



“CHATTER”

NEWSLETTER OF THE
MICHIGAN WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION

www.miwca.com

JANUARY 2008

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

***HAPPY NEW YEAR *SEMINAR UPDATE *CLUB NEWS *CARVING TIPS**

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

My E-mail has changed to Salinecarver@hughes.net

Andrew Luckhardt, 11747 Hoelzer Rd., Clinton, MI 49236 Cell 734-323-4685

2007 has come to an end, and what a good year it has been for MWCA. The club has lost one member club and gained several others. We now have 40 active clubs at the present time. Our latest club, the Clinton Valley Carvers has 16 active members and based in Waterford, MI. President is Harold Joseph. Also the Baldwin Carvers with president Kathijoe Foster joined us in November, they already have 8 members. Welcome to the association.

The 2007 seminar was a great success with 140 students and 16 instructors. At the seminar we launched the Lean on Me Cane Project. Around 60 canes have now been delivered to wounded veterans. Response to carving eagle heads for the canes has been excellent with over ¾ of our member clubs participating with carving the heads. We have a great supply on hand waiting for a new veteran owner.

The club shows during the year have been great, with attendance at some being up and then some it was down. The Roundup and the Spit & Whittle in Ewart were great with better things to come in 2008. Clubs put on many small seminars during the year with nationally known instructors as their teachers.

The 2008 Learning Seminar in Midland, May 12th – 16th is off to a great start. As of the writing of this article we have 133 registered and 7 more coming in the mail, which ties us with the 140 total from last year, and we will top that before the seminar starts. This year we have 20 instructors for this year with 6 classes already filled. Filled classes are: Cheryl Dow, Gary Falin, Stu Martin, Fred Stenman, Tom Hower and Mike Ford. The following classes not full and the students they have are: Sheila Hunter 10, Jim Wilsford 11, Ben Donaghy 11, Floyd Rhadigan 5, Bill Heether 0, Rod Walker 2, Sandy Cline 5, John O Leary 0, Dave Sanderson 2, Chris Howard 7, Sandy Holder 1, Leah Wachter 3, Silvano Salvador 3 and Stan Cordts 5. If you need a registration form contact me and get it in as soon as possible as you still have many good instructors to choose from. Many good things are being planned for this seminar making it the best ever to be put on by your MWCA. This will be the 13th Annual Seminar we have sponsored. Come spend a fun filled week carving with your carving friends and improve your carving skills.

We have a great group of carvers that spend a lot of time and effort in making the Association what it is today. I for one appreciate it very much and want to thank them for all their efforts. We have lost some very good carving friends during the year. We want to remember them all and pray for their families. Have a very good and prosperous new year.

Andy Luckhardt, President

CANE PROJECT UPDATE –

Bill Phillips – Vice President

During the last Chatter newsletter our MWCA Editor, Sandy Holder up-dated our “Lean on Me” Patriot Cane Project. We reported that we had presented over 45 canes. **Let’s up-date that information.** As of this writing we have presented over 70 Canes and memorials to our veterans and their families. For those who may not know how we receive and fill cane requests let’s take a few minutes and explain how we operate. The way we do this is -- we either receive an email from Jack Nitz the founder of this program who lives in Oklahoma or through one of our applications that are in the veteran’s hospitals. We also receive special requests from contacts we have in some of those hospitals. After we receive a request our friend and fellow carver Harold Joseph takes over. Harold calls each and every one of our patriots and talks with them or their family. He discusses their information and gathers info such as branch of service, unit assignment, rank, special awards including whether they received a Purple Heart and so on. Then Harold’s special talent and his artistic ability take over and he personalizes each and every cane shaft and we can’t thank him enough for his dedication to this project.

Then comes the hard part, deciding which head to use. We discuss thru emails and phone calls which carved eagle head to use. We try to use an eagle head from a hometown or home state carver, in other words find a carver who lives in the same area as our requesting vet. This is sometimes very difficult because we have over 125 finished heads that have been sent to us waiting for a cane request to come in.

Some of our carvers have sent in more than one finished eagle head carving. As you can see we have a very good supply of finished heads, so with that in mind we are asking carvers to please take your time and only send in one finished head for the time being. As our supply dwindles we will let everyone know that we are in need of your second or third finished eagle head. Please try to understand that we would like to receive at least one head from all of our carvers but when we receive several from the same carver it makes it difficult to keep track of them and make sure we use at least one from each carver.

