

Mid-America Woodcarvers Association

NEWSLETTER

March 2014



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

Augustana Lutheran Church 38th and Lafayette St



FROM THE PRESIDENT:

At last, Spring is in the air! What better way to celebrate Spring than the annual club garage sale. Club members are encouraged to do some spring cleaning and bring carving items they no longer want to the annual club garage sale at the March 1 meeting.

Registrations for Doane have been filling the club mailbox. It is exciting to see the names of our Doane Experience alumni as well as those of the many new people attending this year. Classes are filling up fast, and we encourage everyone to register as soon as possible to get their first choice of classes. Currently the Doane committee is in the process of finalizing plans and gearing up for July. It is a pleasure to work with the dedicated people that make up the Doane committee, as those who have attended The Doane Experience know, without their efforts it would not be the enriching experience it is.

We will begin taking orders for 40th Anniversary shirts for the club this month. Those wishing to purchase a shirt can fill out the order form and return it to the club. Shirts will be pre-order only and we will only purchase those shirts that have been ordered. When shirts arrive you will be able to pick them up during a club meeting. We will not be able to mail shirts. If you are attending The Doane Experience and want a Mid-America Woodcarvers Association Anniversary shirt you may purchase one and specify that you will pick it up at Doane in July.

Plans for the Fall Show are well underway. New this year, MAWA will be hosting an evening banquet at the German American Center Saturday evening. We hope to see all of our exhibitors there. The Fall Registration form will be posted on our web site and in the newsletter later this year.

This May an updated club directory will be available to club members. Len has done a great job on the directory and we are sure you will like the new design.

I look forward to seeing you at the next club meeting.

Maria Mulherin

Club Officers - **Maria Mulherin** - President **Mary Ann Klinger** - 1st VP **PJ Driscoll** - 2nd VP

Sherry LaTendresse - General Secretary **Judy Nygard** - Recording Secretary **Len Stenneche** - Treasurer

Board Members: **Denny Rourke, Larry Putnam, George Bledsoe, Rich Wagner, Rich Mahacek**

Membership: **Len Stenneche** Workshops: **Ken Armsbury** Library: **Sherry LaTendresse** and **Barb Steiner**

Tool Managers: **Ken Armsbury** and **Larry Putnam**

History: **Virginia Stewart** and **Sandy Floral**

Hospitality: **Sandy Floral**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Burke's Western & Wildlife Art Workshop
 July 19-25-2014
 Crete, Nebraska
www.westernwoodcarvers.com
 402-623-4383
 Nancy Burke

Doane Experience
 Doane College Campus Crete Nebraska
 July 27-Aug 2 2014
<http://www.thedoaneexperience.com/>



Mid-America Woodcarvers Association 40th Anniversary T-shirt Order Form

Short Sleeve Shirt \$12.00 Long Sleeve Shirt \$ 15.00

Sizes available: Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2X, 3X, 4X



Name _____ Phone _____

(Please print)

Quantity	Size	Sleeve Length	Cost

Orders Due by: April 15, 2014

Grand Total

*Make all checks payable to The Mid-America Woodcarvers Association

*Mail orders to Mid-America Woodcarvers Association, P.O. Box 521, Gretna, Ne 68028

North American Animal Carving with Kirt Curtis

I am trying to get a class together to have Kirt Curtis come to Glenwood to teach a class on an animal from North America. I have talked to Linda and they are willing to come over to do the class this spring. What I need to do is get a list of folks that are interested so I can work on finalizing all the details. If that is something that interests you please contact me at loesshillssawmill@hotmail.com

If you have a request on what animal we do send that along as well



Vincent Corradu



Mike Hawley



Rich Mahacek



Ron Welch



Thad Tinder



Allen Scott



Thad Tinder

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George Bledsoe

New Members.....

Nancy Gravelot	Prescott, AZ	Judy Kavathas	Chicago, IL
Julius Allmann	Liverpool, NY	Pam Hight	Santa Rosa, CA
Don Sullivan	Omaha, NE	Edgar/Diane Wolff-Klammer	Skokie, IL
Bill Buskevicius	LaVista, NE	Rich Gurica	Britton, MI
Neal Ator	McKinney, TX	Gerald Chatfield	Tecumseh, MI
John Mitchell	Fremont, NE	Larry Stickland	Almonte, Onatrio

Welcome to the club everyone !!!

