

OHIO

October 13, Fall Festival of the Arts. Contact: Carl Renneker. Address: 1270 Sandusky St. Ashland, OH. 44805. Facebook: Ashland Fall Festival. E-mail: ashlandfallfestival2013@gmail.com. Fee: \$30-50 Exhibitors: 80. Hours: 10-4. Admission: \$0.

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Medium: Silversmithing

Every second Saturday in October Ashland, Ohio becomes home to the Fall Festival of the Arts at Brookside Westpark. Home of the Ashland University, this town is no stranger to art events and thousands of people come out to support this show. 2012 was the third year for this juried show and I have participated for the past two years and I noticed substantial growth from 2011 to 2012. The always cheerful show coordinator, Carl Renneker agrees, stating each year both vendor and attendance numbers have doubled and expects 2013 to be a banner year.

Brookside Westpark provides a scenic backdrop to this outdoor, one-day show. It also provides one of the easiest setup and tear down venues of my show schedule. Artists can drive a short distance to their booth to unload at their site the morning of the show. Ample parking enables easy access for trailers, RVs and larger vehicles. The park also provides on site restrooms and food provisions (the local Lions club). Exhibitors can choose from spaces beneath a pavilion, in community tents or bring their own tents to set up their display. Only pavilion spaces have access to electricity and Renneker points out that these spaces fill very quickly.

Most of the artists I spoke with were returning from 2011 and reported receipts totaling over \$1000. On the down side, as with most shows, there were vendors that reported barely covering expenses and both 2011 and 2012 weather reported wind gusts of over 20 miles an hour. Overall, I am very pleased with this event and plan to add it to my regular fall show schedule.