When this project started we were happy to receive more than one head from carvers but as things have progressed we have to ask you to just send in only one for the time being so we can offer everyone the opportunity to get involved. We would also like to let you know that if you know of a vet who would like to receive a cane please let us know.

We feel that if a person served our country and is in need of our assistance be it physical or mental we would be proud to make a cane for them. As a reminder we have also presented canes to WW 11, Korea, Vietnam, POW's along with post 911 vets. As mentioned above, we also award special memorials. On these memorials we have asked Harold Green, a fellow Metro Club member, to carve us a smaller eagle head along with the fabrication of a bird's eye maple wood base. Harold Green also has a brass tag made with information we receive about the vet. Between Harold Joseph, Harold Green and of course all of the carvers that are involved in our program I can only say "Thank you" for your support. Bill Phillips

CLUB NEWS

TRI-CITY CARVERS SHOW – November Elections brought a change in officers. Ed Hak is now our new President and Dave Arndt is now our new Vice President. Tom Stevens remains our Secretary and Jean Barber is still the Treasurer.

A Guge seminar will be held March 27-28-29 of 2008. Cost will be \$135 for members and \$150 for non-members. To hold your spot you should send in your deposit of \$25. He will be carving a barn swallow. Mail your deposit to 7410 S Three Mile Rd. Bay City, Mi. 48706 checks made out to Tri City Wood Carvers.

The weekend of January 26-27 we will have carving demonstrations at the Antique Warehouse.

FRANKENMUTH WOOD CARVERS GUILD – We had another great Carving Show on October 21. We had a record number of exhibitor tables (83), which is an increase of 10 over last year. A total of 123 carvings were entered and 93 were given awards. Thank to everyone who pitched in to help set up and tear down the show. Also to the members who provided the many excellent door and raffle prizes.

The Guild established a Carver of the Year Award to honor a member for his dedication, contribution, and service to the Guild. Each year the name of an honored member will be added to the plaque which will be on display at the Eagles Nest. I was honored at our show to receive this recognition for 2007. I THANK everyone for this special honor. ---- JR Wiegand

GREATER LANSING CARVERS SHOW – NOTICE: Show change notice about the **2008 Greater Lansing Wood Carving Show**, please make changes on your 2008 MWCA Calendars as the date of April 19 has been **changed to April 12th as well as a change in location**. The Greater Lansing Woodcarving Club, formerly the Grand Ledge Woodcarving Club, will hold its annual Woodcarving Show, Competition and Sale **on Saturday April 12, 2007** in the **Haslett High School Gymnasium** in Haslett, Michigan. Hours for this event are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. For additional information call 517 339-6501 or 517 337-0778.

WOODBEE CARVERS - Iron Mountain: We are pursuing options for a show in 2008 and are currently looking into the possibility of holding the show at Bay de Noc, but there are issues that need to be ironed out first. A suggestion was made that we may need to postpone the show yet another year, and this possibility will be considered if we cannot find a suitable place to hold the show.

HAPPY CHIPPERS – The Chippers are still carving, still meeting. We sure would like to have prayers for all of the members who are sick and going through treatments. We wish them well and hope everyone is doing better soon. Many of the group has left for warmer climates. We wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year. Happy Carving!!!

METRO CARVERS – The March 15-16 show will have a PATRIOTISM theme this year. Metro member Paul Blanchard will be our featured carver. November carver of the month is Gale Sartele. Gale's expertise is in carving signs. Starting to carve in 1982, a carved sign caught her eye and she has been doing them ever since. You can see her work at Chippingailssigns.com

Paul Blanchard is our December carver of the month. As a young boy, Paul split fence rails to earn money to buy carving tools. 25 years ago he started carving Duck Decoys. Since then he has carved birds of prey, songbirds, caricatures, done relief carving and is now carving realistic figures. He has never sold a carving – because he chooses to give them away instead.

SUNRISE CARVERS thank Howard Lahti for the class on carving the TALL SANTA and to Jodie for the painting instructions. Thanks also to Jerry Wergedal for the HONEY BEAR class. We thank Janet Barr for the class on a neat star that we could embellish with whatever we chose. Their annual October pumpkin-carving workshop ended with 20 masterpieces. These were real pumpkins folks!

