Fall/Winter 2010

“Turn on the Light: Plein Air Paintings”
by Morgan Samuel Price
November 23, 2010 thru January 23, 2011
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 State, Division of Historical Resources, assisted by the Florida Historical Commission.

Contact membership@polasek.org or 407-647-6294 to purchase a gift certificate.

Gift Certificate
A gift of Art, Beauty & Tranquility
This entitles you to one year membership to the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens

Welcome new board member Douglas Nesbitt
A photographer without a specialty, Nesbitt considers himself to be a “journeyman with a camera.” Crossing all photographic boundaries, his images are found in advertising, architecture, portraiture, fine art and photo journalism. Douglas Nesbitt’s photographs are powerful compositions that speak to the viewer because every element – patterns in the background, signs in the corner, the angle of a face – add something to the narrative of the photograph. Douglas Nesbitt was born in South Bronx, New York. He was a photography/journalism major at Los Angeles City College, beginning his professional career as a production still photographer for Norman Lear Productions and Trump Films. In 1982 Nesbitt was commissioned by Warner Brothers to document the original set-designs for Ridley Scott’s sci-fi epic “Blade Runner.” Later he was the in-house photographer for Italian designer Antonio Guiseppe and the campaign photographer for Jesse Jackson’s presidential campaign. He covered the 1984 Olympics for ABC sports. Over his 30-year career, Nesbitt has photographed such notables as comedians George Carlin and Joan Rivers, the “first lady of theater” Helen Hays, heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield, writer Henry Miller, supermodels Kim Alexis and Beverly Johnson, music legend Bo Diddley, Academy Award winning composers Henry Mancini and Randy Newman and golf legend Arnold Palmer.

Museum Gift Shop
—Featuring—

Stone Carver: Walter Arnold
Clay Artist: Adel Salvaggio
Photographer: Gail Peck
Zivot:
Zivot:: Czech Jewelry
Berto Ortega’s whimsical Portraits on Pots (PotHeads).
Heart of Europe: Czech Glass Paint Out Artist: Linda Blondheim

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Join Us on December 11th for the 7th Annual Holiday Boat Parade!
The Winter Park Boat Parade and Festival of Lights is a fun, communitywide water parade. Area families line the shores of the lakes to view the impressive creativity of neighbors and local business sponsors.

Water ski Show at Rollins Ramp 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Music, Food & Santa at the Polasek 5 - 7pm
Boat Parade and Judging 6:45 - 7:30 pm
Fireworks 8 pm

Call 407-647-6294 or visit www.polasek.org to register.

Trip to Prague Fall 2011
SAVE THE DATE
September 30 - October 10, 2011
“The Polasek is going to the Czech Republic”
Watch for the exciting trip details, coming soon!
Contact info@polasek.org

2011 Winter Park Paint Out
Save the dates!
April 23 — April 30, 2011

To benefit the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens
The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens hosted the Second Annual Winter Park Paint Out during the last week of April 2010. During this special event, 25 of Florida’s finest plein air artists roamed across our fair city capturing many of your favorite landscapes and landmarks with oils, watercolors and pastels. Plein Air — a French term meaning “in the open air” — describes art works painted outdoors with the subject directly in view rather than in a studio. Plein air artists capture the spirit and essence of a landscape or subject by incorporating natural light, color and movement into their works.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the 2010 Winter Park Paint Out. This year’s event was truly amazing. If you would like more information about the Winter Park Paint Out, please call the museum or email us at ThePolasek@winterparkpaintout.org
The Travelers Insurance Company in Hartford, Connecticut, is home to six pieces of sculpture by Albin Polasek. In the heart of downtown Hartford, the Travelers Tower, completed in 1919, is the fourth location of the prominent insurance company and was at one time the tallest structure in New England. My family and I had the great pleasure of visiting there in the summer of 2009 and viewed these masterpieces firsthand.

As plans for the Tower progressed during the second decade of the twentieth century, it was decided by the architects to house a monumental statue of the Travelers founder, William Goodwin Batterson, in what would come to be known as the “Founders Room.” By the time Polasek secured the commission for the memorial work, Batterson had been deceased for over a decade and a half. Of necessity, he used photographs and eyewitness descriptions of a man who was truly larger than life, both literally and figuratively, to help him capture the spirit and personality of this entrepreneur.

By all accounts, Batterson was a latter-day Renaissance man. Not only was he the “Father of Accident Insurance” a phrase coined when he founded the Travelers in 1864, but he was also an Egyptologist who explored the Nile Valley; was the leading supplier of stone for Civil War Monuments, constructing the National Monument at Antietam and the Thayer Monument at West Point; invented a lathe for turning out polished columns at his father’s stone yards in Washington, Connecticut; started a Free Drawing School for Men in Hartford; was instrumental in the establishment of the Wadsworth Atheneum, also in Hartford; belonged to the Connecticut Horticultural Society; was proficient in Greek and Latin; and held honorary Master of Arts degrees from both Yale University and Williams College.

