

Arts in the Park offers a day of sun and art

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DANVILLE — It might have been a blistering day in the sun Saturday at Lincoln Park, but Andrew Dudich of Westville was cool in the shade at Arts in the Park with his best of show photographic art media.

“The main reason I come is to see people’s reaction to the work and to see if I’m going in the right direction ... I really didn’t expect it,” Dudich said of the award.

Dudich is a senior at St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, Ind., working toward his art degree. When he’s not busy creating art built upon his photography, he does radio at both the college and WITY-AM.

He’s now amping up for a two-month exhibit at the Westville Art Center in the public library there in July and August. Some of the art he wasn’t able to bring to the show will be on display, including a 20-piece photographic series on stretched canvas.

“I feel like it’s (stretched canvas) a more modern form than a regular frame,” Dudich said.

Dudich said the Danville Arts in the Park experience is of great value to him because lesser known artists are able to gain exposure. Also, he interacts with other artists, sharing techniques and tips.

He said this is the main festival he goes to since he’s still in school, but plans to do more in the future, when he’s more “fine-tuned”.

“I’m still figuring everything out while I’m still in school ...”

He said the experience and exposure from the show is invaluable.

“Arts in the Park is excellent because it lets me receive experience at shows,” Dudich said. “It gives me a foothold on letting the public see my work, rather than carrying it on the street and asking ‘what’d you think of this?’”

Festival-goers Bob and Nancy Pearson of Veedersburg, Ind. were both pleased with their first trip to Arts in the Park.

“We thought it’d be an interesting



Danville Art League member Andrew Dudich won Best of Show honors at this year’s Art in the Park. Photo by Margie Yee

Arts in the Park winners

Best of Show: Andrew Dudich of Westville.

Sculpture/ceramics/pottery: First: Wood and Kitty Wooderchak of Auburn; Second: Keith Rice of Beardstown.

Jewelry: First: Shirley McCaffrey of Naples, Fla.; Second: Kyle Pace of Alcoa, Tenn.

Painting/oil and acrylic: First: Connie Werkman of Decatur; Second: Megan Kerns Carter of Bloomington.

Painting/watercolor: First: Larry Miller of Palestine; Second: Rae Nell Spencer of Oreana.

Photography/graphics: First: Dudich; Second: Tom Olson of Danville.

Fine Arts and crafts: First: Jane Holtz; Second: Hua Nian of Urbana.

thing to see and I’m impressed,” Nancy Pearson said.

The couple came to see the entire event, but also to support friends playing on stage in The Wabash Valley Area Band.

“I really liked the paintings of the barns,” Nancy Pearson said of artist Larry Miller’s work with Coon Hollow Studios.

Filling the other side of Lincoln Park, 110 antique car entries were being judged in the Art on Wheels car show sponsored by Illiana Antique Auto Club.

Many were out enjoying the day, which was filled with free musical and arts entertainment on the stage; even the youngest art enthusiasts.

Sheryl Stimac and daughter Elizabeth Stimac, 8, of Danville, were busy in the children’s art tent, where face painting, mask building, and poster painting were taking place.

“I think she loves it,” Sheryl Stimac said. “It’s wonderful that they provide it. I think it’s nice to have community arts oriented things in the area.”

The duo has come to the event for a couple years. She said they visit the exhibits and the children’s area is a real plus.

“That’s what draws me,” Sheryl Stimac said. “If you get my daughter interested, then you’re likely to get me there.”