

Espy Foundation celebrates work of three visiting writers

OYSTERVILLE — The Espy Foundation celebrated the residencies for three artists Sunday afternoon at the future site of the facility they are planning to build in Oysterville. The residents include Susan Englert, Lauren Osmolski and Mary Preus according to Sabrina Kent, head of Espy Programs.

Susan Englert from Pittsburgh, Pa. spent her time in Oysterville designing a collection of jewelry to be worn by individuals with chronic medical conditions. Susan says, "The compelling question at the heart of my project is how artful adornments infused with symbols, icons and motifs can shape an afflicted individual's persona, create a new paradigm of intrigue and sensuality within and towards the wearer and sustain interest and refresh curiosity in ongoing, self-directed care for those dealing with conditions like asthma, diabetes and MS."

The project was inspired by Susan's own struggle with diabetes. A visual artist and an architect, Susan is embracing a new direction in her artwork by focusing on this sculptural jewelry design project.

Lauren Osmolski is an artist-blacksmith from Seattle. Her latest series of sculptures is a collection of animal masks. Describing this project, Lauren says, "Our desire as humans is to transfer our emotions on to animals to communicate and understand ourselves as eternal. I am particularly interested in Northwest Coast Indian art and the design principles of the Art Nouveau Movement. While very different from each other, they are both deeply informed stylistically by nature."

A horticulturalist and a success-

ful non-fiction writer, Mary Preus came to Oysterville from Seattle to work on her first novel. The novel, nearing completion, is set in a coastal town in the Pacific Northwest. Mary has published "The Northwest Herb Lovers' Handbook," "Growing Herbs" and "The Leek Cookbook" as well as numerous newspaper and magazine articles.

Englert said, "Oysterville is charming, serene and yet lively. There are many helpful people here ready to haul, donate or loan whatever we need." Osmolski added, "I love (Oysterville). There are so many intelligent, quirky people here." Preus remarked, "Oysterville is wonderful. The beauty, quiet, friendly people and noisy frogs were delightful."

The Espy Foundation is a non-profit organization created in 1998 to advance and encourage the literary and linguistic arts. The foundation fulfills its vision through an on-going residency program for outstanding artistic voices; an annual Willard R. Espy Award, given to one writer each year in a selected genre; the Espy Library, housing a significant book collection and a Humanities and Arts Education Program for area high-school students. The foundation is named for Willard R. Espy, a wordsmith and memoirist whose prolific career celebrated language, word play, and light verse.

Four Ilwaco students, Jordan Benning, Jasmin Schaefer, Michael Veland and Scott Clardy were also present to share their experiences from a recent Centrum Workshop the students attended, thanks to financial support of the Espy Foundation.



Susan Englert, Mary Preus and Lauren Osmolski are finishing their residencies at the prestigious Espy Foundation.