



“CHATTER”
NEWSLETTER OF THE
MICHIGAN WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION
www.miwoodcarvers.com
SEPT 2014 **VOLUME 19 ISSUE 5**

***CLUB NEWS *CARVING EVENTS *UPCOMING SHOWS**

MWCA Fall Membership Meeting October 4th at the Ponderosa Restaruant in Owosso.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENTS CARVING BENCH

It is time for another article for the MWCA Chatter. Time has really gone by fast the last 2 months. Going to Club Picnics, trying to keep up with association business, and trying to get some carving in and attending to things at the South Central Club. Really enjoying the South Central Club meetings, and events of the club. From the 3rd of August to the 9th we will be spending the full week at the Jackson county fair. We will be putting on a display, carving and demonstrating all week. We had a very successful and good time last year and are expanding this year. Really promoting the art of carving in the Jackson area. Arthur Wierenga has been elected as president of the club. He is a retired eye doctor, and is doing a great Job.

We have had two of our members resign from their positions of the MWCA, Sally Nye was taking care of the Regional Representatives of the association she is also a member of the By-laws and Nominations committee. We will miss her but wish them the best in their Business. Rizal Baysa has also resigned from being the insurance representative. Rizal has done a very good job as our Insurance Rep. So let's keep our eyes open to fill Regional Representative and Insurance Representative positions.

MWCA LEARNING SEMINAR UPDATE: The seminar committee is hard at work on the 2015 Seminar. We would like to thank Sally Nye for taking care of the publicity for us in our favorite magazines; *Woodcarving Illustrated* and *Chip Chats*. Jeff Swanson, who is a member of the Grand Valley Carvers, will be helping us with lots of the details and behind the scenes stuff prior to seminar. It takes many pairs of eyes to get it right. The new tri-fold is on our web site and we also printed some bright green information sheets that will be in sight at Spit and Whittle and all of the club shows this fall. Please take a look at these brochures and spread the word about what a good bargain and wonderful time the seminar is. As you read through these publications, you will notice a few changes in the works. Even wood carvers find that they have to eat once in a while and Bill Phillips is working to improve

The Seminar is coming along great, all we need is lots of members and friends to sign up with one of the excellent instructors we have on the list. This is a great week to increase our carving skills and have a great time. The committee is doing just fine, without me. I really miss all the work I have been relieved of, but it is in good hands.

We have lots of carving to do. We have 3 programs that need attention. The Lean On Me Cane program always is in need of Eagle Heads for their canes to veterans program. We need ornaments for the Festival of Trees for the Children Hospitals. Plus the Clinging Crosses for Hospices of Michigan. We have no reason not to have anything to carve.

Lets keep up the good work and do our best to keep promoting this wonderful association we have.

Andrew Luckhardt, President of MWCA.

P.S. We have numerous position available on the board of directors, Regional Rep, Insurance Rep, and do not forget the Presidents Position will open in April, I cannot continue to keep up the work that is needed to fulfill that position. Andy

As of this writing, Andy is in the hospital recovering from pneumonia and hopefully will be back on his feet real soon. We are all sending prayers and get well messages to you Andy.

our daily lunches and with the committees' blessing, has eliminated the banquet. We plan on holding the grand prize raffle drawing, after the Thursday evening potluck. This should make for some good fun and also keep you in the carving building if you are trying to get just a little more done on your project.

At the current time, we have 71 students on the roster for 2015 and the only class that is full is Jim Wilsford's class. We are offering two new instructors for wood burning and fish carving and painting has made it to the class list. We are also excited to have Cyprus knee Santas available and a brand new instructor for beginning carvers. Please check out the details on the MWCA web site.

Mary Lou & Garry

CARVING CLUB NEWS

WOODWACKERS: Club members Margo, Louann, Virginia, Bette and Paul attended “Colonial Days” in Blanchard, Michigan on August 16th. Needless to say, an outstanding job of explaining the many facets of MWCA, The Lean on Me, Comfort Cross and Christmas Ornament projects.

Carvers showed adults and children the different types of carving as we all whittled away the day.

Likewise, the table displayed the various types of carvings, knives, gouges and safety equipment. The display table also mustered up a couple of sales, thus a couple of delighted carvers. Amazing food was available and a great time was had by all.

