

The FIRST ANNUAL Festival of Trees IS A SUCCESS !!

On November 28th after weeks and months of blood, sweat, tears, laughter and sheer determination, a new holiday tradition was given a warm community reception. Volunteers began preparation last July and quickly came to the conclusion that we should have started earlier. When the last star was hung and all the preparations were completed the volunteers quickly changed clothes and the festival opened on Friday night. Over a hundred people arrived to enjoy the sparkling lights and beautiful decorations on thirty-one carefully arranged and decorated trees.

The Gala Opening featured delicious hors d'oeuvres, cheeses, and fancy desserts from Star Catering and wine served by Bridgeview Vineyards. There was lively music from "The Applegations" and an auction of the beautifully decorated trees led by Lee Nelson of Liska Associates. In addition to the trees, an original bronze by sculptor, Laran Ghiglieri, was auctioned to benefit Options. The piece was called "Natures Treasures" and included 30 carats of precious stones, with an appraised value of over \$100,000.

The spirit of the evening was certainly festive. Weary, but excited volunteers and arriving guests strolled the display and carefully viewed the amazing details of the individual trees. Each tree was decorated with a theme. The varied themes ran the gamut from "America the Beautiful" to "Celebrating our World" to the "Upside Down Tree", which was hung and decorated, literally, upside down. Volunteer teams of decorators spent hours finding ornaments that reflected their theme and even more hours hanging and attaching them. Every ornament had to be wired on so that the tree could be moved while fully decorated.

Saturday morning, over a hundred people enjoyed the Fashion Show and Champagne Brunch

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which was sponsored by the Grants Pass Gottschalks. A variety of local delicacies were available from Star Catering, E & I Catering, Ivy's Café, Rogue Coffee Shop, Brick Oven Bread, Applebee's, Wild River Pub, R Haus and Papa John's Pizza. The Festival included gift and craft booths arranged around the trees. Many visitors to the Festival inquired about having a craft booth in next year's festival.

Santa's workshop, hand crafted and donated by Ausland Builders LLC, was a popular attraction. Santa was on hand over the weekend to have his picture taken with the children.

Behind the main stage Santa's elves led the kids in games and holiday projects. Some of the elves performed skits and kid-friendly demonstrations of scientific principles to the delight of eager young faces.

Master of Ceremonies, Bob Armstrong sang and introduced the music and entertainment which was non-stop throughout the weekend featuring many local entertainers, dancers & singers who volunteered their time.

Habitat for Humanity, along with the Josephine County Homebuilders Association sponsored an "Incredible Edible House." Contest.

The edible houses were displayed throughout the weekend and auctioned off for Habit for Humanity. There was also a Silent Auction in progress all through the festival where individuals bid on a wide range of activities and items donated by local business, services and artists.

By Sunday night when the trees were gone and the decorations down and packed away, there was a warm feeling of relief for a successful festival and eager anticipation of a bigger and better event next year.



Options Clinical Director appointed to Governor's Task Force

Jeff Krolick, Options Clinical Director, was appointed to serve on the Governor's Task Force. In October the Governor issued an executive order creating the Taskforce with the mission to review, analyze, and recommend changes to the State of Oregon's public mental health system in order to preserve and improve services for Oregonians with severe emotional and psychiatric disorders.

"Particularly in these financially challenging times, we need to ensure that Oregon's mental health system is effective and accountable, that it is reaching those most in need and that we are providing the best possible care," said the Governor. "With the support of the legislature and mental health experts from around the state, this taskforce should provide us with a blueprint to accomplish those goals."

Jeff, the only representative from Southern Oregon, will join nineteen other mental health professionals, lawmakers and others from around the state. The Taskforce will provide a final report to the Governor's Office and to the Emergency Board of the Legislative Assembly no later than January 1, 2005 with the findings and recommendations of the Taskforce and an action plan for the implementation of those recommendations in the 2005-07 biennium.

All of the sponsored trees were rated by a team of Judges including: Len Holzinger, Mayor, Phil Paquin, City Council Member, Dan Calvert, former Sherrif, Susan Mackenzie and Barbra Cryer, Hands-on Design Team, Dr. Dave Oehling, Physician and Dennis Roler, Daily Courier Editor. The winners were:

1st Place- Angelic Winterland Harvest

Sponsor: United Way

Designers: United Way Board

2nd Place- America the Beautiful

Sponsor: Gottschalks

Designers: Cheryl Stapleton & Amy Blankenship

3rd Place- Seaside Holiday

Sponsor: Josephine County Human Services

Designers: Shirley Cooper & Shelia Koski

Best Christmas Spirit- O Holy Night

Sponsor: Siskiyou Insurance

Designers: Cathy Dahl & Kat Cascadden

Best Color Harmony- The Lady of Nottinghamshire

Sponsor: Ausland Builders

Designers: Pam Hoene & Brandy Travers

Most Elegant- Wine, Roses & Chocolate Lovers

Sponsor: Grants Pass Surgery Center

Designers: Grants Pass Surgery Center Staff

Most Original- Fan t'Asia

Sponsor: Michael Jorgenson Design & Construction

Designers: Sim Simpson with Hyla Lipson

Most Delightful- An Angel of the Lord Appeared

Sponsor: Ministers of Redwood Christian Church

Designers: Barbra Jack & Arlene Krutsinger

Most Whimsical- Healthy Holidays

Sponsor: Riverside Home Health Care

Designer: Christine Johnson

Most Unusual- Upside Down Tree

Sponsor: Connect the Dots Productions, Inc.

Designers: Connect the Dots Crew

This year's tree sponsors were:

- United Way
- Oregon Real Estate Center, Inc.
- Soroptimists
- Grants Pass Association of Realtors
- New York Life-Rashell Brown, Agent
- Friends of Options
- Connect the Dots Productions, Inc
- Redwood Christian Church
- Siskiyou Insurance
- Options for Southern Oregon Staff
- Princess House
- CornerStone Graphic Design and Marketing
- Options Board of Directors
- Hart Insurance
- Rogue Valley Events
- Ausland Builders
- Inkrote Floors
- Grants Pass Surgery Center
- Michael Jorgensen Design and Construction
- Gottschalks
- Dutch Bros.
- Our Community Bank
- Riverside Home Health Care
- Recognition Specialties
- Ministers of Redwood Christian Church
- Horizon Village Active Retirement Community
- Dwight Faszer Construction
- Josephine County Human Services Dept.
- Joe's Sports Bar and Grill
- Southern Oregon Federal Credit Union

Options offers gratitude to Cathy & Tiffany Dahl and all of the agencies, sponsors, businesses, volunteers, Board Members, staff and guests who made the first Festival of Trees such a success.

This is the eighth issue of the Options Newsletter and marks the beginning of our third year of publication. We wish to thank all the generous donors who have utilized this avenue to support Options. We also wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Meyer Memorial Trust, from whom the grant originated to make this newsletter possible.

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