



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENTS CARVING BENCH

May is coming with all the rain, May flowers, spring yard work and etc. Our Annual meeting was really great and the place at the golf course was beautiful. The annual election was held. All officers were reelected except the office of Vice President where there was no nomination. It remains vacant till we find someone to fill the office. All nominations or suggestion are welcome. Bill & Ruth were honored for all the work they put in since 2002 when they were appointed to the position. They were presented with a laser cut plaque and a beautiful Orchid planting. Dave Copeman was also honored for all the work he is doing in the Canes for Veterans Program.

It will not be long and we will be heading for Midland, Mi and the Learning Seminar 2011. The Seminar is moving along good. We have about 136 students and 3 or 4 more coming in the mail. The following four Instructors had to cancel out due to lack of students, Hasting sign making, Bill Heather-Basic, Shinlever - caricature, and Walker-Fish carver. Two are full at the present time, Gary Falin and Jim Wilsford. The rest all have room for more students. So come and join us for a wonderful week of carving with great carving friends from all over the USA and Canada.

We are working on the instructors list for 2012 and have 3 new instructors for 2012. Joy Yax is coming back as the duck caver. Dylan Goodson from Alabama as a medium relief carver. Robert Bierman is coming from St Louis to carve shallow relief on plates mostly Santa Clauses. The list should be complete by the Seminar. We had a lot of cancellations this year. We old people keep getting older and cannot attend for various reasons.

Due to the large workload that Bill and Ruth were carrying the board decided to divide the workload into various committees, therefore spreading the work of the Seminar around, with a chairperson as head of each. If there is a certain vase of work that anyone likes to work at we would like to hear from you. The Seminar is great only if we can get workers who are proud of working to keep it that way. Some of the committees already have volunteers as heads of certain committees. I thank them very much for volunteering. I am open for any suggestions or volunteers in regards to the rearranging of the work at the Seminar.

Andy Luckhardt, President

MWCA ANNUAL MEETING

ELECTION OF OFFICERS was held. Andy Luckhardt is President, no vice president was nominated, Pat Murphy is the secretary and Mary Lou Mulick is the Treasurer. They will serve as officer for the next two years until April 1, 2013. At the present time we do not have a vice president. Please consider offering to possibly fill this position. The primary duty of the vice president is to preside when the president is absent and to support the president.



AWARD PRESENTED - In appreciation and honor for the many years of Bill Phillips serving as vice president, Andy presented Bill and Ruth a beautifully crafted laser cut wall plaque. Bill was also presented with a certificate for a free 2012 seminar class of his choice and Ruth was presented with a live Orchid plant. A thunderous round of applause was given to them both. Thank you Bill for all you have done for the MWCA, and thank you Ruth for all your help and supporting Bill in everything he did.

LEAN ON ME AWARD: Bill Phillips presented a plaque to Dave Copeman for all his effort with the Lean On Me program. Since Dave took over the job from Harold Joseph in 2009 the club has put out over 1000 canes. A big thank you and a round of applause were given to Dave and his wife Patricia. Dave thanked everyone for the award and said that it wouldn't be possible without the help of all the people who work with him doing the shafts, carving the heads, and clubs such as Sunrise Side woodcarvers, and Tri City who are also doing the canes as a group. Thank you to the place in Farwell that supplies the wood, has it sawed and kiln dried for us.



JUDGING COMMITTEE - Frank Burghy reported that he now has a list of people who are willing to be judges at club shows and other events. He said that we need more volunteers and asked the club presidents to go back to their membership and try to acquire more volunteers.

Bette Ross won the free lunch and Bob Holder won the 50/50 drawing.

NOTICE - WOOD ART EXCHANGE #2

The time has passed for those who are participating in the wood art exchange organized by David and Sally Nye. If you signed on to participate in the exchange, your carving should have been in the mail by last week to the person you carved something for. As of this writing there are some folks who have not received the carving that was supposed to be sent to them. If you participated in the

exchange please make sure your carving has been sent. If you signed on and have not received the mailing information as to who you were to send your project to, please contact David and Sally at 269-543-4775 as some of the sent notices have been lost or undelivered due to some unforeseen problem. Also, if you have not received your carving yet and are in the exchange, please let David or Sally know that too. They do not want anyone to miss receiving their surprise article in the mail.

