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Art in the Wilds Artists Sell Well Despite a Rainy Weekend

On and off rainy weather greeted artists, volunteers and visitors at the Twelfth Annual

Art in the Wilds show on Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24. Attendance was down from recent years due to the rainy weather, but an estimated 3,563 people braved the elements to enjoy the art.

Director Marilyn Blackmore said, “With 65% of attendees and artist sales of over

$50,000, artists still did well with 83% of the sales they made last year. It seems that

people who really want to buy good art come to the show even if they might get wet!”

Artists apply to Art in the Wilds because they love the venue, the people of Kane

(especially the volunteers), and amenities such as a catered artist reception held on

Friday night at the Memorial Chapel, free breakfasts at the Elks, water delivered by

volunteers, and “booth sitting,” which is when specified volunteers man the artists’

booths so they can take a break.

Artist evaluations were extremely positive. They rated the show and their treatment an average satisfaction of 9.3 out of 10, with management rating a10, followed by artist amenities at 9.8 and advertising at 9.7.

“The quality of the art keeps getting better every year as new artists add a variety of

media and returning artists work to improve their skills and creativity to provide new

products for their new and returning customers. Yet the art remains affordable and

there is something for everyone.” says Heather Glogau, Artist Liaison.

Comments from artist evaluations include: “Thank you for your hard work. This is a fantastic show. Would love to be part of this show again in the future!” (Caelin McDaniel, a potter from Erie, PA).

“I truly enjoyed this show knowing the work was the artists’ handcrafted items/work. I felt

at home and loved the fact that people enjoyed our original items. Sunshine Art

(magazine) gave this show a wonderful rating and I understand why. Thank you!”

(Gerina Faison, jeweler from Liverpool, NY).

All artists apply online and must be juried into the show each year.

Artist awards, consisting of large colorful ribbons and monetary prizes, were presented

at the show. The awards are displayed in their booths and can be used at other shows

or in their studios or galleries. Jurors visited each booth and reviewed each artist’s body

of work and booth presentation. Congratulations to our Best of Show winners, 2D work Ellen Paquette and 3D work Megan Whitten. Roland and Geno Boni and Jack Northrup received Awards of Excellence from our show jurors.

An expanded student art show and exhibition was a great success as students from

McKean and the four surrounding counties brought wonderful pieces of art. The

students had opportunities to mingle with the artists and ask questions.

Demonstrations took place in the gazebo on Sunday with artist Debbie Penley who

turned a handful of wool into a sleeping fawn, Michael Weishan who spoke about how

to get proper exposures for your photographs, Connie Blair who demonstrated the

process of hat felting, and Diane Castle-Babcock, who showed how to carve linoleum

and create prints of several colors.

Over a hundred volunteers make the show possible each year.

Art in the Wilds is funded by grants from the Kane Community Development Foundation

and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth

of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

We are proud to offer free admission and parking so that all people can attend the

show.

Major sponsorship contributions come from the UPMC Kane, Zook Motors, Inc.,

Northwest Bank, CNB Bank, Highlander Energy and other vital corporate and individual

donations

The all-volunteer committee works in collaboration with The Wilds Cooperative of

Pennsylvania, PA Route 6 Artisan Trail, the Allegheny National Forest Vacation Bureau

(ANFVB), and the Kane Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on Art in the Wilds, please visit [www.artinthewilds.org](http://www.artinthewilds.org), and like us on

Facebook: “Art in the Wilds”. For sponsorship information, please contact

[mab@penn.com](mailto:mab@penn.com) or call 814.837.7167.

