



# Newsletter

EDITOR:  
Sherry LaTendresse

## MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

First & Third Saturdays  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Augustana Lutheran Church  
38th and Lafayette Streets  
(Enter from parking lot on east side of church) *Handicap Accessible*

PO Box 521  
Gretna, NE 68028-0521

WEBSITE:  
midamericawoodcarvers.com

## OFFICERS

President - Rohn Collins  
                  rohncollins@cox.net  
1st VP - Mary Ann Klinger  
2nd VP - PJ Driscoll  
General Secretary -  
                  Sherry LaTendresse  
Recording Secretary -  
                  Virginia Stewart  
Treasurer - Len Stenneche

## BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Schober  
Mike Hawkins  
Marty Dolphens  
George Bledsoe  
Cathy Cuka

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Doane Experience Chairpersons  
Rohn Collins  
Mary Ann Klinger  
Sherry LaTendresse  
                  stendresse@cox.net  
Membership - Len Stenneche  
Newsletter - Sherry LaTendresse  
Saturday Workshops - Dave Kistler  
Book Library-Sherry LaTendresse  
                  Barb Steiner  
Video Library -  
Advertising - Rohn Collins  
Website - Rohn Collins  
Hospitality - Sandy Foral  
History - Sandy Foral  
                  Virginia Stewart  
Tool Manager - Cathy Cuka  
Coffee/Donuts - Dave Kistler

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: \_ \_ \_ \_

Hard to believe that 6 months have passed since I was appointed President. There seems to be countless papers to sign, lots of meetings, and the monthly newsletter. Always questions, always members to meet. I could not do all this without the help of the board, and your elected officers. Together they endlessly gather information, coordinate activities and listen to your concerns and ideas. Without this group of individuals we would not be the successful club that we are. In addition to the elected officials, are the numerous volunteers. The unique individuals stand ready for any duties they are asked. I want to personally thank them for all their contributions, and encourage all of you to thank them for the hard work they do behind the scenes.

One of the duties of the president is to select a charity for the annual "Wood you Believe?" fall show and sale. This year, with the assistance of the MAWA board, we have selected to donate to Breast Cancer research. The proceeds from our Christmas Ornament tree raffle will be donated to this worthwhile cause.

In order to make this a successful event we are asking for all of your help. I would like to call this event "Carve for a Cure", but I need your help. We need you to carve a holiday ornament and send it to

us. I would like to see our annual Christmas tree loaded down with beautiful hand carved ornaments. I exchange, for every ornament you send in, your name will be entered in a drawing for a \$50.00 gift card.

Another important duty is to choose a featured carver for the fall show. This year we have selected local carver and CCA member P.J. Driscoll. Many of you may recognize this name from his teaching at the Doane experience each year. We are honored and excited to have him represent our club as the featured carver this year.

Speaking of fall show, there are still plenty of table spaces to reserve if you are interested. The application form is currently on our website at [www.midamericawoodcarvers.com](http://www.midamericawoodcarvers.com) and will be published in the June newsletter.

I look forward to seeing some fantastic ornament carvings, and would love to hear what is on your mind. Drop me an email to [rohncollins@cox.net](mailto:rohncollins@cox.net), or send a letter to the P.O. Box address. I promise to respond as quickly as possible.

As always Happy Carving!

Rohn

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS: \_ \_ \_ \_

MAY 7 - GARY KLINGER - AIRBRUSH DEMO  
MAY 21 - DENNY JACKSON - DRAGON FLY PIN  
JUNE 4 - TBA  
JUNE 18 - TBA

Every meeting/workshop - Beginner Class with Gary Klinger.

## MEETING MINUTES

Board minutes from April 16, 2011  
10 members were present.

The meeting was called to order and the treasurer reported that the insurance on the board members had been paid for three years.

### Old Business:

Rohn Collins announced that the proposed changes to the Bi-Laws to re-align the current committees had been voted on by the general membership. The Bi-law change had been approved by a vote of 57 to 0.

### New Business:

Fall Show featured carver was discussed. A motion by Marty Dolphens was made to nominate P.J. Driscoll. The motion was seconded by George Bledsoe. There were no opposing votes.

Fall Show Christmas Ornament Charity was also discussed. Len Stenneche made a motion to have a local breast Cancer research as the charity. Cathy Cuka seconded. There were no opposing votes.

George Bledsoe made a motion to purchase a Burke sharpener to be given away at the 2011 Doane Experience. Cathy Cuka seconded. There were no opposing votes.

A motion was made my Marty Dolphins to purchase a gift card to encourage members to donate a Christmas ornament to the annual ornament raffle. George Bledsoe seconded. The amount will be \$50.00 and there were no opposing votes.

