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*meet your
neighbors*

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News, page 8

WHERE THE CORN IS AS HIGH AS AN ELEPHANT'S EYE IN DIMOND

Revenge of the critters

Exhibit gives small things celebrity treatment

By Matt Caprioli

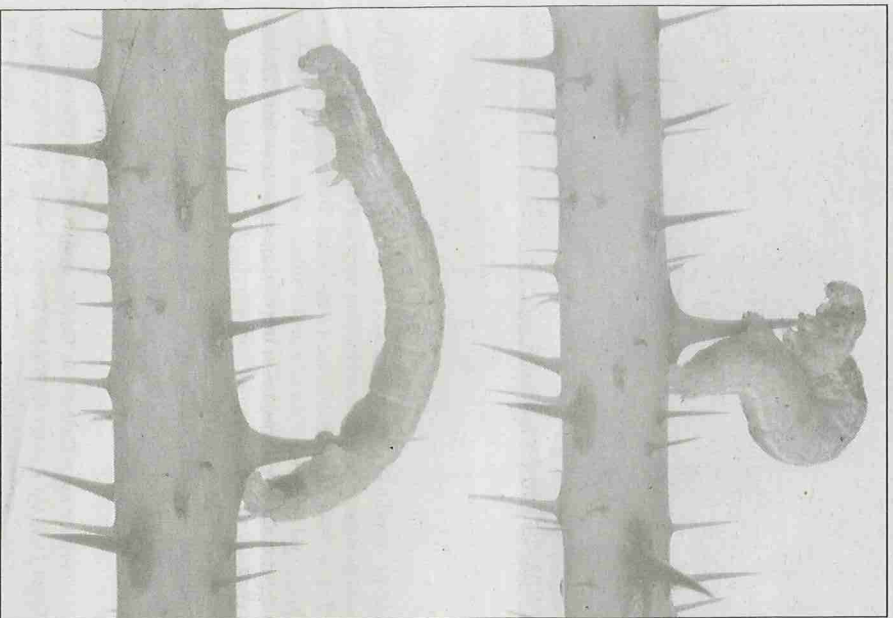
CARL BATTREALL'S LATEST PROJECT is disturbing. You walk in expecting photographs—something with distinct lines—and in image after image you see diaphanous pieces that look like paintings.

This photography should not be possible, at least without the aid of Photoshop or some airbrushing, which Battreall does not use. All I could do was wonder, How'd he do that?

Batreall created these images for Meet Your Neighbours, an international photography effort that highlights the smaller

A fly larvae inches along on a prickly rose stem in Davis Park.

Anchorage. PHOTOS BY CARL BATTREALL



members of wildlife we tend to walk past everyday. The title Meet Your Neighbours focuses on a plethora of distinct plants and insects that live in your backyard or nearby park. In the words of its website, "Meet Your Neighbours dignifies these common species by giving them celebrity treatment."

Plants like the cranberry flower are only a couple inches tall, but here they cover a four-foot canvas. Battreall took these photos outside in Anchorage parks during summer days, and used a flash in front and behind the subject, which helped create the translucent look. True to the theme of MYN, each image has a white background, which isolates a subject that is normally surrounded by greenery.

MYN caught Battreall's attention a couple years ago. The son of two Forest Service Employees, Battreall has been a conservation photographer for about 11 years. His most well-known work deals with remote, unprotected mountain regions in Alaska.

"Alaska is this big grand, big wildlife—we don't look at the ground, we're always looking at mountains, so this is a nice project to encourage something else," Battreall said.

Under the MYN's rules, each artist must work with a local non-profit, which owns the completed works. The Anchorage Park Foundation seemed the best match, so Battreall approached them. Executive Director Beth Nordlund was more than happy to support Battreall's project.

The only thing she asked was that Battreall would work with Youth Employment in the Park, a 10-week training period that allows teens to gain skills while working in an Anchorage park. The extra help proved instrumental to the project.

