

# THE SOUTHERN

## Crafting tradition continues

**DUANE SHERRILL**  
News/Sports Smithville Review  
Smithville, Tennessee

The 20th annual Celebration of Craft was held Saturday, a light snow not dampening the spirits of hundreds of art and craft fans who drove over to the Appalachian Center for Craft, for the event.

The free event was an open house for Tennessee Tech's Appalachian Center for Craft, located on the bluffs above Center Hill Lake near Hurricane Bridge. Visitors were treated to a day full of demonstrations ranging from glass blowing and blacksmithing to pottery-making and sewing.

"It's really relaxing," said Aaron Gwyn, student at the center as he spun a piece of pottery for spectators. "It's fun to do because there are so many things you can create with your own hands."

Visitors had unrestricted access to the grounds and facilities and were able to do some hands-on work themselves as clay and craft-making classes were offered.

"It's a great day trip," said David Mann of Cookeville as he helped his daughter and son make a clay elephant in one of the hand-on parts of the event.

Along with showcasing artistic skills in action, there were displays of finished work and even a market where pieces of completed art could be purchased. Topping the event off was food and live music provided by the TTU Jazz Combo, The Ballinger Family Band and Spoonful.



Duane Sherrill photos  
Kare Makkasman, left, shows off her weaving prowess during the Celebration of Craft Saturday. She is from Thailand and attends Tennessee Tech.

Right, Aaron Gwyn says making pottery is relaxing. He spun a pot on his wheel for craft enthusiasts who came to the Appalachian Center for Craft during their 20-year celebration.

Below, Vince Pitka oversees the work at the center but is soon retiring and heading to North Carolina. He enjoyed showing his pottery-making skills to the public Saturday afternoon. Several hundred people attended the annual event held at the Center overlooking Center Hill Lake near Hurricane Bridge.



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