



Goods from the Woods

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ideal weather, beautiful lakeside setting and wonderful community support: combination makes 2009 Goods from the Woods a success!

Changes to this year's Goods from the Woods included moving to Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge, no charge for admission and shortening to a one day event, but high quality of exhibitors was still the mainstay

GRAND RAPIDS, Minn. (6 October 2009)—“You just couldn’t ask for better weather,” exclaimed exhibitors and visitors alike at the 7th annual Goods from the Woods ‘Up North’ Marketplace and Green Living Celebration on September 19. The event was held for the first time at Ruttger’s Sugar Lake Lodge, just a few minutes south of Grand Rapids.

Created in 2003, Goods from the Woods is a Minnesota-grown initiative that combines an ‘Up North’ specialty forest products marketplace and educational workshops to celebrate our northern forests and to promote a vibrant forest-based economy.

Grand Rapids resident, Ron Hanson, who is currently serving as board chair for the Minnesota Wood Education Project, noted that the quality of the exhibitors for the 2009 event was still top notch, that the number of exhibitors had increased, and that this year’s location was very compatible with the event.

“Moving to Sugar Lake Lodge was a good decision,” said Hanson. “It was the perfect backdrop for the high-quality hand-crafted products offered by our exhibitors.”

Seventy-three exhibitors participated in this year’s event and since it was a juried show, the exhibitors were accepted based on their technical skill, creativity, the medium used, and other requirements. Three “best of show winners” were chosen by an outside two-person jury. Winners of the awards were Mike Pfeifer of Custom Woodwork from Champlin, Minn., April & Jarrod Stone Dahl of WoodSpirit Gallery from Odanah, Wisc., and Andrew Kringen of Andrew Kringen Designs from Grand Rapids.

Exhibitors enjoyed brisk sales to the more than 2,000 people who attended the event. Those who wanted to add a leisurely ride to the resort as part of their outing took advantage of the free shuttle service from several locations in downtown Grand Rapids. And every visitor seemed to appreciate the absence of an admission fee.

“We watch for and plan to come to Goods from the Woods every year” said one visitor. “This was a beautiful setting for the event.” Another visitor commented, “It is perfect.”

Planning is already underway for next year’s Goods from the Woods with strategies in place to improve on what is already deemed the premiere artisan show of northern Minnesota.

To learn more about Goods from the Woods and the organizer, the Minnesota Wood Education Project, visit www.goodsfromthewoods.org and www.minnesotawoodeducationproject.com.

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