



“CHATTER”
NEWSLETTER OF THE
MICHIGAN WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION
www.miwca.com
SEPTEMBER 2009 **VOLUME 14** **ISSUE 5**

☺ **CLUB NEWS**
☺ **ORNAMENT PROJECT**

☺ **UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS**
☺ **2010 MWCA ANNUAL CALENDAR**

MWCA NOW HAS A NEW WEB PAGE www.mwca.110mb.com/ Our old geocities address no longer works. We are working to try to regain our MiWCA forwarding so we can use that too. But for now please use the above address.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The biggest Pike was 34 ¾ inches long and 9 ½ pounds. Congratulations Andy.

Got back from our fishing trip in Canada last Saturday. It was a wonderful week of fishing. Got tired of tossing fish overboard.

The three of us in my boat caught 154 fish for the 6 days we were fishing. Had good weather till Wed. when we had small showers and then on Friday it rained all day, but Jonathon and his friend went out anyway and caught 30 more.

Now to get back to business. The summer is almost over and the S&W and the shows will be starting soon. The Spit & Whittle is on the weekend of Sept 11-13. At that time we will be collecting the majority of the ornaments to be shipped on the 28th. Thanks to Bill J and Bill P who have done a great job with the project. Keep on carving ornaments till Oct 18 when the last shipment is going out.

On Sept 4th some members from our club and myself will be presenting 6 eagle head canes to 6 veterans at the Sugar Maples Community Center in Chelsea, Mi. The following will be presented with "Lean On Me" Eagle Head Canes: Marian Glaub, Navy, carved by Ernie Burns; Sgt Ford Haskings, US Army Air Force, carved by Dave Sanderson; 1st LT, Alfred Mischley, US Army Air Force, carved by Dave Hollenbeck; Sgt Neal Hill, AAF, carved By Len Puchalla; 1st SGT Charles Preston, Army, carved by Tom Hunter; MM3 Richard Jack Lane, US Navy, carved by Dave Sanderson. It will be at a special meeting at the center. Looking forward to presenting these canes to well deserving veterans.

We still have a few instructors bio's to make up for the

brochure for the 2010 Seminar in Midland. Hope to have them done before the S&W. The applications for the seminar have slowed down, we have 98 registered so far. The new instructors we have contracted, are: *Rollie Bliesener*, hollow walking stick; *Stan Cordts*, habitat; *Richard Davis*, Hibiscus flowers; *Larry Eichler*, deep relief; *Jack Miller*, Shore Birds; *John Williams*, hand carving large animals; *Dave Copeman*, hand carved woody bears; and *Karen Hundt Brown*, gourd art. Get your applications in soon for your choice of a class for the 2010 Seminar.

The Kalamazoo Valley Woodcarvers Guild is planning to put on a show in 2010 around May 1st I believe. Lets give them all the support we can. If you need any advice or information please feel free to contact me. I wish you great success in your new show.

An executive committee went to the Midland Art Center to meet with the Director of the Art Institute. He offered to put on an exhibition and a competition state wide at the institute around the time of the 2010 Seminar. More details as they develop.

The Michigan Wood Carvers Association has been invited to display carvings at the Dow Art & Science Museum in Midland, MI. starting June 7th thru Aug 28, 2010. They will be inviting all blue ribbon winners from any MWCA club show for the past two years to join in a juried (judged) competition. Anyone wishing to enter the competition must have won a blue ribbon to qualify to join in the competition. They will also be inviting all MWCA members to show one carving in an open (display only) category. Participants will only be able to enter one carving in either category. We will have more info in our MWCA Chatter newsletters along with up-dates on the MWCA web site at www.mwca.110mb.com as soon as the final details are available. Andrew Luckhardt, President.

CLUB SHOWS AND HAPPENINGS

WOODBEE CARVERS will be having their show on October 3 at the Mid Town Mall but it is for Woodbee members only and there will be no vendors. They will have a can raffle with the proceeds going toward a scholarship in Tom Hower's name.

FRANKENUMTH CARVERS GUILD—Members of our club carved and demonstrated at the Ogemaw County Fair Aug 18-22. We also had a group of carvers at Wood Shaving Days at Hartwick Pines in Grayling July 18-19 and passed out Guild information and carving show literature. Frankenmuth Art Council held their "ART ON MAIN STREET" in Zehnders Park on Aug 22. We set up our tent where we could display and sell our carvings and also demonstrate carving during the day. Their show is coming up October 18th.

GRAND VALLEY CARVERS: The Artbeat Gallery in Belding was the sight of a display of carvings and wood burnings done by the Grand Valley Wood Carvers during the month of July. There was an opening reception held on July 12th that was attended by many interested folks from the community and the 16 carvers who had objects on display. Art Fisher of Portland is one of our senior members and he brought his tools and worked on his current project during the open house so that the public could see some of the tools and techniques that are used in woodcarving. Along with the finished carvings, we also displayed some rough outs, blanks and bark that we start with to help show the whole process. Each carver had submitted a short biography about their carving experience and that was displayed along with their photo. The director of the gallery, Deb Bell, was very pleased to present a different type of art to the community and has asked us to think about doing it again in a couple of years.

