

explore biltmore village

Something New, Something Different

No one can attend all the festivals and fairs that grace the Blue Ridge Mountains every summer. But those who require top quality mark the annual Village Art & Craft Fair in Biltmore Village high on their "must-see" list. There's good reason: Fine art, fine craft, and always something new and different.

John Cram, founder of the fair and owner of New Morning Gallery, Bellagio, Blue Spiral 1, and the Fine Arts Theatre, makes certain that there are always new artists and artisans that join the ranks of exhibitors who have become annual regulars. Doing so makes for the perfect mix, year after year.

As one recent fair attendee well explained, "It's one of the best festivals anywhere." This year's fair is now in its 38th year, and promises to hold that tradition of excellence high.

Fair aficionados are not the only ones

BY BYRON BELZAK



who are glad to attend. The creatives who are chosen to show are pleased to be included in this prestigious fair. For example, Gabriel Shaffer, one of Asheville's great up-and-coming artists, had participated in the 2008 fair and hopes to remain a regular. Jeff Pittman, one of Asheville's finest and most popular artists, has always done extremely well selling scores of his works and is certain to show this year as well.

Denise Meyers, known for her artistic handbags, "bagged" many appreciative art-and-craft seekers in previous shows. These and many other participating artists and makers of finely crafted items consider it to be a high honor to be selected to show in this juried fair.

And the thousands who attend each year to



Left: Jimmy & Marlene Hopkins. Yard and garden art made from recycled metal. Above: Print by Linda Deaton.



38th Annual Village Art and Craft Fair, sponsored by New Morning Gallery and Bellagio. August 7 and 8 on the grounds of the Cathedral of All Souls in Historic Biltmore Village.

Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday noon to 6 p.m., rain or shine. Free admission. Concessions available. For more information call (828) 274-2831.

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Steve Noggle



Mary-Anne & Bill Collins

Neo Cantina Adds to the Biltmore Village Renaissance

Neo Cantina is Asheville's new southwest grill, incorporating all your favorite dishes with a fresh twist," said manager Mike Bryant. "It is an integral part of the renaissance of Biltmore Village. And we are working hard to become the top gathering place of south Asheville."

Neo Cantina occupies the former La Paz location in Biltmore Village. Neo Cantina is a licensee of the Neo trademark and its proud tradition of local partnering and "making the world a better place one burrito at a time." Neo Cantina is a woman-owned business that opened in February 2010 with the management and kitchen crew of the former La Paz restaurant, allowing Asheville to save 50 local jobs.



"Neo Cantina took La Paz's Tex-Mex theme and upgraded it to a southwest grill," said Bryant. "We increased the quality of all the food items as well as the drinks, and now offer signature dishes that include Spanish paella, featuring seafood, chicken or pork."

Neo Cantina is open seven days a week, offering the \$3 Neo Margarita through the summer.

Neo Cantina will be expanding its evening patio seating to include Spanish guitar music by torch light for a magical evening. The newly opened Breezeway Bar will have an outdoor smoking option.

"The response to our changes and



property upgrades has been phenomenal," said Bryant. "Our table service is impeccable. And everything just keeps getting better."

Neo Cantina

Southwest Grill
10 Biltmore Plaza, Asheville, NC 28803

Open 7 days a week
(828) 505-7682

www.neocantina.com

What's a Naturalist?

Owners Hal and Laura Mahan of The Compleat Naturalist in Historic Biltmore Village answer that question every day, and it only takes one step into their store to discover for yourself. The Compleat Naturalist has something for the nature lover in everyone of every age.



"We believe that an interest in nature can change a person's life," says Laura Mahan, who has made a career out of teaching and inspiring a love of nature. "In my own case, it was my mother who got me started. We used to go out on bird walks when I was a young girl. I hated it at first because it was so early in the morning and usually cold in the springtime. But one day I got a good look at a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and I was hooked."

The Compleat Naturalist offers everything one needs to get into a nature hobby. They stock binoculars and spotting scopes, rock hammers, insect nets, hand lenses, and microscopes, plus a huge inventory of nature field guides, books, and maps. The Mahans, both biologists, lead trips and teach classes for amateur naturalists. The store also features a wide range of nature-oriented gifts, such as bright flower umbrellas, woodpecker door knockers, one-of-a-kind etched glasswork, jewelry, and carved bears.



The Compleat Naturalist

2 Brook Street, Biltmore Village
Asheville, NC 28803

Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Most Sundays: Noon to 5 p.m.

www.compleatnaturalist.com

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Margaret Couch Cogswell

THE 38TH ANNUAL Village Art & Craft Fair



5 Biltmore Plaza
828.277.8100
7 Boston Way
828.274.2831

AUGUST 7 & 8
Sat 10-7 • Sun 12-6

120 Exhibitors • All Media
Rain or Shine • No Admission

ASHEVILLE, NC 2010 BILTMORE VILLAGE

biltmore village

History of Biltmore Village

More than a century ago, George W. Vanderbilt transformed the sleepy crossroads settlement known as Best, or Asheville Junction, on the Swannanoa River into an idyllic model village near the entrance to his vast Biltmore Estate.

Biltmore Village served three purposes: to present an aesthetically pleasing prelude to the entrance of his estate; to create institutions to serve as a framework for his philanthropic endeavors to benefit the people of the area, and to create a self-contained and self-sustaining community that would also provide rental income.

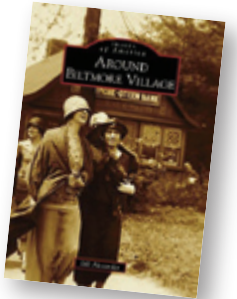
Some of the original buildings are still here, such as All Souls Church (now All Souls Cathedral), the Depot (now a restaurant), and some of the original cottages. A fascinating new book has just been released, *Around Biltmore Village*, containing a multitude of historic photographs of Biltmore Village over the past centuries.

Written by Biltmore Estate Landscape and Forest Historian, Bill Alexander, *Around Biltmore Village* is a fascinating portrayal of times-gone-by. It's available at these Biltmore Village shops: Once Upon a Time, and The Compleat Naturalist.

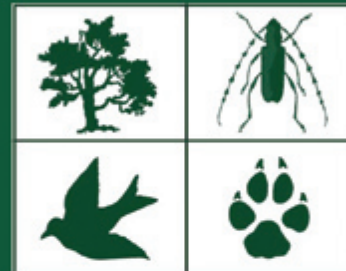
About the Author

A lifelong resident of Asheville, author Bill Alexander can trace his family roots to the organization of Buncombe County in 1792, when his fifth-great-grandfather was appointed as the first sheriff. Alexander grew up in the shadows of the Biltmore Estate and barely two miles from Biltmore Village.

Employed by the estate for 30 years he wrote his first book, *The Biltmore Nursery: A Botanical Legacy*, in 2007. Alexander has drawn from his wealth of knowledge from research of the Biltmore Estate's archives and various collections from North Carolina to Massachusetts, Florida, and California to publish *Around Biltmore Village*.



the compleat naturalist



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Premier Southwest Grill

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of Biltmore Village"

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