

## **Third Annual Arts Festival Heats Up Lake Mills!**

by Sherry Misener  
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This weekend's weather turnaround was a pleasant surprise to the Lake Mills Arts Festival's 50 fine artists their patrons who strolled Commons Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 19.

The festival, with an attendance of approximately 1,800 (and an additional 200 thanks to famished bicyclists stopping for lunch during the Wisconsin's "ACT 6" Aids Ride), proved to be another success for both Lake Mills and the artists. Other than a request for less humidity, one artist enthusiastically labeled the third annual Lake Mills Arts Festival as "a charming and well-organized show that still has its soul!"

Sales were higher than expected for many of the artists, with two Beloit sculptors nearly selling out of work altogether. Award winners received an extra surprise. This year, two \$250.00 "Best of Show" awards were given, while another eight Purchase Awards were handed out. Brandon, Wisconsin area Painter Gerri Buteyn took "Best of Show - Artwork" and Glass artists, Guy and Kathy Schmitz of Cedarburg captured "Best of Show - Display". Purchase Award Donors and their chosen artists included: Forest Landscaping and Construction: Bettina Madini, Painter, Montello; Attorney Norman L. Goeschko and Robin Untz of The Beveled Edge: Paul Dettmann, Metal Sculpture, Waterford; Timber Creek Pizza: Gary Bakic, Photographer, Colgate; TJS Cabinetry: Twyla Johnson and Nona DeRosier, Sculpture, Beloit; Agent Brad Glassel of American Family Insurance: Jen Herro, Painter, Hartland; The Law Firm of Neuberger, Wakeman, Lorenz, Griggs & Sweet: Mike Hassler, Photographer, Oconomowoc. The Premier Sponsors for the Lake Mills Arts Festival were: Crystal Farms and Daybreak Foods, Inc.

Volunteers, who numbered at 33, performed tasks such as booth sitting and water bottle refilling for the artists.

Live music, sponsored by the Bank of Lake Mills, sparked the day. Local folk band, Borderlands, rocked the stage from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., while the Madison-based acoustic band, the Gadjo Players, kept the beat from 2 - 4 p.m. Both bands added to the fun atmosphere of the festival, entertaining patrons as they shopped, ate, and and even danced their way through the park!

Food choices abounded, with the most popular items being veggie and turkey wraps from the Young Entrepreneur's Club and walking tacos from the Special Olympics. Thirst-quenching rootbeer floats by both Mugsie's and the Lake Mills FFA Alumni were also huge hits.

Several businesses graciously donated a variety of items and services for the day of the festival, including: Country Campers, Trek Bikes, Sentry Foods, Chason Acres, Inc., Building 129 Coffee Station, Culligan's, Shane's Massage Therapy Service, Rock Lake Digital Printing, Patrick & Mary Doyle, Brad J. Glassel Agency, American Family Insurance, TJS Cabinetry, and the City of Lake Mills.

Mary Ellen Vinz of the Arts Alliance of Greater Lake Mills ran another jam-packed Art Yard from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The area was filled with children of all ages and fun projects from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Madison's Art Cart wrapped up the day from 2 - 4 p.m. with additional projects for kids.

The Lake Mills Arts Festival (LMAF), is a joint effort put forth by local artists, community members, and the Lake Mills Main Street Program to support visual artists, and provide the community with access to the creation of art. Members of the Lake Mills Main Street Art Committee include: Sherry Misener, Public

Relations Coordinator; Karen Goeschko, Fundraising Coordinator; Nancy Michaud, Logistics Coordinator; Sue Larson, Food Coordinator; Jessica Rebstock, Performing Arts, Volunteer, and Evaluations Coordinator; Robin Untz, Artist and Jurying Coordinator, and Amy Phillips, Fiscal Coordinator.