's Holiday Book Share campaign. The effort was a class community service project.

Third Grade Class Readies 'Holiday Book Share' Boxes

by the Brunswick County Volunteer and Information Center.

Book Share is intended to provide reading materials for and increase literacy awareness in the 600 households that will receive holiday baskets, said VISTA volunteer Alicia Peterson.

New and almost new books can be placed in boxes at these locations through Dec. 9: Calabash Town Hall, Calabash; Seaside United Methodist Church, Sunset Beach;

Union Elementary School, St. James Episcopal Church, Shallotte; Brunswick County Literacy Council office and Brunswick Community College Student Center, Supply; Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Southport; Long Beach Town Hall, Long Beach; Yaupon Beach Town Hall, Yaupon Beach; Boiling Spring Lakes Town Hall, Boiling Spring Lakes; and Leland Town Hall, Leland.

More information is available from the council office, 754-7323.

The Brunswick County Literacy Council provides free, confidential one-on-one tutoring for Brunswick County adults and teen-agers who wish to improve their reading skills.

CLUB BRIEFS

Rabon Is Historical Society Speaker

Dr. James R. Rabon, a Brunswick County native and retired superintendent of Columbus County schools, was guest speaker Nov. 8 when the Brunswick County Historical Society met in Southport.

Rabon displayed many old documents pertaining to the early schools, according to society spokesman Johnnie M. Holden of Holden Beach. Of particular interest were a blueprint for one-room schoolhouses, a long list of the names of the small schools that served before consolidation, and a hand-written record of the organization of Brunswick County Board of Education in 1872 and its payments to teachers for that year. The annual vouchers ranged from \$75 to \$160.

New officers of the group for 1994-97 are Lottie Ludlum, president; David Bennett, secretary-treasurer; Frank Galloway, vice president; and Helen Taylor and Gwen Causey, directors.

The Brunswick County Historical Society was organized in 1954 to collect, preserve, study, evaluate and publicize Brunswick County history. Meetings are held on the second Monday of Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.

Prior to each meeting, a newsletter is published containing information about the society's activities, research papers and article that pertain to the organization's purpose.

Optimist Seeks Essays

Local high school sophomores,

After-School Arts Offered

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department is planning an after-school arts program with a holiday theme.

Children ages 6 to 13 will make holiday crafts from 4 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. All materials will be provided.

Dates and locations are as follows: Tuesday, Nov. 30, West Brunswick Branch Library, Shallotte; Wednesday, Dec. 1, Southport Library; Thursday, Dec. 2, Leland Library.

On Sunday, Dec. 5, Santa's helpers will assist children ages 12 and under who want to make holiday crafts to give as gifts. Santa will be there, and refreshments will be available.

For more information on either program, call Emma T. McGraw at the county parks and recreation office, 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

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For more information about the essay contest, contact Reinitz at 842-6973.

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Wildlife Watercolorist Fleming's Work Is Subject Of Retrospective

The Smith Island Art League will celebrate the 80th birthday of wildlife watercolorist and Bald Head Island resident Malcolm J. Fleming with a retrospective Nov. 25-27.

The show will be held at the Bald Head Island Club and was scheduled to coincide with two annual gatherings there, Thanksgiving and the membership meeting of the Bald Head Conservancy, in which Fleming is involved.

Fleming was born in 1913 in Amityville, N.Y. He attended Pratt Institute in New York and began his professional life at age 20 as office boy at *New Yorker*. Among the magazine's celebrated writers and artists at the time was James Thurber.

"Thurber did not have an office at the *New Yorker*, so I would let him use my desk when he came in," Fleming remembers. "He was losing his sight and had developed the technique of peering through a great thick prism and using a large chalk stick to make his wonderful fuzzy dog drawings.

"He was a fine gentleman and gave me much encouragement at a time that was most important to me. I can't estimate how many drawings I did for *New Yorker* and other magazines in those days, but I probably submitted 16 for every one I sold—for \$5 each."

By 1964, his following had grown such that Fleming was commissioned to do 40 paintings for a Boston fundraiser dinner for Ducks Unlimited.

"I was seated next to the president of Abercrombie & Fitch at the dinner, and he turned to me and said he would buy all the pictures that were not sold at the show," Fleming said. "This was a real breakthrough and gave me national recognition for my fish and wildlife watercolors."

The artist's knowledge of waterfowl led to an interest in decoys, which he regarded as works of art rather than tools of the hunter. In 1939 he discovered a pair of circa 1832 masterpieces under an Amityville boathouse.

The following year, the newly married Fleming went to an estate auction to buy furniture and returned home with 500 decoys. He soon had one of the country's leading collections and was appointed one of the first judges of the National Decoy Show. Later, he founded the Carolina Decoy Collectors and Carvers Association.

Fleming discovered North Carolina in 1943 when he visited on the hunting lodges on Lake Mattamuskeet in Hyde County. In 1976, he and his wife Marion moved to Middle Sound north of Wrightsville Beach. She died two years later, and in 1983 he married Carolyn Lightbourne. After spending six months in the Bahamas aboard their trawler *Keewatin*, they moved to Bald Head Island.

Since the move, Fleming has painted many watercolors of loggerhead turtles, birds and endangered species of interest to the Bald Head Conservancy. His most popular watercolor is "The Hatchlings," and his duck watercolors have been reproduced on plates and tiles and sold nationally.

Admission to the retrospective is free; public access to Bald Head Island is available via private toll ferry from Southport.

The Fleming Retrospective is the first public event for the newly formed Smith Island Art League. The organization is open to anyone over 18 who is interested in enhancing artistic endeavors on Bald Head Island.