

Artists Helped to Establish Del Monte Forest

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When Pacific Improvement Company began developing Pebble Beach Estates in 1909, the first to build was Norwegian-born artist Chris Jorgensen (1860-1935) who was best known for his work at Yosemite where he maintained a studio from 1900-1917. He had met and married his wife, the former Angela Ghirardelli in 1888, while teaching in San Francisco, and they built at Carmel in 1905—a home that later became La Playa. He was among the artists to show their work at the new gallery at Hotel Del Monte when it opened in 1907. When Pebble Beach opened for home sites, Chris and Angela built a large log home with a peek of Carmel Bay through the trees. It stood about where the post office is today.



The Jorgensen home in Pebble Beach

German-born Detlef Sammann (1857-1938) made his home along the cliffs between The Lodge and Pescadero Point from 1912-1921. He had come to New York in 1881 and California in 1898, making his base at Pasadena. He came to Pebble Beach to retire at age 55, but continued to work. In 1921 he was called back to his native Dresden, and remained there the rest of his life.

In 1915, Samuel F. B. Morse (1885-1969) took over management of Pacific Improvement Company, including Del Monte Forest. He formed Del Monte Properties Company in 1919 to acquire the holding and ran it for the rest of his life. He moved to Del Monte Forest in 1924, and valued art and artists, befriending and supporting many over the years. He later became

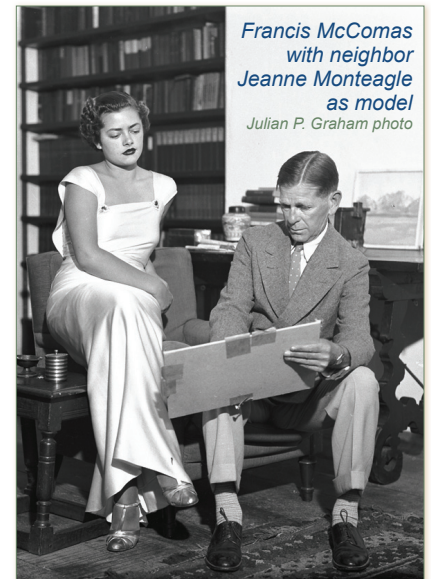
a prolific artist himself and was a member of the Carmel Art Association. His son, John Boit Morse (1910-1988), who after World War II briefly served as company president, became a full-time artist, especially noted for his abstracts. For several years he made his home/studio in the former Macomber mansion in the Forest. He later moved to Santa Barbara.



*SFB Morse at his easel
Julian P. Graham photo*

While not all of the artists that worked for Morse lived in the forest he specifically courted a few.

Francis McComas (1875-1938) came to California from Tasmania and by 1899 was accomplished enough to exhibit 24 pieces in San Francisco's Bohemian Club alongside 28 by Chris Jorgensen. McComas was also an early exhibitor at Del Monte, having moved to Monterey soon after marrying Marie Louise Parrott in 1905. He became one of the most accomplished plein air artists on the west coast. He and Morse became close friends, each divorcing in 1916. Francis remarried in 1917 to artist Eugenia Frances Baker (1886-1982), who then began painting as Gene McComas.



*Francis McComas
with neighbor
Jeanne Monteagle
as model
Julian P. Graham photo*

(Continued on page 3)

Del Monte Forest Conservancy Donor Appreciation Event Held at Indian Village

On a beautiful September afternoon at Indian Village picnic grounds, the Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC) arranged for a private concert by tenor Erasmo Aiello to express appreciation for donor support.

Mr. Aiello is a local resident and owner of a highly successful bakery. He is a Sicilian-born tenor who has performed for more than fifteen years on the Monterey Peninsula and throughout the United States. His operatic performances include *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Tosca*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, among others. He is known as “Monterey’s Andrea Bocelli.” The organization was honored by his gracious offer to perform for Conservancy supporters. Wine and light refreshments were served by friends of the Conservancy beginning at 3:00 pm, followed by the performance at 4:00 pm.

Mr. John Rethke, a DMFC supporter, said “I love to watch and listen to Andrea Bocelli. It was a great treat to watch and hear Monterey’s own Bocelli and his wonderful orchestra. When I closed my eyes it was hard to tell the difference. I think even the trees enjoyed the concert!”



