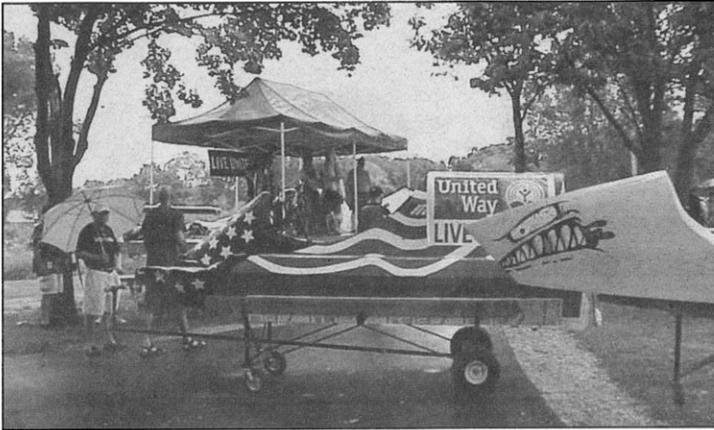


Boaters and onlookers get drenched at annual event



Christina Hazelwood photo

Cardboard boats wait their turn to enter the race at Saturday's rain-soaked United Way event.

By Christina Hazelwood
Staff writer

The boating contestants were not the only ones who got wet at this year's ninth annual "What Floats Your Cardboard Boat" event held

Aug. 20 on Mastodon Lake in Phillips Park of Aurora.

Despite downpours that resulted in a quarter inch of rain, volunteers manned booths and proceeded with the daylong Fox Valley United Way



Christina Hazelwood photo

The Aurora Fire Department helps rescue sailors whose boat sank at the "What Floats Your Cardboard Boat Race" in Phillips Park.



Christina Hazelwood photo

Participants seek the cover of a tree while waiting to race boats Saturday at Aurora's Mastodon Lake.

event that marks the start of its yearly fund-raising campaign. Event supporters built cardboard boats that they raced around the lake.

Individuals and teams donned theme costumes and manned their cardboard boats with water coming in from both beneath and above to see who could make the return trip around buoy and back the fastest and intact. Competitors vied for the fastest time around the lake as well as awards like "People's Choice," "Judge's Choice," "Team Spirit" and "Most Spectacular Sinking."

The boats are made out of cardboard, duct tape, masking tape, polyurethane and glue. Individuals and teams pay an entrance fee to race and come up with a design that will make the trip around the lake before disintegrating. Both contestants and on-lookers got soaked at this year's event.

Entrants in this year's event were Fox Valley United Way, Kane and Kendall County Sheriffs, A Work of Art Glass, Ltd., The Falcon Family, The Kukla Crew, Caterpillar, Inc., Old Second National Bank, Pizza Express, Aurora Fire Department, Aurora Police Department, Aurora

Regional Fire Museum, Boy Scout Troup 53 St. Rita, Family Counseling Service of Aurora, Hesed House, Hope for Tomorrow and My Father's Hands.

The event also had several sponsors some of whom had informational tent booths set up at the event. Sponsors included: City of Aurora, Old Second National Bank, 95.9 The River radio station, The Beacon News, The Fox Valley Labor News, Record Newspapers, WSPY AM/FM radio station, 121 Marketing Resources, Inc., Aurora Fast Print, Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce, B2B Interactive Marketing, Clear Belief Systems, Inc., Dick's Mini Donuts, Ginger Creek Community Church, Malcolm Wolf Inc., Westfield Fox Valley, The Aurora Fire Department Rescue Team, Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board, Cloe the Clown, MC Brian Basilio, Community Events Committee, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Aurora Department of Parks, Raging Waves and the Salvation Army.

Christina Hazelwood's e-mail address is: christina@foxvalleylabornews.com