



Left: Ticket sales archbrisk for Boy Scouts, Drew Clark, Ben Clark, Patrick Meisheid, and Joe Worthen.

Local artist's work sent to the 2004 Olympics

By Carly Kristiansen
Special to the Post

No matter how you do it, representing the United States is an honor. This summer, Matthew Weber of Unionville has the privilege of representing the United States in ARTIADE, the "Olympics of Visual Arts" in Athens, Greece during the 2004 Olympics.

All countries participating in the Olympics are represented ARTIADE, and Weber is one of six artists chosen to represent the United States. "It's not something I would have expected," said Weber. His art work is carvings from local wood, often the sugar maple which indigenous to New England. For the sculpture that was sent to the Olympics, he used the rings in the wood to create a step surface which represents strip mining and other landscapes that are mined. "My work is really about New England landscape and architecture," he explained. Weber said that one example of this kind of landscape is the Barkhamsted Reservoir.

The ARTIADE art show will be held in a refurbished

factory in Athens. Because his art work is meant to symbolize New England, Weber decided to apply to this art show. "I apply to shows that my work is appropriate to," said Weber. Because the show lost its sponsorship, which was originally supposed to cover shipping, plane fair, room and board expenses, Weber will not be traveling to Athens to see the art show.

Weber, a Canton High School graduate, moved from Canton to Unionville several years ago. He has been working with wood carvings since 2000, and some of his most recent work was seen in the Collinsville Arts Initiative, an outdoor sculpture competition. Weber attended the University of Connecticut, Hartford Art School, and Syracuse University for degrees in sculpture. Some of Weber's work can be seen at MatthewWeber.net



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