



VOL. 26, NO. 1

January 2010

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Christmas Tree from Top Of Maine Carvers

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greetings from Bog Haven

Happy New Year! My wish for 2010 is Peace, Harmony and Prosperity for all.

As we start the new decade at MWCA we need to look at many areas of our organization and where we want to take it. Are the criteria set forth in our constitution being met, and if so can we do it better? Can we bring the art of wood carving to a wider audience, should we expand the programs now in place, who will lead MWCA in the future? These are just a few of the challenges that face our new President when he grasps the reigns of MWCA at the annual meeting in March. He will need help, and lots of it. I am confident that MWCA members will step forward and answer the call. This past year is an example of how we can achieve the challenges I have just mentioned. We added three new chapters to MWCA, Poland Spring, Top of Maine and McCaffery Mountain. The Top of Maine Show and Competition showcased the Art of Wood Carving and MWCA in Northern Maine McCaffery Mountain carvers made a positive and quite visible presence in the center of the state. Poland Spring carvers filled a need in the south central portion on the state. Demonstrations at Common Ground Fair, Cumberland Fair, Willow Brook Museum and other venues attest to MWCA and what we do. Participation in other carving venues such as New England Spirit of Wood Show, Green Mountain Wood Carvers Show, N.E. Wood Carvers Retreat in RI and the Eagle Cane Project attest to members willing to step forward and represent Maine Wood Carvers. I thank all for their contribution in these areas. More volunteer help is desperately needed. New blood and ideas are essential. Combine these with the pool of knowledge and experience of those who have served in the past and continue to serve will make our organization stronger and more productive.

Now I ask for others to come forward and assist these many dedicated members. At the annual meeting the Vice President's position will become vacant and needs to be filled. The Down East Wild Life Show is in great need of volunteers. Nearly all committee positions have not yet been filled. Show dates have been set and the Augusta Armory has been reserved. Time is passing and this committee must get organized in order to meet critical deadlines. If you would consider serving in any of these capacities, it would be much appreciated. Call or e-mail me at 207 388-2472 or merribob@megalink.net . Thanks for your consideration.

Until next time
Happy Carving
Bob Perry
President, MWCA

MWCA Chapter Reports

Streaked Mountain Woodcarvers

Nov meeting

Our meeting opened up with the discussion of the tamarack piece. Please bring ideas to the next meeting for discussion. Chuck led the meeting with vote of having a Christmas contest. Anyone interested please bring your work to the December meeting.

I have agreed to help out with the next years wood carving show in Augusta. I will represent our group. I am looking for ideas to inspire our next theme. Our December meeting I'll be asking for idea's.

Chuck Friis has agreed to be president of the Maine Wood Carvers for our up coming year.

If you're interested in assisting with the upcoming Down East Wood Carvers Show for 2010 or interested in being chairman talk to Bob or Chuck Perry for more info.

We sold one carving kit thus far and will order another when the funds allow.

Show and tell brought in an array of pieces from vases, 8 and 12 pointed stars, icicles, elephant, bark house, snow family, golf ball carving , and wood turned jar with scenery on it.

Your secretary

Justina

Carver Street Carvers

Not much happened on Carver Street in December, the holidays kept us from meeting every week.

Theresa King is not feeling well so won't be joining us again for awhile so not sure how much longer we will be meeting. Can always hope someone else will come join us. I don't get there often because of working. Hope that Joan and Richard keep going to keep the chapter open.

Barb

Coastal Carvers

The Coastal Carvers enjoyed a very nice holiday buffet and gift exchange at the Wades in December. We will start the 2010 carving season, meeting at Jim and Barbara Wades home at 1PM on Saturday, January 23. We will continue to work on the eagle head canes as needed and there will be a new project to start for those who are interested. Remember if the weather is questionable please call either Karen Knowles at 443-3262 or Jim Wade at 563-8470.

Happy New Year

Karen Knowles

South Coast Carvers

The Southcoast Carvers met in Newington, NH at the Woodcraft store in the Wal-Mart Plaza on Woodbury Ave.

