

Mid-America Woodcarvers Association

NEWSLETTER

July /August 2015



Meetings and Open Carving - First and Third Saturdays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Augustana Lutheran Church 38th and Lafayette St

From the President:

It has been said that the only constant over time is change, and MAWA is no exception.

As many of you know Rich Mahacek passed away in June. He was a very active member in our club, definitely a go-to guy. Rich shared his love of carving, his sense of humor and his willingness to help with all of us for several years. To say he will be missed is an understatement.

There have been a lot of changes to the carving club over the last 40 years. Although the faces have changed, what remains the same is the continued comradery, dedication of our members, and the legacy they leave behind.

I see that legacy every time I attend a meeting or event, and am grateful for the foresight that went into many of the things we now accept as an everyday part of the club; the library, sharpening machines, the workshop at Doane, the Fall Show, etc. We can all be grateful to the original founders of the club, to Vic Schoonover for helping to making sure we have a meeting place, to past presidents as well as past and present board members, and you the members who keep everything rolling. There are so many like Rich Mahacek who say, "Yes, I can help". Every meeting I hear the names of past members, Kellogg, Burke, Foral and many more as members share their stories and remembrances. It's nice to know that in many ways they are still with us.

I also hear the names of current members who help to keep the club active, Collins, Jackson, Wagner, Nygard, Putnam, Klinger, Driscoll, Dolphens, Armsbury and many others. Every month they continue the Mid-America Woodcarvers legacy.

I am grateful Rich Mahacek and the many others who understood and imparted that understanding to us, that as far as a legacy goes, it's good to be a part of this one, the Mid-America Woodcarvers Association.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Maria

Club Officers - **Maria Mulherin** - President

Rich Wagner- 1st VP

PJ Driscoll - 2nd VP

Judy Nygard - Secretary **Ken Kult** - Treasurer

Board Members: **Denny Rourke, Larry Putnam, Mike Hawkins, Tom Paskach, Jeff Westerfield**

Membership: **Ken Kult** Workshops: **Larry Putnam** Library: **Barb Steiner**

Tool Managers: **Ken Armsbury** History: **Sandy Floral** Hospitality: **Sandy Floral**

2015 Registration Form

Mid-America Woodcarvers Association, Inc. 41st ANNUAL FALL SHOW & SALE

GERMAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY, INC 3717 S 120 Street Omaha, Nebraska
Friday, October 9, 2014 Set-up time 11:00A to 5:00PM --- Competition Entry 2:00 PM to 5:00PM
Saturday, October 10, 2014 9:00AM to 5:00PM --- Sunday, October 11, 2014 10:00AM to 4:00 PM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibitors will be responsible for providing the following items:

- Table Covering— this must cover the top as well as 3 sides to the floor. It must be a fabric or vinyl covering.
- Lighting and cords— need duck tape to tape cords to the floor.
- Carving will be allowed at the tables. (Talk and Demonstrate what you do.)
- **Vendors:** The Wood Craft Shop, Moore Roughouts, and Loess Hills Sawmill
- *Average table size is 8ft, but some tables will be no smaller than 6ft in length due to space.
- Displays may not be taken down before close of show: 4pm Sunday.
- German American Society will be supplying Food and Drink at a very affordable price.
- **LODGING:** Best Western, Motel 6, Super 8, Comfort Inn, La Quinta Inn and Travel Inn all located at the intersection of 108th and L Street. East of I-680 on L street.
- **COMPETITION AND JUDGING:** The competition is open to dues-paying members of the Mid-America Woodcarving Association. No one is restricted from joining. Dues are \$20.00 (USA) per year and run from Jan.1 through Dec 31. Participation in the show is required to enter competition.
- A packet will be provided with all Competition Rules, Entry Procedures and Show Information at sign in time. You may also check our web site for this information. www.midamericawoodcarvers.com

(Buffett Dinner will be available Sat. night 6:00 pm at the German American Hall for \$12.00 each. To be paid with Registration)

Questions: Contact Rich Wagner (402)218-7270 or at chipcarver@live.com

Make all checks payable to: MID-AMERICA WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Send registration to: MAWA FALL SHOW AND SALE - P.O. Box 540314, Omaha, NE 68154

-----Cut and Return-----

Please reserve _____ table (s) *space (s) with 2 chairs \$35.00 each. Non—members—\$55.00

Exhibitor A _____ Exhibitor B _____

Address _____ *If attending*

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone(_____) _____

Cell Phone # (_____) _____ E-Mail _____

Will you be sharing a table? Yes or No (Circle one) If yes please provide information:

Exhibitor _____ Spouse _____

Address _____ *If attending*

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone(_____) _____

Cell Phone # (_____) _____ E-Mail _____

Registration Total: \$ _____ Dinner Total: \$ _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

I/We certify that all wood projects and carvings to be exhibited by me/us are handmade or carved and are my/ our own work. I/We certify that German American Society, the Mid-America Woodcarvers Association officers and members will not be responsible for any loss, damage or injury while I/We are at the show or otherwise.

