

Winter/Spring 2011
the **Polasek**

Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens

**BRENDAN
VACATIONS**

Taking You Personally

**Invites you to the first
museum-sponsored
tour of the
Czech Republic
September 30 thru
October 10, 2011**

(see page 5)

For complete details:

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the Polasek

633 Osceola Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789

407-647-6294 fax: 407-647-0410

www.polasek.org

Listed on the National Register
of Historic Places

Florida Artists Hall of Fame
Great Floridian 2000

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-4
Sunday 1-4

Admission: Adults \$5,
Seniors (60+) \$4, Students w/ID \$3
Members & Under 12 Free

Our Mission: To promote the legacy of
internationally known Czech-American
sculptor Albin Polasek, N.A., and to
encourage study, appreciation and
furtherance of representational art.

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The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens is
a 501(C)(3) public charity, non-profit
organization whose budget is funded by donations
and memberships. All donations and dues go to
support the preservation, maintenance and
operation of the Albin Polasek Museum &
Sculpture Gardens. Please give generously.
We need your support!



Sponsored in part by the
State of Florida, Department of
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Historical Commission.

United Arts
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Welcome new board members...

Paula Zahn, Executive Vice President, First National Bank of Central Florida

Paula Zahn is a veteran banker of Central Florida and a dedicated community leader. Ms. Zahn's community leadership positions include past President of the Clermont Kiwanis and past President of the South Lake Hospital District Board of Trustees. She is currently a member of the Windermere Rotary Club and the Leadership Winter Park Alumni Council. Ms. Zahn was recognized as the 1999 Volunteer of the Year by the Metro Orlando Economic Development Council.

Regis A. Simasek, President, Principal, Owner of R. A. Simasek, P.A.

Mr. Simasek, a licensed CPA, served in the U.S. Air Force from 1963-1967, where he reached the rank of Captain. In 1967 he joined the national accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst (now Ernst & Young) where for eight years he served as Supervisor. In 1975, Mr. Simasek formed Amort & Simasek, P.A. and in 2002 he formed R.A. Simasek, P.A. Over the years he has volunteered with various not-for-profit organizations, and he is currently serving as Treasurer of the Central Florida Kidney Centers.



*Can we help you fulfill a need
to assist a worthy cause?*

We are in urgent need of museum
volunteers that can commit to 3
hours each week to help improve
the quality of life in our community.
The Polasek Museum & Sculpture
Gardens is a valuable resource that
is worth saving & protecting. **YOU**
can help make a difference!

All it takes to be a Volunteer at
The Albin Polasek Museum &
Sculpture Gardens is a love of
beauty, a willingness to make
visitors feel welcome and a positive
attitude. The rest is easy!
Please call Cindy Bedsole at
(407) 647-6294 right away to
discuss your new role with the
museum.

*"Volunteers are the only human
beings on the face of the earth who
reflect this nation's compassion,
unselfish caring, patience, and just
plain love for one another."*

- Erma Brombeck

Substantial Progress on Woodrow Wilson Monument

The American Friends of the Czech Republic's sculptor team finished the clay model of the statue of Woodrow Wilson in late June and in early August commenced work on the plaster casting. The casting into plaster ultimately led to the destruction of the clay model. The sculptors first coated the clay model with a blue plaster, which was added on in successive layers. As the sculptors applied the plaster, they embedded metal bars to provide form and strength. The mass of plaster covering the clay was then cut open into several parts, and the clay was removed from the insides, which were completely cleaned. The result was a negative mold of the statue; this mold then was used to make a positive replica of the statue in plaster. As a final step, the sculptors went over the entire casting with fine chisels to remove imperfections and shape final details.

AFoCR's Czech architects approved the plaster model in late September. It was then cut into pieces and handed over to the foundry in early October. The completion of the plaster casting was reported in both the *Prague Post* and *Pražský deník*.

The foundry that will do the bronze casting, owned by Ondřej Špaček, is considered to be one of the best in the Czech Republic. It is located in the outlying Lysolaje district of Prague. Špaček is the son of the renowned Czech sculptor Josef Špaček. He studied artistic metal casting and opened one of the first foundries in the former Czechoslovakia that specialized in casting bronze sculptures with the lost wax process. He has done work for the leading sculptors in the Czech Republic, and his foundry also produced the busts of the National Theatre actors that are displayed in the theater's foyer. The foundry has cast statues of Tomáš Masaryk that are displayed in a number of Czech cities, and one of Špaček's master craftsmen started his career in the same foundry where Franta Anýž cast the original statue of Woodrow Wilson in 1928. In addition to casting the statue, the foundry is responsible for installing it on the pedestal. Špaček is to complete the casting and finishing of the bronze statue in seven months.

