

PRESS RELEASE

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**TALENT SEARCH, VOCAL TRASH, WILDMAN JACK ,
NY FIDDLE CONTEST AND MORE....**

Rhinebeck, NY.... From the moment the gates open at 10am until closing time each day, the Dutchess County Fair offers a myriad of ongoing shows, activities and entertainment for the young and young of heart. And, except for the Grandstand, it is all included with the price of admission. Visitors can easily spend a full day (or two) traveling from one corner of the fairgrounds to the next enjoying fun, exciting, educational and free shows. The 2014 Fair opens for its six-day run on August 19.

The Entertainment Tent (#17 on the fairgrounds map) starts the first five days of the fair with the Search for Talent. This talent contest, celebrating its 50th year has certainly been around a lot longer than 'Americas Got Talent', 'The Voice' and even 'Dancing with the Stars!' Each day contestants vie for a spot in Saturday's finals along with a chance to compete at the NYS State Fair. Contestants are provided with a professional sound system, dressing rooms, lights and all the support they need to put on their best show. The top three acts in both junior (12 years and under) and senior (13 years and up) categories receive a cash prize and corresponding 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize ribbon. Participant ribbons are given to all who perform in the contest. Talent in the past has included musicians, dancers, vocalists, magicians, comedians, jugglers and dramatic readings. There are no age limits and no auditions. The Search for Talent's

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page 2

hours are 9-2pm Tuesday (8/19) through Friday (8/22) and 9 -2:30 for Saturday's (8/23) finals

The electrifying, Vocal Trash, follows the Search for Talent each day and offers two additional performances on Sunday (8/24) closing day of the fair. Vocal Trash is a theatrical show featuring a cappella harmonies, award winning urban style break dance and drumming. They are “saving the planet one show at a time” with recycled instruments, great music and a message. Using a gas can guitar, pots and pans, hubcaps, and all kinds of items rescued from a landfill, they have been described as “Glee meets Stomp” . Showtimes are: 2:30, 6 and 8pm, Tuesday through Friday; 3:30, 6 and 8pm on Saturday and Noon and 2pm on Sunday.

“Wildman Jack's Animal Encounter” features snakes, crocodiles, lizards, turtles, tortoises and the irrepressible Wildman Jack in an interactive, educational and exciting show Tuesday through Saturday. “Wildman Jack” Di Muccio is a biologist and retired science teacher whose has been bringing his reptile presentations to children and adults for over 30 years. Jack maintains a collection of 30 to 40 scaly friends and his programs include audience participation with a lively question and answer period and some hands-on opportunities. “Children are very receptive to information about wildlife,” says Jack. “They jump at the opportunity to learn about and even touch a strange and interesting creatures, while adults are often less willing to be adventurous, particularly when it comes to touching a snake”. That said some of Jack's favorite questions are “ Do reptiles bite?” and “Why are they called snakes?”

cont....

page 3

And the answers will be given at the Wildman Jack's Animal Encounter, Tuesday through Friday at 4pm and Saturday at 4:30pm.

Sunday's (8/24) Entertainment Tent Schedule features a 4-H Fashion Show from 10:30 to 11:30am ,Vocal Trash and The 3rd NY Fiddle Contest starting at 3:30pm. There are five categories in the NY Fiddle Contest with prizes ranging from \$15 to \$100 in the Open (all ages), Junior (13-18 years old), Junior-Junior (9-12 years old), Trick and Fancy (all ages) and the The Fiddle Buds (8 years and younger). The Fiddle Buds are for demonstration only.

For more information on participating in the Search for Talent and the Fiddle Contest go to the fairgrounds website at www.dutchessfair.com. Or call 845-876-4000.