Our meetings always open with show and lots of tell. Ed Benoit is working on a stylized cat, Bob Schwinger is working on a loon. Congratulations Bob Second Best of Show Intermediate at the New England Woodcarvers Show! Wayne Preston is working on a human figure. Mike Cavanagh is finishing up a golf club duck. Todd Wisell is doing several country bears. Our youth carver, Hayden Dumont is showing great improvement and had several pieces to show. George Calef, yours truly, had a pair of cardinals. We welcome Joe Christian to our group. Joe is from Eliot, Maine and makes violins. Paul Durant reported back to our group on the news from Augusta and worked with Hayden by showing him techniques for creating a Christmas ornament.

Our next meeting is the fourth Thursday of January 2010.

George Calef

Capital Chapter

No Report this Month.

Loyd



Tom Cote, President
6 Summit Street
Limestone, Maine 04750
Tel: (207) 325-4258 Cell: (207) 325-1233

Hello Everyone! Wow...time sure flies

The Top of Maine Carvers are now meeting every last Thursday of the month and all are welcome to join us.

Our Eagle Cane Project is progressing. We have been able to get the word out and have received 8 or 9 names of veteran's in need of a cane. Tom, Dan and John are busy carving eagle heads for the project.

Members of the Top of Maine Carvers assisted Tom with another project this fall.. Everyone donated at least one or two carved Christmas ornaments that adorned a Christmas Tree which was auctioned off at the Presque Isle Rotary Club's Annual Art Auction. We had over 60 ornaments when finished. We had a great time coming up with different ideas for ornaments. It was really a lot of fun.

Regarding the slab of wood from the largest tamarack tree. For those of you who are not sure what should be done with these..... We are asking that a relief carving be done and that the theme be something to do with the logging industry whether early years or otherwise. If you need a little help with ideas, Tom is the man to talk to...he always has such good ideas and could help you come up with something. He can also provide you with some basic instructions on relief carving should anyone need it. Don't be shy...we love be able to offer ideas and assistance if needed. When the slabs are finished, we would ask that they be brought to our next competition where they will be placed on view in the forestry building.

Hope everyone had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year's.

Annette Tardy for
 The Top of Maine Carvers

Central Maine Carvers

No report and the last word was that they are looking for a place to meet.

Downeast Woodcarvers

No Report this month.

Alan Talbot

Poland Spring Carvers

NoReport This Month

Jim Irish

McGaffey Mountain Carvers

On the 16th of December, McGaffey MTN Carvers met for their first Christmas Party. There were 13 people present, including 2 new members - Dave Erb and his son Chris. Chris had done a project for school and it ignited the carving bug. He quickly picked up a knife and started in. Norma and Angel spent most of the day baking and wrapping gifts and it was quite the spread. Several advanced carvers donated wrapped carvings so that all could play in the Yankee swap. What fun! There was a lot of friendly "stealing" of carvings and everyone ended up with at least one gift...some got 2!

We meet every 1st and 3rd Wed eve of the month at 6:130m at the Vienna Community Center. All are welcome. If you have any questions, feel free to call Norma or myself. May all have a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Kathy Webster

**Financial Report MWCA
December 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009**

INCOME:

Membership Renewals	45.00
Ad for newsletter, 1 yr	<u>60.00</u>
Income	105.00

EXPENSES:

Albison's Printing, Inc.	178.83
Barbara McCutcheon, Editor	<u>40.00</u>
Expenses	218.83

Checkbook balance	
as of 12/31/09	\$9,282.16

Details of any transaction are available from the Treasurer, Wilma Sarna



A New Beginning for the Eagle Cane Project

The Eagle Cane Project, a program supported by woodcarvers and woodturners across the United States to provide eagle head canes to disabled veterans, has begun anew in Maine.

The goal is to create works of art, personalized by woodcarvers, and personally presented to the recipient by the carver. To be an effective presentation cane, they should be well crafted and inscribed with the veteran's personal information, which may include: veteran's name, branch of service, military action, grade/rank, dates of service, date of injury, or country of injury. When possible, canes should be made by woodworkers near the veteran's home town and presented in person. This makes the experience more significant to the recipient and the carver.