On Monday August 3rd the Grand Valley Carvers held their annual potluck/picnic in Scheid Park in Saranac. Tube steak and the fixings were provided by the club and a wonderful assortment of food was brought to share by all who attended. The weather was great and a good time was had by all. Mary Lou Mulick

BLUE WATER CARVERS will again be giving carving demonstrations at the Fire and Ice arts happening in Port Huron. This year it will be held on the banks of the St. Clair River at Desmond Landing. It will be held on the weekend of September 12 - 13. For more information Google "Fire and Ice" or "Studio 1219." Orrin Paul Shoemaker.

SOUTH CENTRAL CARVERS – on August the 12 the South Central Wood Carvers made cane presentations to 4 veterans of WWII with color guard. About 40 people attended the presentation. The cane heads were carved and assembled and finished by members of the South Central Club, the decals were prepared by David Copeman

METRO CARVERS – by Don Schneider: Washington Carvers had an Ornament Carving Day on August 11th. I had cut out 21 simple ½ inch relief carving blanks in case anyone did not have anything to carve. A few Washington carvers donated the wood. Most of the carvers brought their own blanks and some brought a finished ornament which help stimulate the atmosphere for carving in the room. I'll be bringing paints to the next few meetings so any one needing paints can finish. I know we have at least 25 ornaments to donate. We have a variety of Santa's, fishing lure, fan bird, egg carvings, penguin, horse saddle, bird, snowman, chip carving, stars.

Winners for our monthly carving competition is MASTER - First: Bruce Olsen, Leaping Deer and THEME - First: Rizal Baysa, Uncle Sam

TRI-CITY CARVERS – The club carved at the Farmers Market on July 10th with a half dozen members present and was well received and have been asked to return on September 11 for another visit. We carved at the Zoo on August 20 from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Greetings fellow carvers, we are happy to report that our President Gerald Willis is back home and recovering. He would like to thank everyone for the many cards and well wishes he received while in the hospital.

This year's show on September 19 is already sold out of exhibitor tables and although we are in a smaller location this year we have sold 3 more tables than last year.

Ed Sowulewski, our featured carver, will be hosting a carving competition, which will be open to the exhibitors at the show. Ed will supply the wood and the subject to be carved so bring your knives and join Ed in making chips. Many of Ed's carvings have won blue ribbons in various competitions both locally and nationally. Ed received the Al Case Award from the Caricature Carvers of America and is a member of its Hall of Fame. He has also won several best of show awards.

The club carved at the Children's Zoo on August 20 and despite the bad weather we had a good time. The Saginaw news came and took several pictures for an upcoming article. Dave Arndt, Vice-President of the Tri-City Wood Carvers presented Jim Anderson with a plaque recognizing Jim for his ten years of excellent work maintaining the Carousel at the Zoo. Jim is a very versatile carver who has had a love of carving horses for years and recently made the decision to retire from maintaining the Carousel. Thanks Jim for your years of service.

Tri-City show coming up on Sept 18 at the 2nd Presbyterian Church in Saginaw. Remember this is new location.

CHIEF OSCEOLA CARVERS – we have also had a couple of meetings doing ornaments. Sandy brought some cut outs from ½ inch basswood and we have been carving and painting them at our weekly carving nights. Some have never carved ornaments before or painted so this has been a good learning curve.

SUNRISE SIDE CARVERS - We have had a great turnout to our meetings with 28-33 carvers. We have had good club classes this summer with the shelf-elf by Kathy Moffit, the Fish Decoy with Charlie Flanders, the Mobius Strip with Harried Flanders, a little bear pin with Dick Torrey and a Love Spoon with Dave Shores.

Charlie and Harriet Flanders and Howard and Jodi Lahti demonstrated carving at the Maritime Museum in Alpena in July. Many of our members carved at Wood Shaving Days at Hartwick Pines State park, and Charlie Flanders carved at Besser Museum and Howard Lahti prepared the fish boil while Jodie and Harriet taught a fish soap carving class to 52 little and 4 full size soap carvers.

