

THE SPOON GATHERING

JUNE 6 & 7, 2014

A gathering of spoon carving enthusiasts from beginners to professionals

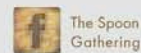


Photo by: Tib Show



Once again, artisans, artists and spoon enthusiasts will gather at the Milan Village Arts School in Milan Minnesota to carve, learn and share their passion for the humble spoon. Carving gathering begins Friday with demonstrations Saturday. \$10 registration for the event – Please call 320-734-4807. Camping area is also available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT
WWW.MILANVILLAGEARTSSCHOOL.ORG





2014 Spoon Gathering June 6 & 7 Information Package

Mission statement.

Sharing the knowledge of carving spoons and related handcrafts, while creating an inclusive gathering for all.

History of the Gathering

In 2007, Frank Foltz had the idea for the first Spoon Gathering held at the Kromvig School for Craft. It was a one day event with 24 people carving together, sharing skills, and enjoying good food. In 2008, the Spoon Gathering moved to the Milan Village Arts School and has remained here since. It has had steady growth each year and in 2013 we had 130 people!

Frank Foltz d.2009.

This text is from his teaching bio: Frank Foltz was born in Mt. Pleasant, MI, where he lived until leaving for Chicago to pursue an education. He began whittling when kids were still encouraged to develop their skills with a knife, carving his first neckerchief slide with the Boy Scouts at age 11. Carving has been a part of his life since. After moving to Minnesota in 1976, Frank began carving wooden signs for businesses.

While finishing a degree in creative therapy in 2001, Frank began carving spoons and wooden ware in the Scandinavian tradition from Minnesota hardwood and fruit wood and fell in love with it. His spoons are a co-operative venture between his creative whimsical nature and the piece of wood with which he is working. No two pieces are alike and all are intended to be used as well as enjoyed for the elegant beauty of the wood and design. Now spoon carving consumes more of Frank's time than any other of his "careers", such as growing organic fruit and fruit trees. One of his main interests is reviving the use of wooden spoons in everyday life for eating as well as cooking and the carving of spoons for self and friends. To that end, he finds himself spending more time teaching spoon carving as folk art. His spoons are sold mainly through

galleries, art fairs and his web site. He also teaches backyard orcharding and fruit growing without the use of harmful chemicals and pesticides.

As usual, the preparations for the 2014 Spoon Gathering are a work in progress. Some details may change as the weekend draws closer.

This year looks as if it will be bigger than last year. Robin Wood, from England, will be at the Gathering and giving a presentation, so we expect a good crowd.

If you have not attended before, it would be wise to contact the school so that you can receive any updated information as it comes available.

If you plan to come, please contact the school and pre-register. The registration fee is paid on the weekend, however it is always nice for us to get an idea of numbers for planning purposes.

Feel free to contact the school with any questions. Our office hours are Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If I am not in the office, I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

mvas@fedteldirect.net

(320) 734-4807

Location: Milan Village Arts School & Burns Park, Milan (see map)

Friday, June 06 10 a.m. till late into the evening. Friday is a time to carve, meet with fellow spoon enthusiasts and relax. School staff will be around. Come early and set up camp.

Saturday, June 07 All day and late into the evening.

Saturday is the main day for demonstrations and presentations. Stay posted for updates.

Registration

Fee: \$10 Registration and payment is made on arrival. Find Ron or other event organizers.

There are 2 ways to register:

1. Call or email the school
2. Register on the Spoon Gathering Facebook page. Go to www.facebook.com, type in "The Spoon Gathering" and register.

What do I need to bring?

Please bring your own chair.

Tools you will need to carve.

We will have a few chopping blocks and a carving horse.

There will be a gas grill in front of the school available to make food.

Camping equipment if you choose to camp in the park.

Coolers for food and drinks (if needed)

Fun and inclusive games and activities for young people to enjoy.

The Weather

The first weekend in June on the prairie can be almost any type of weather. We have had rain, high temps, straight line winds, cold and drizzly weather, beautiful sunny weather, but never snow. The best thing to do is be prepared for any type of weather, it can change quickly.

Refreshments

Scandinavian coffee, tea, homemade cookies & bars will be provided throughout the weekend. Complementary, though a donation is appreciated.

Carving Time

All time is carving time. This is a spoon-carving weekend. While demonstrations add to the interest of the Gathering, this is a time to meet fellow carvers, network and work on your latest project. So come prepared to carve.

Spoon Blanks

Please bring along a supply of blanks. We are still finalizing details and are not sure whether anyone is bringing blanks for sale. If you have extra, please bring them for sale. There is always someone looking for a blank.

Spoons on Display

As is tradition, space and tables will be provided in the school to display your spoons. So bring along any spoons you have carved, or other spoons in your collection. While spoons are the focus, feel free to bring other carved items of interest. **Please label your display with your name and hometown. See one of the event organizers for labels.**

Items for Sale

Carvers often have items for sale on the tables. This is OK as long as they are spoon or carving related. If you are selling a large amount, please consider donating 5% of your profit to the Spoon Gathering. All funds are used to help fund future Spoon Gatherings.

