

Eggshelland
Old Friends and New
 Easter April 8, 2012
 38,280 real eggshells

New Eggshells
 Courtesy of Sidewalk Café
 Euclid, and Painesville
 Nick J. Sarris

Eggshelland is a unique Easter Display, presented by Ron and Betty Manolio, of Lyndhurst, Ohio. This will be our 54th. year. The entire front yard is transformed into different mosaic eggshell design each year always including a 50ft. Cross, and the Mascot Easter Bunny.

The Display has grown from 750 shells in 1957. We use 24 brilliant colors of 1 Shot Outdoor Sign Paint enamel to paint the shells. As far as we know, it is the only display of its kind in the world. The idea came from Ron's Mother, who placed dyed eggshells on bushes in front of her home.

This is a family project. We used to save our shells. We now get our eggshells from the Sidewalk Café, who use fresh eggs. Without them the display would not continue, as other restaurants use liquid eggs. Ron makes a hole the size of a dime in the egg, and Betty shakes out the contents. The shells are then washed and the edges of the hole trimmed. After painting, the shells are stored by color in boxes, with 250 in each box. They are used over again each year and repainted, if necessary, in the proper colors.

Our average handling breakage is 1500 shells. We have had six natural disasters. In 1998, and 2009, hail storms destroyed more than 18,000 shells. In 2002, an ice storm, for the storm on 6 inches of snow broke 11,941 shells, in 2005, 6 inches of snow smashed 5,633 shells, and in 2007 16 inches of snow on Easter morning, broke 14,176. In 2008 for the first time, we were not able to put pegs in the lawn, because the ground was frozen. Our Display consisted of 6,223 eggshells using the 5 figures we have on Styrofoam, usually standing in the background.

The theme this year is Old Friends and New. The display includes Mario and Luigi, with 5,265 shells. The Critics, have 5,786 shells, and the Muppets with 11,137 shells.

We always receive excellent local coverage, and in 2000, we appeared on the Montel Williams Show, and were also featured on Extreme Cuisine, and the Agri-Country Network. We have been featured on "Ripley's Believe it or Not", and a photo was sent out by Associated Press that reached as far as the front page of an English language newspaper in Japan. We were on the "Today Show" Easter morning 2006, and CNN in 2007. A Documentary on Eggshelland, which took 4 years to complete, was shown at the Cedar-Lee Theater, and is now available on DVD. The display is lit at night, and will be up from Apr.1, thru April 9th.. Happy Easter!



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 Creative Eggshell-Displays
 Lectures

