



VOL. 25, NO. 1

February, 2009



MWCA ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 2009

SEE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Bog Haven

We now have a new chapter of Maine Wood carvers located in northern Maine. WELCOME "TOP OF MAINE CARVERS" with TOM COTE as their leader, and CONGRATULATIONS. The board of directors voted to recognize this new chapter at their meeting held at the Great Wall Restaurant in Augusta on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Following this meeting and lunch, the first organizational meeting for the 2009 DOWN EAST SHOW was held. There were 18 members present for this meeting. I had hoped for a much larger turnout of members wishing to have a voice heard and participate in the show planning. There being much opposition voiced to the decision not to hold a 2009 show, prompted the show committee to reverse their earlier decision and work to establish the preferred September (19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>) show dates. We really need your input and participation. Most of the Team Leader positions have been filled. We need volunteers to work with the Team Leaders to carry out the duties of the individual committees. Listed below are the teams and leaders. If you would help by assisting the leaders please contact them and make your voice heard. Your help and expertise will be much appreciated, thank you.

SHOW CHAIRMAN	CHUCK PERRY
PUBLICITY T.L.	CHUCK PERRY
ADMISSIONS T.L.	
VENDER & BOOTH T.L.	BARBARA McCUTCHEON
SETUP & BREAKDOWN T.L.	JIM WADE
PRIZE SOLICITATION T.L.	BARBRA WADE
JUDGING T.L.	
COMPITITION REGISTRATION T.L.	GARY SAINIO
RAFFEL TABLE T.L.	DAVE BROWN & JIM VIOLET
SECURITY T.L.	BOB PERRY
CHAPTER BOOTH T.L.	CHAPTER PRESIDENT OR CHAIRMAN
ANNOUNCING T.L.	KAREN KNOWLES
GIFT SHOP T.L.	
DEMONSTRATIONS T.L.	KAREN KNOWLES
FOOD CONCESSIONS T.L.	DAVE BROWN

As you can see, we have three leader positions that still need to be filled. We would be pleased if you would volunteer to fill one of these positions or to serve as a team member on any of the team committees.

The Annual meeting is to be held in the month of March. I do not have the date or location at this time. As soon as this information is confirmed, I will notify each chapter head and it will be published in the Next issue of THE CARVER.

Until next time, Happy Carving

Bob Perry

## MWCA Chapter Reports

### Streaked Mountain Woodcarvers

We began our meeting discussing the Down East Wood Carvers show. It's been decided by their committee The show will be held September 19 and 20th 2009.

January 17th, was a meeting to choose the positions that are available for the wood carvers show ; there are about 10 positions to be held. With out our fellow woodcarvers help this show may not be possible. Talk to Bob or Chuck Perry for further info or if interested in helping. I'll give an update of the meeting in my February meeting.

Luke Perry brought in leather strips at our meeting. The pieces could be used for stropping and knife covers etc. Thank you Luke for your generosity.

A letter of intent will be sent to Winnie Mott, she has wood to donate to our club. Wolf and Laura volunteered to hold the wood at their place. Bob has a trailer for moving the wood and Luke's son as a portable saw mill for cutting it into usable sizes.

A reminder for those who are interested in displaying their work at Frost Farm galleries. The showing will be June 5th until the 27th. Anyone interested can get more information about the show from me. I have the contract from Frost farm Galleries.

A letter of thanks will be sent to Bruce May for turning our shafts for the Cane project. Guy Prestia has sent his dad one of our canes. Mr. Prestia was very pleased to receive such an honored gift from his son. Guy is working on his second cane for a friend of Mr. Prestia's. Thank you for everyone's support and hard work on the cane project.

Norma Wing will be visiting us in February to show us decoupageing.

Rent has been paid for the usage of the Sumner Church for another year of Carving Fun.

Justina Hatch



### Carver Street Carvers

Still making chips, although I haven't gotten there very often. From what I hear Richard Spear is infectious and two more have decided to try their hand at relief carving. Anxious to get back and check it out.

Still meeting every Tuesday and hope some of you get to join us sometime.

Barbara McCutcheon

## Coastal Carvers

We met on January 24 for our monthly meeting.

After refreshments and Show & Tell Carol Durgin turned the meeting over to Karen Knowles, returning Chapter Director. We had very interesting discussions and then made plans for our February meeting. Jim Wade will be helping us to make miniature loons in either Cedar or Butternut. The cedar loon can be painted and antiqued for an old fashion look.

