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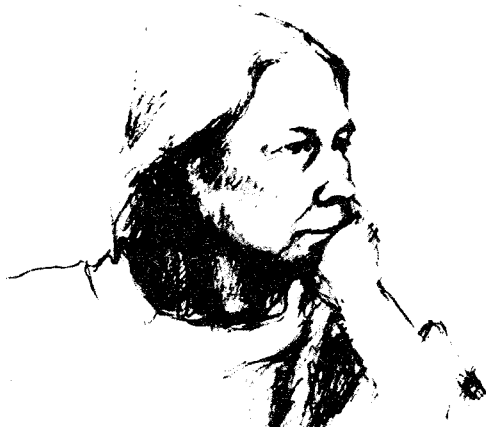
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# Shopper Talk

LITTLE ROCK

APRIL 2008

VOL. 15, NO. 4



Charcoal by Pat White

## White Wagon Farm

White Wagon Farm will hold a spring open house April 12 and 13 at the nursery on Highway 365 North in Maumelle. It will feature food, fun, and flowers, as well as an art sale at Sage House Gallery on the nursery grounds, and art and gardening demonstrations.

Owners Kathy Wagenknecht and Pat White started the nursery in 1986. It specializes in perennials, roses, and herbs.

"Herbs are probably the biggest part of our business. We probably have the best collection of

herbs in Arkansas, except for the Folk Center in Mountain View," Ms. Wagenknecht said.

Herbs White Wagon Farm offers include: summer savory, French sorrel, Italian (flat leaf) parsley, Thai basil, Italian basil, lemon basil (Mrs. Burns), cilantro, borage, fern leaf dill, salad burnet, chamomile, plain and garlic chives, bronze fennel, silver and creeping thyme, catnip, curly parsley, marjoram, rue, tansy, bay, betony, cardamom, comfrey, curry, Provance and Spanish lavender, lemon balm, lemon verbena, lemon grass, peppermint, spearmint, apple mint, cat mint, Mexican mint marigold, hyssop, lemon and citronella scented geraniums, costmary, feverfew, regular and tutti-frutti germander, patchouli, stevia, Irene and Salem rosemary, Greek oregano, six varieties of sage, sweet woodruff, tarragon, and echinacea. "Just to name a few," Kathy said.

At Sage House, the house on the front of the property, they hold demonstrations from time to time on cooking with herbs. They also do workshops on such subjects as container growing and bed preparation.

Sage House is also where Ms. White has her studio, and artists gather there to paint and draw live models. Ten artists are associated with Sage House, including Pat and Kathy, who is a photographer, and Janice and Marvin Crammer, David Cook, Amy Ness, Suzanne Waggoner, Tom Herrin, Rita Mackintosh, and Bill Lewis.

When the two women opened White Wagon Farm, their initial intention was to grow groundcovers, Kathy said.

"We had fallen in love with a little nursery in Crawford, Georgia, called 'Goodness Grows.' They were selling perennials out of their backyard, and the more we thought about it, we thought, 'We can do this.' We picked their brains. We copied our first greenhouse after theirs, and we built it."

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*43rd  
Annual  
Iris Show  
& Art  
Exhibition*

The Central Arkansas Iris Society will hold its 43rd annual show and art exhibit 1 to 4 p.m. April 26 at the Grace Lutheran Church Family Life Center on the corner of Kavanaugh and Hillcrest. Admission is free.

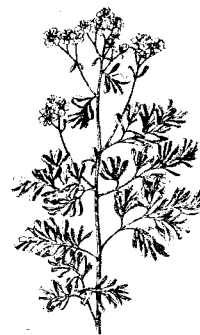
Iris-themed works from a number of Arkansas artists, including a potter and jewelry maker, will be on sale. The iris show will feature more than 200

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Charcoal by Pat White



## White Wagon Farm

They also had their home constructed on the back acre of the 4-acre plot, built two more greenhouses and a lath house, which provides plants shade. There's a pond, shade gardens, sun gardens, rose gardens, formal herb gardens, Sage House, and Sage House Gallery, which they added just last spring in a separate building.

Two decades ago, Pat and Kathy began with herbs and a few years later added antique roses, many of which came from "Rose Rustlers" in Texas, that intrepid bunch of folk who carry clippers with them everywhere to save old rose stocks from disappearing.

"We expanded from antiques to 'own root roses,' which are not from cuttings and are sturdier.

For the past 27 and a half years Kathy worked at a Little Rock firm that sells software to banks. She did the books for the nursery and worked on weekends, but starting in August, she "retired" and began working at the nursery full time. And Pat "retired" from the nursery to paint full time.

