

## St. Croix Valley festival boasts a landscape worthy of framing

By Amy Carlson Gustafson [agustafson@pioneerpress.com](mailto:agustafson@pioneerpress.com) [TwinCities.com](http://TwinCities.com)-Pioneer Press

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You don't need a reason to get outside and enjoy the changing of the seasons, but "Take Me to the River" offers dozens of them anyway. A collection of St. Croix Valley arts festivals happening over the next couple of weekends, the event includes art fairs, studio tours, concerts, gallery openings, poetry events and artist demonstrations.

"It's really gorgeous here in the fall," said Heather Rutledge, executive director of ArtReach St. Croix, an organization dedicated to raising the visibility of arts from St. Croix Falls to Prescott in Wisconsin and from Hastings to Taylors Falls on the Minnesota side.

"The weather is crisp, the trees start to change, apple orchards are open and the wineries are having their fall harvest," she said. "It's a beautiful backdrop for arts activities. There are a lot of art fairs to go to throughout the year, but I think what makes these art events so special is they happen in this beautiful landscape.

"One of the things that I personally love is the Rustic Road Pottery event and the Abnet Farm Art Show and Sale," Rutledge added. "These are artists coming together at two different farmsteads and then opening it up to the public."

Here are some "Take Me to the River" highlights (for a full schedule, go to [artreachstcroix.org](http://artreachstcroix.org)):

- Abnet Farm Art Show and Sale, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 15-16 (16885 Square Lake Trail N., Stillwater)
- ArtReach St. Croix's "Rhythms and Blues" exhibit, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sept. 15 (224 N. Fourth St., Stillwater)
- Marine Art Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 15-16 (downtown Marine on St. Croix)
- Rustic Road 13 Pottery Event, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sept. 15 and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 16 (1148 Troutbrook Road, Hudson, Wis.)
- Fall Harvest Festival at Chateau St. Croix, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sept. 15 and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 16 (1998 State Road 87, St. Croix Falls, Wis.)
- Afton Art in the Park, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 22 and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 23 (St. Croix Trail S., Afton)
- Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 22 and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 23 (Lakefront Park, 505 First St., Hudson, Wis.)
- Franconia Art and Artists Celebration, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sept. 22 (Franconia Sculpture Park, 29836 St. Croix Trail, Franconia)
- Mississippi-St. Croix Art Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 22 (Leduc Historic Estate, 1629 Vermillion St., Hastings)
- Spring Lake Park Reserve Music Festival, 3-5 p.m. Sept. 23 (8395 137th St. E., Hastings)

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What: "Take Me to the River," St. Croix Valley arts festivals

When: Saturday, Sept. 15-Sunday, Sept. 23