

**“CHATTER”**  
**NEWSLETTER OF THE**  
**MICHIGAN WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION**  
**www.miwoodcarvers.com**

**DECEMBER 2023 VOLUME 31 ISSUE 4**



**\*CLUB NEWS**

**\*CARVING EVENTS**

**\*UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Highlights from the Fall MWCA meeting on October 21:**

The fall MWCA meeting held on October 21 was another good one for the association. Around 13 people representing 7 clubs attended the meeting. We have a couple of new clubs in the forming stages in Muskegon and Ludington and a few of our former clubs are now struggling since Covid arrived.

**VETERAN’S CANE PROJECT:** The price of glass eyes has gone up and now cost \$4 a pair in bulk. Shafts cost \$4 each in bulk. We need help putting canes together and Jerry Burchard volunteered to come up once a month to help. Denny and Gerry will get together in January. If you can help let Denny know.

Remember that if you are an MWCA Club, you will be insured for any event or show your group holds.

**MICHIGAN WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION** is in need of a secretary and a treasurer. If you would be interested in either or know someone that would like to, contact Denny at [vetcane2@gmail.com](mailto:vetcane2@gmail.com) or give him a call 989-277-5739.

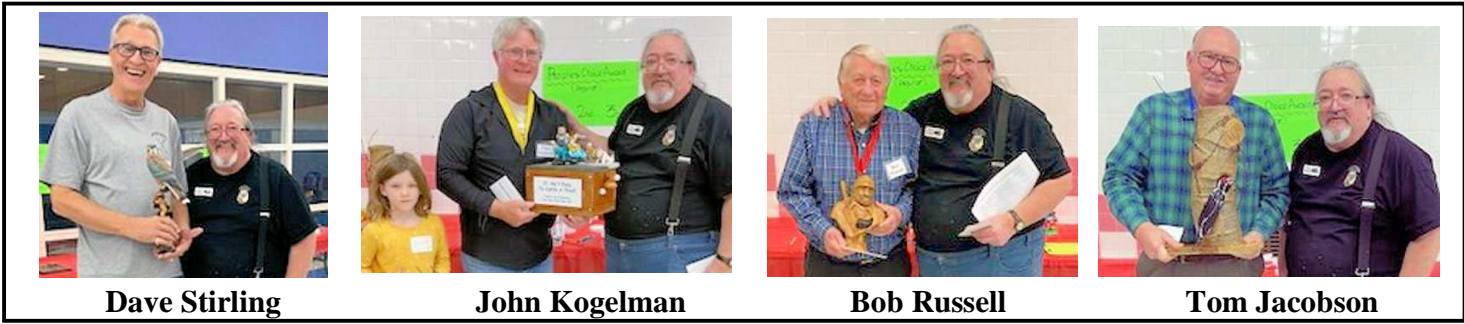
The MWCA is sponsoring a Learning Seminar on June 17-21, 2024 at the Osceola County Fairgrounds in Evart MI following the Roundup June 12-15<sup>th</sup>. More information will be sent out in December. For more information contact Bob Miller at 616-901-3933, Email is [mwca\\_bob@yahoo.com](mailto:mwca_bob@yahoo.com)

**SALINE CARVERS:**

Saturday, October 7 was a beautiful fall day here in Saline, and we had a good turnout of 272 guests, 26 more than last year! It’s always fun to see all the smiling faces, help newcomers find what they’re looking for, answer questions, and generally help spread the word about what a great hobby wood carving can be! Coffee, donuts and pretzels helped keep everyone going until closing time. Fred Erbsch did soap carving for the kids.

Our winners were: Dave Stirling won Master’s People’s Choice with his Kestrel. Regular People’s Choice won a 1<sup>st</sup> for John Kogelman for Mother and Chicks, 2nd went to Bob Russell for his Mountain Man bust, and Tom Jacobson won 3rd for “To Catch a Thief”. Our Friendship cane was won by C Reavis.

