

Annual art, wine and beer festival has great turnout

By Daci Rothfuss

Exponent staff writer

Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History held its 8th annual Art, Beer and Wine Festival June 8 under partly sunny skies, 70 degrees and a light breeze. More than 1,500 attendees sampled wine and beer from greater Michigan that for the first time included a world wine tent. Craft beers from Michigan's local breweries and beyond were available for tasting. Festival goers enjoyed live music and artist booths nestled on the grounds of the Ella Sharp Museum and within the courtyard of the museum's historic Hillside Farm Lane. There were over 18 local wineries and breweries with more than 35 artists and seven food vendors.

The Art, Beer and Wine Festival showcased the many talented artists, musicians, wineries, breweries and local businesses available in Michigan and to connect them with an appreciative audience. In addition to artist booths, the festival offered food from local vendors, as well as performances from a variety of local professional musicians and live art demonstrations. All proceeds from the festival (including bottled wine and beer sales) will benefit the Museum and their educational department, which runs such programs as Pioneer Living and Arts Go to School.

First-time food vendors Dancy's Fancy Butter and Hillary's Homemade Pies had a very good reception at Ella.

Dancy's Fancy Butter

Anna Dancy of Jackson, started out by making her signature herb butter for holidays, special occasions and birthday gifts for friends and family. Eventually it became expected and meals were planned around her butter. When a close friend asked if she could purchase some of her butter for a party, Anna had an idea. Dancy's Fancy Butter offered samples of their signature butters with sliced Italian bread or crackers for festival-goers.

Dancy's Fancy Butter has five delicious varieties offered from \$5 to \$10 – herb, garlic, lemon pepper, honey cinnamon and brown sugar cinnamon.

They can be reached at 517-740-1250, online at www.dancysfancybutter.com and on Facebook at DancysFancyButter.

Hillary's Homemade Pies

When Hillary Knapp of Jackson, decided to take part in the Art, Beer and Wine Festival, she wondered how she was going to transport whole pies. An idea was born when she offered small containers of samples of all but two of her pies - cherry and lemon meringue - and by the end of the day, most were gone.

Hillary's Homemade Pies range in price from \$10 to \$30 and can be reached at 768-9412. You can also find them on Facebook at Hillarys-Homemade-Pies.