



“MWCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING” Saturday, Dec 5 at 11:00 am
Old Country Buffet, 3583 Miller Rd., in Flint Michigan

We would like to have a good turnout for our annual December membership meeting. The ex-board has authorized the purchase of \$100 worth of non-perishable food to kick off our 3rd food drive for the Sears/Evart food bank. If you would like to join us we would like everyone attending the meeting to bring non-perishable items to support the food bank. Like most food banks they are in need of support and we would ask you to have your carving friends bring donations to you on your last meeting prior to the MWCA meeting. We have a lot of people attend the Roundup and the Spit & Whittle and this is a way to THANK the people of Evart for their hospitality.

We will again have a special Christmas gift drawing along with a Christmas carving display and carving exchange - if you bring a carving you get to take one. Please remember this is a special time of year with the idea that - it is better to give than to receive.

PRESIDENTS COLUMN

First of all we have lost one of our great carving members of the Blue Water Carving Club. Ron Gaskill was killed in an auto accident on September 26, 2009. I wish to express my sincere sympathy to Ron's family. He will be missed by all of our membership.

Here it is November and just a few more shows to attend. Livonia Carving Show is on Oct. 31 at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI. Then on Nov 10 the Fruitbelt Carving Show in Cassopolis, Mi., at the Cass County Fair Grounds. Then the largest show in this part of the country will be held in Dayton, Ohio. The Artistry in Wood Show will be at the Dayton International Airport Expo Center, on Nov. 14 & 15. This is one of the best carving shows in this part of the country and well worth the drive to Dayton. I will be attending all 3 of these shows with the MWCA Display. Most all of the shows this year have been fairly successful despite the slow economy.

The MWCA has been very busy so far this year with several worthwhile projects. The Lean On Me Cane Project has been a great success. We had to request more Eagle Heads from the members to keep up with the demand. As usual the membership started carving them and turning them in great

numbers. I was honored on Sept 4th to present 6 Eagle head Canes to 6 deserving World War II Veterans at the Silver Maples Community Center in Chelsea. We received a large write up in both the Saline and Chelsea newspapers about the presentation and about the clubs involved. Then came the request to carve Christmas Tree Ornaments for the Ontario Children's Wish Foundation. We were asked to carve enough ornaments for a 6 ft tree that could be raffled off and donated to the Foundation. Ornaments arrived by the hundreds from our membership. Bill Phillips will tell you more about this project and what we are doing with the left over ornaments. I wish to express our appreciation to Bill Phillips and Bill Jaquays and all the members for a job well done.

The Alden B Dow Museum of Science and Art has invited the members of the MWCA to display their Carvings from May 29th thru the Aug 29th.v More information in the newsletter and at the Dec 5 Membership meeting.

The Dec 5 Membership Meeting will be held at the Old Country Buffet in Flint Michigan. Find more information about this and others in this Chatter. You all come and take part in your organization. Andy, President of MWCA

Bill Phillips - Remembering Ron Gaskill

We are saddened to report the loss of a very special member of the Blue Water Wood Carver Club and the MWCA Mr. Ron Gaskill. Ron was killed in an auto accident on his way to the Metro Club Carve Fest on Saturday September 26. Ron was the past President of the Huron Chippers Club and then helped form and was serving as Vice President of the Blue Water Club. Ron served wood carvers in several ways. As most of you know, he wrote a computer news letter each week displaying his talent and helping carvers while giving other carving web sites along with carving tips of his own. Ron had also been working with and considered as a back bone member of our MWCA Lean On Me cane team and has mounted several of your cane heads and decorated the cane shafts for our veterans. We are not able to express the love and respect we know everyone has for Ron but we are sure he will be working with other wood carvers in his Father's home in heaven.

The cane committee has approved the purchase and installation of a Memory Walkway Brick at the Osceola Fairgrounds in Evart in Ron's memory. Please, on your next trip to the Roundup stop and check out Ron's memory brick and say a prayer for Ron and his family. God Bless Ron Gaskill.

