

Calendar of Events:

Curator's Note:

**Jean Terry:**  
**Upstate New York Farmstead**  
On view through Feb. 26, 2012

**Don Weller:**  
**Utah Ranch Hands**  
Feb. 29 - May 13, 2012  
Reception: March 3, 2012, 2-4pm

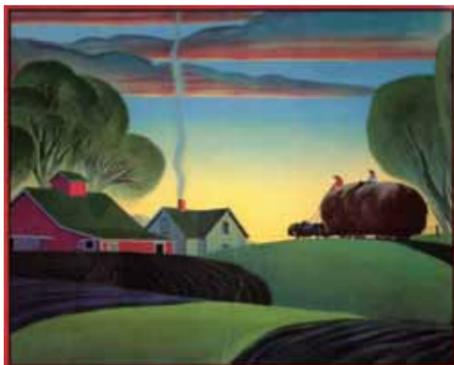
**Jeanine Pesek:**  
**Elements from the Earth**  
March 31 - April 29, 2012  
Reception: March 31, 2012, 2-4pm

**Masters of Agrarian Art: 1870-2010**  
On view through October 14, 2012

Become a member by visiting  
bonecreek.org today!

Museum Hours:  
Wed- Sat 10am-4pm, Sunday 1pm-4pm  
Appointments and tours available  
Free admission

575 E Street, David City, NE 68632  
402.367.4488  
www.bonecreek.org



Dale Nichols, *When Day is Done*, 1951, Gold Seal Puzzle, Private Collection Loan

*"We can as a rule, only interpret conveniently that which has become part of our awareness, our soul life.... To interpret we must go deep, give of ourselves, all our love, all our energy."*

– Birger Sandzen (1871-1954)



My best paintings are expressions of what I know and love, so I'm compelled to find and present Bone Creek exhibitors who also know and love their subjects. For **Jean Terry** it's her New York farm. For **Don Weller** it's his Utah ranch hands. For **Jeanine Pesek** it's her agricultural crops. Choosing heartfelt subject matter helps these artists make strong and honest creative interpretations. We're now privileged to host compelling solo exhibitions by these contemporary agrarian artists.

As for historical art, interpreting best what you know and love is also apparent in our newly installed exhibition, "**Masters of Agrarian Art: 1870-2010**". This exhibit includes art from the collection and loaned art from several private collectors. We're very proud that nearly all master artists represented in this installation are reviewed in scholarly art publications, and have their work included in other American art museums. A common theme of this exceptional Agrarian Art is that it almost always stems from subject matter that is near and dear to each of these artists.

I've organized works created by twenty-one masters of Agrarian Art in roughly chronological order. Artworks by 'fathers of Agrarian Art', **Winslow Homer** and **Harvey Dunn**, as well as by renowned artists such as **Birger Sandzen** and **Grant Wood**, are joined by new loaned works painted by several other major American artists. These include **Edward Charles Volkert** (1871-1935), **Eugene Higgins** (1874-1958), **Jorge Noceda Sanchez** (1931-1987), **William Vincent** (1939-2004), and **Wayne Thiebaud** (1920-). Paintings that we've previously exhibited are presented along with some historic master works that have never been exhibited in any museum. The style and art movement associated with each of the artists is identified on an introductory wall panel, and on individual labels by each painting. This is an impressive educational presentation of 'the best of the best' masters of Agrarian Art over a one hundred and forty year period of art history.

I really miss giving tours of our "**Dale Nichols: Transcending Regionalism**" exhibit now relocated to the Georgia Museum of Art. On the bright side, traveling this exhibit to major art museums informs America about this great Nebraska artist and Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art. When you visit the museum, please ask for me. I delight in commenting on our exhibits of exceptional Agrarian Art.

- Mark L. Moseman, Chief Curator

*An insert in this issue records financial supporters at the Sudbuster level and above for 2012 to date. Thank you for your generous support.*

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*Our Mission is to be the National Center for Preserving, Viewing, and Learning about Exceptional Agrarian Art.*

Agrarian- pertaining to lands, fields, or their tenure

# Don Weller

## Utah Ranch Hands



By: Mark L. Moseman, Chief Curator

Truth resonates in Don Weller's paintings. At the 2010 American Plains Artists annual juried exhibit, my pick for "One Man Show Award at Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art", was a Weller painting depicting two older ranch hands. Despite their age, they still sat their saddles well. They were visiting as old friends. Only Don saw and expressed this quiet moment of true friendship born of long shared team work as ranch hands. Likewise, Weller's Bone Creek exhibition portrays contemporary ranch hands of all ages insightfully seen through Don's eyes. Honesty is evident throughout the exhibition, because the paintings stem from Don Weller's own life experiences.

Don lives in Utah where he takes care of his five horses and occasionally rides them in cutting horse competitions. He grew up in Washington participating in

amateur rodeos. A Fine Arts degree led him to a career as a Los Angeles based illustrator. He produced work for books and magazines, including covers for TIME and TV Guide. When his art was published in a book about cutting horses, he felt compelled to be a full time painter of contemporary Western Art. He pursues his dream in Utah, where he both rides his beloved cutting horses, and makes paintings from the experiences.

