



“CHATTER”
NEWSLETTER OF THE
MICHIGAN WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION
www.miwoodcarvers.com
SEPTEMBER 2013 VOLUME 18 ISSUE 5

***Club News * MWCA carving projects *MWCA Meeting *Upcoming Events**
NOTE TRI-CITY CARVING SHOW IS SEPT 28TH NOT THE 21ST

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENTS BENCH

It's time again for another newsletter, where did the summer go? Seems like I just said it was time for the summer events.

The Seminar is at its usual slow down this time of the year. We do have 71 already signed up which is good for this time of year. Be sure and check the class schedule on the MWCA website and choose your class for next May. Early registration gives you a chance to make sure you can get into the first class you choose.

In August I spent a whole week at the Jackson County Fair demonstrating carving. It was a great week.

Cheryl Dow threw a party Sunday at the Durand Baptist Church where more than 20 carvers displayed their projects. The food was great and plentiful, the weather was perfect and we all had a very enjoyable time. Thank you Cheryl very much for a wonderful party.

Other events coming up in September is Spit & Whittle Sept 6-8, the Festival of Gourds and Woodcarving is 13 thru 15, Floyd Rhadigan's Caricature Carve-in is also the 13 to 15. The Tri City Show is on Sept 28th as well as the Washington Carve Fest on the 27th and 28th.

October brings the Saline Show on Oct. 12th and the Frankenmuth Show on Oct 20th. Then in November is the Fruitbelt Show on November 2nd in Cassopolis. Then to top it all off the great one in Dayton, Ohio, Nov. 9th & 10th.

At the Gourd and Wood Carving Festival in Imlay City MWCA is taking a special part in this festival at the request of the Gourd folks. I believe free camping on the Fair grounds. Make reservations from Denny Sekerenes or Bill Phillips for tables and also giving demonstrations.

Be sure to mark your calendar for **October 5th for the MWCA fall (winter) membership meeting.** Travel should be a lot more predictable this time of year. It is held again at Fire Mountain Restaurant in Lansing.

Keep up the good work as we are getting the art of Wood Carving and Wood Burning on the map. Keep carving Eagle Heads for the canes and ornaments for the Festival of Trees for the Children's Research. This is your grateful President for the MWCA –

Andrew Luckhardt

CLUB NEWS

WOOD WACKERS from Big Rapids – have been very busy this summer with hand carved wooden crosses called 'clinging crosses' to donate to Hospice of Michigan. The idea came from an article published in a woodcarving magazine. The crosses, which fit naturally in one's hand, were carved of basswood, walnut, mahogany and butternut. On the bottom of each cross are the initial of the carver and "WW", which stands for Woodwackers. They can be carved in as little as two hours, but it depends on the carver. They will be distributed to hospice patients and families and will be used to bring peace and comfort to people who are suffering from loss. The 'clinging cross' was designed by Jane Davis, a jewelry designer, when she was dealing with her father's death.



THE SALINE CARVING CLUB – Hello all carvers.....The Saline club is working on the blocks for the friendship cane that will be raffled off at the Saline Show October 12th. They are also working on projects for the Festival of Trees for the DMC children's project the MWCA is supporting. Another thing that happened was the club Picnic which was held at Randal and Penny Olds horse and was attended by 25 club members. It was a very nice time and the food was great. We also have a Saline carver blog that was put together by our own Carving Diva Miss Peggy.....and please don't forget to attend the show in October and make sure you also look at the blog. Floyd Rhadigan is also having a Carve-in at his shop in Clinton September 13-15. Mart Lind is also coming to Floyd's Shop on October 13-15 for a seminar. For more details on the carve-in call Floyd at 734-649-3259.

METRO CARVERS – This will be our club's 34th year as a woodworking organization. We plan to have another discounted class this year for new carvers. Our annual show, called "Artistic Creations in Wood" is scheduled for March 22 and 23, 2014. A group project is envisioned for the Raffle.

The Washington Carve Fest is rapidly approaching. Our ninth consecutive rendition of this fun event (hence the name!) will be held on Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28, 2013 at the Washington Senior Center located at the rear of the Washington Township Offices that are located at 57900 Van Dyke (on the east side north of 26 Mile Road.)

This event is modeled after the Woodcarvers Roundup held each June in Evart, MI. Our intent is to offer carvers the opportunity to expand their horizons by trying something different without the expenses of long-distance travel and overnight accommodations. In fact, we make every effort to keep the costs low. There is no entry fee and volunteer instructors offer a variety of classes and projects for only a material charge. Lunch and beverages are available on-site and we hold a 50/50 raffle each day. Tool and supply vendors will be on hand for any items that you may need. Hope to see many of you there.

