

CGMC

A teacher's guide to Casper's museums

October 2010

Casper
Museum
Consortium



Opportunities Galore

By Rachel Hedges
Casper Museum Consortium

"Kids who spend more time outside end up paying more attention inside." —
Dr. Andrea Faber Taylor

Hazel Scharosch, Alcova Elementary School teacher, likes that philosophy, and the opportunities at Alcova definitely lend to her teaching technique. When the weather allows, Mrs. Scharosch prefers to take her students outside: a walk on the trail, a book under a tree, wherever they can do a little exploring. "Kids are natural scientists — constantly finding interesting things to talk about," she said.

As we sat in her classroom, she explained, "The classroom does not end with these walls. You can let them read about an osprey nest in a book, but I prefer to give them a pair of binoculars and let them explore! Then they come into the classroom and want to learn all about osprey



and read all about them."

Scharosch's class occasionally enjoys a trip to the Audubon Center at Garden Creek. Although Scharosch teaches only a handful of children in kindergarten through fifth grade, she has the challenge of balancing four different grade levels every day.

"Wanda (Peters, the community naturalist at the Audubon Center) is great at making it interesting for everyone!" Scharosch said. "The wildlife, their habitats, tracks, nests... you can see it all right there."

The wonderful library of information available at

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Nic launches fall exhibits

The Nicolaysen Art Museum is gearing up for a wonderful fall exhibition season. We are proud to host two new exhibitions, *Ucross: Twenty-Seven Years of Visual Arts Residencies* and *Serendipity: Selections from the Permanent Collection*. These exhibitions will be open through Jan. 2, 2011.

Ucross: Twenty-Seven Years of Visual Arts Residencies will feature art work from former Ucross residents. The Ucross Foundation, founded in 1981 by Raymond Plank, operates an internationally known retreat for visual artists, writers and composers working in all creative disciplines.

The foundation provides living accommodations, studio space, uninterrupted time, and the experience of the

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Nicolaysen Art Museum & Discovery Center

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extraordinary High Plains landscape to competitively selected individuals, who are awarded residencies of two to eight weeks. Ucross looks for individuals whose work reflects innovative thinking, a depth of creative exploration and the potential for significant future accomplishments. A number of residents have gone on to win the Pulitzer Prize, the Tony Award, the National Book Award, the Guggenheim Fellowship, the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship and many other honors.

Located on an historic 21,000-acre working cattle ranch in northern Wyoming, Ucross introduces individuals to the land, people, and ethos of the northern High Plains and Rocky Mountain region. Through its residency program, art gallery, and associated activities, Ucross actively seeks to support an appreciation for vibrant human creativity and aims to cast a reflection into the future from the cultural mirror of our lives and times.

The Nicolaysen has a permanent collection of art comprised of approximately 6,000 individual works.

Serendipity: Selections from the Permanent Collection will feature several works from this collection.

In addition to the galleries, the Nic is home to the Discovery Center. The center was designed to be educational, flexible and fun — a true discovery center where children and adults can come and experiment with, learn about and create art. Students can enjoy the arts with hands-on activities at any of the numerous learning stations, which include exhibition-specific enrichment centers. These exhibition-related centers give children (and adults) the opportunity to make more profound connections with the artwork they experience in the galleries.

All the self-guided activity stations help fulfill state curriculum standards for public schools. The Discovery Center not only meets fine art requirements but also essential curriculum standards for math, science, social studies and language arts. As the stations are continually changing, we are able to meet a variety of standards throughout the year. A class visit to the museum can include guided gallery tours and time to

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 1 - Jan. 2: Ucross: Twenty-Seven Years of Visual Arts Residencies
- Oct. 1 - Jan. 2: Serendipity: Selections from the Permanent Collection
- Nov. 11-13: November Art Show and Sale
- Dec. 5: Holiday Open House

explore and create in the Discovery Center. Contact the education department at the NIC and let us help you create a museum visit that will compliment your curriculum.

When visiting the museum, we ask that you provide adult chaperones for your group. Chaperones may include teachers, school staff or parents/guardians. Please note the following adult chaperone requirements for groups of children under 18 years of age:

- * preschool and elementary school — 1 adult per 6 children
- * middle school— 1 adult per 9 students
- * high school — 1 adult per 12 students.

The cost for school groups from NCS D is \$2 per student and \$3 per adult. For any questions or to schedule a museum visit, please call 235-5247 and ask for the Education Department.