



***CLUB NEWS**

***ANNUAL MEETING**

***UPCOMING SHOWS**

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENTS CARVING BENCH

This has been a very busy 2 months as far as the seminar business is concerned. After March 15th was the time to call all instructors as to the number of students they have and their willingness to come for that amount, we had 3 instructor cancellations. I was able to transfer all the students in their classes successfully. At the present time 4/26/14 we are at 97 students. This is very low and we need quite a few more for a successful Seminar. We have a few instructors that are willing to come for a very small number of students and they are in need of students to make a profitable seminar for them. Also just think of all the extra time you will receive in a small class rather than in a full or nearly full class. If you are a beginning carver and wish to learn the basics of woodcarving and wood burning we have just the spot for you. Our long time instructor in basic woodcarving is back. Bill Heether, Basic woodcarving is back and eager to show you the fundamentals of woodcarving and woodburning. He will show you all the different types of carving and woodburning available. If you have a desire to come to a seminar and learn the fundamentals of woodcarving this is the time to register for the biggest and best one of the year. Information of the Seminar is available on our Web site (www.miwoodcarvers.com) or contact us (Andy Luckhardt , Mary Lou Mulick or Garry Mulick.) See you May 19th thru 23rd. Phone numbers at the end of the newsletter.

We had a very successful Annual Meeting on April 12 at the Fire Mountain Restaurant. The revised By Laws were passed and adopted. If you desire a copy please contact me. The Gourd Festival has been cancelled for this year due to management problems. The comfort crosses and birds project was discussed and it has got a very good start. Many other things were discussed and moved on at the meeting.

I have joined and gotten very involved in the South Central Woodcarvers. I can go carving on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the local SC clubs. The SC Clubs are presenting canes to Veterans in the local area almost every other week. My involvement in the local club and my desire to fulfill all the duties of the State Association and the Seminar, I have been told by my Doctor that it is time to cut back on my very stressful life if I want to preserve my health. Therefore I am seriously considering cutting back on things for the association. It is getting harder day after day to keep up with things for the Association. The most stressful things have to go first. The thought of sitting back and just carving and woodburning is really getting to me. Looking forward to relaxing and just carve and woodburn.....Andrew Luckhardt, President of the Michigan Woodcarvers Association.

News and Notes from Bill Phillips, Vice President

#1. The MWCA board approved us making Christmas ornaments for the festival of trees again this year. They can be turned in at any function or mailed to me. We need them by November 1st 2014 so we can get them to the Festival of Trees group in time. The big carvings that were donated last year did not go very well so we are asking for **ONLY ITEMS THAT WILL HANG ON A BRANCH** this year.

#2. The comfort carving project is up and running and we hope members will join in. Our Project Chairperson is Bette Hartig of the Wood Wackers carvers in Big Rapids. You can contact Bette by email at (thedoglad20@hotmail.com) with any questions you may have, they are working with the main Hospice of Michigan office. More information of the project distribution of items will be forthcoming in the future.

#3. Dave Copeman, Eagle Head Cane chairman, says we do need more heads carved. Presentations are now only about 6 months out.

#4. There is still room at the MWCA seminar in Midland!! Check the web site for more info.

During the seminar we are hosting free kids soap carving on TUESDAY evening ONLY from 6-8pm which is chaired by Barb and Willy Stewart from the Midland club. If interested you must pre-register with Barb or Willy at (stewart.willy@bigfoot.com)

We are also offering free eagle head carving instruction on Mon, Tues (6-9pm) and Wednesday evenings (7-9pm). Students must pre-register with Dave Arndt (dwardmt73@aol.com) and Richard Henning

(r.henning@sbcglobal.net) both from the Tri-City Club. We are offering this with the hope that carvers and non-carvers will a sign up and we will have some extra eagle head carvers for our cane program. If you are a power carver and would like to attend this class **YOU MUST USE A DUST COLLECTOR!!** We will not be offering any power carving tools and hope to have some loaner hand tools for use during the class. Those who would like to take advantage of this offer please note that **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER** but you must pre-register so we can make sure we have enough material for everyone. Again both classes are FREE OR you can come and visit the seminar any day 8am-4pm.