Mike Hawkins made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by P.J. Driscoll.



## OPPORTUNITIES

### 27th Annual Woodcarving Rendezvous Seminar

June 5 - 10  
Branson, MO  
Compton Ridge Campground  
Convention Center  
Contact: Ed (913) 397-6992

### 9th Annual ARTISTRY IN WOOD Show and Sale

sponsored by North Platte  
Woodcarvers  
June 11 & 12, 2011  
Quality Inn, North Platte, NE  
For more information contact::  
Paul Jeske - 308 532-2599  
Ron Meyer - 308 534-5136  
Roy Pressler - 308 532-7207  
Tom Gilbert - 308 534-5607

### Kaw Valley Woodcarvers Association's Baker University Seminars

Baldwin City, Kansas  
June 9-12, 2011  
For more information contact:  
Carlan Honaker - 785 246-3516

### Wahpeton Carving Weekend North Dakota State College of Science

Wahpeton, North Dakota  
June 24 - 26, 2011

### NEED CARVER VOLUNTEERS TO SIT AT THE CLUB'S TABLE WITH THEIR CARVINGS AT THE SHOW.

The Omaha Quilters Guild Presents  
QUILT SAFARI

June 24 - 9AM to 8 PM  
June 25 - 9 AM to 4 PM  
LaVista Conference Center  
12520 Westport Parkway  
LaVista, NE



Pray for all our armed forces in the world, especially in the Middle East and our club members who are ill.

Sympathy Card sent to the Don White's family (Omaha). Get Well Card sent to Loretta Broberg, back operation, Grand Island).

*If you know of anyone who passed away, had an operation or is ill.*  
Contact: Sandy Foral - 3510 N 58th  
Street Omaha, NE 68104. Phone: (402) 553-3440.

### WOODCARVING WEBSITES

www.carvingcompanion.com  
www.woodburning.com  
www.chippingaway.com  
www.chrispye-woodcarving.com  
www.carvingpatterns.com  
www.woodcarvingbyWandaMarsh  
www.LindenTreeLesRamsey  
www.MikeDavisWelshLovespoons  
www.bwa-woodcarving.fsnet.co.uk  
www.woodcarvers.org  
www.cca:carvers.org  
www.quilcedacarvers.com  
www.ellenwoodarts.com  
www.chipchats.org  
www.teriembreysanyacarvings.com  
www.wilkersonwoodcarving.com  
www.hofcraft.com  
www.WoodbeeCarver  
www.LittleShavers.com  
www.ukrainiangift.com  
www.roughouts.com  
www.woodthings.net  
www.FoxChapelPublishing.com  
www.WoodCarvingIllustrated.com  
www.capeforge.com  
www.chainsawcarvingschool.com  
www.heavenwoodenbabies.com  
www.mountainwoodcarvers.com  
www.chipcarving.com  
www.referencephotos.com  
www.slimswoodshed.com  
www.windsorwoodingmuseum.ca  
www.loesshillssawmill.com  
www.woodcarverswarehouse.com  
www.cryone.us  
www.stubaidirect.com  
www.thewoodcraftshop.com  
www.picturetrail.com/kmorrill  
www.awcird.org  
www.janscarvingstudio.com  
www.picturetrail.com/butcher  
www.edwalicki.com  
www.woodchip.shop.com  
www.eowca.com  
www.gnbsearswoodcarving.com  
www.woodcarvingsbyklingers.com  
www.stetsoncarving.com  
www.marekwoodcarvers.com  
www.txwoodcarver.com

## SHOW & TELL



Some membership doing their own thing.



Wayne Gildseth's chip carving icicle class



Don Elsasser's Hobo Clown



Mike Hawley's Rodeo Clown



Thad Tinder's gecko carving class

## NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

Anyone interested in receiving their newsletter by e-mail, fill out the form and notify:

Sherry LaTendresse - 3352 Madison Street  
Omaha, NE 68107-3912 E-mail: stendresse@cox.net  
or from our web site [www.midamericawoodcarvers.com](http://www.midamericawoodcarvers.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

***The newsletter is sent in a pdf file format. You will need Adobe Reader to open. Adobe Reader is available through the Internet. At [www.AdobeAcrobatReader.com](http://www.AdobeAcrobatReader.com), Adobe is FREE.***

### ***NEW MEMBERS***

John Hurst  
1309 Cambridge Court  
Plattsmouth, NE 68048-1327  
402-296-2805  
jhurst05@hotmail.com

Daniel Heimann  
12004 S. 178th Street  
Gretna, NE 68028-5701  
402-332-4850  
dan.heimann@yahoo.com

