

## ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

### Young people raise awareness of the arts

When Jason Wilhoite graduated from Eastern Michigan University in December, Broadway was in his soul and the desire to help the arts in his heart. So he decided to unite the two in a musical revue to benefit ArtServe Michigan, a nonprofit organization building support for the arts through advocacy, education and services for artists, community arts organizations and cultural institutions.

Wilhoite believes early training in music, beginning in the elementary grades and continuing through the Creative and Performing Arts Program at Churchill High School in Livonia, influenced his future. He recently graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in music education and voice performance and would like to make sure other young people have the same opportunities.

The Broadway revue, presented in June at Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia, raised \$1,000 even though Wilhoite and friends, Chad Gearig, Allison Soriano and Christa Carlomusto, only asked for donations to ArtServe Michigan instead of charging admission. They also held a raffle for prizes donated by local businesses.

"I researched charities and the local arts," said Wilhoite, who met Gearig while both were teaching voice at Churchill High School. "ArtServe struck me because of its music education programs in schools. I think it's important for music education to be in our schools from grade school to high school."

Barbara Kratchman delights in the fact young people like Wilhoite and his friends appreciate ArtServe Michigan enough to want to help raise money for its education initiatives. These include annual statewide exhibits by young artists at Wendy's restaurants. Located in Southfield and Lansing, ArtServe employs a full time staff to promote arts and culture in Michigan.

"When Jason called we were tickled, proud to be a beneficiary of his vision, pleased a young person is interested in promoting the arts, spreading the word," said Kratchman, president of ArtServe Michigan. "We would like to encourage more events like this. Every penny counts to reach more people and specially to be able to put money into programs."

An annual budget of \$1.2 million helps ArtServe Michigan place Creative Writers in Schools, and survey Michigan public, private and charter schools about their arts and cultural programs. The results, scheduled to be published in a month, will help develop a book of best practices and programs.

"We encourage involvement in art and culture from all levels K-12," said Kratchman. "Through our arts advocacy program, ArtServe is active in Lansing where they're currently in the midst of the budget process. We're keeping up with what's going on to make sure funding is in place."

Part of the funding goes to Creative Artists Grants, which ArtServe administers for the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Awards of up to \$8,000 enable Michigan artists to create work in all disciplines in exchange for a community service activity.

Artserve's Artists in Michigan program teams grant recipients and other artists with arts and human service agencies to reach underserved or non-traditional arts audiences in Michigan. The list goes on and on. ArtServe Michigan recruits and trains volunteers from the business and legal sector to assist artists and presents the annual Governors' Awards for Arts & Culture. It also publishes research on Metro Detroit cultural audiences to help local arts organizations plan their programming, and maintains a gallery of Michigan artists funded by the Creative Artists Grant program on its Web site [www.artserve-michigan.org](http://www.artserve-michigan.org).

"Whew, I get tired just thinking about all of these programs and services. And to think four young people helped make all of this possible simply by singing and dancing to Broadway hits."

For more information about ArtServe Michigan, call (248) 567-8288.

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to [lchomin@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:lchomin@oe.homecomm.net)



## Returns bigger, better than ever

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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Ask Dianne Quinn what's new about Art in the Park in Plymouth and her first response is the office in the lower level of her Plymouth Township home. The space serves as the heart of operations for one of the largest art fairs in the area.

Coordinating 430 artists from 30 states is no easy task, especially when it comes time to set up all

those booths for the fair which runs Friday-Sunday, July 13-15. That first year only 33 artists showed their wares in Kellogg Park. Twenty-one years later Art in the Park extends all the way down Main Street from Wing to Church and spills over onto Peniman, Forrest and Ann Arbor Trail.

A move earlier this year to a new home made it possible for Quinn to set up the office. She and her daughter, Rachel, spend untold hours at the large conference table holding a detailed map of the

### Wildlife photography

Children as well as adults will love the photography of Ted Nelson, a Canton resident who taught science in West Bloomfield Schools for more than 30 years. Nelson captures the colorful deer, birds and scenery of Kensington Metropark through the lens of his camera. He first learned about all of the nature existing on its 4,300 acres on his first visit 40 years ago.

Three-hundred photographs later Nelson decided to turn his love for the marshes, lakes, meadows, ponds and animals into a book celebrating the spirit of the Metropark in Milford. After culling the images to 100, Nelson published *The Nature of Kensington* two years ago. He'll bring prints of photographs in the book plus others of northern Michigan and Yellowstone Park. This year, he's especially looking forward to exhibiting in Art in the Park. The first year he only offered books in his booth.

"There's lots of different choices as far as the art in Plymouth," said Nelson. "I love being in Plymouth. It's a wonderful little town."

Margaret Nowak couldn't agree more. As a member of the Village Potters Guild, Nowak enjoys showing her work in an area where she feels welcome. The Village Potters' Guild booths are the first stop on many visitors' lists.

