

OZAUKEE COUNTY TOURISM

Exploring Ozaukee County's makers and maker spaces

A "maker" is a person who takes a do-it-yourself approach to creating products, celebrating the union of craftsmanship and creativity, and weaving their passion into every piece they create. From artwork to handmade jewelry to artisanal chocolates and cheeses, these skilled artisans craft their products with a unique story and personal touch. Many makers encourage the sharing of tools, knowledge and places, resulting in fun and collaborative "makerspaces," where people can come together to work on small projects under their expert guidance.

Ozaukee County's small towns are a haven for makers, and we're fortunate many of them have opened their own storefronts to make browsing fun and easy.

DreamPort Harvest Market in Port Washington has built a small thriving business on the concept of local makers—the owners, Ed and Peggy Callahan, opened the shop two years ago as an extension of their apple farm stand. As demand for their products grew, they realized a need for more space and a commercial kitchen.

They now employ pastry and savory chefs, who make fresh products from the farm's certified organic apple, rhubarb and raspberry harvest, including pastries, jams, apple butter, soups, flatbreads, scones, pies and hummus. DreamPort Harvest Market also carries products from other farmers and artisans around Ozaukee County, including granola, pancake mix, cheese, brats, honey products, goat milk soaps and lotions and so much more.

"We carry products from more than 20 different farms or producers, and everything is grown and made locally," said Callahan. "Most products are organic, and many are preservative and chemical free. We went from farm stand, to pop-up market, to



Photos courtesy of Ozaukee County Tourism Council

Above, pictured are Dream Apple Farm owners Ed and Peggy Callahan. **Right**, students create river art at a kids class and camp at Painted Creek.



full retail space. Our customers are always surprised to find that all of our products are locally grown and produced by farmers and makers who are also our friends."

Locally Inspired in Port Washington is a community-focused retail shop that collaborates with some of the most talented makers across Wisconsin, filling the shop with a delightful mix of high quality hand-crafted products with a local flair. The store is aptly named too—every display and corner in this cozy shop inspires you to celebrate and share, from clothing and spices, to handmade cards and coasters, to homegoods and gift sets. Whether you're pampering yourself or someone else, you'll leave Locally Inspired feeling like you're making a difference.

If you're looking for a gift for the Luxembourgers in your life, the **Luxembourg American Cultural Society & Center** in Belgium custom-creates most of the products

in their gift shop. They have a Luxembourg theme but are designed specifically for the store and are only available through the LACS. Items include everything from wearables and drinkware to pet bandanas, baking items and more.

Cedarburg's Shops of Cedar Creek Settlement is a great place to spend an afternoon shopping for local, handmade products like art, jewelry, clothing, gourmet foods and unique gift and specialty items. The Settlement is also home to the **Cedar Creek Winery**, one of the country's most noted regional wineries offering award-winning wines from fine whites to rich, robust reds, plus a variety of special, seasonal vintages.

Just across Washington Avenue from the Settlement is the **Gem Shop**, the Midwest's largest rock shop and home to literally tons of unique items mined and created by the store's owners, Veronica Woods and her father Gene Mueller, who are longtime lapidaries and even own several of their own mines. Products include bookends, tumbled stones, geodes, jewelry, polished agate slices, fossils, lamps, educational kits and more. Even the most casual shopper will walk out of the Gem Shop with a new appreciation for the beauty and majesty of stones, rocks, agates and jaspers, whether they are left natural and raw, or cut into amazing gifts and collectibles.

A common thread (no pun intended!) in maker's spaces is family. Cedarburg's newest store, **Cedarburg Threads**, celebrates Cedarburg and Wisconsin with custom designed products like T-shirts, sweatshirts and hats, drinkware and home decor. Owner Rachel Arroyo creates

the designs, and pours her own candles—into pottery made by her father and sister.

"We strive to source locally whenever possible," said Arroyo of her products. "And some of our products are handmade and completely unique. This means you'll get a one-of-a-kind treasure, not something mass produced. Any differences you may notice are part of the handmade process."

The **Pink Llama Gallery** is a fun and eclectic shop on Cedarburg's main street. The gallery showcases unique artwork from 100-plus artists, including many that are local. The gallery features everything from traditional wall art and decor to scarves, jewelry and home accents. The ever-changing inventory of hand-made goods and fine art keeps customers coming back time and time again.

