

'It took us about nine years to build up to the quality of work we have here now.'

Jo McConnell
Event Coordinator

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Up to 20,000 visitors are expected to come to the 2011 Spring Jubilee in Pendleton this weekend.

PENDLETON — There is no denying that most South Carolinians wouldn't want to be stuck in Upstate New York getting upwards of 12 inches of snow this weekend.

There is also no denying that most New Yorkers, if not every last one of them, would give just about anything to be enjoying a sunny weekend here in the Upstate, with none of the white stuff.

It's really too bad, because the 2011 Spring Jubilee in Pendleton will have all the makings of warm-weather envy and seasonal fun.

This year, Pendleton's biggest event and festival will be held on April 2 and 3.

The annual festival has gone on since 1978, and it's packed with fun activities, solid entertainment, art vendors, delicious food options and lots of people happy to be welcoming spring.

During the first year of the festival, only 32 vendors could fit into the allotted Pendleton Square green.

After a handful of years, however, Event Coordinator Jo McConnell worked to close off Exchange Street, which helped expand the festival.

Now, 90 vendors and 300 artisans set up each year, and it isn't first-come, first-served.

"The Spring Jubilee is a juried event," McConnell said. "Each artisan needs to be chosen specifically in order to be granted a spot in the festival. It took us about nine years to build up to the quality of work we have here now."

Due to the festival's reputation for consistency and quality, thousands of people pour into historic Pendleton the first weekend every April. As patrons look at unique, one-of-a-kind arts and crafts from around the country, officials are expecting to handle a crowd of more than 20,000 throughout the

weekend.

The event will go on rain or shine, and has been named a two-time winner of the Best Festival in South Carolina for a community under 3,000.

In addition to the arts, food and music, visitors can participate in the Jubilee Joy Ride, a cycling loop that riders follow for 28 miles, cruising along quiet countryside.

A 5-K run will also kick off on Saturday morning, dubbed the Peace Power Run.

The ride and run are held in conjunction with the Jubilee as the Joy Ride begins from the Pendleton District Agricultural Museum grounds and the Peace Power Run begins at Veteran's Park on Lebanon Road at 9 a.m.

When it comes to this festival, there is also no denying that both vendors and visitors are always happy with the outcome.

"We have done art shows for 26 years and can honestly say that the Spring Jubilee in Pendleton, is one of our favorites. The promoters sincerely care about the exhibitors. We love the setting, and we sell well. It's like taking a vacation, but we make money," said Karen and Mike Baum, artists.

"The Spring Jubilee is at the top of my list of favorite shows. As an artist I do many shows. The quality of the show is most important. I

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

8 a.m. — JUBILEE JOY RIDE/5-K Run Pendleton District Agricultural Museum, Hwy. 76 and Veteran's Park, respectively.

10 a.m. — ARTS AND CRAFTS BOOTHS OPEN until 6 p.m., Village Green
PUBLIC RESTROOMS in parking lot behind Hunter's Store

FOOD BOOTHS open until 6 p.m., Village Green
ASHTABULA & WOODBURN, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

10-10:15 a.m. — CHRISTOPHER BRANCH, Folk/Pop, Stage

11 a.m. — EMERALD ROAD, Celtic/Folk music, Stage

12 noon — SCOTTISH DANCERS, Stage

2 p.m. — SAM BURCHFIELD, Acoustic/Folk, Stage
3:30 p.m. — THE BLACK SISTERS, Gospel music, Stage
4:30 p.m. — SCOTTISH DANCERS, Stage
6 p.m. — BLUEGRASS UNDER THE STARS, Tri-County Technical College Amphitheater followed by fireworks, 6-9 p.m. Free Admission

only show at juried shows, so that the people visiting and potential buyers are not disappointed when shopping for a gift or a personal item such as jewelry, pottery or a painting for a very special place in their home. The Spring Jubilee is at the top of my spring shows list. The artists are all professional people, as well as the staff putting the show together. This

show is worth a drive, or even a rainy, windy day. You will not be disappointed when you see the fine arts and crafts that Spring Jubilee has to offer," said Vivian Edwards, artist.

For more information about the event, 5-K or Joy Ride, visit www.pendletondistrict.org/jubilee.