



Maud Earl's "Old Benchers," 1885, oil on canvas is part of the Working Like A Dog Exhibition at Pebble Hill. PEBBLE HILL

Pebble Hill Plantation gallery taps family history for third exhibit

Amanda Sieradzki
Council on Culture & Arts

Whitney White did not ride around in a convertible with her childhood German shepherd dogs — or brothers as she affectionately calls them — but she certainly feels an affinity for the breed.

It's a connection she shares with the previous owner of the Pebble Hill Plantation, Elisabeth Ireland Poe, who did in fact place her favorite dog, Gloria, in her convertible wearing driving goggles. As executive director of the plantation, White loves how the photographic archives show Poe's adoration for her many dogs.

"Ms. Poe had artists do drawings of Gloria," explains White. "She is featured on a set of plates drawn by Richard Bishop, a sporting artist of the 1930s. We contacted a German shepherd dog society that had Gloria's genealogy on record from the beginning of the breed."

Artists' canine renderings fill the house and come in every medium. As a hunting plantation, these dogs were companions both for work and play. For White, it was only natural that the newly established Elisabeth Ireland Poe art gallery feature this integral



Pansy Poe with four of her dogs. PEBBLE HILL PLANTATION

part of Pebble Hill's story. The gallery's third exhibition, "Working Like A Dog," is on display through April 25th.

Poe was 3 years old when her mother took over Pebble Hill Plantation. White was in fourth grade when her mother began working at the house as assistant director. Poe considered the estate her home base, with 50 to 75 Welsh corgis, bull terriers, Staffordshire terriers, Walker

hounds, English cocker spaniels and yellow labs in the kennels at any time. White loved her German shepherds like siblings and worked nearly every job on the plantation.

"I worked in the ticketing office during high school and came here on summers and breaks throughout college," says White, who earned her bachelor's from Barry College and MBA from Thomasville University.

White was the Main House mu-

If you go

What: Working Like A Dog Exhibition

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesdays-Sundays through April 25

Where: Pebble Hill Plantation, 1251 US Hwy. 319 South, Thomasville, GA 31792

Cost: \$10 (gallery only)

Contact: For more information, call 229-226-2344 or visit <http://www.pebblehill.com/>.

seum manager until November 2017 when she was named to her current role as executive director. Pebble Hill is her second home. She is consumed by the stories it tells. Most of all she enjoys carrying out Poe's wishes to preserve the home and educate the public on 20th century shooting plantations.

Pebble Hill does not contain replicas of items, but rather features the very same furniture and decorative arts that the family curated while they lived there. White says the personal touches are seen in everything from

See GALLERY, Page 3C

Gallery

Continued from Page 1C



Lamb

the books in the library to the carved hoofs that hang in the stables.

She feels a strong kinship with Poe given the archival diaries and items in the home. Many items hold special meaning as she's grown up alongside the history.

"I feel so comfortable here and I wish I had known her," says White. "I also feel like I do know her to some degree. We have such wonderful archival photos and items we get to tour people through and experience every day."

White's responsibilities span from managing the 3,000 acres of land, overseeing staff and continuing to build awareness of Pebble Hill's museum exhibitions. She continues to network with institutions across the country at programs like the Attingham Trust Summer School. White is appreciative of her board members' support in growing Pebble Hill's reach.

The dedicated art gallery space is just one endeavor that she hopes will continue drawing in new visitors. "Working Like A Dog" highlights one of White's favorite art genres. The niche area of the sporting art world features animals on the hunt or breeds of dogs that are considered "working" breeds. White's favorites in from the permanent collection include Walter Hunt's otterhounds as well as works by John Emms.

"The show that we've brought in is a wonderful complement to the per-

manent collection that we have here," says White.

Earlier in March, White worked with her staff to spearhead a "Working Like A Dog" day. She was delighted to invite eight contemporary artists and their dog paintings. The humane society brought pets available for adoption and hunting teams demonstrated the sporting side of the working dogs.

It's an event that White

hopes will become an annual staple in the community. More than that, she wants to continue building programming on the plantation for all ages. She sees the art space as a great way to accomplish that goal while displaying more art related to the home and owners' interests.

"Whether it's a painting on a wall, a sculpture or a print of a painting that you like, I think most

people can relate to the fact that you want to have things in your home that you enjoy looking at," says White. "Pebble Hill is the same way. These are the pieces the family chose, not to be in an art gallery, but to be in their home."

Amanda Sieradzki is the feature writer for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area's umbrella agency for arts and culture (www.tallahasseearts.org).

BATHROOM SAFETY ASSIST BARS
LICENSED & INSURED



Make Your Bathroom
SAFER

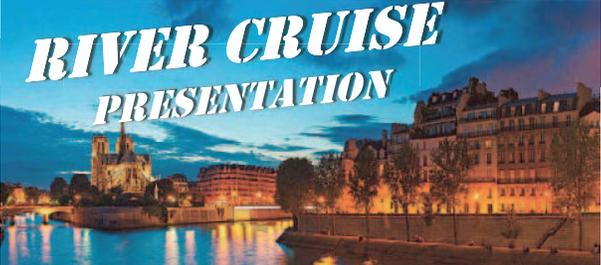
We Specialize in Your Family's Safety



1,000's
 Professionally Installed
KIM McNEAL
850-562-6000
 Tallahassee
 Grab Bars and More
Our Family
Serving Florida
Four Generations

✿ DECORATOR BARS AVAILABLE ✿

RIVER CRUISE
PRESENTATION



Join Phil Swartz, owner of Holiday Cruises & Tours for a presentation on the different

SEL
HO
 FOR THE H

WE BUY ANY SITU

- Going through
- Unwanted inh
- Relocating to
- Facing foreclo
- Costly damag

NO MATTER WI
 house, we are int

The easiest

We specialize in cash buyouts fr