Art is a tradition in Cedarburg, and the small town offers a number of places where you can browse and purchase local art. At the **Cedarburg Art Museum**, the Museum Shop sells the work of dozens of local artists, and many of the pieces on display throughout the museum are available for purchase. The current exhibit, *The Life of Water*, will be on display through Aug. 18.

The **Cedarburg Cultural Center** is a great place to browse and purchase artwork from local artists, many of whom are members of the Cedarburg Artists Guild. The CCC rotates through several exhibits each year, and the Main Street Gallery inside the CCC always offers a fine collection of outstanding work from Guild members.

The unique gift shop inside the **Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts** offers a delightful display of art

from 30 to 50 different artists who sell their work on consignment. Most are local, but the WMQFA sometimes partners with artists who are exhibiting in the museum as well.

For the aspiring artist in you, all three of these Cedarburg galleries also offer classes throughout the year, including paint and sip classes at the CAM; hands-on fiber art projects at the WMQFA; and painting, enamel and jewelry-making at the CCC. Visit their individual websites for class schedules.

Also catering to your aspiring inner artist, the **Painted Creek** is an art studio in Cedarburg that focuses on technique building and product art for adults and children. Artist and owner Kristin Bork offers regular open studio hours, plus classes in painting, pottery, project building, sculpture and more, as well as opportunities for private events, team building and birthday parties. The shop is also a source for artistically refinished furniture and one-of-a-kind custom art and murals. Visit kristinjanecollective.com for more information.

At **glaze**, a popular walk-in art studio in Thiensville, guests are invited to create personalized works of art. Activities include paint-your-own-pottery (choosing from more than 500 pieces of unpainted bisque!), glass fusing, glass painting and working with raw clay. The studio is adorable and family friendly, and their talented staff makes every visit a personalized mini class for creators.

Summer is a great time to visit some of our local farms—in addition to an abundance of seasonal vegetables and fruits, many of them offer handmade products

throughout the season. **Witte's Vegetable Farm** in Cedarburg is a great place to pick up canned pickled asparagus and refrigerated pickled radishes earlier in the season, and other pickled items, salsa and canned items as the summer progresses.

Appleland Farm Market provides homemade pies, donuts and fritters, and also offers a good selection of products made by local artisans, such as syrups, salsas, pickled products, BBQ sauces, mustards, dressings, spice blends, goat's milk soap products, wines, hard ciders and spirits.

Festivals are a great place to pick up locally created items from artisans! Ozaukee County has a full calendar of festivals that invite artists and artisans to share their goods, including **Cedarburg's Strawberry Festival**, **Wine & Harvest Festival** and **Plein Air Paint Cedarburg** event; Port Washington's **Festival of the Arts** and **Port Fish Days**; the Cedarburg Artists Guild's **Covered Bridge Art Studio Tour and Holiday Art Fair**; **Luxembourg Fest** in Belgium; and the **Ozaukee County Fair**.

If you're ready to "**Fire Up the Forge**," Pioneer Village in Saukville is offering the opportunity to learn the basics of blacksmithing on July 7. Eight blacksmiths will be demonstrating their own unique styles of iron artistry on portable forges and in the Pioneer Village Blacksmith Shop. Guests can sign up to make an item to take home, and forged items will be available for sale. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors/students and free for children under 5.

We'd be remiss not to mention some of our food and drink artisans, including **The Chocolate Chisel** in Port Washington, specializing in beautiful and delicious hand-crafted artisan truffles, barks, bars, nut clusters, sea salt caramels, chocolate dipped pretzels and more; and local breweries like **Rebellion Brewing** and the **Fermentorium** in Cedarburg, **Sahale Ale Works** in Grafton and **Inventors Brew Pub** in Port Washington.

Whether you're the maker or the taker, you'll want to explore this list of cool places in Ozaukee County where you can walk away with a unique product that shows the individuality and creativity of some of Ozaukee's finest makers! For more information, visit ozaukee-tourism.com and follow Ozaukee County Tourism on Facebook and Instagram.

(The Ozaukee County Tourism Council is a group of businesses and organizations that support and promote tourism in Ozaukee County.)



Photo courtesy of Ozaukee County Tourism Council

E Designs earrings are available at Locally Inspired.