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Cedar Key Woman's Club holds 14th Annual Fall Market in the clubhouse's front yard



Mark Turner (left) stands with his son Jake Turner, 14, of Nokomis. Jake is the youngest photographer so far published in the Cedar Key Woman's Club Annual Calendar. His work is for August of 2021. It is a picture from part of the beach at Seahorse Key. Also present at the fall market this year but not pictured here was Sandra Turner, Jake's Mom.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 29, 2020 at 11:10 a.m.

LEVY COUNTY – The global COVID-19 pandemic affected everything since March this year in Levy County, including the 2020 Cedar Key Woman's Club's Annual Fall Market, which was held on Saturday (Nov. 28) in the community of Sumner.

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Although the inside of the CKWC's big yellow clubhouse was not open for visitors during the 2020 Fall Market, the outdoor front porch was open to use as a place to view the many vendors on the front yard. Looking from the stairs up to the porch, three of the many Cedar Key Woman's Club members working at this fundraiser are seen. Here are (from left) Janet Ramsey, Susan Hollandsworth and Teri Brennan. Behind them is the quilt being raffled this year to help fund the Fisher House for Veterans.



A CKWC member helps a potential calendar buyer. The man asked to look at the calendar before purchasing it.

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Some of the many tables of treasures are seen from the front porch of the Cedar Key Woman's Club house looking down toward State Road 24 near the community of Sumner on Saturday (Nov. 28).



In addition to the artists' spots for sales, there were places for standard yard sale fare to be displayed as well. People perused upon the items and the owners sold them to their new owners. Some of the scores of buyers of the day are seen in action here.

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This table of artwork in various mediums shows some of the talent of Michelle Petersen of Cedar Key. Petersen, a native of Sydney (state capital of New South Wales), Australia, has been a Cedar Key resident since the 1980s. Petersen is the public works director for the City of Cedar Key too.



This closeup of some of the art by Michelle Petersen shows art to buy for the budget-constrained. For instance, the miniature art on easels for \$2 may have made a fine stocking-stuffer for a smart buyer at the Fall Market. There is a tiny mermaid in this picture, by the way (above the 'I' in 'Ink.com')

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This long view of Amy Gernhardt's table of treasures shows her holding one of the many Christmas ornaments she created. Gernhardt, the owner of Cedar Key Pottery, had plants galore for people who wanted to buy them. A quick view of those available plants, which were seen by a man who has relatively good luck with growing them, showed more than a few species that can thrive and spread in Florida.



This closer view shows Amy Gernhardt holding one of the many Christmas ornaments she created. Those ornaments were available for purchase at the 2020 CKWC Fall Market.

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This long view of Marie Lewis of Marie Designs shows the table she filled with her art for sale at the CKWC Fall Market. Dave Lewis her husband is a member of the Levy County Sheriff's Office's Citizens On Patrol, a group of volunteers who help with traffic control. Dave provided listeners with lots of interesting stories, not only at this table but at other points at the market.



This picture takes a closer look and captures some of the artwork by Marie Lewis, which was available for purchase at the 2020 CKWC Fall Market.

Undaunted by the deadly virus, members and guests of the Cedar Key Woman's Club enjoyed another fun event on Saturday (Nov. 28). CKWC member Kathleen Salkaln leads the publicity front for the club this year. She accomplished her mission by attracting people to this fundraiser.

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As has often been the case, this year the Cedar Key Woman's Club Calendar was a big hit. Vicki Lowery Crumpley was the project coordinator for this year's calendar. She mentioned that this year the Club is shipping more calendars than in years past.

"We have shipped to people all over the United States, and to the United Kingdom and Canada," Crumpley said on Saturday.

This year, she added, the CKWC is shipping more calendars than in years past. She thinks the global pandemic has curtailed people buying them firsthand at places such as the Cedar Key Chamber of Commerce's Welcome Center on Second Street.

At just \$10, the calendar makes an excellent souvenir for visitors and off-island friends. It is popular with area residents too. People reading this story who want to have a calendar, Crumpley said, can send an email to cedarkeywomansclub@yahoo.com to place an order.

Normally, this market includes food and drink, as well as vendors inside the yellow clubhouse at 7391 State Road 24.

As noted, while the inside of the clubhouse was not open, the Cedar Key Woman's Club celebrated its 14th year of the Fall Market with something for everyone to buy -- to help the club in this fundraiser. And as frequent participants in CKWC fundraisers know, there was an opportunity to buy tickets for the quilt raffle -- which helps the Fisher House for Veterans in Gainesville. CKWC member Eileen Senecal continues being a leader in that valiant effort.

