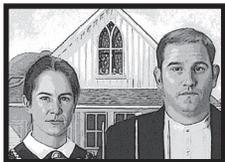


# County fair offers opportunity for all artists to display work



**SAM DALKILIC-MIESTOWSKI**

Art adventure

While attending the Lake County Fair this year with my family, I met with the Family Arts Department superintendent, Rosemarie Cain, who provided some insight for the Family Arts Exhibition for next year.

**How long have you been superintendent of the Family Arts Department?**

“Well, I’ve been the superintendent at the Family Arts Department for about 10 years now, but have been involved with the Lake County Fair for about 15 years.”

**How long has the Family Arts Department exhibited, artwork, crafts, and collectibles?** “The Lake County Fair has been hosting this exhibit for as long as the fair has been in existence, 160 years.”

**Wow, that is pretty exciting. There has always been a venue for creative people to exhibit their creative passions, right here in Crown Point. Who is eligible to enter the Family Arts exhibition?** “Anybody can enter in the Open Class exhibit. Lots of folks think it’s only open to Lake County residents.

We accept entries from every county in Indiana, and anybody living outside the state as well. In fact, this year’s Best of Show winner lives in Illinois. There is only a one-time fee of \$12. The participant can enter one piece or half a dozen for the \$12. This is one of the most economical art entry fees in the area. For the low price of \$12, the participants can reach thousands of people they would have never reached, which appeals to people of all ages and backgrounds. It’s a super way to test out your talents whether a beginning artist or well established.”

**How many entries were there this year?** “There were 790 participants who entered 3,792 pieces for the exhibit.”

**Are there any awards given out to the participants?** “Yes, there are 1st,

2nd, and 3rd place for each category. There is also a Sweepstakes award along with a Best of Show. This year the Best of Show winner was an Illinois participant, Mark Bisig, who entered the ‘Seahorse’ within the category of Handicraft.”



Mark Bisig’s “Seahorse,” in the Handicrafts category, won Best of Show at the 2012 Lake County Fair.

**Walking through the Family Arts Department building, I was impressed with the scale and volume of the entries. Can you please share some of the categories that are available for the participants?** “Why of course, there are acrylics, oils, watercolors, ceramics, pastels, drawings, mixed media, collectibles, canned food, photography, foods 1 and 2, candies, cakes, cookies, cheesecakes, and fancy decorated cakes to name a few categories.”

**Can you describe some of the categories for those who may wish to enter next year?** “Sure, I’d be happy to. Handicraft 1: This is a category that includes holiday decorations, such as Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, crafts, stained glass and other objects. Handicraft 2: This category can include scrap-booking, machine sewing, hand weaving, basket weaving, indoor patio

plants, container gardens.

“Needlecraft 1: This category includes crocheting, afghans, knitting and tatting, which is the the old art of lacing. Needlecraft 2: This category includes cross stitch, embroidery and needle point.

“Photography: This year this category had 550 photos entered. Quilts: This category has many categories. Quilts are very popular we had approximately 185 this year.

“There is also a Creative Kids category. This is something special offered to the kids from ages 5-9, 10-12 and 13-15.

“Sewing has always been a popular category as well. All kinds of wearable pieces including bridal dresses, children’s clothes, costumes, coats, jackets, sleep wear, and t-shirts were entered this year.

“This year, the Heritage Quilters, a Crown Point quilting club, had a theme for their entrants which included a specific motif. All the quilts that were entered into this exhibit had to have reference to motif to qualify for this particular quilt competition.”

**Who are the judges for the Family Arts Department?** “Our judges comprise of approximately two dozen or so County Extension Agents and those outside of the county. The judges are specialized in their fields as well.”

**What makes you keep coming back and being involved with the Lake County Fair Family Arts Department every year?** “Some of my earliest memories are attending the fair with my parents when I was as young as 5 years old. I’ve loved it ever since.”

**What is the thing you like the most about the Lake County Fair?** “The people. I love the fair and the fact that it can be enjoyed by families. It continues to be magical place all of these years.”

I agree that Lake County Fair and the Family Arts Department gives families super memories and gives participants a creative outlet to express themselves for all kinds of people to enjoy. For further information please call Rosemarie Cain, Family Arts Department superintendent, at 696-9059.



Janet Sturgill won a first place award for this painting.



Bethany Aubrey’s drawing of a camera was a Lake County Fair award winner.

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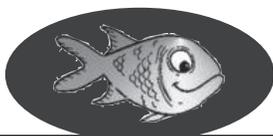
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