

American classic car show in Beverly this Sunday

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Courtesy The North Shore Concours d'Elegance, a high-end automobile show geared towards the top classic cars of their era, will take place on Sunday, July 29, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Misselwood Estate, Endicott College, Hale Street in Beverly.

Beverly, MA-Duesenberg, Oakland, Packard & Cord might for some sound like a well established New York Lawyer firm; however, car enthusiasts undoubtedly recognize the top brands of outstanding cars made in the United States. Most of these cars can be admired in museums or are sitting in private collections.

Patrick Cornelissen, a Belgian national who resides on the East Coast, started a few years ago with another alternative by creating the North Shore Concours d'Elegance — a high-end automobile show geared towards the top classic cars of their era.

Taking place on Sunday, July 29, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Misselwood Estate, Endicott College, Hale Street in Beverly, the show pays homage to the original French concours of the 17th century with a fancy hat competition, and includes a fashion show, art exhibits and musical entertainment.

Both automobiles and motorcycles compete for various best in class awards and ultimately for the coveted best of show award. In 2010, the Best of Show went to a 1931 Packard 840 Dietrich, a car once owned by King Gustav of Sweden, while last year's award went to an impeccable 1932 Duesenberg SJ Dual-Cowl Phaeton, of which only 32 exist.

As part of an effort to raise money for student scholarships, the North Shore Concours d'Elegance has partnered with various local companies and organizations. "The show, which attracts thousands of spectators, is equally about showcasing the region," said Cornelissen. "What better than to enjoy classic cars and motorcycles, roam the grounds and after the awards ceremony enjoy a scenic drive on Route 127 towards Gloucester or Salem?"

While the classic cars will be unique and rare, spectators also have the opportunity to see brand new Porsche, Audi and BMW's among others, presented by the Lyon-Waugh Auto Group.

Not only will there be an outstanding array of cars from the early 1900 to the mid seventies, there are plenty of other activities surrounding the show to enjoy. The recently retired director of the Beverly High School Jazz Band, Ray Novack, will provide musical entertainment with his Horizon Jazz Trio, while the Misselwood Estate will feature an art exhibit featuring works by Theresa Bernstein.

Lorraine Roy Designer Boutique from Danvers is hosting a spectacular summer fashion show, highlighting their collection by dozens of models, while the Wenham Museum is providing a historical perspective with antique hats to complement the fancy hat competition.

"We added the fancy hat competition as homage to the traditional Concours d'Elegance. Everybody is familiar with the Royal Ascot hats, and we feel that same air of enjoyment can be found at the North Shore Concours d'Elegance," said Cornelissen. "A team of judges will be scouting the crowds to select several winners who can expect fabulous prizes, such as a day spa package and more. It all adds to the character of the event, and complements the overall stylishness of the show." For tickets and more information visit endicott.edu/concours.

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