



Monday, August 4, 2003

Concours auctions raise record funds

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

It was a record-breaking weekend for organizers of the 25th annual **Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance** as thousands of attendees braved muggy temperatures and threatening skies to revel in the beauty of hundreds of classic vehicles, participate in art and classic car auctions, and enjoy the company of fellow car enthusiasts from around the world.

Though attendance figures are not yet available, event organizers estimate the car show drew about 20,000 visitors to Oakland University's **Meadow Brook Hall**.

"Attendance was steady throughout the day, and we think the attendance was comparable to past years," said Concours spokeswoman Linda Ashley. "The classic car auction brought in \$6.1 million and sold 85 percent of the vehicles – both figures represent the highest ever for the event. In addition, the art auction raised over \$170,000, which was another record-breaker."

Of the 280 vehicles on display, many earned prestigious awards. Judges gave the Best of Show award to the Patterson Collection of Louisville, Ky., for its 1937 Mercedes Benz 540 K Cabriolet. The People's Choice Award, as voted on by Concours attendees, went to Joseph and Theresa Coppola of Novi for their 1936 Auburn 852 Supercharged 8 Speedster. Automotive milestones also were honored in recognition of the Ford and Buick centennials. Both manufacturers sent representative vehicles from company and private collections.

The Concours also celebrated the Duesenberg marque by inviting 25 representative vehicles to **Meadow Brook Hall**. To honor these special guests, the Duesenberg Cup, a commemorative one-time only award, was presented to each vehicle owner. The cup is inscribed with the owners' names and car plates. Each vehicle owner received a limited edition, small scale, silver replica.

"There was really a lot of excitement this year," Ashley said. "There's a spectacular quality to seeing the finest cars in the world at such an exceptional setting. Car collectors from all over the country love to come to Meadow Brook Hall for this event.

"We also feature cars from around the globe. One owner brought a Studebaker from Newfoundland, and another brought his 1936 Voisin C28 Aerosport Aero Coupe from Switzerland. We are fortunate to have an event like the Concours where people can enjoy such rare and beautiful vehicles."

The Concours is a fund-raising event that supports the preservation and interpretation of **Meadow Brook Hall**, the fourth largest historic house in the country. In 1957, automotive heiress Matilda Dodge Wilson donated Meadow Brook Hall, its 1,500-acre estate and \$2 million to found Oakland University.

Listed on both national and state registers of historic properties, Meadow Brook Hall strives to preserve and interpret its architecture, landscape, and fine and decorative art so visitors may be entertained, educated and inspired by history. Throughout the year, Meadow Brook Hall is open to the public for daily tours, special exhibitions, programs and lectures, educational activities, lunches, teas and more.

For more information, visit the **Meadow Brook Hall** Web site or call (248) 370-3140.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, August 4, 2003
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, August 4, 2003
Article Start Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2003