

Art and Arf at Behnke's Nursery  
Getting Around  
[By Cissy Finley Grant/The Almanac](#)  
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Behnke's has gone to the dogs!

"Maggie," the Behnke mascot was there as were "Poppy," "Diva," "Buzz," and "Editor," among others.

They were the real cast of characters in attendance at the Potomac Artists in Touch (PAinT) opening reception for "The Dog Days of Summer" at Behnke Nurseries on Saturday, Aug. 4.

It was decidedly an art and arf evening where about 80 art and animal enthusiasts gathered at the River Road nursery to promote talent and tail-wagging while sipping Boordy Vineyards' finest, accompanied by a delectable array of hors d' oeuvres.

PAinT chose PetConnect as its philanthropic mission for this occasion. Fifteen local artists comprise the PAinT makeup.

According to member Anne Martinez, the purpose of the 7-year-old organization is to encourage the appreciation of art in Potomac.

"They chose our group to benefit from a percentage of their art sales during 'The Dog Days of Summer,'" PetConnect board member Carole Dell said.

PetConnect volunteers endeavor to find homes for dogs and cats who have either been abandoned or left in shelters. Their objective is to pair animals with suitable families. "We placed over 100 dogs following Hurricane Katrina, either by re-uniting them with their families or finding homes for them," Dell said.

"What we need most now are fostering parents," Dell explained.

"Wherever we find a need we will take an animal and try to find a foster home for it until the right home comes along," she continued.

The organization, comprised of six hard-core workers, and numerous others who pitch in on occasion, does not have a shelter for the animals. "But," Dell added, "we never give up."

WHILE THE FOUR-legged friends socialized, with the exception of "Tandi," a tabby cat who nestled in her cage, their human counterparts admired wall after wall of paintings, including Cherry Dearie's watercolors; Vian Borchert's moderns including her award-winning "Young Man In Pink Tie;" Anne Martinez's popular rooster; Karin Colton's pigs; Terri Cunningham's landscapes; and, one of the most popular of all, Mary Moltz's portrait of "Biscuit," Flaps restaurant owner, Bob Rood's late Hungarian sheep dog. From beagles to bagels it was a class act.

'Dog Days' Display

"Dog Days of Summer," an exhibit featuring works by Potomac Artists in Touch (PAinT), will be on display at Behnke's Nursery, 9545 River Road, Potomac, Aug. 4-25. See

[www.potomacartists.org](http://www.potomacartists.org).

A percentage of sales from

PAinT's "Dog Days of Summer" exhibit go to

PetConnect, a private nonprofit animal welfare

organization based in

Montgomery County

committed to helping

homeless animals become

treasured family pets. See

[www.petconnectrestcue.org](http://www.petconnectrestcue.org).



Photos by Cissy Finley

Grant/The Almanac

Ellie Trueman, (left)

introduces 'Editor' to Jan

Thomson, an employee at

the World Vision

Humanitarian Foreign

Agency. 'Editor,' according

to Truman, has commas,

semicolons and lots of

periods incorporated in his

markings.



Photos by Cissy Finley Grant/The Almanac Behnke Nurseries board chairman, John Peter Thompson (left) and his cousin Michael Behnke arrived at the party with 'Maggie,' the company mascot. Thompson said they are the third generation of Behnkes to run the business in the United States. Their great-grandfather, the founder, remained in Germany.



Photos by Cissy Finley Grant/The Almanac "Poppy," a Shih-tzu, restrained by her owner, Cherry Dearie, a member of PAINT, was an official greeter at the "Dog Days of Summer" reception.



Photos by Cissy Finley  
Grant/The Almanac  
'Diva,' a 6-year-old English  
Springer spaniel, takes her  
name seriously.



Photos by Cissy Finley  
Grant/The Almanac  
Anne Martinez's rooster  
painting was among the  
crowd favorites. Martinez  
(above) said that the next  
PAinT showing will start in  
October at Potomac-area  
banks.



Photos by Cissy Finley  
Grant/The Almanac  
Karin Colton's pigs and still  
life, shown above, were  
among her numerous  
entries.

