

Weston Vermont Show Is Back: The Tradition Continues

WESTON, VT. — And then there was one! That's almost an Agatha Christie line. Those who remember the "old days," as in just three or four years ago, will remember that the Weston show was the start of Vermont Antiques Week with five shows on one weekend, all within a few miles of each other. The other four shows no longer exist. The Weston show, now in its 62nd year, is back after missing two years because of Covid-19 restrictions. Taking place September 30-October 1, with a gala preview the evening of September 29, this year's edition was slightly smaller than in previous years, but it will undoubtedly add more dealers next year.

Weston borders the Green Mountain National Forest, and the entire town is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The show is in the Greek Revival Weston Playhouse on the town common. It's timed to coincide with the beginning of the fall foliage season. Aside from the lovely area and building, the show itself is outstanding. Often at a show, even where the quality is high, you might say to yourself,

"What is that doing here?" That doesn't happen in Weston. Many of the participating exhibitors have done the show for years. New exhibitors are well-vetted by the show committee, chaired by Steve Stettler, with Bob Brandt and Dave Raymond, previous show co-chairs, heavily involved. An indication of the strength of the show for exhibitors is that one, Ester Gilbert, Southampton, Mass., announced that this would be her last show...after 47 years.

The show utilizes different parts and levels of the building. On the first floor, you would certainly have noticed an exceptional appliqued quilt hanging on the wall in Paul and Karen Wendhisser's booth. The dealers are from Ellington, Conn., and Karen said that although they purchased the quilt in Florida, she was sure it originated in southern Connecticut. Finely quilted, it was initialed E.B and dated 1847. Wendhisser said that she believed the initials were those of Elizabeth Benedict. The dominant pattern was leafy vines, but it included hummingbirds and finely detailed petals on each of the flowers. It was in exceptional con-

dition, appearing to have been stored away and never used. The price was \$4,500. Unfortunately, more of the history is not known. It sold on opening day.

Colette Donovan, Merrimacport, Mass., had a large booth on the second level. It was her first time back at the show in more than 15 years. She always has early New England textiles, and for this show added painted furniture, an early painted fireplace mantel, a large selection of redware, Native American jewelry, hooked rugs and folk art. An outstanding wood and bark folk art rooster with attached wings, a carved tail, a carved head, and standing on a carved wooden base was priced \$2,900. Her descriptive tag called it "one of a kind," an appropriate term. She also had one of the several weathervanes in the show. It was a tinned-iron horse weathervane, with a great weathered surface and showed signs of having been repaired over the years. Asking price was \$950.

Weathervanes were available from other dealers as well. Witt's End Antiques, Wallkill, N.Y., had a full-bodied copper running

horse weathervane with a zinc head. It was modeled after Joe Patchen, who enjoyed a career as a very successful trotter, but was perhaps best known as the sire of the undefeated trotter, Dan Patch. They asked \$5,400. Willow Springs Perennial Antiques, Rexford, N.Y., brought three weathervanes: two different running horses and a large rooster. The Ethan Allen vane was priced

\$2,600, the hackney at \$4,200.

Several dealers brought early painted country furniture as well as a cross section of Americana. An outstanding Nineteenth Century grain-painted chest with two false drawers, period brasses and original paint belonged to Norm Gronning Antiques, Shaftsbury, Vt., and he priced it \$3,300. Colette Donovan had a circa 1850 smoke-decorated folding-top card



The Weston Playhouse is the home of the show. The Greek Revival building was rebuilt after being destroyed by fire in 1962.



Show chairman Steve Stettler is in the middle of this photo taken in Norm Gronning's booth. Maintaining continuity, on his right is Bob Brandt and on his left is Dave Raymond. Both were previous show co-chairmen, now both associate co-chairs.



Norm Gronning, Shaftsbury, Vt., offered a Nineteenth Century grain-painted chest with two false drawers, period brasses and original paint for \$3,300. He also had a very unusual Eighteenth Century adjustable iron fish rooster for which he was asking \$2,200.



Bruce Henley, New England Home Antiques, Wethersfield, Mass., priced the small Eighteenth Century settle at \$3,600 and sold it. The game box was \$110, including the original game pieces.



