Take a tour of the West with oil painter Bart Walker. He is a master of all seasons. The collection he has assembled for this exhibition includes the lime green new growth of spring and the cool blues of snow against the backdrop of a grey grain elevator. Walker backpacks throughout his hometown region of Teton Valley, Idaho documenting with oil sketches on site and using those in the studio to recapture the liveliness of the moment on a larger canvas. He also travels to Northern California, Utah, and other places throughout the West on painting expeditions.

He says that he chooses scenes that seem to stop him in his tracks. It might be a pleasing composition, a unique and beautiful design as shadows come together to form their own pattern, or it might be a combination of colors as nature displays an array of hues.

Many of these barns and hills are very familiar to Walker. He knows the change of seasons, the landmarks, and some of the property owners. Some of the vistas he returns to regularly, capturing a new angle or detail each time. A scene he might know intimately sometimes catches him off guard with a fresh detail he hadn’t seen before.

Though he grew up in a home of artists, he came to art himself later in life after a career of building lodge pole furniture. He considers his style modeled after the great California impressionists of the 20th century. Western contemporaries have been his teachers including Scott Christensen, world-renowned painter and fellow resident of the Teton Valley, T. Allen Lawson and Robert Moore. Each of these artists is known for painting on location and using vivid colors and high contrasts of light.

Walker says he has never thought of his work as agrarian. He just paints what appeals to him.

The subjects that he chooses however reveal more of the process of men and women at work on the land than simply an expansive vista with breathtaking views. Examples like “Moving Pipe” and “Last Cut” include beautiful scenery but at their focal point is the work being done to grow, harvest, and ultimately care for the land, and from it make a livelihood.
REGIONAL MUSEUM AWARD

Bone Creek Museum is very excited to receive another award from the Mountain-Plains Museums Association, which encompasses a ten-state region. The museum’s 2022 Membership Brochure received the award of excellence in the category “Innovation, Development of a Promotional Package.” Founding members Allen Covault and Anna Nolan (Covault) accepted the award at this year’s conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Word is getting out! Plans for restoring the 1917 Ford Building in David City as a new home for the Bone Creek Museum are well underway. They include a dedicated Dale Nichols gallery, three other large galleries as well as an “emerging artists” show space, a classroom for hands-on art exploration, a gift shop, library, large and secure climate-controlled vault, solar panels on the roof and an EV charging station out front.

We’ve raised over $4.1M towards this project, but we need your help to make this dream a reality. We are so thankful for all who have donated cash, securities or grain to the campaign. If you have not, would you consider making a campaign donation in addition to your usual annual membership? Your membership goes toward annual operating support, not the building campaign. And we thank you for it!

CURRENT Museum Hours

Wednesday-Saturday: 10AM-4PM
Thursday: 10AM-9PM
Sunday: 1PM-4PM
Monday, Tuesday, Major Holidays: Closed

Appointments and tours available
FREE admission
402.367.4488
www.bonecreek.org

BONE CREEK MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART
575 E St, David City, NE 68632

EVENTS

FARM ISLAND ANTHOLOGY

The fifth of seven poems by Penny Niemi is published below. The poetry is inspiration for a juried group exhibition next year, in collaboration with the Tubac Art Center. All of the poems and application details are posted under Upcoming Exhibitions at bonecreek.org.

Deadline to apply is January 19, 2023.

ISLAND WOMAN

She is mistress and co-captain of this island and this kitchen space is her space. An animated, vibrant space defined by authenticity. Free from discontent of dreams undone, this space has birthed her joy.

Here childcare, cooking, cleaning, canning personify her creativity. No sameness marks her days.

OUT IN THE ELEMENTS

A new exhibition of artwork from the museum’s permanent collection focuses on elements of weather and exposure to the outdoors. Men and women who work the land don’t have the luxury of reserving all jobs for pleasant weather. Cattle are brought hay in the snow in “Horses and Haywagon” by Loren Entz, and farmers try to finish their harvest before the lightning storm in “Let’s Make this the Last Load,” by Jim Carroll. These pieces depict fire, another natural weather event or controlled burn that leaves its mark on the landscape. You can also imagine the humidity and heat in Dale Nichols’ “Sunday,” as the small town strip is nearly deserted of bystanders. Regardless of what brings us outdoors, it is wonderful to experience the power and beauty of being “out in the elements.”

BECOME A MEMBER

It is time once again to renew your annual membership with Bone Creek Museum for 2023. Your tax-deductible donation allows us to keep admission free and enhances visitor experiences by supporting research, educational programming, and entertainment opportunities. Look for our latest membership brochure in the mail or renew online at bonecreek.org/join/membership.

Beginning next year, we will publish the newsletter in conjunction with the opening of new exhibitions. Look for your newsletter in the mail 3 times per year, in March, July and November.

SHOP

“Allots 10% off! On all bonecreek.org. Online only. Expires 12/31/22.”

“Morning Chore” Print
11x14” page size
$45.00
+ tax

FROM THE FIELD

DALE NICHOLS CORNER

Dale Nichols very effectively marketed his images during the holiday season. The warm emotions of family coming home to the farm for Christmas held images like “John Comes Home for Christmas” in popular appeal. Nichols capitalized on the broad attraction by marketing his image on postcards, puzzles, stamps, trays, and playing cards. Many of these vintage items can be found in antique stores and on eBay.

We have a few modern versions available in the Bone Creek gift shop of a Christmas ornament, blank greeting cards, and a new item, a fine art quality reproduction print of “Morning Chore” in the museum’s collection, available in page sizes of 11x14” and 16x20”, for $45 and $60 respectively.