

LAGUNA WOODS

GLOBE



Barbara Marsh, who teaches water color classes through the Art Association, stands next to one of her favorite paintings, entitled "The Grandfather," in the living room of her Laguna Woods home. Marsh is the Laguna Woods Honoree for April.

> JEFFERY ANTENORE, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HONOR BARBARA MARSH PAGE 3

Barbara Marsh named Honoree of Month for April

BY PEGGY BLIZZARD
THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Organizing and formulating a system to choose the artwork for permanent display at Clubhouse 7 and her work as president of the Garden Club are among the activities that mean the most to Barbara Marsh, the Historical Society's Honoree of the Month for April.

The Historical Society will honor Marsh in a ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 1 at Clubhouse 6.

Recalling the Clubhouse 7 artwork display, Marsh said, "I'm really proud of that. We had people five rows deep looking at the art at the opening."

Marsh was an elementary teacher in the Long Beach Unified School District for 23 years where she said "art was important in the classroom" but she really didn't get serious about it personally until after she retired. She started out with Chinese brush painting then went into water color which she currently teaches through the Laguna Woods Art Association at the Clubhouse 4 art studio.

What she loves about water color, said Marsh, is "it's more transparent, much more light and airy whereas oils are heavier. As you can see I'm into light and airy," said Marsh, noting the wide windows in her manor letting the sunlight stream in on a recent morning.

Gardening has been a life-long interest for Marsh. Her father raised prize dahlias and often took her to the begonia farm down the street from their home. She recalls having a Victory garden in high school. She organized the Village Garden Club's first Garden Fair in which experts in all areas were invited. Twenty tables were set up in Clubhouse 1 and tea tables set up in the



Barbara Marsh, the Laguna Woods Honoree of the Month for April, prunes flowers in the front garden of her home. > JEFFREY ANTENORE, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

middle. "It was like a festival," recalled Marsh. The event was put on for two years but became a lot of work in addition to the club's annual Garden Show which is coming up in April. However, Marsh is not ruling out another Garden Fair in the future, noting, "Some people in the club have come up with wonderful new ideas."

Marsh was also involved in organizing a number of pilot programs early on.

She was the president of a group of parents who started a cooperative nursery school that later became affiliated with Ventura Junior College and its Early Childhood Education and parent education program.

After visiting classrooms in England,

the Art Association's Volunteer of the Year in 2004.

She also especially enjoyed organizing a group last year to take cookies to PCM employees at the Community Center to show how much they were appreciated.

"I enjoy everything I do," said Marsh.

Marsh and her husband of 63 years, George, moved the Laguna Woods Village 10 years ago, and are the parents of three daughters, Jeanette Tabor, Nancy Marsh and Juli Schoenberger, and have six grandchildren.

Since moving to the Village Marsh has stayed in the background politically for the most part but recent events have caused her to speak out at some meetings.

"I get angry when people attack others personally and call people names. I like to think there is good in everybody and in the long run people can work together to make a better community."

To that end Marsh is involved in establishing a new group called Friends of the Village to emphasize the positive that exists in Laguna Woods Village. The group is in the formative stages now, but will be established, said Marsh.

Marsh developed, for the Long Beach district, an open curriculum classroom pilot program -not open architecturally, she emphasizes. Students from Long Beach State would come to observe. "The children loved it. It taught them how to think." The Sputnik happened, Marsh recalled, and it was back to the traditional way of teaching the curriculum.

Marsh was also elected by her fellow teachers in Long Beach to select mento teachers.

"I really thing my teaching experience helped me be a better water color teacher, especially in the beginning aspect of it. Organization is a big part in that, too," said Marsh, who was named