We also offer classes for those who can't attend the day time classes with our instructors but would like to carve with them for a couple hours during the evening. You can do that if an instructor has openings for an evening class for a fee of \$10 (paid to the MWCA) plus the cost (paid to the instructor) for the cut out the instructor is teaching that evening.

If you have time & would like to see a couple of our new 2015 potential instructor they will be displaying on Tuesday from about 10am—2pm. Come see what's new along with what our other instructors are offering for 2015.

Please don't forget you can stop in & pick up carving cut outs or tools any time we are open. We are happy to note that Frank & Phyllis Burghy owners of the **Cedar Bird Shoppe** will be our supplier again this year

MID-MICHIGAN CARVERS: Mid-Michigan Woodcarvers Club, everything going well here, we survived the long cold winter, working on many different carvings. Caring crosses going well, many members have carved several; we have delivered over 40, and need to make more contacts for more to be delivered. Remember our club meets every Tuesday and Thursday, from 2 pm till 9, 1120 Legion Rd. in Corunna. If you're ever in the area stop by and carve or just look around. Phone 989-277-5739 for directions. It's best to call, because we do close some days. Remember Communicate, Educate, Carve, and Practice.

News from Promotions Dept. We now have MWCA Medallions for sale. These make a very nice addition to your cane or walking stick. Curved measurement is 1-1/8" by 1-1/2".

Metro and Lansing Shows were very good. Remember Oscoda show coming up, then Seminar Midland, and then we'll be going to Roundup in Ewart. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon. We will be collecting Eagle Cane Heads, at all upcoming Shows. Denny Sekerenes.



GRAND VALLEY CARVERS: 9 members of the Grand Valley wood carvers spent April 26th together carving a duck with habitat.



The class was taught by one of our own members, Bill and Lawrence Heether. We all had a good time even though some of our better habitat pieces came off of the floor in place of what we tried to carve. The most fun was making cattails; it was a really nice learning experience. Bill will be teaching beginning carving at the MWCA seminar at Midland. Hope we were good practice for him.

We've also been working on birds and crosses. A dozen crosses and five birds have been turned in to go to hospice. Our club has decided that we would rather they stay in Ionia County. Several birds and crosses have been given directly from individual member carvers to people in want/need. Mary Lou Mulick and Bud Ross

KALKASKA CARVERS: For the past 2 years we have been involved with the Kalkaska Festival of Trees. Two years ago they donated us a tree. The group carved up more than 60 ornaments which raised over \$200 for them. This past year we had over 80 carved ornaments but they gave us another tree with lights this time. Someone donated garland, a great big bow for the top and gold bulbs. More money than the previous year was raised.

We are getting involved with the HOSPICE group for carving palm crosses. And also we are donating crosses to our local HOSPICE.

We are a small group but has a lot of fun. We meet every Monday at our local Senior Center in Kalkaska. We have two younger people that come about every week. I am trying to set up something with the local High School We do everything from miniature people, 8-sided star, caricatures, scroll saw, canes, walking sticks and just about anything else. Some of the folks go to the Ewart Roundup every year and have a great time. If anyone is up our way stop in on Monday nights 6-8 p, and say hi. Thanks and stay carving, Bob Larson.....Kalkaska Woodcarvers.

BLUE WATER CARVERS: One of our members, John Karalunas, received a Special Award from the CCA for his work which was presented to him at the 2014 Metro show. Also, Wayne Seaford and I participated in the Free College Day put on by St. Clair Community College. We did three sessions on Saturday, March 29th and had a combined total of close to 100 people sign up for the three sessions. We talked to many people who were interested in getting into carving and several of them expressed an interest in coming to one of our meetings and getting more involved. These are the types of events that help clubs grow and keep woodworking/carving in the public eye. Wayne and I also demonstrated at the Metro show this year. We had a great time and had a chance to talk to lot of people about carving.

Orrin Paul Shoemaker.....President Blue Water Carvers

ABC CARVERS (Arenac Bay Carvers): Our club is participating in the comfort gird and cross project. We are just starting and we have done around 35 crosses and 5 birds so far with many more in the works. We have been in touch with our Bay City branch of Hospice to let them know we are carving them. They were not aware of the project until Jim Schlosser contacted them, so our project has begun.....Sandy Smith-ABC Vice President.

