



PRESS RELEASE

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Eco-minded Crafters Featured At Little Mountain Heritage Festival

Eco-crafters are a new breed of artists who would rather give old material a new purpose than starting with raw materials. Looking at items people discard everyday, these artists find imaginative and unique ways to recycle common household items and clothing. Among the dozens of fine craftsmen at this year's Little Mountain Heritage Festival, will be a number of "eco-craftsmen" recruited especially by Festival organizers and vendor coordinator, Anne Hitchcock from across N.E. Ohio.

Hitchcock noted that the focus of the Heritage Festival is on local artists and craftsmen, but each year the vendor coordinator seeks out uniquely talented people from the region. Due to the economy, the values of today's consumer and the pressure to keep prices low and fun high, the committee recruited "eco-crafters."

Collecting discarded silverware from neighbors, trash and garage sales, one vendor has turned everyday flatware into sculptures of design and flamboyant beauty to be used either as jewelry or household decorations.

Another has gathered all manner of "kitchen drawer clutter" from anywhere she finds materials to be discarded, shops going out of business, and trash cans. Her prize finds are common household keys. Using the rest of the clutter she has reclaimed, this craftsman creates jewelry from artistically placing and layering unique little items on the keys and turning the entire piece in eye catching jewelry.

Finding trash barrels full of discarded jeans started another crafter on the road to design. Knowing the jeans were headed the for landfill, this eco-crafter collected and laundered

the jeans and with an eye to creative re-use. After a number of concepts were tried, a delightful funky denim purse became the top seller, especially with the tween-age set. The jeans are just one attempt at eco-crafting this Orwell resident has mastered. Her most recent items are art works that are made from re-cycled paper she makes herself which are then framed using re-claimed wood.

These artists will be joined may many others as one facet of the 24th Annual Little Mountain Heritage Festival. Held at the Lake County History Center Saturday, July 25 from 10am to 6pm and Sunday, July 26 from 11a,-6pm, this Festival has been named a National Legacy Event as one of the Country's best family focused celebrations of regional culture.

The Festival hosts five stages with continuous music all weekend, home-style food vendors, a Family Frontier Village where children can step into the past and a Lake County cultural Village that celebrates the Finnish, Italian, Hungarian and Latino cultures that have played a large part in Lake County's heritage. There will also be an historic encampment hosted by the RamRodder organization where visitors can walk thru the past while speaking with those who can make yesterday come alive.

New in 2009, will be Festival After Dark, a way to celebrate the music and great food of this area with a beautiful summer night filled with stars, a cold delicious glass of wine or beer, a 12-piece swing band, the Emperors of Swing on the event state and the funky 60's-70's sound of Fat City on the Main Stage. Great Festival food and ice wine frappes will also be available as well as, for the first time, the famous beer n' brats perfected by the crew at the Lake County Historical Society and usually only served to their volunteers.

The Festival is held at the Lake County History Center, 415 Riverside Drive, Painesville Township, just west of Riverside High School. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for teens and seniors and \$10 combo ticket that includes either the Festival for two days or the Festival for one day and Festisval After Dark. The evening event has a single charge of \$5 and is available only to those 25 and over. For more information, call 440-639-2945 or visit www.LakeHistory.org.