



New earthbag construct taking shape at the lake

By Leslie Shaw
Hi-Desert Star

Furst World was abuzz with buzz saws, sanders and welders Saturday as Bobby Furst donated his time and his Joshua Tree home and workshop for Mil-Tree's Sanctuary Project. He and other volunteers have been working on metal sculptures for several days.

Mil-Tree is building Sanctuary, a circular outdoor earthbag construction, at the Joshua Tree Lake RV Campground. The construct will be decorated with ceramic tile and metal sculptures. Volunteers were recruited to build the structure while learning earthbag construction techniques, ceramic tile making and welding at free Mil-Tree workshops.

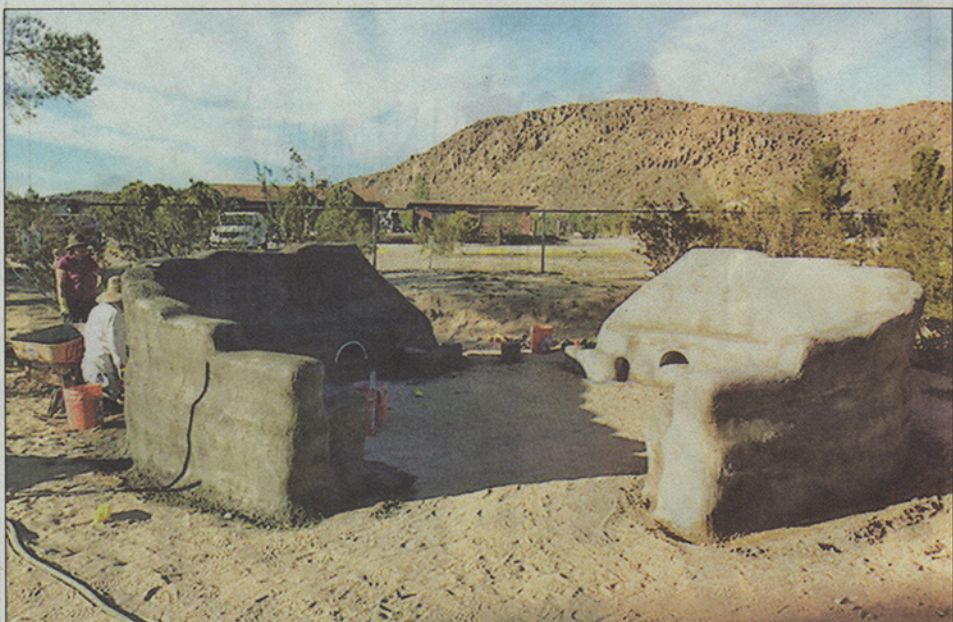
"I started Mil-Tree to bring vets into the community through the arts. It's a bridge between the community and the

military. Doing projects together engages rather than isolates," said Cheryl Montelle, the founder of Mil-Tree. "To get the funding, you need a military nonprofit and an arts nonprofit. Mil-Tree is the military one and Danielle Giuducci-Wallis with the California Arts Council is the arts one."

Both organizations sponsored the project conceived and executed by James Golub.

"I had a dream to do an earthbag structure for Mil-Tree. I've done several earthbag construction projects in the area including the new one at Harrison House and a housing complex called Bonita Domes," said Golub.

Local artists Troy Pence and Gilda Smith helped create metal sculpture elements at Furst World Saturday, as did ex-military vets Richard Finn and Tim Chinnock.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Sanctuary Project consists of a round earthbag construction that will be lined with ceramic tile. The metal sculpture being made at Bobby Furst's workshop will fill the opposite opening.



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Bobby Furst and other Mil-Tree Sanctuary Project volunteers create a large metal sculpture that will adorn the earthbag construction site at the Joshua Tree RV Campground location.



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Mil-Tree founder Cheryl Montelle stands with artist volunteers Richard Finn, left, and Tim Chinnock.



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James Golub, standing, is the project's visionary and earthbag construction specialist. Bobby Furst is welding elements to a metal structure.



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Local crafter Gilda Smith makes a bunny rabbit element to be added to a large metal sculpture.



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Local artist Troy Pence helps create a metal sculpture for the Mil-Tree Sanctuary Project.