



## Marion County Building Department

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**For Immediate Release**

### ***“Honoring Our Past – Building Our Future” Marion County Growth Management Bureau Receives 132 Entries for Art Contest***

The Growth Management Bureau art contest closed Friday, March 23, 2007, with 132 entries received from 101 different artists. Winning submissions will be on permanent display in the county's new 55,000 sq.ft. Growth Management Bureau. The contest was open to all artists (amateur and professional) who live in and/or work in Marion County. Artworks were required to depict either Marion County history, architecture, landscape, or natural resources. Winners were selected on overall impression of the artwork and how well their compositions reflected the contest theme, *Honoring Our Past—Building Our Future*.

The winning artists will be presented at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 9am. Artworks selected as Grand Prize or Honorable Mention winners will go on display with identification signage in the Growth Management Bureau, 2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard.

The four grand prize winners are:

#### **Melody Spano**

Grand Prize – Photography

Title of Work: *Windy Oaks Farm at Sunset*

Her photograph was the unanimous choice for first place in photography. There were 100 photographic entries for this contest, with over half of these from professional photographers. Melody is a sophomore at West Port High School and a member of the Marion County Center for the Arts program. Judging was 'blind' and no special consideration was given to Melody, who was one of the youngest artists to enter the competition. Melody lives in Ocala. Her photograph was selected by the Zoning Director/Growth Management Bureau Chief for display in the Zoning Department lobby.

#### **Paul Marraffino**

Grand Prize – Photography

Title of Work: *Rainbow River Headwaters*

Paul's photograph of Rainbow Springs was one of more than a dozen we received of the same (or very similar) subject composition. None of the other photos impressed the judges with the same 'wow' factor. Paul moved to Dunnellon after a long career in the microelectronics field, and enjoys digital photography and composition. Paul's photograph will be displayed in the Planning Department, which is appropriate since he is very committed and passionate about water conservation and water management issues.

### **Jose Rodriguez**

Grand Prize – Painting

Title of Work: *Salt Springs Run*

An Army veteran who has been painting for over 25 years, Jose loves being out at Florida's springs. Jose teaches graphic arts at The Villages High School and lives in Belleview. Jose has studied art and been selected for numerous gallery and art shows. He is also the only artist to "bat 1.000" – Jose submitted two paintings, both of which were selected for display. *Salt Springs Run* was the Grand Prize winner, and his second entry entitled *Silver Springs*, won Honorable Mention. Both of his paintings will hang side-by-side in the Building Department lobby.

### **Tracey Ethridge**

Grand Prize – Painting

Title of Work: *Remembering Ocali at Silver River*

Tracey is a brand new painter—she just started working with oil paints in January! This work is her fourth completed painting. She was at Silver River State Park with her husband, a local builder who was working on the cabins and pavillions there, and was really moved by the Cracker heritage buildings. Tracey lives in Ocala. Her Grand Prize winning painting was selected by Director Myra Tedder to hang in the M.S.T.U. Department lobby.

### **Honorable Mention Winners**

#### **Painting**

Kazuko de Bie	Ocala
Margaret Richards	Fort McCoy
Jose Rodriguez	Belleview
Philip D. Shane	Ocala
Hoyalene P. Thomas	Fort McCoy

#### **Photography**

Jon Fort	Ocala
Judy H. Green	Ocala
Scott Hughes	Ocala
Mark Nuetzi	Ocala