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Steffen Thomas Museum of Art
(STMA)

Amelia Schwartz
Marketing Associate
706-342-7557
706-342-4348 (fax)
aschwartz@steffenthomas.org

STMA Arts Outreach Family Workshop Features the Wonderful, Whimsical Whirligig

BUCKHEAD – Finally, winter is over and spring is on the way! It's time to lift your spirits and celebrate the season in a truly joyful manner by signing up for STMA's next Art's Outreach Family Workshop – ***The Whirligig as Art***, scheduled for Saturday, March 20th, 10 AM to noon at the museum.

Whirligigs range from small pinwheel toys enjoyed by young children to elaborate artistic designs found on display in museums. Powered by the wind, the objects have at least one part that spins or whirls. They make delightful ornaments to brighten your yard, or to scare the crows away from your veggies. Best of all, they're great fun for all ages.

The workshop will be taught by retired industrial engineer, Larry Gilleland, assisted by STMA Docent Anne Gilleland. According to Larry, "Many early whirligigs were made in the form of a bird, a 'whirlybird,' if you will. In honor of that tradition, our whirligigs will take the form of Canada geese, one of the best known birds in North America.

"I've always loved woodworking," Larry added. "It's a wonderfully relaxing and rewarding hobby that can be enjoyed by virtually everyone." This project is especially suitable for all ages and skill levels. "We'll only need nine pieces of wood per bird which I will cut and finish with a base coat before hand." Larry explained. Participants will assemble the pieces using simple tools, and then discover the value of texture in art by applying acrylic paint to their creations. "We'll mount our whirligigs on metal rods, which I will provide, so they can swing and swivel in the wind," Larry added. The rods can then be inserted into a wooden block to make the whirligig freestanding.

Admission for the STMA workshop is \$10 adults, \$8 children; STMA members receive a \$2 discount. Those in financial need may attend free of charge. Registration is required. Please call 706-342-7557.

The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, located at 4200 Bethany Road, Buckhead, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 AM to 4 PM. For more information and directions, please visit www.steffenthomas.org or call the number listed above.