Orrin Paul Shoemaker: He was a dedicated carver who was always promoting woodcarving. He and I started the Blue Water Carvers as an alternative group that met days instead of evenings. Thorough his example and leadership the group has grown to 20+ members. He was active in finding venues in the area where the Blue Water Carvers could give demonstrations to promote woodcarving.

CLUB SHOWS and HAPPENINGS

WOODBEE CARVERS: The Wonders In Wood one-day carving show at the Midtown Mall was a success with 14 club members displaying their talent. The show also included three club tables for our traditional can raffle and our Christmas ornament raffle. Our thanks to the sixteen members who donated carvings for the raffle. Special thanks to Tom Marker who generously donated a beautiful carving of a blue jay pair, which attracted very much activity at the raffle table. Mel Johnson was an instructor and participant at "A Gathering of Woodcarvers" (GOW) in Sandwich, IL. Mel described a new technique of gouge chip carving that was demonstrated at the seminar.

GRAND VALLEY CARVERS: For July, the club was asked by the Belding Arts Council to display its work. What a wonderful turnout we had with lots of friends and guests of our fellow woodcarvers, some traveling from across the state. Art Fisher was even there demonstrating burning feathers on his current duck project.

The club was also asked to demonstrate woodcarving during the Ionia Free Fair. Mary Lou & Garry, Betty & Bud and Kay & Jeff sat at the Antique Village Display and carved for a couple of hours with many interested folks coming and going, asking different questions and maybe some new perspective members.

FRANKENUMTH CARVERS GUILD: Tri City Carvers member Ed Sowulewski was presented with the Caricature Carvers of America Merit Award by Floyd Rhadigan for his continued achievements in caricature carving. It was a beautiful (one of very few for Oct) sunny day. All tables were sold and we had a great turnout of visitors.

METRO: held their elections and officers are John Sabina-President; Paul Blanchard-Vice President; Harold Green-Secretary and Rizal Baysa-Treasurer.

TRI-CITY: The move to the new location provided for a very successful 2009 Show. Sincere thanks to the many individuals who worked hard to make this show the success it was. Featured carver was Ed Sowulewski. The 1-hour carving competition was won by Bob Gubbins. About 70 carvings were entered in the competition. The raffle for Ed Sowulewski's birdhouse made \$88.00 that will be donated to Toy's for Tots at the December Christmas party.

Top winners of the competition was Ed Sowulewski, Best of Show for a caricature of a woodcarver at his carving bench; 2nd Best of show was Ron Richards carving of a barn swallow; 3rd Best of Show was Bob Gubbins for his 8-inch Perch in habitat. Ron Richard's barn swallow also won the Porter Partridge Memorial Award. 1st place in the Master class was won by Dave Arndt. Ben Donaghy II won best of youth class for his carving of a small full-body horse. Martin Schnur won best of Intermediate with a Bluegill and habitat and Don Day won best of Novice with a Golden Crown Kinglet.

Youth Carvers and their entries were increased over the last few years, a good sign for the future. About 70 carvings were entered in the competition. There was a very good turnout to the show, as the weather cooperated and provided a pleasant fall day. There were over fifty participants displaying their tools, materials, carvings and related art items.

CHIEF OSCEOLA CARVERS—Another fun weekend at Spit and Whittle and a lot of projects were started and finished. About 150 carvers whittled away the weekend. Ed and Margaret Joslin of Leather Plus carving tools were there with their complete supply of carving needs but they have chosen not to return to Evert in the future. We are pleased to announce that next year for the Roundup our carving supply vendors will be Frank and Phyllis Burghy of the Cedar Bird Shoppe and Mark Whillock from Minnesota of the www.woodcarverswarehouse.com, Cedar Bird Shoppe will also be attending the Spit and Whittle in September. The hot dog roast and potluck were well attended with lots of great food, carvers DO have to eat. We plan on doing it again next September, the weekend after Labor Day. We hope many of you will be able to attend either the June and/or September carving events.

