

April 21, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Sommer Toffle, SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator  
(724) 238-6015

Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator  
(724) 238-6015

## **SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY GARDEN PARTY PROMISES A *REEL* GOOD TIME**

Ligonier – There is nothing fishy about the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley’s 14<sup>th</sup> annual Garden Party, “Hooked on Art.” SAMA is partnering with the Forbes Trail Chapter of Trout Unlimited for this event that will offer an evening of fine dining, live music, dancing, silent and live auctions, and a variety of fishing-themed activities. The Garden Party will be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 30 at the Museum. Serving as co-chairs are Josita Karolyi, David Miller and Molly Miesse Miller.

As part of the unique partnership, Garden Party guests will be treated to several fly-fishing presentations by Trout Unlimited members. Leo Vensel and Ken Vallino will present demonstrations on the art of fly casting and fly tying, while Scott Minster and Monty Murty will offer historic trout angling artifacts and rare fly-fishing memorabilia. Also featured will be the special student art exhibition, *Trout in the Classroom*, by students of Valley School of Ligonier.

“It has been a great experience partnering with our local chapter of Trout Unlimited,” said SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator Sommer Toffle. “They are a fabulous not-for-profit organization and do so much in terms of education and conservation in the Ligonier Valley. Monty Murty has been an intricate part of our Garden Party Committee, sharing the history and correlation between visual art and fly fishing and helping us to seamlessly tie the two together. The Committee and chairs have done an outstanding job organizing all of the details of our signature event and they’ve been a great group to work with.”

Sure to be a splash at this year’s event are the splendid shopping opportunities available in the live and silent auctions. Guests will be able to bid on a variety of items including original artwork, vacation packages, antiques, collectibles, and gift baskets. Highlights include an original Chas Fagan painting, a private themed wine reception at the Museum, a log cabin get-away in the Laurel Highlands, and a guided fly-fishing adventure for four along one of the region’s beautiful trout streams.

Guests also will be treated to cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and an elegant gourmet dinner prepared by chefs from Vallozzi's restaurants in Greensburg and Pittsburgh. Live music for the evening will be provided by the Rick Purcell Band featuring Shari Richards. The group plays hits from the 1930s through present day and has performed at receptions, parties and affairs throughout the Pittsburgh region. The Garden Party also will include a special presentation recognizing the Auxiliary's 2015 Distinguished Honoree, Bonnie Hoffman.

The Garden Party begins at 5 p.m. on May 30. Cost is \$125 per person. The event is open to the public, though reservations are requested by May 20. For reservations or additional information, please call the Museum at (724) 238-6015 or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).

Since its opening in 1976, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art has been devoted to its mission of collecting and exhibiting 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century American art to the rural communities of Southwestern and Central Pennsylvania. Since that time, the Museum's permanent collection has grown to number more than 4,200 works of art. With four sites located in Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier and Loretto, SAMA is able to reach tens of thousands every year with its world-class exhibitions and award-winning education programs. Each of SAMA's four sites is open to the public free of charge.