

# Arts Dockside Crowds Enjoy Crafts, Entertainment at St. Ignace Marina

By Karen Gould

Crowds strolled through Arts Dockside this weekend near the St. Ignace Marina, shopping for gifts or handmade items for the home. On the waterfront, performances by musicians, dancers, and popular juggler, Crazy Richard, complimented the informality.

A variety of creations, from walking sticks to birdhouses and jewelry to artwork, were sold from 70 booths. The 31st annual open-air craft show drew hundreds of visitors Saturday, August 30, and Sunday, August 31.

"We won't miss this one," vendor Jim Mager of Ishpeming said of the show. He and his wife, Julie, attend only those shows they enjoy, about six each year.

Mr. Mager said they particularly enjoy working with show organizers Jennifer Joseph and Jeanette O'Rourke.

A wood carver, he crafts walking sticks and canes using about 50 types of wood. He travels to Kentucky to get sassafras, a unique, twisted wood that offers a striking appearance to the canes and walking sticks. He creates a variety of designs, sometimes adding beading and leather.

St. Ignace Arts Dockside veterans Marge and George Nagy, owners of Country Gate Collectibles of Marion, have been coming to St. Ignace for about 29 years.

The couple make birdhouses and bird feeders of their own design. As the show got underway Saturday, Mr. Nagy put the finishing touches on a bird feeder made of old wood salad bowls attached to the handle of a tall shovel. He named the feeder Garden Cafe and it soon sold.

"We try to make stuff they don't have at Wal-Mart; something out of the ordinary, whatever comes to mind," he said.

Turn to page 11: Dockside

At right: Marquette Folk Dancers Louise Anderson and Bob Railey entertain the Arts Dockside crowd as they enjoy a dance at the outdoor venue near the St. Ignace marina.

## St. Ignace Mud Run Will Be Saturday

Mud will begin flying at noon Saturday, September 6, for the last St. Ignace Mud Run of the year.

Admission is \$5, and children younger than 12 are admitted free.

Set on the grounds of Little Bear East Arena, a free all-terrain vehicle and dirt bike fun run will begin the event at 11 a.m. as the vehicles help to mix and prepare the mud for the noon start of the truck competition.

Truck registration is from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Concession stands will be on site. The St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce is hosting the event.



Former St. Ignace resident George Styes (right) of Findlay, Ohio, along with Masa Tanaka, make tables, cutting boards, and coasters using granite and marble. This is the first time they have exhibited their work at Arts Dockside.



Declaring himself "The world's best juggler in St. Ignace — today," juggler and comedian Crazy Richard drew a crowd Saturday as he began his routine. He later juggled with fire and offered this prayer before successfully catching the fire-tipped clubs: "Please grant my one desire, don't let me catch on fire." Crazy Richard's performances have been a highlight of Arts Dockside for many years.



At left: George Nagy of Country Gate Collectibles of Marion adds a grapevine to his Garden Cafe bird feeder Saturday, August 30, during Arts Dockside in St. Ignace. Mr. Nagy and his wife, Marge, have been coming to the St. Ignace craft show for about 29 years.

## Missionaries Hester, Kasper Serve in Mexico

### Les Cheneaux Men Share Experiences as Volunteers in Impoverished Tijuana

By Paul Gingras

"The best thing about it was seeing the children smile ear to ear," said 13-year-old missionary Joshua Hester of the Les Cheneaux Christian Fellowship Church, who recently completed his first trip to Tijuana, Mexico. There, he worked with a fellow church member, 21-year-old David Kasper in Mexico's westernmost city, in the state called Baja California, from July 26 through August 2. They helped build new houses, restore old ones, and told religious stories and played games with local youth.

The effort was under the auspices of Global Expeditions, a missionary program overseen by Teen Mania Ministries, and involved 800 missionaries from several states. Mexico has pledged to help with traveling expenses and materials next year, if the group returns.

Missionary work brings hope to the poverty stricken area, said Mr.

Kasper, who returned to Baja California after volunteering near Tijuana in 2007.

"Both boys wanted to serve people and help people in need," said Joshua's mother, Davine Hester, whose husband, Scout, is pastor of Les Cheneaux Fellowship Church.

Mrs. Hester has served as a missionary in several countries and helps youth get involved in similar work.

The boys shared Christian thought through direct conversations at people's homes, through their building work, by taking part in religious dramas, and by telling stories to children on the streets of the city, she said.

"It is definitely evangelism," she said. "They went there to get people into Jesus Christ."

It is an area that appreciates assistance, she said, citing earthquakes and hurricanes that have devastated Mexican communities and left many homeless.

The boys took very little with them. Their suitcases were packed with toys for children.

"It's amazing," Mr. Kasper said. "When we were pulling in, seeing how they live, it just makes you want to give away everything."

Mr. Hester said Tijuana appeared "beaten down," although the backdrop of hills is a pleasing sight, he added.

Last year, working on mountainsides outside of Tijuana, Mr. Kasper saw dwellings made of car doors and pieces of scrap wood, built on land the people there did not own. They were constructed near power lines, which people tapped into using jumper cables, he said.

