



**\*CLUB NEWS**

**\*SHOW REPORT**

**\*MWCA MEETING**

**\*UPCOMING EVENTS**

*HAPPY THANKSGIVING to all and may we have much to be  
thankful for today and every day in the coming year.*

**NEWS FROM THE MULICKS**

The planning for the 2017 seminar is well under way. At the present time, we are about 15 less students than this time last year. I know it's hard to plan so far in advance, but that is what needs to be done by students so that the instructors have time to get ready for their classes. The last Chatter was mailed with a copy of the seminar application so all current members of MWCA have an application. If you misplaced your copy, you can always get on our web site and print it off.

FYI we recently had a student cancel out of Mike Ford's bird class making an opening for a new student. The web site still says the class is full, since I didn't have Terry change it.

At the semi-annual meeting in Owasso, there was discussion about the elections that will be held during the April 2017 meeting. We are in need of someone to come forward and head the nominating committee and take care of the election for us.

The officers presented a potential change in our whole election process and there was some discussion by those present. After speaking with other types of clubs, the current officers would like to change one big thing. At the current time, all officers are up for election at the same time every two years. That means that potentially all the officers are new at the same time. We would like to suggest staggering the offices up for election so that there is continuity. That would mean we would

have an election every April of one officer. That also means that we would have to do a bylaws change. The bylaws state, we have elections every two years. A change in the bylaws has very specific rules and cannot be accomplished by the 2017 election.

The second thing the current officers would like to change is to only elect the secretary, treasurer and vice president. After serving two years as vice president, that person would move to the president's position. No election needed for the president's position and the person who moved into that office would already know what was involved. This would also involve a bylaw change.

Along these same lines, we discussed the duties of the vice president. There is nothing in our bylaws that says the vice president must chair the annual seminar. That is a volunteer position overseen by the president who oversees all of the committees.

The 25th anniversary of MWCA is right around the corner and we would love to have a new patch designed to commemorate the occasion. Full details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter. Get your pencil and doodle pad out and write down your ideas!

**CARVING CLUB NEWS**

**FRANKENMUTH WOOD CARVERS GUILD:** The Frankenmuth Guild had been busy preparing for our Annual Show held on 10/16/16. We all seem to be getting older and slower. Thanks to the 2016 Show Chair, Bill Sansburn, it was a good show. We were glad to see many old and new friends.

**Best of Show:** Robert Schroder of St. Helen's Carvers. He started carving at age 72 in 1996. Guess how old he is. His dragon and castle (at right) is done in cotton wood bark and is an original design.

**Second Best of Show:** Gene Durbin of Frankenmuth Wood Carvers. He has carved for 35 years. His American flag was done with knife and chisel, no power. A photo of a flag inspired the carving.

**Third Best of show:** Greg Nye of St. Helen's Carvers. He started carving in 2014 when he retired. His relief of a woodworker was his first relief carving. During the winter Greg also carvers with other wood carvers in Florida.

**Professional Best of Show:** Gary Bityk of Metro Carvers. His detailed tree was done in cottonwood bark. Gary is known for the many small pieces he put into his finished piece and his carvings are all original designs.

**Peoples Choice:** Gene Gubbins of Tri-City Carvers. The Screech owl landing on a branch was done in basswood and was a Tom Wolfe design. He did a beautiful job painting the carving and has been carving since 2005.

The club cleaned and sealed story book carvings done when Master Carver George Keilhofer was alive sometime in the 1980's. A Frankenmuth businessman at the Clock Store has been very helpful in preserving these local treasures. He has created a book that shows all the carvings and tells the fairy tales. If you are ever in Frankenmuth be sure you check out the Story Tellers Pavilion at the South end of Main St., in Frankenmuth. (Note: the Clock Store used to be George Keilhofer's studio & store and the pavilion is next door.)

**Hint of the day:** If you are having trouble carving end grain just spray the surface with a solution of 40-60% alcohol mixed with water and let set for a couple minutes. The alcohol will soften the wood fibers and it will be easier to carve.



MWCA also had the Eagle Head Cane competition at the show with Nancy Popp from the Saline Carvers winning the competition which was chosen by people's choice votes from the participants and visitors. Congratulations Nancy! There were 16 heads entered into the competition and 25 more Eagle Cane Heads were on display



The first presentation of the MWCA "Lean On Me" 50 Patriot Cane Carver patch was awarded to three members at the Woodcarvers Guild of Frankenmuth carving show October 16, 2016. The Recipients where; Richard Hanson from the Woodcarvers Guild of Frankenmuth club, Bob Dixon from the OWL Wood Carvers club. Both for carving more than Fifty Eagle cane heads. Ray Pfenning from the Owl Wood Carvers received the first and second patch for carving more than One Hundred Eagle cane heads. The Michigan Wood Carvers Association extends our thanks and appreciation for their outstanding support for the "Lean On Me" cane program. (Dave Copeman-on right: Cane Program Chairman)

#### THE CANE CARVER

From a simple piece of wood, a gift from a tree that one time stood,  
you etch and carve and whittle away perfecting your craft, day by day.

Soon an eagle head takes form and a meticulously carved cane is born.  
On its shaft is told the story of a Veteran's service, of pride and glory.

A cane for a Vet who may now need a hand, to raise himself up, more proudly to stand.  
Something to lean on, his service explained, etched into wood, forever engrained.

Your hands are a gift. Your pride shines through.  
This cane you've perfected speaks volumes of you.

To all who play a part in creating these beautiful canes for Veterans to lean on.....

