



**“CHATTER”**  
**NEWSLETTER OF THE**  
**MICHIGAN WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION**  
**www.miwoodcarvers.com**  
**MAY 2013**                      **VOLUME 18 ISSUE 3**

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### NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENTS BENCH

It's time for another news article from your President. The election is over and I guess I am your President for another 2 years. I appreciate your confidence very much that you have in me. I will do my best to lead this great carving association in a way that will continue to make this the best in the nation, thank you.

We have a new Vice President, Bill Phillips who has been recuperating for a few years and should be in good shape (Just kidding) to help run this association. The rest of the board remains the same with Pat Murphy as secretary and Mary Lou Mulick as treasurer.

Now for other things that came during our Annual Meeting on April 13th. The video library has been discontinued and is being disposed of and the funds are being transferred to the Soap Carving Fund. The quorum for voting purposes at an MWCA meeting was changed from 30% to 25%. Insurance for the Roundup was approved. The Cane Project is now over 2,026 canes that have been presented and is going strong. Thanks to Dave Copeman and Bill Phillips and especially to those members that keep the program going by carving eagle heads. Thank you very much for the continuing supply of eagle heads.

The Association will again this year carve Holiday Ornaments for the Festival of Trees for the Children's Hospital of Dearborn, MI. Everyone start carving ornaments in your spare time for this good cause. The South Central club, which I have joined due to my recent move, is decorating 4 grape vine wreaths not, necessarily with Christmas ornaments but all

kinds. They will be presented to the 4 places that are providing free meeting places for the 4 different groups of Club. The club already has several large boxes full. Good way to spend your spare time between your carving projects.

The Seminar is going great, with 117 students signed up. Time is running short if anyone is planning on coming and taking a class with the best instructors available. Come and spend a week with your fellow carvers of Michigan and all over the USA. I guarantee you a very good time. We have a few new instructors for the 2014 Seminar to be held on May 19th thru the 23rd, 2014. Bob Beirman, Sharon Bechtold, Wood Burning are returning, more information later. A new decorative duck carver, Don Miller of Sterling Heights, MI, an excellent carver of all kinds of ducks will be at the seminar on Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup> to display his Ducks. Registration for 2014 will be held Wednesday Morning as usual.

We are again taking part in the Michigan Festival of Gourds to be held in Imlay City on September 13th to the 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. So plan on reserving tables and lets spend 3 days at the Gourd festival, and spend time camping on the fairgrounds with carving Members.

The By-Laws committee will be working on revising the MWCA bylaws which need updating. The committee is Sandy Holder, Doug Evans, Myrna Miller, and Sally Nye.

Last week we lost one of our top members of the MWCA and the Chief Osceola Club, Virginia Huffman passed away. Things will not be the same at the Roundup and the Spit & Whittle.

The fall/winter MWCA meeting will be October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Hopefully the weather will be snowless!

Your President, Andrew Luckhardt

### CLUB NEWS

**SUNRISE CARVERS: 2013 SUNRISE CARVING SHOW** is the weekend before Mother's Day, May 4th and 5th and will be held again at the Oscoda High School. Alec LeCasse is this year's featured carver and is giving a 2-day class on Monday May 6th and Tuesday May 7th which will be held at the Oscoda Sr. Center.

In February and March Mitch Housey gave us class on the "Rose" and Greg Wilkinson gave a workshop on a flower relief plaque.

**WEST MICHIGAN CARVERS** participated in the 4-H Festival in Hart where they have participated for the last 15 years. The members set up a few tables, carved and gave away millions of twig flowers. Did you know that May 8<sup>th</sup> is No Socks Day and May 14<sup>th</sup> is Dance Like a Chicken Day????!!

**METRO CARVERS:** Nominations for the Metrocarver's election at our May 14, 2013 meeting are open. The existing officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, & Treasurer) have indicated that they will run again. However, nominations for these positions and the two Board member offices (two year terms) that expire this year (Pat and Arlene Murphy) are open for nominations.

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SHOW:** Last year it was shirt sleeves and in the 80's and this year's show opened with ice and a couple inches of snow but that didn't hamper anything. The Show was almost a carbon copy of a year ago.

**Best of Show-Dick Lamphier** His carving was from the "human group" judging category of two aristocratic political figures. **2nd Best of Show- Bill Ebinger** did a great owl. **3rd Best of Show-John Karalunas** for his caricatures entered a bull rider with broken bones, bandages and crutches.

