



“CHATTER”
 NEWSLETTER OF THE
 MICHIGAN WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION
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 NOVEMBER 2019 VOLUME 25 ISSUE 6



****SEMINAR FUTURE ** CARVING SHOW REPORTS **MWCA FALL MEETING**

FALL MEETING NOTES 10.19.2019

With the passing of Milan Maybe, Arnold Tew has assumed the official role of our chaplain. He opened the meeting with a prayer and we followed it with the pledge of allegiance. Secretary, Willy Stewart took roll. There were 14 clubs represented out of the 37 clubs allowed to participate. We had a quorum.

Treasurer report: There is sufficient funding in the Cane fund, Soap Carving fund and the General fund. The Seminar fund is self-supporting and at this time has a zero balance. At the end of each seminar if there is a surplus, it is put into a surplus seminar funds and we do have a balance there. The only way the seminar is funded is by students that sign up for classes. There are no MWCA general funds used for the seminar. See SEMINAR Article in this Chatter.

The Soap Committee gave out 15 kits each to Chuck Smith and the Saline Carvers. Myrna Miller is regrettable unable to continue as Soap Carving chairman. A new committee coordinator, Gail Brooks from the OWL club, will be assuming the committee immediately. If you need soap carving supplies her email is brooksgj@comcast.net See SOAP CARVING Article in this issue of the Chatter.

The cane committee has now distributed over 4800 canes. They have 40-50 applications right now, so please continue making your eagle head cane toppers. See Denny at the shows or give him a call if you want some blanks.

Sharon Seitz gave an insurance report. She said that 10 certificates have been issued this year. She also informed us that she will be away for about 6 weeks in

January and February of 2020 and if you need an insurance certificate in the beginning of the year to get your request in early. If you forget, Mary Lou Mulick can help you. See INSURANCE article in this issue of the Chatter.

Discussion was held on our upcoming election of officers. After the changes that were made to the MWCA bylaws, we will be no longer be electing all four officers at one time. The offices of Treasurer and Vice President will be up for election at the April 2020 meeting. Gail Brooks of the OWL club will handle the nominations. Email her at brooksgj@comcast.net. Two people have already accepted the nomination for those two offices, but more are always welcome.

To have a smooth transition from the old treasurer to the new treasurer, an audit committee made up of Pat Murphy, Harry Dryer and Sandy Maletzke has been formed. They will decide on a meeting time after the first of the year. Please contact Denny Sekrenes if you wish to be part of the auditing committee.

Under new business, the people from Tri City noticed that the date of their show in August should be on Saturday August 22nd NOT Sunday the 23rd. Please adjust your calendars.

Closed with prayer by Arnold Tew.

We held a 50/50 drawing and Betty Ross was the proud winner of \$48.00. A Pizza and Pop lunch was happily consumed by all. Respectively submitted, Mary Lou Mulick and Sharon Seitz

NOTE FROM YOUR PREZ:

From the President:

Wow! Another two months have passed us by - a busy two months. Spit and Whittle and Carve-Fest in September, then Saline and Frankenmuth in October.

At our semi-annual meeting we held nominations for Vice President and Treasurer. Gail Brooks is the nominating committee. You can reach her at brooksgj@comcast.net if there are names you would like to put into nomination. Dave Sanderson has agreed to run again for Vice President and Christie Garant was nominated for Treasurer.

From Promotions:

The 2020 calendars are now available. See me in Constantine at the Fruitbelt Woodcarvers Carving show the first weekend in November if you need some 2020 calendars or contact me at vetcane@charter.com to order. Thank you, Denn

CARVING CLUB NEWS

TRI-CITY CARVERS: They will be holding elections for President, Vice President and Trustee at their November meeting. Phil Westendorf and Dick Henning will not be up for re-election as President and Vice President.

Christmas Party is Dec 3rd. Phil Westendorf and Dick Bishop hosted a table at the Frankenmuth show. We welcomed new member Sid Dawson, she moved here from Gaylord.

ST HELEN CARVERS: We welcome back the St Helen carvers of Houghton Lake, West Branch, St Helen area who have been inactive for the past few years.