Anastasia was the Myrna Miller Award winner with her rabbit, and Floyd Rhadigan’s Young Member Awards were won by Anastasia and Gunner and were each presented with a set of carving tools. Floyd also presented Jim Shock with the Caricature Carvers of America Merit Award.



**Dave Stirling**

**John Kogelman**

**Bob Russell**

**Tom Jacobson**



**Anastasia**

**Anastasia and Gunner**

**Jim Shock**

**WOODCARVER PRESENTS BALE EAGLE CARVING TO BELLEVILLE INDEPENDENT NEWS:**

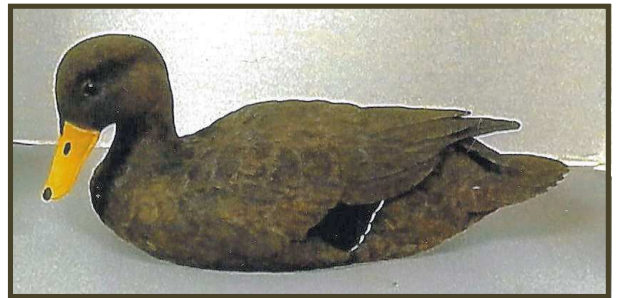
Howard Puchalsky, a Van Buren Township wood carver and member in our Saline club, presented a bald eagle he had carved to Belleville Area Independent Editor Rosemary Otsman at the end of contest awards at the Belleville Area Council for the Arts Art Show on Oct. 13. Puchalsky said the eagle represents freedom and the information the Independent gives to readers helps them retain their freedom and that Otsman prints the good, the bad, and the ugly, but it's all true.

**GRAND VALLEY CARVERS:** Ionia Middle School discontinued woodshop as part of their curriculum. The room where woodshop was held has been converted into a computerized robotics lab. Our club has been enjoying the hospitality of Garry & Mary Mulick on their deck for the summer months, for the past few years. We are now meeting at St. John Lutheran School. 617 N. Jefferson St. in Ionia. Our regular meetings are 1st and 3rd Mondays 10 am till ?, barring Holidays and SnowDays,.Guests are always welcome.  
Russ Ross 517-213-1613 [russell42ross@gmail.com](mailto:russell42ross@gmail.com)

**FRUITBELT CARVERS:** We held our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Woodcarving Show on November 4 & 5 at the American Legion in Constantine, MI. We had around 125-150 visitors attend the show. Some came from Michigan City, IN, Grand Rapids, Benton Harbor and Detroit to buy supplies from the vendors and get some carving ideas. We had a total of 27 tables this year.



Our Coffee Can Drawing was a BIG HIT!!! Club members donated a total of 10 items which were carved, woodburned or turned.



There were 3 entries in the Professional Category and Tom Grile won "Best of Show Rosette" for his Black Duck. There were 2 entries in the Intermediate Category with Gary Gracey winning "Best of Show Rosette" for his Flying Mallard Duck. People's Choice went to Gary Gracey for his Flying Mallard Duck. Best Show Table went to Tom Grile for his display of carved ducks.

After Saturdays Show – Club Members, Exhibitors, Vendor and Spouses attended our Annual Banquet at the Country Table Famil Restaurant in White Pigeon. MI for food, fun and prizes.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped make our show a success!! A BIG THANK YOU also goes out to the Legion's kitchen help for putting on a fantastic breakfast and lunch each day!!

Our 2024 show will be November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> so mark your calendars, see you then.

**TRI CITY CARVERS:** Again this year we were invited to carve at the Antique Warehouse in Saginaw at their flea market. Lots of folks stopped by to chat and admire the items we had on display. We also gave out a couple of cane applications. L-R: Ed Hak, Ed Hak's Laurel and Hardy carving and Vince Rosolowski's carving for granddaughters Principal.



We also had our election of officers and President Jack Harper was re-elected as well as Vice President Jim Noack and Secretary Ed Hak, Ivan Thane is our new treasurer.

Mike Ford Carved this yellow warbler for a donation to their silent auction at the Chippewa Nature Center Art Show in Midland on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Nature Art Show & Sale offers some of the best works by local artists in mediums such as photography, wood carvings, pottery, books, baskets and more!

