History of The Albemarle Craftsman’s Fair

The first Albemarle Craftsman’s Fair, held in the spring of 1959 at the old Dr. Pepper Plant on Ehringhaus Street, was planned by Home Agents Edna Bishop, Elizabeth Sanderlin and Mamie Sawyer; Walton Jennette, President and George Attix, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce; Florence Cox, Iola Pritchard and Marge Adams, Extensions Specialists. Later, the late Elsie Edwards became a guiding influence of both Fair and Guild.

The Chamber of Commerce, interested in the formation of the craft fair to boost area’s economy, was an original Fair sponsor. Current Fair sponsors are Albemarle Craftsman’s Guild, Inc., Extension and Community Associations of the Albemarle Area and the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service.

The ACF has survived through the cohesiveness of craftsmen and their dedication to crafts. Many people have donated countless hours of time and talent to make the ACF an event of which Elizabeth City and the area can be proud!

Early Fair promoters can also be proud that present day craftsmen’s goals are still much like those of the first Fair craftsmen - the preservation of good hand craftsmanship for the generations of tomorrow!

The 53rd Albemarle Craftsman’s Fair recognizes our many volunteers whose dedication strengthens our Fair.

Albemarle Craftsman’s Guild

Since its founding in 1966, the Albemarle Craftsman’s Guild has been dedicated to the improvement of the quality of crafts produced and sold, the promotion of originality in good design, and the continuation of authentic reproduction of the early crafts. The guild has also been concerned with studying the marketing of crafts produced by members and stimulating public interest in quality crafts and craftsmanship.

Although there are no geographical limitations for membership in the ACG, most of the members reside in the area of northeastern North Carolina bordering the Albemarle Sound and Tidewater Virginia.

The ACG is a sponsor of the Albemarle Craftsman’s Fair which is held during the last weekend of October. Craftsmen wanting to exhibit in the Fair must be members of the ACG.

We pay tribute to the crafters and supporters of the Albemarle Craftman’s Fair we have lost this year:

H.T. “GUNDER” LEWIS never submitted a craft for Guild screening, but for many years helped to set-up, take down, and photographed the Fair as an Associate Member. Even when he no longer could physically participate, he was here to encourage us. Gunder died September 7, 2011 at age 84.

ELIZABETH BRYUM became a member of the Albemarle Craftsman’s Guild in 1982 with baskets. She was later approved for crochet (1991) and pine needle craft (1995). Elizabeth died March 2, 2011 at age 92.

BILLIE BEAVERS joined the Albemarle Craftsman’s Guild with her husband, as a painter of his wild fowl carvings in 1978. She died April 1, 2011 at age 68.

ADA HARLOW’s crafts were pine needles and seagrass stools. She became a member of the Albemarle Craftsman’s Guild in 1981 and died at age 91 on April 15, 2011.

BEULAH WILLIAMS was a member of the Albemarle Conserved Products Association, an early participant in the Fair which no longer exists. She died June 21, 2011 at age 91.

HAZEL WHITE was known for her crochet work in the early Albemarle Craftsman’s Fair. She died September 19, 2011 at age 90.

Our Condolences to the families.

Albemarle Craftsman’s Fair
sponsored by
Albemarle Craftsman's Guild, Inc.
Albemarle Area Extension and
Community Associations
N.C. Cooperative Extension Service

OCTOBER 28-29, 2011
10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 30, 2011
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Knobbs Creek Recreation Center
Ward Street - Elizabeth City, North Carolina