



“CHATTER”
NEWSLETTER OF THE
MICHIGAN WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION
www.mwca.110mb.com
MAY 2010 VOLUME 15 ISSUE 3

• CLUB NEWS • WOOD ART EXCHANGE • SEMINAR • SHOW REPORTS

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENTS CARVING BENCH

Spring is here and so are 2 busy months for MWCA. The first two shows, Metro and Greater Lansing Area shows were great with good attendants and number of tables sold. Kalamazoo Club is having their first show May 1st and 2nd at the Kalamazoo Fairgrounds. Lets all support their effort; it looks like it should be a great show. Then comes the Sunrise Side Show on May 8th & 9th in Oscoda. Shortly thereafter is the MWCA Learning Seminar in Midland one week later, May 17 thru 21st. We hope the weather will cooperate better and we will not have to rush to get to Midland from Oscoda.

The Seminar is coming along great and should be another wonderful Seminar this year. We have 130 students signed up with 4 or 5 more coming. One of our long time instructors is leaving us, Cheryl Dow; our woodburning instructor is retiring this year. With the help of Cheryl we have obtained Sharon Bechtold from Bartlett, Illinois. She is an excellent artist in the field of Pyrography. Sharon has much teaching experience on the college level and is a well-liked instructor. She has taught around the country and sold many of her art works around the country. She still has room in her class for a few students. Cheryl has been with the MWCA Seminar almost from the start, we believe she started in 1998 at the Evert Seminar. She also has done a great deal all around the nation to further the art of wood carving and Pyrography in the eyes of the Art World. You can see some of her work at www.sharonbechtold.com

There is still time to sign up to come to the seminar. The following classes still have few openings left. Sharon Bechtold wood burning, Leah Goddard hand carved animal, Sandy Holder carousel horses; Chris Howard, faces & busts; Stu Martin human faces & busts; Floyd Rhadigan, caricatures & canes; Silvano Salvador deep relief; Wayne Shinlever, caricature and Rod Walker power carved fish. Come join us for a fun filled week of carving.

Then the Hartwick Pines Sawdust Days is July 16, 17, 18, at the Hartwick Pines State Park. This is always a fun filled weekend carving outdoors with many of our carving friends. Don't forget the Wood Carvers Roundup in June and the Spit & Whittle Weekend, both at the Evert Fairgrounds.

See you all at the shows, carving weekends, Roundup and Spit & Whittle.
Andy, President MWCA.

NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

MIDLAND MUSEUM - By the time we receive this newsletter the Midland Art & Science Museum display will be closed to accepting applications & photos. Don't forget to bring or ship (using bubble wrap) your carving to the museum during the same week of the Midland seminar - May 17-22. The shipping address is: Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 West St. Andrews, Midland MI 48640.

During our MWCA April board meeting it was reported that we are in need of more completed eagle heads. It was suggested that we host a class during the Roundup in June. The Roundup committee said OK and we are going to be teaching an eagle head carving class during the Evert round up June 9th-12th.

At that time we are also going to be hosting a club/regional FINISHED EADLE HEAD COMPETITION. The rules are simple – carve the most number of eagle heads & do the best you can with each of them. Here are the rules/categories for the eagle head competition: Realistic painted heads, Realistic natural finish, Artistic/Imaginative, Open mouth (screaming eagle) - Best of the Best from above. Also - The most entries by one carver (acceptable quality), Best of Regional Rep (most entries from all the clubs within each region-acceptable quality), Best Club (4 best carvings from 4 different carvers of the same club). You need not be present to join in the fun. You can send in your carvings with someone who will be attending the Roundup or stop by & walk around for a while. Please attach a tag with your name, address, phone number to each carving and don't forget to add which region or club you belong too.

I'm sure most of you know how to carve an eagle head but if you think you could use some tips or help with the placement of the eyes, feathering or painting/staining stop in & check out the class. We will have free cut outs and eagle eyes available during this class. Please remember the material is free as long as you return the finished carvings to the cane committee so we can send them on to a vet.

We think this will be a lot of fun & we hope you will help your club/region win the status of the most and best eagle heads from all over the state. Don't forget we have 9 regions within our state, so please help. We are fast approaching the presentation of our 800th “Lean On Me” cane with a waiting list and our veterans need your support.

