



Jenny King / Special to The Detroit News

This 1929 Duesenberg J-111 Dual Cowl Phaeton was shown by the Gilmore Museum of Hickory Corners, Mich.

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

EyesOn Design show focuses on breathtaking aerodynamics

By Jenny King / Special to The Detroit News



GROSSE POINTE SHORES, Mich. -- Automotive design that captures streamlined looks with the slippery quality of aerodynamics was the theme of the mid-June 2007 EyesOn

Design show at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate in Grosse Pointe Shores.

EyesOn Design is a benefit for the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology (DIO), a not-for-profit 501c(3) corporation. EyesOn Design is the primary source of revenue for the DIO's research, education and support groups and for programs that enhance the independence of the visually impaired. For more information go to www.eyeson.org

The 20th anniversary show organizers brought together some breathtaking classics from the late-1920s and early 1930s on an expansive field with more recent sedans

and coupes, unique sports cars, hotrods, motor bikes, concept vehicles and, of course, the ultimate aero look of a silver 1936 Stout Scarab owned by Larry Smith.

As visitors circled the invited vehicles, visually impaired volunteers wearing gloves carefully inspected cars to choose ones they found the smoothest.

William Mihalic of Rochester was showing his rare red 1959 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint Speciale, a pre-production sports car with aluminum doors, hood and trunk lid. The low-nosed two-seater, built for racing, weighs less than 1,800 pounds and is powered by a 1300-cc engine, Mihalic said.



1959 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spring Speciale belongs to William Mihalic of Rochester, Mich. <>

Grosse Pointe Park resident Dick Forton and family members had, only hours earlier, put Forton's 1927 Ford "track roadster" through its final cleaning and polishing. Forton said he was exhausted, but not too tired to admire the Nobles' black-and-red '48 Cadillac rod.

Just inside the parking area across from the estate, Richard Marks' car of the future - an Eco V Electric - represented what the former General Motors engineer hopes will be a vehicle of the near-term. Marks, now an independent Detroit businessman, said he is anxious to find enough investors to launch his product line. His own background includes 25 years at GM, with five of those spent on the EV1 electric vehicle.



Jenny King / Special to The Detroit News

2007 Eco V Electric was shown by Richard Marks of Grosse Pointe Woods

Royal Oak resident Jeffrey Leestma bought his 1949 Hudson Commodore in Pennsylvania a few years ago. The director of the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn was showing it at EyesOn Design for the first time. The Commodore was parked beside another "ultimate" in streamlined design, a burgundy-colored 1950 Nash Ambassador owned by Clarence and Nancy Becker.



1927 Ford track roadster was shown by owner Dick Forton of Grosse Pointe Park. < FONT>

Award winners of the day included:

- Best-in-Show: 1930 Cord L-29 Cabriolet of Greg Bilpuch, Lake Orion, Mich.
- Designers' Choice: 1957 Cadillac Eldorado Brougham, Robert Werner of Dayton, Ohio.
- Designers' Choice - A - American classics: 1934 Pierce Arrow 12 1240 A convertible coupe, Tom Lyon of W. Bloomfield, Mich.
- Designers' Choice - B - Design Evolution - Pre-War Ford: 1937 Ford Tudor Sedan, Jerry Mattson of Madison Hts., Mich.
- Designers' Choice - C - Fabulous Fastbacks: 1936 Stout Scarab, Larry Smith of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
- Designers' Choice - D - Fins Gone Wild: 1960 Chrysler 300 F, Don McCullen of High Springs, Fla.



1936 Stout Scarab belongs to Larry Smith of Bloomfield Hills, Mich. < FONT>

- Designers' Choice - E - Return of the Fastback: 1966 Oldsmobile Toronado, John Dustin of Tecumseh, Mich.

- Designers' Choice - F - Aero Muscle: 1969 Chevrolet Corvette Convertible, Gene Danescu of Troy, Mich.
- Designers' Choice - G - Pro Touring: 1961 Buick LeSabre, Jeff Trush of Oxford, Mich.
- Designers' Choice - H - Rod and Custom: 1933 Ford Roadster, James Bedard of New Hudson, Mich.
- Designers' Choice - J - Motorcycles: 1968 Velocette Venom Thruxton Veeline Motorcycle, Keith Hogland of Pinckney, Mich.
- Designers' Choice - K - Exotics: 1969 DeTomaso Mangusta Coupe, Roman Tucker of Attica, Mich.
- Designers' Choice - L - Aero Race Cars: 1967 Camaro, Danny Scott of Holly, Mich.



1961 Buick LeSabre pro-touring was shown by Jeff and Kari Trush of Oxford, Mich. < FONT >

- Designers' Choice - M - Traditional Hot Rod: 1931 Ford Model A, Tom Carroll of Wood Dale, Ill.
- Designers' Choice - N - Aero Tuner: 1990 Nissan 300 ZX 2+2, Nadir Ali of Detroit.
- Designers' Choice - P - Postwar Hero: 1974 Aston Martin V8 Series 3 Coupe, David Mindell of W. Bloomfield, Mich.
- Designers' Choice - R - Aero Sports Cars: 1959 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint Speciale, William Mihalic of Rochester, Mich.
- GM Design of Exceptional Merit Award: 1963 Corvette Stingray, David

Fischer of Madison Hts., Mich.

-- Honorary Chairman's Award: 1961 Arnolt Bolide Roadster, David Hans of Barrington, Ill.

-- Preserving the Vision: 1912 Cadillac Model 30 Touring, Jay Follis/Gilmore Car Museum of Hickory Corners, Mich.

-- Toyota/Caltly Design of Exceptional Merit: 1964 Porsche 356 SC Coupe, Mr. and Mrs. Heath Hurlbert of Franklin, Mich.

-- Visionaires Award: 1935 Auburn Speedster Boattail, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Micol of Waterford, Mich.



1961 Arnolt Bristol belongs to David Hans of Barrington, Ill. < FONT>

Jenny King is a Detroit-area free-lance writer. She can be contacted via e-mail at Wright-King@comcast.net