



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENTS CARVING BENCH

As I write this there is one more day left in 2010 and then the New Year starts, 2011. This has been a very good year for the MWCA. Our 2010 Learning Seminar in Midland was a great success. We had 138 students under 15 Instructors learning to increase their carving and burning skills. That same week we were invited to set up a carving exhibit at the Allen B Dow Museum of Arts & Science. This was a summer long exhibit, with over 150 art projects presented by the carvers of Michigan. This was a wonder full chance for the MWCA and the woodcarvers and wood burners of Michigan to increase the art of woodcarving in the eyes of the art world. This years Seminar is going very well, with about 115 students already signed up, which is more than we ever had at the end of a year. We have 21 instructors scheduled for 2011 so we have plenty of room. We have space for at least 250 students so sign up soon as the classes are filling up fast. We already have four classes full and several around 10 students, 12 is the limit for a class.

Our Membership meeting on Dec 4th at the Midland Ponderosa, went very good. At the next MWCA meeting the election of officers will be held. There are rumors that one of the board members is retiring. Lets get nominations in for all offices and have a real election. We have reserved the meeting room at

the Brookshire Golf Course near Lansing for our annual meeting on April 16, 2011 from 11pm to 1 pm. All of the membership is invited to attend. More information will be in the March newsletter.

In June the MWCA is going to sponsor at least 2 of our Veterans on a free airlines trip to Washington DC to visit the War Memorial. This is another way to bestow more tribute to 2 of the Veterans who received one of our canes. This is a program that has been carried out by some other organizations for several years and is being done by the cane promotional committee. They are still in need of more cane heads so keep carving. More information found further in the newsletter.

Washtenaw County has again lucked out on the snowfall so far this year. Around 4 inches, and I have had the snow scraper out only once so far this year for the driveway. There has been just enough snowfall to make the holidays look wonderful. Hope it keeps up, but another massive snowstorm is coming out west.

Hope everything turns out great during the coming year for all you carvers and friends. Here is wishing everyone a very Happy New Year.

Andrew Luckhardt, President of Your MWCA

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The bi-annual election will take place at the April 16th meeting. All clubs should have a copy of the nominations form which was included in the November Chatter. The nominations committee was appointed at the December meeting and consists of Bill Jaquays and Sandy Holder. The position of Vice-President is open as Bill Phillips is retiring from that office. Bill has worked very hard for many years and believes that it is time to turn it over to another member. We thank Bill and his wife Ruth for his untiring dedication to MWCA endeavors. Bill has been very instrumental in creating what the MWCA is today and we wish him many more wonderful years in the organization. Bill was also the Metro MWCA representative, the Region #4 MWCA representative, co-chairman of the MWCA seminar, is still co-chairman of the cane committee and is very active in his own Metro club carving show. We tip our hat to Bill for a well-deserved retirement.

All offices if the MWCA board is open for nominations. Nominations forms must be received by one of the nominations committee members by March 1st, 2011. Your club will then be sent a ballot and instructions, which can be returned to one of the committee members or brought to the April 16th meeting. We hope to have a number of nominees for each position, so please consider running for an office. This is your organization and we need your input. Nominations form is included at the end of this newsletter.

ANNOUNCING WOOD ART EXCHANGE #2

This exchange is open to all members of the MWCA. The purpose is to have fun becoming acquainted with fellow MWCA members as well as whiling away this winter's cabin fever doing a "wood art" project. This wood art project encompasses a member's choice of: woodcarving, woodturning, pyrography, intarsia, fretwork, etc. Every member is welcome to participate regardless of skill. The subject matter of the project is the member's choice so long as it is appropriate and tasteful. Keep in mind that small is better since it will be sent via postal mail. More information available for Internet users at <http://www.mwca.110mb.com> and click on 'Exchange' link. Registration is fee and runs from Jan 1 to February 15th. January and February -- time to complete your project.

Late March -- all participants will receive the name and address of whom to send their project. Early April -- all participants send & receive a "wood art" project with bio' from another MWCA member.