SUNRISE CARVERS - We are working on carvings for the Festival of Trees which will soon be turned in to the MWCA. Everyone will receive a special patch for contributing their carvings.

Charlie Flanders presented a class on a new painting technique which we finished in one evening.

We said goodbye to Don Crittenden a long time Sunrise member. Our hearts were also saddened for the loss of Howard Lahti who gave so much of himself to the activities of the club. We'll miss his smiling face and his sharing of carving, knife sharpening and chip carving. They are both now in a better place. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Howard and Don.

For August workshops we had a Scoopie Spoon by Walt Oldeck and our club picnic was August 17th. Leonard Barr gave a class on laminated stars. Walt Oldeck did a class on a coffee measuring spoon-one side strong, one side weak!! This is something you have to see to appreciate. The club will hold elections in October this year and we do have a ballot of nominees.

SOUTH CENTRAL CARVERS – From Andrew Luckhardt - Greetings to you all. I am very pleased to inform you that Bill Jaquays is improving. He is coming to the South Central Club meetings again. He still needs our continued prayers and thoughts for a complete recovery. Sometime early this summer the Jackson Fair officials invited the South Central Club if they would like to establish an exhibit to promote and demonstrate at the Jackson County Fair the art of woodcarving and wood burning. The members of the club all thought it was a great idea. The fair was from August the 4th thru the 10th. So the club members started planning, getting projects lined up and what they would demonstrate and carve at the fair. It was a great success and proved to be a great way to promote the art of wood carving and wood burning. We talked to many people and many were very interested and surprised in what we were doing. Many said they would be very interested in joining the Club.

The Governor Rick Snyder of the State of Michigan, heard what we were doing for the Lean on Me Cane Project and other special volunteer projects. He sent 2 special people down to present a formal certificate of a Special Tribute to the South Central Club at the Fair. Bill made a special effort to be at the fair the day of the presentation after spending many days in the hospital. We were all glad he could be present when we received the Special Tribute. We had an average 5 or 6 carvers every day demonstrating. Special thanks to Reginald Homes, he and I were there all 7 days. Then on Thursday Senator Tim Walberg of MI visited us at the fair and we had a long discussion with him. It was a great Fair, lots of people and we know what a rock band sounds like. The building we were in had a stage in front which was just outside and around the corner with a garage door opening; we were about 12 feet from the back of the stage. We tried to close the garage door but it was still way too loud.

WOODBEE CARVERS – On a beautiful afternoon in July, members of the Woodbee Carvers gathered at the West Shore Fishing Museum south of Cedar River, Michigan. For the Woodbees, it was an afternoon of fellowship and demonstrations while doing public service for a deserving not-for-profit organization. For the museum, it was a program which drew visitors without diverting money from a budget dedicated to the preservation of commercial fishing and logging in the region.

As the Woodbees, who made fan birds and tramp art, ably demonstrated, we realized that carvers and museums often have similar missions-the preservation of skill from the past. Fortuitously, the museum visitor farthest from home on that afternoon was a tramp art carver from Texas on vacation. A lively exchange of ideas fulfilled another objective common to the museum and the Woodbees – education in a congenial environment.

On another lovely fall day in August, a day when the high temperature was a few degrees short of the median age of the people present, the Woodbees held their annual picnic. This year it was a “coming-of-age” celebration. Happily, a number of those who organized the club in 1992 are still actively carving with the group and helping to provide a “home” for carvers in the central U.P. and northwestern Wisconsin. Woodbees have the regular group once a month in the evening with good attendance. Every Monday a splinter group gathers at the senior center. It is great for folks who are not comfortable driving at night. With two types of gatherings each month, we can offer something to a broader range of folks – workers and retiree, large group/small group social context. Today I worked with a new carver whose husband is a super carver. He works. I have time to carve and watch her and coach when she looks like she needs it. We had 6 folks today at the senior center – a good conversation group. It's all about fun and when carving or quilt club is over, Jan and I go out to our place in the woods and listen to good music, drink coffee, and watch the Pileated Woodpeckers and the deer. Tough life up here – her club, my club and our coffee pot.

Take it easy but take it. Jim Byrne

MID-MICHIGAN CARVERS – From Denny Sekerenes: see me at the Spit and Whittle, Festival of Gourds and Woodcarving, Carve-Fest and at the Tri-City Show for all promotional stuff. This includes MWCA patch and the MWCA 20 year patch, tote bags and mechanical pencils. I will also be at the October 5th MWCA meeting and the Saline and Frankenmuth Shows. See U all in Evart.