Several people worked on the Club Ducks, setting eyes, attaching heads and painting the finished product.

The February meeting will be at the Wade's Home.

Carol H. Durgin  
Outgoing Chapter Director

## South Coast Carvers

January 27, 2009 Meeting of South Coast Carvers

The Southcoast Carvers met tonight at the new Woodcraft store location: 25 Fox Run Road, Newington, NH. The meetings run from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm every fourth Tuesday of the month. Mark, the Assistant Manager of the store spoke to us about moving our meetings to Thursday evenings beginning in May. Please note: the Woodcraft store is now located in the Walmart Plaza, off Woodbury Avenue in Newington, NH.

Ten members were present for Show and Tell and to carve during the meeting. Many great carvings were shown, including caricatures and birds. We welcomed Kelly Koulalis to our group. Kelly says she is making a mess, but in reality is carving a pretty good face.

George Calef, Sec.

## Capitol Carvers

Another month has come & gone. We're closer to Spring.....we hope!

Found out that MWCA handed out 97 eagle canes to vets last year. George has requests for 37 more, so it looks like volunteers will be busy for awhile to come. There's rumors that the word is just getting out now.....and the 'flood' will begin soon. Everything we've heard has been positive & that the vets, esp. the Viet Nam ones, are delighted there's no paperwork/life history required to request one. Also, they aren't 'art critics' and are 'delighted' to get one to use. In fact, we've gotten reports that some of the early ones have been used so much that the white paint on the head is starting to wear off.

If any members wish to do one, or more, contact George for materials and info. [445-2078 or [ggunning@fairpoint.net](mailto:ggunning@fairpoint.net)].

The Penobscot Bay Carvers has also started to make some eagle canes. In fact, George is slated to go to do a demo at their next meeting. He was set to do it in Jan, but mtg was cancelled due to a snow storm.

Until next month.....

Keep your tools & wits sharp, your fingers out of the way and the chips flying.

Loyd Clark

## Central Maine Carvers

No report this month.

Jarod White, Reporter

**Poland Spring Carvers**

No Report this month

**Downeast Woodcarvers**

No Report this month

Chuck Friz

**NOTE:**

Dear Coastal Carvers,

Thank you so much for the lovely Christmas gift certificate you gave us. We have had an opportunity to use it now and it was a nice cozy meal. You are all such a blessing to us and we cherish your friendship. We trust 2009 will be a good year for all. Sincerely Yours, Barbara and Jim Wade

**CATCHING UP ON A FEW PICTURES**

**Coastal Carvers January Meeting**



**Connie Brown with  
Kathy Wester's action toy bear**



**Anne Kresbach with Barbara Wades  
penquin on sled going down slope**



These are pictures that have been sent over the last couple of months that I didn't have room for.

Thanks for everyone's patience.

"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or to lose."

~ Lyndon B. Johnson, address to the nation, November 28, 196

### **Woods for Carving Starting With The Two Favorites**

#### **Basswood**

Carves very well with hand tools and the fine even grain holds details. It is very utilitarian and is used for decorative and functional purposes. It can be finished in either stains, paint or many oils. Basswood is Cream colored and is usually painted.

#### **Butternut**

Butternut also carves very well with hand tools, but its grain is beautifully figured. It can splinter and chip so you need to pay attention to the grain. It is the favorite wood of many and every little scrap is kept. The color is a beautiful Golden Brown and is usually finished with a varnish or oil. The grain is so beautiful that it is a shame to paint.

These are just two woods that are used by most carvers and will add more when space permits

## By Chris Pye

### **This really happened:**

I was moving from bench to bench in an ongoing adult woodcarving class. I got to a busy student carving away at an interestingly shaped block of wood: a project I hadn't seen before.

I admired his work. "Nice squirrel!"

"It's a horse."

Now, in terms of social faux pas, that was good. By no means my best, and not quite time for pressing that 'swallow-me-up-trap-door-opening' button - but getting close.

There was a bit of jovial laughter from me; a sort of withering smile from him; and then a longish silence.

But then my finger came away from the button (it's in the middle of my forehead and used too often - but I shouldn't be telling you this in case you're in a playful mood when I meet you) as I realised the student had a fundamental problem which I couldn't let pass.

