

FOR INFORMATION:

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VOLUNTEER DONATES HAND-HOOKED RUG TO HISTORICAL VILLAGE

December 6, 2016 – Sanibel Historical Village volunteer Barbara Broadhurst recently donated a hand-hooked rug to the village for display. The approximately 4-foot-6-inches by seven-foot rug represents approximately 500 hours of labor and more than \$1,000 in material. It depicts the village's buildings with complete accuracy, with the buildings' names hooked in the border.

Broadhurst started hooking rugs in 1998 after seeing a demonstration at the Maryland State Fair. She started hooking patterns that had already been created. "Design, color choices, and methods of hooking each rug were part of the learning process," she explained.

Soon after, Broadhurst started creating her own patterns, which is how she made the rug for the village. "I like to hook things that are appropriate to Florida: birds, fish, animals, scenes of Florida," she said. "I have done a Sanibel map rug, and another depicting a Sanibel/Captiva postcard. I did one I call my Ding Darling rug because it has lots of birds."

Broadhurst has made rugs or pillows for all her children and grandchildren.

The method Broadhurst uses now requires an artistic ability to draw. She works from pictures to determine the size. "It isn't easy, but I love it. It's something I can do when I sit and watch television," Broadhurst said. She said this past summer was a good time to do the village rug, as she was recuperating from knee surgery.

The village rug was on Broadhurst's mind for a couple of years; she has been a docent since 2009. "I just hadn't quite figured out how to do it," she said. "When I knew I was going to be incapacitated, I thought it was time to get started."

Broadhurst collected each photograph from gift cards in the museum store and then took more photographs from different angles. She first drew each house onto brown paper to get the dimensions the way she wanted them. "Then I actually cut them out and pinned them to the linen backing in the order I wanted. After that, I drew them again by hand onto the linen using a marker. It progressed from there," Broadhurst explained.

Broadhurst hooks only with wool yardage, and a lot of it is recycled wool from wool clothing found at dress stores, for example. Some of the wool is just off the bolt and then dyed.



The rug is hanging in the video room in Shore Haven, where it is also a teaching tool, with trainers and tour guides using it to illustrate the different buildings. Broadhurst said once she makes a project for someone, she is happy to give it away.

“We are thrilled and proud to have this work of art on display,” said Emilie Alfino, museum executive director. “It is beautiful and unique and an example of someone’s love for the village.”

Meanwhile, Broadhurst is getting ready to do a pillow of her daughter’s new puppy.

The Sanibel Historical Museum and Village is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. It is located at 950 Dunlop Road (next to BIG ARTS). Docent-guided tours are available at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at no extra charge, based upon docent availability. There is handicap access to all buildings except one. For information, call 472-4648 during business hours or visit www.sanibelmuseum.org.

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