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WALTON COUNTY TDC ANNOUNCES 2010 ARTIST OF THE YEAR

WALTON COUNTY, Fla. – (Oct. 15, 2009) – Now in its seventh year, the Artist of the Year program allows the Walton County Tourist Development Council (TDC) the opportunity to showcase talented artists living in Walton County who find their inspiration within the scenic beauty of Beaches of South Walton. At the Walton County TDC Annual Luncheon, held on October 15, 2009, Michael Granberry was named 2010 Artist of the Year.

“Each artist allows us to highlight a different style and medium and we've enjoyed providing a forum for their passions,” said Jennifer Steele Saunders, Walton County TDC board member and chair of the New Product Committee. “We’re pleased to add another talented artist to the distinguished list and highlight photographic art.”

Our 2010 Artist of the Year has honed his craft over the last 30 years, working to capture that split second in time when his subject forgets about the camera and lets his or her true personality unfold. Granberry left a hectic life in Los Angeles to fulfill his lifelong dream of returning to Beaches of South Walton. As a boy growing up in Dothan, Alabama, he vacationed to these beaches and would pretend to be on assignment just so he could capture images of the people and personalities that make Beaches of South Walton so special.

As owner of The Art of Simple, located in Ruskin Place at Seaside, Michael is well in tune with the area’s art community representing his own work as well as that of his wife and a contemporary mix of Southern artists.

In addition to providing exposure for the artist through marketing, public relations and community relations activities, the TDC commissions a piece to be placed in a public venue as part of Art in Public Places. At the TDC’s Annual Meeting, Granberry unveiled the first piece of his commissioned collection that will capture the scenic beauty, people and personalities that make this destination unique. The photograph showcases the beauty of our beaches at sunset and our lifeguards, which are an integral part of our destination.

For more information on the Artist of the Year program, contact Vicki Kitahara at (850) 267-1216 or vkitahara@beachesofsouthwalton.com.

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