



**“CHATTER”**  
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MICHIGAN WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION  
[www.miwoodcarvers.com](http://www.miwoodcarvers.com)  
MARCH 2015 VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2

**\*CLUB NEWS      \*CARVING EVENTS      \*ELECTION      \*SEMINAR UPDATE**

**MWCA SPRING MEETING** – will be held at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Owosso April 11 at 11:00 am.

This is the bi-annual election of officers. One ballot will be sent to each club to the address on file as their contact mailing address. The ballot needs to be returned to Secretary Pat Murphy before the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting or it can be brought to the meeting. Each club will have one vote for each office. This is for the fiscal years April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2017.

**CARVING CLUB NEWS**

**MID MICHIGAN CARVERS:** Everything is going well at Mid-Michigan, we now have 31 members and a brand new bathroom so you don't have to climb the stairs. If you are ever in the area call and stop to see us. 989-277-5739 open every Tues and Thurs 2 PM till 9.

**WOOD WHACKERS:** 5 Woodwackers attended a Book Reading/Signing February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 “It is a Night to Remember” . Captain Luis Carlos Montalvan authored a book entitled “Until Tuesday”. Tuesday is his 8 yr. old Golden Retriever Service Dog. After two tours of duty in Iraq, a Purple Heart, two Bronze medals and others he returned home with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder).

Woodwacker extraordinary eagle-cane carver Virginia Harthan, carved and presented a cane to the Captain who is a 17 year career veteran. On the Walnut staff burned near the base of the eagle head: Woodwackers of Big Rapids, MI 2015. Near the bottom of the staff was burned “Captain & Tuesday” with paw prints. He was extremely touched/honored with a “happy” tear.

Virginia has carved 10 eagle heads, 3 she knows have been given to Michigan Veterans. The Woodwackers are very proud to have Virginia in our group.

**TRI CITY CARVERS:** Elections for the TriCity carvers brought a new President in Gary Doud, a new Vice President with Jerald Willis, a new Treasurer in Phil Westendorf and Ed Hak was re-elected Secretary.

Work is continuing on the carousel animals at the Children’s Zoo. Many of our members are cleaning, painting and repairing these animals. Harold Mueller is painting a Pinto in the photo at left.



It is a great feeling to be contributing to the support of one of the finest carousels in the State of Michigan. To date we have reconditioned eight Horses and an additional six in the shop in various stages of completion. Since an article in the Saginaw News about our project we have had numerous people stop by to help. Go to: [www.mlive.com/news/saginaw](http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw) look for “It’s for the Kids” We have a total of 24 animals to finish by the end of March. Cost for each animal is approximately \$100.00. After this work is done the carousel will be good for another

15 years. The carousel was begun in 1996.

We have lost two charter members Dwight Chisholm and Buster Harper who were also carousel carvers. Ron Furtaw also passed away this past month.

Gerald Willis may do a one-day seminar on a Wood Spirit if we have enough interest. Jim Silva will also be teaching Santa Head in March.

**FRANKENMUTH CARVERS GUILD** has new officers. Fred Kendrick is President, John Krasny is Vice President/Recording Secretary, and Bob Gustafson is the Treasurer. We are looking to streamline the carving show judging rules.



This amazing carving of the American Flag was carved by Gene Durbin. The flag is in motion and the flag stick with the leaves and sash are the frosting on this very well done carving. Very well done Gene!

We are hopefully putting on a chip carving seminar in March if there is enough interest for those who want to know the basics of chip carving. We have some knives available for loan.

**SUNRISE SIDE CARVERS:** Our May carving show theme for May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> is “Birds of all Kinds”. Each registered carver may show one theme related item of any age, style or finish but it may not be one that was entered in the regular judging. Awards will be determined by “Carver’s Choice” and “People’s Choice” ballots. Our featured artists this year will be Charlie Flanders and Gene cotter, both Sunrise members. Any questions, or to reserve a table please call Greg Wilkinson 1-989-305-6780

**SALINE CARVERS:** Our 2015 Club Project is a nativity scene. Our Saline carving show this year will be held at the Liberty School. Our club will have a display of carvings at the Saline Library in September prior to our annual show.

**METRO CARVERS:** Everything for our March 21-22 show is falling into place. If you haven't gotten your table yet, there are still some available. There will be a display table to promote the Comfort Crosses and Birds project. Everyone will be bringing their carvings to display on the table. The Madison Heights Area Lions Club will be providing the lunches for the show with 10% of all profits coming back to Metro carvers, the rest to help the sight and hearing impaired in the Madison Heights area. For information about the show or to reserve a table please call Mike Murdock 248-689-5468 or email: [millieb@wowway.com](mailto:millieb@wowway.com)

Right after the friendship breakfast the Lions Club cooks for us on Sunday morning we will have having our annual blanket swap before the show. Everyone is invited to join in and "swap" your unused/unwanted carving supplies for someone else's unused/unwanted items!

Metro will be having a "What Was I Thinking" competition at the April club meeting. Folks will be bringing in their carving disasters, mistakes and projects gone south! They want to see carvings of 3-legged dogs, birds with feathers going the wrong direction, woodburning projects that caught on fire and all things mistaken along with a one-sentence statement of what went wrong. Ribbons and bragging rights will be given for the worst projects.

Metro carvers lost two members as they have passed on to a better life. Norm Kandow passed Jan 24<sup>th</sup> and was a Metro member since 2001. Francis Fredal passed Feb 9<sup>th</sup> and he was a member since 2008.

**GREATER LANSING SHOW APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>.** If you would like a table call 517-337-0778 for more information.

