Calendar of Events:

“JOHN ROUSH: Meditations from Missouri”
Extended thru March 31, 2010
2nd Anniversary Party
Music by Mistyn Kozisek and Carol Fuxa
March 19, 7pm, Music at 8pm

“COWGIRLS: Contemporary Portraits of the American West”
March 31 - May 20, 2010

“Weary Your Western”
Cowgirl Reception
Cowgirl discussion panel
April 18, 2-4 pm, Discussion at 2:30

Coffee with the Curators
April 21, 10:30 am

Museum Hours:
Wed- Sat 10am-4pm, Sunday 1pm-4pm
Appointments and tours available
Free Admission, Open to the Public

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

Curator’s Note:

I’d like to take this opportunity to urge you to please provide financial support for our most important project to date, the major exhibition and book, Dale Nichols, Transcending Regionalism. While much of the funding is in place, the balance of funding is urgently needed now to (a) obtain loans from collectors, (b) print the book, and (c) contract to travel the exhibition to two other national venues. Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art will show for the first time, that Nichols was much more than a ‘Regionalist’ painter. Our scholarly work has made other art museums aware that Dale Nichols is a far more important figure in American Art than was previously thought. Because of this, other museums are interested in doing our project. It is therefore imperative that we complete our funding now.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for supporting the museum in 2009. Our 2010 Annual Funding Campaign is right now. The Nichols project is so critical to the reputation and development of Bone Creek; that all funds raised during this campaign are going directly to the project. As the center for Nichols studies, the museum’s informal 2008 Nichols exhibit brought visitors from 26 states and 6 foreign countries. Since then, Project Director, Associate Curator Amanda Mobley, has been presenting new discoveries in the ‘Dale Nichols Corner’ of this newsletter. Now we need your help. Together, we can present the best Nichols paintings from around the country, and unveil the untold Nichols story to the world! Please review highlights of the Dale Nichols project in this newsletter, and use the forms provided herein to donate now.

We’ll report on the Nichols project in March at the museum’s second anniversary party. Please celebrate with us at this event on the last weekend of the John Roush exhibition, “Meditations from Missouri” (see calendar). Special guests will play music by Neil Diamond, Paul Simon, and the Beatles, among others.

Expect an update on the Nichols funding campaign at our April event, where you can listen to a panel of area cowgirls discussing the new feature exhibition, “COWGIRLS, Contemporary Portraits of the American West”. Experience the stunning photographs by New York City artist, Ronnie Farley, along with remarks by these hard working women. We’ll add photos of 4-H cowgirls and offer educational tours during the exhibit. Please wear Western attire to the gala April event (see calendar).

Don’t miss a fresh look in our Collection Gallery. Previously stored artwork, such as work by Winslow Homer, will be on display. Loans of paintings by Harvey Dunn and Grant Wood are in the works. Please let me know what you think about new displays and educational programs at Bone Creek, especially concerning the forthcoming Dale Nichols retrospective exhibition. I’ll see you at the museum.

Mark L. Moseman, Curator
mmoseman@bonecreek.org

Board of Directors:
Anna Nolan Covault
Mark L. Moseman
Allen Covault
Michael L. Moravec
Brian M. Zimmer
Samantha Kosch
Carol Moseman
Ryan Cameron

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

As a non-profit museum, achieving the mission is possible due to generous donors listed at www.bonecreek.org. Thank You from the Board.
Ronnie Farley, a New York City artist, is an author, painter and photographer. She’s shown nationally and been published in USA Today and The Village Voice. Her cowgirl exhibit is toured by Exhibits USA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance. Farley expresses the complex, unglamorous - yet often inspiring - reality of women cowpunchers in the modern west.

Inspired by meeting a cowgirl, Farley took three years to photograph and interview women ranchers and rodeo contestants. From western ranches to the Professional Women’s Rodeo Circuit, Farley’s photos capture the resolute strength of women who call these settings home. Farley’s Courteny to see the project through years traveling the west is testimony to her artistic vision.

Ronnie Farley’s photography is reminiscent of that of Dorothy Lange. Farley captures defining moments with her camera. Her portraits of these agrarian cowgirls are reminiscent of that of Dorothea Lange. Farley’s stunning photographs; both rescue cowgirls from rhinestone settings home. Farley’s courage to see the subjects as they are and a lively panel discussion by our own ranch and rodeo women living near the museum (see calendar).

Cowgirls, Contemporary Portraits of the American West is curated by Patricia O’Connor, a gallery professional working for New York State Council on the Arts and Tri-County Arts Council. This is a Program of Exhibits USA, a national division of Mid-America Arts Alliance with The Nebraska Arts Council, The National Endowment for the Arts and Richard P. Kimmel and Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation, Inc.


ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DRIVE
Thanks to all who generously supported us in 2009

Dale Nichols (1904-1995) was born in Virginia and grew up in New Mexico. He moved to Nebraska and earned a bachelor’s degree in architecture at University of Nebraska in 1925. He spent a year in Paris and then moved to New York City where he apprenticed with William Van Alen, designer of the Chrysler Building. Nichols returned to Nebraska in 1934 and became an influential architect and artist. His work was featured in many exhibitions and he received numerous awards.

Dale Nichols was a painter, sculptor, photographer, writer, and educator. He taught at the University of Nebraska, the University of Arizona, and the University of New Mexico. His work is held in numerous public and private collections. He was a member of the Nebraska Arts Council and served as its executive director from 1974 to 1980.

As research continues in preparation for a monumental exhibition for Dale Nichols (1904-1995), records reveal his love for education and self-motivated learning. Although he did not earn a college degree, he enlightened his mind with intellectual adventures about the mysteries of life. These discoveries and impressions are reflected in his paintings. Nichols was particularly drawn to the sun. He became knowledgeable about current scientific understanding and philosophies about the health and wellness benefits of the sun to the spirit of man. Nichols also embraced personal theories about the importance of the sun, in both life and art. In all of his paintings there is a strong sense of light, as he utilizes deep shadows to point to the direction of the sun. Photo at right shows Dale Nichols while living in sunny Arizona.