

This Year's Boat Show Honors Workers Along for the Ride 20 Years or More

By Amy Polk

By 6:30 a.m. Boat Show morning, Joni Izzard is making coffee and setting out doughnuts for Festival of Arts participants.

"I really like the morning of Boat Show, when the dawn is just starting to break over the show," she said.

She is one of more than 30 volunteers being honored for working 20 years or more at either the Les Cheneaux Antique Wooden Boat Show or Festival of Arts. The honored volunteers will be introduced during this morning's opening ceremonies, at about 10:15 a.m.

"I'm usually gone by the time the show starts," said Mrs. Izzard, who has volunteered on the Festival of Arts Committee for at least 22 years. She started when she was in college, and continues coming back during summer breaks from her job as a teacher at Les Cheneaux Community Schools.

She helps organize the 70 artisans at the show and serves on the committee that selects artists from the many applicants who seek a spot in the festival. With only 70 spaces available, the committee must meet months before the show and select the artists who will get a space. Volunteers also send invitations to artists, stake out spaces for the festival booths the night before, and welcome them to the show the next morning.

A slew of nearly 200 volunteers make the Les Cheneaux Islands Boat Show and Festival of Arts what R.B. Smith calls "the best community show or event I've ever seen anywhere in this country."

Mr. Smith, a Hessel resident who was born and raised here, is among the more than 30 volunteers who have helped with the show 20 years or more. He left the Les Cheneaux Islands to serve in the United States Navy and returned in 1984. He attended his first Boat Show in 1985, and was recruited to work the show the following year. Ever since, he has anticipated the annual show like a kid looks forward to Christmas, and this is Mr. Smith's 21st boat show.

"When it's February and I think about the Boat Show, it's like how I feel about Christmas coming," he said. "If someone asked me what

Volunteers To Be Honored at This Year's Show

David Altmaier, Jay Altmaier, Jan Baron, Len Baron, Marshall Bean, Mark Clymer, Phyllis Delooff, Kathy Fountain, Steve Fountain, Shirley Garner, Annegret Goehring, Brent Heerspink, Gerry Izzard, Joni Izzard, John Kovach, Marion Law, Tom Mertaugh, Barbara Murray, Richie Nye, Sadie Nye, Julie Porter, Norine Rudd, Glenn Rye, Sue Rye, Robbie Simonsen, R.B. Smith, Bob Smith, Sharon Smith, Martha Tassier, Carl TerHaar, Jr. Wilson

Boat Show was about, I would say it's a lot more than the person who brings their boat to the show."

Mr. Smith works on a committee coordinating parking for vendors, exhibitors, and spectators. He said his only struggle with his work is finding room for everyone to park, and accommodating the requests of people who come to him with questions or needs.

"Why else would keep a person doing it for 21 years if not the interest and love of the show?" Mr. Smith said. "If you look at the people involved in this for years, it's a wonderful way to showcase the community."

Help comes from many segments of the community, even people who have little interest in wooden boats, but enjoy the atmosphere of the show, so they work the show each year and are vital to ensuring smooth operations and a successful boat show.

"There is no small job in the boat show," said Sue Rye, also of Hessel, who has been working with her husband at the show since the first one in 1978. "All the volunteers are so dedicated and work so hard. There is a lot of painstaking preparation that goes into the show to make it go."

Everyone plays an important

role, from the boat show committee that starts meeting in winter when memories of the last boat show still linger; to the clean-up crew which spends the days after the show removing every trace of the huge event from the Hessel waterfront. Boat Show day workers often begin at the crack of dawn with the volunteer breakfast or by driving their own boat to the marina because it's an entry in the show. Other entries soon follow, and Hessel Bay becomes a flurry of shining mahogany hulls. Workers are in charge of assisting the many people launching their boats from the boat ramp, directing marine traffic, giving directions, and safely docking the valuable antiques. Entries must be securely tied in an elaborate system of lines and knots to prevent them from knocking together or drifting away.

Mrs. Rye's husband, Glenn, used to enter their antique boat, *Callie*,

named for their daughter, in the show, and he has helped with docking since the first show. Long after he ceased showing a boat, he started helping his wife with registration. She is responsible for sending registration forms to more than 150 previous show participants, registering all boats, and stuffing all the souvenir registration totes that participants receive. She also ensures early registrants get their name in the Boat Show program. It's tedious work, but a job the Ryes feel is necessary to helping the show, and the museums that benefit from it. The area's Les Cheneaux Historical Museum and Les Cheneaux Maritime Museum receive all the proceeds from Boat Show to help pay for operations. Nearly all the museums' operating revenue comes from the annual show.

"We want to see the boat show go on, and we want to see the museums succeed," she said. "This really helps the museums, and I think that's the main reason this show goes as well, with the workers returning year after year."

One could probably estimate how much money volunteers have saved the Boat Show in labor costs and brought to the museum if some-

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Wooden Antique Boats Highlight Show

*Continued from page 1

remain, including *Lady El*. She is one of two 19.6-foot, six-foot beam, custom Barnes boats still afloat today. She won Best of Show last year.

Wuzz a' Fuzz is a retired police boat that patrolled the Detroit River from 1948 to around the 1960s. The 30-foot, 1948 Hacker Craft is owned by Tom Flood of Cedarville, a Hacker enthusiast and restorer. The name is a tribute to the vessel's former service with the Detroit Police Department. The vessel was custom built for the City of Detroit by Hacker Boat Company of Mount Clemens, and is now powered by two Mercruiser 454 engines.

Buddy is a 1930, 26-foot Chris Craft runabout, that has been completely restored to top condition, with all new Honduras mahogany.

She is powered by a 1970s vintage, 330 horsepower, Chrysler 440 engine, which owner and restorer Jim Mertaugh installed to provide more dependable power. The vessel has green upholstery, and features an antique clock and spotlight.