Erasmo Aiello, Dave Dally, and Mike Marotta perform for DMFC supporters at the 2013 “Arias in the Village” on September 29th

“We were pleased to offer this event for the enjoyment of donors who have reached out to support the Conservancy in its mission of open space conservation,” said Rick Verbanec, DMFC board president.



Indian Village, a 21 acre parcel of Monterey pine forest with a park-like clearing and picnic facilities, is located just inland of 17-Mile Drive south of Seal Rock Creek. Access is along Dunes Drive that passes by DMFC’s well known Gingerbread House. Find out about other open space properties and projects currently underway at:

<http://www.delmonteforestconservancy.org>.

They each painted major pieces for the new Lodge that Morse opened in 1919. Francis painted two large southwest pueblos that for several decades hung over the fireplaces in the Terrace Lounge. Since 1998 they've hung at The Inn at Spanish Bay. Gene painted a large Polynesian triptych for a side room to the main dining room – a room known to this day as the McComas Room. This large piece, which when combined measures 9-feet high and 21-feet wide, has been on display at the Monterey Conference Center since 1998.

When the main building of Hotel Del Monte burned down in 1924, Morse commissioned Francis McComas to paint murals for the new lobby. In exchange, Morse provided Francis and Gene a lot not far from The Lodge where the McComases built a home and studio and lived and worked, becoming an even more integral part of the social life of the Del Monte Forest.


Jo Mora (1876-1947), a native of Uruguay, made his home in San Francisco in 1920, and like Morse was a member of the Bohemian Club. He then received the commission for the cenotaph of Father Serra for the Carmel Mission and Morse offered Mora land in Del Monte Forest for a home. Another club member, Frank Powers, offered him land in Carmel. Mora took Carmel, but later, after finishing his work



*The McComas triptych once displayed
in the McComas Room at The Lodge
at Pebble Beach*

at the mission, accepted another offer from Morse and moved into Del Monte Forest where he maintained a home and studio for the rest of his life. Among the work Mora did for Morse were two cartes (illustrated maps), the statue of Father Serra at the entrance to Carmel Woods, and the La Novia diorama created for Hotel Del Monte.

Pedro de Lemos (1882-1954), whom we chronicled on these pages in Oct-Dec 2012, was an artist in many mediums and was curator of the Stanford Art Museum. He hand-built the “Gingerbread House” near Bird Rock and the entrance to the Indian Village in 1941, but it was never his primary residence.

Still, the addition of the de Lemos casita may have helped inspire Morse, soon after the end of World War II, to dream of establishing a full-fledged art community at the Indian Village. He drew up plans for studios and shops and talked with area artists about taking the lead. Monterey artist Bruce Ariss (1910-1994) was the first to tell me Morse talked with him about the project; I’ve since seen the drawings. This was one of Morse’s few dreams that never came to fruition. Nevertheless, art and artists were a part of the life Morse envisioned for Del Monte Forest, they’ve been a part of it since the beginning, and many have called it home over the years. 

SEARCH DOGS TO BENEFIT FROM "A TABLE AFFAIR - 2014"

The 11th. Annual "A Table Affair" co-sponsored by Pebble Beach Company and the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation will take place at the Conference Center, The Lodge from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2014. Approximately 35 creatively designed table arrangements will be on display to delight visitors at the event. As in previous years, there is no admission charge and no reservation is required. Complimentary refreshments are served and a "no-host" bar is available.

"A Table Affair" relies solely on donations to the beneficiary which in 2014 will be the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation. This organization trains search dogs and their handlers to locate the living victims who might be trapped in wreckage caused by a man-made or natural disaster. Many teams served with distinction in New York on 9/11. Training is both arduous and dangerous and teams can be deployed both nationally and internationally.

"A Table Affair-2006" raised the funding required to train and sponsor Comet, a Border Collie. Comet, together with his handler Captain Michele Vaughn, Salinas Fire Department, qualified for the acclaimed FEMA status. Comet will be retiring in 2014 and the aim is to provide funding for another search dog at next year's event.