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

#### A beautifully framed poem was presented to MWCA

For the fine group of gentlemen who created a beautiful cane for my father-in-law, Joseph G Bierwagen of Lansing, Michigan, the finest, proudest, most patriotic gentleman I know. He will show this cane much love and pride and walk proudly with it at his side. It is an honor and a privilege to behold. Thank you, Doreen (Thelen) Bierwagen, September 24, 2016.

**TRI CITY CARVERS:** Nominations are taking place for our November election. Ben Donaghy gave a painting class in October for a Red Poll.

After the first of the year, Mike Ford is offering a bird class (White Throated Sparrow). The cost will be \$125.00. There will be a two day rough in and two day paint, date to be determined. Call Ken Hite (989-684-9009) if interested. As always, openings are first given to Tri-City Carvers, others welcome if there is room. Our 2017 show will be August 26<sup>th</sup> again at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church. That show will be our 30<sup>th</sup> show anniversary.

Some members will be displaying for sale some of their carvings in the New Frankenmuth Farmers Market gift shop that will be opening sometime in the coming months.

#### MID-MICHIGAN CARVERS:

From Mid-Michigan Woodcarvers Club, we are still open every Tues & Thurs, Noon till 8:00 pm. if you are ever nearby, stop and see our carving place.

**METRO CARVERS:** We are already working on the 2017 "Artistic Creations in Wood" Metro Carvers 37th Annual show.

Our president and vice-president and secretary will not be running for re-election in 2017 as well as the show chairman. So we will have all new folks in those positions next year.

Our December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our annual potluck dinner.

Carve Fest XII was held at the Washington Township Senior Center on September 22-24, 2016. By all accounts this twelfth annual event was a smashing success. A special thank you to my planning committee of Dick Mann, Paul Blanchard, and Rizal Baysa for their guidance and help.

**CARVE FEST:** Typical of most carving events of late, Carve Fest attendance was down from previous years. Our attendance was 57 people on Thursday, 70 on Friday and 39 on Saturday. These numbers included 82 different people

with about 1/3 participating for all 3 days. One disappointment was that Frank Burghy, our carving supply provider, was ordered by his doctor on the day before to stay off his feet for 10 days due to a foot issue and thus the Cedar Bird Shop was unable to attend. Despite the disappointment, I am pleased to report that the respite worked and Frank is back on his feet and doing well.

Carve Fest XII was well received by both carvers and the Senior Center Staff who were pleased to see the activity and the community engagement. Carve Fest XIII will return to the two-day, Friday and all-day Saturday format to be held on September 23 and 24, 2017. Mark your calendar and plan on joining us.

**FRUITBELT CARVERS:** Be sure to visit and/or have a table at the Fruitbelt Wood Carving Show November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. This is the last show of the year. It is held at the Cass County Fairgrounds in Cassopolis. For more information about the show please contact 269-663-6096 or 574-825-2450.

**WEST MICHIGAN CARVERS: Chip of the month:** Built a rack out of PVC pipe for my gouges that was in a carving magazine some years ago. I have been using it for quite some time and the more I use it, the more I appreciate it. It keeps my tools off the bench when I am carving and right in front of me where I can see them. It is easy to find the tool I need quickly and keeps them from being laid on the bench in a real mess. Now if I could just figure out something for those pesky carving knives.

## CHIPS & CHATTER

**The 2017 MWCA Calendars are ready.** There is again a \$5.00 gift certificate from the Cedar Bird Shoppe to use on your next \$10.00 purchase from them. Only one typo needs to be changed this year and that is the phone number for the Mid-Michigan carvers inside the front cover. It should be 989-277-5739.

As you probably know by now, after the calendars were printed, the Dayton Carving Show date was decided. It will be October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in 2017. That meant that the Saline Wood Carving show was moved a week earlier to October 8<sup>th</sup> and the Frankenmuth Carving Show is moved a week later to October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**FROM PROMOTIONS:** The new 2017 MWCA Calendars are here, they are again only \$4.00 each. We have new window stickers, so you can promote MWCA will your traveling, I also have a new supply of tote bags. See me at all the upcoming show Cassopolis show, for all promotion stuff, or you can call for mail order 989-277-5739 Denny, Safe travels and carving to all.

**SPIT AND WHITTLE IN EVART:** Was another fun weekend. There were a little fewer participants this year than in years past but everyone still had a great time, and most learned something new and carved with someone they haven't carve with before. Frank and Phyllis Burghy were there with their supply of carving tools and books. We didn't go hungry thanks to the fairgrounds Blue Ribbon Café which was open for breakfast and lunch Friday and Saturday and food was perfect. Spit and Whittle is a relaxed unplanned event so no one knows who will be here. We always have some that will have carving sessions but if you have something you need to finish up for the upcoming shows, you are welcome to work on it here, and visit with other carvers.

After much discussion, it was determined that next year the Spit and Whittle will be September 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> which is a week later than normal. A little further away from Labor Day may be more convenient for folks after being out for the last holiday of the summer.

**WEST MICHIGAN CARVERS CHIP OF THE MONTH:** Built a rack out of PVC pipe for my gouges that was in a carving magazine some years ago. I have been using it for quite some time and the more I use it, the more I appreciate it. It keeps my tools off the bench when I am carving and right in front of me where I can see them. It is easy to find the tool I need quickly and keeps them from being laid on the bench in a real mess. Now if I could just figure out something for those pesky carving knives

**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 your club members who have email. 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
11/5	<i>Remember to turn your clocks back tonight.</i>		
11/5-6	Fruitbelt Carving Show	Cass Co. Fairgrounds-Cassopolis	269-663-6096 574-825-2450
12/25	Merry Christmas to everyone from MWCA		

## MWCA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

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