Last year, he helped build a house in the rural area.

"This year, I really wanted to spend time with kids," he said.

In Tijuana, both he and Mr. Hester had the chance to do so every day.

In the morning, they helped build and repair houses. In the afternoon, they took part in a Vacation Bible School program, in which small groups, overseen by one man and one woman from Teen Mania, fanned out over Tijuana and asked youngsters to take part in games, stories, and watch Biblical dramas.

"By the end of the week, we had around 60 or 70 kids," Mr. Hester said, speaking of his own Bible school group. Translators helped the missionaries convey stories to the

children.

"They liked the stories." Sometimes they asked questions about them. "One of the kids asked if we could stay another week," Mr. Hester added.

"The group tried to show that there are people who care about them," Mr. Kasper said. "We tried to touch the lives of the people down there. They have it so hard."

Organizers even had to intervene in a serious family conflict that involved a boy who obtained a knife to kill another child, simply because their families did not get along, he said.

There were several satisfying aspects to the trip. One of the most powerful was "to see the look on someone's face after we made them a home," Mr. Hester said.

When his group went out in the morning, they were directed by organizers to work at certain homes, where contractors would explain what they were to do. Some days, he helped put frames up. Others, he worked on drywall, and they talked to the home owners about Christianity at their homes.

"They were really happy" and thanked the missionaries for their efforts, he said.

Mr. Kasper, who has building experience, worked with a team that constructed a new house for a woman named Elma. Inside, the group filled the walls with lines of scripture, and prayed with her, he said.

Often, groups had extra paint or materials, so they walked the streets offering to paint gates, walls, and to do other maintenance work.

Mr. Kasper was struck by the expressions on peoples' faces when he offered to paint something that had never been painted before, things the owners could not afford to paint, he explained.

"It was an awesome opportunity to talk to them," he added.

It was during this restoration work that a Mexican politician in the area met with a Teen Mania organizer to learn more about the group. He then pledged to pay half of the group's traveling expenses and materials, if they return next year and spend two weeks, Mr. Kasper said.

Mr. Kasper will return to Tijuana next year, or go on a missionary trip to Madagascar, an island nation in the Indian Ocean.

Both missionaries said they were particularly fond of the children they met, and they agreed that the most challenging part of what they did was to leave them behind.

## Retailing Workshop Planned in St. Ignace September 15

An Experiential Retailing and Marketing Workshop is designed to benefit all retail business owners Monday, September 15, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the St. Ignace Public Library. The cost is \$40 per person.

"Experiential retailing" means providing a rich experience for customers using an approach that involves both emotional and rational triggers, organizers report. Destination stores realize higher traffic and longer stays than typical retailers, by creating an interactive experience.

Denise Hansen, retail marketing expert and advertising consultant, will be the speaker. Ms. Hansen's consulting experience includes Victoria's Secret and Walt Disney Company's Disney Store.

Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center is hosting the workshop in conjunction with Michigan State University Extension.

Contact Michelle Walk at 643-7307 or Sara Cole at (800) 562-4808, extension 216, for more information and to register.

## Les Cheneaux Community Gathers for End-of-Summer Game

Continuing a tradition begun in 1936, residents of Cedarville, Hessel, and the Les Cheneaux Islands gathered for the annual Old Timers' Baseball Game Sunday, August 31.

The game drew a sizable crowd to the Clark Township ballfield at Lindberg Airport in Hessel. Many residents wore T-shirts made for the event. Businesses and individuals provided food and funding, and the game went on under a hot sun and a clear sky.

Now a softball game, decades ago it was set up as a rivalry baseball game between cottagers and year-around residents. Later, it became a Hessel-versus-Cedarville event.

Eventually, in terms of numbers, it became too one-sided, explained Mike "Gypsy" Sanderson as he waited to take the field.

This year, residents from throughout the area arrived, and the group was divided into teams.

"People as old as 65 are playing," said Al Hansen of Cedarville.

Mike Amarose of Hessel said he has enjoyed going to the Old Timers' game all of his life.



Matt Hatch of Cedarville is at bat during the Old Timers' Baseball Game at the Clark Township ballfield Sunday, August 31. The annual end-of-summer game is a longstanding tradition in the community.

The game continues to offer a chance for everyone in the area to get together one last time at the end of the summer. Many cottagers leave the area after Labor Day weekend.

The first team called the Cedarville Old Timers included Curt Patrick, Gene Mertaugh,

Mike Baker, Alvin Hossack, George Dutcher, Charlie Parkey, Mitch Muscoe, Dave Hudgins, Guy Hamel, Joe Anee, Ed Dutcher, Ford Beacom, Mike Rudd, Jack Thompson, Floyd Cork, Roy Dutcher, and Roy Young. The Old Time Resorters team included Bob Little, Lee

Brumleve, Rex Ingram, Ray Lowry, Harold Reif, Charles Beiber, Charlie Letts, Horace Johnson, Tiny Gerwin, Ed Nipher, George Dornette, C.H. Reiter, Herbert Ailes, Don Wiley, O.J. Robinson, Charlie Kalenda, Bill Spray, Judge Richter, and Vern Hossack.