



‘Stone of help’

Hovland artist crafts jewelry from foraged, salvaged items

BY TERI CADEAU
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HOVLAND

Katy Attleson sees beauty in objects others might find unusual. The Hovland-based artist got back into jewelry-making following the birth of her first child. She first dabbled in it in high school.

“I felt like it was a big deal to establish a business as a mom,” Attleson said. “So I started making things and came up with the name Ebenezer Stone, as having a proper name for it made it feel more real.”

Why Ebenezer? Attleson took the name not from Charles Dickens’ classic Christmas tale, but rather from the Bible. In First Samuel, she said the Israelites go to battle to get back the Ark of the Covenant, and they set up a memorial stone and named it Ebenezer.

“I’ve always liked the name; it means the ‘stone of help,’” she said. “I even briefly thought about it for our children, but thought we probably shouldn’t name our kids that.”

Under her umbrella of Ebenezer Stone, Attleson creates jewelry from bone, wood, material scraps and other odd pieces she collects and acquires. She forages in the woods surrounding her home for birch bark and other odd pieces of wood that make for unique shapes.

“I believe that God is the best creator, so I can’t really beat his natural materials. So I tend to use those materials and let them speak for themselves,” Attleson said. “I think people like them because it’s about turning a



Contributed / Ebenezer Stone

A bone necklace piece attached with salvaged copper wire to a cord is an example of the jewelry found in Katy Attleson’s Ebenezer Stone jewelry collection.

piece of nature into something you can wear.”

Another aspect of Attleson’s work is the use of salvaged copper wire to connect or build her pieces. Her husband, Jeff, is a carpenter, so after the electricians do their work, he’s able to gather some scraps of leftover wiring.

“He asked if I could use it, and I said, ‘well, yeah!’ So I started bending it into mostly geometric shapes and loved it,” Attleson said. “It is a lot of work to strip the wire, but I just got a tool that’s going to make that a lot easier.”

Attleson said she also felt it was her duty to reuse the copper already pulled from the earth, as it could still be used.

“There’s still so much potential. It’s silly to me that we would be throwing away something we need more of. So that’s my little way to contribute to reducing that and maybe make a bit of a statement. Or at least a statement piece,” Attleson said.

Attleson said she’s mostly focused on reusing items to make people feel good.



Contributed / Ebenezer Stone

A set of earrings made with salvaged copper wire by Katy Attleson for her jewelry business Ebenezer Stone.



Teri Cadeau / Duluth Media Group

Top: Katy Attleson works on creating a new set of earrings with salvaged copper wire in her business space in a shack in her yard in Hovland. **Above:** Katy Attleson sits in her wooden shack workspace.

“I think I’m filling a void,” Attleson said. “I don’t think earrings can change the world, but they can change how you feel about yourself. They’re a way to

express yourself and they’re so close to your most expressive place, your face. So it can make a big impact on how you feel.”

Attleson’s pieces can be found in Duluth at North

and Shore. She’s currently building a website, so until it is finished, those interested can find her online at facebook.com/Ebenezer-StoneDesigns and sign up for her mailing list.