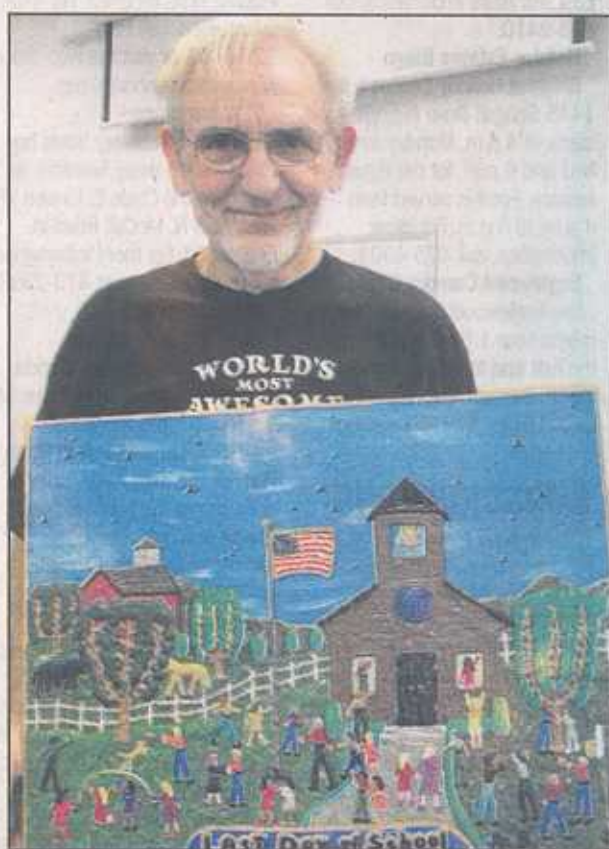


# Lemon Bay Fest kicks off



SUN PHOTOS BY DANA SANCHEZ,  
dsanchez@sun-herald.com

Florida Folk Artist Jack Beverland displayed and sold his work Saturday at Englewood Charlotte Library as part of Lemon Bay Festival activities.

**LEFT:** Keagan Roeder, 5, makes a Florida treasure box Saturday at Englewood Charlotte Library under the guidance of Florida folk artist Jack Beverland, who made a presentation on the history of Florida folk art as part of the weeklong Lemon Bay Festival activities. The festival runs through Saturday.

## Weeklong celebration begins with artistic challenge

By **DANA SANCHEZ**

ASSISTANT ENGLEWOOD EDITOR

ENGLEWOOD — Florida folk artist Jack Beverland suffered an accident, disability and unemployment before becoming an artist.

Somewhere along the journey, he became a master at promoting himself.

Saturday at the Englewood Charlotte Library, Beverland was invited to make a presentation on Florida folk art and Very Special Artists of Florida — an organization that advances art by disabled people.

Beverland followed the presentation with a class on how to make Florida treasure boxes using painted tobacco

boxes, glitter, glue and brightly colored dime store items.

Along with multiple pieces of his own original artwork, Beverland brought brochures on VSA Arts of Florida, brochures on himself, and a 2,978-page book on "Who's Who in The World." He's in it.

Attending the class were children from age 5 up to adults.

Artists Helen Searle of South Venice and Charmayne Marston of Englewood came to make Florida treasure boxes, and each ended up buying one of Beverland's paintings with \$360 price tags.

"I want to promote his work," Searle said. "It's exceptional. I was overwhelmed with his

story, how he's turned around his life with art and how he shares it with others."

Beverland, 70, was at the top of his game working for a chain store when, at age 47, he was in a car accident that left him disabled. Unemployment soon followed, and, with it, feelings of rejection and loneliness that turned to rage.

His early work shows his anger, and he carries it with him to the numerous presentations he gives all over Florida. Through his art, he says he found peace.

His current work portrays rural southern life, biblical scenes like Noah's Ark and the Garden of Eden, sunsets and

old-fashioned schoolhouses.

He creates 60 to 70 paintings a year using fabric paint, glow-in-the-dark paint and acrylics.

He takes his Florida treasure box classes, along with a truckload of supplies needed to make them, to schools, libraries, hospitals and events like the Lemon Bay Fest. Beverland is a substitute teacher in Pasco County and lives in San Antonio, Fla.

The treasure boxes are free. The paintings will cost you.

Searle bought a work named "Watermelon Time." Marston's piece was a vibrant sunset in tactile dabs of gooey paint

# AL: Fall fest activities begin with artists' challenge



Overwhelmed by Florida folk artist Jack Beverland's work, Helen Searle of South Venice bought one of his paintings Saturday at Englewood Charlotte Library as part of Lemon Bay Festival activities.

## FROM PAGE 1

named "Brilliant Sunset."

Both women were delighted with their good fortune.

Making treasure boxes together gave Scarlett Hilton, 5, and mom Krista Hilton a chance to bond.

"When I was growing up I had a small treasure box," Krista said. "I put rocks, flowers and leaves in it. I wanted her to have one as well to put under the bed."

Scarlett said she plans to put shells in her box and keep journal entries in it for show and tell.

Kyle Citro, 14, said his will be a memory box.

Keagan Roeder, 5, is going to put Barbie and Polly Pocket dolls in hers.

Journey Roeder, 10, isn't sure what she'll put in her treasure box.

"Special things," she said.

Beverland buys the shells, starfish and plastic stuff he uses for the treasure boxes at Goodwill, yard sales and junk shops.

He has about 20 different themes for the treasure boxes. On Monday, he's doing Valentine's treasure boxes for sick children at a Shriners hospital. The following week, he'll do Easter treasure boxes.

"It's just so unique, his work," Marston said. "His presentation was fabulous."

For a schedule of this week's Lemon Bay Festival events, go to [www.lemonbayfest.com](http://www.lemonbayfest.com).

E-mail: [dsanchez@sun-herald.com](mailto:dsanchez@sun-herald.com)



SUN PHOTOS BY DANA SANCHEZ  
dsanchez@sun-herald.com

Scarlett Hilton, 5, and mom Krista Hilton share a mother-daughter activity making Florida treasure boxes Saturday at Englewood Charlotte Library as part of Lemon Bay Festival activities.



Journey Roeder, 10, picks out items to use on her Florida treasure box during an activity held Saturday at Englewood Charlotte Library as part of the Lemon Bay Festival.