



Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

Sheila Ray, of Seagrove, N.C., is framed by her red pottery creations at the Atalaya Arts and Crafts Festival at Huntington Beach State Park.

Atalaya

Show draws 6,300



By JASON LESLEY
COASTAL OBSERVER

Atalaya and Spoleto. The Atalaya Arts and Crafts Festival at Huntington Beach State Park has been a favorite event of regional artists and craftsmen for decades, but some of the sellers at this weekend's 37th annual event said it's one of two shows they don't ever want to miss. The other? Charleston's Spoleto Festival.

Jewelry maker Barbara Umbel and her husband, Rick, former Pawleys Island area residents, made the trip north from their new home in Melbourne Beach, Fla., for the weekend.

"I love coming to Atalaya," Barbara said Friday while working her booth and greeting old friends.

"Last year," she said, "I was doing this show as Rick was packing up. It's so good to come back and see people who collect my work and to make new

friends, too."

Umbel uses seashells and pearls in combination with gold, silver and gemstones to make her unique jewelry.

She plans to come back in the spring for — what else? — Spoleto.

Honey McCrary of Charles-



Turned wood lamps illuminate an old servant's quarters room. The artist is Billy Hall, of Durham, N.C. The stained-glass butterfly above is at Debi Dwyer's stand.

ton, who creates glass-on-glass mosaics, said she actually did better last year at Atalaya than she did at Spoleto.

Most exhibitors, however, were happy to be in a beautiful setting — Atalaya was the winter home of Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington built in the Moorish architecture style of the

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Jinsong Kim, a potter from Mims, Fla., finds shade under an umbrella.



Jennifer Miller sends a photo of James Hilliard's photography to her husband for help in deciding what to purchase. Hilliard is from Pawleys Island.



Jeanne Cole is reflected in Barbara Umbel's jewelry made from beach finds. Rick Umbel, back, looks on from behind. Umbel is a former Pawleys Island jewelry maker.