

OHIO

September 1st, Made in Ohio. Contact: Renee Flynn. Address: Hale Farm & Village P.O. Box 296 Bath, OH 44210. Phone: 330.666.3711. Website: http://www.wrhs.org/Properties/Made_Ohio_Craft_Festival. E-mail: rsflynn@earthlink.net. Fee: \$75. Exhibitors: 80. Hours: 10-5. Admission: \$5.

By Kristina Malcolm

Ohio Reporter

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Medium: Silversmithing

Although the Made in Ohio Craft Festival is still young, I believe the potential for this show is good. Hale Farm is locally known for attracting fans of old time arts and crafts due to its hands-on approach to history. The Farm employs artisans throughout the season and includes historically reenacted crafts such as blacksmithing and ceramics on its' grounds in the admission price (which is reduced by half the day of the show).

The only restrictions to this show is that artists must make their work in Ohio and report their Ohio Vendors License number. Potential artists submit four images of work in apparel, ceramics, drawings/pastels, fiber, glass, graphics, jewelry, leather, metal, mixed media, painting, photography, and wood by the beginning of June.

This was my first year at the show. When I spoke to other vendors, returning artists were disappointed with their sales for the day. The weather did encourage customers clear out by the afternoon so I understand their concern. Most artists reported good sales in the morning. I personally believe if that number of people continued though the day that sales would have been great. Pleased with my sales, I plan to apply again next year and add it to my annual list.

Any problems I had were minimal. Finding the check-in at arrival was difficult but that was my fault because I arrived early. And my booth location was right in the middle of the show, which was good for the layout of the show but made the restrooms and food far away. Everything else went smoothly. Set-up happens on the Friday before and early Saturday with drive up accessibility to your booth if you arrive during the specified times. Vendors are set-up in clusters along the walking trail through the village. With the grounds and walking paths, I would imagine that this show has an unlimited amount of space for vendors.

With the experience that only time brings, I think this will be a one-day gem. With the possibility of this local being a fall leaf destination, half price admission the day of the show and an aggressive advertising campaign, this is sure to be success for artisans. As needed with all shows, a good attitude makes for a great show.