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Egg Drop goes earth-friendly

Sciencenter's annual Center Ithaca event has Earth Day theme

By Tim Ashmore
Journal Staff

ITHACA — More than 200 people packed into Center Ithaca Sunday to test their egg flight-protection systems at the Sciencenter's 22nd annual Egg Drop.

Clapping and laughter filled the air as Sciencenter volunteers dropped an array of creative and effective parachutes — or eggchutes — as well as shock-absorbers and, in one case, a vegetable to cushion an egg falling from eight meters.

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼ The egg drop featured a new category for contestants excel in. The “Most Earth Day Friendly” prize was awarded to contestants who made their contraptions from any materials that could be put in a compost pile. Use of styrofoam, bubble wrap and plastic of any kind disqualified contestants from competing for the prize in that category.

One of the more interesting prize winners was Ella Bard, 10, whose entry “Don't Leek” consisted of a leek stuffed with marshmallows, the raw egg and some twine Bard found outside to keep it secure.

“I tried it before with some things, but they didn't keep it in place,” Bard said. “So I got up this morning and shoved some marshmallows inside and used some rope I found outside. It was a lot of fun.”

Bard's “Don't Leek” successfully withstood the three-floor drop without the egg cracking She took home “Most Earth Day Friendly” for her age group.

The Tregaskis family won “Most Earth Day Friendly” among families with an entry of wrapped leaves and birch bark to cushion the egg. “It was really fun to do,” son

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The audience at the Sciencenter's 22nd annual Egg Drop watch as an entry descends Sunday morning from the balcony of Center Ithaca. More than 200 contestants participated in the event, which was held on Earth Day.

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David Tregaskis said.

Sciencenter Director Charles Trautmann called the Egg Drop “a community event that gives kids and families a chance to put science into action.”

Contestants undergo two stages of judging. Two or three judges for each category look over each entry prior to the contest to determine the top five entries for their category. They base the initial decision on creativity, appearance, structure and design. If any of them breaks during the drop, they're out of the running for a prize. But those that don't make it past impact make up for it with cheers and laughter from the crowd.

In from Chemung County, Michael Karee and his family entered a flight vehicle for the fifth straight year.

“We love the Sciencenter and we learned about this there,” said Karee, who's family's entry — as did their previous four — survived the 26-foot drop.


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Shannon McSurely, left, and Charlie Trautmann clean up an entry made solely of eggs with no cushioning Sunday morning during the Sciencenter's 22nd Anniversary Egg Drop in Center Ithaca. McSurely is an educator at the Sciencenter and Trautmann is the executive director.

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Nancy Crane, left, and Louise McGarry, right, watch as their sons Andres Lopez-Crane, 7, second from left, and Samuel McGarry, 7, prepare their entries for the egg drop at a registration table Sunday morning before the Sciencenter Egg Drop in Center Ithaca.

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