

ANTIQUES

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containing arrangements of old-fashioned roses.

Nearby, an enclosed blue and yellow patch showcases a collection of English Blue Willow porcelain, most of which is displayed on walls.

"That's what wonderful about plates," Patty said. "They can go anywhere - on shelves, on walls, on tables, on mantels."

Nowhere is the influence of antiques more apparent than in the fire-lit library, a room that almost rebels against Patty's feminine, Southern-inspired sensibility, because C.J.'s antique collectibles define it.

The room is her husband's domain, a cozy space for reading in the leather club chair or male-bonding in front of the old mounted moose head.

The room's wooden shelves are filled with antique wooden duck decoys, old cameras and

telephones, as well as leather-bound books from the late 1800s and 1900s.

"Whenever we entertain, the men end up in here and the ladies end up in the living room," Patty said of the contrast.

What unites their differing tastes is a preference for turn-

of-the-century pieces and their uncommon passion for decorating with antiques.

"You have to start somewhere," Patty said.

"We find that it's easy and that it really sets the flavor of the room."

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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patty Ghesquiere, co-chair of this year's Community House Antiques Festival, loves antiques so much she relies on them to guide her decorative decisions.



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SHOW

FROM PAGE C1

All of the pieces at the show are made by guild members. Items won't be for sale at the event, but commissions from individual members may be available.

A toy auction will be featured. For more than 13 years, the guild has been making toys for youngsters at Children's Hospital. Money from the silent auction at the show will be used to buy wheels, axles, paint, glue and other supplies necessary to build the toys.

GUILD

At the guild's monthly meetings, demonstrations take place, and members ask questions about projects and share suggestions. "We have 387 members, all different professions," Rigstad said. "They just like to work with wood... We have beginners and we have finished craftsmen."

Some members specialize in specific types of woodworking or styles of furniture. While, for example, concentrates on scrollwork.

Members make a wide variety of objects. They have shown a Queen Anne style chest of drawers, Shaker boxes, a long table with a contemporary look. They have presented a file cabinet, a butcher's block with drawers and wheels, a three-sided liquor cabinet that tucks into a corner. They have displayed a canoe, a cradle, a writing desk with compartments. They have exhibited rocking horses and other toys.

FASCINATION

Boulard has had a lifelong fascination with woodworking.

"From the time I was a little boy, I was always banging something together," he said. Woodworking offers challenges and satisfaction.

"If the wife wants a cabinet to do such and such and fit a certain space and style... you can build it," said Boulard, who has put an addition on his house and is working on restoring furniture.

Rigstad started his own custom woodworking business after he retired from Ford Motor Co. His Canton resi-



PAUL MURCHMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton resident Bill Rigstad built this cabinet, as well as other furniture in his home. It will be one of the pieces featured at Wood 2003, the Michigan Woodworkers' Guild show Sunday in Livonia.

dence is both ideal for, and indicative of, a dedicated woodworker.

The house is nestled in a quiet, wooded area. Rigstad put in the wood floors, added molding to the kitchen cabinets, and built a door. He also made many of the furnishings, including a Windsor chair, and a four-poster bed and armoire in a bedroom. "I like the challenge," Rigstad said.

An example of a challenge is the cabinet that Rigstad calls a work in progress. The piece, which will be displayed at the show, features sections that gently curve at a 22-1/2-degree angle and leaded glass doors.

"All I had was a picture," Rigstad said. "From the picture, I figured out how to build that. Every time you build something, you can learn a little bit more."

Rigstad's basement is filled with variety of equipment, each with its own dust collection system. Shelves and tables around the space hold tools and materials. Rigstad doesn't just make furnishings. He gets together with a 93-year-old man to make such items as a mailbox-shaped stamp holder. Rigstad has also built interactive pieces for a children's museum exhibit.

"It's very creative, very relaxing," he said of woodworking.

WOOD 2003

What: A showcase of custom woodworking presented by the Michigan Woodworkers' Guild. Drawings for door prizes will take place on the hour. A silent toy auction, to benefit youngsters of Children's Hospital, will be featured.

When: Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 9.

Where: Livonia Senior Citizens Center, 15218 Farmington Road, south of Five Mile.

Admission: Admission and parking are free.

Rigstad recommended that anyone interested in woodworking start with basic tools, take classes at a business such as Woodcraft and attend a guild meeting.

The Michigan Woodworkers' Guild usually meets 2-4 p.m. the second Sunday of the month at the Livonia Senior Center or the Royal Oak Senior Center. The guild hotline at (313) 345-6722 gives the meeting time, date and place. For more information, call the membership director at (248) 543-3487.

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