Official Use Only

Signature A _____ Date _____ Check # _____

Signature B _____ Date _____ Check # _____

TB#

Things happening around the sawmill

Also know as something to fill up the space



Well since it has been raining about every other day around here I decided to try and get some logs cut up. My sawmill is in a barn so I can cut when the weather is less than perfect. I decided to get some of the walnut logs cut up I have been storing. I have 5 or 6 left but I feel like I have put in a good start toward getting them all cut up. I managed to cut 3 walnut logs up on Saturday they averaged about 22" diameter or so each. I cut those 3 logs of my own and an elm log for the neighbor that is a lot in one day on a manual mill. I think it was about 600 bdf total. The elm log is a kind of funny story, I saw my neighbor pulling a trailer a while back with a log on it as I was coming home from work. I figured at some point I would get a call from him about it eventually. The time came in the form of a text "hey can you cut this log up for me" I said sure once I get the walnut logs cut up. "ok great thanks" a few days later "hey can I drop this log off I need to use my trailer" sure just dump it off at my house by the trailer. So I am cutting walnut logs Saturday and figured I would cut his elm log up. I had to cut 2' off the butt end as it was too big to fit in my barn door. It was also too big to cut on the mill without some trimming with a chainsaw. So I start cutting the log and knew right away what kind of tree it was. I finished cutting the elm log into the 2 1/2 inch thick slabs he wanted. I took it over to him and said here are your slabs, I asked him what kind of log do you think it was. It was an elm log no doubt about it.... Well I hated to break it to him but his elm log was in fact a basswood log from a basswood tree, so I am thinking he wasn't too happy however he did have some wide slabs. He was still pretty sure it was elm and I left him and said "Well whatever it is

Are you ready for the Doane Experience ? It is approaching fast....

Don't sit on the fence again this year...

We are looking forward to seeing you there!!

Speaking of Doane I was over at PJ's dropping off some wood. Yeah I know curbside delivery at your home. That is just one of the many services I provide. So as I was saying I dropped off some wood for him and he showed me his Doane project and it was pretty amazing. I can't/won't say much but it is a great project and I think anyone that takes his class will love it. I was amazed at all the movement he incorporated into the carving. When PJ does something he really thinks it through and his finished carvings really show that pre thought even before he starts to carve.



A Mike Hawkins family tradition. Grandpa Mike carves baby shoes to commemorate new additions to the family.

It's show time X2.....Time to show off all that hard work

Vacation Planning

July is really an exciting time of year. School is out, the weather is great, young people are falling in love and getting married, and, best of all, it's vacation time. I think the last real vacation I had was back when McDonald hamburgers were 15 cents. I probably don't have to put a date on that for most of you. Okay, for you girls who don't want to admit your age, that was when you all wore the ugly gym uniforms. Oh yeah, now you can put a date on it, can't you? We had penny candy, Jiffy popcorn and 35 cent gallon gas. We got our windshield cleaned, oil check, and gas pumped, without asking, all for free every time. Our dishes came free in each box of laundry detergent, and or milk was delivered in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers. It took 5 minutes for our TV to warm up and our phones were on a party line. Man, that vacation was a long time ago. I guess I'll put my Tinker Toys away, chew a piece of Teaberry gum, put a dime in the 45 RPM juke box, get out some mimeograph paper, and chart an up-to-date vacation - for Breta and me.

It can't be anything related to the ocean, because Breta gets seasick just opening a box of salt water taffy. I don't care to go to Amazon either. They have cannibals there that have been educated at Harvard. Yea, now they use knives and forks to eat you. We can't go to any foreign speaking countries like France, for example. Not that I would have a problem with my French, but they might.

Breta wants to go on vacation for change and rest. I can see it now, the waiter will get the change and the hotels will get the rest. We could go to the North Pole for 5 months, but then again, we might as well stay all night. Don't want to go to Venice either. I had a good friend who drowned there. Yup! Got into a street fight. Hawaii would be nice, except their weather is the same all year long. I don't now how they ever start a conversation. We couldn't stay anywhere that didn't have bathrooms either. That would be "uncanny". I guess I'll quit trying to come up with an exotic vacation. We're going to Doane. All of our friends will be there and a good time is guaranteed. What more could we ask for?

Don't forget the AWC show in Maquoketa this month either. It is a great opportunity to see some of the best carving by internationally know carvers. Better yet, join the organization and get involved in the competition with some of your own pieces.

Breta and I hope to see you on our vacation.

Keep smiling,

New Club Mailing Address & Snowbirds

P.O. Box 540314, Omaha, NE 68114

If you have a winter address, please be sure to let us know so we can mail you the February newsletter to your current address.

midamericawoodcarvers@midamericawoodcarvers.com

MAWA Club Calendar

July 18 - MAWA Club Meeting— Thad Tinder—Christmas Santa
- Sale of tools from Milhan Estate

July 18-24—Western Wildlife Art Workshop at Doane, Crete, NE

July 26—August 1—The MAWA Woodcarving Experience at Doane, Crete, NE

August 1—MAWA Club Meeting - Open carving

August 15—MAWA Club Meeting

August 19—Midwest Woodworkers Show—9AM-5PM, 14605 Wright St., Omaha, NE

September 5—MAWA Club Meeting

September 19—MAWA Club Meeting

October 3—MAWA Club Meeting—Mike Hawley - Painting Demonstration

October 9-11—Fall Show and Sale

German American Society, 3717 S 120th St, Omaha, NE

Too many clamps?