KALAMAZOO CARVERS SHOW: NEW SHOW IN TOWN - Reserve May 1st and 2nd, 2010 for the first Kalamazoo Valley Wood Carvers show at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds. Setup times are April 30th 3-8pm and May 1st 7-10am. There is camping at the fairgrounds and lots of motels/hotels in the area. There will be a competition, people's choice award, demonstrations and chainsaw carving. Cost is \$20/table table. Vendors are \$30/table and \$20 for a second table. No limit on tables. Electric is \$5.00 and lunch will be available. Registration forms to be mailed March 1, 2010, contact Jerry or Marilyn if you would like one mailed to you. Jerry Bernham 269-649-2483 or icfish1tip@yahoo.com or Marilyn Osterhouse 269-649-1713 or Marilyn.osterhouse@comcast.net

CHIPS AND CHATTER

CANE PROJECT: MWCA is still in need of finished eagle cane heads for our cane project.

MWCA ANNUAL 2010 CALENDAR READY AT FRANKENMUTH SHOW OCT 18th.

Due to an excess of calendars last year, we have decided to let YOU tell us how many we should print. The calendars will have the top winners from each show from September 2008-August 2009 as a calendar picture page. We ask that each club let us know how many calendars you would like for your club. We need to know the number by September 26th. The cost will be \$3 - \$4 depending on the number printed. Please let Sandy Holder know your club's request by calling 231-734-5125 or email roundup@netonecom.net by Sept 26th with CLAENDARS in the subject line.

CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS

The ornament project for the Make a Wish Foundation of Canada is really coming along nicely. Most of the MWCA clubs are participating by carving ornaments for the tree that will be auctioned off. We are well on our way to the 400 ornaments needed and have over 200 ornaments already in the making and with 200 more we will complete the project. Please bring or send your ornaments to the Spit and Whittle in Ewart for Sept 11-13, the Tri-City show on Sept 19 or the Washington Carve Fest Sept 25th. **We will be sending MOST of the ornaments to Dennis Moor on Sept 28** so they have time to get them ready for their tree. We have an extension date of Oct. 19th to send one SMALL box the day after the Frankenmuth show. So finish up the last minute carvings and bring them to either the Saline show on Oct 10th or the Frankenmuth show on Oct 18th. **WE MUST HAVE MOST OF THEM BY Sept 28th.** Thanks to everyone who is making ornaments for this MWCA organization project. Or you can send them to:

Bill Phillips, 5035 Cochrane Rd, Almont MI 48003 or

Bill Jaquays, 3105 Dorothy Lane, Spring Arbor MI 49283

The ornaments must have either a small hole or a screw eye to hang them. No string or cord or hooks must be attached. If you are mailing them to either Bill, please make sure they reach them by Sept 27th. Last minute carvings by Oct 17th.

SPIT and WHITTLE Sept 11-13

Time again to get out your knives and chisels and get together to do some fun carving. There is no cost to come and camping is available for \$15 per night. Super 8 Motel is also offering a special rate for carvers, call 231-734-0470 and tell them you are with the carvers. Nothing is planned as far as workshops but many workshops do develop. Come for fun, carving, fellowship and relaxation. We do have a potluck on Saturday evening. Tools For Woodcarvers (Leather Plus) will be there with carving supplies. If you have ornament blanks you would like to share with others, please bring them and folks can possibly carve and finish them at that time. Bill Jaquays says he has some also, some free some for a small cost.

RHADIGAN CARVING CARICATURE CARVING SEMINAR Sept 18-20

Here is another great time for carving and fun to sign up call Floyd 734-649-3259, this is a really fun time.

WHITTLIN' at the WOODLANDS Sept 17-19

Last year it was fun sharing meals and carving together.... so we'll do it again. Some meals will be potluck and some on your own. Camping w/electricity and water---\$15 a night. There is also a Program Center to sleep in for \$11 per night, bring your own bedding. **FRIDAY---**Come in all day...register...about 3:00 we will make cider and have a hot dog roast for dinner so bring a dish to pass. **SATURDAY---**Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. Lunch...Bring your own and come sit and visit. Dinner...Bring a container of chili to add to the bit pot!! **ALL DAY** there will be ongoing carving classes...If you would like to teach a class, come prepared with your supplies. There will be various projects and walking sticks available. Crafts are welcome.

ALL DAY---there will be ongoing carving classes---If you would like to teach a class, come prepared with your supplies. There will also be various small projects & walking sticks available.

WAGON RIDES---CAMPFIRE---AND CONTINUOUS CARVING--- LAUGHS & FUN !!!!!!!

SUNDAY---Meals on your own. Finish up projects. Stay as long as you like we hope you can join us. This will be a relaxing weekend of Carving and Fun. CALL MARY LOU SHEPPARD FOR INFO AND RESERVATIONS 989-473-3160

WASHINGTON CENTER CARVEFEST 3 – Sept 25-26

This is a very casual, hands-on carving event held in Washington Township at the Senior Center. Our concept is modeled after the very successful Woodcarvers Roundup in Ewart and will remain unchanged. Carve Fest is an opportunity to learn new carving skills very inexpensively in a low pressure and fun environment.

