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Jenks' Local News

Gorgeous weather grows great Herb Fest

By: By Mari Migliore 05/02/2007

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The gorgeous weather Saturday brought shoppers out to the 11th Annual Jenks Herb & Plant Festival by the thousands. Literally hundreds of people filled the city parking lot on "A" street which had been transformed into a city of tents filled with every conceivable plant one could imagine. Because the weather was clear and warm, some vendors chose to by-pass tents completely. [Lot's of photos].

Usually the festival has a huge surge of shoppers early and the rest of the day is rather slow. That was not the case this day. They just kept coming. I noticed something different about the shoppers this year. Usually you see mostly women, but this day I noticed more couples, young couples some with strollers, middle-aged couples, and older folks too.

The experienced shoppers came with wagons and baskets for their treasures.

And dogs! Dogs everywhere! All kinds and sizes. I never saw so many dogs outside a kennel. I actually saw someone with a covered stroller with dogs inside - I promise.

I love to people watch at this kind of thing, don't you?

One unusual outfit was worn by a lady

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who had on cowboy boots, shorts and midriff shirt. And guess what, she had a dog in tow too. A couple of men wore overalls. Lots of shorts were seen on this afternoon.

There were lots of interesting hats too. Gardening hats, sports visors, cowboy hats and one of the Dixieland band guys was wearing a rather damper white Babe Ruth sort of topper.

I saw a trio of older ladies with their purple and red hats and matching shirts. And there were bikers. Several people strolled with their bikes through the walkways.

The music stayed lively throughout the day. The Pendelton Family Fiddlers started the day with great country and upbeat music. One of the sisters yodels. A lost art I think. She was great. Mom and Dad also are part of the act. Dad plays guitar and Mom fiddle and mandolin. But they had so many extra instruments it was hard to keep up.

Then came the Dixieland Dudes. These guys are a Jenks festival favorite. This is their sixth year to perform. They usually just play their instruments but this year they had a singer. He was great. They always start with, "When the Saints Go Marchin' in." It seems to set the tone for the day.

Miss Anna Massey, a future American Idol for sure, delighted the audience with several upbeat Christian tunes with a country twist. A new group closed the day with a nice variety of music, Jordan Lindsey and Paul Bohnwagner of "Our Master's Voice."

We discovered them playing at the Jenks First Christian Church. Their versatility and variety was a real crowd pleaser.

There were lectures also. The hands down favorite subject is always tomatoes. Everybody wants to know how to raise the perfect tomato. Master Gardener Lew Melone was able to take all the mystery out of producing a healthy, abundant crop of the red fruit.

Also on hand was Blue Bird Bob. He told us we needed guts to have this colorful bird on our property. Something about being willing to chase away the other birds



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whom like to nest in the Blue Birds houses. It's not easy attracting Blue Birds evidently. He gathered quite a crowd.

Donna Vogelpohl, owner and operator of The Peppermint Dragon, shared insights into cooking with herbs. She cooked up a taco mixture of beef and added cheese, tomatoes and basil that was served on a nacho. Donna's recommendation was not to be afraid of cooking with herbs.

"They give ordinary dishes zip," she said.

After sampling we all agreed.

The other items offered at the festival give it the variety it needs to attract shoppers of all kinds. The African baskets were a huge hit. Buyers could be seen walking around with their new purchases full of plants.

The hand-painted sundresses with matching hats caught my eye. I purchased three of them with hats to match to share with my daughters. Always popular are Pam Smith's ceramic artifacts. This year she outdid herself with a totally ceramic birdbath with reflective stones and mirror pieces.

Ironworks, antiques, birdhouses, hand painted oil cloth floor coverings, hand decorated doggie beds, soaps and lotions, Home Made Gourmet, hand made lawn furniture, wine tasting and so much more.

The children were not disappointed with the huge Jupiter jump, face painting and play area - thanks to First Baptist Church.

The food was wonderful. My husband and I enjoyed a hamburger for \$4 that was the best I've had since last year when I had it at the Jenks Festival. It wasn't a slim piece of mystery meat. It was a juicy, plump patty complete with lettuce, tomato and onions. Delicious!

Corn dogs, the size of a child's arm, were smothered with mustard. Judging by the looks on their faces they were enjoying them. Candy peanuts and pecans, Italian Ice, ice cream, real lemonade. It was all part of the fun food of the day.

At the end of the day the Jenks Garden Club members were happy they had sold all but a few of their new Jenks Herb Festival T-shirts. If you want one you can call Kaye at 227-1528.

They were also happy that their gift of the festival to the community was so well-received.

If you didn't make it this year, don't fret. We'll be back next year for the 12th annual