Well I have been working on a couple projects of my own lately. I like to carve but I will be honest when I go over to PJ's house and see the stuff he is working on and then look at my carvings I get a little discouraged. I have always like working with wood hence the sawmill, so I decided to build a couple federal game tables. The tables are pretty challenging and are in the shape of a half oval that folds open to form a circle. So the tables start out with a brick laid shape that is 4 layers of sycamore glued and then eventually cut into an oval shape. The next step is to apply shop made veneer in my case walnut to the front. It is time consuming but a fun process. I will hopefully have these two done for a show in Aug in Omaha. I know it ain't woodcarving but it is wood and I Love Wood.



Hospitality

Just a reminder to our members to please contact Sandy Foral with information regarding club members who have passed, are ill and could need the support of the club, or have a happy event they would like to share. You may reach her at 402/553-3440.

Tool Sale from the Milhan Estate at the July 18th Club Meeting

At the July 18th meeting on display will be several carving tools for sale from the Milhan estate. Included will be Swiss made, Helvie, Ramelson, Flexcut knives and gouges. There will also be a power tools, a dust collector, and several other items.



Original John Burke Carving to be Sold at Auction

Thanks to the generosity of Denny Neubaur an original John Burke carving of a Santa will be up for sale at the annual auction at the MAWA Woodcarving Experience at Doane. All proceeds from the auction go to benefit the 2016 workshop and club activities throughout the year. We appreciate your support of MAWA and happy bidding!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MID-AMERICA WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 540314, Omaha, NE 68114

Complete this form and return with your payment to the address above.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE : _____

PHONE NUMBER: () _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please include \$20.00 Annual Membership Dues. If you would like a membership card, please include a self addressed stamped envelope.

Coming Soon!!!

MAWA Woodcarving Experience at Doane 40th Anniversary

2016 Will mark the 40th Anniversary of the MAWA Woodcarving Experience at Doane. To commemorate this event we are asking past and present instructors and students to share their Doane stories with us as well as share pictures they have taken over the years.

It is our intent to share these remembrances at the workshop in 2016. As well as compile a club history and archive.

We will not be able to return photographs so it may be preferable to have you email them to us. Photos and stories can be emailed to:

midamericawoodcarvers@midamericawoodcarvers.com

Thank you for helping us tell the story of the MAWA Woodcarving Experience at Doane over the last forty years!

Random Thoughts.....

Well here it is July already and Doane is approaching fast. I should be right on track, the wood in both kilns is dry around 7-10 % moisture and ready to be unloaded and then processed. I always enjoy that part of selling wood it just seems relaxing to me to cut and plane and joint basswood blocks. Well it wasn't relaxing went I got my finger into the jointer but normally it is relaxing. I put on my head phones and listen to music and just cut away. I also decided to build another barn (still working on my wife) as I need more storage space. I sometimes get carried away when I see basswood and butternut logs ok walnut and red oak too. I may be a bit of a hoarder. So hopefully this fall I can finally talk Teresa into it we will see how good my sales pitch is. On a more somber note I wanted to just briefly talk about something more important then basswood blocks.

My friend Rich Mahacek recently passed away as most of you know. I think everyone who met Rich knows what a great guy he was so I don't feel the need to tell you that. The thing I wanted to talk about is something more or maybe less oblivious. It is something I was thinking about when I went to the visitation. I was thinking about what the message of Rich's passing meant to me. I think every time I saw Rich he always smiled and said "Hi Mister" he knew my name of course but that was always how he greeted me. He always said the same thing and then we shook hands. I was thinking about what lesson I should take away from that. I think to me that is what the real lesson here is, I mean at some point we will all leave this place on another step on our journey. It is the journey itself that is the important part, how you treat those you meet along the way. It is in how you treat your fellow man whether they are your neighbor, a co worker, somebody you pass on the street or a fellow wood carver and a good friend. The last time I talked to Rich he gave me a gold dollar coin to give to Katy for her daughter. We all share a common bond in this life we are headed toward the same fate at some point, often not at a time of our own choosing. In life many things happen that we have little or no control of, but we can control how we are to each other. In the end that is really what matters how you treat the people that you come into contact with. It is like the ripples on a pond, when you throw in a rock. You just don't know how those ripples will spread. As I sat and thought about Rich I thought about the ripples from his life and the positive effect they had on so many people. That is really Rich's legacy, he touched in a positive way so many people with his warm friendly smile and a hand shake. I hope some day when I reach my final stop on my journey I hear from the crowd "Hey Mister" and see his hand reach out to let me know its going to be OK. George



MID-AMERICA WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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