Send, call or email your registration to: David & Sally Nye, 2160 66th St. Fennville, MI 49408

Ph: 269-543-4755 Email: Columbus@accn.org

Please send your name, address, phone, email if you have one and **MOST IMPORTANT** of all please tell us which club you belong to. If you belong to more than one club, please choose only ONE. You can participate in all the clubs you belong to but need to send one registration for each club. Everyone who participated in the exchange last year had a great time. We hope more of the carvers will "chip in" this year, it is really fun.

CLUB SHOWS and HAPPENINGS

WEST MICHIGAN CARVERS: Here is a book review from the West Michigan Carvers:

For Christmas carving books, there is Hand Carving Snowmen and Santas by Mike Shipley. 41 Santa patterns for Carvers, 15 Elf & Gnome Patterns, both by Al Streetman, and Santa Carvings by Myron Bowman. The Shipley book is more of a comical caricature carving type of book. The rest are semi-serious caricature patterns. The 41 Santa pattern book has some great patterns in it. All of them have a lot of patterns and pictures of completed carvings in them. Any of these books should be a welcome addition to your collection.

FRANKENMUTH CARVERS GUILD: Last year the group made and donated old time wooden toys to the Frankenmuth Historical Museum for kids to play with when they visit. The museum lets the kids handle and try out the toy when they visit, so they need some replacement parts and repair we can provide this year. It is great to see they are used.

The five-foot gnomes we have been working on for some time are finished and painted and on display at the entrance on the back side of the Frankenmuth Visitors Center. At the present time work is being done on a fireplace mantle for our club house. We are also working on our Frankenmuth Guild Shield to hopefully be finished before the Evert Roundup and will be hung on permanent display at the fairgrounds along with the many other MWCA club plaques.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY WOODCARVERS GUILD: The Kalamazoo Valley Woodcarvers Guild had the election of officers for 2011. Results were President, Jerry Burnham; Vice President, Tom Temple; Treasurer, Sue Ritzema; and Secretary, Marilyn Osterhouse.

Active work has begun on our annual show, which will be our new date of September 23(setup), 24, 25 in 2011 at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds. We will be in a much bigger building this time.

METRO CARVERS: 25 Metro members took advantage of the opportunity to take the chartered bus trip to the Dayton Ohio "Artistry in Wood" woodcarving show on November 13. Along with 30 some members of the Livonia and Saline clubs it was a very successful outing. The day was long but extremely enjoyable, especially to the folks attending for the first time. A big thank you to Rick Serylo of the Livonia Carvers for his efforts in chartering the bus.

Paul Blanchard our president is our December carver of the month. Paul is retired from GM and while he worked he was

always carving during his lunchtime and had many carving in his office area. He has always been very active in all the activities of the club and was president once before. Realistic, birds, animals, and caricatures all fit into Paul's skill sets. Advice that he would pass on to new carvers would be to practice a lot, take classes from people that are experts in their field, and keep your early carvings to track your progress. Also, do not be afraid to try things that are new, be open to learning. Paul has also been a workshop leader at the Evert Roundup the past few years.

Things are progressing along quite nicely at the moment for our March 19-20th show.. We should have the flyers soon.

TRI-CITY: In January we will again display our carving at the Antique Warehouse. Old carvings will come out and new ones will be placed. We are also able to sell these carvings if we like. We will also be carving there the weekend of January 29-10.

Our elections were held and we have a couple of new officers. Our new president is Dave Arndt and new Treasurer is Mike Basner. Vice president Bob Thurston and Secretary Ed Hak were re-elected. A

Our Toys for Tots toys were presented at the December 7 Christmas Party to the Toys for Tots Marine representative. A Santa carved by carved by Bob Thurston was presented to our outgoing treasure Jean Barber for her many years of work in that position.

We will have a Bob Guge class carving a Killdeer on March 24-26, a Jim Wilford animal power carving class in May and Mike Ford will do an Owl class probably sometime in October.

Soap carving will be taught at the Sherwood School by Mike Basner and Gary Klender has done two classes at McCaulif Elementary in Bay City.

Club members will begin work in January on restoration of the Carousel Animals at the Children's Zoo. The work consists of light sanding and painting the colors to the saddles, trappings, etc. We hope to be finished by early February in time for a scheduled event, the Arctic Zoo Fest on February 12th.

