



For Immediate Release  
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## **DAMARISCOTTA RIVER GRILL TO SHOWCASE TALENT OF FOUR LOCAL PAINTERS AT RESTAURANT'S APRIL 8 "ART AT THE GRILL" ARTISTS' RECEPTION**

Work to be exhibited at the Grill, April 8-May 17

**Damariscotta, Maine** – The Damariscotta River Grill's popular "Art at the Grill" series continues with an impressive group of local artists known for the unique, community-based support aspect of their work. Chef Rick Hirsch and General Manager Jean Kerrigan, owners of the Damariscotta River Grill ([www.damariscottarivergrill.com](http://www.damariscottarivergrill.com)) and creators of the distinctive program, announced today a reception on April 8, 4-6 p.m., in honor of the show aptly titled "Painting in Community."

Artists Nancy O'Brien MacKinnon, Ruth Monsell, Karen Rutan and Liliana Thelander are part of a supportive community of artists with years of history working, learning, encouraging, growing and exhibiting together that, according to Kerrigan, adds a palpable energy to the show.

"These four very talented artists bring their own sensibilities to their work backed by the impact and influence they have on each other," Kerrigan explained. "Our guests are sure to appreciate the real sense of community evident in the works they will be sharing with us."

Hosted by the Damariscotta River Grill, the artists' reception will feature one-on-one time with the artists, along with appetizers and cocktails from the midcoast Maine restaurant's creative menu. The artists' work will be on display at the Grill April 8 - May 17.

Ruth Monsell ([www.ArtfulHeirlooms.com](http://www.ArtfulHeirlooms.com)) of Damariscotta has been a full-time artist since 2000. She has studied with famed portrait artists Daniel Greene and Margaret Carter Baumgaertner and honed her skills in painting classes and plein air workshops. Highlights of her career are five solo shows, numerous group shows and an exhibition of alewives oils at the Maine Art Gallery in 2008. In this show, she will exhibit paintings from her Alewives series, examples of her portraiture, and peopled beach scenes.

As a competitive swimmer, swim teacher and coach, Nancy O'Brien MacKinnon is fascinated with the pool and is known for her works that capture the looseness of water. Using acrylics, her paintings in this show will focus on her floral studies. Her work has been shown in local galleries, including River Arts, Bristol Library and Round Top Center for the Arts.

Karen Rutan will share her passion for landscapes, wildlife and water views from sailing vessels. She is well known for capturing the angular views and geometrical spaces from boat decks, especially sailboats. Her hope is that viewers might experience peaceful, serene feelings through her work.

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Liliana Thelander started her art career with stained glass and, today, focuses on still life, animal portraiture and wild life, especially birds and seascapes. Her work can be seen in exhibitions at the Maine Art Gallery in Wiscasset, the Boothbay Region Art Foundation, the Tidemark Gallery in Waldoboro and at River Arts in Damariscotta. Her work also has been shown at the TIME Gallery in Portland.

Now in its fifth year, the "Art at the Grill" series brings recognition to area artists and has become an integral part of the area's social scene. Throughout 2010, the Grill will host more than 15 artists, from painters to potters, photographers to fabric artists.

For more information about Art at the Grill, visit [www.damariscottarivergrill.com](http://www.damariscottarivergrill.com). For dinner reservations, call 207-563-2992.

**About the Damariscotta River Grill:**

Since its successful launch in late 2003, the Damariscotta River Grill has firmly established itself as a welcome addition to the coastal Maine dining scene. Owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Rick Hirsch (Executive Chef) and Jean Kerrigan (General Manager), the popular restaurant's creative menu features fresh local shellfish, produce and meats, a Wine Spectator Award-winning wine list, and is a favorite of locals and visitors alike.

*For further information about Damariscotta River Grill or to schedule an interview with Chef Hirsch or General Manager Jean Kerrigan, contact Ann Ewing at Front Burner PR at Ph: 207/699-5500 or [ann@frontburnerpr.com](mailto:ann@frontburnerpr.com).*

*Easily downloadable photos are available at [www.frontburnerpr.com/drg](http://www.frontburnerpr.com/drg)*

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