

# Celebrations



**GOOD HARVEST:** Natalie Levy, a Fort Lauderdale resident whose work in watercolors earned her second place, was one of 75 artists vying for the museum's inaugural juried art show and will have her work on exhibit through April 15. *Artwork courtesy of Natalie Levy*

## Showing their true colors

Two artists win competition; work on display at Old Davie School Historical Museum

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The Old Davie School Historical Museum's inaugural juried art show started with 75 artists vying for top honors. Twenty-one made it to the second round and had their work displayed from July to September.

Now the spotlight is shining on the two winners: **Peter J. Nolan** and **Natalie Levy**. Their work was put on display Friday and will be exhibited through April 15 in the museum's gallery.

Nolan, of Davie, won first place for his landscape photography. He concentrates his artistic efforts on capturing the beauty of the wetlands in the Big Cypress National Preserve.

"So many people who live in South Florida have never seen the true beauty of the interior of the state," Nolan said.

According to a museum brochure, "Much of this area, including its plants and animals, are directly threatened by human intervention. It is Peter's hope that his photographic work will bring both enjoyment to viewers as well as an understanding of what can be lost without proper management."

"He takes these beautiful photographs . . . He is very sensitive to the natural elements and has a good eye for



Nolan



Levy

light, composition and the subtle colorations of the atmosphere," said **Robert Gross**, the museum's curator.

"He is a great photographer, his technique is excellent," said **Tom Edmonds**, assistant director and curator of Bonnet House Museum and Gardens. Edmonds chose the contest's two winners.

"It was my first competition and it will be my first show. It's a new experience for me and I am looking forward to it," Nolan said. "It will make me a better photographer because it pushes me to do more and better work."

Levy, a Fort Lauderdale resident whose work in watercolors earned her second place, was born in New York City. She received a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Georgian Court College in New Jersey and moved to Florida in 1981.

"I like working indoors and especially outdoors. Being out there in the early morning hours trying to capture the nuances of light and shadow and the many colors of Florida's landscape is watercolor heaven," said Levy, a mother of two who works as a real estate agent.

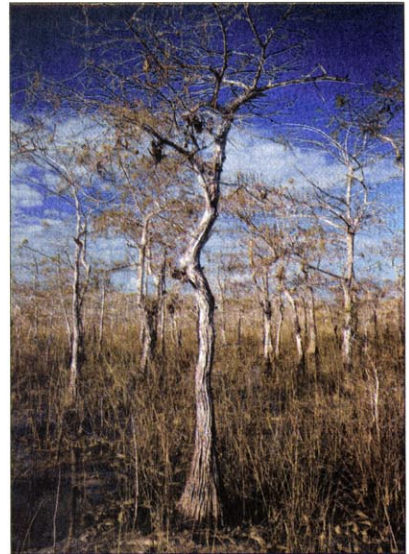
"Natalie Levy's work is very delicate. Her realistic watercolors are done with very, very subtle coloring," said Gross, who gave Levy her first lessons in watercolors during an evening course at Nova High School.

"She was able to capture Florida's natural environment as it used to be. Showing men fishing is not a popular image. It was refreshing to see that in watercolor," Edmonds said.

Levy, who is a member of numerous art societies, said she has regularly been part of group exhibits, but this is her first "two-man" show.

In 2003, Old Davie School was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Broward County Cultural Division to present a juried art exhibition.

"The idea was greeted with much



**CYPRESS FOREST:** Peter J. Nolan of Davie won first place for his landscape photography. He concentrates his artistic efforts on capturing the beauty of the wetlands in the Big Cypress National Preserve. *Photo courtesy of Peter J. Nolan*

enthusiasm by the art community," said **Constance Savory**, executive director of Old Davie School. "We figured we would be lucky to get 30 artists to submit their work. To get 75 was an absolute delight. It just goes to illustrate the need for small galleries for local artists to show their work."

That's why the museum is planning its second juried art show for this summer. "We will be calling for artists in May," Savory said.

The Old Davie School Historical Museum is at 6650 Griffin Road. Museum hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and by appointment.

Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children.

For more information, call 954-797-1044.



**WHISKEY CREEK:** "Being out there in the early morning hours trying to capture the nuances of light and shadow and the many colors of Florida's landscape is watercolor heaven," Levy said. *Artwork courtesy of Natalie Levy*

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