November 3rd found many sunrise members in Standish teaching leaders at the University of Scouting. This year's class was done with only a pocketknife.

IN THE NEWS

In the Nov 23rd Grand Rapids Press Outdoors section was a great article about **Orlando Villarreal** and **Charlie Smalligan** each winning a 1st place ribbon at the Artistry in wood show in Dayton, Ohio. Congratulations guys!!

Donald Day was the prime suspect in a wonderful article in the December 16th Jackson Citizen Patriot. The article featured Don and his carvings. He has been carving since age 11, when he saved the softest pieces of kindling for whittling instead of burning.

NEW MWCA MEMBER CLUBS

Please welcome the “BALDWIN CARVERS”. Joining in November, this new group meets at the Baldwin Congregational Church every Thursday evening and welcomes anyone who would like to join them. Contact Kathijoe Foster at 231-745-2025 for more information.

Also welcome our newest members, the “CLINTON VALLEY CARVERS” located in Waterford. They are 16 members strong and meet at Harold Joseph’s. For more information call Harold at 248-681-4076. I am sure they would welcome any carver who would like to stop by, a big welcome to them too. Since many have asked about the technique he uses to finish the Lean on Me cane shafts, Harold says he will share with others how to do it if they would like to attend their club meetings.

CHIPS AND CHATTER

As you know we have lost members in the last quarter of this year. Let us please remember:

Don Hindman of the Metro club. Don was the founder of the Metro carvers and one of the original founders of the MWCA and he and his wife Pat were carving supply vendors for many years. “His leadership in promoting of the woodcarving art form has influenced thousands of people.” The Metro Carvers.

Ron Morin of Saline Carvers was known for his unique sharpening inventions and his spiral icicles. Ron has also been a workshop leader at the Evert Roundup for many years.

Patrick O’Dea from Florida, although not an MWCA member. Many of you know him from the Evert Roundup as the beginner power carving workshop leader and power supplies vendor. You could always find him in his favorite “rabbit barn” workshop area.

Please remember their families in your prayers.

“**DOOZE NOOSE**” – It’s time again for your club to renew their annual membership in the Michigan Wood Carvers Association. Dues are due by the last day of March, which will renew your clubs membership from April 08 to March 09. In January, club presidents will be mailed their current club information sheet and roster to be reviewed and corrected/added to if needed. Then returned by March 31st with the renewal form and payment of \$1.00 for each current member.

Two new carving DVD’s will be available from the MWCA video library. Donated and produced by Mike Bloomquist of Wooden Dreams Woodcarving, in New York. **CARVING SWEDISH TROLLS** - 1 hr and 15 minutes, and his newest is **CARVING EASY SANTAS** - 2 hours. Both are wonderful step-by-step instructions so you can end up with a completed and painted project. Mike has an easy to understand and follow way of showing you just what to do. You will enjoy these lessons. You can check them out on his website and can also order your own from there. <http://www.borg.com/~bloomqum/> These DVD’s are very popular and great for beginners. Thanks Mike. Mike is a member of the Mohawk Valley Art & Woodcarving Association. He has also taught many classes as well as being a yearly instructor at the Northeast Woodcarvers Roundup.

NEW CARVER



We would like to welcome the latest generation of wood carvers - Allison Louise Stewart was born on October 24, 2007 to - Carving parents: Susan and Wesley Stewart. Carving grandparents: Barb/Bill Wolfe and Barb/Willy Stewart – Midland Woodcarvers

CARVING STUFF FOR SALE (Not the baby!)

(This column is open to MWCA members only)

My name is DONALD BUTLER. The Company I run is **The Carving Glove Guy**. I am a Dockyard dealer. I sell individual Dockyard tools. I am interested in contacting instructors who use Dockyard tools in their classes. I offer individual Dockyard tools (not sets) for instructors who would like to have tools to sell to their students. The tools can be either purchased or may be obtained on consignment. I can be contacted off my web site at <http://www.thecarvinggloveguy.com> or by email at carvinggloveguy@gmail.com All of the tools can be see on the web site.

