



WOOD Wildflowers

Artists Nathaniel Nienow and his father, Ted Nienow, at their property in Bagley, Minnesota.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Nathaniel Nienow and his father Ted love the outdoors and sharing their love for nature's wonderful gifts. They believe that nature's beauty should be part of your life every day. That's why they work to create long-lasting home decor inspired by meadows of wildflowers, groves of pines, and birds in wetlands. Each piece is made one at a time in their woodshop.

Ted Nienow started the business Wood 'n' Things in the mid 80s. He made cattails and other small wood decor items to sell at local craft shows. Ted had the idea to start making wood flowers because he heard friends, neighbors, and customers at craft shows talk about the beloved Pink and White Lady's Slipper (the Minnesota state flower) and how they wanted it in their homes. Since it's illegal to pick these beautiful perennials, Ted created a wood Lady's Slipper so people could enjoy them in their homes. The initial interest in and success of this wood flower led to creation of ten other flower designs in different shapes and colors.

As a boy, Nathaniel would accompany Ted to summer art shows. This is where Nathaniel learned the art of talking with people and listening to what others love about the wood flowers and enjoying nature's special beauty in their homes. At age 11, Nathaniel created his own mini-flower arrangements that he sold at craft shows for \$2.

After graduating with a graphic design degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and working at a design firm in California for a couple of years, Nathaniel realized how much he missed the outdoors and the hands-on experience of working in the woods and woodshop. In 2005, he moved back to Minnesota to rejoin his father in the woodshop and rebranded the business to Wood Wildflowers. The new name was soon followed by Nathaniel's creation of the large premium flower designs such as the sunflower, lily, lotus flower, and poinsettia.

Today, the father-and-son team work together to create beautiful, long-lasting flowers that are more sustainable than ever. Ted and Nathaniel harvest and mill the ash, oak, and birch trees that are used for flowers and vases from their property in Minnesota.

Ted and Nathaniel continue to research and engineer new flower designs, many of which are inspired by their large flower garden and the natural beauty of the outdoors.

In their off time, Nathaniel and Ted enjoy maple syruping, gardening, fishing, playing guitar, and cooking good food to share with family and friends.



Ted and Nathaniel harvest mature trees from their property.



Nathaniel prepares a slab of ash to be cut into flower petals.



Nathaniel assembles a poinsettia flower, one petal at a time.