Among the honors received at the antique show is the People's Choice Award, selected by spectators. Anyone who wants to vote must use the ballot inside the boat show program. Ballots must be turned in before 2 p.m. Awards will be distributed at 4 p.m.

This year, the boat show will feature a new category called "Les Cheneaux Everyday Boats," and will offer a special display of boats that are used regularly by local residents. The boats in this category will not be judged, and will be docked as a group in one location.

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ST IGNACE - 2 BR, 1 bath bungalow on 75'x159' city lot. Appliances & storage building. Hospital & Long Term Care Facility nearby. (06-695) **\$68,500**

BARBEAU - Neebish Island home w/rustic cypress interior, stone fireplaces, 52x48 pole barn, boat launch & deep water dock on 7 acres. (06-858) **\$389,000**

CEDARVILLE - 3 story Historic Coryell Island Cottage on 150' waterfront w/boat house. 1/2 mile by boat from a 170' lot on the mainland. (06-868) **\$599,900**

CEDARVILLE - Historical home overlooks Cedarville Bay w/170' WF. 2 BR guest cottage w/water view. 2-1/2 car garage. (04-94112) **Reduced! \$499,000**

CEDARVILLE - 3 BR, 2 bath furnished house. 142' of sandy beach. 2 decks & sauna. Views of Cedarville Channel. (04-93365) **\$309,900**

CEDARVILLE - 3 BR, year round ranch home w/200' of Lake Huron frontage. 92' L-shaped crib dock & deep water access. Elevated deck. (06-301) **\$319,900**

CEDARVILLE - Quality lakefront cottage on 100' w/bunkhouse, lakeside garage & crib dock. Hard sand bottom. (06-339) **\$192,500**

DETOUR - 3 BR Cape Cod w/fireplace, covered porch & view of sand dunes & lake. Access beach from State Land across road. (06-869) **\$225,000**

DETOUR - 100' Lake Huron w/3 BR chalet. Woodsy location. Deck off master BR on second story overlooks Lake Huron. (06-430) **Reduced! \$210,000**

DETOUR - 2/3 BR, 2 bath home on 99' of waterfrontage on deep water side of Caribou Lake. Crib dock. Large garage & pole barn. (05-333) **\$190,000**

HESEL - 5 BR on 20 acres of hardwoods. Full basement w/fireplace, 18x24 guest porch, 40 garage, garden area & wooded trails. (06-368) **\$199,000**

HESEL - Updated 3 BR brick home on wooded 200' lot. Fireplace, paved drive, attached garage, space to construct extra storage building. (06-313) **\$110,000**

HESEL - 2 BR, 1.5 bath cottage on 200' Lake Huron. Grounds & buildings provide tranquil setting. Pristine 9.5 A wilderness. (06-14) **\$599,000**

HESEL - 100' frontage on Hessel Point. 2/3 BR home, 24x24 detached garage, 90' of dock, woodsy & private location. (04-90988) **Reduced! \$205,000**

HESEL - Affordable home w/3 BR, 2 baths. Corner fireplace in living area, basement & includes all appliances. (06-253) **\$52,000**

VACANT LAND

ST IGNACE - 200' Lake Huron frontage w/breathtaking views of Mackinac Island & Bridge from wooded, private, high & dry place. (05-335) **Reduced! \$108,000**

CEDARVILLE - 300' Lake Huron frontage. SE exposure, high elevation, deep water, variety of trees, fantastic view & great shoreline. (06-223) **\$790,000**

DETOUR - Vacant 1.2 acre building lot. Lots of beautiful evergreen trees. Choice building site. (06-741) **\$40,000**

HESEL - W/deeded access to Lake Huron, this inexpensive lot is perfect to build your hunting cabin or snowmobile getaway! (06-752) **\$5000**

HESEL - 150' of deep water sunsets on Cube Point in Wilderness Bay on Marquette Island. No roads, cars, car doors or trunks closing. (06-600) **\$189,900**

HESEL - 1 1/4 acres commercially zoned on year round blacktop county road. Build close to public dock, marina & downtown Hessel. (06-138) **\$18,900**

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COMMERCIAL

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NEW LISTINGS

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575 W. Goudreau St. - St. Ignace - Bright and spacious 2 story home in quiet residential area near I-75 and schools. Offering over 2100 sq. ft, 3 BR, 2 BA, deck, shaded by a beautiful maple tree, 2 car garage, great back yard. **#246592 \$155,000**

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#337-06-0024 - NAUBINWAY - Beautiful 2 bdr, 1-3/4 bath home with 103' of frontage on Lake Michigan on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club. Recently added an enclosed sun porch on the Lake side of home with electric heat for year round enjoyment. Home is like new condition. Located towards the end of a dead-end road. Prior approval required. This is a "Must See". **\$250,000**

#337-06-0020 - ST. IGNACE - This 3 bdr, 2 bath home is immaculate & landscaping is stunning. Additional 24'x 24' workshop/rec room for storage. New carpet, doors & paint throughout. It has all the perks of living in town, but with a peaceful country-like setting. What are you waiting for?? **REDUCED!! \$159,000**

#337-06-0026 - GOULD CITY - For you hunters looking for the perfect hunting area, here is 120 acres where you could possibly build your new hunt camp. Acreage this size is hard to find anymore, so check this out before it is gone. Driveway & gate are already in. **\$149,000**

#337-06-0027 - NEW LISTING!! - Recently remodeled 2 bdr, 1 bath home with new roof, soffits, flooring, windows, electric, insulation & vinyl siding. Some wood floors in the home. Would make a great starter or use as a rental. Move right in and enjoy the view of the Mill Pond. **\$64,000**

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