



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2009

Eugene Beckham Art Exhibit Opens March 13

What: *Natural Inspirations: Art of Eugene Beckham*
When: March 13 – May 1, 2009; Opening reception Friday, March 13, 7 – 8.30 pm
Where: Creative Spirit Center, 1517 Bayliss Street, Midland
Cost: No charge; donations gratefully accepted
Hours: 8 am – 5 pm Monday – Friday; call for weekend and evening hours
Information: Call 989-837-1885 or visit [www:creativespiritcenter.org](http://www.creativespiritcenter.org)

[Midland] – Paintings, photographs, and illustrations of butterflies, birds, fish and flowers from the hand of Eugene Beckham will be exhibited in Creative Spirit Center's gallery beginning on March 13. The public is invited to view the exhibit through May 1, and to attend the opening reception on Friday, March 13, from 7 – 8.30 pm. There is no charge for admission to the exhibit or the reception. Dr. Beckham will attend the opening reception and discuss his work, travels, and inspirations. He has been widely acknowledged for the exquisite detail, color and composition of his work. His interest the spectacular biodiversity and intricate ecological relationships found in tropical rain forests is reflected in the selection of artwork for this exhibit.

About the artist

Eugene Beckham, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Science at Northwood University in Midland, earned degrees in biology from the University of Alabama and the Ph.D. in zoology from Louisiana State University. His interest in natural history extends from his work as an artist and illustrator to that of collector of 19th- and 20th-century natural history illustrations. He is the former Academic Dean of Northwood University's Midland campus and artist of Northwood's annual Christmas card. Four of his paintings are in the permanent collection of the McIlhenny Library of Natural History Art and Literature at Louisiana State University. He illustrated the *Peterson Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of North America*, *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Louisiana*, and *Enjoying Birds in Michigan*. With a special interest in tropical rain forests, he has traveled throughout the tropics of Central and South America, leading student programs in Costa Rica upon several occasions. His artwork and academic expertise include studies of wildflowers, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, and birds. Fifteen of his models and illustrations of reptiles are on exhibit at the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art at the Midland Center for the Arts through May 3.

About Creative Spirit Center

Creative Spirit Center is a not-for-profit community arts organization founded in 1994. The Center's mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, conferences, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, psychological and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities.

Printed Winter/Spring 2009 schedules showing all classes and events at Creative Spirit Center are available at no charge. Telephone 837-1885 to have schedules delivered to your business or location, or mailed to your home.

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