

## Artist participation in Off the Beaten Path tour rises dramatically

December 1, 2012 | By Christine Cole, Correspondent  
The number of artists taking part in this weekend's Off the

Beaten Path tour is up from 13 to 34.

Also, the number of studios has increased from seven to 12 and the number of guest artists has risen from five to 11.

New this year is potter Martin Cushman's Mount Plymouth studio, the co-op gallery Artisans in Fifth in Mount Dora, three artists' studios in the Sunset Building in Mount Dora, Trout Lake Nature Center and Anita Woods' studio in Tavares.



Woods, who has been painting Florida's foliage for many years, is known for her chartreuse, lime-green and blue-violet compositions of palm berries and banana blossoms.

She paints in a 12-foot by 24-foot room built onto the back of her house, using the top of her flat file instead of an easel.

Her newest piece is a profile of a Florida rose. "I don't normally like to do flowers," she said. "But you don't usually see roses from the side."

Painter Brenda Heim said last year's turnout for the inaugural Off the Beaten Path tour was good, but more important was the cross-promotion resulting from the grassroots level. Heim was involved in launching the tour of artists' studios and cultural venues, such as the Mount Dora Center for the Arts, the Leesburg Center for the Arts and the Lake Eustis Museum of Art.

"We had great cooperation between the artists and between the artists and the cultural venues," she said. "Everyone was and is committed."

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