

Contact: Wallica Gaines, President
Dawn Greggs, Fundraising Counsel
King and Queen Community Development Corporation
P.O. Box 191
Walkerton, VA 23177
804-769-9656 (P)
804-769-9657 (F)
info@kqcd.org or schooldaze@kqcd.org

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**Chenoweth Desk Sculpture Combines Nature and Scholarly Tools
School Daze Gala and Auction**

Old school desks from the historic Marriott School, located in St. Stephens Church, have been transformed into pieces of sculpture for the School Daze Public Art Project. Themes for the thirteen desk sculptures include a wide range, from nostalgic classroom activities to Virginia history to quilting to nature.

Ann Chenoweth, an artist from Bruington, created “Woods Walk – Scholars”, a piece that gives the illusion of the forest taking over a school desk. Into the forest debris has fallen the stuff of scholarship – rulers, compass, crayons, a composition book, sports equipment, arts supplies, a thermos, Shakespeare and other books. The leaves, ferns, pine needles and tree branches of the forest, as well as the school objects, are painted in a trompe l’oeil (fool the eye) style. To enhance the illusion, the artist has also included etchings of real leaves and actual printed material such as pages from books and musical scores.

Ann Chenoweth received her Master of Fine Arts Degree in Painting and Printmaking from VCU in 1980. After graduate school, she worked as a curator for the Institute of Contemporary Art, at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and later as director of 1708 East Main Gallery. She taught Arts Management and studio arts at Randolph-Macon College from 1985-1993. Since 1990, Ann has been on the faculty of the Virginia Museum Studio School where she teaches watercolor painting. Her drawings, etchings, and paintings have been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Virginia including Astra Design, Randolph-Macon College, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Reynolds Gallery, The Anderson Gallery (VCU), and the Peninsula Fine Arts Center. As a founding member of *One-Off Printmakers*, Ann has participated in many portfolio projects and exhibitions in England, Scotland, Italy, Peru and the United States. To learn more about the artist and her work, visit www.annchenoweth.com.

School Daze is a fundraiser for the Marriott School Restoration Project by the King and Queen Community Development Corporation (KQCD). The School Daze Gala and Auction Event will take place on Saturday, March 28th, 2009 at Aylett Country Day School in Millers Tavern from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. The auction of the desk sculptures will begin at 7 pm. The Marriott School Restoration Project is the planned renovation of the Marriott School into a community/cultural arts center for residents of King and Queen County and the Middle Peninsula.

Door prizes will be given away and several silent auction items will be available as well. Also included in the auction is a tour of the U.S. Capitol and lunch for four in the Capitol dining room with Congressman Rob Wittman. A variety of other raffle and auction items include horseback riding lessons, tennis lessons, pottery, wine and cheese party for four at historic Norwood in Bruington, tours of the renovated Virginia State Capitol by Sen. McDougle and Del. Chris Peace and a day of fishing on private Mill Pond. Joe Mitchell’s Band, 3rd Wave, will entertain

guests with music of the 50s and 60s. The event's theme is "Come as you Were". Dress like you did in high school! Costume is optional.

Thirteen local artists and groups participated by creating the desk sculptures. Buttons Boggs, Walkerton; K. Anne Careatti, Tappahannock; Ann Chenoweth, Bruington; Michael Martin, Bruington; The Monk Family - Suny, Joe, Chatham and Mavora, Amherst; Cecky Ropelewski, Walkerton; Alan Sader, Bruington; Dawn Shank, Walkerton; Karen Tootelian-Westermann, West Point; Sewing Ladies of Walkerton, Jonathan Walsh, Aylett; Lawson-Marriott Elementary School and Central High School students.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 for two and are on sale by calling 804-769-9656 or by visiting the website at www.kqcd.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the following locations: EVB Aylett Branch, EVB Main Office in Tappahannock, KQCD office in Walkerton, KQ Treasurer's Office at the Courthouse, and King William Pharmacy in Aylett. Tickets include admittance to the event, participation in the desk sculpture auction, hors d'ouvres, and one complimentary drink ticket. Cash Bar will be available. Tickets may be purchased or reserved through Saturday the 28th, but will not be available at the door.

Sponsors to date include: Ball Lumber, Bank of Essex, Coastal Development, LLC., Country Courier, Design Printing, Inc., Eastern Virginia Bankshares, International Training, Inc., Scott's Store, West Point Glass, West Point Pharmacy and the Women's Club of King and Queen. Business sponsorships, at several levels, are available in support of the public art project. Ann Chenoweth, Elizabeth Christeller, Dawn Greggs and Dawn Shank serve on the Public Art Project Committee.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in or volunteer with the School Daze Public Art Project, please contact the KQCD office at 804-769-9656 or email schooldaze@kqcd.org. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the School Daze Public Art Project please contact KQCD. For more information about KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project, please visit www.kqcd.org.