Comfort cross/birds update: The Woodwackers club of Big Rapids (Jan Campbell, President and Better Hartig, Founder) once again met with Hospice of Michigan in a continued effort to resolve the problem of pickup an/or drop off of finished carved comfort crosses for their distribution to patients. Hospice of Michigan has recently undergone a large change with regards to volunteers and

administrative staff and as a result, this action has been somewhat delayed in its implementation. They have currently decided that this effort belongs under the spiritual care and grieving umbrella of their organization. We laid out what we thought would be a path to resolve this problem, they agreed and will try to put this into place. We await their notifications and decisions and will pass on the information as we receive it.

SUNRISE CARVERS: May Sunrise Show results. First of all, Best of Show went to Bob Snyder of the St. Helen's Club for the rendition of the Woodcock in habitat. Bob also won the 'People's Choice' and 'Carvers Choice' for a bust of an Indian chief. Vince Weiler, novice carver, took a blue ribbon with his relief carving of a covered bridge. Bob Schroder, St. Helen's Club, took a blue ribbon for his 'Bird in Hand'. Dick McDonald received a blue for his carving of the "Texas Long Horn" and Isa Hastings, Sunrise, received a blue for her 'River Otter'. Andy Luckhardt was awarded a blue for his 'Eagle & Flag' carving and Jim Phinney, Sunrise, took a red ribbon, for his bathing beauty 'Tis Saturday'. Our Carol Hodges took the award for "Bag Lady of 2014" and show chair Greg Wilkinson was given the red badge of courage for taking on our 2014 show. Thank you to all who helped put on a super show and to everyone who participated in it.

Our major project, the 9 foot Totem Pole was won by one of our own – which delighted us all. The woodburning class with our "Featured Artist" David Sanderson was full to capacity – a good teacher – and a fun class. Be sure to put our 2015 show on your calendar, it will be May 2-3, 2015 with all entries to be made on Friday, May 1.

In May, Carol Hodges, gave a class on stick flower carving – a fun thing to do and most of us went home with a handful of flowers! Kathy Moffit graced us with a class carving and painting a bird. When finished, it hangs on the edge of a cup or glass to keep others from drinking your cafe au lait, or otherwise! We ended the painting with red-winged blackbirds, crows, cardinals, grosbeaks and chickadees and others yet to be identified.

Our own Isa Hastings was the honored artist July 19th at the Harrisville Dragon fly Art Gallery.

July 22 we presented twelve Eagle Head canes to 12 very appreciative veterans where colors were presented by the American Legion, Oscoda Post.

We will again be participating by carving ornaments for the Children's Research Hospital's Festival of Trees. Our first contribution of 28 Comfort Birds and Crosses have been delivered to the Alpena Hospice of Michigan. They were well received and appreciated and are hoping we are able to carve more.

Our election of officers will be in September.

HAPPY CHIPPERS: The Happy Chippers are busy this summer going to the Iosco County Fair and the Ogemaw County Fair. It is fun to meet people and explain our art !!! At the Iosco Fair, we did soap carving with the kids !!! They all enjoyed it and we hope that later in life, they might try carving with wood. We are getting many of our carvers coming this summer and some new carvers !!! We also have 2 young men-- Trevor and Jamie joining us !!! It is nice to see the boys interested in this art ! They both are doing a wonderful job !!

Many of the snowbirds are thinking of leaving soon--- it is hard to believe the summer is winding down ! We do have a group of carvers who come during the winter months. Happy Carving to all from the Happy Chippers !!!!

WOODBEE CARVERS: On 3 August, the Woodbee Carvers participated in Heritage Days at the West Shore Fishing Museum north of Menominee, MI, in what has become in the last few years a mutually beneficial relationship between the two groups. For the Woodbees, the event is an opportunity to promote the art of carving without the expense or effort of having a full show. For the museum, it is a free program which promotes their mission by bringing people to the museum. For small clubs and not-for-profit organizations, it is a model of cooperation infused with good fellowship, a model for an event which other carving clubs may find useful and fun.

On 12 August, the Woodbees had their annual summer picnic. Folks in this club cook as well as they carve, everyone went home happy and a bit heavier. It's never too early in the Upper Peninsula for carvers to begin working on their personal winter insulation. Jim Byrne

TRI CITY CARVERS: This is a reminder that our annual show will be September 27th at the 2nd Presbyterian Church in Saginaw. Gene Gubbins is our featured carver and in conjunction with our show he will be holding a seminar on carving a turtle.

We are doing a demo for the first time at the Freeland Outdoor Expo on Sept 13/14. We will be doing soap carving and demo carving and will be able to sell our items. We will be back at the Saginaw Farmers Market on September 19th.