Laurie Frisch  
2940 Oxford Street  
Marion, IA 52302-9102  
319-373-7479  
laurie\_frisch@hotmail.com

*Let's get going on  
carving Christmas Tree  
Ornaments for our  
FALL SHOW and SALE  
Raffle Tree to benefit  
Breast Cancer  
research,  
We call it "Carve for the  
Cure."*



### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



MID-AMERICA WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
PO BOX 521  
GRETNA, NE 68028-0521

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*(Check appropriate boxes)*

Membership—\$20.00 per Family - Newsletter send by 3rd class mail (except) February -1st class mail

Membership Card - send SASE (Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope)

Detach and send applications, dues and SASE to Len Stenneche, PO Box 521, Gretna, NE 68028-0521

***If you have any changes in your address, phone number or e-mail address contact:***

***LEN STENNECHE - 333 Paradise Drive - Gretna, NE 68028-7890 - (402) 332-3118 - [ldstenneche@cox.net](mailto:ldstenneche@cox.net)***

## RETARDED GOURDERS

Finally! We're rid of the cold. At least, we don't have to shovel a hot sun. Dealing with all the rain we've had lately though, is a problem. The other day, I saw a sparrow sand bagging its nest. Enough rain already! My grass is goat high.

I used to love the choices that spring brings. Now that Breta and I have reached our golden years, and are both retarded, it's full time togetherness. We need to find a common interest.

I've had to cut back on golf, since Breta doesn't know much about it. In fact, she says she wouldn't know one end of a caddy from another. Ha! I took her to the driving range one time, and said to her, "Tee the ball." She gave me the look, and said, "Of course, I see it, but why the baby talk?" Woe is me! I guess I really can't say much. My close game is my best game, until I get around the green. Heh! Heh! Golfers will understand.

We tried fishing, and that didn't work. Breta figured out a system pretty fast. She says fishing is a sport with a worm at one end and a dummy at the other. Her idea of fishing was a lawn chair, a book, some sunscreen, a cold drink, and her own personal dummy. Go figure! The first time out, she never touched a worm, never cast her line, never watched her bobber, and managed to reel in five nice fish, one of which was a four pound bass. Her dummy never had a single bite. I felt like touching some poison ivy and breaking out. On the way home, she smiled with those big hazel eyes and said, "Wasn't that fun?" "Yea!" I replied. We haven't been back since.

Gardening hasn't worked out either. I'm leaving that to Breta. My green thumb is due to being a lousy painter. I scanned her science fiction magazine, Better Homes and Gardens, to no avail. On the way outside one day, I asked if she knew the definition of frugal. "Of course," she said, "It means to save." My reply was, of course, "Frugal me! Frugal me!" Again, the look and a shake of her head.

Now this brings me to the monster that Sara and Larry Cornwell created at Doane. Breta has become hooked on gourds. She now has a bigger library than I do, and more gourds than I have rough outs. She is accumulating more tools and supplies, than I am. Our discussions are about gourds, instead of wood carving. Something is not right here. I'm being brainwashed! We've even traveled to Missouri for a gourd festival recently. What's a guy to do? I'm a woodcarver that has been blindsided.

Do you know that you can power carve gourds? Do you know that you can chip carve gourds? Do you know that you can wood burn and paint them? Do you know that you can make all kinds of musical instruments out of them? Oh, no! I'm becoming a Breta clone. Hey, maybe that means I too can give the look.

Okay, I'll fess up. I really enjoy the gourds too. They are another canvas for creativity. They have become the catalyst that Breta and I can share in the art world. Breta is excited about gourds, and that pleases me very much. We have become a gourd team.

Are you in a rut with your carving? Maybe gourds are for you too.

Denny



# DON WHITE

Lifetime Member of  
Mid-America Woodcarvers Association, Inc.



Donald E. White, age 102, Omaha, NE. Passed away Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011. Donald worked for Roberts Dairy and Prudential Insurance Company. He was an avid woodcarver, member of Mid-America Woodcarvers Association, Inc. and participated in the River City Theater Organ Society.

Preceded in death by his wife of 76 years Lillian White; parents of Elmer and Ann White; son Terry White; brother Wayne White; sister Doris Miller. He is survived by his two sons Timothy (Annette) White, Jay (Cheryl) White; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews and friends.

In lieu of flowers memorials in Donald's name may be made to the River City Theater Organ Society.

## WHERE'S HOWARD (GENE) WERNER? AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIM.

It's been awhile since I have communicated with all of you regarding my Dad, Gene Werner. I am presently writing you from Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dad took a turn for the worse 1/26 when he was admitted to Bryan LGH Hospital with pneumonia and a sepsis infection. (Blood Infection). His immune system has become more compromised, along with cancer that has spread and doctors are no longer able to focus on curing the cancer.