The Guild shows its functional, decorative, raku, wall hangings, garden art ranging from bird feeders to stakes, and fountains three times a year in Plymouth. Its Art in the Park booth will feature a variety of work by 17 members including Kathy Sandberg of Plymouth, Sandberg, like Nelson, recently exhibited at Livonia's Art in the Village at Greenmead Historical Park.

Nowak, who teaches classes at the Guild in August and September, will bring riddresses and divine feminine spirits to the fair. Nowak began working in clay at age 13 and earned a master's degree in art therapy from Wayne State University. She teaches ceramic classes at Schoolcraft College, the ARC in Redford and a Livonia nursing home. "We get a lot of community support," said Nowak of Livonia. "It makes us feel good."



What: An art fair featuring 430 exhibitors from 30 states  
When: Noon to 7 p.m. Friday, July 13; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 14; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 15  
Where: Streets of downtown Plymouth. Free shuttle from Compuware Arena, Plymouth Township. For directions and more information, call (734) 453-1234

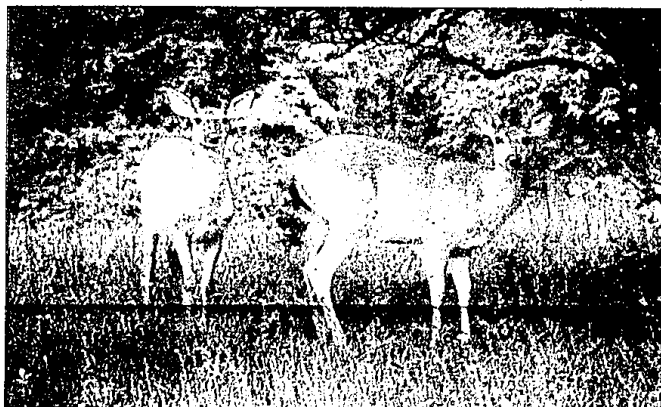


PHOTO BY TED NELSON

In the wild: Ted Nelson captures the nature of Kensington Metropark in his photography. Below is a Sandhill Crane preening its feathers.



streets. Many of the booths were rearranged this year to make it easier for visitors to find the new restaurants in town.

"Each year we think we're more organized," said Quinn. "Always new things come up but we're perfecting it. We can never see the same map. We have to go down there and measure every inch. Artists come in a certain way at a certain time. We have a media list so we don't have two painters or glass blowers next to each other."

No wonder it takes a whole year to organize the fair. Once all of the artists are in place, Quinn begins scheduling locations and times at which musicians Charlene Berry, Bakra Bata, Rich Kowalewski and Brazil, Michael King, the Nick Strange Trio, Sacco, and Watson & Co. will perform. New elements like a shuttle bus so visitors won't have to worry about parking require plenty of planning as does showing children's art in Kellogg Park.

Quinn's incorporated several activities for children into the fair. In addition to having the opportunity to paint a 10-by-5 foot mural designed by Kristie Good, children will have fun making art at booths sponsored by the Observer Newspapers and the Michigan Education Savings Program. Once completed, Quinn and a team of helpers install the mural at Children's Hospital of Michigan in the Detroit Medical Center to brighten the spirits of patients and visitors.

"It's just a fun, cool thing for the kids to do," said Quinn.

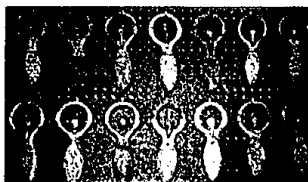


PHOTO BY TED NELSON

Feminine spirit: Margaret Nowak brings her clay goddesses to Art in the Park.

## THEATER

### Michigan Shakespeare Festival enchants theater goers of all ages

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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John Neville-Andrews takes his time talking about the lineup for the Michigan Shakespeare Festival opening with a preview Tuesday, July 17, at Ella Sharp Park in Jackson. As artistic director for the festival, he's serious about making the three-week outdoor theater season an enchanting experience for all ages.

For adults he teams up the dark and dramatic *Macbeth* with *Comedy of Errors*, for children it's Tom McCabe's *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?* "I wanted a very deep, dark tragedy contrasting with farce so we had a strong season," said Neville-Andrews. "I wanted to direct *Macbeth* for some time. I think it's Shakespeare's best tragedy and it's chal-



Gillian Eaton

lenging for the actors and director. It's a very complex play that appears simple but there are deep layers of psychological meaning. So much depends on what state he (Macbeth) is in at any one time. It seems a modern tragedy, a tragedy of ambition. In this day and age we're encouraged to be ambitious."

Ambition is something Neville-Andrews understands. This summer he's brought in four equity actors compared to the three who acted last year. Next July, he hopes to afford even more.

"The more we can attract equity actors, the more rewarding for the audience," said Neville-Andrews. "For the actors it's a viable summer employment opportunity."

Neville-Andrews it seems is earning a reputation for producing theater to enthrall audiences as well as actors. Now entering its seventh season, the festival



Outdoor setting: The Michigan Shakespeare Festival draws crowds in all kinds of weather.

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