



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENTS CARVING BENCH

2012 is here. I hope it will be a great one for you all. Things are running along very good. We have hit 100 students for the 2012 Seminar in Midland. The first time we hit over 100 before the first of the year. The only class that is full is Jim Wilsford, animal power. Many of the other classes are over half full, so get your reservations in soon. The rest of the seminar is going along smoothly.

The raffle is well under way and is expected to be great. The biggest change is that the Banquet will be held on Thursday night instead of Friday night. This will allow more people to be able to attend and it will not be so confusing as Friday night when every one is in a hurry to leave for home.

The December meeting of the members turned out great. We had a very good number of clubs present.

Things are slowing down in December, my move is finally over and I have settled down to getting some carving done and return to the routine of every day living. Finished carving some wooden bowls that I gave to the kids in 2010, giving them their choice as to what they wanted on them.

If any member has any concerns or suggestions to improve our association please let me know and I will see what I can do for you. Problems will not be accepted, ha, ha, ha!
Andrew Luckhardt President

VICE PRESIDENT and TREASURER NEWS

**Happy New Year from
GARRY and MARY LOU MULICK**

It is time to make your annual new years resolution and this year make it something positive. Learn a new carving skill or enhance your knowledge by attending the 2012 Learning Seminar in Midland. There is a wide variety of classes available at all skill levels. Spend a week with old friends and work on making some new ones.

The Mulick's have used their week at Midland as an excuse to get the camper out of storage and get it ready for another season of fun. There is a lot to do in our great state and if you check the MWCA calendar you'll see some fine opportunities to combine both camping and carving. Contact Garry Mulick or Andrew Luckhardt to get an application for the seminar or visit the MWCA website.

CLUB NEWS

METRO CARVERS: Theme for our upcoming March 17-18 show will be “St.Patrick”. Doug Evans will be our featured carver this year.

The Sterling Heights Senior Center allows us to present the “Lean On Me” canes to our veterans during our Monday afternoon carving sessions. From January 1, to December 12, 2011 we have presented 102 canes to our veterans at the SHSC.

FRANKENMUTH CARVERS GUILD -



Dick Hanson did an exceptional carving and has donated it to enhance the Eagles nest. The motto is not so clear in the picture, it says “The Whittler’s Moto” With a sharp knife there is never a dull moment.”

Billy Stephens, Port William, Ohio

Diane Reed our web page expert is doing a great job. She has suggested we change our web provider to reduce the cost.

Keep the old address handy we may still get to use it. We have changed our web page provider. The address is

<http://woodcarvers.webplus.net>

We will be scheduling a carving seminar at the Eagles nest in May. The instructor will be Stu Martin.

New Woodcarving Guild - Haslett Public Library

Meeting dates Jan 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - 10:00am to 12:30pm
Experienced carvers will be mentoring anyone who would like to try out the craft. No charge.
New membership \$20.00 per year.

For information call John Barany 517-3396-501

Bob Gustafson
Fred Kendrick
Bob Giesey
Cliff Irwin

Are hard at work on the
Kroll Carousel Horse.
You guys are doing great!



TRI-CITY:

It looks like we will have a nice turn out of hand made toys to give to Toys for Tots this year at our Christmas party.

Antique Warehouse. The Tri City Carvers have again been asked to show and sell our work (if we wish) at the Antique Warehouse during the month of January. The carvings will be displayed in the showcase in the front. Bob Gubbins is going to do a fish decoy mini class on the 3rd Tuesday in February.

From Ed Hak – interesting web sites:

1. www.flwoodartexpo.com – Florida Wood Art Expo
2. www.glfda.com – Great Lakes Fish Decoy Carvers Assn.
3. www.carvedbyramsey.com – Fine Art Wood Carvings

Guge Class Bob Guge will be doing a four day seminar next March. This seminar will be a cedar wax wing with a dropped, inserted wing.

Al Nelson was our speaker this month. He brought a selection of his fish decoys, carved spear handles, and carved fish.

SUNRISE SIDE CARVERS: Even so far this winter we have had an average of about 18 members at the carving sessions. Kathy Moffit had a 2-week workshop on bark carving and Howard Lahti also did a 2-week session carving Christmas related items. Dick Torrey finished November with a Christmas ornament session and Charlie Flanders also held a Christmas related item workshop.

CHIPS AND CHATTER

Announcing a new CANE HEAD CARVING COMPETITION. The "Lean on Me" cane program is planning to host a finished eagle head carving competition at any of the shows who would like to include it during their show. The objective is to use competition as a means to continuously improve carving skills and raise awareness of the Patriot Cane Program.

*We ask carvers to complete the eagle head carving and bring it or send it with someone to a show or event hosting the competition.

*The carver does not need to be present to participate.

*NO MAILED IN HEADS ACCEPTED FOR COMPETITION.

*Only completed, properly drilled, painted or natural finished eagle heads will be accepted.

Carvers who submit a finished eagle head will receive a newly designed MWCA Cane patch/cane patch bar, which can be sewn under their existing 3" cane patch.

We also plan on having quality carving tools such as carving knives etc. or a \$25 gift certificate redeemable at the Cedar Bird Shoppe for the winner of each show/event competition we participate in. Multiple prizes may be awarded based on the number of entries submitted at a given venue such as; if 20 carvings are submitted a second prize will be awarded, if 30 are submitted a third prize awarded, and so on. It is TBD if a selection of tools will be purchased in advance for the winner choice.