CHIEF OSCEOLA CARVERS: We have started up our carving group again after closing for the winter due to the weather. April 10th we had a cane presentation by Rod Walker. Bill Mills, one of our own members, was presented his cane, with mostk of his family and many Chief Osceola members in attendance. He was completely surprised and had no idea he would be presented his cane. The only thing was, he couldn't figure out why his children and grandchildren were at our carving session. We told him that they probably wanted to know what their grandparents did at carving as Bill's wife Bev is also a carver, so it was quite accepted.

METRO CARVERS: Our annual elections will be held May 13th. Next year's show theme will be "Artistic Creations in Wood." with Mike Murdock as our new show 2015 chairman. Robaleen Bogden won the raffle Christmas Tree with ornaments, she is going to start another one for next year and have spring themed ornaments on it including suggestions for flowers, decorated eggs, bunnies, deer, birds, butterflies etc. anything pertaining to spring. Gloria Irla-Marlow will be helping Robaleen with this project.

WOODWACKERS: On April 5th 5 hardy fishermen, Bette, Bob, bob, Jan and Virginia, under the tutelage of the famous ROD (the teacher) WALKER took us on a wonderful "sea" safari on how to catch (air brush) and other finer details of a Rainbow Trout. Carving was at a minimal and it was an all-day session. Great food, lots of learning, much conversation and fish stories....Thanks Rod

WEST MICHIGAN CARVERS: Chip of the Month - Think Big!

Many of us are sometimes reluctant to do a caricature because we think we are not very good at doing heads and faces. I suspect that it is because we start with too small of a carving.

Next time you want to attempt a caricature, try starting with a piece of wood that is 8 to 10 inches long. My personal opinion is that a larger carving is easier because you have more room to work. For instance, it is much easier to carve a large eye than it is a small one. Try an eye on a piece of scrap wood and you will see what I mean.

Another reason we are reluctant, we are afraid of ruining the carving. Remember it is just a piece of wood. You can always burn it!

The 4-H Festival at Hart was the 24th of April. Clair and Nancy Purdy, Jim and Barb Graham, and the old man manned the tables for the day. Kid attendance was sort of light this year and as far as I know, only two schools showed up. On the plus side, we have a ton of flowers left over to give away for next year.....John Crawford

SUNRISE SIDE CARVERS: Our Show 2014 opens **Saturday and Sunday, May 3 & 4, 10 a.m.!** We are, once again located at the Oscoda Community Center on the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base - and we hope you'll join us there. We have, as our major raffle item, an **8' totem pole** - carved, burned and painted by our club members - REALLY, REALLY NICE! I hope I win it! Music on Saturday afternoon by the 'Swollen Fingers String Band', soap carving both days for the kids--and GOOD FOOD, by Mancino's. Dave Sanderson will be holding a woodburning class on May 5th, if you would still like information please contact Harriet Flanders or Greg Wilkinson, show chairman. If you have any show questions please call Show Chair Greg Wilkinson at 989-305-6780 or Harriet or Charlie Flanders at 989-736-3678 or email them at haskellflanders@yahoo.com



TRI CITY CARVERS: Tri City carvers have a display of about 80 carvings at Bay City's Wirt Public Library. They will be on display from February to May 2nd hoping to spread the good word about wood carving to the general public. The display also lets the community know that the club is available for demonstrations and shows. We do host soap carving workshops at the Bay City State Recreation Area, to local scout groups and occasionally do soap carving at schools. Also noted at the library is information about their involvement in the Saginaw Children's Zoo and that they also participate in the Michigan wood Carvers Association veteran cane project, and they have a show coming up September 27th at the Second Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Saginaw. Gene Gubbins will be our featured carver at the show.

Dave Arndt and Gene Gubbins entered carvings in the 2014 Michigan Taxidermy Show this year with Dave winning Best of Show with his Arctic Grayling(left). Gene carved a Black Crappie and an Angel fish.



February 10th at the Chippewa Nature Center the Michigan DNR presented a historical program about the extinct Passenger Pigeon. A patch was created from a carving of a passenger pigeon by Mike Ford

METRO CARVERS SHOW: Our show was held March 22 & 23, 2014 and was again a well received and successful show with approximately 850 people in attendance. Floyd Rhadigan was the featured carver as well as one of the judges. The other judges were Dave Harmon from the Gladwin Carving Crew and Charlie Flanders from Oscoda Sunrise Side Carvers. There were 95 entries from 47 people from the 80+ tables. We wish to thank all those who attended and participated in making this a successful show.

