

Metro Carvers of Michigan

Volume 31 Number 04

John Sabina, President

April, 2009



NEXT MEETING

Club meeting Tuesday April 14th 2009:

Next meetings are: May 5th, and Jun 16nd.
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 Doug Evans

No news this month

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: By John Sabina

Wow! What a show! The 29th annual Metro Woodcarving Show is now history and to say that it was an outstanding event does not do it justice. This year's show was the best in my memory and undoubtedly ranks among the top Metro shows of all time. I have a number of reasons for those statements.

The number of exhibitors at 110 tables was very good. But the overall quality of the carvings and the stiffness of the competition were amazing. Our judges had a very tough job to decide the winners in many of the classes. The entries in several of the bird categories were really top notch. The overall visual impact of the hall and the displays really helped achieve our purpose of promoting woodcarving. Our show attendance was up over 75% when compared to 2007 with 1237 people present.

We had a very concentrated effort on publicity because we feared that the current state of our economy would adversely affect our crowd. The effort really paid off. All of the vendors that I spoke to were pleased with their results. Several new vendors were amazed at the friendliness of the

crowd—once again confirming that woodcarvers are nice folks.

I was particularly pleased the way that Metro members pitched in to help. Show set-up was completed early with all of the help present. Event co-chairman, Mike LePage and Bill Wolfe, did a great job. Mary Jo LePage handled the tough registration job in a very orderly fashion with advice and counsel from long-time registrar Barb Wolfe. Bill and Ruth Phillips kept the People's Choice running smoothly while Larry and Delores Lloyd had great results with the club raffles. Curt Chastain had the competition organized to a tee. Ticket selling at the door and the club table were covered very well. The carving competition was fun and the soap carving lead by Kayla Phillips was well received. Dick Jacobs arranged some very nice demos and Doug Evans kept all of the cashboxes and monies straight. We had a few small hiccups in the background, but everyone pitched in to solve these issues as they arose.



Congratulations and a great big thank you to everyone involved. Great job, team! This will be a hard act to follow.

Theme carving for this season: Apr Relief Carving
May Flowers June Patriotism

Carver of the Month Colin Smith: By Dick Jacobs

Colin Smith is an old time carver having started way back in 1982. He saw an ad in the Royal Oak newspaper offering carving lessons and decided to check it out. As it developed, Mr. Bob McAnely was giving lessons in bird carving, so Colin decided to sit in on a few. He found out that it was fun and ended up carving some ducks and birds. He decided to expand his carving education and took lessons with Tony Malkowski and on to Bill Wolfe where he turned out some small animals and caricatures. He enjoys carving birds mostly which he doesn't sell; only gives to family or friends. He seems to be running out of recipients lately and his wife keeps telling him he has too many at home and get rid of a few (sound familiar?). Sometime in the future he would like to carve a full size Indian or at least a full size Indian bust. His wife should get a kick out of THAT!!



Metro Show Update: By Mike LePage

The Metro Carvers 29th annual wood carving show is history, and it was one of the best yet. We had attendance of over 1,237 people...the best in several years. Our show was sell out with 114 tables and many tired helpers but the end of the day on Sunday.

My sincere thanks goes out to all who helped with the

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show. many people don't realize it, but it takes a lot of "behind the scene" work to have the show run smoothly. I don't like singling out anyone, but Bill, Barb, Mary Jo (the wife), and John put in many, many hours before the show. Another person I would like to thank is Curt Chastain, who was the head "dude" in charge of competition. Whenever I asked him if I could help, his reply was, "Been there, done that. Don't worry, be happy...everything is under control." Thank you, Curt, for a job well done.

Monday after the show, my brain and legs weren't working. So on Tuesday, I took inventory of what went on during the two days of the show and came up with a few different ideas for the show. Change is what keeps us going. THANK YOU EVERYONE...we couldn't have done it without all of your help.

Peoples Choice Competition: By Bill Phillips

Listed below are the results of the voting for People's Choice, Carvers Choice and Youth Carver Competition. Also listed is the total votes cast during the 2009 Metro Show. For your info I have included notes pertaining to who helped with the people's choice voting, info about our soap carving classes and the names of who helped with our free carving demos.

People's Choice winner:

- 1st place Edgar Potestades
- 2nd place Paul Agnew
- 3rd place Tom Hunter

Our Carvers Choice winners:

- 1st place Tom Hunter
- 2nd place Edgar Potestades
- 3rd place Paul Agnew

Our youth winner was:

Angela Podgorski (who is 15 years old.)



