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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Coldwell Banker Commercial Lakeland Office Holds Annual Bar-B-Q for Hundreds with Artist Thomas Brooks**

**Lakeland, FL (October 25, 2006)**

On a warm, sunny Florida fall day, the Coldwell Banker Commercial Saunders Real Estate (CBCSRE) team prepares their annual last-minute check before receiving hundreds of guests to the company's biggest event of the year, held at Lakeland's Sun 'n Fun facility.

Dean Saunders, ALC, Licensed Real Estate Broker, owner of CBCSRE, and in-house BBQ specialist tends to the 16 port butts and 14 slabs of ribs that are slow-cooked by the Saunders Cook Team for over 24 hours in the huge Saunders Real Estate BBQ Smoker Grille. The Saunders Cook Team is headed by Saunders and Jimmy Allen and includes many of the Saunders Real Estate sales associates. "We love to provide this fun event for our clients and potential clients, and our media friends as an extra 'thank you' for a successful year for all of us. It is good to get a chance to be together in a relaxed environment and just visit." Guests enjoyed over six gallons of cole slaw, 14 gallons of baked beans,



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six gallons of potato salad and 200 buns, along with the BBQ meat. Over 200 photos were taken by professional photographer Cannon Kirby.

This was the second annual BBQ event that is quickly becoming a popular and anticipated tradition for Saunders. Over 200 invited guests attended, each enjoying a superb BBQ meal, music, and camaraderie. Fitting the atmosphere, the music of Jerry Mincey ([www.jerrymincey.com](http://www.jerrymincey.com)) filled the air with country favorites for everyone.

Each year, Saunders commissions one painting of Florida Land. "I am a 6<sup>th</sup>-generation Floridian and appreciate the beauty of the land around us. I have worked with Florida land for decades, either with conservation legislative work or in real estate. I want to take the opportunity to capture that and share the natural beauty of our State with others," says Saunders. The original, commissioned painting is placed in the offices of CBCSRE, while a limited edition of signed and numbered lithographs are given as gifts to those who attend.

The artist-of-choice is Thomas Brooks, well-known Florida landscape artist. At the event, Brooks sets up shop and works on the painting that is now commissioned for the future 2007 event. Guests are encouraged to interact with and ask questions of the event's artist-in-residence.

Brooks' work has gained wide recognition locally and nationally and is selected again, among other commissions, by the State of Florida to create a five-year series of paintings for the sponsor Print of the Year from 2007–2011. Brooks offers, "My paintings begin with that glimpse of a moment in time that stirs an emotion within me to paint a particular scene. I strive to compose the work in such a way as to portray the spirit and mood of the subject rather than its' outward appearance." The works of



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Thomas Brooks now appear in many corporate, public, and private collections and are featured in many publications

Saunders tells about the huge BBQ Grille, purchased in 2005 in anticipation of utilizing it for events such as this, as well as offering it to qualified area non-profits for specific fundraisers. The Smoker Grille is electric, burns wood pellets, has 15 racks and cooks up to 600 pounds of pork butts. The smoker, affixed to its own trailer, is over six feet tall and five feet wide. The Smoker Grille is available to non-profit organizations by qualification, reservation, and availability. For more information on reserving the Grille, contact the Coldwell Banker Commercial Saunders Real Estate office at 863-648-1528.

Coldwell Banker Commercial Saunders Real Estate has over 35 Sales Associates covering the State of Florida and beyond. Known for their land deals, CBCSRE Sales Associates also are experts in conservation, commercial, and land property management. ERA Saunders Residential has 17 Sales Associates and allows Saunders to offer clients full-service real estate assistance.

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