

Cat's Eye Creations creates Maple Max Jewelry Line

While preparing her application for the West Woods Nature Arts Festival local artist Michelle Smith, of Cat's Eye Creations, was brainstorming for nature related critters that she could create to submit along with application. A raccoon quickly crossed her mind, thinking of the Geauga County Tourism's 'Ambassador of Fun' Maple Max. Smith contacted Lynda Nemeth, Geauga County Tourism Director, to present a joint opportunity of creating and marketing the Maple Max jewelry line. It was presented and approved by the Geauga County Tourism Board of Directors.

Smith's jewelry line features jewelry fabricated from sheet metals such as copper, aluminum, silver and brass and accented with leather and beach glass. She uses a variety of different tools to produce the textures that you will see featured in her works. Each piece is carefully designed and crafted to produce a unique, wearable work of art. Smith will be promoting the jewelry line at various Geauga County art and craft shows. Geauga County Tourism office will also have the jewelry line available at their office and a portion of every sale will be donated to Geauga County Tourism to be used to promote Geauga County.

For more information about Cat's Eye Creations visit their Facebook page. To get more information about ordering or Geauga County Tourism please visit www.TourGauga.com, their Facebook page or call 440-632-1538.



Puppy Tails

MIALIE T. SZYMANSKI

*As the moon goes to bed,
the sun comes up
And here we meet a sleepy pup,
Who was walking through
G-ville one bright sunny day,
Then saw The Villager
and decided to stay.*

It had been quite a while since Doodle Dog found himself outside after dark, after the sun had set and the moon shone way up in the sky. The bright white ball with the tiny little face of the man that lived up in the moon smiled down on the floppy-eared puppy as he stretched awake from his nap among the flora and fauna in this curious new meadow. The rolling hill was quite comfortable, very comfortable indeed, and just as Doodle Dog found himself outside after dark past when the sun had set and the moon woke up, he also found himself very much alone in this place he didn't know all that well at all.

But just as the meadow was a curious meadow, there was something else very curious about Doodle Dog being in this curious meadow: he felt quite comfortable in this curious meadow even though he had found himself all alone, outside after dark. The little girl in her fluttery dress and her little boy friends with their cloaks and shields had run home quite a while ago, just after the sun set its brilliant colors over their little kingdom and the rolling hill covered in colorful flora and fauna where the floppy-eared puppy slept quite comfortably. They had made sure to be home before dark as Doodle Dog usually does, but this night was special it seemed, or at the very least, out of the ordinary

indeed. He didn't know exactly how he knew that he knew it, but he certainly knew that he knew it, and that was good enough for now!

Doodle Dog, being the quite comfortable floppy-eared puppy that he was, continued to snooze in his little patch on the side of the rolling hill, almost snoring (it's true!) among the flora and fauna spread in layers upon layers on the grassy knoll of the hill that rolled and rolled in all shades of sparkling emerald green. Snooze and snore he did, quietly and comfortably, his quiet and comfortable floppy-eared puppy sounds gently echoing among the bushes and thickets, around the tree trunks and flower thrushes surrounding the borders of the curious meadow.

As Doodle Dog continued to sleep comfortably on his rolling knoll, all grassy and green, the sun continued to sleep wherever the sun sleeps when it goes to bed to allow the moon its time to shine above all the creatures in all the curious meadows. All the curious meadows, including this one where a little floppy-eared puppy snoozed and snored (shhhh!), snuggled in a safe patch of soft green grass. Especially this curious meadow, where tiny little lights made by tiny little fireflies made tiny little sparkly garlands through the air from one tree to the next, from one brush of thistles to the next, and from one unusual-looking tree to the next.

All the while, the quiet and comfortable sounds of the curious floppy-eared puppy continued to echo gently among those bushes and thickets, around the tree trunks and flowers where the garlands of firefly light and the garlands of woodland ivy as green as the

knoll grass draped softly, floating on the evening's breeze. Until, that is, Doodle Dog woke just slightly, hearing the faintest gleeful sounds floating on the air toward him, the kind like the tinkling of bells or the laughter of pretend princesses. But the little princess and her friends had left hours ago, making sure to be home before the sun set its brilliant colors behind the rolling hills of the curious meadow. What could it be?

As Doodle Dog dozed, the fireflies glowed, and their tiny lights showed the way through the curious meadow for the fairies with fluttery wings that laughed in the thistles and danced daintily around the unusual-looking trees. A band of nymphs played mischievous tricks with the imps that came to enjoy the evening's affairs. And the sprites of the night dashed with delight around the flora and fauna where the floppy-eared puppy slept.

Doodle Dog lazily turned one of those floppy ears to the direction of the sound, but he still couldn't figure out what it was or where it was coming from since that tinkling of bells – or laughter of princesses, he couldn't be sure, of course! – echoed off one tree and then another and then another all around him. But, as Doodle Dog was quite comfortable indeed, he rather enjoyed the melody of this magical, curious meadow and its gentle nighttime sounds, so he did what any floppy-eared puppy would do and simply snuggled back into his knoll and let the lullaby of the fairies and the sprites and the nymphs and the imps and the fireflies calm the curious meadow and all the creatures there.

It was quite a pleasant, enchanted eve for a quiet midsummer night's dream.

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Head out to the Akron zoo and take a "Journey to the Reef" with the family. The new exhibit has 17 aquariums, including several interactive areas.

Some highlights include: many mollusks, arthropods, anemones, jellies, echinoderms, corals, eels, seahorses and many species of fish. Also included is a touch exhibit where you can interact with stingrays. The exhibit is located in place of the previous jellyfish exhibit at the zoo.

The zoo is located at 500 Edgewood Ave. in Akron.

Grab your snorkel, flippers and your family and dive in for a good time!

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