The carving competition resulted in the First Place Best of Show by Rick Miotke with his rainbow trout; the Second Place Best of Show was Larry Piotrowski with his New Zealand Fantail; and the Third Place Best of Show was John Karalunas with his Golfer Caricature.

The People's Choice 1st place was won by Andrew Jaworski with a chip carved box; 2nd Place was Gary Bityk with a bark carving; and 3rd Place was Bill Ebinger with a relief carving. The same entries from the carvers point of view resulted in the Carver's Choice 1st Place was won by Gary Bityk with his bark carving; 2nd Place was won by Alec LeCasse with his human head/bust; and 3rd Place was a tie between Larry Piotrowski with his kestrel and Lee Bodrie with his owl.

The show also included a MWCA Eagle Head Competition which had 32 carvings entered and another 22 for display. Winners were selected by a people's choice system with 147 persons voting. The three winners were Wesley Stewart from Mid-Michigan Wood Carvers, Jeanne Shairer from OWL Wood Carvers and Gary Eldred from Metro Carvers.

There were two group projects as part of the raffle. They were both outstanding. One was a group of songbirds on a tree (right) which was the most popular. The other was a Christmas tree decorated with Christmas ornaments.

During the two days of the show, there were mini-seminars on various topics dealing with carving, sharpening, etc. open to all in attendance at the show (visitors & carvers). Immediately following the show Floyd Rhadigan put on a three day caricature carving class at the Shelby Twp. Shadbush Nature Center.



The planning for the 2015 Metro Carvers Show is already underway guided by the Show Chairman, Mike Murdock. So be prepared to attend on March 21st & 22nd, 2015, for our show "Artistic Creations in Wood". More information will follow as the show develops.

We recently received this very thankful note: "I would like to thank you and the Metro Carvers on behalf of the Hospice of Michigan Staff of the Southeast Region. They are such a beautiful gift, and are already bringing our patients such comfort. Just today, one of our social workers gave a cross to a patient whose husband recently died and it seemed to really cheer her up. Thank you again for thinking of our Hospice of Michigan patients.".....This makes the all the effort worth the time.

GREATER LANSING CARVING SHOW: Even with a late planning start the Greater Lansing Wood Carving show was a resounding success at the Haslett High School, Haslett, MI. The show comprised 60 displayers, 4 vendors and over 600 people who came to see and purchase.

Special outreach this year was to the visually impaired. The Club set up a special set of tables and informed the carvers of our goal: To have a table of carvings that could be handled by the visually impaired. That resulted in eight tables of carvings. We did have several visually impaired individuals attend the show. A couple of those folks came as a representative of an organization for the blind to see what we were presenting. They were thrilled with our efforts as no one has almost ever done anything specifically for them and from their comments; word will spread for an even better turnout next year. Every carver worries about people picking up and mishandling a carving. It was noted the visually impaired folks didn't mishandle but rather caressed the pieces they held. I also noticed at the individual displayer's tables (other than the special tables set up) the carvers were explaining their carvings as a visually impaired individual held and learned about the carving. Thank you to everyone who helped.



Competition judging for the best of show was a tough task taken on by Floyd Rhadigan, Carl Zajac and Bill Wolfe. Judging started at 9:30 am and proceeded to near noon. Finally ribbon/pins had been awarded and the three best all carvings were determined.

Winning best of Show: Gene Gubbins with an Underwater Scene; 2nd Best of Show: Don Miller with a Pintail Duck and 3rd Best of Show was Larry Eichler with a Chimpanzee Playing Guitar.

Floyd Rhadigan presented a Caricature Carvers of America Merritt Award to Larry Eichler for his Chimpanzee Playing Guitar. (picture at left)

During the Show, Judge Robert Drake and MSU Professor, Melvin Bushman, two WWII veterans were presented Eagle Head Canes by Denny Sekerenes and Bill Phillips, of the Michigan Woodcarvers Association. The cane tops were carved by GLWC's David Mardson and Elliot Light.

The GLWC's did take a bunch of pictures. Since there isn't a Web site for you to capture pictures from you can get in touch with Bob Strobel (rstrob@aol.com).

