

BENCHTALK



Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Volume 42: Issue # 2 February 2024

Program for February 21, 2024 7 pm, at NWTC, in Room EE201, of the Great Lakes Energy Ed. Center.

Daniel Smocke Guitar and Mandolin Maker

I began my musical career studying the piano at age 8, then the guitar at age 12. I began teaching guitar at 15 years of age then performed and studied jazz in high school and college. My woodworking skills began at 13 years of age in my middle school wood shop class. It continued throughout my life while I worked the medical field. Archtop guitar construction came many years later when I officially established my company, Smocke Guitars in 2005.

I build custom six, seven and eight string archtop guitars and mandolins. I use a variety of woods with different grades to suit my clients requests. Some guitars have the neck join the body at the typical 14th fret, others at the 15th fret or higher. My 8 string archtop guitars typically use a multi-scale, fanned fret system to accommodate the unique intonation requirements of an instrument of this caliber

Smocke Guitars www.smockeguitars.com info@smockeguitars.com

Smocke
Archtop Guitars



in



Future Programs:

Meetings at NWTC, in Room EE201, Great Lakes Energy Ed. Center. Use parking lot G, entrance door E2. See map included with newsletter.

February 21st - Dan Smocke - Making custom built guitars

March 20th - Brendan Biller - Cutting Timber and making slab wood creations

April 17th - Kristi Hulbert - Stripping of old finish and refinishing wood

May 15th open date at present, suggestions welcome

June 19th Michael Doerr-Making custom furniture

Almost all the presenters or subjects for presentations are suggestions from fellow guild members. This has worked very well, and I am always open for more ideas for future meetings. Thank you for your help! Sincerely, Barry Bender

Review of January Program

Annette Aubinger was our guest presenter for the January monthly meeting. Annette is president of the Ashwaubenon Historical Society.

She spoke about local artist and famed whittler Adolph Vandertie. Some of Adolph's fine work was on display at the meeting. Annette spoke of Adolph's life and how he got started into whittling. When Adolph was a youngster at age 12, he would visit the hobo "jungles" in Green Bay during the Depression Era and learn about whittling. Whittling is unlike carving in the sense that you use only one tool. This is usually a very sharp pocket knife. Wood carving as we know it uses several types of carving tools.

One of Adolph's favorite types of creations was a whimsy. Whimsies are whittled creations featuring a caged ball. Adolph did both hobo art and tramp art. Annette explained what they both were and showed picture and actual works that Adolph made.

If you would like to view more of Adolph Vandertie's fine work, it is on display at the Ashwaubenon Historical Society. Hours are limited. They are open April through November on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11AM to 2 PM. In the summer months of June, July & part of August the museum is only open on Thursday. You can also phone for an appointment at 920-544-6752 or 920-494-0362. There is a whole wing of the museum showing Adolph Vandertie's work. Admission is free!

(Later in this newsletter is a copy of an article from the Ashwaubenon Historical Museum about Adolph and his work.)



“Party Planner” Needed (Event Coordinator)

Do you like planning parties/picnics?

Would you have a few hours, twice a year, to organized our social gatherings: the summer picnic and Christmas Party? It’s an easy and fun way to get more involved with the Guild, but with no huge commitment.

Pete Schuh has been doing it for years, and will share all you need to know.



Library All library items are now due!

Please return them, so others can check them out, too.



NEWWG BOD Meeting January 23, 2024 At NWTC Great Lake Energy Ed. Center meeting room. Convened 7:00 pm.

Attending: Pres. Paul Murphy, V.P. Pat Williams, Program Committee Barry Bender, Secretary /Newsletter Maureen Birk, Membership, Eric Hansen. Treasurer Chuck Druckrey, Librarian, Pete Schuh.

Unable to attend: Web Site, Matt Hamblin

Minutes from last meeting: Move to accept: Eric 2nd, Barry. Approved unanimously.

Secretary/Newsletter: Dead line for articles for Feb newsletter is Mon. 2/12/2024. Will include the info for the Kettle Karvers April event, as well as the Mid -Wis chippers announcements.

Library 2 new books from Eric.