He was released from the hospital on Friday 2/4 and transferred to Madonna where he is residing in the term care area and we have contracted with Hospice.

H has a bit of back pain and is on oxygen, but is relatively comfortable. He sleeps a lot but when he is awake he still has a good memory and is functioning rather well. The prognosis is hard to gauge especially when Dad keeps beating the odds! His original cancer doc last year gave Dad 5-8 months and he far exceeded that.

He has been declining a lot this past week though, so it could be a few days to a matter of a few weeks. Tim, Laura and I have all been with him. Doug and Erica are coming up later today and Tim's family will be seeing him throughout the weekend.

If you wish to visit, he is at:

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital  
540 South Street Room #429  
Lincoln, NE 68506 402-489-7102 (Hospital #not his room)

He is better early in the day and is usually ready to sleep by 7:00 PM. If you want to check in with him, you can call his cell and we are picking up the phone for him 402-291-1196.

His attention span is short, but he will be able to speak with you, if he is able.

We are so proud of how Dad has courageously met so many health challenges in recent years, but his body is tired and he ready to stop all the medical intervention.

Please keep us all in your prayers as he prepares to make this final transition.

With love,

Tim, Laura and Amy

P.S. Please share this with anyone that knew my family well, who would want to be informed, this is my mom's old email list and is not very updated. Thanks!

Tim, Laura and Amy

1-30-'77

THE ORIGIN OF MID-AMERICA WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION

Have you ever wondered JUST HOW we got started???

Well, ~~our~~ Historian, Sandy Foral, gently prodded me to get the accurate facts and report them; here, at long last, are my findings.

During the summer of 1974 Harlan Skeers was contentedly carving at home (having retired from the Postal Service the preceding year) and said to himself: "This is so much fun; there must be others in the area that carve, or want to".

So, he wrote to the editor of CHIP-CHATS, asking for a list of subscribers in the Omaha and surroundings area. Promptly, they sent a list of 12, and he immediately contacted Ray Kellogg who was on the list, and Ray and wife Eleanor put a notice in the paper that anyone interested in woodcarving should meet at the Kellogg's the evening of August 14, 1974.

Seven showed up at that first meeting: Ray Kellogg, Harlan Skeers, Bill Comstock, Mervin Keade, Jim Long, Gary Parker & Dwight Brookens. Generalities were discussed and a second meeting set for September 11, 1974 at the Comstock's, with more notices to be run in the paper.

Seventeen were there: Bill Comstock, Jim Long, Les Hunt, Harlan Skeers, Fritz Kellberg, Ray Kellogg, Frank Reinhold, Don Tolstead, Bob Hegler, Clarence Boles, Carl Olson, Jim Schober, George Foral, Herm Stephenson, Dwight Brookens, Richard Dick and Gary Parker. A lot of progress was made, including the very important point that the Kellogg's had determined that we could meet regularly at their church, Lowe Ave. United Presbyterian Church, 1023 N. 40th St., Omaha. The official "organization night" would be there on October 9, 1974.

Again, seventeen showed up; officers were elected with Harlan Skeers, President; Les Hunt, Vice President; Margrete Skeers, Sec'y-Treas. It was decided that "charter members" would be defined as those who had joined by the end of the January, 1975 meeting; a contest was announced to decide the club's name. Very deservedly, the special efforts made by Ray & Eleanor Kellogg were given special thanks.

At the November, 1974 meeting the attendance included 20 members, 4 wives and 3 guests. Mid-America Woodcarvers Association was chosen for the club name, and membership in the National Wood Carvers Ass'n (which automatically brings a subscription to "Chip-Chats") was encouraged but not obligatory.

The December meeting was attended by 20 members, 5 wives and 1 guest. The January, 1975 meeting had 22 members present. The charter members were: Dwight Brookens, George Foral, Bert Pritchot, Charles Gallet, Bob Glenn, Don Hanson, Leon Harman, Bob Hegler, Gene Henthorn, Fred Hubbard, Lester Hunt, Paul Johnson, Ray Kellogg, Jim Long, Bob McClarrinson, Dan McGuire, Myrven Mead, Fritz Kellberg, Charles Miller, Einar Olsen, Carl Olson, Lloyd Richardson, Brad & Harvey Pickel, Jim Schober, Harlan Skeers, Herm Stephenson and Helen Weber (27). Special thanks for the club's first year were due to Ray & Eleanor, & Harlan & Margrete's extra efforts, and the support of the wives of the members in many, many ways.

*Dwight Brookens, Sec'y-Treas*



# MID-AMERICA WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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