Lola, a black labrador, whose handler is Firefighter Johnny Subia of Seaside Fire Department, is also retiring. To honor these courageous dogs for their service a formal retirement ceremony will be held at a Cocktail/Bufferet Reception to be held at the Naval Post Graduate School on Thursday, April 3 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Be sure to mark your calendars with these two special dates. Further information and invitations will be available in February, 2014. For any immediate inquiry call Averil Nero at (831) 644-0833 or by e-mail at: acnero@comcast.net



*Michele Vaughn and Comet
- photo by K. Newbill*



*Firefighter Johnny Subia and Lola
- photo by K. Newbill*



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Don Eastman

Each year it becomes increasingly clear to the DMFPO Board of Directors that communication is our role, and we are pleased to announce that as time goes along we are getting better and better at our communications task. One

little known fact is that we are constantly urged by some constituents and others to take advocacy or political positions. Sometimes these requests are obvious and we politely defer. Other times the requests are more subtle, and distinctions must be ascertained and clear decisions made while always keeping in mind that DMFPO is not a political organization.

For 2013 the DMFPO Board of Directors is proud to announce that all of the various entities that make the Del Monte Forest work have been interacting in seamless fashion to deliver a year of fine performance in Pebble Beach. Construction is perhaps the biggest news. The renovation of the Poppy Hills Golf Course is coming down to completion with re-opening scheduled for April, 2014. The Pebble Beach Company received final approval last year for their Del Monte Forest Improvement Plan, and much of the phase one construction is completed or underway. The Pebble Beach Community Services District has been working on undergrounding high voltage power lines coming into the forest from Pacific Grove. By year's end the construction has moved to the three-way "Lopez" intersection near the fire station and will soon move down Forest Lake Road towards Robert Louis Stevenson School, with the Community Services District repairing the roads they dig into.

In early December 2013, the Pebble Beach Company is in the process of spending an approximate \$1 M on outside contracts for roads maintenance. Soon after the contracts are agreed upon in the fall and early-winter of

each year it is amazing how fast the outside contractors perform their work. Most of the work is completed during a three week period.

All of these construction projects have led to communication tasks for DMFPO which we have accomplished in prompt fashion. On an ongoing basis, we continue to communicate with the Pebble Beach Company on the subject of the roads. Most of the projects for 2013 will be completed by year's end and there is always planning for the ensuing year. Large gains were made this year when the pavement management system became operational during the summer months. This has enabled the Pebble Beach manager for roads maintenance, and the DMFPO chair of the Roads and Land Use Committee to work together, share information and be better prepared to address future needs. Pebble Beach Company has doubled their roads management budget for outside contractors for the third year in 2013, from the previous average of \$500,000 per year to \$1 M per year and it is obvious to all that the extra expenditures have led to noticeable improvement.

For 2013, membership stands at 1,345, and numerous donations were gratefully received.

Here's to a similarly productive year in 2014!

Don Eastman



Photo by Don Eastman



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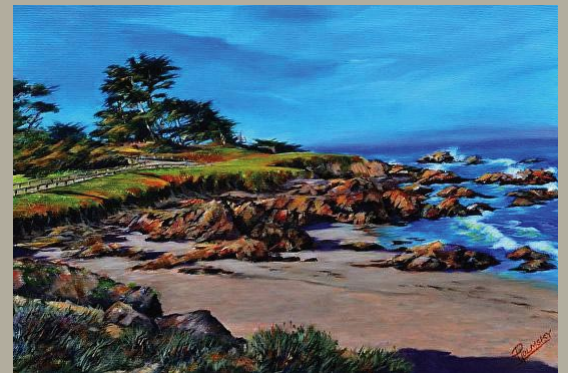
Local Exhibition Celebrates Nature in Painting



Pebble Beach Pine
- Jan Valtr



Sunset on the Rocks - Laurie Kersey



Fan Shell Beach - Peter Holmsky

A new exhibition at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History entitled "Central Coast Landscapes: Celebrating Nature in Painting" includes paintings of Pebble Beach landscapes by Pebble Beach residents.

The exhibition was juried, meaning that a panel of jurors selected 40 paintings from over 200 submissions by Central Coast artists. The jurors judged each painting as an individual, anonymous work. The award for Best of Show went to Pebble Beach resident Laurie Kersey for her painting "Sunset on the Rocks." Other depictions of Pebble Beach include residents Jan Valtr's painting "Pebble Beach Pine" and Peter Holmsky's 'Fan Shell Beach.'