"So now I'm into my first spring, and Pat's leaning back going 'ha, ha, ha.'" Although Kathy had learned a lot working at the nursery for the past two decades, doing it full time has been a "growth experience."

"One of the things I'm having fun learning this year is seed propagation, watching those babies come up."

Kathy said they grow plants they know will work in Arkansas' climate. "There's not a lot written about our climate, the Mid-South. Part of what we do, that the larger places don't do, we grow them. We have so many things nobody had ever even heard of, and we can show them growing in the ground." Having grown the plants, they can give good advice on water, soil, sunlight, nutrition, and pruning - in fact, every fact you need to know to help grow healthy plants.

Kathy has some favorites, like woods poppies. "The woods poppy is a shade lover. It has a leaf that looks a lot like a poppy and it blooms yellow in the shade. It's a nice one. It's not long-lived, but it throws seed around so you get new ones from

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**Jazz Movement** in the Heights is offering 10 exercise classes for \$10, and this includes regular classes during all hours and the new senior class, which meets Monday and Friday at 10 a.m.

Other class times are: 8:35 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 8:45 a.m. Saturday; 5:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 6:35 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and 6:45 p.m. Wednesday. Call 227-8591 for information.

## Free Bikini Wax

**Arlene's Individuality in Skin Care** in the Heights is offering a free bikini wax when you buy a facial. Call 219-2080 for information.

## \$40 Massage for First-time Clients

**Belle's Massage and Body Therapy** on North University is offering a \$50 one-hour massage for \$40 for first-time clients. Call 580-7829 for information.

## 20% Off All Services

The **Salmani** salon on North University is offering 20% off all services as a thank you to both new and loyal clients. Call 221-2011 for information.



# Nursery

seed. Gaura is loose, airy ... It has white or pink blooms that look almost like butterflies. Hyacinth bean vine - it's fast-growing with a purple-green heart-shaped leaf. It has a bright lavender blossom and purple pea pods that are edible. The beans are very cool; they have a white eye, a reverse of a black-eyed pea."

With Kathy working full time at the nursery, Pat has been able to devote more time to her art, which is absolutely amazing.

She not only has art at Sage House Gallery, Sage House is packed with astonishing canvases. Ask her to show you through Sage House and look for the work she did of Guatemala - energetic oils with her dead-on sense of color - that almost vibrate off the canvas.

Pat has been painting for more than three decades. She graduated from Memphis College of Arts 30 years ago, taught painting and drawing at the Arkansas Arts Center, and worked for the Arkansas Arts Council.

Art is her passion. Mediums include oils, pen and ink, charcoals, and gouache. She does landscapes, still lifes, and works with figures. She and the other Sage House artists paint figures each



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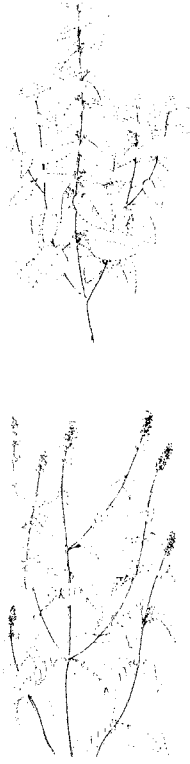
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week, using a different live model. (Pat said the group is always looking for new models; if you have an interesting face, give them a call.)

The pieces she did of Guatemala resulted from a recent trip there with her children. "I have three daughters. My third daughter is adopted from there. We all took her back there to see the country where she was born. It is a very bright country. There are lots of flowers, beautiful flowers in the market. Their biggest craft is weaving, and they are excellent weavers. The markets are just ablaze with color. When you go to church, people are in native dress. It's like stepping into another century."

Pat was divorced, a single mother caring for her three daughters, Tracy, Kelley, and Rebeca, when she was in Memphis working on her BFA. But she looks back at it as one of the best times in her



life. "I loved every minute of it."

Originally, she didn't plan to be an artist. She started out studying anthropology at the University of Arizona, but then discovered art. "I found out I really loved it, and I was good at it."

Now she likes to start each day with a different canvas.

"I like to have a fresh idea. You learn more from having something new every day than just rehashing what you've done before. And, it's not necessarily something I keep, but I like to do something new every day."

Does she have a favorite painting? "No, and I don't have a favorite child, either. The one I'm looking at is my favorite."

The prices on her canvases range from \$75 to \$600. Stop by and look; you will be amazed at

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