### **I asked to see his reference material.**

I didn't actually say: 'Can I see your reference material?' Rather: 'Any pictures and drawings of horses?' I could have said 'photographs and pictures, anatomy books, sketches, working drawings, model', meaning all that stuff which tells you what a horse looks like in the pose you want.

He had none. Nothing. Not a picture in a book; sketch on a napkin; horse parked in the yard. How can I put this - Zilch.

"So," I asked. "How familiar are you with horses?"  
(I was tempted: "And squirrels?")

"Oh, well, not any really. I've seen horses on TV of course; I know what they look like. I rode a donkey on Penarth beach once."

The story was that he felt like carving a horse. So, fired with enthusiasm, he just started: took a block of wood and got going.

### **Familiar?**

But, you are asking, what's the problem with that?

Well, nothing. *If you can do it.*

But most of us - including me - can't, *and we run the risk of our carvings not reaching the standards we have set in our minds, or what others might reasonably expect when they view the finished piece.*

We all want to succeed in our woodcarving and we don't want ignorant peripatetic teachers failing to see our struggling genius.

### **Let me come at my point in a roundabout way:**

When I was a young lad I was chased by a horse and, as far as I was concerned, this horse was certainly going to eat me.

I had no doubt that it was a 'horse'; I recognised it straight away: the 4 legs, the thundering hooves and the piranha-like teeth.

It was my first blighted encounter with a horse but it was definitely a horse and not, despite the teeth, a piranha.

And, though I've never seen an example in the flesh, so to speak, should I one day find a piranha in my bath I'll certainly cry, without hesitation: 'There's a piranha in my bath!' - and not mistake it for a horse.

**No, I'm not losing the plot. Just stay with me:**

I heard of an experiment where college students were shown a 1000 or so pictures of objects and then asked to write down what objects they remembered.

A big problem: *what they remembered could be counted in dozens only.*

The students were re-shown the 1000 pictures but with 20 or so new ones inserted into the series. They were asked to indicate objects they hadn't seen before.

*They had no problems picking out them all.*

This experiment was about 'recognition' and 'memory': our brains easily recognise vast amounts of things but struggle with relatively poor ability to recall them.

Recognising things is a natural and highly developed skill in all of us - you can see how valuable a survival skill it is when making a decision to run away quickly, or not take a bath.

✓ **It is vital to understand the difference between 'recognizing' something and 'remembering' it.**

**We can recognise, say, a horse from the merest glimpse of a part or a silhouette but, unless we are exceptionally gifted or experienced, can't draw a fetlock to save our lives.**

Like my student, many carvers start into their block of wood mistaking recognition for memory. They expect to wing it.

If there is a difference between them and myself, I've learned not to make this mistake.

**I've learned to reign in my desire and not see my carving as starting when the chisel hits the wood.**

**I see the process that results in a woodcarving as starting much earlier: with *the idea*, which needs firming up into something different and interesting.**

**It then goes to *the research*, which fills the outline idea and fleshes out simple recognition.**

**Only then does it move into hard wood.**

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**MWCA CHAPTER\* DATES, TIMES and LOCATIONS** \*Check for possible changes in schedule

**CAPITAL CARVERS**

Every Thursday, 6-8 PM  
445-2078 Lloyd Clark  
George Gunning's workshop  
Legion Park Road, Windsor, ME

**CARVER STREET CARVERS**

Every Tuesday, 1-3 PM  
Barbara McCutcheon 453-6048  
Seton Village Senior Center, 1 Carver Street,  
Waterville, ME

**CENTRAL MAINE CARVERS**

6-8 PM, 3rd Wednesday, monthly  
873-3370, Dave Brown  
32 Burleigh St., Waterville, ME

**COASTAL CARVERS**

4th Saturday, 1 PM  
563-2034, Jim Wade  
D&L Printers, Route 1, Newcastle, ME

**SOUTH COAST CARVERS**

4th Tuesday, 7-8:30 PM  
603-664-2813, George Calef  
Woodcraft Store, 25 Fox Run Rd,  
Newington, NH

**STREAKED MOUNTAIN WOOD CARVERS**

2nd Saturday, 1 PM  
388-2472, Bob Perry  
Sumner, ME

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### **Notice of publication**

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

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½ page ad = \$20 per month - \$240/yr

¼ page ad = \$10 per month - \$120/yr

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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



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## **HIGHLIGHTS !**

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