



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENTS CARVING BENCH

Hi everyone, I thought we would be all done shoveling snow by now, but the weather thinks different. Vacation time is over shows are starting in March. It is close to reconciliation time for the Seminar classes when we contact all the instructors and verify the number of students they have signed up for their class. If they don't enough students to make a class and they cancel out, then we have to notify all those students and transfer them to another class. This and the number of student cancellation due to sickness etc. have been very difficult to keep up with. We have 125 signed up so far. It will be miracle if we wind up with an accurate list come the first day of the Seminar.

Here is a list of the classes and the number of students for each. Gary Falin and Jim Wilsford are full. The following have been full but with some cancellations now have these numbers of students. Wayne Barton 11, Mike Ford 11, and the Stenmans with 9. Sharon Bechtold has 8, Gary Bityk 10, Tom DeWitt 1, Mike Ford song birds has 11, Leah Goddard has 8, Bill Hasting has 1, Bill Heather has none, Sandy Holder has 2, Chris Howard

has 5, Stu Martin has 5; Floyd Rhadigan Has 4, Linda Sales wood Burning has 9, Silvano Salvadore has 5, Wayne Shinlever due to a very bad and false rumor that got started about his pricing of cutouts has 2, Rod Walker has 1, John Williams animal hand has 3, and Ben Donaghy has 4. These will change a lot after notification to the instructors. Now is the time to get your application in if you want to attend our Seminar this year.

The Seminar is shaping up very good and looks like it will be another great one. Contact me and I will let you know what classes are still open.

Our Annual Meeting is going to be held at the Brookshire Golf Club Inn, 205 W. Church, Williamston, Mi 48895. Phone 517-655-5697. The date and directions are listed in this Chatter, and all members are invited to attend. Election of officers will take place. Get your nominations for all of the offices in as soon as possible to Sandy Holder.

This is very short but sweet. Andrew Luckhardt, President

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The bi-annual election will take place at the April 16th meeting. Each club Secretary or selected contact person on file will receive their ballot in the mail by Mid-March. Each club has one vote for each office and the ballot must be returned to either of the nomination committee members Bill Jaquays or Sandy Holder before the April 16th membership meeting. Your club ballot may also be brought to the meeting and turned in before the count is tallied. Names from nominations forms received by March 7th will be included on the ballot. Those received after that and nominations from the floor can be write-ins for those clubs who have not yet voted.

MWCA ANNUAL MEETING

The next meeting will be April 16th and will be held at the Brookshire golf course in Williamston, just outside of Lansing. Take I-96 to exit 117, go north through the traffic light in Williamston over the Red Cedar River, and it is on your left. The meeting will start at 11:00 am and we will have a choice of 5 menu items for lunch. Come early for coffee, we hope to see everyone there.

WOOD ART EXCHANGE #2

Time is now here for everyone to get his or her names in for the wood art exchange. We are hoping more of you have signed up this year to be in the exchange. It is really a fun thing to do, and there is much suspense when you don't know what you will be getting in return. This isn't about how good you are as a carver, it is making something for someone else and getting to know another carver you may not have met yet. New artists are encouraged to participate. This is just fun to do. More information is 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. In late March you will receive the name and address of whom to send your project. Your project will then be sent out in early April. Have you "chipped in" yet?

Send, call or email your registration to: David & Sally Nye, 2160 66th St. Fennville, MI 49408
Ph: 269-543-4755 Email: Columbus@accn.org

CLUB SHOWS and HAPPENINGS

METRO CARVERS: Rizal Baysa was the Carver of the Month for January as well as our guest speaker. It was a very informational evening about his knife making, sharpening and modifying his own tools as well as his newly found experiences at chip carving. Guest speaker for February was Bernie Woziak speaking on the challenge of making a "split bamboo" fishing rod.

John Sabina held a 3-day beginners class at the Washington Township Senior center where 8 participants learned about wood

carving. This was the third time John has conducted which has resulted in several new Metro members.

REMEMBER our show on March 19-20 at the United food and commercial workers hall in Madison Heights. See you there!

WEST MICHIGAN CARVERS: Jim Dodge taught a class on carving turtle and it was really fun. A tip for you: John Crawford says "Keep your tools off the concrete!"

FRANKENMUTH CARVERS GUILD: Stu Martin will be doing a workshop for the members May 13th and 14th. Work is coming along on the carved club shield, which will be hung in the Evert fairgrounds exhibit building along with the 10 other carving club plaques. The club is also working on a fireplace mantel for the fireplace in their carving building.

SUNRISE SIDE CARVERS: In January, Bill Hastings did a workshop on Eagle Heads. In February we will be carving door prizes for our May 7-8 show. Remember our new location is at the Oscoda High School. Steve Brown will be teaching a class at the Oscoda Senior Center May 9-11. "Red Sky at Night-Sailors Delight" is the theme for our show.

TRI-CITY: First of all we have to notify everyone of the change in our show date for September 2011. Due to scheduling conflicts and other events we have changed the show date to September 24th which is the last Saturday. It will still be held at the Second Presbyterian Church Westminster Hall. This year we are having Steve Brown as our featured carver. For show information call show chairman Bob Thurston 989-845-6311.

February 15-18 there was a class with Jim Wilsford where we carved a wild boar. Everyone finished and painted their project.