For more complete information please contact Dave Copeman at 596-979-4852, or Bill Phillips at 810-798-3401.

THANK YOU: Thank you and the members of your Association for the recent contribution of \$180.00 plus a goodly amount of food to the Sears Food Pantry. What a lot of hungry people that will feed!

Your continuing support helps in our effort to alleviate hunger in our community. We are truly blessed by the generosity of caring individuals, business owners, and local churches. Without such support we would have a difficult time trying to meet these needs.

Thank you again for helping us during these challenging times. Sincerely Gary Goodfellow, Chairman of the Sears Food Pantry.

MWCA MEMBERSHIP DUES: In January each club president (or designated member) will receive their annual MWCA dues renewal information. The MWCA memberships are \$1.00 dues per person. Even if your club has one membership that includes husband and wife, if each wants to be an MWCA member they each need to include the \$1.00. To be an MWCA member (for seminar, etc. purposes) they each have to be named a member and have a separate MWCA number and pay the \$1.00 dues to MWCA. If you belong to more than one club, you would pay \$1.00 for each club you belong to. (it is usually included in your club dues)

Whenever anyone new joins your club, no matter what time of year it is, we would appreciate your sending their \$1.00 dues at that time to MWCA treasurer Mary Lou Mulick. We do NOT pro-rate dues. They will then be added to your clubs roster as an MWCA member. They will pay again when MWCA dues are renewed. Each \$1.00 membership goes to support your organization.

CARVING TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

From the **WEST MICHIGAN CARVERS: STROPS**

The more I strop and the more I use different strops with all kinds of leather on them, the more convinced I am that the leather should be as thin as you can find and the smooth side out. Thick leather especially with the rough side out has too much give to it. It will round the edge of the blade no matter how careful you are in stropping. If you find the edge rounding, it is not your fault, it is the strop. By the way, 400 grit emery paper works as well as leather, just not as durable.

With proper sharpening, you should be able to cut across the grain on the end of a piece wood easily. If the blade drags, or leaves a mark in the wood, start with the stone again. Dull knives have caused more cuts and have stopped more people from carving than any other thing. John Crawford's recommendation.

BEGINNER TOOLS: Chris Whillock www.woodcarverswarehouse.com

So many times we get questions like "Where do I start?" "Which 2 or 3 tools should I get?" Our answer ... it depends. What type of carving do you want to do? If it is hand-held projects like figures, animals, whittling ... then a knife and a few palm tools are needed. If you'd like to carve larger relief carving, signs, heads/busts etc ... then you should look at full-sized, mallet tools. If you plan to do both ... we would recommend full-sized tools because you can use a carving arm and screw to hold smaller projects for use with the larger tools. Palm tools are for hand-held projects ... if you try doing relief with them ... we call that knuckle busting (you may know what I mean).

If you plan to use knives and palm tools ... begin with a good bench knife/carving knife then add a larger v-tool and then a larger gouge. Why larger? You can use part of the edge and make smaller cuts ... but it is very difficult to make larger cuts with a small tool. If all else fails get the larger tool. My favorite 3 tools would be a bench/detail knife and large 8-10 (5/16" to 3/8") v-tool and a

similar size gouge. You can do eye sockets, hair, rouging, fur ... lots of things with just those 3 tools. The next addition would be a small v-tool 3-4 mm ... Start with a basic set of tools and then build as you need to ... and always get a good brand of tools! Thank you ... Happy Carving.

WINTER CARVING (WOOD ART) EXCHANGE- David and Sally Nye are again going to head up the carving exchange that has happened the past two winters. They will be announcing the sign-up time in the near future through the MWCA chat list. Presidents and MWCA club representatives will also be notified to pass the information on to their club members. Within 2-3 weeks after sign-up, each participant will be notified who to send their carving to. So-o-o-o, you can start your carving now to be ready to send it when the time comes. If you sign up to do a carving, you will also receive one and a little information about the person who carved yours.

It was a lot of fun last year, and those who participated were all happy with what they received and also learned something about the carver they received their wood art from. Any questions can be sent to fancarversworld@gmail.com or call 269-543-4755

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> |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 3/17-18 | METRO CARVERS SHOW | United Road & Commercial Workers Hall Madison Hgts. | 269-435-7245 |
| 4/14 | MWCA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING | Ponderosa - Midland | 734-323-4685 616-642-6790 |
| April TBD | GREATER LANSING SHOW | TBD | 734-323-4685 |
| 5/12-13 | SUNRISE SIDE CARVING SHOW | Oscoda High School | 989-362-7982 |
| 5/21-25 | MWCA SEMINAR | Midland Fairgrounds | 734-323-4685 616-642-6790 |

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

ANDY LUCKHARDT NEW ADDRESS: 10821 Antcliff Rd, Brooklyn MI 49230

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| <i>President</i> Andrew Luckhardt (734) 323-4685 salinecarver@gmail.com | <i>Vice President</i> Garry Mulick (616) 642-6790 mulickg@gmail.com | <i>Secretary</i> Pat Murphy (810) 392-3642 patarmurp@yahoo.com | <i>Treasurer</i> Mary Lou Mulick (616) 642-6790 mulickg@gmail.com |
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