A character of such accomplishment demanded a statue of monumental proportions, and Mr. Polasek did not disappoint. Towering above the heads of those who visit the Founders Room, this marble memorial is as remarkable as the man whose likeness it portrays. Down to the last detail, the sculpture captures everything from the twinkle of intellect in Batterson’s eyes to the fringe edging the shawl on which he sits. It is no wonder, then, that Mr. Polasek received further commissions for sculptures of subsequent Travelers presidents and had a working relationship with the company well into the late 1930s. More next time . . . .
This was a wonderful find since it underscores the friendship that Polasek had with Turzak since their days at the Art Institute of Chicago in the early 1920s, where Polasek was the head of the AIC sculpture department. In 1958, Turzak and his family left Chicago and moved to Orlando, Florida where he was reunited once again with his friend. Among the many exhibitions Turzak participated in while in Central Florida, his work was shown at the Winter Park Mall after it was converted to artist studio space. It is there that Albin Polasek held the Albin Polasek Art Association exhibitions during the 1960s and where Turzak won several ribbons for his artwork.

Miraculous Restoration: Thanks to Hollingsworth Fine Arts and the talents of Gary Hollingsworth and Sara Reid, life has been brought back to two objects in the Polasek Collection. “Green Heron,” a charming plaster sculpture by Ruth Sherwood, had been severely damaged late last year while on display in the Salon. It seemed beyond repair as the plaster was shattered all the way to the wire armature within the bird. Pieces of the sculpture were salvaged and pieced together like a jigsaw puzzle by Sara Reid. The “Green Heron” is now in one piece again and back on display in the Lakeview Room, in the area now dedicated to the works of Ruth Sherwood, Albin Polasek’s first wife.

Albin Polasek’s self portrait had been showing signs of wear and tear due to its age and travels from Pennsylvania to New York to Chicago to Winter Park. When the frame was removed, it revealed a hidden signature and date in the lower right corner of the painting. We are now able to confirm it was painted by Polasek in 1907 rather than in 1906 as previously thought. Years of grime were removed, the scratches were in-painted and a coat of varnish brought the painting back to its original glory. It has been reframed thanks to Mike Creamer at Mathews Galleries in Altamonte Springs, who donated his labor. The painting is now proudly displayed next to the fireplace in the Salon for everyone to enjoy. Thank you, Hollingsworth Fine Arts and Mathews Galleries!
Randy’s View...

Progress is being made in our garden collections. 

**Begonias:** We are very pleased with our new collection of Begonias. This summer we located a begonia grower in Central Florida with many different types of begonias. Our collection now includes nearly 100 different species, including rex, semperflorens, cane-like, rhizomes, trailing and others.

The cold February last year helped influence our selection of this attractive plant species. We were very pleased with the way our plants survived and showed diversity, color and foliage variation during late winter and spring. We will take precaution this winter with frost blankets to insure minimum damage should a freeze occur. The south side of Lake Osceola affords some protection.

**Cycad Garden:** The generous gift of cycads donated by the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society to the Polasek in 2009 has done very well. We now have 26 different species of Cycads growing in our garden. In the front garden there is an area for shade cycads and an area for cycads that prefer sun. All Cycads are on the endangered species list. Many species are on the highest level of endangerment for extinction. We feel it important that these fascinating plants continue to exist and be an important part of the world’s plant species. Many are very ornamental and become important landscape plants.

**Bromeliads:** Mr. Bud Martin, Bromeliad grower from Sanford has generously given us a collection of very nice bromeliad plants, increasing our collection of 20 existing varieties of bromeliads by 75 plants, including 10 different species. We now have a very showy shade area near The Man Reaching for the Moon where our bromeliads will grow. We will again be using frost blankets to protect these beautiful plants if there is cold this winter.

**Aroid Garden:** Plants of the Aroid family number near 3200 species and yet the name is not recognized by many gardeners. Aroids are best recognized by their dramatic foliage and unique flower structure. Among the many species are calla lilies, many tropical house plants such as philodendron, caladiums, dieffenbachia, anthuriums and voodoo plants. Although Apopka is the foliage capitol of the world, we should be more familiar with this group of plants. Many are shade-loving plants and do very well in our shady tree-lined borders. Dr. Jake Henny was very beneficial in arranging for us to have some of the newer hybrids being developed at the University of Florida Experiment Station in Apopka. Also, in the collection are many new experimental Aglaonemas being produced at the experiment station. Thanks to Agristarts in Apopka for donating this collection of over 500 plants for our Aroid garden, Fern and Orchid gardens. We are still adding to our fern collection and orchid collection. Many times our friends and members donate their sick and tired plants to rehabilitate for our gardens. Our thanks.

