

Artist helps kids be creative

By LAURA BUCK
Staff writer

Southern Maryland youngsters are the newest artists to grace Annmarie Garden in Solomons thanks to ceramic artist and teacher Alice Yutzy.

On Wednesday, Yutzy, a Hughesville resident, led children and their families in an interactive tile making session to create a display that will be hung throughout the garden as a part of the organization's TOUCH! exhibit which, "allows visitors to break the rules and touch the art," according to a press release.

"I want to do collaborative work where the participants can be involved with the work in the park," said Yutzy, who has taught art for more than 36 years at LaPlata High School and College of Southern Maryland, in addition to teaching workshops at Annmarie Garden for the past year.

She explained that the tiles are eventually going to be hanging on the trees throughout the garden "like a mobile or wind chime installation.

"Basically I'm just telling them to draw a simple shape and then we're cutting it out and letting it dry and then painting it with under glaze," Yutzy said, adding that she was inspired to do this type of project by the work of artists Andy Goldsworthy and Nils Udo who are known for incorporating nature into their outdoor artwork.

"I thought this would be a good introduction for children [interested in art], to have their artwork in the garden," Yutzy said.

"Some of them are representational; like you've got a fish and a rabbit ... and we have some abstract, non representative pieces too," she said.

The yellow rabbit was created by Ben Paskoff of Lusby, who said he was inspired by the upcoming holiday.

"Because Easter's coming, I



Staff photos by DARWIN WEIGEL

David Glorioso, 5, left, gets help from Tony Springmann, 7, both of La Plata, to cut out his peace symbol Wednesday for the hands on ceramic art installation at Annmarie Garden. Artist and teacher Alice Yutzy is heading the project that is open to the public. The ceramic pieces will hang from trees around the garden. Below, Martha Hanford, left, and her granddaughter Lauren Miller, 9, of California, Md., get help from artist and teacher Alice Yutzy on cutting out Miller's bunny rabbit.

wanted to make something Easterly," said Ben, 12, who said his mom works at the garden.

"She found out they were having this thing and we thought it would be neat to come. We like working with clay ... there are so many things you can do with it," he said.

J.D. and Kelin Gaddis of California, Md., chose to go in the abstract direction.

"I made a shape with pretty spots on it with blue, orange and purple," said 7-year-old Kelin, who said she also likes "doing ballerinas and making dogs" in school art classes.

J.D., 10, was athletically motivated with his tile, as he explained, "I made a circle with the Olympic colors, with blue, yellow, black and green."

Both he and his sister were joined by the rest of their family including their aunt, Shana



Carnahan, who was visiting from Tampa, Fla.

"The kids are all on spring break ... and the kids all love art and getting out of the house, so we thought this would combine the two," Carnahan said.

Once all of the children finished their tiles, Yutzy explained that she would bring them home and fire them. All participants are being invited back to the garden at a later date to take part in the former installation of their artwork.