

# urban TREES become community BENCHES

The Cincinnati Enquirer

This is a tall (tree) tale. This summer, 13 wooden benches, made from trees that grew in Cincinnati public parks, were designed and built for use in Roselawn Community Park on Seymour Avenue.

They're great benches, but you'd never guess the number of people behind each one:

■ The project was the idea of Nancy Sunnenberg of the Roselawn Community Council, chairwoman of the council's Beautification Committee.

■ Lumber for the benches came from trees felled and sawed by the Cincinnati Park Board (CPB). Kurt Kastner of the Cincinnati Park Board, who arranged for the lumber to be donated to the project, oversees CPB efforts to harvest urban timber for public projects.

■ The benches were designed by University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning (DAAP) students in Jim Postell's furniture design course. Students were eager to work with urban forested lumber - red and white oak, osage orange and a little cherry, Postell says.

Students outside the class also designed and

built benches. The project involved first-year to graduate students studying architecture, interior design and industrial design.

■ Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, led by Terry Robinson, provided cash awards for winning student designs. First prize, \$250, went to Travis Wollet; second-prize, \$150, to Nathan Sunderhaus.

■ The Cincinnati Recreation Commission is arranging for the benches to be installed in Roselawn. Helping in this area is Carole Douglas, service area coordinator and director of the Bond Hill Recreation Center.

■ Sam Sherrill, DAAP professor and author of *Harvesting Urban Timber* (Linden Publishing; \$23.25 from harvestingurbantimber.com), was involved with the project as part of his campaign for making better use of urban trees.

"I hope we can continue the project every year," Sherrill says. "I'd like to expand the effort area-wide. Instead of (public art) pigs, we'd work on public furniture."

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University of Cincinnati students Ben Meyer (left) and Matt Mutchler (second from left), with Jim Postell, UC associate professor, and Nancy Sunnenberg, Roselawn Community Council.



UC student Adam Koogler (left), sits on a park bench he and other students designed and built. With him is UC professor Sam Sherrill.

Photos by STEVEN M. HERPPICH/The Cincinnati Enquirer

## Folk Art & Crafts Show spotlights real artisans



Amett Country Store

The Cincinnati Enquirer

More than 110 artisans and craftsmen from across the country will be at the Sharonville Convention Center next weekend for the Fall Greater Cincinnati Folk Art & Craft Show.

This year's show will feature hand-painted gourds to carefully crafted quilts, custom furniture and one-of-a-kind holiday ornaments and decorations. Here's a sampling of the artisans participating in this year's show:

### Quilt art

Carole Collins began quilting almost three decades ago at the urging of her mother-in-law. Today, her hand-stitched pieces sell quickly and she is sought for teaching and her pattern expertise.

Collins' passion lies in creating traditional quilts. "When you get into quilting, there are a lot of different ways to go," she says. "Some people enjoy contemporary looks and bright or pastel colors. I like the dark, muted colors and quilts with traditional patterns such as 'Four Patch,' 'Log Cabin' and

### 'Yankee Puzzle.'

Collins take tradition a step further. "A long time ago, most people made their own furniture. I'm trying to recreate that by making many of the frames for my quilts," she says.

For this show, Collins' stock will consist mostly of decorative, smaller pieces.

"I make all sizes of quilts, but the ones for the show are doll size," she says. Prices: \$30-\$500.

### Decorative gourds

Their texture, shape and color is always different, and that's just the way "That Gourd Lady," Natalie Kaltenbach, likes it.

"No two are ever alike," Kaltenbach says of her hand-painted gourds.

The reason is not only because she skillfully paints the Santas, snowmen and other characters on her gourds, but that the gourds are different shapes.

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