We are also doing some restoration work on the carousel at Saginaw Zoo, replacing broken or chipped wood, refinishing worn paint and some mechanical work.



## CHIPS & CHATTER

**A NOTE ABOUT MWCA DUES: Remember that your MWCA club dues for 2024-2025 are due by March 31, 2024 at \$2.00 per member. Your club will receive a notice by the end of January or first of February.**

### **What is the difference between whittling and carving?**

Occasionally the terms "whittling" and "carving" are used interchangeably, but they are different arts. Carving employs the use of chisels, gouges, with or without a mallet, and often powered equipment such as lathes. Whittling, however, involves only the use of a knife.

### **Is it easier to whittle wet or dry wood?**

Carving wet wood is easier than carving it dry as the moisture in the wood allows the knife to glide through the wood easier. If the wood is too dry, the wood can be hard and brittle. By wetting the wood down before carving will make for a more enjoyable carving experience.

Editor's Note: I learned that if you have a hard spot on your carving or are carving end wood, spray with a mixture of 50-50 alcohol and water and let soak in for a couple of minutes. It makes a world of difference.

**NEWSLETTER NOTICE:** Because we have a limited number of shows and events this year the Chatter will be only 4 issues for the year. **March-June-Sept-December for 2023.** News needs to be sent to Sandy by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the newsletter.

**CEDAR BIRD SHOPPE** - You can contact us by phone (989) 928-4242 (cell), or E-mail, [cedarbirdshoppe@charter.net](mailto:cedarbirdshoppe@charter.net). Customers are welcome to visit us when we are home, just let us know ahead and call for date and time. Face Masks may be required. We are shipping orders via Post Office, UPS or pickup.

**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.

**Please share this newsletter with the rest of your members** who don't receive it or **FORWARD THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL** to your club members who have email. Thank you.

CHATTER NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED ON OR AROUND THE FIRST OF  
MARCH      JUNE      SEPTEMBER      DECEMBER

**2024 MWCA COMING EVENTS**  
*As we have seen before things can always change.*

<b>2024</b>	<b>EVENTS</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
3/9-12	Ultimate Sports Show MWCA Invited to participate	DeVos Place downtown Grand Rapids	269-795-5059
3/23-24	Metro Carving Show	Packard Proving Grounds 49956 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Twp	586-557-3712 Sharon0229@att.net
6/12-15	Ewart Roundup	Osceola County Fairgrounds - Ewart	734-649-3259 rhads134@comcast.net
6/17-21	MWCA Learning Seminar	Osceola County Fairgrounds - Ewart	616-907-3933

**MWCA BOARD AND COMMITTEES**

<b>President</b> Denny Sekrenes 989-277-5739 Vetcane2@gmail.com	<b>Learning Seminar</b> Bob Miller 616-807-3933 mwca_bob@yahoo.com	<b>Secretary</b>  Can you fill our need?	<b>Treasurer</b>  Can you fill our need?
<b>"Chatter" Editor</b> Sandy Holder 231-250-3855 mwcanews@gmail.com	<b>MWCA Chaplain</b> Arnold Tew 269-781-7852 arnval177@gmail.com	<b>Judging</b> Phyllis Burghy 989-928-4242 cedarbirdshoppe@charter.net	<b>Promotional (Calendars, etc.)</b> Denny Sekrenes 989-277-5739 Vetcane2@gmail.com
<b>Patriot Cane Project</b> Mid-Michigan Carvers Denny Sekrenes 989-277-5739 Vetcane2@gmail.com	<b>Webmaster</b> Justin Swanson 616-446-0120 Justin.john.swanson@gmail.com	<b>Insurance</b> Sharon Seitz 734-645-9214 MWCAinsur@yahoo.com	<b>MWCA Representative</b> Russell Ross 616-213-1613 russell42@gmail.com



**FROM MWCA TO ALL OF YOU - MAKE LOTS OF CHIPS**