PRESENTATION TO THE GOVERNOR: The East Lansing Prime Time Senior' Program offers a number of classes for area senior citizens. One of these classes taught by Fred Erbsch is a carving class, "Carving for Fun". This class meets for 2 hours 3 times each month. Each month Erbsch prepares projects for them to carve. The class enrollment is limited to 10. Soon after the election of Gretchen Whitmer as Governor one class member suggested carving a walking stick for the Governor. This was discussed and the class decided to do it. Each member of the class was to be involved in this project and since the class had class projects this involvement would have to be done outside the class time, except for discussions about what to do on the walking stick. Erbsch brought a number of sticks for selection of a shaft. One was chosen and prepared for carving, a 2" diameter sumac stem. However, the group decided that instead of carving the shaft, the Governor's name, office and election date be burned into it.

It was the decided to attach a handle to the top of the stick. The handle was basswood and was to be carved. The class chose the state bird, the robin, and the state flower, the apple blossom, to be

carved into the handle. The state rock, the Petoskey stone, and a nugget of copper were to be embedded into the handle above the carvings. After the walking stick was completed an appointment was made to present the walking stick to the Governor. On 14 October 2019, 6 of the people that worked on the walking stick were present as well as a representative of the PrimeTime program and Fred Erbsch, the instructor and a contributor to the project. Missing were 2 others who participated in the development of the walking stick. The Governor was very gracious in the acceptance of the walking stick and said she would certainly be using it when she is hiking,

Erbsch told the Governor about another "out of class" project these individuals are involved with, carving comfort crosses and comfort birds. Over 100 crosses and birds have been carved and distributed to individuals, hospitals, hospice services, churches, rehabilitation facilities and senior citizen residences.

The Governor was given both a bird and a cross. When given the cross she placed it in her hand and said "this feels so comfortable". She complimented the class on its outreach activities.

Fred Erbsch is a member of the Greater Lansing Wood Carving Club and a wood carving

teacher. He is far right in picture.



SALINE CARVERS: Tom Jacobson reported that he and Sharon had quite a few visitors to their table at the **Pittsfield Harvest Festival**. Sharon had put together 15 sets of soap carving tools (made from popsicle sticks) ahead of time, which was very handy once things got busy. They ran out of both soap and club flyers just as things were winding down. **OUR THANKS** to you both for representing our club so well. The show went very well. They presented us with a Certificate of Appreciation for participating in their festival.



SALINE CARVING SHOW: This year's show had 260 visitors and 37 tables! People's Choice...First Place: Jerry Valentine for a relief carving (with wood burning) of old-time vehicles at a country repair shop. Second Place: Jan Frederickson for a very detailed woodcock. Third Place: Bob Russell for a charming tufted titmouse balanced on the tip of a branch. Bob was also recognized for his promising work as a carver, by Caricature Carvers of America!



The lathe demonstration drew a lot of attention, and quite a few people tried it. In the Beginner's Corner, Fred Erbick barely had time for a cup of coffee as he was kept busy showing visitors of all ages how easy and fun it can be to learn carving. The Two Talented Toms (Jacobson and Tobias) entertained everyone with their pumpkin carving demo. Meanwhile, in the back of the room, Caryn managed to sell ALL the old magazines and chunks of wood that were donated -- quite an accomplishment! And we've already started planning for next year, so stay tuned for news.

FRANKENMUTH CARVING SHOW:

Greetings from Frankenmuth Wood Carvers, On Sunday, October 20th we held our 32th Wood Carving Show. The weather was great and we had a lot of enjoyable company at the Frankenmuth Middle School gym. The gym was full of exhibitors, vendors and friendly faces all day. We believe we had over 300 people visit during the day, 330 ballots were cast for the People's Choice Award. The project competition was exciting and about 95 carvings were entered. A big thank you goes to Mike Madeja who communicated with all exhibitors and vendors and our Treasurer, Steve Day, who coordinated the Show. Many other members had smaller roles to play but they were all very important!