Treasurer's report: Balance as of 1/23/24 - \$21,866.27 Financial Activity (October 23, 2023 to January 22, 2024)

Income:	
\$330.00 – membership fees	\$50.00 – 1246 – Raffle prize
\$330.00 – show registrations and sponsorships	\$50.00 – 1243 – Raffle prize
\$5.14 – Interest income	\$50.00 – 1245 - Raffle prize
\$12,147.00 – Show income	\$500.00 – 1241 – Raffle prize
\$430.00 – Show registration and table fees	\$60.00 – 1249 – Show refund
\$7.83 - Interest income	\$100.00 – 1248 – Presenter fee
\$600.00 – Membership fees	\$100.00 – 1244 – Raffle prize
\$43.00 – Tool Crib income	\$200.00 – 1242 – Raffle prize
\$8.99 – Interest income	\$250.00 – 1238 – Christmas party venue security deposit
Total \$13,901.96	\$50.00 – 1247 – Raffle prize
Expenses: Check# Description	\$98.55 – 1251 – Show advertising
\$109.15 – Cash boxes for shows	\$720.00 – 1250 – Table rental
\$18.61 – Show/treasurers expenses	\$254.00 – 1253 – Advertising and show expenses
\$420.00 – Withdrawal – starting cash	\$100.00 – 1255 – Show expenses
\$69.95 – 1240 - show printing	\$72.00 – 1254 – Show expenses
\$225.00 – 1239 – Christmas party venue rental	\$269.63 – 1256 – Christmas party expenses
	Respectfully Submitted, Chuck Druckrey – Treasurer

Membership: Now 149 paid up members; 30 non-renewals remaining. A few coming in each day. PayPal is a popular method.

Programs:

February 21st Dan Smocke - Making guitars

March 20th - Brendan Biller - Cutting Timber and making slab wood creations

April 17th - Kristi Hulbert - Stripping of old finish and refinishing wood

May Tentatively, Michael Doerr on custom furniture

Show 2023: Final report pending. Once report in, and proceeds determined, the Board will make a decision on the % to be donated, and to how many and which charitable organizations, in addition to Rick's Toy Box.

Guild Constitution/Bylaws Chuck presented the revised editions, including previously discussed changes, and a few additional suggestions. Among the changes is the addition of a Board position of Event Facilitator. The responsibilities of this position will be intermittent, and include organization of the summer picnic and the December Christmas party. VOLUNTEER NEEDED! Pete will assist in the transition.

In accordance with the constitution, a nominating committee is needed, to identify candidates, before the June Annual Membership meeting and elections. Eric and Pat agreed to find members for the nominating committee.

Dues adjustments also being considered. Barry and Chuck agreed to gather information from other organizations. Motion by Eric: that the Board adopt the constitution and bylaws as revised tonight, and recommend to the Guild membership that the changes be adopted by vote at the June Annual Meeting. 2nd my Check, accepted unanimously.

Additional Business: Request from Howard/Suamico Historical Society for Guild volunteers to be part of a presentation at their April 4th meeting. Pat and Paul are planning to do this, as well as Ted Seidl. Barry agreed to participate also.

Regarding queries to the web site that go to all BOD members. Who ever responds should "reply all" so others know it has been taken care of.

Discussion of alternate meeting possibilities, if a BOD member is unable to get to a meeting. Consensus that a conference call would work. There is an office available to us with the needed technology.

Next regular membership meeting: Wed. Feb 21, 2024

Next Board of Directors meeting Tues. Feb 27, 2024 will be at NWTC. 7pm

Motion to Adjourn: Barry, 2nd Eric.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Maureen Birk

Membership Update February, 2024

Please welcome 9 new members who joined the Guild recently! Many of our new members signed up at our Artistry In Wood Show or at the Woodcraft of Appleton event. Please welcome these new members at one of our upcoming meetings:

Timothy Johnson of Howard
Gary Lawrence of Denmark
Brennen Michelson of Mishicot
Bill Radtke of Shawano
Dan Skaletski of Green Bay

Thomas Tienor of Manitowoc
Frank Vander Wyst of Kaukauna
Rachel Van Pay of New Franken
Ruth Van Rite of Kimberly

As of February 12, we have 148 members.

Please remember one of the benefits to your membership is a 10% discount on most items at the Woodcraft store in Appleton. You must show your NEWWG name tag at checkout as proof of your membership.

Speaking of memberships, all memberships renewal date was due October 1. Renewal for individual members costs \$15, family membership renewals are \$20. You can renew by cash or check at any meeting or by check mailed to my home or by using PayPal. Send your PayPal transfer to my email (ericjonhansen@yahoo.com).

Twenty-eight members have yet to renew and may lose their memberships shortly. Please do so. Thanks in advance for renewing at the meeting or by mail or via PayPal!