David reports that this year we had 33 participants in the exchange from 8 districts and 13 clubs.

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

CLUB SHOWS and HAPPENINGS

FRANKENMUTH CARVERS GUILD SHOW: Their show in October was another success. Best of Show was Alex LaCasse with a bark carving of Jesus with a tear on his cheek. Ron Brown received 2nd Best of Show for his carving of a group of fish. A Santa Face relief won 3rd Best of Show for Ed Reynolds. The attendees at the show chose Jason Haight for their favorite carver with his bark carving.

The carving plaque of the Guild Shield is finished and will be brought to the Roundup in June to be placed on the wall of the exhibit building with the other MWCA club plaques. It will proudly be on permanent display. Thank you to Ernie Burns, Anita Harrand, Kurt Sherwood, Charlie Dolan, Ron Brown and Jim Lapan who put in countless hours of work to make it happen.

We also congratulate Ed Sowulewski for his Best of Show winning caricature carving of a wood carver at his bench. There were nearly 200 carvings entered at the Eastern Woodland Carvers Club show in Converse Indiana. For the complete story check out the March-April chip Chats page 23-33.

METRO CARVERS: John Sabina held a 3-day "Learning to Carve" class at the Washington Township Senior center. There were 8 participants in the 3rd mini seminar conducted by John and was assisted by Rizal Baysa and Butch Esham.

An "Eagle Head" competition was held at the Metro February meeting in which 24 cane heads were carved. Competition was fierce and extremely difficult to judge. The four winners were Greg Hornig, Bill Epinger, Margurete Gout and Elaine Bogden.

Carver of the month for March will be Ron Copes, Metro member for the past 10 years. He will display his carvings at the meeting and loves to carve as much as time permits.

GREATER LANSING SHOW: Another great show with over 700 visitors this year. Larry Eichler won best of Show for a pair of cardinals. 1st runner up was Gene Gubbins for his perch. Don Miller was 2nd runner up with a beautiful female Mallard. Judges

this year were Charles Smalligan, Orlando Villarreal and Bill Heether who had a really hard time with the choices.

The featured artist was 16 year old Alec LaCasse with his bark carving. Alec was the youngest ever feature carver. International carver Emma Malcangi was our special guest. Sylvan Salvador made a visit to the teens who were there to encourage them to keep up with what they were doing. We had 3 teenagers in our show with the youngest being 13, who also took a first place ribbon in the novice division.

84 tables were reserved for the show and the show was carried on WILX and the Home network television for Meridian Township. Teresa Erskine, show chairman, thanks all the Greater Lansing Wood Carvers for all their help in making the show such a success.

SUNRISE SIDE CARVERS: Show coming up May 7-8 at the new location at the Oscoda High School. This is a great show to either participate in or attend. The Oscoda High School Athletic Boosters club provides lunch.

May 9-11 following the show, Steve Brown, caricature carver, will be teaching a carving class at the Oscoda Senior Center. For more information call Charles Flanders 989-736-3678.

April 20th, the carvers hosted a cane presentation at the VFW Hall in Harrisville where a number of veterans received their canes.

TRI-CITY: We have been invited to carve and demonstrate our talents at the Timberdoodle Festival at Hartley Nature Center on May 7th. The club is committed to making toys again this year for the Toys for Tots program. In March our guest speaker was Tom Gauthier from Bay City. Tom is a scroll sawyer and demonstrated the use of the scroll saw. Another guest speaker was Heidi Workman who spoke on color mixing and paint matching using her color wheel poster.

SHOW CHANGES

SHOW CANCELLED: The Kalamazoo Valley Carvers Guild is very sorry to let everyone know that due to a number of unforeseen circumstances the Kalamazoo Valley Woodcarvers Guild has cancelled their show scheduled for Sept. 24-25, 2011. If you know of anyone who needs to be informed, please do so.