The judges for our competition were Dick Hanson, Floyd Radigan and Dave Marsdan. They carefully evaluated each carving and determined who received awards. Best of Show went to Mike Murdock a Metro Carver (Shad Bush, Shelby Township) for his Screech Owl. Mike is a tremendous bird carver. First Runner up was Jean Martin another Metro Carver (Washington Township) for her 146 piece bark carved train in bottles. These fabulous miniatures were superb. Second Runner up was Scott



Scoles an independent carver of just 5 years for his Flying duck. He is a self-taught carver who carves on a budget – nothing is wasted by this gentleman. The Professional Best of Show went to Don Miller an independent carver from Saline, MI. He made a beautiful Mallard Drake with a startled expression and body posse. The duck is comprised of 20 pieces, is power carved and hand painted. The People's Choice award was given to Greg Nye from the St. Helen's Carving club. It is a completely original wood carving of a gnome outfitted for fishing and mounted on a handmade fishing creel. This caricature carving was a big hit!

Thank you to Denny Sekrenes and the Michigan Wood Carvers for their eagle cane display. We are grateful to the MWCA officers and their tireless effort in behalf of Michigan wood carvers. Don Miller from Frankenmuth won the \$25.00 certificate for the winning Eagle Head for a cane. The Frankenmuth Carvers are very grateful to all the exhibitors and vendors who purchased tables and made our Show a success. We enjoyed seeing carvers from all over the state. We look forward to everyone's carving Shows next year. Happy Holidays to all!! Submitted by Anita Harrand, Competition Chair

CHIPS & CHATTER

CALENDAR CHANGES after publishing: Tri City show was tentatively Aug 23, but please change your calendars to **Saturday-August 22nd**. Also the Saline Carving Show was re-scheduled for **Saturday October 3rd not Sunday the 4th**. Please correct your calendars.

SEMINAR: Dave Sanderson has taken over as chairman of the learning seminar. He officially announced that there will not be a seminar in 2020. He has taken in lots of suggestions from many people and is attempting to put together something a little different to see if we can entice more people to attend. He is looking at everything, including time of year, number of days, who the instructors will be, and he is also working on getting a grant to help with expenses. The 2019 Seminar would have been deeply in the red if not for the generous purchasers of raffle tickets. The cost of putting on the 2019 Seminar was \$17,102.06! That included \$830 refunded to students who cancelled because their instructors cancelled due to insufficient students. There was a protracted discussion by those in attendance. The consensus is that the money will work itself out if we get more students. It was pointed out that our target audience should be those 50-65. The biggest question is how to bring in those people. If you have some good ideas/suggestions for Dave or want to help him with publicity or communication, please e-mail him at sandersonwoodart@yahoo.com. He will need helpers, he can't do it alone, so please consider volunteering for this very worthy educational opportunity.

SOAP CARVING: MWCA provides member clubs most of the materials for teaching. a kit that contains 5 items: *a glove* to instill a student in the use of a glove when carving, *popsicle sticks* with a direction sheet to make his/her own tools, *pattern sheets* of figures to carve, a *MWCA button*, and a *plastic knife*. The bin of materials also includes *instructors guidelines* with wood patterns for the students to trace and *tools for the students to use in class*; **Not** to be taken home. Barb and Willy Stuart made the tools and donated them. (They are a very much improved version of popsicle stick tools!) *Plastic table cloths* are provided to protect table surfaces from

very messy, numerous soap chips. The sponsoring club needs to supply the soap bars. Ivory soap is usually recommended. Jergens soap also carves easily. Fox Chapel has several good books on soap carving. The Fall 2016 issue of Woodcarving Illustrated has a good article titled "Learning to Carve Soap" by Barbara Milliken. Request the number of kits that you anticipate using.

Myrna Miller who has handled the soap carving materials for many years is reluctantly stepping down because of health problems. She says she has enjoyed doing it but it is time to let someone else have a turn.

Gail Brooks from the Oakland/Livingston Club has volunteered. **She is now the person to contact when you or your club want to teach soap carving.** Arrange for pick up and return of materials and leftover kits. Contact Gail: brooksgi@comcast.net or you can text to 248-255-2005, please use text only, no phone calls.

INSURANCE: I have had recent questions concerning insurance coverage for MWCA member activities. You all know to apply for coverage for your club shows. In addition you probably don't know that you are also covered if you club has a table at another show or festival. This table is usually for recruiting/education or publicity purposes. A formal application is not needed for these short, small events.

NOTICE to clubs whose shows are early in the year. I will not be available in January through mid Feb. Please try to apply for your insurance in December if possible. Thank you! If you forget, Mary Lou Mulick can help you.