SUNRISE SIDE CARVERS: Sprinkler Lake Fall Fest was attended by members of the club doing carving and PR. Soap carving was also presented for the kids. In October the group carved pumpkins again this year and they will be seen at the Senior Center at their October 27th party. In November Bill Hastings will do a sign class, Trudy Bohlinger (and club member) will be painting a Christmas item, and Charlie Flanders will have a surprise!

WASHINGTON SR. CENTER CARVEFEST V: The purpose of this event is to get people carving and having fun. Carve Fest 5 is considered a major success by all available measures. 137 carvers participated in this fifth event. Volunteer instructors are the most important ingredients to making Carve Fest work. Instructors sharing their ideas and techniques are what generate participation. Frank and Phyllis Burghy of the Cedar Bird Shoppe had their entire shop of carving supplies there for anyone who needed anything. There will definitely be a Carve Fest 6 and will be held on Friday, September 24th and Saturday, September 25, 2010. We give a very sincere thanks to all those who helped with Carve Fest 5. If you didn't make it to Carvefest V, You missed a good time!

CHIPS AND CHATTER

MWCA LEARNING SEMINAR: The 2010 Seminar is progressing along good. We are getting a few more applications after the brochures went out to all members. We are now at 103 students signed up for classes. Check out the Instructors we have coming to teach and sign up now before your favorite one fills up. 6 classes are full, Wayne Barton chip carving, Gary Falin caricature carving, Mike Ford song birds, Wayne Shinlever Caricature carving, Fred & Elaine Stenman Relief & Painting, Jim Wilsford animal power. Any Questions on the Seminar please call 734-323-4685 or e-mail salinecarver@hughes.net

CANE PROJECT UPDATE: MWCA is still in need of finished eagle cane heads for our cane project. Russ McVey has volunteered to work on finishing the canes that Ron Gaskill was working on. Currently we have more requests than eagle heads so please carve one or more for us and bring them to the December meeting on December 5th. Due to the loss of Ron and the shortage of finished eagle heads, our cane committee has revised the requirements for the Lean On Me canes. We will still offer canes to all WW II vets but all other vets from Korea, Vietnam and current conflicts must have been awarded a Purple Heart. Please check our web site www.mwca.110mb.com for further info.

ONTARIO CANADA CHILDREN'S WISH FOUNDATION Christmas tree decoration project

We "THANK" everyone who carved and donated their carvings for this wonderful and most rewarding MWCA project; we received close to 800 carvings. We send a special "THANKS" to Bill Jaquays Chairman of this project. We know Bill Jaquays and everyone involved appreciated your support. We delivered 440 carvings to Dennis "Pop" Moor of Chipping Away along with the beautiful tree skirt that our ladies MaryAnn Stephens, Julia Tobias and the others helped make. When we delivered the carvings and tree skirt, Dennis commented that they had never received a Christmas Tree Skirt before and he was happy to accept it along with our carvings. He also said that due to our success he was ordering a larger tree so all of our carvings would fit. We talked about the extra carvings we had received and he did not think he could use them for this year's program. We asked him for photos of our decorated tree along with the date and location of the raffle, which he said he would be happy to furnish us. We will post this info on the MWCA chat group and ask that you pass it on to those who do not have a computer.

Per the decision of the Ex-board we have donated the extra carvings to Operation Homefront, a Veterans Organization of Michigan. Ken & Linda Long (T-Shirt Depot owners) are going to mount them on a couple of smaller trees and will be raffling them off at an Operation Homefront organizational gathering in Evart on the evening of Dec 5th. We would invite those who can fit it in to attend the gathering and take part if you so desire. We will have handouts pertaining to this organization during the board meeting on Dec. 5th so you can take them back to your club members, which will inform them about the organization or check out www.operationhomefront.net located in Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

