

Nature Photography by Judy Rogers  
May 5-June 26, 2009

Parnell Memorial Library is pleased to present the first public exhibit of nature photography by Judy Rogers. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, and a long-time resident of Brierfield, Alabama, Judy is a retired professor of psychology at the University of Montevallo. The exhibit features photographs of some of her favorite subjects: the ocean, sunsets, trees, flowers, animals, and a variety of birds. These photographs reflect her close attention to her surroundings whether she is at home or traveling far beyond Alabama. Her love of nature is evident in her volunteer activities. She is a board member of Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba, Friends of the Cahaba National Wildlife Refuge, and the Bibb County Citizens for Wildflowers.

Judy sums up her unlikely path to becoming an artist:

*I failed art when I was eight years old. My mother, hoping I had inherited some of the artistic talent that she and my oldest sister had, paid to give me private art lessons. It didn't take the teacher long to assure my mother that she could spend her money better on something else.*

*And she was right. To this day I have no ability to draw or paint. During my graduate school days in psychology I took a variety of tests related to vocational skills. One was a test that measured the ability to select which of several pictures had better form, perspective, and balance. I scored very high, but that did not translate into being able to create drawings or paintings.*

*I have had a long interest in photography, but for most of my life my photography was documentary. I took pictures of family gatherings, trips, and all the stages of building our underground house. It wasn't until I retired from teaching and began traveling extensively that I started using my camera to capture images that creatively reflected the things that I cared about most.*

*One of my greatest passions is the wonder and beauty of God's creation: flowers, birds, sunsets, mountains, the ocean, trees, and little things you might miss if you didn't look carefully. These became the subjects of my photography.*

*My first major project was taking pictures of things seen on an early winter morning on the deserted beach at Kiawah Island, SC. I was showing these photos to some of my relatives, including my sister (the artist). She was the first to assure me that these photos revealed artistic talent and were good enough to display and possibly sell. At long last my "eye" for art was translated into something I had created, a reflection of the beautiful things that God has blessed us with.*

*A number of the pictures in this exhibit are from that early project. I have continued to take photos of birds, flowers, sunsets, scenic vistas, and those little unexpected gems that bring joy to life, and some of these are in this exhibit. Also in the exhibit are a number of photographs of pets--a few cats, including my own four, and one dog, the "world's smartest dog," Chum, who belonged to my brother-in-law.*

*In all these photos, I have tried to capture the beauty of the things I love.*