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Pres

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Professional artists drawn to local event

Local and area residents who have viewed paintings by a professional artist and wondered "How did they do that?" had an opportunity to find some answers at a special event in Marceline this past weekend.

A group of 24 artists, primarily from the Midwest, gathered in Marceline for the Spring Paint-out event Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Coordinator for the event was artist Billy O'Donnell, who created a portrait of Walt Disney's Dreaming Tree here last year.

The featured activity was the Quick Draw, a three-hour event Saturday in Ripley Park in which 15 of the artists had the same amount of time to paint the same subject. They did so from different angles, perspectives and more.

Local resident Patrick Riley served as model for the park event, sporting an authentic, 86-year-old wool uniform from World War I. He was also holding a 1903 Springfield Rifle.

In addition to the Paint-out festivities, artists were given a map of the many landmarks and other interesting places in Linn County that could serve as painting subjects during the weekend -- including the Walt Disney Santa Fe Depot Museum and Uptown Theatre in Marceline. Many of the artists took the opportunity to paint scenes in Ripley Park as well.

"This is an event for art-



Artists Richard Bernal (left) and Pierre Bollier (also known as Chris Nahm) were two of the 15 participants in Saturday's Quick Draw in Ripley Park. Local resident Patrick Riley (center) served as the artists' subject, posing in an authentic World War I uniform.

ists that helps create camaraderie with the other artists, gives us a chance to see the materials they use and more," O'Donnell said. "This has been a real success."

Similar events have been held in other places in the United States, and O'Donnell gave Marceline high marks in terms of hospitality. "There are

not too many places we go where the people come out and help us and get to know the artists like they have here," he said.

Prior to Saturday's event the artists heard from some of those local citizens. After a welcome from City Manager Liz Cupp, Levi Kelly and Kendra Gladbach performed the

"Hello, My Name is Walt" and "Painting the Side of the House" skits in their roles as Walt and Ruth Disney.

Toonfest Chairperson Richard Switzer discussed the annual Marceline event that celebrates Disney and his craft, and he called attention

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to the schedule of events for the 2003 celebration. Plus, Bill Brewer offered details about the planned cartoonists symposium at the Sept. 20 event.

That was followed by a short history of the uniform worn by Riley and some details about the man it belonged to (Ray W. Miller) from John Leopold.

Along with O'Donnell, artists from Missouri involved in the event were Jason Dowd, Richard Bernal, Ron Flier and Helen D. Hume of St. Louis; Lynn Pharris of Mack's Creek; Peggy Sibley, El Dorado Springs; Gloria Gaus, Rochepoort; Lois A. King, Sedalia; Shawn Cornell, Afton; Chris Frederick, Columbia; Cath-

rine Mahoney, Hermann; John and Alice Junger and Virginia Dragshutz of St. Charles; Patricia Gillman, St. Peter's; Linda Hoffman, Arrow Rock; and Lynn Ludwigs of Kansas City.

Other artists who participated were Thom Buttner of Jacksonville, Fla.; Dave Cornell of Lebanon, Ill.; Marie

Weaver of New Berlin, Ill.; Pierre Bollier (Chris Nahm) of Lawrence, Kan.; Rachel Husenyager from Springfield, Ill.; and Kathleen Connors of Kansas City, Kan.

Although plans are not complete at this time, organizers say they hope to make the Spring Paint-out an annual event in Marceline.



After being welcomed by local citizens and watching two skits starring Ruth (Kendra Gladbach) and Walt (Levi Kelly) Disney (above), the artists gathered near the northeast corner of the park for the Quick Draw Saturday afternoon (left).