Eric Hansen - Phone: 952-567-4625 - Email & PayPal: ericjonhansen@yahoo.com
W6994 Angel Hill Drive, Greenville, WI 54942

2023 Artistry in Wood Show Recap - January 17, 2024 General meeting

Without Volunteers, there'd be no Woodworker's Guild show. We had nearly 40 volunteers help the weekend of the show. Countless others sold raffle tickets, set up yard signs, got sponsors, donated raffle items, got raffle items donated, setup TV or newspaper interviews, worked on logistics, developed Facebook posts, created a show survey, etc. before the show began. 2023's 40th Annual show was a great success due to all of you. Our Guild is in much better shape due to your willingness to help. With that being said, by a show of hands, how many here tonight volunteered in some way to the success of last year's show? We Thank each you very much for that. Give yourself a round of applause!

A special "Thank You" goes out to the 4 individuals who donated high end raffle items and another member who donated \$5,000 to Guild during the year.

By show of hands, how many here enjoyed the show this past year?

Now for a few details. We heard a lot of opinions on what needs to be done to have a successful show, Thanks to Matt Hamblin, we now have a lot of good data to help us plan future shows.

1,275 paid attendees – kids under 12 free, - (947 Saturday, 328 Sunday) over 1,500 went thru the show (volunteers, exhibitors, school employees, veterans, etc.)

30 exhibitors – 4 vendors

1,211 people took our entrance survey – top 4 advertising tools were TV, Word of mouth, Newspaper and social media. (We gained 46 new Facebook followers)

845 attendees traveled less than 25 miles, 269 traveled 75 miles or less 64 over 75 miles. Top cities for attendance: Green Bay (358), Denmark (118) De Pere (108), Luxemburg (59), Appleton (50), Kaukauna (32), Manitowoc (31), New Franken (26)

Financials:

Expenses: Budgeted - \$3,235Actual \$4,565

Income: Budgeted - \$4,515Actual \$12,196

We had 69 donors: Cash 5 > \$300, 12 \$100-150, 3 - \$50 or less. Merchandise: 3 - \$2-300, 14 -\$1-200, and 22 \$50-100.

As mentioned, a show does not run itself, but with everyone's help, everyone benefits. Another tradition started at last year's show was to donate a portion of the profits to a charity chosen before the show, we'd like to continue that in 2024. Please help us again this year to have another successful show.

Our main emphasis in 2024 will be to fill the gym with exhibitors, attendees & demonstrations.

Jim Michiels, Randy Hendricks

Kudos to Guild members and officers, Paul Murphy & Pat Williams! They and their work were recently featured in the Green Bay Press Gazette

1/7/24

At Pyro Graphic Art in Oconto Co., Paul Murphy 'paints with fire'

Paul Murphy, owner of Pyro Graphic Art in Oconto, spent 25 years working in the paper industry. But it was when he and his twin brother started a small, parttime logging business that he discovered his true passion. As he logged, Murphy said that he was introduced to the unique characteristics of each type of tree. He noted the different colors, textures, and grain patterns. In those, he saw a rare platform for art.

"It was the beauty of the wood that got me started," he said.

In his bio, he says that he was intrigued by the hidden potential of an unsightly burrow knot. Instead of discarding that wood as unsuitable, he thought he would bring it back to life by burning something nice in it.

But he needed to learn more about woodburning. He had heard about an artist from Oconto Falls, Wayne Damp, who was known for his images on wood. Murphy decided to ask Damp to create an outdoor scene with a pond, ducks, cattails, and a deer. He jokes that the deer was missed, but his interest was piqued. "When I looked at the design and even with the realistic duck feathers, I thought, 'I can do this,'" Murphy said.

He went back to visit Damp and talked about types of wood that were used and what kind of burner worked best.

Murphy said, "Wayne was self-taught and good at sharing his knowledge. After meeting with him, I bought a book on woodburning and taught myself. At first, I started with small pieces because I was still a beginner. But as I progressed, I started doing more."

When he met Pat Williams, a versatile and well known artist, she encouraged him to challenge himself. She told him that he had too much talent to focus only on small projects.

"Pat lived in Luxemburg and had a gallery there. I met her through an art studio tour that tours galleries in three different counties," Murphy said. "We've been together now for 14 years."

Together, they built galleries and a workshop in their Oconto home where they focus on art. They are also active in the community; Murphy is president of the Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild and NEW Wisconsin Visual Artists Group.

At the recent Woodworkers Guild show, Murphy was in his element, displaying his pieces and talking about the art of pyrography, his specialty.