DATE CHANGE – BESSER MUSEUM DATE IS JUNE 25th not June 4th as stated in the last newsletter. The museum apologizes for sending the wrong date. They had confused it with another annual event they are planning. THUNDER BAY WOODCARVERS are partnering with the museum to depict life in the early 19th century and have invited Michigan wood carving members to participate in this event. You may demonstrate carving you may display and sell your carvings. There will also be a people's choice award, a whittling contest and soap carving for the visitors. For more information please contact: Christine Witulski, Education Curator of the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan - Phone: 989-356-2202 email cwitulski@bessermuseum.org Website: www.bessermuseum.org

CHIPS AND CHATTER

EVART ROUNDUP: This are well under way for the 13th annual Wood Carvers Roundup June 8-11 in Evert at the Osceola County 4H-FFA Fairgrounds. We have some new workshop leaders this year and many of the leaders from previous years. If you would like information on the Roundup go to www.evartroundup.com or phone 231-734-5125 or 231-734-9131. Flyer available on the website.

Ed Hak of the Tri-City show suggests you check out these websites:

1. www.pswa.net Pacific Southwest Wildlife Art
2. www.naturalimagegallery.com Gail Stanek Michigan Wildlife Carver/Artist
3. www.micromark.com Small Tool Specialists

CANE PROGRAM – As of the end of March MWCA has given out 1,214 canes to veterans. We have received 1415 applications to date, and receive about 30 applications per month. This puts us about 200 canes behind but we have around 200 carved heads in stock.

The Pride and Honor flight scheduled for June 18, 2011 still has 2 openings. If anyone knows of any other cane recipients who are interested in going on the flight please call Bill Phillips at 810-798-3401, soon. Dave Copeman, Frank Milmine and Fred Turner will be accompanying the vets to assist them in getting through security and on and off the plane and the club will pay their fair.

TIPS FOR CARVERS

John Crawford from West Michigan Carvers offers this tip for carving hair and beards:

It has been my experience that a lot of people, including me, use a V tool to carve hair and beards. Works ok but is kind of ho-hum for results. Try something new. Use a series of gouges and a knife instead.

Was reading a carving book a couple of months ago and decided to follow the instructions for once. The suggestion was to use a #8 or a #9 gouge for the beard and carve the grooves in a series of random S shapes. The width of the gouge should be adjusted according to the size of the carving. Make them curl all over the place. Keep them close together. They can and should intersect. You do not want a series of curved parallel lines. Follow the grooves with a smaller #9 or #11 gouge and sort of run the gouge on the sides of the original grooves. Try to be random and do not create a “pattern”. Vary this second cut from side to side in the original groove. With each size of gouge, try and change the depth of cut as you follow the S shapes. After all this, take a knife instead of a V tool and cut a few V slits in the grooves in random places. These can and should vary in length and size. S curve them as best as you can. Just angle the knife from side to side and remove the chip. Don’t over do this.

All of this works for hair too except that you should start with a smaller gouge.

Experiment with a block of wood to see what effects you can create with different size gouges before you try it on your “real” carving. Keep in mind that you want to vary the size, length, and depth of cut.

The use of gouges instead of a V tool is to create a series of shadows on the finished carving. This has the feeling of being a pain in the neck for beards and hair but it works. Try it. Experiment a little. Who knows, you might even like the results.

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. Please share this newsletter with the rest of your members who don’t receive it.

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>
5/7-8	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 Ewart MI	231-734-5125 or 231-734-9131
6/18	PRIDE AND HONOR FLIGHT	Detroit Metro Airport	231-810-798-3401

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

<p><i>President</i> Andrew Luckhardt (734) 323-4685 salinecarver@hughes.net</p>	<p><i>Vice President</i> There is an opening for a volunteer. Nominations and suggestions needed.</p>	<p><i>Secretary</i> Pat Murphy (810) 392-3642 patarmurp@aol.com</p>	<p><i>Treasurer</i> Mary Lou Mulick (616) 642-6790 mulickg@gmail.com</p>
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	<p><i>Webmaster</i> Terry Zobl (586) 739-7234 metrocarvers@yahoo.com</p>	<p><i>Insurance</i> Rizal Baysa 586-781-3921 rbaysa1@comcast.net</p>	