



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENTS CARVING BENCH

Here we go again summer is over and the cold winds are blowing and the snow will soon be flying. One more MWCA Club show is left. The Fruitbelt Show in Cassopolis, MI. A 2-day show on November 2nd and 3rd, and a very enjoyable one. Let's all support the MWCA shows.

Due to the passing of Howard Lahti we were in need of a representative for District 9 in the Oscoda area. We are in deep gratitude to Sally Nye who worked for MWCA even while under sever distress of a mayor medical problem, in locating a new Rep. to represent District 9. She announced that Harriet Flanders of the Sunrise Side Carving Club has accepted the position. I for one thank God for her recovery and that she will be given a complete recovery. Thank you Sally.

The Learning Seminar registration is going along very good. 76 students signed up. 4 Classes are full, Debbie Edwards, Gary Falin, Dylan Goodson and Fred & Elaine Stenman. We are very sorry to see Floyd Rhadigan, caricature caring instructor, have to cancel his class due to a Caricature Carvers of America event he could not change. Floyd has been with us for as long as I can remember and will be missed. He has promised he will return next year in 2015. Since Gary Falin caricature class has filled up we decided we needed another caricature instructor to tide us over. I contacted several prospects, one said he is only taking local events and another has taken a position and is not scheduling classes. I went to the Tri City Show and many said go see Bob Thurston's caricature display. Bob has been teaching

Classes for some time with great success. The displays of caricatures on his table were great. I talked with many of the members of the Tri City Club and they all said he was great and very well liked as an instructor. He has accepted to come and I have sent him contracts and information about the seminar. Here is a good chance to try someone new and perhaps learn some new styles in caricature carving, more information later. **The new instructors are as follows: Bob Thurston caricature, and Gloria Marlow, Gourd artist.** Please add Bob Thurston to your instructors list till we get it into the system. Get your registration in soon so that you can tie down the class you want.

The Festival of Trees Program has received very excellent support from our members. Many more than we expected, thank you for supporting our children. We have started another program of carving "clinging crosses" for the patients of the Hospices of Michigan, where we donate the carved crosses to patients for spiritual purposes, a very worthy cause.

I am checking everything I can find to verify my age, driver's license, birth certificate, and so forth so I will not state my age falsely again which is coming faster than I would like. I still regret the mistake I made a year ago. Our membership meeting went very well in Lansing with good attendance. Thank you to all who attended.

Keep carving.

Andrew Luckhardt, President of MWCA

SHOW REPORTS

SPIT & WHITTLE: In Ewart was again another fun event for carvers. Campers started arriving on Tuesday before we started on Friday. Carving started early on Friday and continued till Sunday afternoon. Floyd had his usual blanket trade and we all had a blast as usual. Our potluck and ice cream were again enjoyed by all. The seed spit was again won by our Ontario contingent; those guys sure can spit accurately!! We are all looking forward to next year September 5th -7th. Cedar Bird Shoppe was there with all their supplies and John Dunkle kept everyone's tools sharp.

FESTIVAL OF GOURDS: This year we had 16 carver spaces rented representing 6 MWCA member clubs along with the MWCA display tables. 9 campers stayed at the campground and a couple folks stayed in local motels. The weather was poor this year with rain for 2 of the 3 days so Saturday was the only day we offered wood burning and soap carving for the kids. There were about 50 kids who took part in Saturday afternoon classes. Some carvers took advantage of the gourd art classes offered by the gourd instructors. We used a couple of electric heaters in the carving area to keep warm. There was also a small electric fire place which we sat around like a campfire.

Cedar Bird Shoppe, Laser Mark-It and Kay's Screen printing from Midland were the vendors in our building. The festival donated \$25 towards our cost for soap carving and woodburning materials for the kids and Kroger's donated 20 bars of soap.

All in all we did have a good time despite the rain. We look forward to next year when the weather will be great.

TRI CITY SHOW: Held September 21st, it was another great show. Wildfowl decoy carver Gary Hanson of Sterling Heights MI was the featured carver. Chainsaw carver Tom Gilman of Bay City MI demonstrated outside the show building. Boy Scout Troop 321 provided volunteers to assist during the show.