NEW DOCKYARD SHARPENING STROP for Gouges, V tools and all other non-knife Dockyard tools. The strop has individual inside and outside radius to sharpen each of the 5 gouges. There is a raised 75 and 90 degree V to sharpen the inside of the V tools along with a square bottom notch to sharpen the outside of the V tools. The notch can be used to sharpen all of the other Dockyard tools (except the knives. The strop comes with compound and a pouch to contain it all. The complete set sells for \$25 and is available through The Carving Glove Guy.com or call 734-944-1918. carvinggloveguy@gmail.com Donald Butler -The Carving Glove Guy

MWCA ANNUAL 2010 CALENDAR is ready for you. We have received the 2010 calendars from Sandy and Bob Holder and they look great! We are selling them for \$3 each and hope you will purchase one and support the association. If your club would like to receive some contact Ruth Phillips at br2phillips@yahoo.com or call 810-798-3401. You can pick them up at the Fruitbelt Carving Show or the meeting in Flint Dec. 5th. We can also mail them providing you pay the postage. Please don't wait as they are selling fast and we only have a limited supply. The Cedar Bird Shoppe has generously included in each calendar a coupon for \$5.00 off your next purchase of \$10.00 or more of carving supplies from them. Thank you Frank and Phyllis.

OSCEOLA FAIRGROUND – EVART: Due to a number of factors and the economy, camping on the fairgrounds for the Roundup and the Spit and Whittle and all events at the fairgrounds in 2010 will be \$17 per night.

ALDEN B. DOW MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ART of the Midland Center of Arts, Midland, Michigan.

We are pleased to report that the MWCA members have been invited to display their carvings at the Dow Museum starting May 29th thru Aug 29th 2010. Please check out the museum web site and print out an application at www.mcfta.org. We would like to get an estimated total number of people who are going to enter the displays so please drop Chairpersons Barb & Willy Stewart an email at stewart.willy@bigfoot.com (989-687-2536) or Bill Phillips at br2phillips@yahoo.com (810-798-3401). We think this is going to be a very successful undertaking so please let us know if you are interested. We will give a full explanation at the December 5th board meeting along with comments on the MWCA web site www.mwca.110mb.com and the MWCA chat group so keep tuned.

TIP TIME – West Michigan Carvers

When making or buying a strop, use the thinnest leather you can find. Smooth or rough side up, it doesn't seem to matter. I do prefer the smooth side up for what it is worth. Thick leather tends to depress and roll the edge. It will appear sharp but will not cut real well.

Always lay the knife flat on the strop and don't roll the knife when you get to the end of the stroke, the old barbershop roll will round the knife and dull it soon.

For gouges and Vee tools, keep the shinny side of the tool flat on the strop. Roll the gouges from side to side and keep the Vee tools flat. Where the two sides of the Vee tool meet, you will have to roll that. Keep in mind that the Vee tool is actually 2 flat surfaces and a small gouge in the middle.

Just about anything will work for an abrasive on the strop. Rouge, valve grinding compound, (my favorite), Comet Cleanser, Bar Keepers Friend, even toothpaste. If you make your own strop, use a fairly wide piece of board, 2 - 3 inches wide and about 12 inches long. I have used pieces of 2 x 4 and it worked great. Just smuck some glue on it, put on the leather, place another board on top of the leather and clamp the whole mess in a vice. After it is dry, remove the top board and you are good to go. I tend to let the leather hang over the edge and trim it after the glue is dry. Saves trying to be precise when you glue it up. Slippery when wet so to speak. For something handy on the strop, on the opposite side of the board, glue a strip of really fine grit emery paper. That works well, I like 400 grit and the same rules apply for stropping.

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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
11/7-8	FRUITBELT WOODCARVING SHOW	Cass County Fairgrounds Cassopolis	269-663-6096 Toolmaker21144@comcast.net
12/5	MWCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Old Country Buffer – Flint	734-323-4685
12/25	CHRISTMAS DAY	Merry Christmas	From MWCA
1/1/10	NEW YEARS DAY	Happy New Year everyone	From MWCA

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