Applications by email happily accepted!
MWCAinsure@yahoo.com
Thanks! Sharon Seitz

THANK YOU TO MYRNA MILLER for being the soap carving chairperson for so many years, you did a wonderful job and it has been very much appreciated. I am sure it is in good hands with Gail.

PRAYERS and CONCERNS

We have lost another wonderful longtime MWCA friend and carver when **MILAN MAYBEE** passed away last month. He always had a smile and always willing to help a fellow carver. We very much appreciated his being our MWCA Chaplain over many years. Gone but not forgotten. Prayers go out to Margaret and their family.

CARVING WITH KIDS---PART 1 OF 3---THIS WORKS FOR ME---WHAT WORKS FOR YOU?

Fred Erbsch is a member of the Greater Lansing Wood Carving Club. He has been teaching beginning carving for over 6 years. For most of his classes he provides all the carving tools and wood (projects) at no cost. Also, he does not have a participation fee for class participants.

I did soap carving once with kids. The kids enjoyed carving. I enjoyed working with the kids. But cleaning up was a real turn off. Boy, what a mess! I said never again. Later, after I began holding beginning carving classes at Johnson's Workbench, I was asked by Billie Jo Day, Johnson's office manager, if I could include a class for kids. After giving this request considerable thought I agreed to do it. I decided that kids would not carve with a knife, they would only use chisels and gouges. Actually, the adult beginning classes I taught were chisel and gouge oriented so this essentially was a "no brainer" decision for the kids' sessions.

The next decision was to determine what kids would/could carve. The piece to be carved (project) needed to be simple with little detail, something kids would recognize and take only 15 to 20 minutes to

carve. With these parameters in mind it was decided to do modified relief carvings. Modified in that the project was taken, scrolled sawed, from a basswood board, the base. The base was a little larger than the project. After the project was cut out a thin back was glued to the base. When the project was to be carved

the kid turned the base upside down and the project dropped out. After the project is carved it can be placed back into the base giving a good example of a modified relief carving.

In addition to thinking and designing other things were needed. Carving gloves that fit very small hands needed to be purchased – no one carves without wearing a glove. Belly boards needed to be made. And, enough kid sized tools, palm tools, needed to be obtained. Tools proved to be the biggest challenge.

Over the several year period of working with kids I have been able to accumulate 9 sets of beginner carving sets – 5 Flexcut, 3 Stubai and 1 Rammelson sets. I also have a number of "orphan" palm tools for use by kids.....Part II coming in January.....



ST HELEN CARVERS - WELCOME BACK TO MWCA: After a few years of being inactive, carvers from Houghton Lake, West Branch, St Helen have renewed their membership with St. Helen Carvers.

Who remembers the days when one person will be outside turning the TV Antenna and shouting..."How's that look now?"

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 download or read a PDF on the MWCA website at 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.

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 JANUARY MARCH MAY JULY SEPTEMBER NOVEMBER

2019 MWCA COMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
11/2	DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK TONIGHT!!!		
11/2-3	FRUITBELT CARVERS SHOW	American Legion Hall, Constantine	269-435-7245 269-483-7089
11/28	HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM MWCA		
12/25	MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM MWCA		

MWCA BOARD AND COMMITTEES

President Denny Sekrenes 989-277-5739 vetcane@charter.net	Vice President and Learning Seminar Dave Sanderson 989-339-6444 sandersonwoodart@yahoo.com	Secretary Willy Stewart (989) 687-2536 stewartwilly@yahoo.com	Treasurer Mary Lou Mulick (616) 902-3888 mulickg@gmail.com
"Chatter" Editor Sandy Holder (231) 734-5125 horsecarver@gmail.com	MWCA Chaplain Arnold Tew "Thank you to Milan Maybee, for your many years with us, you will be missed."	Judging Phyllis Burghy (989) 928-4242 cedarbirdshoppe@charter.net	Promotional (Calendars, etc.) Denny Sekrenes (989) 277-5739 vetcane@charter.net
Patriot Cane Project Mid-Michigan Carvers Denny Sekrenes 989-277-5739 vetcane@charter.net	Webmaster Justin Swanson 616-446-0120 Justin.john.swanson@gmail.com	Insurance Sharon Seitz 734-645-9214 MWCAinsur@yahoo.com	MWCA Representative Russell Ross 616-213-1613 russell42@gmail.com