Gary Doud and Butch Urban were invited by the 4-H Club and Mi. State University to teach a class on carving a fish decoy to two classes of Kids ages 14-18 years old. The classes ran June 18-20 at the Natural Science Building. The purpose was to give over 2,500 kids a taste of college life living in a dorm and making it to classes on time. We taught two classes, 14 in one class and 17 in the other and took them thru basic safety in carving to setting up, carving, sanding and finally painting their decoy. We have now been asking to possibly set up a class for the 4-H in the Saginaw area.



Mike Ford's latest creation.

We want to remind everyone that our own Matt Kelly is still publishing the Carvers Companion online magazine. This is a wealth of carving information. Go to carverscompanion.com and view the different sections of his magazine.

The Board of the Tri-City Carvers has decided to move the show to the 4th Saturday of August to try once again to avoid conflicts with other club's activities. The date will be **August 22, 2015**.

GRAND VALLEY CARVERS: The Grand Valley Carvers held their annual club picnic on August 4th at Scheid Park in Saranac. rain didn't start until most were there and quit before most left the shelter. We had our last Summer meeting on Mulicks' deck the 18th and now it's back to school on Sept. 15. We're on the schedule for Fall-Fest at Bertha Brock Park (carving demo, carving sales, and soap carving).

FRANKENUMTH WOOD CARVERS: Our Annual Woodcarving Show will be held **October 19, 2014** at the Frankenmuth High School Gym. Please come and see the exhibitors and vendors, to rent a table call Denny 810-653-1706 or Anita 810-688-2771. For more information to the Frankenmuth website, <http://woodcarvers.webplus.net>

New this year will be a plaque for the "Best of Show" in the Professional category. We really appreciate having some of the top carvers at the show and wanted to reward their participation. Carvings in any category can be entered in competition for \$3.00 per carving unless you rent a table then you can enter 4 carvings free.

The club is making comfort crosses this year. We are also carving a friendship cane for our raffle – the theme is "Beautiful Michigan". Come to the show and purchase a chance to win this unique item.

Last summer the carvers refinished the carvings at the Storytellers Pavilion in Frankenmuth on Main Street. George Keilhofer (Master Carver-deceased) and students carved all the fairytale reliefs on display and they look like new. Also, when you are in Frankenmuth check out the life size Gnomes on display outside the back door of the Visitors Center done by members of the club. Frankenmuth Carvers are at the Eagle Nest on Wed. & Thurs. mornings from 9am to 12n – join us.

MID MICHIGAN CARVERS: We are pleased to know that the MWCA fall meeting will be right here in Owosso, Ponderosa Oct 4, because on that Saturday we are going to open Carving World, so that everyone can come over and look at the place where we carve, we are always open every Tues, and Thurs 2 PM till 9 PM, for carving. Come and look and visit and carve if you want. Denny call 989-277-5739

From Promotions: now is the time to really get busy. Spit and Whittle next week end, then Carve fest, Saginaw Show, Fall Meeting, and don't forget Frankenmuth, Saline, Cassopolis shows coming up. Did I miss any? We will be collecting MWCA Eagle Heads and Christmas Ornaments at all venues and always selling MWCA promo items. See Denny or call 989-277-5739

WEST MICHIGAN CARVERS: A few of our members are carving comfort crosses and that has been going well. We are using white and red cedar. White cedar has not been a problem to get but the red stuff proved to be a challenge, we did find some and we are doing well. Our thanks to Bill Phillips for getting us started.

Chip of the Month: Knife Control

Looked at a few carvings recently that are in various states of carving and noticed a lot of "over cuts" on the knife work. Most of them are because of a stop cut with the knife that is too deep and then removing the wood to the cut. Happened to ask a professional woodcarver about that this summer and how you cure it. Simple answer. Practice!

The suggestion at the time was to take some scrap wood, do a stop cut and remove the wood to the cut. I suspect that doing this about a thousand times might help, but I doubt it. For what it is worth, my so called cure it to use a sharp sided Vee tool when ever I can. Seems to work better most of the time. Good Luck!

METRO CARVERS: Our first meeting after summer is September 9th, 7:15 pm at the Keller Elementary School cafeteria. Our annual woodcarving show "Artistic Creations in Wood" is scheduled for March 21st and 22nd, 2015.

CHIPS and CHATTER

MWCA ELECTIONS WILL BE APRIL 2015 for a two year term. President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer positions are all open for nominations. Andy Luckhardt will not be running for President again. He has done an exceptional job during his tenure and it is time he gets to sit back, relax and do some serious carving. This is your organization and we need folks to step up and volunteer to run for an office. So think about it, and offer your help.

