

# Market...from Page 1A

The program is for any child ages 5-14 wanting to learn how to do a wide variety of arts and crafts from pottery, to drawing, to jewelry making, and more. Garcia stresses that the summer program is not only fun for the children, it is also a chance for veteran artisans and craftsman to pass on their knowledge to a future generation.

Garcia's enthusiastic and grateful outlook was equally shared by the vendors who joined this event.

With more than 50 vendors displaying their hand-made items, the Conference Center on the North Georgia Technical College campus in Blairsville was bursting with shopping energy.

Grateful for this energetic turnout was Richard Saberton and his wife Berta of Blairsville, who attend all of the guild's fundraisers.

Richard Saberton was truly pleased with the turnout and he said it was "the best turnout he has ever seen," and he has been attending this event since its inception.

Richard Saberton is an astounding jewelry maker and makes hand crafted jewelry with "wirewrap" of sterling silver and 14 karat gold filled materials.

His array of earrings, bracelets, necklaces and rings was truly impressive.

Richard Saberton who "only sells at shows" works throughout the off months making his jewelry because he says it takes "a bit of time" to stock his inventory for one of these shows.

Richard Saberton's items are so professionally done and well-polished, they look as if he has been making jewelry his entire life.

However, he has only been making jewelry for 19 years. He said that was when he took one class on "wire-wrap" at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, and has been making jewelry ever since, and his talent is amazing.

Tommy McClure has been crafting since he was a kid. He makes one-of-a-kind pottery sculptures that definitely vary from ordinary folk art. They're a lot more cheerful, for one thing, and set a perfect mood for the holidays.

Mistletoe Market is a chance for artists and craftspeople to gather to sell their products to the community. Products include knives, soaps, dyes, indigenous American jewelry, winter clothes, wooden crafts, weaving and knitting, custom pens, and many others.

McClure and his wife, Jelena, have sold their products everywhere from Clarkesville to Atlanta to Blairsville. This was their first year at Mistletoe Market. So far the experience has been a success.

"It's been great," said Tommy McClure.

Their company, Cave-man Pottery, sells upbeat, quirky takes on traditional folk art, featuring roosters, bowls, and toothpick holders.

"I just like being me," Tommy McClure said.

The theme at this particular market was definitely festive. Custom ornaments hung on display, as well as warm-weather clothing like scarves and knitted caps, and baked seasonal treats.

One of the more interesting booths in the warm-weather category was Donna McCarthy's Alpaca Tierra.

McCarthy owns a multitude of alpacas, whose wool she uses to make scarves, caps, birdhouses, and bookmarks, to name a few.

The process can be long and involved, but is worth it to make her high-end, custom, and very cozy alpaca-wool garments.

"There's just a million things you can do with it," she said. "I just saw them one day, and I just love the animal, and I said 'Oh my God, I've got to have one.'"

One led to two, two led to four, and four eventually led to 23 alpacas of all colors.

Meanwhile, if customers were feeling a little hungry after all the shopping, they could stop by Mary Fleury's booth for some delicious baked goodies.

Fleury sells 13 flavors of fudge, hot cocoa, almond crunch, and a variety of delicious treats, including her personal favorite, peanut brittle.

In celebration of Christmas, she sells her cocoa in packs that make two cups - one for Santa.

She also baked gingerbread boys and a treat she calls "divinity."

"When I sell the divinity, it's not a candy, it's a memory



Photos by Lowell Nicholson

I'm selling," she said. "Because everybody, somebody in their family in the past made it and it brings back a lot of memories."

Fleury has been a licensed and certified cook registered under the name Custom Delights since 2008, but has come to the Mistletoe Market since 2010. She also makes quilts.

The Mistletoe Market was a grand display of talent and skills, but it was the amazing and alluring aromas coming from the Sugarplum Tearoom that caused a lunch time "traffic jam" through the halls of the Convention

Center.

The Sugarplum Tearoom offered a wide and appetizing array of homemade baked goods, salads, sandwiches, soups, and everyone's favorite, desserts. Shoppers were able to enjoy a delicious lunch, or even just a snack, as they took a break from all of their shopping.

The Mistletoe Market is now done, but many of the local artists and craftsmen will congregate at the Brasstown Valley Resort this weekend for a festival there, hoping to enjoy the support of the community this Thanksgiving.