

WHISTLE, MOOSEWOOD (DRIED) OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

Repository: Crandall Public Library.
Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.

Creator: George VanDusen

Title: Whistle, Moosewood (Dried)

Dates: 1990

Quantity: 4 items

Identification: Folk Art

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George VanDusen learned to make whistles from his father and his brother as an youngster, and he now makes them for his young sons. He participated in one of the Folklife Center's earliest children's workshops in 1990 within the series, Growing Up in the North Country where these whistles may have been made.

Moosewood whistles are slipped-bark whistles, made from Moosewood, also called Striped Maple or Whistlewood, made in the Spring when the bark slips off easily. To make the whistles stems of striped maple about 5/8 inch in diameter are cut into lengths of 3 to 4 inches. If conditions are just right, the bark will twist off easily, without resorting to tapping with the back of the knife. First, the carver used a pocketknife to cut a notch about 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch from the mouthpiece end. The mouthpiece end is shaved down and a chamber reamed out. When the bark is slipped back on, care is taken to be sure the notches in the bark and the wood line up right. The whistles are short-lived. Once the bark dries out, practically overnight, the whistle won't work anymore.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Wood work
Folk art
Folk artists
Musical instruments

Places: Stony Creek, Warren, New York

Important People: VanDusen, George

Form/Genre: Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Whistle, Moosewood (Dried)
 Folklife Center
 Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Acquired from the artist ca. 1990

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, 2019

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

Four moosewood sticks in various stages of being made into whistles.