The Spoon Wheel

With ever increasing numbers of new carvers we are going to have a designated area for the entire weekend for beginners to learn from experienced carvers. There will be an "instructor" rotation on an hourly basis so that people can learn a variety of carving techniques. If you are interested in being a teacher in the Spoon Wheel please contact Jim Sannerud.

jsannerud@gmail.com

Organized Demonstrators

International spoon researcher and celebrated craftsman **Robin Wood** will give a special presentation and informal lecture on Saturday evening.

More demonstrators are planned - stay tuned!

Demonstration topics will include some or all of the following; spoon design, sharpening tools, finishing and natural dyes, projects for kids, ergonomics and injury prevention.

Chalkboard demonstrations

Keeping with the tradition of sharing knowledge freely, if you would like to share something, here's how you can communicate it to the group. We are going to have a board on the porch of the school where you can put your name, what you want to share (demonstrate), when and where.

Can I buy wood and tools at the Gathering?

Wood: In past years there have been people who have brought wood and blanks to sell. If you have extra wood, please bring some for those that are travelling from afar.

Tools: As of today we have two tool makers committed to coming.

Stay tuned for updates.

Auction

We are going to have a silent auction starting Friday and concluding after Robin's talk on Saturday. This is going to be a great opportunity to buy other peoples work and benefit the school. If you have something that you wish to donate, a knife, spoon, private lessons, a beach house, please contact Jim Sannerud. jsannerud@gmail.com

All proceeds will go toward the school's building project.

Music

If you are a musician, we encourage you to bring your instrument(s) for some group sing-a-longs or gentle jams in the evening. *We will encourage music and singing to take place in front of the school building. Camping families may wish to locate on the far end of the park. Please remember we are located in the center of town. Noise needs to be kept to a minimum after 10 p.m. For our Scottish visitors you may want to keep your bagpipe rendition of Scotland the

Brave to the daylight hours. I am half Scottish from my deep dark past, so don't leave the bagpipes at home.

Volunteer opportunities

There are many opportunities to help make the event a success, from helping to set up before, keeping the place tidy during the event and cleaning up on Sunday.

Donations

The Spoon Gathering is put on by The Milan Village Arts School and many volunteers. All donations go to funding and developing the Spoon Gathering. Consider becoming a member of the school or making a donation.

Friday

On arrival, look for Ron. If you can't find an organizer, feel free to set up camp in Burns Park, across from the school. The school will be open at all times, so come in, relax and use the facilities.

A campfire and a BBQ will be located in front of the school for the purpose of atmosphere and cooking. A small wood fired BBQ is also available on the south end of Burns Park. Wood will be provided. The school has a microwave and a small fridge in the kitchen for attendees use.

If you haven't visited Milan before, you will discover how small it is. Just 350 people! The café is not open in the evening. Both Appleton and Montevideo have places to eat.

Friday is a time to settle in, meet other spoon enthusiasts and carve, **so bring your carving tools and blanks.** The school will remain open as long as carvers wish to socialize.

Saturday

If you haven't registered yet, please find Ron or other Spoon Gathering organizers. The Milan Village Arts School is a non-profit organization and all funds go toward the running of the Spoon Gathering.

8:30 or thereabouts. The day will commence with a short welcome and an outline of the day's events.

Demonstrations

Demonstrations are not yet finalized. We will know more as the date draws closer. An email will be sent out.

Impromptu Demonstrations

Impromptu demonstrations add color and interest to the weekend. While the school arranges demonstrations and presentations for the weekend, please feel free to set up and demonstrate. You will always get an appreciative and attentive crowd. A demonstration does not need to be spoons. Other carving demonstrations or associated demonstrations are welcome.

Potluck Party:

6:00 p.m. and onwards. **Bring your musical instruments.**

Please bring something to add to the table. There is a microwave in the school if you wish to reheat something. Feel free to bring refreshments of your choice.

Sunday

The school is open Sunday morning, if attendees wish to use the facilities.

Accommodations

Burns Park: Free camping is available in the park opposite the school. Pick a spot and set up camp. Toilets will be available at the south end of the park. There is also a restroom in the school. The town water in the park is safe to drink. Bottled water is available at Bergen's Prairie Market on Main St. There are no facilities for showers onsite. **Note, there are no fires allowed in the park.** Gas and coal BBQs are permitted. A gas BBQ will be provided in front of the school. A fire pit will be provided in front of the school and attendees often use that for cooking.

If you wish to have full-serviced camping facilities, you will need to camp at the Lac Qui Parle State Park campgrounds about 5 miles outside of town. Call **320-734-4450**.

Showers

There are no showers onsite, but there are showers available at the Lac qui Parle State Park campgrounds.

Cost:

1. If you are a current holder of a Minnesota State Parks Annual Vehicle Permit (\$25), the showers are free. No key necessary. Just go and have a shower.
2. If you do not have an annual permit, it is possible to purchase a 1 day permit at the front gates to the upper campground (\$5).

For other choices of accommodation, please visit www.milanvillageartsschool.org and click on “location” on the top menu.

Services in Town (see attached map for location)

Bergen’s Prairie Market (ATM available)

Friday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

More Café

Friday 6:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Prairie State Bank

ATM available at all times

billy maple tree’s Gift Shop

Friday 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Island Gas Station

Open 24 hours/day
Gas can only be purchased with a credit or debit card.

Cell phones

Reception can be spotty and there are a limited number of outlets for recharging.

Feel free to use the school’s phone if it is an emergency. Talk to Ron.