He explains that pyrography dates to ancient Egypt and essentially means, "paints with fire." The art involves scorching a piece of wood or other natural material with a fine, heated tip, in place of a brush or pencil. When the woodburning is completed, Murphy often uses oil paint to add color. Every piece is unique.

"The beauty of each piece is complemented by the wood and the different grains, colors and shades," he said. "I don't just work with flat wood, I work with knots and burrows, different pieces of wood. Most of the wood I use now is reclaimed, especially the butternut." Pieces vary in size from 2 inches to 7 feet tall. Pricing is based on the complexity of the design, choice of wood, hours of work, and realism. And, like most artists, the time spent creating a project rarely allows for the price it should command.

"Most people have no idea what it takes to create beautiful art," Murphy stated. "The first question we often get is, 'How long did it take to do this?' For John Q. Public, the majority look at a piece and even though they love it, they put a low value on the time it took. They look at the price and don't want to pay it." He says that often leads to artists selling art "dirt cheap" and devaluing the skill that is involved in its creation.

That makes it very difficult for artists to make a living through their art. Murphy said he accepts the fact that he will never get rich from his creations. But there is something more important to him and Williams.

They rely on the joy they get as artists even as they try to get greater exposure.

Murphy admits that marketing has been difficult and he has never written a business plan.

"Many artists struggle with the business aspects," he said. "The Woodworkers Guild tries to help other members in the group learn how to set things up, how to present their art, and how to sell."

Murphy originally sold on Etsy, but said he preferred working on his art to working on a computer. He and Williams also spent years going to shows, but now retired, they prefer to limit travel and focus on their own galleries and pieces that are sold on consignment in other area galleries and businesses.

In addition to creating and selling, Murphy also teaches, and one class that was held through the Woodworkers Guild had 149 students. He also gives classes at schools, to groups like the Boy Scouts, and at his gallery.

"I don't want to take this talent of mine to the grave. I want to share it as long as I'm alive. It would be a shame to stop sharing it; it is part of my DNA," he said.

It is so much a part of him that he routinely spends eight to 10 hours a day creating art. In addition to the pyrography, he also carves beautiful and unique bowls in a variety of shapes and sizes. He doesn't use a lathe and hand carves using different woods.

Murphy has won numerous competitions and earned the highest award of Master Pyrography Artist. He has been featured in art publications as he leads readers, step by step, to understand the techniques he has mastered.

Much of his art is commissioned work, but a wide variety of the nature art can be seen in his gallery at 5420 Kruegers Quarry Road in the town of Abrams. Although they are open much of the time, he says it's best to call first (920-604-0152).

In next week's column, Williams will share her story. As a couple, they say that their future goal is to keep doing art and growing as artists.

"The only thing I wish is that I had started earlier," Murphy said. "I am still improving; it's like X-raying a piece of wood with your mind. The rewards in creating

1/14/24 Featuring Pat Williams

In last week's column, Paul Murphy, owner of Pyro Graphic Art, shared his story on becoming a well-known artist. The other part of his story is his partner, Pat Williams, owner of Tranquil Bay Art Studio. Together, they operate two galleries in Abrams that showcase their art. While Murphy features his pyro graphic art and wood crafts, Williams is mostly a wildlife painter.

A lifelong Wisconsin resident, Williams lived in Antigo and Milwaukee before moving to Howard with her five children. Having lived with an abusive husband, she was a survivor. She was also a creative person with the mindset of an entrepreneur.

While in Howard, relatives and friends began to note that she had a talent for making cakes, and requests began pouring in. That led to opening her first business, The Cake Gallery, in Suamico.

'My cake shop was a one-of-a-kind bakery and everything I did was artistic. I designed something special with every cake I made. Everything was from scratch in the New England style with fondant and fancy icing,' Williams said.

The bakery specialized in custom orders and was not open to walk-in customers.

'I got so busy that I was working seven days a week and put my kids to work,' she said. 'It was wonderful and I loved every minute of it.'

She boasts that one Christmas week she made five wedding cakes, 20 large gingerbread houses, dozens of cookies, fruit breads and other baking.

Every cake design allowed Williams to use her creative abilities. But, with a growing business and volunteer activities that included 18 years as an EMT on the Howard-Suamico Rescue Squad, it left little time for her other passion, painting. That changed when she and her husband (she had remarried) moved to Presque Isle and lived in a home on Annabelle Lake where she studied and painted the wildlife.

One of her pieces featured a pond scene.

