

Hot Springs Sentinel Record

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The Avenue to host monthly Art & Wine Dinner this weekend

The Avenue Restaurant at The Waters Hotel, 340 Central Ave., will host its next monthly Art & Wine Dinner on Sunday.

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"Our goal with The Waters wasn't just to restore and revive this beautiful building; we also wanted to create a setting that celebrates the best of Hot Springs: our hospitality, our local products and food, and the creative work produced by a wonderful group of artisans who live and work in Hot Springs," Robert Zunick, one of the owners and developers of The Waters, said in a news release.

"We bring it all together during our monthly Art & Wine Dinners," Zunick added. "Chef Casey sources seasonal, local foods to create special courses paired with the perfect wines. Diners are treated to a short discussion by the artists of their works that will be displayed in the restaurant for the next month."

The Art & Wine Dinners began last fall and have each featured a local artist whose work is featured in the lobby, hallways and rooms at The Waters. There is limited space at this event held the last Sunday of the month. Call The Avenue at 501-625-3850 for menu, pricing information, and reservations.

Palmer's pieces from "The Champion Trees of Arkansas" are the subject of an award-winning documentary by AETN. The exhibit will be at The Avenue for a month.

Palmer began the champion tree project in 2007 when she learned of the Arkansas Forestry Commission's list of the largest examples of each species of tree within the state, known as Arkansas's Champion Trees.

Traveling more than 20,000 miles crisscrossing Arkansas to photograph the trees, Palmer collected oral histories and kept a journal of her adventures. So far, she has created 28 large-scale portraits of Champion Trees along with many smaller versions and prints. Palmer created an exhibit, "The Champion Trees of Arkansas: An Artist's Journey," which has been displayed in more than 20 Arkansas venues in the past four years.

The exhibit and experience formed the basis for AETN's award-winning documentary "Champion Trees" which is scheduled to air at 11 a.m. Saturday on AETN. Palmer also created a book of the same title as the exhibit which has been a popular item for fans of the series and Palmer's work.

"The Waters has created a true partnership with the artists of Hot Springs," said Palmer. "First they brought together many very talented people to restore and revive this historic building and then they filled the lobbies, hallways and rooms with a permanent collection of artwork created by Hot Springs' artists and photographers."

"It means a lot to the artists to be a part of their vision and the monthly Art & Wine Dinners celebrate this partnership," said Palmer.

"Our local creatives and artisans enrich Hot Springs and help make it not only a great tourist destination, but also a wonderful place to live, and we celebrate them every day at The Waters," added Zunick.

The exhibit will be at The Avenue until Feb. 24.

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