SUNRISE SIDE CARVERS: Richard Torrey thanks all who participated in their pumpkin carving at the Senior Center event in October. There was lots of enthusiasm and fun where the carvers outdid themselves with their paintbrushes and knives. They then had one night where they presented a "Pumpkin Show" at the Senior Center.

In November Lenard Barr and Howard Lahti were our class instructors at the meeting

CHIPS AND CHATTER

PRIDE AND HONOR FLIGHT is an organization dedicated to transporting our local World War II veterans to visit their memorials in Washington, D.C. These trips totally are free of charge to the veteran. For more information about the organization please visit them on the web: <http://www.rc.net/org/prideandhonorflight/veterans.html>

Pride and Honor Flight is a one-day event to fly WWII Vets to Wash. D.C. to tour those Memorials constructed in honor of your service to our country. The flight, bus tour and meals will be provided free to the Veteran.

The Michigan Wood Carvers Association "Lean On Me" veterans cane project is pleased to announce our plans to nominate and sponsor at least two Michigan WW11 veterans or terminally ill veteran who has received one of our canes, on the day-long Pride and Honor Flight to Washington DC in June 2011. The "Lean on Me" committee is asking that the veterans we nominate are ones who have not had the opportunity to visit the Veterans Memorials in Washington DC.

If you know of someone that is a WW II veteran or a veteran that has a terminal illness, and they would like to be considered for the trip, please let Bill Phillips know at 810-798-3401 as soon as possible so we can send you an application. It will be returned to Bill and then forwarded to the Pride and Honor Flight group. The process is time consuming and vets are selected by the Pride and Honor

Group on a "first come first to go" basis and space is limited. We understand the flight is about half full already so please respond A.S.A.P.

The veteran will be responsible for his or her own transportation to and from the Detroit Metro air terminal the day of the trip. Someone from the cane committee will escort them on the entire trip.

MWCA 2011 CALENDARS: Thank you to everyone who purchased calendars to help support the MWCA. The cover turned out great with all the club patches on it. Next year the cover will incorporate all the carved club plaques hanging on display in the Exhibit Building at the fairgrounds in Evart.

A BIG THANK YOU to the MWCA membership from the Sears Food Pantry. They would like to thank us for the generous donation of food and items for the local Evart area that was collected at the December 4th membership meeting. The \$181 in currency that was also donated will help considerably with items that they do not receive.



MiWCA CHAT(ter) LIST: Terry Zobl, our webmaster, has created a friendly group on the Internet which consists of MWCA members and friends. This chat group is intended to supplement the Chatter Newsletter as a means to improve communication among Michigan woodcarvers. At this time we have 80 members from only 20 of the 45 MWCA member clubs. It would be great if every club had someone from their group on this chat list. You do have to have Internet access and email to be an active member. It is a great way to speak to everyone at once to ask carving questions and get information about carving shows and events and to keep in touch with all the clubs and members. It doesn't cost anything to join this group, (you do have to send Terry a request to join, this keeps out unwanted spammers). It works like a bulletin board in that when you post questions, all members read it and are then able to send an answer or comment, which everyone else can also read. After joining you can just "lurk" (monitor) in the background but we hope you will join us with our conversations. Just go to the MWCA website <http://www.mwca.110mb.com> and click on "chat group" link at the top of the page for more information and instructions to join. It is really easy!! If you already have a Yahoo login it is even easier. Hope to see more of you on line.

FOR THE FLORIDA SNOWBIRDS: Jack and Winnie Miller will be in Florida for the winter and they hope to see their carving friends at the Fort Myers Show on January 22-23rd. If not there then maybe at the Florida Woodcarvers Roundup March 23-27 in Zephyrhills where Jack will be teaching a workshop. They plan to skip around any tornadoes in their path!!

MWCA 2011 CALENDARS: Thank you to everyone who purchased calendars to help support the MWCA. The cover with the club patches really turned out nice especially in color. Next year for the cover I am planning to use photos of the carved club plaques, which are on permanent display at the Osceola Fairgrounds Exhibit Building in Evart. There is still time for your club to carve one and add it to the group.

