

Featured Artists and Craftsmen

Sunday -- 2 to 4 p.m.

Memorial Weekend

May 29, Ernest Henderson, Overland Park

Ernest Henderson became interested in working with wood 35 years ago when an "old timer" gave him some native Kansas walnut and elm wood which he had cut as part of a depression-years work program. It was with this wood that he learned to appreciate the fact that each piece of wood has its own character and beauty. He found his early wood working endeavors to be a relaxing diversion from the rigors of practicing veterinary medicine. He says, however, about the only thing he made in the early years were -- noise, sawdust, mistakes and little pieces out of big pieces. Even though the "gift wood" has long since found its way into gun stocks and grandfather clocks, he still prefers to use native Kansas elm or walnut for their uniqueness and charm. Ernest has a variety of unusual wood puzzles, jewelry boxes, and clocks in Kansas Originals Market. He will be demonstrating his unique puzzles and talking about his work.

May 30, John D. Trost, Hiawatha 1 - 4 pm

J. D. Trost began his hobby in 1989 after heart surgery. He retired from full-time duty from the Kansas National Guard. He rigged up a chain saw to saw lumber and found he had pretty pieces from the crotches of the tree and the small left over pieces with pretty grain. So he made a lathe to turn bowls. His hobby soon turned into a full -time job. When he is turning on the lathe, he makes from three to five bowls a day. After the bowls are turned they have to season and dry for two to four months, depending on the dampness and thickness of the wood. He then hand-rubs a non-toxic finish onto the bowls to make them food safe. He has been doing a lot of work with spalted maple. John will be bringing a lathe and demonstrating turning bowls from 1 to 4 on Memorial Day.

June 12, Bertha McGann, Palco

Bertha McGann says she learned her work ethic on the farm where she was born in Sugar City, Colorado. She worked for 20 years as a waitress before she and her husband took over the Palco Cafe in 1989. She became the cook and her husband a waiter and dishwasher. Bertha says they both work double shifts. The McGann's are the parents of six children. Bertha, a twenty year 4-H leader, sews her children's clothes, crochets bride doll dresses, afghans, and makes Irish chain quilt tops and pillow cases. She became interested in wheat weaving in 1980, after she took classes under Doris Johnson, Luray, and Alec Coker from England. Her wheat weaving can be found in Finland, Mexico, Japan, Russia, Puerto Rico, Germany and throughout the United States. Bertha says she often works until 3:30 in the morning.



"Our featured Artists and Crastsman series is sponsored in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency and the National Endowment For the Arts, a federal agency."