### CHIPS & CHATTER

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: 2-5-15 BOL!!**

Stu Martin, a carving friend to the entire carving community suffered a great loss when his truck containing all his carvings, rough outs, tools and teaching supplies was stolen in January while in Texas for woodcarving shows and seminars. His truck was found the next day by police but all his carving and seminar supplies were never recovered. If by chance anyone sees someone trying to sell Stu Martin's carving, rough outs or tools, on the internet or elsewhere let Stu know by calling 316-794-2678.

**MWCA PROMOTIONAL ITEMS**

Well its March already, hope everyone had a good new year, but now it's time to get ready for shows and all fun things we carvers do. Remember you can see me at all MWCA functions, for all promotional items, only have 10 calendars left. Let me know your contact address so I can get them in mail to your club, contact me at [patden@chartermi.net](mailto:patden@chartermi.net) or call 989-277-5739

Be sure to bring those Eagle Cane heads in at any of the shows or meetings. Denny Promotions Stuff

**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](http://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.

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JANUARY MARCH MAY JULY SEPTEMBER NOVEMBER

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
3/21-22	Metro Carvers Annual Carving Show	United Food & commercial Workers Hall Madison Hgts	248-689-5468
4/11	<b>MWCA Annual Meeting and Election</b>	Owosso – Ponderosa Restaurant	810-798-3401 616-902-3888
4/25	Greater Lansing Carving Show	Haslett High School	517-337-0778
5/2-3	Sunrise Side Carving Show	Oscoda, Former Wurtsmith Air Force Base	989-679-0037 989-739-1157
6/3-6	Evart Roundup	Osceola County Fairgrounds – Evart	734-649-3259
6/8-12	Floydfest Carving Seminar	Osceola County Fairgrounds – Evart	734-649-3259

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## **MWCA LEARNING SEMINAR UPDATE**

See the web site for the details <http://www.miwoodcarvers.com>

Mary Lou and Garry Mulick

616-902-3888 or 616-340-6114 email: [mulickg@gmail.com](mailto:mulickg@gmail.com)

Plans are coming along nicely for our woodcarving seminar. As with any big event, there is a lot to do and much of it has to be done at the last minute. One of the things that is being pushed back this year, is calling the instructors to let them know how many have signed up for their class. Andy always made those calls starting in early March and it was requested that we wait until after the Metro show to call this year so that a final big push can be made to get more carvers signed up as students from the complete roster of instructors. At the moment only Jim Wilsford and the Stenman's classes are full up so there are many great classes left open to choose from. The MWCA website has a complete listing as well as the application. We have your old favorites as well as some instructors new to our seminar. We frequently hear that you want something new to choose from and we have tried to meet that request. Now it is up to you to step up and try that something new! Jim Finney made an appearance at Roundup last year with his carved gun plaque and he is on our list. Both Brennda Lodermeier and Dave Sanderson would love the opportunity to teach you woodburning. Carol Jean Boyd teaches you how to work with Cyprus knees...her Santa's are so cool. You have seen Steve Brown also at roundup and perhaps had to fight for your chair. How nice would it be to spend 5 days with him and really learn his technique all the way to finishing. MWCA's own Don Miller came last year and helped a few students make a nearly life size duck. Caricature classes are wide open, Gary Falin, Floyd Rhadigan, Bob Thurston and even Dick Lamphier all have lots of openings. If you are looking for more realistic carving, I would steer you toward the following classes; Mike Ford (song bird), Leah Goddard, Dylan Goodson, Chris Howard, Rod Walker (small mouth bass) or John Williams. Wayne Barton (premier chip carver), Gary Bityk (bark carver extraordinaire), and Bob Bierman (plates and plaques) all can teach you how to make works of art while you are having a good time. And last but certainly not least, our own Doug Evans has said he will come to teach beginning carving. It looks to me like there is something for everyone.

For those not able to camp at the fairgrounds, booking a hotel is a huge expense. Bill Phillips has been making some calls and he has found that the Midland Convention Center (former Holiday Inn) is under new management and they have bare bones rooms for 49.00 per night. They are located at 1500 W Wackerly St. Midland, MI 48642. Phone 989-631-4220. Bill could only get the Sleep Inn down to 79.00, but if a couple carvers share the room that would be a good deal too.

We are also making changes to our daily lunches. They will be available right in the carving center and will be catered in daily. The menu will be varied and limited to one or two main items daily that will include things like, a taco bar, goulash and fruit or salad plates. Betty Ross and Kay Swanson are working with our caterer to finalize a menu that will be displayed prominently in the carving center. They are also attempting to get you a deal if you purchase lunch for all five days. This would help the caterer greatly with planning. Details will be in your student packet.

The seminar committee has also decided to eliminate the banquet this year. We will give away the raffle grand prizes after the potluck supper. There has always been lots of good food to choose from and the price is certainly right!

At the current time, our number of students is below where we need it to be to have a self-sustaining seminar. Ninety smart folks are presently on the student list and eighteen of them are not part of a club. Michigan Wood Carving Association has 48 active clubs and so far only 20 of those clubs have students attending the seminar. That means that 28 clubs are not participating in the largest function that MWCA puts on. The seminar committee is again offering to give students who haven't attended in 2013 or 2014 a \$25.00 discount if they can get a \$25.00 sponsorship check from their personal club. That means that your new member can attend a class for \$125.00 instead of \$175.00.

Thank you to all those that have signed up and a big thank you to the clubs that are actively promoting the seminar. We appreciate your willingness to commit early. Attending free carving classes is a fun thing to do, but we owe it to these talented and patient instructors to pay them for this level of instruction. They put in much more than an 8 hour day when they agree to teach a maximum of 12 students at seminar.

Mary Lou Mulick for the seminar committee.