**Carver's Choice winners:** (we had 76 carvers participate in the voting) **1st place – Don Wilcox** (collage of animal carvings).

**2nd.place - Gary Bityk** with a bark carving and there was a 3rd place tie - **Harold Joseph** (large picture of his voyage) and - **Joe Beaudette's** covered wagon.

**People's Choice winner:** (we had a total of 30 carvings in the display). **1st place - Gary Bityk** (bark carving), **2nd place - Joe Beaudette's** covered wagon with figures and **3rd place - Don Wilcox** (collage of animal carvings)

**Thirty Nine eagle heads** were entered into competition with an additional fourteen for display. Joe Randazzo, Bob Dixon, Bill

Anton and Mason Mooney were the winners of the competition and each received a \$25.00 gift certificate, redeemable for tools or other item, from the Cedar Bird Shoppe.

Debbe Edwards spring event was hosted by Arlene and Pat Murphy of Memphis Michigan. It was held in a spacious studio over Pat's workshop. The carving subject was an otter. Round outs were in basswood or butternut.

On March 24th, 25th and 26th Bob Guge and his son Josh held and carving seminar which involved carving an Indigo Bunting, It was attended by 15 enthusiastic students ready to learn.

**TRI-CITY CARVERS:** At our April 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday carving class Gene Gubbins had us all carve a feather with an eagle head, we had a great time. The March Bob Guge class went very well. Bob Gubbins will teach carving classes at Rogers Hobby shop in July and August, a requirement for taking the class is membership in Tri City Carving Club. The soap carving workshop at the Merrill 4H club found 16 children and 4 adults attending. After that, a class was held at McAulliffe Middle School where 40 sixth grade students attended.

**CHIEF OSCEOLA CARVERS** are sorry to let you know of the loss of an original member of their club after a short illness. Virginia Huffman was one of the founding members of the Roundup and Spit and Whittle and she will be unconditionally missed. She was a great lady and a special friend to us all; we are privileged to have had her in our lives.

**FRANKENMUTH CARVERS:** The Frankenmuth Wood Carvers Guild will host its Wood Carving Show on Sun. October 20 at the Frankenmuth High School from 10am to 4pm. For information on being an exhibitor please contact Registration Chair Denny Ringlein at 810-653-1706 or Show Chair Anita Harrand at 810-688-2771, or [aharr76@hotmail.com](mailto:aharr76@hotmail.com). Also the registration packets are available at our website <http://woodcarvers.webplus.net>

### **CHIPS and CHATTER**

**SUNRISE CANE PRESENTATIONS:** On April 2nd, 2013 Charlie and Harriet Flanders and Dick & Shirley Torrey presented 3 canes to veterans in Bob Oesterling's very nicely decorated barn and were also served a very enjoyable lunch. The veterans were delighted to receive the canes and thanked our club for being involved in such a nice program for the veterans. A good time was had by all. When Dick and I arrived at the barn we were met by a very good friend whose two brothers were receiving the canes and we had no idea they were her brothers. That was a very wonderful surprise.  
Shirley Torrey

**MWCA PROMOTION ITEMS:** From Denny Mid-Michigan Woodcarvers Club, and Promotions. Look at our MWCA website [www.miwoodcarvers.com](http://www.miwoodcarvers.com) and then go to Ornaments, FOT, this is relay a nice new Project, hope to see many Carvers participate. I will be at Sunrise Side Carving Show and the MWCA Seminar with all promotional items.

We have a new Screen Printer lined up for Seminar, shirts, tee shirts, and hats, coffee mugs. If anyone has any other ideas for printed stuff please let me know. I will see what we can add with them. Hoping we can do a good business with them, and then I can get them to come to Roundup and Spit & whittle, and maybe Festival of Gourds and Woodcarving.  
Call Denny @ 989-277-5739 MWCA Ornament Project

**FESTIVAL OF TREES:** At the April Board meeting MWCA approved a proposal, presented by Bill Phillips, to ask our members to carve Christmas tree ornaments and donate them to the Michigan Festival of Trees charity. The Festival of Trees is one of the largest annual special event fundraisers for medical research at Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation. You can learn more about this charity at their web site [www.fot.org](http://www.fot.org) or on our web site [www.miwoodcarvers.com/ornaments](http://www.miwoodcarvers.com/ornaments).

We had a similar project in 2009 when we donated ornaments to the Canadian Festival of Trees and it was very successful with many of our membership participating. Now we have made arrangements with the Michigan Festival of Trees to provide our hand carved ornaments to be sold in their Gift Shop. This means that we can make carved ornaments light enough to hang on a tree or larger carvings suitable for a gift shop. The FOT organization said that any carvings not sold by Christmas will be handed out to children in the hospitals.

