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Kentucky Craft Beer Festival features variety of offerings

BECCA OWSLEY The News-Enterprise Jun 17, 2018



Laura Maravilla tastes Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant's Hefeweizen on Saturday during the Kentucky Craft Beer Festival at the Brown-Pusey House in Elizabethtown.

JILL PICKETT/The News-Enterprise

Downtown Elizabethtown became the place to be Saturday for fans of craft beer.

The Cunningham Garden of the Brown-Pusey House was crawling with connoisseurs of the beverage during The Kentucky Craft Beer Festival.

Temperatures in the 90s did not keep patrons from the event.

Kim Hood of Louisville enjoyed the festival despite the heat. She has family in the area and came down to try the variety of craft beers.

One of her favorites was a Skippy peanut butter flavored beer from Blue Stallion Brewing Co. of Lexington.

“It’s a good variety of beers to try,” she said of the festival.

There were around 20 brewers involved this year.

Hood was not the only tourist at the festival.

Organizer Kenny Rambo said a company called Original Grain provided some wood grain watches to sell at the event and one was raffled early in the afternoon. Rambo said the man who won was from Dallas. He is training at Fort Knox and came to the festival after seeing a advertisement.

“It’s good to have that kind of reach and be able to introduce folks to Kentucky craft beer,” he said.

The event is one of two fundraisers for Give 270, a local nonprofit. With the help of United Way of Central Kentucky, Give 270 uses the proceeds from this event to fill designated local needs, Rambo said.

In the first two years of the festival, \$20,000 has been given to meet those needs, he said.

This year, raffle tickets were sold for a Van Winkle special reserve bourbon donated by Liquor Barn. Proceeds from the raffle go to CASA of the Heartland.

During last year’s festival, Flywheel Brewery of Elizabethtown didn’t have beer to pour for the tasting. This year they are not only pouring seven of their locally brewed beers, they also are a presenting brewer along with West Sixth Brewing of Lexington. Aaron Hawkins and Ashley Willoughby of Flywheel were glad to be a part of this year’s festival.

“It’s a great feeling to both have a presence here in town, around the county and region,” Willoughby said.

He said the hometown brewery is spreading its wings and the word is spreading they are making good beer.

The festival has an “incredible atmosphere for craft beer” with a lot of great brewers involved, Willoughby said.

“This whole thing helps the community,” Hawkins said of the festival.

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