SOME UNHAPPY CARVING NEWS FOR NOW. Reprinted from Chipping Away Newsletter. Carving Magazine Closing Their Doors "Carving Magazine" was first published back in 2003 and we are sad to report that Issue 47 will be their last (at least that is the news at the time of this Newsletter). Just another victim of the struggling economy ~ which many of us are familiar with.

Carving Magazine was one of a dozen or so craft magazines published by All American Crafts (no longer in operation). The magazine offered something for all experience levels including, projects with patterns as well as informative and interesting articles. Their website is still active and they have lots of back issues you may want to consider ordering ...here is their site for back issues: <http://www.carvingmagazine.com/backissues/>

Chatter Editor: Perhaps down the road they will find another company to continue publishing the magazine. The craft magazines found out mid-August that they were closing. We all loved Carving Magazine and always looked forward to the next issue.

MWCA WEBPAGE (<http://www.miwoodcarvers.com/sponsors.html>) has a new sponsor, the Alcona Arts Retreat in Lincoln MI. This fine arts weekend retreat Sept 4th -7th includes classes in fish carving, poetry, watercolor painting, collage, memoir writing and digital photography. Our own Orlando Villarreal, one of the top fish carvers in the nation is presenting the fish carving seminar. Orlando is President of the Woodland Carving Club in the Grand Rapids area. For more information about this you can go to their website. <http://www.inspirationalcona.org/2014ArtsRetreatHome.html>

SPIT & WHITTLE: Once again the Spit and Whittle social carving weekend is happening September 5th - 7th at the Osceola county Fairgrounds in Evert. This is a weekend to get together, do some carving and share ideas and techniques. Some folks do bring projects for others to do, but is not the main focus of the weekend. Those that do have things to set up can do so Thursday afternoon. Hours for the weekend are 8:30 –5:00 Friday and Saturday and 8:30 till noon on Sunday. This year we will not have a potluck, but the Lions Booth will be open Friday and Saturday. We still plan to have the watermelon seed spit Friday afternoon so everyone practice for that.

CARVEFEST IX – September 26-27. Held at the Washington Senior Center at 57900 Van Dyke Road. This is a hands-In carving festival and not a show. There is no admission charge. The only fees will be nominal charges for carving blanks. We will have a 50-50 raffle with cash and donated prizes. Proceeds are used to cover facility expenses. Power carving is not permitted. We will have vendors with tools and supplies for sale. Doors will open at *L30, carving will start at 9:00 am till noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Lunch will be available on site. The passing of Bill Jaquays has left a big void in our Carvefest and he will really be missed. He always did the introductions to woodcarving for beginners. In an attempt to fill this void, carvers from the Washington Carvers will offer beginner classes. All needed tools and supplies are provided for the sessions. There will also be a variety of other projects for carvers to take part in.

THE “CHATTER” NEWSLETTER GOES OUT BY E-MAIL ONLY on or about the first of the months listed below. All news to be included needs to be to the editor, Sandy Holder by the 25th of the month prior to publication. E-Mail and phone listed below. You can always read the newsletter on the MWCA website at www.miwoodcarvers.com
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. Thank you.

CHATTER NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED ON OR AROUND THE FIRST OF:

JANUARY MARCH MAY
 JULY SEPTEMBER NOVEMBER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
Sept 5-7	Spit and Whittle Weekend	Osceola County Fairgrounds – Evert	231-734-5125
Sept 12-14	Rhadigan Carve-In	Floyd Rhadigan Studio - Clinton	734-649-3259
Sept 27	Tri City Carving show	2 nd Presbyterian Church - Saginaw	989-781-3846
Sept 26-27	Washington Carvefest	Washington Sr. Center - Washington Twp	586-786-1967
Oct 4	MWCA FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Ponderosa Restaurant - Owosso	734-323-4685 810-798-3401
Oct 11	Saline Carving Show	UAW Hall Saline	734-599-8784
Oct 19	Frankenmuth Carving Show	Frankenmuth High School	810-653-1706 810-688-2771
Nov 1-2	Fruitbelt Carving Show	Cass County Fairgrounds - Cassopolis	269-435-7245
Nov 8-9	Artistry in Wood Carving Show daytoncarvers.com/artistryinwood.html	Airport Expo Center – Dayton Ohio	

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 Position is open for a volunteer	