Total votes cast on Saturday. 379

Total votes cast on Sunday 278

Total for both days 657

We would like to thank Elaine Bogden, Arlene Murphy along with Kayla & Ruth Phillips who took

care of the voting of People's Choice. They spent a lot of time & effort making visitors feel welcome to our show. They would like to thank all the carvers who put carvings into the competition which allowed them to make a beautiful display.

I would also like to report on the number of youths who took advantage of the Metro's soap carving classes. As you know the soap carving kits were supplied free by the Michigan Wood Carvers Association and the classes were taught by Kayla Phillips. Kayla taught one class on Saturday with 17 carvers and two classes on Sunday with we think 20 students. We are not sure but we think this is the largest number of kids taking advantage of the program. We also know, by remarks from the parents, kids are looking forward to participating in this program during the Metro show each year. Our hope is that this will spark an interest in carving and that some day the kids will enjoy carving as an adult.

We also thank Dick Jacobs, Doug Evans, Edward Potestades, Linda Sales, Jim Shannon and Paul Blanchard for their efforts during our free demo classes which were very well attended.

Around and About - By Rizal Baysa

Just a follow up to the "Sharpening Equipment" presentation I gave at the March meeting. At the end of the meeting a number of carvers ask me about how they could learn more about sharpening their tools. They needed more clarification on what equipment to use and how to use it. I have put together a list of books that I have found on sharpening. I will list the ones I think are very helpful to "carvers" and which are not as helpful.

Recommended books

- "Sharpening Techniques" by Richard Belcher 12 Pages
- "How to Sharpen Carving Tools" by Skylar Johnson, 57 pages, \$9.95
- "How to Sharpen Carving Tools" by Rick Butz, 83 pages, \$16.99
- "Woodcarving Tools, Materials & Equipment", Vol. 1, by Chris Pye, 116 pages on sharpening, \$19.95
- "The Complete Book of Woodcarving," by Everett Ellenwood, 50 pages on sharpening, \$27.95

The following books are on sharpening, however not much info on carving tools.

- "Woodworker's Guide to Sharpening", by John English
- "The Complete Guide to Sharpening", by Leonard Lee
- "Success With Sharpening", by Ralph Laughton

Keep it Sharp! A dull tool gets you a dull carving.

Metro Carvers of Michigan

Monthly Carving Competition



Theme: Paul Agnew



Master: Ron Copes



Advanced:
Bernie Wozniak



Intermediate:
Mira Stefaniuk



Beginner:
Tom Samanen

Monthly Carving Competition

Coordinated by Sandra Huffman - Judges were
Frank Bosco, Sandy Huffman

Master

- First: **Ron Copes**, Old Indian
Second: **Marcy Larson**, Dragon pyro.
Third: **Gail Sartele**, Relief flag rider
Honorable:

Advanced

- First: **Bernie Wozniak**, Mallard hen
Second: **Joe Beaudette**, Small goose
Third:

Intermediate

- First: **Mira Stefaniuk**, Bark relief pyro.
Second:

Beginner

- First: **Tom Samanen**, T-Rex & egg
Second:
Third:

Theme – Stylized

- First: **Paul Agnew**, Bark town

Metro Carvers of Michigan

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WWW Homepage

<http://www.geocities.com/metrocarvers/index.html>

E-Mail Address: metrocarvers@yahoo.com

Meeting Location: Helen Keller School
near 12 mile & I-75
1597 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: John Sabina
Vice Pres.: Paul Blanchard
Treasurer: Doug Evans
Secretary: Richard Jacobs
Directors: Larry Lloyd Rizal Baysa
Directors: Dolores Lloyd Gerry Galanck
Directors: Gary Bityk
Newsletter: Terry Zobl
Show CoChair: Mike LePage & Mary Jo LePage
MWCA rep: Bill Phillips
Carving Events: Rizal Baysa & Dick Mann

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
Mon. 5pm-7pm __Woodcraft Store Van Dyke
Tue. 9am-Noon __Washington Twp. Sen.Ctr.
Tue. 9am-Noon __Woodcraft Store Van Dyke
Tue. Noon-3pm __St. Clair Shrs. Sen. Ctr.
Tue. 1pm-4pm __Chesterfield. Sen. Ctr.
Thur. 9am-Noon __ Warren Stillwell Manor
Thur. 9am-Noon __Washington Twp. Sen.Ctr.
Thur. 6pm-9pm __St. Clair Shrs. Sen. Ctr.
Thur. 6pm-9pm __Shelby Shadbush Nature Ctr.
1st Sat. 9am-Noon __Woodcraft Store Van Dyke

