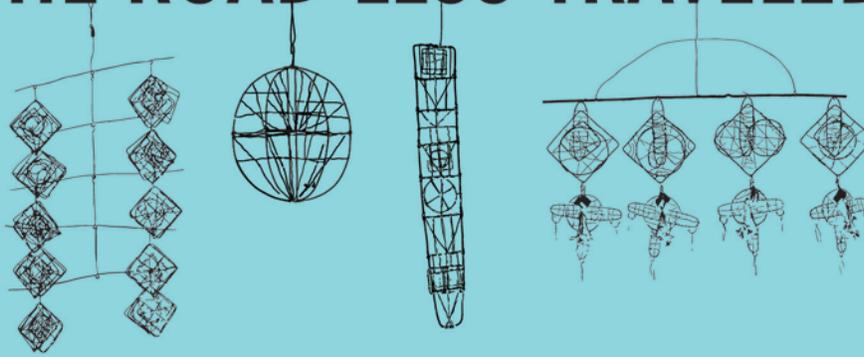


# THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED



Sheboygan, WI September 27-29, 2017

## CARPOOL LANE

Community Side of Preservation

**Rich Gabe**

### *Mapping the Road Less Traveled*

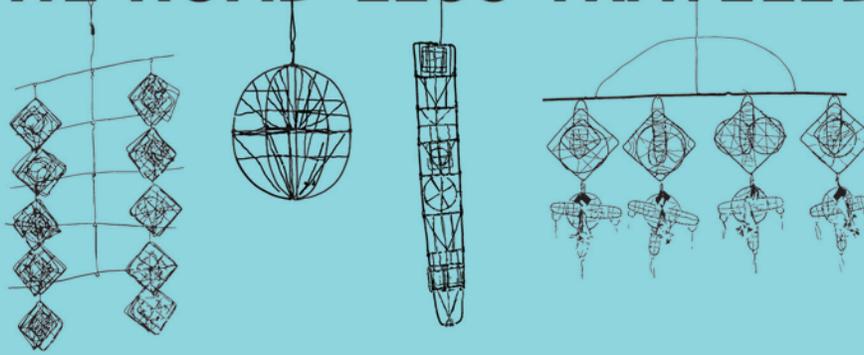
Art environments are unique visionary places that often remain unknown to the public. They are usually found outside of tourist areas in rural environs or, if within urban limits, in more impoverished neighborhoods. This brings many challenges, including possibly insufficient recognition and respect from the local community and a lack of resources and knowledge base necessary to maintain the site in perpetuity.

I will be talking about art environments from a visitor and local community perspective—more specifically, talking about art environments, road trips (and road trippers), and mapped cultural heritage routes. Heritage routes, like a wine trail or one based around thematically connected historic sites, link similar places along a map for travelers. Wandering Wisconsin is a great example where art environments have been connected in a theme route.

More than just an advertising scheme, these routes steer cultural heritage travelers (and their fat wallets) away from the popular attractions and onto the road less traveled. I will speak about some of the benefits for the local community, the visitor, and the sites themselves. In particular, for the visitor it creates a narrative exposition and context for their journey, enriching their experience. For the local community, who may or may not care for that weird yard at the edge of town, it brings income and prestige into the town, fostering positive recognition.

There are also many compelling rewards for art environments (artists/owners/stewards) including the forming of partnerships amongst like-minded, yet often isolated, entities who share the same unique challenges. Through the new partnership, the route members can pool their knowledge, experience, resources, and talents. They then can help secure funding for conservation and cultivate shared programming that further enhances the visitor experience, and ultimately helps preserve the site well into the future.

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## Ronald Harvey & Hannah Blunt

Crafting long-term preservation of artist-built environments is founded on good stewardship and funding sustainability. Hannah Blunt will present an overview of the approach to preserving the Bernard Langlais estate site as a model for future artist-based environments and land trust organizations. Ron Harvey will provide an overview of conserving a group of outdoor wooden sculptures exposed to decades of Maine weather. Reviewing this work with Langlais curator Hanna Blunt, Colby College Museum of Art, resulted in a conservation plan that addressed the aesthetic and historic best practice conservation approach for the sculptures.

## Gary LaFluer & Dennis Sipiorski

*Integrating the Chauvin Sculpture Garden into the Culture of a Coastal Louisiana Town*

Since 2000, the Chauvin Sculpture Garden Board has nurtured a connection to the local community as a way to foster stewardship for the site. By recruiting Chauvin residents to serve on our Board, we have been able to participate in several local events. By offering our site as a venue for environmental agencies, we have integrated the garden into ecology tours and summer camp activities. By fostering relationships with faculty and students from Nicholls, SELU, and LSU, we have created a pedagogical tool to introduce students to visionary art, sculpture conservation, and preservation of lifeways from the bayou region.