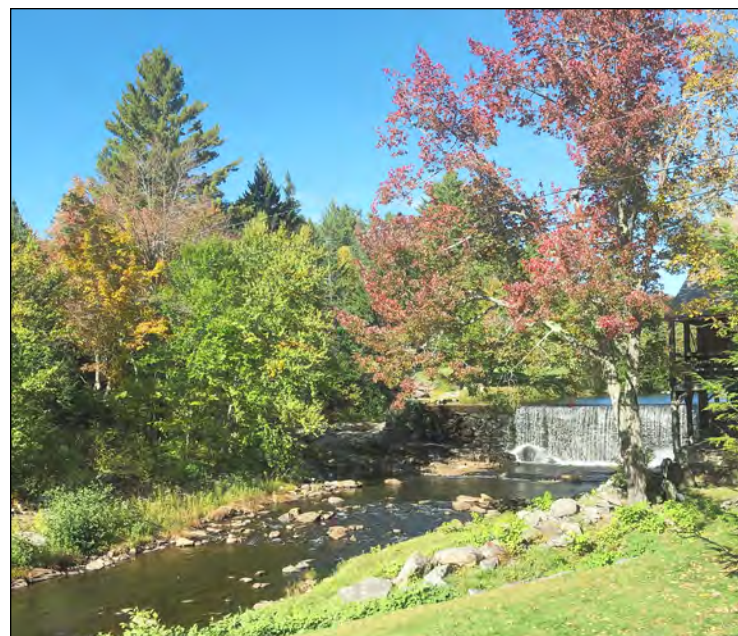
Photos and Onsite Review by Rick Russack, Contributing Editor



Helen and Larry Bryan, H&L Antiques, Princeton, N.J., brought a circa 1840 decorated blanket chest which was priced \$1,550. It had come from a farmhouse in New Jersey.



Newburgh, N.Y., dealers Dan and Karen Olson surrounded a green country table with a set of six circa 1790 comb back Windsor chairs. The set of chairs, with old green paint, was priced \$6,200.



It was a perfect Vermont day. The falls on the West River are directly behind the Weston Playhouse, home of the show and visible from several of the windows in the building.



A portrait thought to be a member of the Daves family of Springfield, Mass., was attributed to Joseph Whiting Stock. Dan and Karen Olson, Newburgh, N.Y., priced it at \$5,200.



Arlene and Bill Schwind Jr, Yarmouth, Maine, are long-time exhibitors at this show. They are standing in front of a spruce Scandinavian corner cupboard, circa 1780-1800. It was priced at \$1,650 and filled with American painted tin containers.



David and Donna Kmetz, Douglas, Mass., offered a wide selection of paintings. Centered on the back wall of their booth was a painting of Vermont's Mount Equinox by Jay Hall Connaway (1893-1970) for which they were asking \$2,900. The small pair of paintings under Mount Equinox were by Arthur James Emory Powell (1864-1956) each depicting Duchess County scenes which was priced \$3,300 for the pair.



Hanes and Ruskin, Niantic, Conn., is well known for early English ceramics: creamware, pearl ware, salt glaze, mocha, etc. They offered an exceptional pair of creamware platters with floral decoration surrounding a central pane for \$1,450.



Bayberry Antiques, Rockland, Mass., were setup in the first booth you would have seen when entering the show. It was filled with early furniture, textiles, pewter, etc. The Eighteenth Century six-board child's chest with original old red paint was priced \$995. The two over two Queen Anne chest with original red paint was marked \$1,375.

table from Maine she had listed at \$875. From a New Jersey farmhouse, H&L Antiques, Princeton, N.J., brought a circa 1840 decorated blanket chest which was priced \$1,550. Dan and Karen Olson, Newburgh, N.Y., offered a round country table in green paint surrounded by a set of six circa 1790 comb back Windsor chairs with boldly turned spindles and legs. The chairs, possibly from Woodbury Conn., were marked \$6,200 for the set, while the table, which they went with nicely, was tagged at \$1,850.

Formal furniture was in several booths. Bob Foley, Gray, Maine, had a small, centennial tiger maple chest priced at \$1,450. Harry Hepburn, Harrison, Maine, had a fully restored tall case clock with brass finials, made by Paul Rogers, North Berwick, Maine, circa 1780-1818 listed at \$9,575. Martin Ferrick, from Lincolnville, Maine, brought, along with several other pieces of furniture, a flame birch Hepplewhite four-drawer chest with tiger maple banding; he was asking \$2,100. Witt's End Antiques had an Eighteenth Century New England maple Queen Anne highboy with a carved fan marked at \$3,550.

A wide selection of early ceramics was available from specialist dealers. Greg Lovell, Hyde Park, Mass., had a large selection of Staffordshire, copper luster, Sunderland jugs and Wedgwood. Hanes and Ruskin, Niantic, Conn., is well known for early English ceramics: creamware, pearl ware, salt glaze and mocha, among others. An exceptional

pair of creamware platters with floral decoration surrounding a central pane was available for \$1,450.

