

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Huron-Manistee National Forests

1755 S. Mitchell Street, Cadillac, MI 49601



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ART GALLERY TO SHOWCASE PAINTINGS OF FORMER LODA LAKE RESIDENT ARTIST

On Tuesday evening, May 18th, the Michigan Garden Clubs, together with the Huron-Manistee National Forests, will be hosting the opening display of the Midwestern paintings by Albert Schmidt, former resident artist at what is now the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary.

Several of Mr. Schmidt's paintings have been donated to the Newaygo County Council for the Arts by his granddaughter, Karen Schmidt. The donation of paintings by Ms. Schmidt, who will be at the opening, was made in support of Loda Lake, the only wildflower sanctuary in a National Forest. The paintings will be permanently housed at the Dogwood Performing Arts Center in Fremont, Michigan and maintained by the Newaygo Arts Council.

Mr. Schmidt painted in the Hudson Valley/Impressionist style while at Loda Lake. After leaving Michigan, he relocated to New Mexico and continued painting, becoming well known as one of the Santa Fe Lost Colony Artists.

"We are absolutely thrilled that our partnership with the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan and local chapters continues to provide diverse recreational, botanical and cultural opportunities associated with Loda Lake. The collection of paintings by resident artist Albert Schmidt provides yet another tool to enhance our understanding and appreciation of the rich history of this special sanctuary," according to Patricia Ruta McGhan, Manistee National Forest Botanist.

The opening display of Mr. Schmidt's paintings will be at the Dogwood Performing Arts Center in Fremont from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18. For further information, please contact Ms. McGhan at (231) 745-4631.