

Metro Carvers of Michigan

Volume 37 Number 06

Curt Chastain, President

June 2015



Paul Agnew, Mary Jo Brown, James Milne,

20 Years

Elaine Bogden, Archie Huggins

30 Years

Harold Green

President's Corner: By Curt Chastain

The current Board members have been reelected for another term of office.

NEXT MEETING

Club meeting Tuesday June 9th 2015:

Next meetings are: 2015, Sept. TBD

The doors open at 6:30 p.m. for social time, libraries and supply purchases. The Business meeting starts at 7:15 p.m.

Treasurers Report: By Margaret Gout

New Member:

Don Miller -43069 Bond Ct.,
Sterling Hgts., MI 48313 >>>>



Mike Shall -73540 Liberty Lane,
Armada, MI 48005 (no Pic)

Years of Service Patches will be handed out at the June meeting. The following Metro Carvers members will receive service patches.

5 Years

Harold Bates, Margaret Gout, Jay Hoisington, Dawn Laatz, Frank Milmine, Joe Randazzo, James Reagan

10 Years

Rizal Baysa, Joseph Beaudette, Gregg Hornung, Rosalie Kalinin

15 Years



Pres. - Curt Chastain

VP - Mike Murdock



Sec. - Harold Green

Treas. - Margaret Gout



Board - Eli Ehlinger

Board - Rizal Baysa



Board - Nancy Larson

Board - Greg Lutz



Board - Carl Skene

Theme Carvings for this 2014-15 season:

- June- Caricatures.

Metro Carvers of Michigan

A Club Challenge: By John Sabina

When I joined the Metro Carvers in 2003, our membership count was well north of 200 people. Today that number is in the vicinity of 110 members. The reasons for this decline may be numerous, but the main factor is the aging of our members. We have lost members (and excellent carvers) who passed away, others who left the area for eldercare from family members, and still others who have stopped carving due to arthritis, loss of vision, or other age-related afflictions. This trend is continuing and will continue to do so!

The only real solution is to constantly recruit new, younger members. Efforts to introduce woodcarving to teenagers are great and well founded. However, this is a very long-term solution that is unlikely to pay dividends for many years. Trying to introduce woodcarving to adults who are still working can only be done on weekends or weeknight evenings in most cases. Of our eight satellite carving groups, only Shadbush (Shelby Township) carves in the evening. The remaining groups operate out of senior centers that are generally not available in the evenings. The demographic that represents most fruitful group of potential new carvers are retirees and others who are available to carve during the day. Those of us who are in our seventies and eighties have to remember that people in their sixties are younger and represent potential new members!

Our club already does a number of things to promote interest in carving. Our annual show and the Washington Carve Fest are two prime examples. Metro members have long supported MWCA and the classes and shows from other clubs. But, how do we get people who express an interest in carving to try it and, perhaps, join our group? **This writer sees the best approach as teaching these interested people how to carve.** There are already multiple opportunities to take carving classes, but most have one major shortfall – THEY DO NOT START AT THE BEGINNING! My experience is that most classes will enlighten the student on geometric subtleties of the project (be that a turtle, bird, fish, bear, etc.) but provide little instruction on how to actually make a cut. The reality is that most classes are intermediate in scope. These classes will help a novice carver improve, but are too advanced for many newbies.

With the help of Paul Blanchard (my mentor,) Rizal Baysa, and Dick Mann, a group of Washington carvers including myself have developed a three-session

course entitled “Introduction to Woodcarving.” The class has been offered through the Romeo-Washington-Bruce Parks and Recreation Department since the fall of 2009. Parks and Rec advertises the Intro Class in their community catalog and handles registration. The class has been offered twice per year (February and September) and is limited to eight students each session. Registration records show that 63 students have taken the Intro Class. If you add the number of people who have had informal training of the same material either one on one or at Carve Fest, we estimate that between 75 and 80 people have been taught. 15-20% of these people have become active in our carving group. Two dozen or more people carving at the Washington Senior Center on Tuesday mornings are quite common.