While TOOLSFORWOODCARVERS (Leather Plus) will continue to meet its show commitments, the business is officially for sale. Contact us directly for additional information. 989.588.9614 or 866.219.1852 www.toolsforwoodcarvers.com

CARVING WOOD FOR SALE – from Ralph Jackson. I’m closing out all of my carving woods including basswood, cherry, walnut, butternut, tupelo and some exotic woods. Call me at 989-792-5450

CARVER'S CORNER

Thanks to Joe Dillett for this article on painting your carvings. Joe also writes the "Ask Joe" section of Carving Magazine and has been a workshop leader at the Wood Carvers Roundup in Evert for many years. Thanks Joe!! I found it very interesting and hope you will too.

"Both oil-based artists paints and water-based acrylic paints both come in tubes. You have to read the tube to see if they are acrylic or oil. If it says Artist Oil Colors on the tube then it thins with oil and is not acrylic. If it says Acrylic it thins with water. The effects are slightly different but the durability is about the same. Some like the workability and water cleanup of acrylic. Some like the oil effect of using artist oils. Acrylic normally dries faster and, because of its water base, tends to raise the grain a little more.

Another bit of information is that watercolor and acrylic paints, which both thin with water, are different. Acrylic has binders so once it dries water will not make it wet again unlike watercolor, once dry water will cause it to flow again.

I like artist oils, which I mix with oil-based polyurethane varnish to achieve any effect I want, from opaque to a very transparent. It is excellent for building shadows. I love building slight shadows because the work is not always displayed in the proper light. Mixing with polyurethane varnish speeds up the drying process of artist oils. Mixing with polyurethane varnish gives the ability to easily blend colors for an airbrush look.

I mix my colors, with varnish, on a piece of clear Plexiglas. This allows me to see through my color to check to see how transparent it will be." Joe Dillett – Somonauk, IL

<http://www.thecarvingshop.net> [business web site]

<http://www.carvingmagazine.com> ['Ask Joe' column]

If anyone else has a tip or technique they would like to share, please let me know. Editor

THE NEXT "CHATTER" NEWSLETTER WILL GO OUT BY E-MAIL ONLY on or about the first of the months listed below. All news needs to be to the editor, Sandy Holder by the last day of the month prior to publication. E-Mail and phone listed below.

CHATTER NEWSLETTER IS NOW PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF:

JANUARY MARCH MAY
JULY SEPTEMBER NOVEMBER

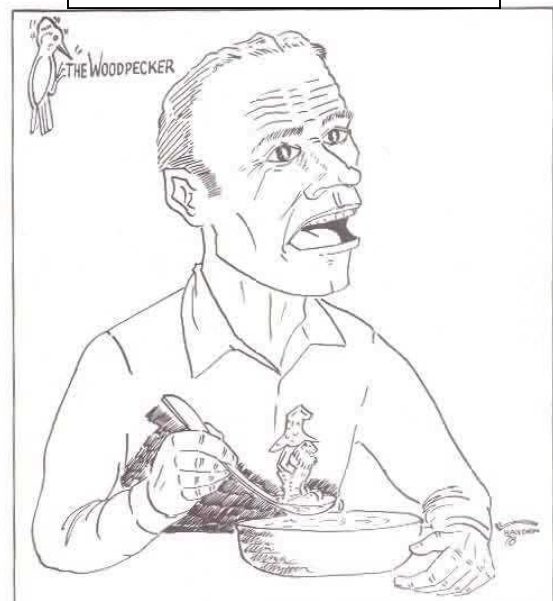
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>INFORMATION</i>
3/15-16	METRO CARVERS SHOW	United Food & Commercial Workers Hall Madison Heights	586-791-7728
3/30	26 th Annual FLINT CRVERS SHOW	American Legion Post #294 – Swartz Creek	810-266-4173
4/12	GREATER LANSING CARVING SHOW (New date, new location)	Haslett High School Gymnasium Haslett	517-339-6501 517-337-0778

MWCA CONTACTS

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<i>Judging</i> Phyllis Burghy (989) 879-2600 cedarbirdshoppe@chartermi.net	<i>Competition</i> This is open for anyone willing to help with the state events.
<i>State Show Chairman</i> John Pierce (616) 527-2413 hpvolks@iserv.net	<i>Promotional (Calendars, etc.)</i> Bill Phillips (810) 798-3401 br2phillips@hotmail.com

Elaine, what is this, basswood soup?



Thank you to Will Hayden for his original art. It was fun to discover that Will used to be a Metro member in the 80's and lives in Washington State, He invites you to visit his website for more art and lots of carving information, lessons and patterns. www.willhayden.com