

Woodworker reopens shop in Abrams

By Joan Koehne
Managing editor

The smell of saw dust is in the air again at an Abrams shop.

Linda Surowiec has reopened Oak Orchard Gallery at 2997 Cedar Lane, Abrams, returning to her love of woodworking. Surowiec originally opened the gallery in 1990, then closed it in 2001 due to health problems. Recently retiring from her job at a bank, Surowiec returned to the Abrams site in August.

"I want people to know I'm back open, and it's similar to what it was, but not exactly. We want to make it fresh and up-to-date," she said.

A self-taught woodworker and carver, Surowiec sold her pieces at craft shows for 14 years before opening the studio and gallery in Abrams in 1990. The shop contains a blend of woodworking pieces created by Surowiec and members of the Northeast Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild, along with other artwork and gift items.

"In the Abrams, Oconto,



TIMES HERALD PHOTO BY JOAN KOEHNE

Linda Surowiec works on a carving at Oak Orchard Gallery, a studio and gallery she reopened in Abrams in August. Oak Orchard Gallery had originally been open for 11 years, 1990-2001, before Surowiec closed the doors due to health issues.

OAK ORCHARD GALLERY

2997 Cedar Lane, Abrams (Highway 41-141 exit 185 to E. Frontage Road, to Cedar Street)
Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday-Saturday

Oconto Falls area, you'd be surprised by the number of people who are very, very talented, a lot of basement artists that we don't know about," she said.

The building was used for a pet store several years, operated by Surowiec's daughter, then sat empty until August. Once known for her wood furniture, Surowiec now creates smaller projects, spending

much of her time carving caricatures.

"I design all my carvings. One idea rolls into another," she said. "Sometimes you pick up a piece of wood and it says, 'Hey, there's a carving in here.' Sometimes it's a bear, sometimes it's a Santa Claus. It's purely instinctual."

Surowiec is hoping both local residents and the northwoods cottage residents will rediscover her shop.

"I get people from all over the world here. It's just amazing, so it will be interesting to see if people start recognizing the name again and come back," she said.

Optimizing respiratory health in calf barns

Over the next few weeks, the weather will really begin to feel more like fall. With the changing weather, both people and animals become more susceptible to illness. On the farm, calves seem to most likely to be hit with health issues as the temperature drops. There are a few key things that can be done to create a healthier environment in your calf barn.

Providing an excellent, well-ventilated environment is a key component in raising healthy calves. Pens can become "micro-environments" within a barn. Even though a barn may be well ventilated in the alley way, pens that are too enclosed can prevent air movement. It is recommended that solid sides are placed between calves to prevent nose-to-nose contact. This prevents the transfer of disease between calves. However, an open front and partially open back allow more air to flow through, reducing airborne bacteria counts and that "microenvironment" effect.

Airborne bacteria counts are directly related to poor ventilation and the



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prevalence of respiratory disease. Ways to keep those counts down are to lower barn temperature, provide large enough pens (32 square feet per calf), fewer solid sides (open front and partially open back for each pen), and supplemental barn ventilation (if necessary).

Another key to improved respiratory health is providing deep bedding. Calves are born with little body fat, and a newborn calf is cold-stressed at 50 degrees. Even a month-old calf is cold-stressed once the temperature drops below 32 degrees. When calves are using fat reserves to maintain body heat, they are losing immune function and are more likely to get sick. Providing deep bedding for them to nest in improves immunity and

reduces the prevalence of respiratory disease.

Additional ventilation may be needed in a barn, but preventing drafts is also important. Cold air traveling at a high velocity is considered a draft. Deep bedding provides protection against drafts. Proper air flow (15 cfm of fresh air per calf pen) provides just enough air to ventilate a calf pen without causing a draft.

To adjust to the cooler temperatures, we can put on a sweater and turn on the furnace. However, helping animals adapt to the changing weather is a little more difficult than that. These are some ideas that could help improve the air quality and calf health in your youngster barns this fall and winter.

Abby Huijbregtse is the University of Wisconsin-Extension agriculture agent for Oconto County.



Gift campaign begins for Oconto Hospital & Medical Center expansion

The Oconto Hospital Citizens' Foundation has approved a \$1.5 million Gifts Campaign in support of Oconto Hospital & Medical Center's 45,000 square-foot expansion project. To date, the Foundation has received two significant gifts covering almost one-third of the \$1.5 million dollar goal. Jim Nerenhausen has contributed a three-year pledge of \$375,000 and ST Paper, Oconto Falls, has contributed a \$100,000 gift.

Oconto Hospital & Medical Center is a health care facility viewed as essential for the health and welfare of area residents

and an economic opportunity as well. The hospital expansion, opening in the summer of 2012, is predicted to provide 55 new jobs and bring \$26 million of economic impact into the community. Oconto Hospital & Medical Center gives back to the community through their benefits/charity care providing over \$500,000 annually of medical services to those in need who cannot pay. All revenue for services remains local and is reinvested in improving services.

The Oconto Hospital Citizens' Foundation Board of Directors are a

group of citizen advocates dedicated to actively engaging with the community in supporting local hospital services and ongoing hospital growth through donations, naming opportunities, fundraising events and promoting the use of local hospital services with optimal patient convenience.

Oconto Hospital & Medical Center is a partnership between the Oconto Hospital Citizens' Foundation and Bellin Health. Individuals interested in giving can do so by calling the Foundation at 920-834-5444.

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Class	Day	Date	Time	Fee
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Oils/Aromatherapy 1	T	10/11	6:00-8:00 p.m.	\$9.59*
Oils/Aromatherapy 2	T	10/18	6:00-9:00 p.m.	\$15.19*
Herbs: Teas	T	10/25	6:00-9:00 p.m.	\$15.19*
Soap Making Demo	S	11/5	5:30-9:30 p.m.	\$20.78*
Herbs - Natural Dyeing (silk scarf)	S	11/19	12:00-5:00 p.m.	\$20.78*

* Senior Citizens pay only \$4.00 for any of the above listed classes!

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