Williams said, 'I remember this piece of art. It was a frog by a pond that was in 3D. It came out so good that I painted it in oil; it looked like the frog could jump. I entered it into a show in Muncie, Indiana, and got second place out of 400 entries.'

She continued to hone her skill while living by the lake. When her husband died after 33 years of marriage, she decided to move back to the area and settled in Luxemburg.

Her home had a porch that she converted into a studio and gallery.

'When I moved back, I joined the art studio tour and became chairman of the tour and got really involved. From there, on my porch, I went in full bore,' she said.

It was during one of the tours that she met Murphy, and as the relationship developed, she moved to Abrams to be with him. Together, they went to numerous art shows to sell their work, but discovered that the best marketing came from word-of-mouth.

'The shows aren't very profitable; it is mostly like advertising to get your name out,' Williams said. 'The best way to sell is to be in a few other galleries where people get to know your work.'

And Williams has created quite a name for herself.

In 2012, one of her paintings was accepted into the George Bush Library and she received a note of thanks from the president. She says that it is on her 'bucket list' to be able to visit the library and see the painting hanging there.

Another painting, one that she is the proudest of, was having the bishop of the Green Bay Catholic Diocese, in 2014, select her work, 'Our Lady of Good Help,' for display at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin, where people visit from around the world.

'The day I presented the painting to Father Peter at the shrine, we both felt spirituality from the image,' she said.

That painting, she says, has increased her faith and love for painting. She continues to win awards, and now much of her work is commissioned.

But that doesn't mean that she and Murphy aren't continuing to work on marketing; something that they consider a weakness.

Williams said, 'If you want to earn a living from art, I think you would have to be online, on the web, on the computer. I don't think you would have a lot of time to do your art because you'd be spending all of your time there. We like to create more than sell.'

With that in mind, they have hired a family member to do that for them in 2024. That person will be responsible for social media and other marketing so that they can continue to create. It is a mission that they want to share.

'Art is the window of the soul. Art matters. My art always has a story, which I use to deliver a message or inspire the viewer,' Williams said. 'And the quality of your work matters — whether it's a cake or a painting, your reputation leads you.'

The reputation has led them both as volunteers (the list of volunteer activities is huge) and artists. Williams says that business is business, but the main difference between having an art gallery or a bakery is that a bakery is far more profitable. Artists still strive to get compensated fairly for the hours of time in each piece.

Yet, regardless of compensation, she is driven by her love for art and the satisfaction she gets from teaching eager students in the classes she holds or when a customer receives a painting, sometimes with tears in their eyes.

She said, 'Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body. But rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in hand, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming, 'WOO-HOO ... what a ride!''

To visit the galleries located at 5420 Kruegers Quarry Road, call [920-883-6089](tel:920-883-6089) for hours.

Tina Dettman-Bielefeldt is co-owner of DB Commercial Real Estate in Green Bay and Past District Director for SCORE, Wisconsin.



I design *one* THING at a time as I go down a piece of wood.
I never know what it's going to be 'til it's FINISHED.

— ADOLPH VANDERTIE

Carver and collector of tramp and hobo art

ADOLPH VANDERTIE

history / biography

ADOLPH VANDERTIE, who would become the "Grand Duke of the Hobos," began his life in northern Wisconsin. He was born May 25, 1911 on a small farm near the Wisconsin community of Lena. His parents, who originally came from Door County, provided a 16-by-20-foot log cabin for Adolph and his six siblings.

Early in Adolph's life, his parents moved the family to a hotel and tavern in Lena that became the family home and business. Shortly after the move, his parents divorced. Adolph's mother continued to manage the business, but with Prohibition the family fell on hard times.

His mother moved the family to Green Bay when Adolph was about nine years old. During these difficult Depression years, Adolph's mother worked as a custodian to support her family. While Adolph's interest in tramp and hobo art can be traced back to his grandfather, who had learned the arts as a prisoner of war during the U.S. Civil War, the artist in Adolph was awakened by exposure to the "hobo jungles" — the camps where hobos spent time when they weren't riding the rails. Art Linkletter and H.L. Hunt were among the two million transients who rode the rails and congregated in the hobo jungles as the nation struggled to extract itself from nearly disastrous economic hardship.

Adolph preferred stories of adventure over his schoolwork. He spent much of his time creating cartoons and daydreaming, then began to ride the rails himself. He ate Mulligan Stew with the hobos and watched as they whittled to pass the time. About this time Adolph saw a fellow hobo whittle a ball-in-the-cage, the quintessential trademark of a hobo whittler. Adolph was hooked! From the time Adolph created his first "ball-in-the-cage," the magic stayed with Adolph throughout his life.