After the show, associate co-chair Bob Brandt said "it was unusual that we had such a strong attendance at the Thursday evening preview. We saw many more people than we have in the past and they were there to buy. Several of the dealers said that much of their business was done that evening. Donna Kmetz sold several paintings almost immediately. Some of the dealers, like Karen Wendhiser and Bruce Henley said this had been their best ever. As always happens, some dealers did better than others. Harry Hepburn had made a few small sales and then on Saturday afternoon he sold one of his tall case clocks, so that made him quite happy. The show benefits the Playhouse, and the locals always turn out to show their support and spend some money. We were very pleased with the show and we're looking forward to having a few more of the dealers back next time."

One of the dealers that Brandt mentioned had done well was Witt's End. They have been doing the show since 2012 and said, "It's always been a good show for us. We made several sales, including a small blue corner cupboard, a 10-drawer spice chest, a demilune table, plus other things. And we sold the carved walnut rabbit in the airplane. It went to a large brick home right on the town common. The people love it and have it on a table under a spotlight. I wish we knew more about it. I've wondered if maybe it was inspired by a World War II poster, but we don't know."

Another exhibitor that Brandt said had done well was Paul and Karen Wendhiser. Karen agreed, saying, "We've been doing the show for 27 years and this may have been our best one. We sold the wonderful quilt and I learned more about it. It was a memorial quilt made for Elizabeth Benedict who died, unmarried, at the age of 21. Her mother made it, and you could tell the same hand had done all the work. The initials in black indicated that it was a memorial, and the hummingbirds might also have symbolized death. I'm not sure. We also sold jewelry, paintings baskets and more. The dealers around us also did quite well."

For additional information, www.westonantiquesshow.org.



One of the more unusual offerings was a large midcentury carved walnut plane being flown by a rabbit holding his carrot aloft. It must have a story to tell but we'll never know. The price was \$950 and Witt's End Antiques, Walkill, N.Y., sold it.



If you needed an Oriental rug for a particular place in a home, Lori Frandino, Frandino Antique & Vintage Rugs, Walpole, N.H., probably had it at this show; they displayed 115 rugs. Some were hanging on walls while most were spread out over the seating in the theatre. Lori said, "The market is strong right now, and Heriz carpets are timeless and among our most popular." She sold 24 rugs at the show.



Witt's End Antiques priced its Eighteenth Century New England maple Queen highboy with a carved fan at \$3,550. Walkill, N.Y.



Bob Foley, Gray, Maine, a few minutes before the show opened.



The large applique quilt in Paul and Karen Wendhiser's booth looks great in this photo but it was much better in person. It was initialed E.B and dated 1847. Stitches were very fine, flower petals were cutout, and although not apparent, hummingbirds were flying near the flowers. The condition was excellent. The Wendhisers were asking \$4,500 and it sold.



Colette Donovan, Merrimacport, Mass., had an unusual carved folk art rooster, among many other things. Carved wood and bark, the carving was assembled from several pieces. The price was \$2,900.

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Helen and Larry Bryan, H&L Antiques, Princeton, N.J., offered an unusual pipe-drying rack that may have dated to the Seventeenth Century. They explained clay pipes were often washed and dried on racks such as this. With original paint, it had a cast brass tamper, one large drawer and was priced \$3,350.



Bob Foley, Gray, Maine, priced the centennial tiger maple chest \$1,450. The Nineteenth Century painting hanging over the chest was the British three-masted sailing ship, *The Black Chief*, which was priced \$6,500.



Willow Springs Perennial Antiques, Rexford, N.Y., brought three weathervanes, including two different running horses and a large rooster. Ethan Allen, in the center, was priced \$2,600, and the hackney was \$4,200.



Paul and Karen Wendhiser had a selection of country baskets. The melon basket was \$135, the large lidded basket was \$195, and the large flower holder was \$250. Several of the baskets sold.



This large carved wooden deer head with real antlers belonged to Marc Witus, Gladstone, N.J.. He dated it to the Nineteenth Century.

Martin Ferrick, Lincolnville, Maine, has done this show for several years. His booth was filled with furniture ready for a new home and much of it sold. The flame birch Hepplewhite four-drawer chest was priced at \$2,100. The still life hanging above the chest, "Tools of the Artist" was painted by Stan Phillips (1923-2012). The artist was also a carpenter and the tools pictured may have been his.