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## Crowds flock to home and outdoor show



By Sandra Frederick

Roger Harris spent Sunday talking about the same thing he does every day of the week while on the job: propane gas.

The account manager with AmeriGas was joined by 29 other vendors from across the county at the 33rd annual Home & Outdoor Show on Saturday and Sunday at the National Guard Armory in Crystal River.

The purpose?

“To showcase our businesses,” Harris said. “The turnout was excellent. “Many people stopped by the booth and said they were having a great time and it was very informative.”

Fred and Aurea Vega spent an hour walking through the auditorium looking for products to perhaps, some day, better their Lecanto home.

“It was very informational,” Fred Vega said. “If I ever want to remodel, I will know where to go. And, it was free.”

Donna Bidlack, executive officer with Citrus County Builders Association, said the event was “very successful.”

“So far this weekend, we had about 1,300 people come through the doors,” she said about a two hours before the 3 p.m. closing time. “We had about 1,000 people yesterday, which was double from last year.”

Bidlack believes piggybacking with the Homosassa Seafood Festival allowed people to attend several events once leaving home. CCBA is a trade association with 194 members.

Ron Hagen traveled from Hernando to see what was in the marketplace for roofing.

“I recently had my roof replaced and it still leaks,” he said. “It is frustrating and I just wanted to see what products are available in case I need to do something else.”

While there, he was able to find out about pest control, flooring, windows, kitchen and bathrooms, cutting-edge air conditioning units and dream kitchens.

There was also a green room promoting methods to reduce carbon footprints. Gold Crest Homes, builder of green homes, handed out free basil sticks to grow-your-own herb plants.

The University of Florida Cooperative Extension offered brochures about Florida-friendly lawn and garden plants, protecting the natural springs and fertilizing facts. Many left the booth with rain gauges to measure rainfall totals.

Walter Stachowicz, president of the Citrus County Green Building Council, was on hand to talk to about ways people can get involved in the “green” way of thinking.

In the main room, Bill Larder shared his years of experience with one woman who stopped by his booth to inquire about handicapped bathrooms.

“There are not many people who know about his,” he said. “And, as a pastor, I also remodel and work on churches.”

But Dennis Ramsey may have had one of the best spots. His diverse display of recreational vehicles was outside in the sunshine. From the I Camp, a 16-foot self-contained portable camper to a large fifth-wheel RV, almost like a three bedroom house on wheels, there was a constant flow of onlookers.

“We have had an exceptional weekend,” said Dennis Ramsey, sales manager of Como, with stores in Inverness and Homosassa. “We sold two RVs and close to closing on the other.”

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