

Annual Arts Dockside Festival Draws Strong Crowd to St. Ignace Marina

By Ted Booker

Ninety-four vendors lined the waterfront area at the St. Ignace Marina for the 33rd annual Arts Dockside festival Saturday, September 4, and Sunday, September 5, drawing strong crowds of people throughout Labor Day weekend, including many tourists who stayed in town for the Mackinac Bridge Walk Monday.

While winds and light rain may have been buffeting their tents Saturday, weather was warm and pleasant Sunday, and vendors said they were pleased with the turnout at this year's show, with most saying their sales were similar to last year. A medley of original crafts and artwork ranging from jewelry, birdhouses, yard decorations, and paintings were featured by artists, offering a variety to catch everyone's eye.

"Someone told me we should call this the imagination show with all of the ideas people come up with," said local broadcaster Gary Engle, who played classic rock music at the marina during the show and met visitors as they strolled in.

"We enjoy being here," said Wendy Bloechl, who traveled from Elcho, Wisconsin, with her husband, Fred, to attend the show, where they sold personalized family tree plaques made with moss. "We get to meet so many different people here that have come for the Bridge Walk. We've met people from Jamaica, England, and Detroit."

Event organizer Eileen Evers from the Chamber of Commerce said that the wind and rain didn't deter crowds from coming, and that almost all of the vendors who signed up participated in both days of the show. Vendors found creative ways to combat the winds Saturday, she said, tying their tents to trucks and lampposts.

"We had good crowds coming all day since about 10 o'clock in the morning," she said. "... we're happy with the turnout."

The festival was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce for the first time, owing to the resignation of the St. Ignace Arts Dockside Committee last year after the show had to give up some space in the marina parking lot to accommodate boaters. Last year's show featured 75 vendors.

"The transition has gone smoothly," Mrs. Evers said.

Chamber of Commerce Director Janet Peterson said accommoda-



Doug Mulder of Harrison poses by a more-than-seven-foot-tall lamp made from moose and elk antlers at the Arts Dockside Festival Saturday, September 4, at the St. Ignace Marina.

Above right: Richard Morcom of Murray, Kentucky, showcased a variety of handcrafted yard lights and birdhouses at the Arts Dockside festival at the St. Ignace Marina Labor Day weekend. He is pictured holding a "redneck birdhouse" equipped with two-liter soda bottle. Mr. Morcom made the 1,000-plus-mile trip to the festival for the third time in a row.

At right: DuWayne and Darlene Fuller of Manistee, who sold a variety of items made from beach glass found on the Lake Michigan shore, pose outside their Arts Dockside booth on the boardwalk flanking the Lake Huron shoreline Saturday, September 4. "It's like a mini-vacation for us," said Mr. Fuller of the show, explaining that the couple made plans to attend the Mackinac Bridge Walk Monday, as well.

tions were made to allow vendors to use their vehicles in the parking lot to support their tents.

"A lot of the long-time vendors said they've never seen the weather this bad, but the crowd was happy," she said. "We were willing to do whatever it took, and it was a success. It was cooperation all the way around that made it work."



News About People on Mackinac Island

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Skip and Mary Warp of Chicago are enjoying their lovely cottage on the West Bluff.

Jennifer Putnam and little Owen Richard spent six days on Mackinac recently visiting Owen's grandmother, Ellen Putnam, his aunt, Sarah, and other relatives and friends. Owen is an active little boy who is a joy to all.

Peter and Marta Olson drove their youngest daughter, Kaia, to the University of Michigan Mon-

day, August 30, to begin her freshman year. Their oldest daughter, Brita, will be in her sophomore year at Michigan State University.

Penny Rudolph Adams enjoyed lunch with Larry Parel Monday, August 30. They talked about attending Thomas W. Ferry School and growing up on the Island. Penny now lives in California, but spends time at her home in St. Ignace during the summer.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Labor Day weekend.

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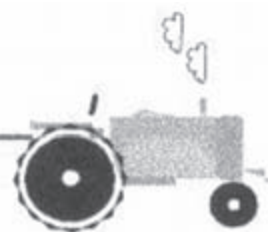


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