**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**4th Annual Taste of Norway/Lost Arts Fair and Chamber Fall Craft & Gift Show on Oct. 5 at Iola Historical Society**

Iola, WI: Watch Norwegian pastry making, lefse making, and Lost Arts artisans ply their crafts at the 4th Annual Taste of Norway & Lost Arts Fair to be held Saturday, October 5, at the Iola Historical Society at 210 Depot Street just west of downtown Iola. The event is free, and runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the society’s Historic Iola Village complex.

**Proceeds from the event are being used to pay for the restoration of the historic Iola & Northern Railroad depot, built in 1894. Raffle tickets are not available for sale by members and area businesses. Tickets will also be available on site the day of the event. First prize is a one-night stay at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, which was quite popular the last time it was offered as a raffle grand prize. The second prize will be $100 cash. There will be many other merchant provided prizes offered as well. The price per raffle ticket is $5, as voted by the membership at the last meeting. The drawing will take place at 2:45 p.m. at the end of the event.**

Taste of Norway provides visitors with tastes of Norwegian pastries as well as demonstrations on how they are made. Members of the Northland Church will explain and demonstrate how to make pastries ranging from lefse, smultrenger (fry cakes), krumkaka, sandbakkels, rosettes, and fattigman.

Martha Cook and Bob Stamstad will be continuously demonstrating how to make lefse, while the other cooking demonstrations will be staggered over the timeframe of 11:00 a.m. until to 2:00 p.m. The pastries -- lefse, fry cakes, cookie, and other homemade baked goods -- will be available to purchase, while supplies last, and can be purchased in dozen and half-dozen increments. “Taste Of Pastry” samples with coffee will also be available for $1.50.

Iola’s famous Crystal Café will also be selling food such as their delicious barbecued pulled pork sandwiches. Iola’s new bakery, Taste of Elegance, will have bars, cookies and other tasty treats for sale.

The Iola Lions will be holding a brat fry, which includes their famous Iola Lions Jumbo Hot Dog, with an option to have it placed in lefse rather than a bun; bratwurst and cheddarwurst. The Lions will also be collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids with a donation drop-box located.

**Lost Arts Fair**

The popular Lost Arts Fair aspect of the event brings artisans to the Village showing how things used to be done. Lost arts ranging from rosemaling (Linda Kasten), blacksmithing (Clinte Danke, a.k.a. Rusty Anvil), yarn spinning (Ryan Danke), jewelry making (Patty Kirschner), sewing (Elizabeth Yeder), rugweaving (Gerry Johnson), basketweaving (Barb Johnson); beekeeping (Leonard Haroldson), among others, will be demonstrated. Some of the artisans have items for sale.

**Children’s activities**

Children’s activities will take place in the replica vintage one-room schoolhouse, sponsored by the Sons Of Norway’s Norskeland Lodge 5-580 of Iola. Dubbed “The Troll’s Workshop,” this year’s program is a surprise! The children’s program lasts 45 minutes to an hour. Each new session starts on the hour, starting at 10:00 am. Sons of Norway is also supplying a vintage corn shucker, with plenty of corn cobs on hand so spectators can shuck corn the old-fashion way!

**Chamber’s annual Fall Gift & Craft Show**

The Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce’s 15th Annual Fall Gift & Craft Show includes vendors selling tasty home-made caramels; framed artwork and pictures; unique jewelry, crafts; baby blankets, ponchos, aprons, and kitchen towels; Alpaca caps, mittens and scarves; soy candles; stoneware pottery; sketched portraits drawn on site; original design natural-colored wood; handcrafted pins and magnets; lefse; standing sculptures; and Victorian soaps, just to name a few of the items. At press time, there were still a few open vendor spots. Contact Mary Schwartz at [mary@iolaoldcarshow.com](mailto:mary@iolaoldcarshow.com) or 715-445-4005 for availability.

**Tours of on-site historic buildings**

Iola Historical Society docents will provide information on the historic buildings on the grounds, which include the Helvetia Town Hall; a replica of Iola’s first fire station; replica of a one-room schoolhouse; a circa-1920s log cabin,originally used locally by hunters; and a vintage caboose. The society’s museum will also be open during the event. It contains one of Wisconsin’s largest collections of native American artifacts, vintage Norwegian immigrant items, the Stromberg violin collection, and many other items of local history, including artifacts of Lee Nelson, Iola’s “Humble Hero.” Nelson was a B-17 bomber pilot who flew missions over France and Germany in World War II, and his autobiography published by the Iola Historical Society is available for sale at the event, along with other local history books.

The newly named “Machine Shed” (222 Depot Street) contains vintage farming and manufacturing equipment used locally. The shed is where the Taste of Norway food court will be located.

Rebekah and Annie Wierzchowski of Iola will be performing on violin during the event. Rebeccas has been playing violin for 12 years and teaching it for five years. Her younger sister Annie has been playing violin since she was five, and also sings in a beautiful operatic voice. Both classically trained, the duo will be performing classical pieces along with Norwegian folk tunes, Irish jigs, fiddle pieces, and some musical/soundtrack solos.

Gary Larson will be showing a video, “A Trip Through Norwegian History,” in the Society’s museum building at 210 Depot Street. The film runs approximately an hour, and will be shown continuously starting at 10:00 a.m., restarting on the hour.

**Free fire extinguisher check**

The Iola & Rural Fire Department will be holding its annual free fire extinguisher check, usually held at the Iola Fire Department, at the 1901 vintage Iola fire station at the Iola Historic Village. Department personnel will check and service personal handheld fire extinguishers to be sure they are current for use and insurance purposes. The replica station contains Iola’s first three pieces of firefighting apparatus, dating from 1913, 1926, and 1942. The department will also have one of their current fire trucks on hand.

Vintage farm tractors owned by members of the 2-Cylinder Tractor Club will also be on display throughout the Taste of Norway event.

Visitors can also take a nice fall walk along the new Iola Lions Riverwalk that follows the Little Wolf River from North Main Street to Townline Road.

For more information on the event, go to [www.iolahistoricalsociety](http://www.iolahistoricalsociety), [www.ischamber.com](http://www.ischamber.com), or visit the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce on Facebook.

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