March 24-26 will be the class with Bob Guge and will be carving a Killdeer

October 4-8 will be a class with Mike Ford and we will be carving a full size Saw-Whet Owl. We will finish with the painting on Oct 21-22.

The Tri City carvers embarked on restoring the carousel animals at the Saginaw Children's Zoo, which was completed in 1998. After over 12 years of use, the Tri City Carvers in conjunction with Zoo Director, Nancy Parker and her staff at the Zoo, made minor repairs and repainted the animals to bring them back to like-new condition. Phil Westendorf, one of the original carvers, was the chairman for the restoration. Other original carvers participating in the project were Jerald H. Willis, the architect of the carousel, Jean Barber and Jerry Romanowski. An additional group of about 24 Tri City Carvers volunteered their time in the restoration along with a number of carvers from the Metro carving club, which finished 22 animals. See pictures below.



Clockwise from above: Mike Ford
Triston Watson, Jerry Romanowski
who was one of the original
carvers, Duane Brethauer, and
David Arndt.



CHIPS AND CHATTER

“LEAN ON ME REQUEST”: The MWCA “Lean on Me” cane committee is seeking individuals or clubs interested in presenting a completed cane to a veteran in their immediate area. Before shipping the cane, you would receive a phone call to see if you would be available to present the cane. If so, you would receive all the information needed to contact the veteran and set-up a time and place that would be convenient for both parties. We do ask that you return a photo of the veteran with their cane, and you included if possible. Computer and Internet are not necessary to be involved. For interested parties please contact:

Bill Phillips – 810-798-3401- br2phillips@yahoo.com or

Dave Copeman – 586-979-4852 – dcopeman@sbcglobal.net

THUNDER BAY CARVERS will again be partnering with the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan at their Log Cabin Day event on June 4th. It is a one-day event with demonstrations and exhibitions portraying life during the early 19th century. Because they feel woodcarving is an important part of human history they would like to invite the MWCA members to participate this year with all forms of wood art. There is no charge to the MWCA for participating and members would have the opportunity to sell their carvings. The Museum would also like to promote the “Lean on Me” cane project. We hope you can join us. Please call Education Curator, Chris Witulski at 989-356-2202 or Howard Lahti, President of the Thunder Bay Wood Carvers at 989-356-2919 for more information.

This is a great opportunity for MWCA to promote the Cane Project.

NHK Woodcarver's Roundup May 15th in Copetown Ontario. This is another clone from the Evert Roundup and this is their second year. They have 15 instructors and Chipping Away is their vendor. The Ontario Woodcarvers Association sponsors this event and supported by Chipping Away, Niagara, Guelph, Owl's Nest Carving Clubs, & Burlington Art Centre - Sculptors and Woodcarver's Guild. You can find out more on the Roundup website at www.nhkroundup.webs.com or contact John Poole at ppoole3@cogeco.ca

EVART ROUNDUP: Plans are moving right along for June 8-11 in Evert. Cal and Joyce Walters are returning this year with their wonderful Christmas ornaments, which are carved with their own display frames. Ted Rogers from the Woodbee carvers in the Upper Peninsula is going to be a workshop leader this year and he will show how to make Christmas ornaments out of cottonwood bark. For those who have stayed at the Marsh farms in past years, the Marsh's are sorry to inform you that they are unable to open their B&B this year due to illness. They have truly enjoyed all the carvers who have stayed there over the past 12 years, they had become almost like family.

Also the Osceola Grand Hotel is over half full as of a couple of weeks ago. They are offering a reduced rate for guests during the Roundup so be sure to mention that you are coming to the Roundup if you call. Phone 877-382-7864 (1-877-Evert MI) or you can go to their website osceolagrandhotel.com

SHOW CHANGES

SUNRISE SIDE SHOW LOCATION CHANGE – New location is the Oscoda High School.

TRI-CITY SHOW DATE CHANGE- New date is September 24th, at the Second Presbyterian Church.

KALAMAZOO SHOW NEW DATE – September 24-25. Location is still at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds.

TIPS FOR CARVERS

SANDING STICK STRIPS: Sandpaper strips for the 6" sanding sticks: Did you ever run out of sandpaper strips for your sanding stick? Here is a tip you can use. Cloth backed Swiss type sandpaper works best. On the cloth side, mark 14" for length. Then make ¼" lines the length of the piece and cut. I use a utility knife and cut on the cloth side. Overlap the strips 1" and staple. I make sure the sandpaper grit size is marked on the back of each strip, 120/180/240 etc., so it is easy to know what each one is. You can get 12 strips out of one 3"x 14" piece. Sandy Holder-Chief Osceola Carvers.

DEMAGNETIZING TOOLS: I use an old demagnetizer sold to erase cassette tapes. (Yes, I am decades older than the wood I carve. In fact, I'm a tool geezer.) Radio Shack has one listed in its online catalog for under \$20 including the tax. I use thin blade tools (mostly knives and Flexcut palm tools) and they do not become heavily magnetized. Therefore, I do not need an industrial model demagnetizer, which will neutralize in a single pass. Using the inexpensive device 2 or 3 times on a carving tool does the job. Jim Byrne-Woodbee Carvers.

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
JULY

MARCH
SEPTEMBER

MAY
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
6/8-11	WOOD CARVERS ROUNDUP	Osceola Fairgrounds Evert MI	231-734-5125 or 231-734-9131

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 salinearcarver@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