CHIPS and CHATTER

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Thank you to all clubs who have now paid their 2014-2015 membership dues. We only have 7 clubs to renew and we will be at 100%. We really appreciate it.

THANK YOU DAVE COPEMAN FOR THE ARTWORK YOU DO ON THE VETERAN CANES: Most people don't realize what goes into creating a cane. After the Eagle heads are carved, Dave marks where the decals will go, prints them and cuts them out. He then Mod-Podges the decals to the shaft, wood burns around the edges and finishes with Arm-R-Seal. The veteran's history determines how many decals go on the cane. We also thank all the dedicated carvers who have created the over 2,000 Eagle heads so far. As of now we are only about 6 months out for presentation.

MWCA SEMINAR SPECIAL OFFER: If you have never attended, or if 2011 was the last time you took advantage of the MWCA Learning Seminar, you qualify for \$25 off your class IF your personal club is willing to match it with a \$25 sponsorship.

The Learning Seminar Committee is willing to match a \$25 donation from your club if you would like to attend in 2014. Have your club write a check to the MWCA and include it with your check for \$125. Mail it to either our Treasurer Mary Lou Mulick or President Andy Luckhardt at the addresses on the seminar application and they will take care of the other \$25. Here is an opportunity for your club to use your possible surplus funds. If your club does not have a checking account we will accept a personal check with a signed note from your president, listing your club and who your club is sponsoring. A club may sponsor more than one member.

Something a little different about the seminar this year is free soap carving for kids. Parents will need to register their children ahead of time so we may have control of the number of students in each class and will know what supplies to purchase. They will be held Tuesday evening from 6-7 pm and 7-8 pm.

The carving public or visiting MWCA members will also be able to sign up in the afternoon for evening mini classes offered by the instructors after seminar students have had a first chance to sign up before noon. This is only if there are still openings in the classes. Evening classes are \$10 each to the seminar and the cost of class materials to the instructor.

Eagle Head Cane carving classes will also be offered to seminar students and the carving public, walk-ins and MWCA members Mon. and Tues. evening from 6-9 pm and Wed. evening 7-9 pm. These classes are free, and tools will be provided for those who do not have tools to use.

We don't ask our membership for much, however, now is the time we need your HELP as an MWCA member. In order to offer the classes above, we need someone willing to be the contact person for the Soap Carving and Eagle Head Cane classes. Their only job is to keep track of the number of people signing up for each class so we can keep the classes to the number they will hold. Your phone number is all that will be needed so people can contact you for that class. You can then let us know the class numbers when the seminar starts. The contact numbers will be published in the Midland area paper for a month prior to the seminar. So we are asking for 2 people willing to help with these classes. Please call Bill Phillips at 810-798-3401 or email br2phillips@yahoo.com

These classes are offered to let the public know about the MWCA, and possibly spur their interest in carving and maybe even join a carving club. We will be promoting carving and the Michigan Wood Carvers Association.

EVART ROUNDUP: The 2014 16th annual Evert Woodcarvers Roundup is coming; we will have about 8 new workshops, an additional tool sharpener and more attendees. Floyd has been advertising from one side of the country to the other so put June 4th - 7th on your calendar, be there or be square! Friday evening at 6:30 the Evert Musicale will present a free concert at the depot featuring "The Goldmine Pickers", Old Time/Celtic/Bluegrass music. www.goldminepickers.com

FLOYD FEST: Floyd Fest 2014, June 10-14, held after the Roundup at the same fairgrounds is also coming together, with new classes. Realistic Human w/MART LIND. Realistic Animal w/CHARLEY SMALLIGAN, a new Caricature w/PAT MOORE and Gourd Carving w/KAREN BROWN. There is still room to sign up.
 Contact Floyd Rhadigan 734-649-3259 or email rhads134@comcast.net

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. 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
5/3-4	SUNRISE SIDE CARVING SHOW	Oscoda Community Center on the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base	989-305-6780 989-736-3678
5/19-23	MWCA SEMINAR – Room in most classes still available.	Midland Fairgrounds	734-323-4685 810-798-3401
6/4-7	EVART ROUNDUP	Osceola County Fairgrounds – Evert	734-649-3259
6/9-13	FLOYD FEST CARVING SEMINAR	Osceola County Fairgrounds - Evert	734-649-3259

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