What is tramp art?
What is hobo art?



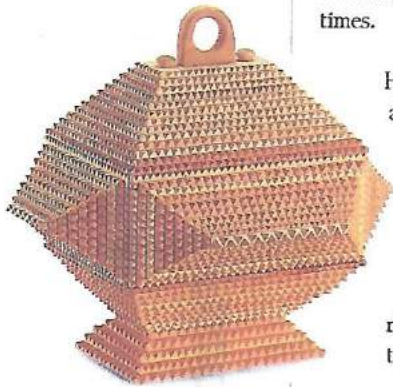
2-tiered
ornamental
box

Tramp art consists of cigar boxes or other found objects that have been layered and notched with carved edges. Most folk art experts and historians agree that tramp art has been made all over the world, wherever men smoked cigars and where the raw materials of the art were prevalent.

The craft was practiced at an especially high level in the U.S. from the late 1870s to the 1940s due to the popularity of cigar smoking and the peculiarities of the U.S. Revenue Act of 1865 requiring all cigars to be sold in wooden boxes of regulated sizes. Cigar manufacturers and merchants enhanced the salability of their products by using boxes of fine woods, usually cedar or mahogany.

Because the law also stipulated that the boxes could not be reused, millions of discarded boxes provided high-quality materials to any enterprising artist. The boxes could be disassembled with a knife, cut into strips, notched, then assembled in layers usually producing a pyramidal design.

According to Adolph Vandertie, hobo art — or "stick whittling" — was even simpler.



notched and layered
tramp art box
with cover



ball-in-the-cage
obelisk

At the age of 21 Adolph put his hobo days behind him. It was time to look for work and Adolph learned there were jobs available at a brewery in St. Louis. When Adolph announced he was leaving for St. Louis, his sweetheart Adeline proposed, they were married, and began their life together in Green Bay instead. Little did Adeline know that her future home would also be home to thousands of unique and interesting pieces of tramp and hobo art.



chain with hook and loop carved from a single piece of wood

Adolph acquired his first tramp art piece, a beautiful two-tiered covered box, from his brother. This sparked his interest in collecting. Soon afterwards he began creating hundreds of his own pieces until his collection eventually numbered 3,500 pieces. Most are Adolph's own work, some are gifts from other hobo artists, and others are spectacular pieces that Adolph acquired because of their uniqueness and significance to the collection.

As he grew older, whittling became a form of therapy for Adolph, a focus that enabled him to overcome an addiction to both alcohol and tobacco and freed him to create more and more of his unbelievably intricate works of art. As the world celebrated a new millennium,

Adolph personally celebrated fifty years of sobriety.

The end result of Adolph's countless hours of whittling was a man who found peace and contentment in a sharp blade and a good piece of wood. A man who collected and created whimsies, tramp art boxes and frames, and incredible furniture pieces carved and whittled in a way that only the most skilled hand could accomplish. Almost every type of hobo and tramp art can be found in Adolph Vandertie's collection: chip-carved boxes and frames, ball-in-the-cage whimsies, long chains created from a single piece of wood, and "crown-of-thorns" that are fit without benefit of nails or glue. Adolph Vandertie amassed an amazing collection of historical and artistic importance.

All that was required was a stick and the universal tool carried by every hobo: a pocket jackknife. Most whittlers, says Vandertie, did so "for therapy" or to just pass the time. They'd start with a piece of two-by-two wood and end up with a toothpick. But a "carver" whittled for the challenge and for the art. Once a carver saw a fellow hobo carving a ball-in-the-cage or a chain, he had a challenge to master — a challenge that could take a lifetime to perfect.

Tramp art and hobo art differ from many other arts in that they were inherently practiced by self-taught artists. No patterns showing techniques or styles have been found. These arts have existed because of the craftsmen's imagination and skills passed on from hobo to hobo, family to family, town to town — by word-of-mouth or by example. Many skilled artists worked obsessively with the materials and tools at hand — layer by layer, notch by notch, simply for the sake of the art.



notch and layered tramp art frame with free form whimsies

Acknowledgement

The gift of the Adolph Vandertie Collection to the Ashwaubenon Historical Museum was made possible by a generous gift of the Kohler Foundation, Inc.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BILL MERRILL, PUBLISHER OF THE HOBODIUM



Adolph Vandertie

A large portion of The Adolph Vandertie Collection of Tramp Art resides at the Ashwaubenon Historical Museum where the public, scholars, artists, and fellow whittlers can view and enjoy this body of work. The other major portion of Adolph Vandertie's body of work resides at: John Michael Kohler Arts Center 608 New York Avenue Sheboygan, Wisconsin 920-458-6144



octagonal ball-in-cage table

Activities/Events by other organizations

MID-WIS. CHIPPERS Presents

Artistry In Wood



Sunday, May 5, 2024
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Wood Sculptures for Sale!
Blue Ribbon Competition
70+ Woodcarvers & Pyrographers

Basswood, Bark, Tupelo,
Tools, Books, Supplies & more

Wisconsin Carving Clubs
Carving Demos & More!
Chainsaw Carver!