NOTICES

IMPORTANT: In January all MWCA clubs will receive in the mail their club information sheet, a list of their club members past and present and a dues renewal form. MWCA dues for 2011 to 2012 are due by March 31st. They must be paid for your club to be able to vote in the election of officers and must be received by the day of the meeting on April 6th.

MWCA CLUB INSURANCE: Because your club is an MWCA member, any show or demonstration your club does for the public is covered under our liability insurance. To be covered you MUST contact our insurance representative Rizal Baysa (see end of newsletter) at least 30 days before your event with the date, time and venue. We also need to know WHO is in charge of the event building so they too will receive a copy of the insurance certificate.

MWCA WEBSITE: www.mwca.110mb.com - Webmaster Terry Zobl is trying to update web pages for each of the clubs. Be sure to check out your club's page to make sure all the information is up to date and correct. When you have elections please let Webmaster Terry Zobl know so he can update your club information. Also please let Sandy Holder know so she can update your MWCA file. See information below for Webmaster and Chatter Editor.

TIPS FOR CARVERS

Speaking of Chat List, Doug Evans posted a question to the carvers on the list as to how they carved outside of the shop (Dr office, restaurant, church, family room etc) to prevent chips all over the place!! Here are the answers he received:

1. Carve into a pillowcase, good to carry tools and carving piece too.
2. Carve onto a terrycloth towel, it will catch chips pretty well. Pick up and shake where the mess isn't a problem (motel etc.)
3. Wear an apron in the living room. When finished, fold the sides first then the from ('lap') up and empty outside or into waste basket. An alternative might be to buy a chip-colored carpet and furniture!!!
You can also use an extra large apron left untied while you sit in recliner/rocker with sides draped over the chair arms. It will catch most of the chips while carving something small. When done, gather up the hem and step out the door and shake.
4. An old laptop case works well for small carvings. Open and lay it on a table (or lap), it has a small work area with a rim that is a few inches high all the way around. Pockets are great for carrying supplies and chips!

TIP FROM CARVING MAGAZINE: 5 Relief Carving Tips! Relief carving can be fun... however it can be a mystery as well. Here are a few tips that may help:

1. It is much easier to do relief-carving standing at a bench, you have greater control and reach to all parts of the carving ...
2. A relief-carving bench should stand about 2" below your elbow, or belly button height...
3. It is easier to use full-sized mallet tools rather than palm tools for relief. Palm tools end up scraping your knuckles as you try to carve on the flat areas ... plus you will waste a lot of time using the smaller size tools to remove background material.
4. It is easier to have the grain of the wood going side to side on the bench, even if the pattern goes up and down ...
5. It is difficult to find relief panels that are over 7" in width, even if you did, they would tend to warp. It is better to glue up your relief panels over 7". Be sure to flip- flop the grain when gluing, this will help reduce the affects of warping.

THE "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 to be included. 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
3/19-20	METRO SHOW	United Food & Commercial Workers Hall Madison Heights	586-808-3835
4/9	GREATER LANSING SHOW	Haslett High School	517-321-6630 or 810-798-3401
4/16	MWCA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MTNG	Brookshire Golf Course, Williamston MI	734-323-4685 or 810-798-3401
5/7	SUNRISE SIDE CARVING SHOW	NEW LOCATION – Oscoda High School	989-362-7982
5/16-20	MICHIGAN WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION SEMINAR	Midland Fairgrounds	734-323-4685 or 810-798-3401

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

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

M.W.C.A. 2011-2013 NOMINATION FORM

Date _____

I the undersigned, do hereby nominate _____
 MWCA member, for the position of _____
 of the Michigan Wood Carvers Association for a 2-year term from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2013.

Member signature _____ of MWCA _____ Club

Consent of Nominee:

I do hereby consent to let my name stand as a candidate for the above-specified position.

I am a currently paid member of _____ Club

Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date _____

A nominations committee member must receive all forms by March 1st, 2011 to be placed on the ballot.

Submit to: Bill Jaquays, 3205 Dorothy Lane, Spring Arbor MI 49283 or
 Sandy Holder 7093 14 Mile Rd Ewart MI 49631