MWCA is asking our members to get involved and use your carving or wood-burning artistic talent to support this worthwhile endeavor. Make sure that you sign your art work and, if it is a tree ornament, include a means to hang it. When completed turn in your ornament to the club organizer or regional Co-Chairperson in your area or you can bring it to any MWCA club show or event where it will be collected. We will deliver it to the DMC (Detroit Medical Center). They are in charge of all the research for Children's Hospital in Michigan.

MWCA is also in need of individuals to step forward and volunteer to be club organizers or regional co-chairpersons for this MWCA Ornament Project. These are the people who will make this project successful by building enthusiasm among the membership. One person cannot do all the work so please consider helping with the administrative tasks. If you want to help please contact Bill Phillips by phone **810-798-3401** or e-mail [br2phillips@yahoo.com](mailto:br2phillips@yahoo.com).

**CARVING EXCHANGE** has ended. Some of the carvers have now received their exchange wood art. Have you finished and sent your carving yet? It is very exciting to open the package and see the article that was made especially for you. We hope to continue this event in future years. A big thank you goes out to Sally and David Nye for all their many efforts for starting and continuing this event each year. We are already looking forward to next year.

**MICHIGAN FESTIVAL of GOURDS and WOODCARVING:** On September 13 - 15 the Michigan Wood Carvers Association is elated to join the Michigan Festival of Gourds this year. It will be at the Eastern Michigan State Fairgrounds in Imlay City. We ask if you're a wood carver or burner and would like to attend please contact Bill Phillips ASAP. We plan on offering FREE youth soap carving and wood burning each day during a set time and place each day as directed by the festivals leadership. If you would like to assist with the youth events let Bill know. We hope you will attend and set up your club or your personnel table(s) like we do for a carving show. If you plan on attending we need to know the amount of table space you will need for your display and if you have your own tables or will need them provided. You may contact Bill Phillips at 810-798-3401, cell 810-798-0311, [br2phillips@yahoo.com](mailto:br2phillips@yahoo.com) or you can also contact Denny Sekerenes at 989-277-5739 or email [patden@chartermi.net](mailto:patden@chartermi.net) Check out the details at [www.miwoodcarvers.com/Gord-Festival.html](http://www.miwoodcarvers.com/Gord-Festival.html) See more about the festival at [www.michiganfestivalofgourds.com](http://www.michiganfestivalofgourds.com)

**CHIP OF THE MONTH** from John Crawford of West Michigan Carvers:

**#3 gouge**

I was working on a back scratcher awhile back that required me to remove a lot of wood over a long distance. Usually I attack something like this with a large knife and really try to remove a lot of wood in a hurry. The area that I was working on had to be straight and smooth. The knife just wasn't working and was really slow. Small chips, rough ridges and was fast becoming a pain in the hand. Had a brain storm and grabbed a #3 by 3/4 inch gouge. What a difference. The wood came off quickly and was very smooth when I finished. That gouge literally attacked the wood.

The same results worked on a couple of Christmas ornaments too. I had to turn a square piece of wood into a round. Worked on it with the knife and when I finished, the round had what looked like a large number of facets on it. The knife just was slow and not working well. Here comes the # 3 again and it worked like a charm.

Many times we get caught up in the project that we are using a knife for most of the work and forget that we do have a few other tools that will do the job better and faster. Use that # 3, you will 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 by email.

CHATTER NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF:  
 JANUARY                      MARCH                      MAY  
 JULY                              SEPTEMBER                      NOVEMBER

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
5/4-5	SUNRISE SIDE CARVING SHOW	Oscoda High School	989-362-7982
5/20-24	MWCA LEARNING SEMINAR Openings still available in most classes	Midland Fairgrounds <a href="http://www.miwoodcarvers.com">www.miwoodcarvers.com</a>	734-323-4684 616-642-6790
6/5-8	EVART ROUNDUP	Evert Fairgrounds <a href="http://www.evartroundup.com">www.evartroundup.com</a>	734-649-3259 <a href="mailto:rhads134@comcast.net">rhads134@comcast.net</a>
6/10-14	FLOYDS WOODCARVING SEMINR	Evert Fairgrounds <a href="http://www.fantasycarving.com">www.fantasycarving.com</a>	734-649-3259 <a href="mailto:rhads134@comcast.net">rhads134@comcast.net</a>

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