The carving competition saw 55 entries by 22 carvers in four classes, Master, Open, Intermediate, and Novice. The Novice class was judged by club members Gene Gubbins and Ed Sowulewski, while Featured carver Gary Hanson along with John Karalunas and Larry Eichler served as judges for the remaining classes. Best of Novice Class went to Tom Merkle of Bay City, MI. for his Cactus Wren. Best Intermediate Class carving was awarded to Theresa Ekdorn of Roscommon, MI. with a stylized Song bird. Best of Show, selected from Open Class entries, was awarded to Gordon Ford of Flushing, MI for a natural finish Santa. Second Best of Show went to Ed Hak of Saginaw, MI with a Downey Woodpecker, and Third Best of Show was awarded to Robbert Gubbins of Saginaw, MI for a natural finish Angel. Best of Masters Class went to Gene Gubbins of Burt, MI. for his Rainbow Trout. Ed Sowulewski of Saginaw,

MI was presented with the People's Choice Award for his caricature carving of B.O.'s Fish Wagon. Club member Jim Shutt and his wife Kathy of Saginaw, MI teamed up to photograph the winning entries.

A special Eagle head competition was held to support the Michigan Wood Carvers Association's Patriot Cane Project for military veterans. Sixteen Eagle heads were entered into competition. The winner was Mason Mooney from Ovid, MI who is a member of the Mid-Michigan Wood Carvers.

The Tri-City Carvers would like to thank everyone that contributed to making the show another success and we look forward to the 27th Annual Wood Carving and Art Show on September 27, 2014. Club information and news can be found at www.carverscompanion.com

WASHINGTON - CARVEFEST IX was held on September 27 and 28 at the Washington Township Senior Center. The event was successful and saw 78 attendees on Friday and 72 attendees on Saturday. We had thirteen different instructors who lead 14 different projects. Paul Balog's ornaments and keepsakes in a box were popular.

Bill Jaquays was unable to participate for the first time. (Bill provided our beginning carver instruction as well as tool sales for the first eight Carve Fests). Frank and Phyllis Burghy had all of their Cedar Bird Shop items for sale at the event. Other tool sales were Dunkle knives and gouges available from John Sabina.

2013 attendance was below our seven-year average and after considerable discussion, we have concluded that we need new instructors and new projects to keep the Carve Fest fresh and appealing. We will hold Carve Fest X next September only if we can identify four new instructors and projects by the Metro Show in March. We would certainly welcome instructors from outside of the Metro Carvers. Anyone who has an interest in instructing should contact John Sabina (jsquareds@att.net or 248-224-2902.) Carve Fest is a tradition that we would very much like to continue. We already have the infrastructure in place. We need only some new and fresh projects and instructors to boost our attendance.

John Sabina

SALINE SHOW: The Saline Show was another great show. Attendance was down some but everyone still had a great time ... The winners of the People's Choice Award... First place was Don Miller with one of his ducks: Second place was Tom Jacobson with a deep relief carving, and third went to Joe Dubey with a giraffe. Randal Olds also won the biggest friendship cane I ever saw, well over six feet... Also the swap meet was very well attended with many trading and bartering for all kinds of patterns, books, tools you name it ...Well, things have finally settled down, and everyone is just back to carving and making things for Christmas now... everyone have a good holiday and carve safely.....

Mr. Pooch - Howard Puchalsky

FRANKENMUTH 26th WOODCARVERS SHOW: The Frankenmuth Wood Carvers Guild held their annual show on 10/20/13 and it was a great success. Seventy-three tables were reserved and we had about 83 exhibitors and vendors. Special guests were a professional carver and sculpture from Winsor, Ontario Fred Zavadil and his wife Hana. Fred gave a special demonstration on sculpting a face from clay – very impressive and educational. We were also delighted to have Dan Conners from Southtown Woodcarvers of Western New York who had a table and entered carvings. Over 600 people went through the show. Special thanks to Dennis Harrand and Linda Sales who did demonstrations on basic tool sharpening techniques and woodburning. The 2014 Show is planned for October 19th. Hope to see you there.

Best of Show: John Krazny (Relief of Woman's Face) Frankenmuth Carver. Second Place: Ken Kohl (Castle and dragon) Southtown Woodcarvers of Western NY. Third Place was John Karalunas (Cowboy Caricatures, "This bud's for you Doc) Blue Water Carver). People's Choice Winner was Don Miller (Black Duck) Independent carver.