WOOD ART EXCHANGE: We had 35 total participants, which was really good for our first exchange! David and I had a blast putting this together. It was so much fun. Because the majority of participants were in district 3 we had quite a time figuring out how to get everyone out of their district. Districts 2 and 9 had one participant each, District 3 had 12 participants, District 4 had 7, District 5 had 10, Districts 7 and 8 each had 2 participants. If the MWCA wishes to do this again, we'd like to improve and we need your input. I hope everyone had as much fun as David and I did. Thanks for the fun!!! (laughing)

Best to you all,
Sally and David

CLUB SHOWS and HAPPENINGS

LIVONIA CARVERS: The Livonia Woodcarvers hosted a wood-burning class with Linda Sales on Saturday, March 27. Linda supplied us with wood and templates, as well as items to purchase. I would like to thank Linda Sales for bringing her expertise in woodburning to the students and for making the class a fun time for all 13 participants. I would also like to thank Mr. Linda Sales (Clyde) for his help in set-up and sales at this class. Everybody commented that they had a wonderful time in Linda's class. I would highly recommend that if you get a chance to attend one of Linda's wood-burning classes to do so, because it is a very worthwhile. *****Please also note that we have a change in our show date in October. Due to double booking, Livonia carving show date has changed from October 2 to October 30th. Be SURE and change your MWCA calendar to reflect the date change. Location is still at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus on Farmington Rd in Livonia. For more information contact Lou Fox 248-474-2609 or email Lou at craffyfox6811@sbcglobal.net

Hope to see you at the Livonia Woodcarvers Show Saturday, October 30, 2010!
Rick Serylo--President, Livonia Woodcarvers Club



GREATER LANSING CARVERS: Their recent show at the Haslett High School was another super show. Even though the weather was quite cool and cloudy there were plenty of folks who came through the door. Best of Show winner was Patrick Pointer with a relief carving of a ship, and Patrick was also the featured carver at the show. 1st Runner up was Dave Arndt with a life size fish and Ed Sowulewski was 2nd Runner up with a caricature carving of the Fish Whisperer.

Winner of the "Maritime" theme with 1st was Patrick Pointer with his ship relief. Tied for second place was Larry Cummins and Dick McDonald (in no certain order) each with a beautiful hand crafted ship. Floyd Rhadigan came in third with a Dr. Seuss hanging mobile.

While at the show many of the ladies learned an interesting fact as you can see!! Not all bears "do it" in the woods!!!!

WOODBEE CARVERS: At our recent show and tell Bob Lee presented a brief program on making chip-carved table trivets for serving hot dishes at the dinner table. He distributed pre-drilled kits to members present and challenged them to design and carve their own decorative chip-carved runners and bring it to the next month's meeting. Tim Quick showed the large musky fishing lures he makes. Pat Flynn is working on a carved, electric guitar. Jon Mykkanen discussed his recent attendance at a chain-saw carving "Rendezvous" in Ridgeway, PA and showed us some large face carvings he is working on.

KALAMAZOO CARVERS GUILD: by the time this goes out the first Kalamazoo Carvers Guild show will be happening. We hope everyone has a chance to go to the show and support their first efforts. We do know that 73 tables have been reserved for the show.

HARRISON CARVERS: Member Gordon Sorensen has started a new carving group, Beaver Pond Wood Art and he has started classes on Monday mornings. They will be carving different things, and the first class will be an Elk bust and will be held Monday and Tuesday for three weeks with a cost of \$150 and include all materials to finish the project. Anyone interested can stop by one of those days. You can email Gordon at gordon6513@aol.com for more information.

METRO: Carver of the month for May is Carl Sikes, Metro member since 1997. His most inspirational person in woodcarving was George Keillhoffer when he took classes from him. He has been very active in club activities and has contributed a lot to the "Lean on Me" cane project. His favorite form of carving is doing busts of people and relief carving.

Our 30th annual show was another great one with 1056 visitors attending. This year there were 157 entries in the competition submitted by 62 different carvers and wood burners.

Competition winners were Ron Iacobelly with a Zebra head; Joe Beaudette's Hawk on a post and Ed Sowulewski with a caricature of ice an fisherman. People's Choice winners were Joe Beaudette with a flying owl; Clar Elzerman with a Penguin and Gary Bityk with a bark carving. Carver's Choice winners were again Joe Beaudette with his flying owl and Gary Bityk with his bark carving and Paul Blanchard with a Mountain man.

TRI-CITY: For the April meeting the Gougeon Brothers (West System Epoxies) talked to us about their two part epoxies which can be used for a wide range of joining and coating applications used for construction and repair applications. The brothers, Meade and Joel developed the West System of Epoxies and brought them into the woodworking and marine industries.

Their Jim Wilford class is full and their Mike Ford class in August is filling. The Bob Guge class went exceptionally well. We carved a bluebird with his head turned more than ninety degrees, wing over wing and raised, the tail turned and tilted.

Because of the Zoo wolf being outdoors all the time the poor guy developed worms, and we had to re-do his posterior. Dick Henning took him in, brought him home, and after about 30 hours of hard work nursed him back to health thanks to a donation of wood from Jerry Willis. He is now good as new and back to his old self.



SUNRISE SIDE CARVERS: In March Carol Hodges taught carved and feather flowers, what a fun night that was. Richard Torrey is continuing his class on the butterfly.