On August 25th the Mid-Michigan Woodcarvers attended a show put on by Cheryl Dow in Durand. We had 8 of our members there, 2 carvers from Lansing, 2 from the Flint area and 2 more from Linden; in all there were about 12 tables of very nice carvings. Cheryl gave away 20 nice items. Our own mason Mooney won fest of show with a large carved Eagle. I want to again thank Cheryl for doing all she did to put this together. Denny



TRI-CITY CARVERS: Tri-City SHOW is SEPTEMBER 28th. Recently our own member **Dave Arndt** received high honors at two fish carving competitions. In March of 2013 Dave competed at the Michigan Taxidermist Association's annual show at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, MI. Competing in the open class with an 18 inch Walleye carving, Dave captured first place in category, the People's Choice Award, and Best of Show Fish Carving. A



few months later in May, Dave traveled to Springfield, IL to compete in the World Fish Carving Championships with the same carving. Competing against the best fish carvers in the world, Dave won Best of Category-Other Gamefish and Third in World honors for Decorative Life Size entries. **Third In World!!!** In August for our third Tuesday secession Dick Bishop taught us how to do a small character. The club will be carving at the downtown Saginaw Farmers Market on July 12th from 10 until 4. Also on August 6th we carved at the Children's Zoo in Saginaw from 10:00am to 3:00pm. September 14th at Johnson's Great Pumpkin Farm in Indian Town and September 20th at the Farmers Market in Saginaw. It would be a good chance for us to help promote our upcoming fund raiser show on September 28th and to show off our wares. This past third Tuesday those that attended our meeting had fun carving a Santa Christmas ornament.

WEST MICHIGAN CARVERS Our "Spit and Whittles" have been going well at the club and no one has cut themselves lately. Not too sure who has the blood drop now. It is interesting to see some of the projects that our club members are working on. It is good that we all have varied interests. It just proves that carving has something for everyone.

CHIPS and CHATTER

WOOD SHAVING DAYS - A great time was had by all. Mary Lou Mulick said she used 74 soap carving kits. Chris Floyd deserves a big thank you for cutting out new wood templates for the kids to use. Hopefully there will be some future carvers transition from soap to wood.

SPIT and WHITTLE in EVART: September 6-8 at the Osceola County Fairgrounds. The Chief Osceola Carvers are gearing up for this very informal carving event. If anyone is going to set up a table for the weekend, set-up day is Thursday, please do not set up till then. Also every Thursday morning from 10 am to noon the Chief Osceola Carvers hold their weekly get together. It seems as though a lot of chit-chat also goes on during the chip making as everyone works on their own special project. For early arrivals at the fairgrounds please feel free to join us Thursday morning. Some of us go out to lunch after, please stop by.

On Saturday only Sept 7th Kay's Screen Printing and Embroidery from Midland will be there from 9 am to 3 pm. with printed articles for the Spit and Whittle. They will also have other prints from Roundup and MWCA.

Saturday is Potluck at 5:30 pm., everyone is welcome. The Evert Lions Booth will be open Fri and Saturday form 7 am to 7 pm. and Sunday till noon. We will also have Floyd's blanket trade Friday or Saturday evening so bring your carving stuff you no longer use or need to trade for some more stull you really don't need!!!! It is a fun time.

FESTIVAL OF GOURDS and WOODCARVING UPDATE

- Sept 13-15. Gourd Fest hours are: open to public on Fri- 12 noon - 8PM Sat 10am-6pm and Sun 10am - 4pm We can still set up on Thurs afternoon. If you are able to set up your display on Fri morning BEFORE NOON then that is OK but we must be set up for the public before NOON on FRIDAY.

Soap carving & wood burning for kids is scheduled for Fri 5-6pm, Sat 11-12 & again from 2-3pm and Sun from 12-1pm. Hope this will work for you and remember we still need help

with the kids on all 3 days so let us (Bill and Ruth Phillips) know if you can help.

The festival is offering a Saturday night catered dinner for \$20/person with a menu about the same as last year. They plan on having a blanket swap after dinner if you would like to attend. You don't have to take part in the dinner program but you're welcome to join in on the SWAP! We need to let the Festival people (Deb & Ron) know how many would like to have dinner on Sat so let Bill Phillips know before Sept 8th so they can let the caterer know how many will attend.

CHARLOTTE WOODCARVERS in Charlotte, NC are inviting Michigan carvers to their 31st annual Showcase of Woodcarvings on February 21-23, 2014. At our most recent Showcase in 2013, we had 121 carvers from 14 states exhibit over 700 carvings in competition in three divisions and 31 categories for cash awards totaling \$1800. We had 19 vendors on hand including 10 Professional Carvers - selling supplies, wood and knives-and demonstrating and selling carvings. Some of the major carvers included Tom Wolfe and Mitch Cartledge (CCA members and members of our club), Desiree Hajny, Peter Ortel, Steve Brown, Arnold Smith, Jim Wilsford, Bridges Dillehay and Bill Johnson among others. Over 2000 visitors attended this two day event. Information on the Show and the Show Brochure is on our website at www.charlottewoodcarvers.com and can be downloaded and printed. We welcome you all - or as we say here - all of you all - to Charlotte and our Showcase.