So what is different about this class? Every student is loaned a properly sharpened carving knife, a Kevlar glove, a thumb guard and a good strop. The tools are owned by the Washington Carvers and were purchased using Carve Fest income. We concentrate on the basics – the push cut, the pull cut, and the stop cut. We work on three simple projects (rounding a square stick, creating an 8-point star, and a stylized butternut bird.) We emphasize the importance of using a sharp tool, how to keep that tool sharp, proper techniques for safety, and the effects of wood grain. **In short, the emphasis is on how to carve wood, not how to carve a (fill in the blank.)** Upon course completion, each graduate understands the basics of carving and can move on to other projects of interest to them. It is this emphasis of the basics that seem to be missing from most other classes.

We will happily share our course outline, lesson plan, and simple carving projects with any Metro member interested in forming additional classes at alternate locations. You do not have to re-invent the wheel! You will need one or two champions in your satellite carving group, and a couple of assistant instructors. Small quantities of tool purchases must be requested from the Metro board. Nothing is worse than telling an interested potential student that the next class will not be offered for five or six months from now. What the club really needs is some more of these classes at alternate locations and alternate times.

Data shows that this approach works. What I am asking is for some Metro members to step up and expand this effort. Please give this proposal serious thought over the summer. From our viewpoint, the future of our club is at stake. Won't you be part of the solution?

Metro Carvers of Michigan



Ron Zoller



Art Tomes



Bruce Olsen



Mike Murdock



Dick Mann



Dawn Laatz



Georgia Boyse



Clair Boussum

11th Washington Carve Fest

September 25 and 26, 2015.

Doors will open at 8:30 AM
with carving from 9:00 AM
to noon and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The location will again be at
the Washington Senior Center
at 57900 Van Dyke Road.

Metro Carvers of Michigan

Monthly Carving Competition

Coordinated by Sharon Baker -

Beginners

Intermediate

Advanced

Mike Murdock – Blue jays

Ron Zoller – Bear & wolfe

Peoples Choice

Bruce Olsen – Bear

Dawn Laatz – Woodburning

Clair Boussum – Owls

Dick Mann – Spoons

Theme – Wildlife

Art Tomes - Wolfe

Reminder to bring your old empty pill bottles to the meeting and give them to Archie Huggins. His Church has a Project to help a group of people in Africa and needs the empty bottles. His church members will remove the prescription labels for you.

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1597
Royal Oak, MI 48068

E-Mail Address:

metrocarvers@yahoo.com

Web Site

www.metrocarvers.com

Facebook

Metro Wood Carvers of Michigan

Meeting Location:

near 12 mile & I-75

Helen Keller School
1505 N. Campbell Rd.
Royal Oak, MI

Meeting Day:

Second Tuesday of each month.
(No Meetings July & August)

Meeting Time:

7:15pm (doors open at 6:30)

President:

Curt Chastain 248-609-5341

Vice Pres.:

Mike Murdock

Secretary:

Harold Green

Treasurer:

Margaret Gout

Directors:

Greg Lutz Marcy Larson

Directors:

Bill Ebinger Carl Sikes

Directors:

Rizal Baysa

Show Chair:

Mike Murdock 248-689-5468

MWCA rep:

Pat Murphy

Newsletter:

Terry Zobl

Webmaster:

Terry Zobl, Marcy Larson

Carving Groups Location and Times

Mon. 8:30am-11:30 __Troy Sen.Ctr.

Mon. Noon-3pm __Sterling Heights Sen.Ctr.

Mon. 9am-Noon __Warren Stillwell Manor

Tue. 9am-Noon __Washington Twp. Sen.Ctr.

Tue. 1pm-4pm __Chesterfield. Sen. Ctr.

Thur. 9am-Noon __Warren Stillwell Manor

Thur. 9am-Noon __Washington Twp. Sen.Ctr.

Thur. 6pm-9pm __Shelby Shadbush Nature Ctr.

Metro Carvers of Michigan



METRO CARVERS OF MICHIGAN
P.O. Box 1597
Royal Oak, Michigan 48068