



'Rhinebeck Is Back!'
Barn Star Productions
Revives Holiday Weekend Treasure

Previous Page: The lineup at Mulberry Street entrance was strong as the show opened on Saturday morning, then first buyers began entering the three buildings.

Right: Cottage & Camp Antiques, Philadelphia (Click image to see full size)

Review and Photos by W.A. Demers

RHINEBECK, N.Y. — Make a list of storied and notable antiques shows in the Northeast and Rhinebeck always rises into the top tier. That is why the jaw-dropping news that it was being canceled in October 2014 was a body-blow to many fans, although not all that surprising to trade cognoscenti who had witnessed the show's steady decline over the past decade. "Rhinebeck is back," however,



was on the lips of both longtime
antiques dealers and their retail fans

on May 23–24 as Barn Star
Productions mounted an energetic

The Village Braider, Plymouth, Mass., can be counted upon to bring fun, quirky items, such as the wrought iron florist Ferris wheel display, circa 1960, with a connection to A.L. Smithers, inventor of floral arranging foam, as well as a series of coal mining photos, probably corporate commissions, from the 1920s, and a Deco period salesman sample of a stove with carrying case. (Click image to see full size)





revival — Antiques At Rhinebeck — with about 125 exhibitors that brought collectors back to the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in good numbers. “Saturday exceeded our expectations,” said a relieved Frank Gaglio, Barn Star’s indefatigable promoter, “with beautiful weather and a nice lineup of customers at both entrances. We were completely inundated with compliments

Lorraine and Steve German, Mad River Antiques, North Granby, Conn., said they had one of their best Rhinebecks ever, selling everything from early Nineteenth Century stoneware to mid-Twentieth Century decorative items. “Frank and his staff did a great job organizing it, from load-in to pack out. We were very pleased with the gate on Saturday and heard many comments from old customers about how good the show looked and how much they were enjoying themselves,” they said.



Flea Market Minute star Bob Richter was shooting footage at the Rhinebeck show that will be used in an upcoming segment on the television show. Here Richter, center, interviews South Hadley, Mass., folk art dealer Victor Weinblatt. (Click image to see full size)

and heard ‘Rhinebeck is Back’ from multiple dealers and shoppers.” Gaglio added, however, that while he and

Lynn Webb, assistant manager, and Ryan Pickering, operations manager, love to hear compliments,



Robert Stewart, Red Hook, N.Y.

“the reality is that without the support of our group of dealers, it would not be as successful. The dealers got to the show, they were upbeat, optimistic and feeling good about the future of this business. Our main goal was to bring back the collectors who had stopped coming in the past, and in that I believe we succeeded.”

Opportunity knocked and drew Woodbury, Conn., dealers J.R. Cordrey and Ryan Fox from their early Nineteenth Century colonial home

perched atop a hill in the town's historic district filled with Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century furniture and accessories. Cordrey remarked after

Mario Pollo, Holliston, Mass. (Click image to see full size)

the show that the weekend in Rhinebeck exceeded their expectations. "Saturday was the day for us, and we sold a good William and



Mary painted tavern table, a Chippendale piecrust tea table and a mule chest. It felt good, and the exposure resulted in the sale of a piece that wasn't even at the show," said Cordrey, explaining that a Rhinebeck shopper later went to the firm's website where a mix of country and formal American furniture and

accessories are showcased and bought an item there via 1st Dibs.

One facet of the new/old Rhinebeck was that familiar dealers, for the most part, were in their former spots, facilitating returning longtime customers in finding them. (Continued on page 23 inside the E-edition)

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