Although eagle head blanks will be available, we encourage carvers to develop their own style. A lot of different styles of Eagle Cane heads and decorations have shown up since the project began in 2004, many are unique and all are good at representing the individual carvers dedication to providing a means to show the injured veterans our appreciation, respect, honor and support. Each cane may take up to two months to complete, but once the cane is finished, it can last a lifetime if it's well cared for.

If for some reason a personal presentation isn't possible, Maine Wood Carvers Association will cover the cost of shipping the canes, valued at roughly \$150, to their recipients.

Join us in this worthwhile cause by carving a truly unique one-of-a-kind tribute to Maine's disabled veterans. They are a wonderful personal memorial to the soldier and serves as a symbol of their self-less service to our country.

To learn more about the Eagle Cane Project, to make in-kind donations, or **if anyone has a completed cane** contact:

Marcia Berkall
165 Rockwood Dr.
South China, ME 04358
207-445-4280
eaglecane@mainewoodcarvers.org

To support the project:

by making a donation, send them to –

Wilma Sarna, Treasurer
Maine Wood Carvers Association
336 Harpswell Islands Road
Harpswell, ME 04079
0.207-729-5838

by purchasing items with the Maine Eagle Head Cane Project logo, go to –

<http://www.cafepress.com/maineeaglecane>



Julien J. Dupont served as a Surgical Technician in the Army Air Corp. during WWII

The following article is taken from the November issue of a Newsletter from Chris Pyre. He gives his permission to use any parts of his newsletters. It is a much longer article and you can log onto the his website to see the rest of it.

I've written about it extensively and shown hundreds of people how to do it. I've even made a DVD about it. Yet I still get emails from carvers who find sharpening their tools an unsatisfying experience; anything from a chore to a misery. Here's the deal:

I've often said that to carve well, you *must* be able to sharpen your carving tools correctly, *properly*.

Why 'must'?
And what does 'properly' mean



The relationship between your carving tools and yourself is like a musician playing their instrument: you cannot separate the instrument from the music. It's not just that you need your carving tools to carve, but your carving tools *cannot to be separated from the act of carving itself*.

In the same way that the state of the instrument and it's tuning significantly influences the quality of sound coming out, the state of your carving tools - how they have been sharpened - will significantly affect your carving.

If a musician wants to progress and play to their heart's content, they will get a decent instrument, learn how to tune it and always look after it.

If *you* want to progress in carving you must get 'decent' tools, and learn to sharpen and look after them. That's it; bottom line. Tuning is what musicians do; sharpening is what woodcarvers do.

If you can't do it, then you've got problems which you could well do without as a woodcarver. That's why I'm saying 'must'.

I think most beginners understand what I'm getting at here and probably hate me banging on. It's the next bit that they struggle with: What exactly do I need to do .

1: I don't care.

You can sharpen by hand on benchstones. You can use honing wheels. You can use a house brick tied to a pineapple. I don't really care how you get there (and I've told you where you want to get to), *as long as you do*.

There is no moral highground in any one approach. The essential thing is getting the tool working as efficiently as possible. What matters at the end of the day is the result: your finished work. The tools are merely a means to the end. If the method you use doesn't get you what you need, change it.

2: Skill

Sharpening is a skill. You need to learn it and practice it. Carve (and therefore sharpen) every day and you'll soon get on top of it. Carve once a month and give little attention to sharpening and you'll struggle.

3: Bevels

Sharpening means controlled removal of metal, in specific amounts and in specific places, until you get what you want.

The only place you remove it from is the bevel (outside or inside). The cutting edge arises from this.

You don't sharpen the edge; you sharpen the bevel.

Sharpening, as a skill, is not a big one compared to carving itself.

If you know you have it in you to carve, then you certainly can get that sharpening under your belt.

One for the Bench:

"Some people say that the prevailing mood in the world today is one of powerlessness. Decisions about political, economic and environmental issues all seem to be made somewhere beyond our reach. What can the individual accomplish in the face of the huge institutions that run our world? This feeling of powerlessness fuels a vicious cycle that only worsens the situation and people's sense of futility. At the opposite extreme of this sense of powerlessness lies the Lotus Sutra's philosophy that the inner determination of one individual can transform everything. It is a teaching that gives ultimate expression to the infinite potential and dignity inherent in the life of each human being".

