

Third annual Arts Festival was a success last Saturday

By Elodi McBride

WORTHINGTON - "It was a great day!" "So many artists!" These were a few comments heard throughout July 6 by the organizers of the third annual Arts Festival organizers. The festival was successful thanks to its sponsors Arts Alive in the Hilltowns, the Hilltown Artisans Guild, and the First Congregational Church.

The center of town was alive with fanciful, colorful yarn bomb creations, built on cardboard tubes. At the Welcome Tent, there was Nessie, the Loch Ness monster, along with the dancing yarn people. The core of

the festival was held on the grounds between the Russell H. Conwell Building, the First Congregational Church, and the town hall. Patrons had a long boulevard to stroll along and views of all types of artistry and crafts. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed the day's presentations, demonstrations, and musical performances.

Ed Pelletier, director of the Hilltown Artisans Guild, said, "Every artist/artisan that I spoke with said that they had a great time. There was a great variety of art work offered for sale and display."

Quilter Helen Pelletier displayed her "Patriotic Stars"

Continued on page 10



The welcome booth at the Arts Festival in Worthington was surrounded by Nessie and yarn people.

Photo by Elodi McBride

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Cindy Manley and her granddaughters Carlea and Liliana Manley looked over the items for sale from Earth Song Farm during the Arts Festival.

Photo by Elodi McBride



Dave Bowman of Cumington and Kevin O'Connor of Worthington/New York City, posed after discussing O'Connor's wooden artwork.

Photo by Elodi McBride

ARTS FESTIVAL

from page 1

quilt. Yoko Kendall created beautiful beaded necklaces and was pleased with the patrons who admired the necklaces.

"The Arts Festival was sizzling success," said Marie Burkhart. She enjoyed the long boulevard of vendors. Irene Lefebvre of Worthington created handmade Native American drums from tanned leather. Beau Porter and Chris Traverse of Hatfield set up "Woodland Fabrication," their metal art work including metal roses and repurposed bikes.

There were "a dollar a minute" massages offered by Joa Agnello, a licensed massage therapy of Earth Song Farm, Chesterfield. New to the fair was Andrew Jack of Old Post Road who had made Windsor chairs. Silvia Snape of Plainfield had a new "Hilltown Fiber Arts" table and was looking for other members to join her. Ben Brown had handmade chairs and did demonstrations. Guy Pulley of Annendale, New Jersey displayed original watercolor prints and cards. Chee Bee Silkey of Otis offered handmade shoulder bags. Also for the first time, Brad Fisk of Middlefield sold his handmade wooden toys.

There was a wonderful selection of nearly sixty talented local artists, many of whom did demonstrations and offering lots of opportunities to buy unique treasures, according to Natalie Stafford, Arts Alive organizer.

There was a silent auction of artwork, antiques, and furniture. Organizer Mary Pulley said that the auction went well and all the money goes to the Arts Alive.

One of the most interesting donations was a Victorian couch donated by Wayne Fisk, which earned a generous amount for the Arts Alive. Several custom upholstered antique

chairs and a vintage quilt were won by Dave and Didi Shiffer, owners of The Blackburn Inn. A Josh Simpson bowl was donated and was won.

There were several items donated for fundraising for the Worthington Historical Society as well. "In my opinion, it was pretty successful. And we did make some money," she said with a laugh.

The Worthington Historical Society's tent was staff by Diane Brenner and Pat Kennedy. According to Brenner, it helped that there were so many quality exhibitors, and that there was a breeze and some clouds that helped make a very hot day feel more comfortable.

The church raffle winners were Jill Shippee, who won a handmade quilt made by Brenda Mason; Keith Porter won the handmade afghan made by Doris Bartlett; Tad Mason won the scale model picnic table made by John Mollison; Mike Lucey of Easthampton won the floral painting by Natalie Stafford; Michala Torres won the picnic table made by John Mollison, and Nancy Babcock won the doll set Adirondack chairs made by Christian Healy of Chesterfield.

"It took a huge amount of work to make the Festival happen. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up and take down tents, signs and yarnbombings, as well as running the bake sale, cooking, grilling, silent auction, raffle, children's activities and more. We look forward to hearing from even more people who will volunteer to help make this community event continue."

Any suggestions for next year's Festival can be mailed to Arts Alive, PO Box # 33, Worthington, MA 01098.