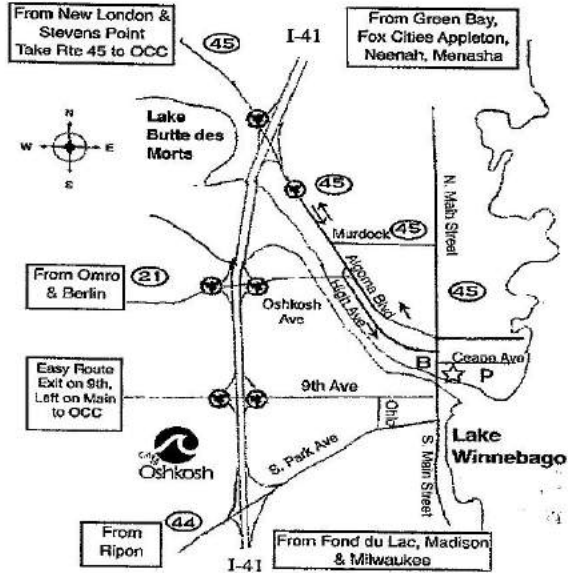
Bucket Raffle! Food Concession! Free Parking!
Everything you need to get started in Woodcarving!
Open to Public Admission: \$5 Ages 12 & Under free

The Oshkosh Convention Center
2 North Main Street, Oshkosh, WI

For more show info: www.midwisconsinchippers.weebly.com
or contact Paul Wolters (920) 727-2139

Enjoy the Oldest Annual Woodcarving Show in Wisconsin!

- ☆ The Oshkosh Convention Center (OCC) P= Free Parking
- B Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel
(Ask for Special Woodcarving Show Room Rate!)



KETTLE KARVERS

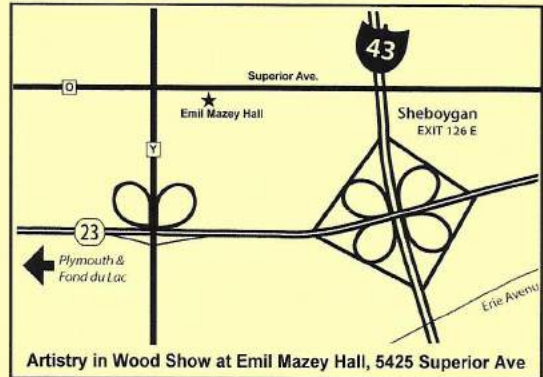
31st Annual
Wood Carving Show
Sunday April 28, 2024
10 am to 4 pm

Emil Mazey Hall 5425 Superior Ave.
Sheboygan, WI

Free Admission - Donations Appreciated

New carvers welcome. Tables \$25.00
See original wood carvings and visit with carvers.
Wood Carving Tool Vendor
Chain Saw Carver
Featured Carver: Stuart Thiel
Food and Beverage Sale on-site