Sitting on the tables in the front yard of the house, and beckoning to buyers, there were knickknacks, artifacts and more, which customers could purchase. There were art pieces and crafts by local artisans. There was jewelry - handmade, vintage and costume. There were plants and many other things waiting to be bought. And, of course, there was the renowned Cedar Key Woman's Club Calendar. The 2021 version absolutely was up to par for the club.

This calendar has photos from the area and has never disappointed calendar buyers, especially because everyone knows the CKWC helps many charitable causes in the area.

Proceeds from the 2020 Fall Market support many local organizations and the Cedar Key School, just as proceeds from the previous 13 annual markets have helped many people who look to the CKWC for aid.

Speaking of art and the calendar, it was a big hit again this year. Some market visitors noticed this year that the youngest photographer for the calendar, so far, was at the market.

Jake Turner, 14, of Nokomis (Sarasota County) was at the market with his parents Mark and Sandra Turner. Sandra Turner said Jake has been going to Cedar Key, and to the Cedar Key Woman's Club Fall Market since he was 2 years old.

The well-mannered young man instilled hope in some members of older generations who met him as he represented his cohorts in age very well.

The photo taken by Jake Turner and published in the 2021 CKWC Calendar is the featured picture for August of 2021. It is a scene from Seahorse Key. Mark Turner mentioned the picture was taken when the Turners were at Seahorse Key when it was open to visitors.

Like many other visitors to Seahorse Key, the Turner family took a boat taxi to the small island. Seahorse Key is open to visitors on occasions, and it is accessible only by boat.

As noted on the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Science's

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website “Seahorse Key is a 165-acre island located in Levy County and is part of the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge.”

It is a research station for scientists.

The island’s rich history includes thousands of years of human habitation and use, the UF website notes. The study of shell middens on the island and surrounding region by University of Florida archeologists show that native Americans made ample use of the area’s rich estuary habitats, especially oysters, and other seafood, the UF website notes.

The lighthouse at Seahorse Key was built in 1854 when the town of Cedar Key was the depot for all trade and communication up and down the Suwannee River, the website notes. The lighthouse has been restored to function again, and is lit on occasion.

In 1951, UF established a Marine Laboratory, which is leased for this purpose from the United States Department of Interior. A tremendous variety of plants and animals inhabit the local marine and coastal habitats including 246 bird species; 11 amphibians and reptiles; 93 fish species; hundreds of invertebrates; and dozens of plants, the UF website notes.

Speaking of science, culture and tourism, COVID-19 had claimed the lives of at least 18,442 Floridians as of Saturday (Nov. 28), according to the Florida Department of Health. The global COVID-19 pandemic has stalled some tourists from enjoying Florida as they have in the past.

COVID-19 has killed at least 44 people from the Tri-County Area of Levy County, Dixie County and Gilchrist County so far, according to the Florida Department of Health.

The CKWC Fall Market, though, was relatively safe. Most vendors and visitors to the fall market followed the advice of the Florida Department of Health.

Most people wore face masks to reduce the spread of the disease. Some choose against wearing facemasks for various reasons.

COVID-19’s death toll in Florida, the United States and around the globe is so significant, nonetheless, that it has killed more humans than several wars combined. Beyond killing people, it has caused hundreds of individuals from the Tri-County Area to pay for hospital stays in Gainesville or Ocala.

There have been 219 people so far from the Tri-County Area who have been reported by the FDOH as hospitalized because their COVID-19 symptoms were so serious that they needed to go to the hospital, as of Saturday.

Some number of local survivors of COVID-19 will have lifelong handicaps from the damage to their lungs and other organs, too.

The Woman’s Club, though, provided a fun fundraiser with safety as a prime consideration.

The Cedar Key Woman’s Club, which is part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, succeeded in conducting this fun and safe 2020 Fall Market by taking care to use accepted pandemic hygiene.

The General Federation of Women’s Clubs was founded in 1890 during the Progressive Movement, according to the GFWC website.

General Federation of Women’s Clubs Florida President Dianne Foerster has invited each GFWC Florida club to participate in a statewide Day of Service on Thursday (Dec 3), that statewide women’s clubs’ website noted.

“Clubs will shower Love, Respect, and Kindness upon persons with disabilities or

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special needs in their communities,” according to the announcement of the GFWC website. “Each club has been asked to pick a special project for this day. Volunteers will be in full force across the state as GFWC Florida serves our communities!”

As for the 2021 CKWC Fall Market, next year, given that more people follow public safety health guidelines through the pandemic, hope exists for that Fall Market to include indoor vendors, as well as food and drink for the people going to that shindig to raise revenue for the many worthy causes supported by the CKWC members.

As mentioned by at least one Methodist pastor in Florida on Sunday (Nov. 29), hope is a vital part of the Advent Season.