"Almost every image had teams to make it. It was just great to have other eyes because otherwise you'll miss a lot," Battreall said.

The teens also helped secure a subject or two. The wood frog image required two teens to hold a sheet of Plexiglas, another to place the frog on the Plexiglas, and another to retrieve the frog when he or she would hop off.

Batreall said that one of the more popular images is of the sundew flower, one of Alaska's three carnivorous plants. Despite its intriguing nature and pervasiveness in Alaska, few people have ever heard of it.

"I wonder how many times I've walked past a sundew. That was taken in Connor's Bog—a dog park," Nordlund said.

Batreall learned about *drosena rotundifolia* through a biologist friend. He spent hours looking for one that wasn't covered in "digested bug" or crowded by several unfortunate mosquitoes.

The sundew Battreall settled on was so low to the ground that he had to dig a small hole behind the plant to make room for a flash behind it. The final image shows a mosquito crazily pulling itself away from the sundew. Flecks of blood are scattered across the flower, some of it in mid-air. The blood looks like red acrylic, but this is in fact photography, which means that blood is "real." The scene is already unsettling, but the clash of mediums makes it a powerful sight.

ARTS LISTINGS

DOWNTOWN EVENTS

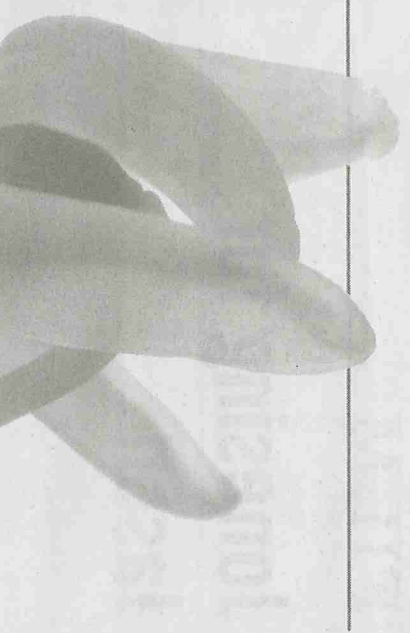
ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM— Presents "Painting Hands," new works by Katherine Coons. (161 E. 1st Ave.)

ALASKA NATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION— Presents "Expressions Through Silver," Internationally acclaimed Thlingit/Alutai artist Nicholas Galatin, from Sitka, instructed five emerging artists in a silver jewelry-making workshop. Visit ANAF to view the unveiling of their work. The five Alaska Native artists are Allie High, Eve Mendenhall, Norman Natkong, Jr., Benjamin Schlemmer and Robin Lovelace Smith. (500 W. 6th Ave.)

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM— "Bradford Washburn: Glories Of The Greatland"; The majestic exhibition of Bradford Washburn's black-and-white Alaska landscape photographs is back by popular demand. Washburn (1910-2007) was an expert on Alaska's mountains and glaciers, a brilliant photographer and America's leading field cartographer. This exhibition features more than 40 images taken in Alaska between 1930 and 1979 by the aerial photography pioneer. On view Sept. 2. "Romantic North"; Reflect on the power of nature in Alaska, and mankind's place within it, through this selection of landscape paintings and photographs from the Anchorage Museum's permanent collection. Featuring work by such artist-explorers as Sydney Laurence, Albert Bierstadt and Frederick Deltenbaugh. On view through April 30, 2013. "True North"; The North has long worn

