

ART FAIR GUIDE

Local artists say art fairs are enjoyable despite hard work

BY SARAH HENRY
Record-Eagle staff writer

Browsing at a local art fair just may be the perfect way to spend a sunny summer day. Artists sure think so.

Connie Annis of Traverse City is a familiar figure at northern Lower Michigan summer art shows. She tries to do as many shows as she can, but for now, her health has the final say in her ability to work.

"Seven years ago, I had surgery on my hand, and my doctor told me to find something to do with my hands to keep them nimble, or else arthritis would set in," Annis said.

She had always been interested in bead work and jewelry-making. After her hand injury inhibited her ability to do her normal office work, she made a slow but sure career

change.

"I had always been interested in it, and had antique beads, so I made all my Christmas presents, and then it just escalated," she said.

Annis turned her hobby of creating beaded and wire-wrap bracelets, pendants and earrings into a small business, Designs by Connie. She travels to art shows in an RV she bought from her grandparents.

William Wilson, owner of Images of Northern Michigan in Traverse City, became interested in art shows after his wife died at Christmastime 15 years ago. Needing an activity to occupy his time, he turned to his hobby of photography.

Wilson photographs landscapes, flowers, people and animals.

"When people say, 'What is your favorite photo-

graph?' I say, the last one I took!" he said.

The artists agree that setting up and tearing down for a show is worth the wear and tear because of the human interest element.

"Meeting everyone and talking is the fun part," Annis said. "I'm a gabber."

She became good friends with other artisans she met at the shows. In fact, the president of the beader's guild she belongs to now lives next door.

Wilson said there is a lot of camaraderie among the artists.

"There's a whole fraternity, I guess you could call it, of art people," he said.

In fact, the show might be the best part of the whole process.

"Doing the show is the fun part," said Cuban-born interior designer at DM Design,



Record-Eagle file photo

Browsers examine stained glass at Traverse City's 2002 Arts and Crafts fair.

Dore Shaw. "It's the discipline to stay in the studio that's the hard part."

With shows once a week in the summer, Shaw has plenty to keep her busy. Shaw dedicates hours to the labor-intensive craft of paper-making, custom-designing journals, albums, scrapbooks and photo frames.

She often sells out at shows, and she created a Web site, www.poshpulp.com, because of customer requests.

If there's a drawback, it's having to deal with the weather.

"We had a small tornado

come through a show once and wipe out everybody's stuff," Annis said. "We could see it coming closer and closer and the sky getting darker. Needless to say, I didn't finish the show."

In fact, Shaw said preparing for all kinds of weather is a key factor at any art show.

"I had a tent blow away once, but all the artists really help each other out," she said. "The president of the Chamber of Commerce from Elk Rapids gave me a sleeping bag because I looked like a wet weasel."

VINTAGE GROUP RACING PRE 80's BIKES

Sunday, July 13
Regular Programs 10 am - 6 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS • RACING ALL DAY!
June 29 • July 27 • Aug. 10 & 24 • Sept. 21

Women's Group

DAY RACING PROMOTIONS

TRAVEL PARK

231-263-2366
www.bayracing.org

6/27-705537-SU

Check Out Our New Food Menu!



\$1.00 OFF

The Regular Price Of Any 20 oz. Grande Drink

Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 7/31/03.

- Wrap Sandwiches
- Bagel and Grilled Panini Sandwiches
- Fresh Salads
- Soups and Chili

Jump Start Your Morning!
Fresh

Bagels • Scones • Muffins

Mon-Thurs: 6:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Fri & Sat: 6:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. • Sun 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

KID'S CREEK MARKET PLACE

US 31 S. - 1/8 mile North of Meijer

946-3690

www.beaners.com

6/27.su.705766

TALK OF THE CITY

- ★ Romantic Gift Ideas ★
- ★ Buy or Rent Adult Videos ★
- ★ Instructional Books, Videos and DVDs ★
- ★ Bachelor & Bachelorette Gift and Party Supplies ★
- ★ Intimate Lingerie ★
- ★ Adult Games & Magazines ★
- ★ Oils - Lotions - Novelties ★
- ★ Ladies Day Every Wednesday 10% OFF ★
- ★ 4013 Vance Rd. (Just south of Chums Corners) M-Sat 10am-11 pm Sun Noon-9pm "Everyday is Couples Day" ★

6-27.su.705120