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**Volunteer Voice - Jane Butler**

“Having recently moved from the UK where gardening was my main hobby, the Polasek was a natural choice for a volunteer opportunity. I was warmly and enthusiastically welcomed by Pam the volunteer coordinator, and Randy the landscape curator, whose only rules are “If we’re not having fun we go home.” Although we sometimes work hard, it is still so easy to feel relaxed in the beautiful and tranquil setting by the lake. Randy shares his knowledge with us all and gives regular demonstrations on how to recognize and treat the plants. The large volunteer group is friendly and diverse and proves the point that there is no such thing as a nasty gardener! So why would I not want to spend my time at the Polasek gardens when I can exercise my body and mind and have a ready made ‘family’ waiting for me?” (See Jane’s picture next page.)
Thoughts From Pam...

Thank you: October is the last month of the year we think about fertilizing the lawn and shrubs in the Polasek gardens and we thank the Sunniland Corporation of Sanford who has once again provided for our fertilizing needs. We cannot thank them enough for their ongoing generosity. We are experimenting with garden products that will not harm our environment and lakes. The results seem to be working very well. We have managed to keep the lawn and garden in very good shape with a minimum use of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. Thank you to volunteer Robert Kleinfelter of BoulderScapes who saw the need to upgrade our tired tools!!! Thanks Robert!

Wish list: Frost cloth will be needed this year to protect many of our tender plantings from what’s expected to be another chilly winter. A 12’ x 250’ roll is approximately $125.

Berto’s Pots: Our very own plein air artist, Berto Ortega, has a whimsical sideline, Portraits on Pots (PotHeads). Begun as thoughtful gifts to his garden friends, he has applied his considerable skill to painting lovely personal images to clay flowerpots. Volunteers Jane and Paul Butler were lucky enough to receive a pair of pots and posted a picture of them on their Facebook page.

From across the pond, their English gardening friends are astounded by the incredible likenesses and charming style of these wonderful and unique gifts. All his recipients are thrilled to be the object of his creativity. From a favorite photograph Berto will create a Portrait on a Pot for you.

Garden Education: “Square Foot Vegetable Gardening at the Polasek” The Winter Park Health Foundation sponsored eight of our garden education classes. Among the most successful was the Square Foot Vegetable Gardening Class held in September. Just in time to support new gardeners dreams of a lush and abundant vegetable patch, Garden Volunteer Coordinator Pam Paisley and jack-of-all-garden-trades Arthur Jones shared both their simple methods and their enthusiasm. Arthur demonstrated the ease of construction for sturdy and attractive raised beds like the ones seen in the Kitchen Garden. Pam discussed soil preparation, planning square foot plantings and planting schedules. The straightforward handouts are still available to anyone who would like to get started in vegetables.

Coming Events: Upcoming Winter Park Health Foundation garden classes include a hands-on workshop in pruning. While you may never prune your own trees, knowing the correct methods will protect your valuable trees from chainsaw operators posing as tree surgeons. Our presenter is Frances Nipe, a certified arborist, on Nov. 18, 2010 at 10 a.m. Bring pruners and a fallen tree branch to practice on. The last of the WPHF classes is a presentation by Anesthesiologist and Master Gardener, Eric Patz. His amusing and informative lecture on medical herbs and plants in both ancient and contemporary medicine is sure to enlighten. Save the date: Dec. 9, 2010 at 10 a.m.

Classes will resume on Feb. 10, 2011 with more vegetable gardening, “Get Ready for Spring: Planning the Warm Weather Vegetable Garden.” If you missed our Fall Vegetable class, you won’t want to miss this one. Warm weather vegetables are in abundance in the Florida garden, and this class will help you get started. Tuition $10, members $5. Class size is limited. Enroll now! 407-647-6294.
Annual Holiday Tea
Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens
633 Osceola Avenue, Winter Park, Florida 32789

- Create a New Holiday Tradition -
You are cordially invited to attend our Annual Holiday Tea
Saturday, December 4, 2:00 to 4:00 pm
The event will be hosted in our beautiful, historic lakeside sculpture gardens. We will be serving Afternoon Tea in true Victorian style. Tea, Champagne and a Variety of Gourmet Finger Sandwiches, Scones & Desserts.

Holiday Attire – Hats & Pearls Encouraged
(wear comfortable shoes for the garden)

Tickets: $28.00 per person
$200 for a table of 8
Purchase your tickets today by calling 407-647-6294
or visit www.polasek.org

For Sponsorship Opportunities & Prize Raffle Donations please contact the museum directly at 407-647-6294 or event@polasek.org

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Entertainment by The Joe Young & Mike Humphrey's Group

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