the romanticized mantle of a sparsely populated frontier. To outsiders, it can seem unchanging and marginally inhabitable—vast, cold, white, empty. Seen from the inside, however, the North is magnetic and multidimensional. This exhibit portrays a North that is complex and in transition. Photos, films and multi-media by more than 40 artists from Iceland, Scandinavia, Canada, Russia and the United States, including many Alaskans. On view through Sept. 9. "Ascent 20,320: Science on the Slopes of McKinley"; Until the mid-20th century, climbing McKinley was a rare feat undertaken in the name of science. Using historical images from the National Park Service, this exhibition sees the mountain through the lens of scientific expeditions, from the first successful summit in 1913 to today. Photographs document the first successful summit in 1913, attempts to establish a high altitude scientific camp at 18,180 feet, National Geographic Magazine expeditions and more. On view through Sept. 30. "The High One: Reaching The Top"; Climbers from across the globe come to test their mountaineering and wilderness survival skills through the high altitude challenges of Mount McKinley, the continent's highest peak. This exhibition looks at climbing Denali, "The High One," through the gear (historical and the latest technology), the routes, the risks and the rescues. Explore how and why people climb through artifacts, photographs, films and hands-on activities. On view through Oct. 21. (625 C St.)

THE ANCHOR PUB— Local favorites Devin Deuel Young, Abigail



A true bog cranberry flower photographed in Baxter Bog, Anchorage.

Meet Your Neighbours

Showing now until the end of August

Middle Way Cafe

Mon-Fri: 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Sat-Sun: 8:00 am-6:00 pm

1300 West Northern Lights Boulevard
More info at meetyourneighbours.net

to cure the blues." Each piece is a one of a kind creation, cultivated from years of self-teaching and taking advantage of her stockpile of materials. (1034 W. 4th Ave.)

STEPHAN FINE ARTS— Presents "From Peacocks to Mountain Peaks." Enjoy impressionistic paintings of Alaska's dearly loved artist, Lynn Brattingham Boots at Stephan Fine Arts. Many paintings are en plein air (on location) in familiar locales, such as Point Woronzof, McHugh Creek, the Coastal Trail and Bird Point. (939 W. 5th Ave.)

UPSTAIRS STUDIO— Featuring the works of Upstairs Studio artists Carol Lambert and Dallas Wildewe. Carol is talented local painter who will be showing her collection of Old and New Favorite paintings. Dallas will be introducing her newest business, Bloomsbury Blooms, a bohemian florist with a unique mix of locally grown, foraged and imported beauty. (406 G St.)

AROUND TOWN

ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY GALLERIES— The Lean J. Peterson Gallery presents Jim Kaiser's "Alaskan Growth" exhibition, connecting cultural concepts with the language of art, creating designs through the medium of stained glass with an integration of cultural and artistic ideas. Annie Olson's "Water's Edge" exhibit was inspired by the likes of an egret taking flight over a lagoon in Mexico, a wildflower bending in the breeze by an Alaskan river, or just the flow of the water itself. The ConocoPhillips gallery features Deland Anderson's

new work, "Vast Horizons," featuring Alaska's majestic mountainscapes. Exhibits open through August 26. (4101 University Dr.)

MIDDLE WAY CAFE— Presents a group fiber show featuring fiber artists at Studio Spenard. The exhibit showcases work by Linda Weathermax, Jan Ingram, Akiko Sugimoto, Nancy Tleson, and Wendy Smith Wood. Exhibition runs through August 8. (1300 W. Northern Lights Blvd.)

MIDNIGHT SUN BREWING COMPANY— August's First Firkin Friday features local artists Justin Ritter and Phil Gilcrease who have created a colorful mixed media exhibit depicting Alaskan fish. (8111 Dimond Hook Dr.)

TERRA BELLA— Presents an exploration of duality, style and skateboards by William Kozloff. William Kozloff is an Alaska Native printmaker/stencil artist currently attending UAA. His work tends to revolve around the feminine figure and dabbles of writing and "hand-style" as a sort of single panel form of storytelling. This show will be at Terra Bella throughout August. (601 E. Dimond Blvd.)

UAA STUDENT UNION GALLERY— Presents "Twist/Volume/Edge," three stylish photo series by photographer and graphic artist Joel Adams. "Twist" is a detective story gone wrong. "Volume" features 25 photos of local musicians in action. "Edge" showcases 30 local models looking their best. Runs through Wednesday, August 15. (3211 Providence Dr.)