In addition to the work on the statue, there has been substantial progress with the monument's construction process. The Prague City Magistrate in October chose a construction and stonemasonry firm to do the grading and landscaping of the site and construct the monument's foundation, base, and pedestal. The firm is Jez, a.s. (www.janjez.cz). The granite for

the pedestal and base were quarried in late November, just prior to the closing of the quarry for the winter. City of Prague authorities have reviewed the design and plans for the monument, and all affected offices have granted approvals.

Planning is also underway for the fabrication, inscription, and shipping of the granite plaques for the Walk of Freedom, which will be installed along the pathway leading to the monument. The Walk will permanently recognize individuals, families, companies, and organizations that have made significant contributions to rebuilding the monument. The granite will come from a quarry near Staunton, Virginia, where Woodrow Wilson was born. American architect Paul Beckmann and AFoCR Project Director Robert Doubek are working with a stone company in Virginia on the detailed specifications and schedule to cut and inscribe the plaques for the Walk. The inscriptions will be sandblasted and a computer-based process will be used to cut the rubber stencils, thereby insuring accuracy.

As of publication of this newsletter, 83 donors to the Woodrow Wilson Monument



project have made gifts of \$2,500 or more that will be recognized with plaques on the Walk of Freedom. The dedication of the monument has been set for the first week in October 2011, so that donors who wish to have plaques installed as of the dedication must make their contributions and draft their inscriptions by next May.

the Polasek
Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Garden

SAVE THE DATE

Winter Park Paint Out 2011
Garden Party Celebration

APRIL 30, 2011, 6-9PM

For details visit www.WinterParkPaintOut.org

THE WINTER PARK
Paint Out
APRIL 23 THROUGH APRIL 30 2011

Exhibition Spotlight:

Silver Springs: The Underwater World of Bruce Mozart

Bruce Mozart's playful photography and creative spirit have left a legacy of unique underwater images from the 1950s of "Florida's Original Tourist Attraction," Silver Springs. Mozart, a pioneer of underwater photography, staged scenes with a twist – a never-ending stream of attractive models performing aboveground activities such as reading a magazine and barbecuing steak while under the crystal clear waters of the Silver River.

Forty black and white photographs shot through an underwater camera system of Mozart's own invention are featured in *Silver Springs: The Underwater World of Bruce Mozart*, thanks to the generous loan of Bruce Mozart's personal collection. Also on loan is a collection of tourist ephemera from Silver Springs owned by author and guest curator Gary Monroe. Monroe's book *Silver Springs: The Underwater World of Bruce Mozart* is available in the museum's gift shop and features photographs from this fun and whimsical exhibition, which will run from February 1st through April 17th.



Sculptures and Their Stories by Trudy Furno

Behind every sculpture, there is a great story, and the portrait bust of Francis (Frank) D. Millet by Albin Polasek is no exception to the rule. Recently put on display in our Florida Room, the bronze and the short chronicle of Millet's life told during our tours have intrigued many visitors. Who was Frank Millet, and what was his connection to Mr. Polasek?

Frank Millet (pronounced Mill-et, not Mill-ay) was born in Massachusetts in 1846, and as an adolescent became a drummer boy in the Civil War. Afterwards, he graduated from Harvard in 1869 and began a career as a journalist and war correspondent. Soon branching out into the visual arts, Millet became an accomplished sculptor, painter, and architect. Public buildings and museums around the world to this day display his paintings, murals, and medals. He was the chief decorator

for the 1893 Columbian Exposition's "White City" in Chicago; while there, he invented a device which sprayed white paint on the exteriors of the Exposition's buildings. At the White City, he was also in charge of publicity at this watershed event of the Gilded Age. Well known among his colleagues, Millet's easy manner and bonhomie won him faithful friends, and there seemed to be no end to his list of amazing accomplishments.

One of the founders of the American Academy in Rome and Secretary while Polasek was a fellow there, Millet spent much time in both Europe and the United States conducting business having to do with his positions on several fine arts committees and museum boards. While in Rome in 1912, Polasek met Millet and asked him whether he would like to sit for a portrait, to which he readily agreed. The resulting work, according to Ruth Sherwood's Polasek biography, was pleasing to the sitter, and Millet told Polasek that "it will do you lots of good." Little did Polasek know that a few short months later Millet would perish in the HMS Titanic disaster; and, as a result, nine Millet bronzes were ordered for museums and universities around the country. Indeed, the April 28, 1912, edition of *The New York Times*, in an article speaking of Millet, notes that "there is an

admirable bust of Millet at the Academy, done by Albin Polasek, one of the most clever Academicians, which, although appreciated before, has now acquired an added value. It is a speaking likeness of Millet as he was, full of life and fun, with a good heart showing in the eyes and about the mouth."

