

MAYFest

by Susan Steen
Activities and Rental Manager

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You'll Notice
The Difference.

2015 MayFest could not have been better for our visitors! With great weather for most of the 10 days, attendance was steady. Mother's Day Weekend was warm and fantastic with approximately 550 + guests attending in just those two days alone. Featuring half price memberships, Garden Shop specials and discounts, floral displays, art, sculpture and photography exhibits, special musical performances, Lakewold's Volunteer Jewelry Sale and chocolate, chocolate and more chocolate, this year's MayFest was buzzing with activity.



Our very own Historic Display nestled into the library again this year with a whimsical setup of old photography and information on the past owners that always keeps visitors in place reading through Lakewold's long standing history. Two of our wonderful community partners joined us once again this year. Opening up the first weekend with a 3 day exhibit,

Ikebana International #147 presented a delightful collection of unique and outstanding floral arrangements for our visitors. Alongside in the dining room, staged on the verandah and throughout the gardens the NWSSA (Northwest Stone Sculptors Association) featuring their artistry in a one of a kind stone sculptures exhibit that ran the entire 10 days. This is the first time



for Lakewold to have artwork out in the gardens and visitor response was wonderful. Another new fun three day feature in the garden was the Fairy House Walk showcasing naturally made "fairy houses" to hunt for and find, displayed along the stream and ponds in the woodland area.

Upstairs three local photographers, David Lobban, Randi Stumpp and Jerry Cahill filled the room with their beautiful and stunning variety of photography.



artwork, joining us for the first time the Ornamental Wood Turners and friends offered a dazzling display of turned wood piece produced by local crafters. The exhibit was a great addition to present with our longstanding partner's artwork.



The third stage of MayFest 2015 was Mother's Day Weekend. Returning for the second year Lakewold's Volunteer Jewelry Sale kicked off the weekend early, starting sales on Friday and continuing on through the weekend. We are pleased to announce the fundraiser was just as strong as last year's 3 day event and the proceeds will be used to beautify along the fence line of Gravelly Lake for all to enjoy. Saturday morning brought in some one day only event participants including



Keith Phillips, our longstanding stone craftsmen who setup and demonstrated the art of stone carving. Donald Olsen, author of the "Pacific Northwest Garden Tour Book" was on hand staged next to our Gardens Shop to provide visitors a signed copy of his book.

Early afternoon brought Naomi Fanshler and Friends Wind Trio who entertained visitors next to the verandah with a beautiful collection of selected musical pieces. As



visitors sat and listened towards the end of the woodwind set, they watched as world renowned Harpist Twyla Eddins Worthy setup and many stayed to watch her performance on her elegant petal harp. The air just felt lighter as visitors received a double treat from these professional musicians.

Back again for her second year and giving visitors an education on fine chocolates, Edie Rahlf the Sonsie Chocolatier sang to her own tune showcasing her delectable handmade

truffles and chocolates for purchase. Such a sweet treat and she's such a sweet lady! We were all singing the tune of chocolate, chocolate, chocolate!

By the time Mother's Day finally ended, I had spoken to many first time visitors. It was so exciting to hear, as visitors departed, that they were so amazed by all the wonderful and exciting displays and activities they were able to see and be a part of, vowing "We'll be back again!"



For me, it's not just the big grand things at MayFest but the little things that warm my heart -- like when I was able to watch an elderly visitor walk along the knot garden brick path, slowly touching each piece of stone artwork on display. She then stopped at one particular piece of stone carved into a rose and I watched her run her fingers through and along every petal and in every crease of that piece. I could see the hard work and effort that went into creating this beautiful carved stone. This visitor was moved by that creation. I was inspired watching her. Those are the special moments: the awe, the silent wonderment, and the joy that MayFest and the gardens do bring to our visitors. Lots of truly magical moments for me, as we all enjoyed a truly magical MayFest 2015.