

# Monches Artisans Host Holiday Open House



▲ Krauski Art Glass

**TRAVEL YOUR WAY** through a magical Christmas experience during the 2012 Monches Artisans Holiday Open House. On Saturday and Sunday, December 1-2, artist studios, quaint shops, farms and inns in the scenic Holy Hill area will open their doors for you to shop pottery, sculptures, etched glass, freshly-cut Christmas trees, books and more. Refreshments will be served to keep you fueled and some sites will host live music.

The tradition began over 29 years ago by clay artist and long-time educator Greg Miller, who says he hosted the first open house as a singular event at Monches Road Pottery “to promote interest in my studio.”

“We intended to lure people interested in seeing artists’ work come out to tour,” says Greg. “Now it’s morphed into a neighborhood event.”

A few years after Monches Road Pottery had their first open house, Krauski Art Glass asked to join and host an open house on the same day, followed by Monches Farm and many others. Since 1983, Monches Farm has become the backbone of the event.

Zannah Crowe from Monches Farm says, “It really has become a tradition. People make a weekend of it and come up from Chicago. It’s a magical event, a unique way to start the holidays.”

Inside Monches Road Pottery studio, the holiday open house “is not just an opportunity to sell pots but an educational opportunity as well. People can ask about how things are made,” says Greg. His vision for the future is to have artists demonstrating the process.

Monches Road Pottery features pottery,



stoneware and porcelain made by Greg Miller, his wife Sally Porter, and guest artists Karl Borgeson and Michael Imes. Karl is a retired professor from UW-Whitewater who specializes in salt-glazed pottery. Michael is a resident of Pewaukee and one of the nation’s premier pinch potters as well as a ceramics professor at Carroll College.

The work studio and showroom has turned into “project central,” says Greg, as he and the other artists experiment with new ideas. “We like to experiment. Art is not just about making things (producing) but about exploring ideas. It becomes what you bring to it,” he says.

Having the open house grow from one studio to include many area artists, Greg believes, “It’s been a very powerful, positive thing. It unites the neighborhood and brings something special to this area.”

Due to the event’s popularity and the limited collection of artwork, Greg warns, “The most eager pottery collectors come early in the show,” and many sites offer a Sneak Peak Friday, open 9am-5pm, for those who want to beat the crowds.

## 2012 Open House Sites

Maps are available at all of the participating shops or printable from the website [www.monchesfarm.com](http://www.monchesfarm.com). With map in hand, you’re ready to drive through a wonderland of art.

### **Monches Farm, 5890 Monches Rd., Colgate**

Shop antiques, unique gifts, custom dried floral arrangements, freshly cut, locally grown Christmas trees and greens. Mingle with local artists and farm markets.

### **Krauski Art Glass, W302 N9493 Hwy. E, Monches**

Bob and Mary Krauski have been making glass art since the early 70s. Inside their workshop studio (which is housed in the former general store built during the civil war era) view finely crafted etched and stained glass gifts and ornaments.

### **Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish, W320 N9583 O’Neil Rd., Monches**

The parish will host their annual arts and crafts sale, bake sale and raffle on Saturday only, from 9am-4pm.

### **Bobrowitz’ Spectacular Sculpture, N93 W29174 Woodchuck Way, Colgate**

Metal sculptures of larger-than-life humans line the driveway to six acres of land where Paul Bobrowitz’ whimsical and impressive metal sculptures are on display.

### **Monches Road Pottery, 5668 Monches Rd., Colgate**

The gallery and working studio exhibits stoneware, porcelain and pottery artworks from owners Sally Porter and Greg Miller as well as guest artists.

### **Cold Spring Inn, 1033 Plat Rd., Hubertus**

Sample specialty wines made from the grapes in the inn’s own vineyard. Or make a weekend of it and stay in this sprawling inn with master suite rooms with fireplaces and whirlpool baths.

### **The Merton Town Hall Library, Hwy. VV, North Lake**

Find deals on books during the ever-popular Friends of The Library Book Sale.