

For Immediate Release -

Art Exhibition Opening: **Wild, Wondrous Africa** Photo exhibit by Charlene Edwards with Michael A. Pergola

EUSTIS – Lake Eustis Museum of Art brings images of today's Africa to visitors through the exhibition: *Wild, Wondrous Africa*, with over 100 photos by Charlene Edwards, with Michael A. Pergola. The exhibit opens with receptions at the Museum and Eustis City Hall Gallery from 6 – 9 p.m. March 12, 2009, and runs through April 19. Edwards will also show her *African Birds 'n Beasts* educational presentation featuring over 550 images and unusual bird and animal facts at the art museum at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 14.

Lake County residents Edwards and Pergola explored and photographed Africa's dramatic and beautiful scenes, wildlife and people. The images on exhibit were taken over the past three decades.

"Seeing the vast plains teeming with wildlife brought me back to my childhood days of awe and wonder," says Pergola, a Vietnam war veteran.

"While you are there, Africa tends to pull you in, heighten your senses and challenge you to live a grander life than ever before," says Edwards. "After you dare leave, it nags at you regularly to return. My memories of the endless plains, brilliant sunsets, wide-eyed, open-faced natives, humble thatched huts contrasting against luxurious safari lodges, and of course the vast array of magnificent animals and birds, sustain me until I return.

"Africa is a place of life that I feel, breathe and dream about in living color," Edwards continues. "For me, Africa fuels a thousand wishes, dreams and hopes."

Edwards' photographs have been exhibited in many galleries, New York's Museum of Natural History, and the International Center of Photography, and has been featured in the New York Times, New York Daily News, Boston Globe, Manhattan Arts, and Chicago Tribune, among others. She was the photo-coordinator for the award-winning documentary, *The Class of the 20th Century*, and more than 50 of her images have been used by pop artist Peter Max. Ms. Edwards is also the author and photographer of the award-winning book, *Voices From Vietnam*.

Lake Eustis Museum of Art is located at 200 B East Orange Ave., Eustis, FL 32726. Hours are Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Weekends noon – 4. Closed Monday. For more information call 352-483-2900 or visit www.lakeeustismuseumofart.org. Eustis City Hall Gallery is open during regular city business hours.

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Hamer Woman by Edwards



Red Sand Dunes of Sossusvlei, Namibia by Edwards