

For Immediate Release  
May 25, 2011

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**Pound Ridge Library**  
271 Westchester Avenue, Pound Ridge, NY  
Presents

**‘Shelters, Caves and More’**  
**An Exhibit of Artwork by Susan McCaslin**  
*Inspired by The Old Leather Man*  
July 23 - September 3, 2011

**Artist Walk & Talk**  
with Susan McCaslin  
Friday, August 19, 2011 at 7:15 pm

**Lecture and Book Signing**  
Dan W. DeLuca, author of “The Old Leather Man, Historical Accounts  
of a Connecticut and New York Legend”  
Friday, August 19, 2011 at 7:45 pm

**POUND RIDGE, NY** -- Drawings, Paintings and Small Installations by Susan McCaslin will be exhibited at the Pound Ridge Library, 271 Westchester Avenue, Pound Ridge, NY from July 23 through September 3, 2011. The work is inspired by the Old Leather Man, a Connecticut legend who lived in the second half of the 19th century.

In addition to the exhibit, events are planned for Friday evening, August 19, 2011. At 7:15 pm, Ms. McCaslin will conduct a 20 minute Walk & Talk. At 7:45 pm, Dan DeLuca, an expert on the Old Leather Man, will present a short film and lecture followed by an informal discussion and book signing. Refreshments will be served. These events are free, open to the public, and appropriate for all ages.

McCaslin's interest in the Leather Man was sparked by a doll collector in North Branford who owned a rare Leather Man doll – a clump of old leather with a small face poking out from under a hat. With the help of the Internet, McCaslin learned that the Leather Man spent the last six years of his life traveling the same circuitous route every 34 days, a 365-mile journey that passed through at least 41 towns. He took refuge and slept in caves and shelters along the way. Even though he did not speak to people, many fed him and helped him survive. His clothing, which was made from thick, heavy leather and his obsessive traveling, was a source of interest and Leather Man sightings were frequently mentioned in the local papers. These mentions and fabricated stories about his roots added to the legend, making his solitary life difficult. As curiosity seekers searched out his shelters, he was forced to find new ones that were farther off the beaten path.

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It is in wondering about the Old Leather Man's perspective that McCaslin finds her inspiration. She is drawn to the solitary aspect of his life, to the caves where he slept, to his few possessions such as cups and pipes that he fashioned from cast off metals. What caught his attention as he walked? Did he have familiar landmarks, familiar bits of nature to let him know that he was on the right path? Might he have had pets – not in the traditional sense but creatures he came upon repeatedly whose trust he might have gained?

Visitors will find a varied and unique group of drawings and paintings. Historical text and thoughts from the artist will also be available as part of the exhibit giving a broader experience for all. A free activity page will be available for younger visitors to peak their interest in the work and in the legend of the Old Leather Man.

### **About Susan McCaslin**

Susan McCaslin is an artist living in New Haven CT. She earned her BFA from Pratt Institute. She has exhibited on both coasts and is a member of Loft Artists Association in Stamford CT. She and her husband George Corsillo own Design Monsters, a small graphic design studio in New Haven CT. Contact: [susan@susammccaslin.com](mailto:susan@susammccaslin.com)

### **About Dan Deluca**

**DAN DELUCA** is a genealogist, a Meriden, Connecticut historian, and a retired high school teacher. He has been researching the Leather Man for twenty years and is the leading expert on the subject. Contact: [danwdeluca@aol.com](mailto:danwdeluca@aol.com)

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