

Artists get plenty of attention at ArtWalk

By Clint Wolf cwolf@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Saturday, May 17, 2014 10:00 am

Jodiy Timmerwilke was standing by her colorful hat creations outside Stanton Shoes Friday night, fielding loads of questions from curious passersby.

“Where to you come up with the idea for these,” asked Britney McKay.

“My husband and I go to New Orleans a lot. It’s really where we get the inspiration,” she answered.

There is a definite Mardi Gras feel to her turbin-like hat creations, and she was getting plenty of interest as she was one of the artists featured in downtown Beloit for ArtWalk.

Timmerwilke, of Roscoe, said she has been making the hats, dolls and other items, for about four years, mostly as a hobby. It was only in the last year she has become more serious about her creations, and it was her first year at ArtWalk. She now sells her hats and dolls through her business, Second Line Hats.

She and her husband would often come to the Farmers Market in downtown Beloit during the summer, wearing their ornate, plumed hats.

That’s where John Stanton, owner of Stanton Shoes spotted them, and he said they should come show the hats during ArtWalk.

Timmerwilke was pleased with the response her hats were getting.

“You can’t walk past these things and not get a smile,” she said.

Over at the Villager on Grand Avenue, Carl and Susan Valenti were showing their works made from recycled wood and computer parts.

The couple have been taking part in ArtWalk in Beloit for six years, and they also are regulars at Beloit’s Holidazzle.

The Rockton couple market their wares through their business, Terramore.

Carl Valenti pointed to a necklace on display at the Villager.

“This is a section of a hard drive disc from a computer,” he said, pointing to a section of the necklace.

He also said he will take pieces of wood he finds and use them to create sculptures.

He said he and his wife both are cancer survivors. When he retired, after about 30 years in the metal sales business, he had plenty of time on his hands, so he started dabbling with sculptures and wearable art. He then discovered his wife, Susan, was pretty good at doing the beading on the necklaces he

would create.

A few doors down from the Villager, Josh Swedlund was at Suds O'Hanahan's Irish Pub drawing caricatures of patrons.

Swedlund grew up in Beloit and currently is attending Northern Michigan University, majoring in illustration. He decided to put his artistic talents to good use and join the other artists at ArtWalk, and possibly make a little money to help pay for his education.

He said being part of ArtWalk was a new experience.

"It's just a lot of fun on top of it all," he said.

ArtWalk continues today from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.