

## **Fourth Annual Arts Festival Becomes a Community Tradition!**

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This weekend's mild weather didn't hamper people from making their way to the fourth annual Lake Mills Arts Festival in Commons Park where 52 fine artists displayed and demonstrated their work from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 18.

The festival, with its increased attendance of nearly 2,100 patrons, proved to be another success for both Lake Mills and the artists. Several artists listed their top three favorite things about the festival as being location, people (festival ambassadors), and the music. One artist enthused, "The Lake Mills Festival is the benchmark show for us. We gauge all of the other shows against this one!"

Award winners received an added benefit this year. Two \$250.00 "Best of Show" awards were given, while another eight Purchase Awards were handed out.

Lake Mills ceramicist, Bruce Johnson took "Best of Show - Artwork" for his work, "Raku Tiles" while Madison Fiber artist Monica McFarland captured "Best of Show – Display" for her unique and contemporary booth design and display.

Festival Purchase Awards achieved a new record in 2009 by totaling at over one thousand dollars! This year's Purchase Award Investors and their chosen artists included: Neuberger, Wakeman, Lorenz, Griggs & Sweet : Susan Lukas, digital photography, Cudahy; Environmental Compliance Systems: Caleb Kasper, stone carving, Jefferson; Greenwood State Bank and American Family Insurance agent Bradley J. Glassel: Edd Boyer, photography, Lake Mills; TJS Cabinetry: Jan Lynn, sculpture, Hayward, TSL Graphics : Bruce Johnson, ceramicist, Lake Mills; The Beveled Edge: Twyla Johnson and Nona Derosier, sculpture; Beloit; and Blue Moon: Paul Dettmann, metal sculpture, Waterford.

The 2009 Lake Mills Arts Festival's Gold Sponsors included Daybreak Foods, Inc. and Greenwood State Bank; Silver Sponsors included the Bank of Lake Mills and Ephraim Faience Pottery; Bronze Sponsors included Waterhouse Foods, LLC, and the Sweet Lips Art & Gift Gallery.

Volunteers, who numbered at 28, performed tasks such as booth sitting, booth set up and tear down and chair massage reminders for the artists.

The gazebo was filled with live music all day long. In the morning, Madison-based Gadjó Players, played a mix of jazz, swing and bluegrass. At lunchtime, the Lake Mills Fiddle Club shared their talents. Rounding out the day, Madison café jazz musicians, The Stellanovas, relaxed both artists and shoppers alike.

Food choices abounded, with the most popular items being veggie and turkey wraps from the Young Entrepreneur's Club and brats from the Lake Mills Main Street Program. The Lake Mill's United Church of Christ Women's Group pies were sell-outs and there was always a lineup of people at the FFA cart for ice cream cones and sundaes.

Several businesses graciously donated a variety of items and services for the day of the festival. Waterhouse Foods, LLC, who kept a delicious and constant supply of breads and cookies at the Artist's Hospitality Table, while Sweet Lips Art & Gift Gallery kept a steady stream of Ancora coffee available to both artists and patrons. Other donations were made by: Sentry Foods, Culligan Water Conditioning, Aroma Massage, and

Dakin Mobile Massage.

For the fourth consecutive year, Mary Ellen Vinz of the Arts Alliance of Greater Lake Mills and several hard-working volunteers hosted the popular Make It and Take It Art Yard from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Board member, Steve Bower stated that they had 120 kids doing more than 200 projects. “We raised more than \$220.00 for the Arts Alliance,” he shared excitedly. Waterhouse Foods also offered an all-day fun “edible art” project on-site at the bakery complete with edible dough and colored paints.

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, Fiscal and Fundraising Coordinator; Robin Untz, Artist and Jurying Coordinator; Nancy Michaud, Logistics and Performing Arts Coordinator; Kay Westbrook; Judging Coordinator; Sue Larson, Food Coordinator; and Amy Phillips, Volunteer Coordinator.

\*\*Please include all pictures possible. Thank you.\*\*



June Hawkes of Greenwoods State Bank, one of the festival's two major sponsors, makes a purchase award to Lake Mills photographer Edd Boyer.



Best of Show – Artwork

The three festival judges Jean Christianson, Kevin Beth, and Mark Batory, present Bruce Johnson (shown here with son, Avery), with the Best of Show – Artwork Award!



Best of Show – Booth Display

The three festival judges Jean Christianson, Kevin Beth, and Mark Batory, present Madison fiber artist, Monica McFarland and her helper with the Best of Show – Booth Display Award.