Thank you, Ray Branch former Charlotte Woodcarvers President and Show Chair.

FESTIVAL OF TREES: 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 or on our web site www.miwoodcarvers.com/ornaments.

The hand carved ornaments will be sold in their Gift Shop. The FOT organization said that any carvings not sold by Christmas will be handed out to children in the hospitals on Christmas Day.

We have had many ornaments turned in so far. 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 by to the club organizer or regional Co-Chairperson in your area or you can bring it to any MWCA club show or event by October 15th, where it will be collected. We will deliver it to the DMC



CHIP OF THE MONTH from someone asks the question, “How places where my knife tends to the fuzziness first.

Most of the fuzz from bad cuts can be caused by at least two the tip. Knife tips tend to take a lot of abuse. We seem to use them as a small pry bar when a cut is not clean. Turns out the tip of a knife gets more use than any other portion of the knife blade. As a consequence, it tends to dull quicker and can even develop a burr. Sometimes we keep carving with a tip that is slightly broken off and we don't even know it. We must pay attention to the tip of the knife a lot.

Another reason for fuzz is that we are using the wrong knife. For fine detail work, most of us use a knife that has a blade that is just too thick. It will be really sharp but it just cannot get into the corners properly. Just switch to a thinner blade. (This will give you a reason to buy a new knife.)

Overshoots are caused by just not having knife control and paying attention. This sounds simple but it is not. We need to know where that knife point is at all times when carving details. Most of the problems develop by using too much speed and not looking and feeling what we are doing with the knife. This takes a lot of conscious effort to really look at what we are doing. Practice and slowing down is what it is all about. Keep the chips falling, John.

MWCA 2014 CALENDAR – Anyone who has carving supplies for sale is welcome to have their name in the calendar under WOOD CARVING SUPPLIES. Please let me (Sandy Holder) know SOON if you would like your name included and what you have to offer. Right now I will keep the ones on it that were in the 2013 calendar. If you have a show coming up next year, please let me know the date and place. If you don't know the date, we can just put in TBD (to be determined). Calendars will again be available at the Frankenmuth show for your club to pick up. If your club knows how many you would like for your group, also let me know so we can be sure to put them aside.

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
9/6-8	SPIT and WHITTLE weekend	Osceola Fairgrounds - Evart	231-734-5125
9/13-15	FESTIVAL of GOURDS and WOODCARVING	Easter Michigan Fairgrounds Imlay City www.michiganfestivalofgourds.com	(810) 798-3401 br2phillips@yahoo.com
9/13-15	CARICATURE CARVE-IN	Floyd's Woodcarving Studio Clinton www.fantasycarving.com	734-649-3259 rhads134@comcast.net
9/27-28	WASHINGTON CARVE FEST	Washington Sr. Center	586-786-1967
9/28	TRI-CITY CARVING SHOW	2 nd Presbyterian Church - Saginaw	989-791-6039
10/5	MWCA Fall Membership Meeting (Note new date -this had formerly been held in December)	Fire Mountain Restaurant – Lansing 519-321-1200	734-323-4685 810-798-3401
10/12	SALINE WOOD CARVING SHOW	United Food and Commercial Workers Hall - Saline	734-599-8784
10/13-15	MART LIND SEMINAR	Floyd's Woodcarving Studio Clinton www.fantasycarving.com	734-649-3259 rhads134@comcast.net
10/20	FRANKENMUTH CARVING SHOW	Frankenmuth High School	810-653-1706
11/2-3	FRUITBELT SHOW	Cass County Fairgrounds - Cassopolis	269-435-7245

(Detroit Medical Center). If you have any questions please contact Bill Phillips at **810-798-3401** or you can e-mail to **br2phillips@yahoo.com**.

As our token of our appreciation and THANK YOU to those who donate carving(s) or wood burnings we will award them with a beautifully embroidered (3 1/2" oval) MWCA patch. It is similar to the one given for the Lean on Me cane project. Therefore it is important that your name be on the carving and also turned in to those in charge so you get your patch.

John Crawford of West Michigan Carvers: Every once in a while do I get clean cuts on my carving and how come I get cuts in overshoot and put cuts where I don't want them?" Let's deal with

tends to be in sharp corners where two cuts come together. This reasons. One reason is that the knife is just not sharp enough at

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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