

# Carving artist captures special places in wood

Tory Kaupang of North Branch is “carving himself a niche” among lake shore property owners, and cabin dwellers with his Custom Lake Carvings. His “travelling gallery” can be seen Saturday and Sunday in Moberg Park as part of the Ki-Chi-Saga Days Celebration in Chisago City.

Kaupang is a 1999 graduate of North Branch High School and earned a B.A. in History and Bible from Northwestern College in Roseville. He has a background in construction, and holds an admiration for nature and an enjoyment of fishing. Tory was born and raised by artistic parents, creators of vari-

ous pieces of art as memorials for local community churches and care centers. His family roots run deep in the Chisago Area with Swedish ancestors who settled near Center City in the 1800’s. His passion for geography and history, along with woodworking, are all incorporated into his artwork.

When not exhibiting at art shows or carving in his home workshop, he keeps busy as the manager of A-1 Mini Storage in Forest Lake as well as working maintenance for a number of apartment complexes in the area.

This will be his fourth year at Ki-Chi-Saga Days. Over the last few years he’s been participating in art festivals and exhibits throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin, and will be displaying at 10 or more shows this year.

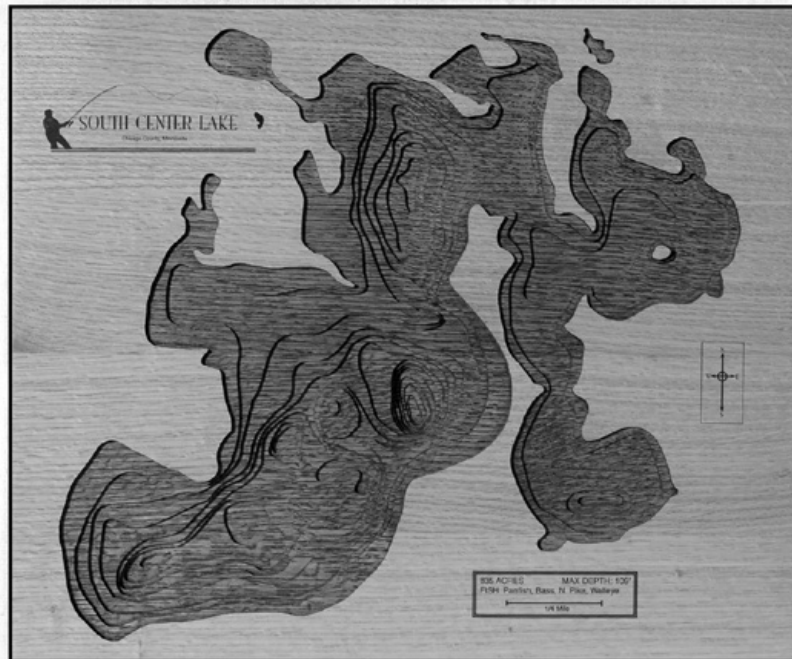
He has worked with many lake home, cabin, and business owners around the Chisago Lakes Area to create one-of-a-kind pieces of art. At his first show with the 2005 Karl Oskar Days in Lindstrom he was commissioned by the Friends of the Library to carve a set of the six major lakes of the area for the Chisago Lakes Area Library. These carvings now are displayed in the community room at the library.

A Custom Lake Carving item, is a unique piece of art for anyone who admires the beauty of a lake. In

addition to being a signed and numbered work of art, each carving serves as a three dimensional map, displaying the actual depth contours with details of the islands, sandbars, drop-offs and shoreline of the lake. These are not mass produced, but are routed individually in solid wood panels of various sizes and styles. They can be truly personalized to mark a location of a home or cabin on the lake. Each carving is individually hand finished with originally developed processes to create an heirloom quality piece of art. Virtually any lake, or combination of lakes can be custom carved. Over 300 different lakes throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan have been subjects of Kaupang’s work.

Lakes carvings have been purchased as gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, new homes, weddings, retirement, Christmas, and other holidays. To many, a lake is a special place where families and friends come together to make memories. Ultimately each carving is an attempt to capture those cherished times so that when the carving is viewed those memories once again rise to the surface, Kaupang explained.

To learn more about the artwork of Tory Kaupang or his future showings visit [www.tjkwoodwright.com](http://www.tjkwoodwright.com). See you at Ki-Chi-Saga Days.



The carving in picture above is of South Center Lake.