



News Staff Photo by STEPHEN LANDRY

Gardner resident Naida Knox stands next to her photograph during the 2014 Photography Show hosted by the Gardner Area League of Artists over the weekend.

GALA hosts first ever Photography Show featuring local artists

BY STEPHEN LANDRY
NEWS STAFF WRITER
slandry@thegardnernews.com

GARDNER — The works of local shutterbugs was on display at the 2014 Photography Show hosted by the Gardner Area League of Artists, or GALA, over the weekend.

The three-day event marked the first time the group hosted an all-photography exhibit featuring local artists.

“It just seemed like there was a need for it,” said GALA board member Ashley Bird, who added that the turnout for this weekend’s event was even better than organizers had anticipated. “I think a lot of people were surprised at the variety and quality on display.”

The show opened Friday night and ran through Sunday afternoon, which was held in the New England Wooden Ware building on School Street.

Among the artists whose works were on display were Emily Royal, Ginny Newton, Norm Eggert, George Corey and David Wornham.

The art of photography is becoming an increasingly popular hobby among local residents, according to GALA President Kevin Bird. Mr. Bird explained that the advent of digital photography means more people than ever are getting in touch with their inner shutterbug.

“I find it much more freeing in the digital world to snap a shot and capture a moment,” Mr. Bird



News Staff Photo by STEPHEN LANDRY

Photographer Kevin Bird, of Templeton, displays his work.

explained.

Photographer Anna Ruuska, of Gardner, said the event was a great opportunity for local artists to showcase their work.

“The more venues you have for displaying your work, the better,” Ms. Ruuska explained.

Organizers said the idea for an all-photography exhibit was the result of a growing number of GALA members trying their hand behind the camera. In fact, the majority of art displays at the group’s spring showcase were photographs, according to Ms. Ruuska, and an all-photography show was the next logical step.

The GALA group, which boasts about 100 current members, is currently in negotiations

to establish a permanent space in the old Simplex building. Negotiations to rent space in the Heritage State Park building fell through last year, organizers said.

“This area needs a space like this for our artists to be able to show their works in a professional manner and have shows on a consistent basis,” Mr. Bird said, adding that there is a growing community of local artists and photographers across the region. “This building is really starting to turn into studio spaces for artists.”

GALA is a non-profit organization founded in 2000 to promote the arts as an essential component of a healthy community.