For more interesting reading about Frank Millet, skim his correspondence in the Smithsonian Institution's online archives and read Erik Larson's *The Devil in the White City*. More next time . . .



BRENDAN VACATIONS

Taking You Personally

Travel Sep 30 - Oct 10, 2011



*The Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens Invites You To Join Them
On Their First Museum Sponsored Tour to The Czech Republic
Escorted by Debbie Komanski, Executive Director*

Sep 30 - Oct 10, 2011

10 Days / 9 Nights

\$2862 Land only*

- 9 night accommodations, 6 nights in Prague at the 5 star Hotel Pariz in deluxe room and 3 nights in Frenstat at the 3 star Hotel Bartos in standard run-of-house room
- 16 meals - 9 Buffet breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners
- Sole use of deluxe motor coach for touring
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- All sightseeing with entrance fees as specified in itinerary
- Hotel portorage for 1 piece of checked luggage per person
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**Deposit of \$500 per person due at the
time of the booking.**

Final Payment Due: June 24, 2011

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Notes from the Garden . . .



Portrait of Randy Knight
by Berto Ortega

Welcome to gardening with the Polasek staff, skilled volunteers, master gardeners and other visiting experts who will give you up-to-date information, tips to make your gardening experiences more successful and some hands-on experience in the lovely Polasek Gardens. Depending on the topic we may stroll the gardens for a firsthand look at our subjects.

All classes will be held rain or shine from 10 am - 11:30 a.m. and may be followed by an optional box lunch in the garden where you can visit and continue the learning experience with our speakers and garden volunteers. The cost for classes will be \$8.00 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. Some classes may have a materials cost. The box lunch is available at a cost of \$10, paid in advance.

Register at info@polasek.org or by phone 407-647-6294. All registrations must be received no later than Tuesday the week of the class.

February 10: Warm Season Vegetable Gardening:

Kicking off the Spring gardening season, Polasek gardeners Pam Paisley and Don Cunningham will share their knowledge about warm season gardening. Participants will receive detailed handouts with planting schedules and crop suggestions, organic and non-organic methods of pest control, disease prevention with an emphasis on the square foot gardening method. The cost for this class will be \$8.00 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. The box lunch is available at a cost of \$10, paid in advance.

March 10: Container Gardening:

Randy Knight, Polasek's Landscape Curator, famous for his spectacular mixed containers, is back by popular demand. This make-and-take activity will lead you through all the steps of designing and creating a really special container that will last through the summer with the right care. Once you plant it, you've got to groom it. Randy will teach you how. Class and materials fee, which includes a 14 inch pot, soil, and plants: members \$23, non-members \$25. The box lunch is available at a cost of \$10, paid in advance.

April 21: Edible Landscapes:

Gardening Celebrity Tom MacCubbin, author of the *Florida Gardener's Resource*, radio show host and former Orange County Extension Agent, will bring his wonderful wit, wisdom and lots of stories and information that will share how to make more room in your garden for things you love to eat and keep it looking tidy and decorative at the same time. Do not miss this class! The cost for this class will be \$8.00 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. The box lunch is available at a cost of \$10, paid in advance.

May 12: Designing and Building Water Features:

Former Disney designer Jeffery Lind is the Polasek's go-to guy for all things plumbing and electrical. If you have ever been too intimidated to build pond or add a fountain to your landscape, Jeff will give you the foundation you need to get started. Look for us to meet between our two water features Pan and Wasserman. The cost for this class will be \$8.00 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. The box lunch is available at a cost of \$10, paid in advance.

June 9: Beautiful Butterflies and the Native Plants They Love:

Garden Volunteer and Seminole County Master Gardener, Nancy Tyree will tell you, "Wildflowers and butterflies define my life!" When she retired she began converting her typical Florida garden to natives and wildflowers to attract more than just the occasional Monarch. She learned, and so can you, if you plant it, they will come! Learn their habits, flight patterns, required larval foods (natives, for the most part), preferred nectar foods and mating dances. Her presentation is documented with fabulous butterfly photographs taken in her own backyard. The cost for this class will be \$8.00 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. The box lunch is available at a cost of \$10, paid in advance.