Submitted by: Anita Harrand, Show Chair

CLUB NEWS

SUNRISE CARVERS: Carol Hodges gave a class in September on stick flowers; Jim Phinner presented a seminar on Eagle Head Canes. Next year's show will be May 3-4 and a totem pole is to be the special show project, led by Greg Wilkinson. We had two cane presentations this summer and both were well attended and appreciated by the recipients and friends and family. Our elections are coming up on October 15th.

HAPPY CHIPPERS: The Happy Chippers in Hale have been having a good year. We were down on members, but we have gotten new members to join by putting an ad in the paper. We even have a group of carvers who will meet during the winter months when the snowbirds leave! That will be good. We had carvers at both the Iosco and Ogemaw Fairs this summer. At Iosco we did soap carving and the children really enjoy doing that. Everyone is working on their own projects. It is a great group of people and many great carvers !!!!!

TRI-CITY CARVERS: We will be having our election of officers in November. Gene Gubbins will have a seminar about December 9th for carving a "Gone Fishing" sign which will be a twelve inch Rainbow Trout carved in relief. Gene will also try to do a class in December on a fish decoy.

On Friday September 20, a few of the club carvers showed off their talents and skills at the Saginaw Downtown Farmers Market. There was a lot of interest from the public and also good interest about our show. On October 5th we carved at the Hartley Fall Festival and we could also sell our carvings. We had another successful show, see the article elsewhere in the newsletter. A heart felt thank you to all who helped make it a success.

WEST MICHIGAN CARVERS: Another tip from John Crawford – Read an article in a magazine a while back by Harold Enlow on carving a wood spirit. What was interesting was the small number of tools that he uses to do a carving. Basically he uses a #3 gouge, small V tool and a knife. Started to wonder who else is using the minimum amount of tools so I went back and started looking through a few more magazines. Most of the “how to” articles provides a tools list and I noticed that most of the more famous carvers use the bare minimum amount of tools to accomplish the majority of carving on a piece. They will list 7 or 8 tools used but if you read the article they use only 3 or 4 to do the majority of the work.. I suspect that most of us collect tools because we can, not because we need them!

FRANKENMUTH CARVERS: We will be having Debbe Edwards teach a three day class on realistic animals May 15th -17th, 2014.

METRO CARVERS are busy getting things in gear for their March carving show March 22nd-23RD. For information for their show please call Mike LePage at **586-791-7728** or email him at **naturecarver@sbcglobal.net**

MID-MICHIGAN CARVERS: Everything is going well at Mid-Michigan Woodcarvers, several members have already paid dues for 2014, and we have 2 new members, if you are ever in the Corunna area on Tues. or Thurs. stop in and carve awhile. .

If you need promotion items, I now have calendars, contact patden@chartermi.net or call **989-277-5739**, Thank You, and to all Happy Holidays

CHIPS and CHATTER

2 NEW CLUBS-MWCA IS GROWING

Welcome to the **ARENAC BAY CARVERS** who meet in Standish at the Standish Free Methodist Church. They meet Tuesday from 6-9 pm. For more information call Gordie Martin, 989-697-5586 or email him at **poppasmail@aol.com**.

Welcome also to the **HIDEOUT WOOD CARVERS** who meet in Tawas City at Richard Torrey's. Call him at **989-362-7892** or email **tirgertwo@charter.net** for more information.

FESTIVAL OF TREES: The MWCA carvers have come through again with carving the Christmas Tree ornaments for medical research for the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation fund raiser. Thank you to all who have given their talents and donated carved ornaments.

We would like to invite everyone to view the FOT display at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center located at 15801 Michigan Ave, Dearborn MI. Schedule will be posted on the **FOT.org** website and at **miwoodcarvers.com** . Please pass this info on to friends & family. Come join us and view the trees and other Christmas items along with our wood carvings & wood burnings in the gift shop. Who knows you may wish to purchase a few items for Christmas gifts. Our carvers have outdone themselves with carvings along with a couple of Santa's helpers who made a few special Christmas tree skirts for the bottom of trees which won't last long in the gift shop, so come early.

We hope the hospital will agree to allow us to bring a Professional Santa (Norm Jepson) to the hospital Christmas Day to present the unsold ornaments to the children in the hospital that morning.

