

LWGA News LWGA Art Auction

By Ginny Edwards

Hankering to up the quotient of Low County beauty inside your home – and to benefit charity to boot? Check out the LWGA's online Art Auction Nov. 9-15.

A slideshow of the nine paintings available in the auction, all by members of the Landings Women's Golf Association, can be found on LWGA.net.

Proceeds from the auction will support three charities: cancer research at the Mercer University School of Medicine, the Landings Military Family Relief Fund, and America's Second Harvest Food Bank of Coastal Georgia. Winning bidders will designate which charity they wish to support.

"The three charities are near and dear to the LWGA and its members," Mary Beth McGirr, the president of the nearly 400-member ladies' golf association, said. "Ongoing efforts to support philanthropic initiatives at the Landings are central to the LWGA's mission."

The paintings, which vary in size and are unframed, were originally donated and hung in on-course comfort stations in 2011. They are available for auction now because the LWGA – with McGirr's prodding – launched its "art refresh" project this year to give artists a chance to swap out their pieces with new works and to include new painters in the mix.

Paintings in the auction were done by Joni Arb, Pat Barry, Suzanne Croci, Judy Eckburg, Martha Hough, Karen Macek, Penny Thompson, Charmaine West, and Gail Wickstrom.

As part of the "refresh" project, seven of the artists – with the exception of Macek and West, both of whom have moved – are replacing their original pieces with new paintings, and paintings by two new artists – Janet Eastwood and Cathy Mahoney – have already been hung.

Three additional pieces donated nearly a decade ago – by Judy Burk, Mimi Diamond, and Barby Townsend – remain hanging in their current well-visited "galleries."

With its focus on the Low Country and the beautiful golf courses at the Landings, the art project drives home the fact that "we live in a joyful place," said Patty Frothingham, a co-chair of the project since its inception nearly a decade ago. "It's nice that we can capture that feeling – and the energy and enthusiasm of women's golf at the Landings – with this project."

The opening bid for each painting in the online auction starts at \$25. From there, it's recommended that raises be made in at least \$10 increments. The online auction will be gaveled "closed" at 6 p.m. on Nov. 15.

Anyone wishing to see one of the paintings up close and personal should call Nancy Lieb, the project's other co-chair, at (414) 704-0546.