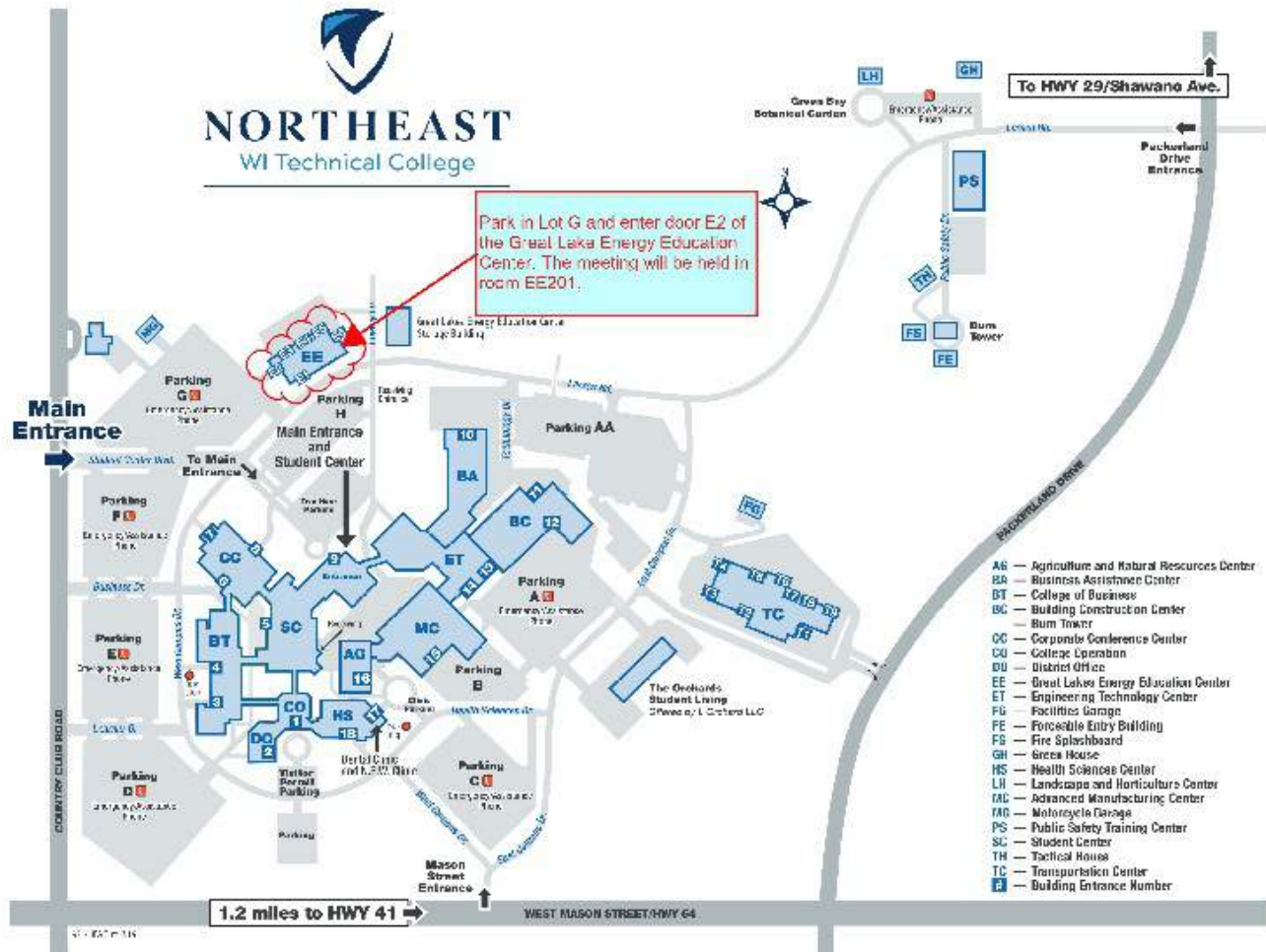
For information contact:
Bob Lawrence 920-458-4947, bob.dee@att.net
Jim Rooker 920-918-8512, jrooker49@gmail.com



www.kettlekarvers.org

Wood for sale: from Michael Malcheski Hello Folks I attended many of the shows while living in Ashwaubenon. I have 110 bd ft of pecky cyprus that I want to sell and just thought some-many of the members might want it. I can actually deliver it to the area if/when someone wants it. Feel free to call me 920-664-2700.

Thank you. mjmalcheski2016@gmail.com



Bench Talk is the newsletter of the Northeast Wisconsin Wood Workers Guild, published prior to regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

For more information on activities, meetings and members, check out the Guild website at: newwg.org

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN WOODWORKING GUILD

MEETINGS (Guests and prospective members welcome)
3rd Wednesday of each month, Time: 7:00 p.m. Visit our web site at: www.newwg.org

How to Get Involved: For inquiries regarding joining The Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild, contact: Paul Murphy: paulmurphywood@gmail.com 920-604-0152

Or any other Board or committee member.

Re: newsletter, Maureen Birk: birkmr2@gmail.com

Re: web site: Matt Hamblin: froggy6703@gmail.com
920-419-3910

Guild Officers

President: Paul Murphy

Vice President, Pat Williams

Treasurer, Chuck Druckrey

Newsletter/Secretary Maureen Birk

Committee Chairs & Project Coordinators

Programs/publicity Barry Bender,

Membership, Event Facil. Eric Hansen

Librarian, Pete Schuh

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Web Site, Matt Hamblin