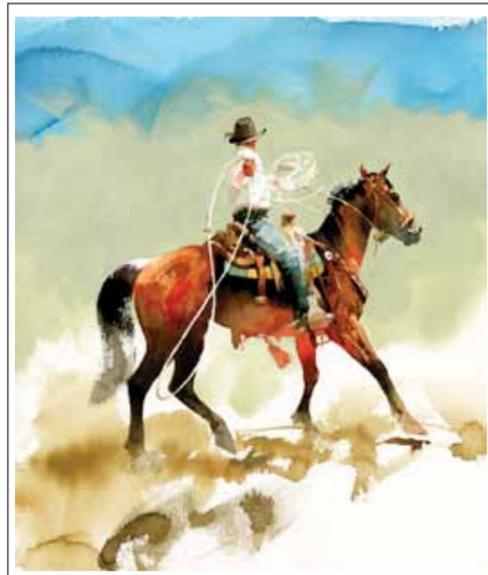
*Family Tradition* (lower right) is a masterful work because there is truth in the image. The painting compares favorably to watercolors of working men done by Winslow Homer. The foreground workers are in sharp contrast and focus, while the background ranch hands fade in a pleasing rhythmic repetition of form. The painting freezes a defining moment showing the heritage of an agrarian family work tradition. The composition is both



February 29 - May 13

an abstraction and a reality. Most importantly, this painting and the other works in the exhibition are compelling due to some universal truth in the images. This stems from the fact that Don Weller knows firsthand what he sees in his subjects. These paintings are not only great watercolors; they come from Don's heart and soul. He says it best himself, "I have been searching my earliest memories, and although I can't find a time when I believed in Santa Claus, I'm sure I always believed in cowboys."

Images: Top left: *A Tug on the Line*, watercolor, 13x21, Artist collection. Top right: *Poly Rainbow*, watercolor, 10x17, Artist collection. Bottom left: *Three Eighths Inch Poly*, watercolor, 14x12, Artist collection. Bottom right: *Family Tradition*, watercolor, 9.5x14, Artist collection.



## NEWS from the field

# Masters of Agrarian Art: 1870 - 2010



Image: Edward Charles Volkert (1871-1935), *Breezy Afternoon*, 1927, oil, Mark and Carol Moseman Collection Loan.

Highlighted in the Curator's note, this new educational exhibit, has already attracted visitors and area teachers. Guided tours are being scheduled with schools and community groups. This 'Masters' show reveals a glimpse of a body of agrarian art that has been executed in various styles throughout numerous movements of American art history. To schedule a guided tour contact us today.

## Local and Emerging Artist Gallery

"**Jeanine Pesek: Elements from the Earth**" will be on display in the Bone Creek Annex (former Legion building, 551 E St.) March 31 - April 29, 2012, with the opening reception March 31, 2-4pm. "Elements from the Earth" is a collection of exceptional master's thesis work by Jeanine Pesek of Gibbon, Nebraska who received her M.A.Ed. at UNK in 2003. Pesek works with metal, blown glass, ceramics, and found objects to create powerful sculpture of the hard work in the evolution of farming. "I hope to convey to others the beauty, strength, and spirit I see in agricultural crops," says the artist. Only here for a short time, this stunning show is a can't miss! Images: Top: *Today's Diversity*, Artist collection. Bottom: *Native Beginnings*, Artist collection.

**Meet the Board-** Tom Neary is the Vice President and Director of Business Development for Morley Builders in Santa Monica, California. Neary is a graduate of UNL in Urban Studies and has a strong connection to David City through his wife Peggy Mohler. Neary serves the board by providing expertise in Development as the chair of that committee and as head of the Capital and Endowment Campaign Committee.



## COLLECTION

Last October, William and Patty Nelson gifted their collection of forty-four Luigi Lucioni framed etchings. Two are currently on view in the Collection Gallery. Pictured below (left to right): Dr. Stuart and Lynn Embury, Chief Curator Mark Moseman, and William and Patty Nelson.



Jean Terry has generously gifted "Test Plot", a portrait of her father, from the exhibition. This image expresses the innovative spirit of the family farmer as steward of the land.



**Volunteer-** We have a wonderful group of volunteers that play a pivotal role in the museum's success. Volunteers of 2011: Volunteer of the year- Shirley Peters, Spring- Dee Lanspa, Summer- Darlene Shrader, Fall- Sandy Schmid, Winter- Barb Barlean.

**Outstanding Website-** The Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development, Division of Travel and Tourism awarded bonecreek.org Outstanding Website of 2011.

## DALE NICHOLS CORNER



"Dale Nichols: Transcending Regionalism" opened at the Georgia Museum of Art on December 17, 2011. Along with some Nichols collectors, Chief Curator Mark Moseman, Carol Moseman, and Amanda Mobley Guenther attended the opening reception on January 13, 2012. Guenther and Jonathan Stuhlman Curator from the Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina were invited to participate in a panel discussion, "Art and the Great Depression", moderated by Paul Manoguerra, Curator of the Georgia Museum of Art. Pictured below is the Nichols exhibition in Georgia.