~ **Daisaku Ikeda**

A Couple more Top of Maine Christmas Tree



Moulton Farms
Carving Wood
Maine Basswood and Butternut
123 Moulton Rd., Pittston ME 04345
Tele: 207-582-2515
Email: wgmoulton@earthlink.net

Notice of publication*The Maine Carver* is published monthly by the Maine Wood Carvers Association, a non-profit 501 (C)(3) organization dedicated to the education, promotion, and advancement of artists who express themselves in wood.

Please submit all material for *The Maine Carver* before the 25th of the month for the next month's publication.

Membership Fees: Individual Member: \$15, Family \$22.50, annually. All membership fees are due and payable by September 1.

The Maine Carver accepts advertisements without making any guarantees implied or otherwise as to the quality of products or services advertised, or delivery of these products/services. The Maine Wood Carvers Association shall not be held accountable for typos and other errors appearing in *The Maine Carver*.

Advertising in the MAINE CARVER

Members (non professional) are permitted one free 1/8 page advertisement in any month.

ALL other advertisements are charged according to the following schedule:

½ page ad = \$20 per month - \$240/yr

¼ page ad = \$10 per month - \$120/yr

⅛ page ad = \$5 per month - \$60/yr

½ pg = 3.25" x 9.5" or 6.5" x 4.75"

¼ pg = 3.25" x 4.75"

⅛ pg = 3.25" x 2.25"

[A non-professional does not sell carvings]

A ⅛ page ad approximates a business size card]

Payment for advertising, made by check made out to Maine Woodcarvers Association, must be received in advance by;

Barbara McCutcheon, Editor
13 Liberty Street
Fairfield, ME 04937

Membership in the Maine Wood Carvers Assoc. runs from September 1, and ending September 1 the following year.

All members receive a newsletter, *The Maine Carver*, on a monthly basis. However, occasionally a double month issue is printed, e.g., during the summer when there is little news or the post-show issue. If you do not receive the newsletter, contact our Newsletter Editor, Barbara McCutcheon at 13 Liberty Street, Fairfield, ME 04937 or call (207) 453-6048 or email barb72@hotmail.com

**Maine Wood Carvers Association
Quick Info/Contact List**

Chapters

CAPITAL CARVERS

*Every Thursday, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
George Gunning Workshop
Legion Park Road, Windsor ME
FMI: (207) 445-2688 or 445-2078

CARVER STREET CARVERS

*Every Tuesday, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Seton Village Senior Center
1 Carver Street, Waterville ME
FMI: Barbara McCutcheon (207) 453-6048

COASTAL CARVERS

*4th Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
D & L Printers, Route 1, Newcastle ME,
FMI: Jim Wade, (207) 563-2034

McGAFFEY MOUNTAIN WOODCARVERS

*1st and 3rd Wednesdays
Vienna Community Center
FMI: Norma Wing (207)293-3725

POLAND SPRING CARVERS

3rd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Richer Memorial Library
Main Street, Poland ME
FMI: Chuck Friis, (207) 998-2436

SOUTH COAST CARVERS,

*4th Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Wal Mart Plaza, Woodcraft
Woodbury Av, Newington NH
FMI: George Calef, (603) 664-2813

STREAKED MOUNTAIN WOOD CARVERS

*2nd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
FMI: Bob Perry, (207) 388-2472

TOP OF MAINE CARVERS

Tom Cote', 8 Summit St.
Limestone ME 04750,
FMI: (207) 325-4258

**Check for possible changes in schedule.*

Affiliated Carving Group

Downeast Woodcarvers
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<http://mainewoodcarvers.org>

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(207) 449-6864; kathy_webster@myfairpoint.net
Bird studies available for loan to members

RESOURCE LOAN PROGRAM -

If you would be willing to loan books, magazine articles, video tapes, study casts or anything else related to carving and painting, send your list to
browndav@roadrunner.com



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HIGHLIGHTS !

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