Butterfly Garden. Photo: Gail Peck



Pam Paisley
Garden Volunteer
Coordinator

Thoughts From Pam . . . Every newsletter includes a testimonial from one of our gardeners. They love to share their experiences, the friendships and the extent of their pleasures while gardening at the Polasek. The value of those hours to them is inestimable.

While we have always kept records of how much time in the gardens our volunteers spend, 2010 was different. I became driven to account for every hour, every minute that it takes to make the gardens of the Polasek a most special attraction. Our volunteer corps grew from nineteen diligent gardeners, both experienced and novice, to fifty people who cared enough, who wanted to participate, who wanted that intangible something that comes from digging in the soil.

As I reviewed the monthly totals of volunteer hours at the year's end, I began to think about the dollar value of that landscape labor. That was simple multiplication; hours x value = total. 4419 hours x \$20.85 = \$92,136.00! That's a pretty astounding number.

Numbers don't tell the whole story. The real question is: What is the real value of our volunteers to the Polasek? How do you measure the value of a smile to a young visitor; the gracious welcomes our volunteers extend to all; the blossom bestowed upon an admirer; a plant identification to a curious guest; an explanation of a gardening practice from one gardener to another; the generous offering of a plant cutting or division; the Polasek story told with joy and enthusiasm; or the invitation to come back again when the next bloom season is upon us? Immeasurable, invaluable, beyond description.

Many thanks to our volunteers for their generosity of spirit in the past year. May 2011 bring us all continued camaraderie, satisfaction and beautiful gardens.

News Flash Wish List . . . The wheels have fallen off the garden carts and we are in dire need of two sets of wheels & axles—approximate cost \$100.

ONE VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE

I joined the Polasek garden volunteer corp over two years ago, averaging 8 to 10 hours a week and participating in a variety of chores and projects: weeding, breaking salvaged concrete for garden terraces and walls, constructing table-high vegetable garden boxes, constructing wood duck nest boxes, helping construct a wood deck to service the orchid collection, sharpening tools, repairing wheelbarrows, building a composting area and attempting to keep up with the significant amount landscape refuse that when composted, can be returned to the beds. So I ask myself at the beginning of year three: What is the significance of all this activity?

For the most part enormous satisfaction! Occasional disgruntlement to be sure and that always dissipates quickly, but it is satisfaction and enjoyment that motivates me to return each week. Then, there is the awareness that my contributions added to those of many other volunteers, now friends, have mattered a great deal toward the achievement of the horticultural vision that makes the campus an outstanding venue for the Polasek museum and its programs, not to mention an outstanding point of interest and culture in the City of Winter Park. And solid friendships have developed. It is extraordinary observing over time strangers coming together, sharing common interests and engaging in cooperative activities, and then witnessing the forging of social bonds that are so important for general health and well-being. Moreover, the grounds now boast of three wood duck nesting boxes. Our expectation is that each box houses at least two clutches of eggs annually, each clutch containing as many as 10 to 15 eggs or more. With 60 to 90 eggs, if only a total of 15 hatchlings survive the dangers of young duckhood, the Polasek will have contributed greatly to the quality of local fauna in our community. I love seeing the ducks fly in and out during the nesting season and then spying their family queues going on about the business of raising vigorous offspring. An additional source of satisfaction has been those and similar occasions where, under camphor trees after rains, when the earthy musk of leaf mould exorcise worry and care, I will have pulled hundreds if not thousands of 2 inch camphor seedlings from the soil. This occurs over the course of just an hour or two. Pure drudgery, you say? But believe me when I tell you it is a meditation. The ground is solid under my knees, the cloth wet and soiled. Here, anchored to the earth, I experience time in another dimension, awareness follows the gentle rhythm of plucking which may intersect the color of a seasonal bloom and then intersect the path an unfamiliar insect. And I breathe gratitude. And lastly, I never cease to be amazed at the mythic sculptures of Albin Polasek. It seems impossible to encounter my favorites without a moment's contemplation regarding life's struggles, or human destiny, or the gift of an invitation to enter the gate. It is all inspirational, no small influence on my own creative interests.

So, these are the things that draw me back week after week to the various and unending labors necessary to this constantly changing, organic and beautiful environment. Here are friends, contributions to be made, exercise, sweat, and other basics of good health, and here spiritual potential abounds. --- Arthur Jones





Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens
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THE WINTER PARK **Paint Out** APRIL 23 THROUGH APRIL 30 2011
Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors



Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in assisting us with this fabulous event, we have many opportunities available.

Please call the museum 407-647-6294 or email cbedsole@polasek.org

Other ways you can help: Donate a \$25 gift card for food or beverage to enhance our on-site Artist Hospitality Area