The FOT special “Preview Gala” event party (black tie optional) is on Saturday Nov 23rd 6:30 - 11pm Tickets are \$75/adult & \$25 children. Click on FOT.org ticket sales to order tickets. The admission tickets for (Sunday Nov. 24th thru Sunday Dec 1st) viewings are \$5 per adult, \$3 children, under age 2 free. The 2012 event had over 7,000 visitors so please attend in 2013. Sun. Nov 24th 2pm – 7 pm, Mon. Nov 25th 10am- 7pm, Tues. Nov 26th 10am-7pm, Wend. Nov 27th 10am-6pm, CLOSED **THANKSGIVING DAY** Fri. Nov 29th 10am-8pm., Sat. Nov 30th 10am-8pm, Sun. Dec 1st 10am-4pm.

The FOT host is looking for volunteers to assist during the above hours. As a volunteer you will have fun and be part of this festive event. You will greet attendees, answer visitor's questions, sell raffle tickets, work in gift shop or assist in the setup and cleanup. Most positions require some standing &

walking. The shifts are 3-4 hours depending on the day(s) you select. If you are interested please contact: **JANET LeBEAU 1-734-239-5088 or jan8542@gmail.com** They/we could use your help!! Ruth and I will be attending and will be volunteering as much of the time as we can fit into our schedule so come on down & join us and get into the Christmas spirit.

FOT-UPDATE 11-1-13:



Hello everyone--This is a picture showing some of Santa's helpers working on tagging Festival of Trees carvings. They are working on putting the MWCA tag on each of the carvings we have received in just the past couple weeks. We have two helpers missing from the photo (Terry Zobl & Dave Copeman) which gives us a total of 12 helpers.

We want to let you know that during just this afternoon at the Sterling Heights Senior Center they tagged **472** carvings. We (Ruth & I) needed some help tagging so they can be sent to the FOT people on the 1st of November.

With that said - we now have over **1500** carvings from our members & friends which is more than I had committed too. We also have a couple box's that Ruth & I will tag and add to the total which looks like it will give us over **1600 carvings**.

I'm sure we will receive some carvings at the Fruitbelt show this week-end so who knows what our total will be. We will keep you posted.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR CARVING FOR THE KIDS!! I'm sure the carvings will bring in a few dollars as well as put a SMILE on the kids who will be given all the carvings that the FOT organization doesn't sell.

SOAP CARVING: Soap carving for the kids has really taken off this past year. The MWCA and its member clubs have been very busy promoting this at shows and events, and has introduced many kids to the concept of wood carving in a very safe way and we have probably used over 300 kits this past year. The kits contain patterns, supplies for carving and a “safety” glove which instills in the kids that using a glove is the best way to carve. If your club would like kits, the MWCA will supply them to you free of charge. However, due to the short longevity of Ivory Soap, you will need to purchase fresh soap for each use. Ivory soap loses its moisture content and become hard and unusable after a short time. Please contact Myrna Miller, who is soap carving committee. You may contact her at **734-474-9272** or email her at **carvingnut@msn.com** for more details.

MWCA 2014 CALENDARS are ready and were available at the Frankenmuth show for your club to pick up. If your club would like the calendars please call or email Denny Sekerenes, as he has the calendars. They will also be available at the Fruitbelt Show November 2nd and 3rd. Call Denny at **989-277-5739** or email him at **patden@chartermi.net** Be sure to pick up your copy before they are all gone. Remember there is a \$5.00 certificate towards your next \$10.00 or more at the Cedar Bird Shoppe. We definitely thank Frank and Phyllis Burghy for their generosity of the certificate. You can also pick up your calendar at the Fruitbelt Show in Cassopolis on November 2nd and 3rd.

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 and **forward the newsletter by email** to those that do.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
11/2-3	FRUITBELT SHOW	Cass County Fairgrounds - Cassopolis	269-435-7245
11/9-10	32 nd - ARTISTRY IN WOOD SHOW http://daytoncarvers.com/artistryinwood.html	Dayton OH – Airport Expo Center	937-339-2786
12/25	MERRY CHRISTMAS from MWCA		

MWCA CONTACTS

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Patriot Cane Project Bill Phillips (810) 798-3401 br2phillips@yahoo.com	Webmaster Terry Zobl (586) 739-7234 miwoodcarvers@yahoo.com	Insurance Rizal Baysa (586) 781-3921 rbaysa1@comcast.net	Wood Art Exchange Sally & David Nye (269) 543-4755 Mr.Columbus1492@gmail.com