Don't forget the Sunrise Side carving show May 8-9 in Oscoda coming up next weekend. We plan to have another great show and competition. The theme this year is patriotism.

SALINE CARVERS: Bob Russell has been a member for many years and began carving in the 1970's carving more realistic duck decoys. He has taken classes from many instructors here in Michigan. He says that taking classes with a professional carver helps one learn about tools and techniques and gain a basic understanding about a specific style of carving and the need for safety.

CHIPS AND CHATTER

MWCA DUES: Thank you to all the clubs who have paid their annual MWCA dues. We are still waiting for a few clubs to catch up and we are sure as soon as everyone is back from their Winter Digs, we will have 100 percent dues collected.

ROUNDUP: This year we have a first time workshop on relief carving of flowers on boxes. Charley Phillips from Texas will be also be doing pins. She is well known and you may remember her articles in Wood Carving Illustrated issues #32-Fall 05 and issue #35-Summer 06 featuring floral relief carving projects. Visit her website: www.charleyphillips.com

Jim O'Dea is also going to offer a class on web page building on Saturday morning. If you have a laptop, bring it to class as we have wi-fi at the community building. He will limit the class to about 10 students. If you have questions about the class you can email Jim at jeodea@aol.com This should be a great tool for anyone wishing to create a web page using free web-servers.

Also new for this year is John Barany who will be doing a workshop on a Rudy Duck. Along with John will be Bob Hanna who will be teaching a really neat way to do spirit faces both on Wed, Thurs and Friday.

Besides the Evert Lions Booth for food at the Roundup, the fairgrounds "Blue Ribbon Café" in the community building will also be serving meals and tables will be set up for eating. These tables will be next to the same area where the workshops are, so we ask that if you are not a workshop leader please DO NOT ENTER the carving area until 8 am. The carving area will be marked so please respect the workshop leaders time to get their area ready for classes. We thank you. The other buildings will be the same with the workshop leaders entering around 7:45, then the carvers at 8:00 am.

NET NOTES from Ol' Don Burgdorf: I've made a little progress and now have over 100 of my patterns and 14 of my step-by-step instruction programs available as downloads at http://artofdon.com/Download_patterns.html . Should you be looking for a new project to work on I'd appreciate you looking over what is there and pass along the information to your club members or anyone you think might be interested... maybe even mention it in your newsletters. The PDF patterns are purchased thru PayPal.

Editors note: Ol' Don will be starting chemo treatments, so please keep him and his wife Sandie in your prayers.

Hello Woodcarvers!

I'd like to invite you to join us in Minnesota for our 4-day Woodcarver's Festival - Carv-Fest! It is held August 12 thru 15th in Faribault, Minnesota (Southern MN). We have over 50 - 1-Day workshops for you to choose from! Classes include everything from caricatures, bark houses, relief, animals, drawing, realistic figures, spirits, chip carving, Scandinavian style, Santa carving and more! They are just \$50 each (materials extra). This year we've added on-site camping for just \$25 per day!!! There will also be vendors selling tools, wood and supplies.....including Carving Magazine, Staubai Tools, WoodcarversWarehouse.com, The Woodcraft Shop, Krantz Wood Sales, Dunkle Knives and sharpening, T-Shirt Depot.... For more information please visit our website at www.carv-fest.com or call Chris Whillock at 507-339-0336

Chris also has a Woodcarving E-Newsletter. The Carving Bench, which includes a fee pattern of the month. If you would like to be added to his newsletter list sign up at <http://www.spiritcarving.com/Contact.html>

CARVING TIP

"Carving Magazine" Carving Hint - Clay Modeling a project in clay can be a great way to work out problems before committing the idea to wood. A great way to create an armature (a wire skeleton to hold the clay) of a figure is to find a photo of a similar sized figure you want to create. Cut out the picture and paste it on to a 1" piece of wood. You can then drive nails into the head, shoulders, elbows, hips, knees, feet and any other pivot points that are important to your project. You then form the wire using the nails to guide your proportion. This armature will be used to build your model and it should have the same proportions as the photo.

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
5/1-2	Kalamazoo Carving Show	Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds	269-649-1713 or 269-649-2483
5/8-9	Sunrise Side Carving Show	Oscoda Community Center – Oscoda	989-362-7982
5/17-21	MWCA Learning Seminar	Midland Fairgrounds – Midland	734-323-4685 or 810-798-3401
5/29-8/28	Dow Arts & Science Museum MWCA Carving display & competition	Midland	810-798-3401
6/9-12	Wood Carvers Roundup	Osceola County Fairgrounds - Evert	231-734-5125 or 231-734-9131
6/14-18	Creative Woodcarving Seminar	Osceola County Fairgrounds – Evert	734-649-3259

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

MWCA CONTACTS

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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