Volunteer Metro Carvers of Michigan members will serve as project leaders to help people complete a variety of carving projects. None of the instructors are compensated and there is no admission or registration fee. The only cost will be a nominal charge for any blanks that each instructor will provide. Two carvings sessions are 9 am to noon and 1-4 pm breaking for an hour for lunch. The afternoon carving session will then run from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM. Each of these carving sessions will feature nine simultaneous project groups, each working on a particular item. Some projects will be held both morning and afternoon on both Friday and Saturday. Others will be held only at specific times. The complete project schedule is not finished as of our newsletter deadline.

However, vendors selling carving tools and supplies will be on-hand. We typically see between 90 and 110 carvers at this event. You may come for part of a day, one full day, or both days. Don't miss out on the fun. Plan on being there. For more information call: John Sabina 586-786-1967.

RAMBLING RON'S WEBBINESS

TIP TIME - ... Many top carvers recommend Briwax for finish your work. But working with it right out of the can is a problem sometimes because it wont go on evenly or get into the deeper crevices or ..? One way to help avoid this problem is to pre warm your wood with a hair dryer, which will cause the wax to soften as you apply it. Also it will spread better if you use a soft toothbrush to apply. If you didn't warm it enough then use the hairdryer again to soften it to help spread it some more as you work along. Then let it dry and then after about a 1/2 hour or so wipe it with either a soft cloth or a soft big brush.

⇒... **Here's a great how to carve hair** I found in a back issue of our favorite free woodcarving online ezine the Carvers Companion. It's a nice step by step of how Harold Enlow does his hair carving. This is a easy way to add more dimension to your carvings, albiet human hair or animal fur. It can be viewed at: <http://carverscompanion.com/Ezine/Vol5Issue2/BTravis/BTravis.html>

⇒... **How to make whiskers** for your animal carving? A few things to try are paintbrush bristles or fishing line or copper wire, which can be bent to a desired shape and painted. See, wasn't that easy!

⇒... Here is a tutorial I came across from a web site called "The Carvers Edge" It's a very complete how to chip carve a basswood egg. This shows you how he does it, what tools he uses, including a great egg holder that helps you lay it out and more. I love where he says he can do one in ... gulp ... 90 minutes! Anyways this is a very good and complete how to and can be seen at:

<http://www.carversedge.com/projects.htm#top>

THE NEXT "CHATTER" NEWSLETTER GOES 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 25th of the month prior to publication. E-Mail and phone listed below.

CHATTER NEWSLETTER IS 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> |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 9/11-13 | Spit & Whittle Weekend | Osceola Fairgrounds - Evert www.evartroundup.com | 231-734-9131 or 231-734-5125 |
| 9/18-20 | Rhadigan Caricature Carving Seminar | Osceola Fairgrounds – Evert | 734-649-3259 |
| 9/18-20 | Whittlin' at the Woodlands | Woodlands Retreat – Hale | 989-782-4022 |
| 9/19 | Tri-City Carvers Show | 2 nd Presbyterian Church – Saginaw | 989-793-3520 Darndt73@aol.com |
| 9/25-26 | Washing Center Carvefest 3 | Washington Sr Center | 586-786-1967 |
| 10/3 | WBE Members Woodbee Carvers Show | Iron Mountain – Mid Town Mall | 715-696-6008 |
| 10/10 | Saline Carving Show | UAW Hall – Saline | 734-599-8784 |
| 10/18 | Frankenmuth Carving Show | Frankenmuth High School | 989-892-4705 989-835-8919 |
| 10/31 | Livonia Carving Show | Monaghan Knights of Columbus | 248-474-2609 |
| 11/7-8 | Fruitbelt Woodcarving Show | Cass County Fairgrounds Cassopolis | 269-663-6096 Toolmaker21144@comcast.net |

Before attending any event you may want to call to see if there have been any changes or cancellations.

MWCA CONTACTS

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| President Andrew Luckhardt (734) 323-4685 salinecarver@hughes.net | Vice President Bill Phillips (810) 798-3401 br2phillips@yahoo.com | Secretary Pat Murphy (810) 392-3642 patarmurp@aol.com | Treasurer Mary Lou Mulick (616) 642-6790 mulickg@gmail.com |
| "Chatter" Editor Sandy Holder (231) 734-5125 civildee@netonecom.net | MWCA Chaplain Milan Maybee (517) 787-1272 mmmaybee2@hotmail.com | Judging Phyllis Burghy (989) 879-2600 cedarbirdshoppe@chartermi.net | Competition This is open for anyone willing to help with the state events. |
| Insurance Rizal Baysa 586-781-3921 rbaysa1@comcast.net | Webmaster Terry Zobl (586) 739-7234 metrocarvers@yahoo.com | State Show Chairman John Pierce (616) 527-2413 hpvolks@iserv.net | Promotional (Calendars, etc.) Bill Phillips (810) 798-3401 br2phillips@yahoo.com |