HAS ANYONE SEEN MY WIFE?

By Denny Jackson

I know that question probably sounds a little strange, and, no, Breta hasn't gone AWOL, and we're not getting a divorce. If we were, we'd have to split the house. Yup! I'd get the outside. She and I have a perfect understanding. I don't try to run her life, and I don't try to run mine. Ha! If you claim that marriage is a fifty, fifty proposition, you don't know the first thing about women, or fractions. Oops, I'm getting off the subject.

Okay, here's the deal. Since our retirement, we've been able to travel more and attend other carving shows. Now, that in itself is just fine. It's the traveling to the shows that has me concerned. It seems that our van is somewhat mystical. Every time Breta gets in it, her eyes close and she seems to be transported to somewhere else, like an out of body experience. Sometimes it even happens before we get out of the driveway. I know this, because her face looks like it's going down for the third time, and her head starts to bob up and down. Heh! Heh! She is too big to put in the back window. Anyway, I can't figure it out. She's there. I can see her, but yet she isn't there. My one way conversations over the road are getting old. I'm getting to know myself too well.

Could it be our age? I wonder if I put a bed pan in the freezer and then use it to replace her car seat cushion, would that break the trance? She did say once that she wasn't sure she was getting wrinkles. Her skin might be turning to corduroy. I don't know. Maybe it's her diet taking the starch out of her, after all, I did have to put tenderizer on her puffed rice.

The answer to my dilemma still baffles me though. Where does she go? I did manage to get her back once. She was partaking in her usual absence and I was wondering if she might still be in the car somewhere. I leaned my head back against the head rest, closed my right eye, and slowly eased on to the rumble strip at the edge of the road. All of a sudden, she reappeared, screamed my name, and reached to shake me. Funny thing, she stayed in the car for the rest of the trip. It was a naughty trick, I know, but it wasn't the final cure. She still goes missing on our excursions to other shows. She did tell me that at least she dreams she is awake. Woe is me! I'm sure that I'm not the only husband with a missing wife, so if you happen to see Breta while you're driving to a show, please send her back to me, and I'll do the same for you if you suffer from the same phenomena.



I was able to attend the Cedar Rapids Carving Show again this year, although the weather kept the crowd down some on Saturday. Had a good time they are a great group of people and it is always a good show.



OK I have been thinking about my past prize giveaway questions. I decided to try a new approach, something maybe (and that's the key word here) just maybe more folks will respond to. I have I believe 12 great prizes to giveaway and I want to make it something fun. I was going to hide a little fox in the newsletter but that would almost surely bring some sort of copy write infringement lawsuit. So I thought about a different way to go about. I know you are all excited about Doane so for this month at least I am going to use the Doane list of class descriptions. I can hear you now, but George I threw it away, no problem it is available here <http://www.midamericawoodcarvers.com/testimonials.html>. So here is the quiz In one of the classes I will need a tool listed in the class description that I will need to get out of the garden shed. First correct answer sent to me will get one of our fabulous prizes **loesshillssawmill@hotmail.com** . Don't wait to long the three other people who will participate may beat you to it.....If this fails to draw your attention I may resort to giving the tools away to strangers on the street .



It was chow time and that is the only time carving stopped



Ken Armsbury's bark class he had a full class but it was lunch time, and these diehards were still at it.....

THE GRETNA RETREAT

I just wanted to take some time to mention a little about the Gretna Carving Retreat. I was able to attend it on Saturday and Sunday this year. I did a standing Indian hunter with Marty Dolphens, you might be able to see it in the lower left corner photo. I always look forward to this event, and John and Mary Robbins have really done a fantastic job keeping this tradition going. We had carvers from several states attend and judging by what I saw people were having a great time. If you have never attended this event you really should give it a try. The classes are cheap the food is good and plentiful and they have cabins to stay at. I wanted to thank John and Mary personally for letting me setup and sell wood. I will post a picture when I get my carving painted Marty was as always an excellent instructor.



Marty Dolphens class my basswood indian carving is on the bench by the windows in the middle



I can only imagine what the conversation was at this table of troublemakers



Burke

Years of testing have produced a system which can quickly and easily put a fine edge on your tools. Knives, gouges, v-tools, whatever you use can be sharpened with ease on our sharpening system. 100 and 200 grit abrasive paper are on the first two wheels, and the third is covered with leather for honing of your tools.

Price
Shipping.....

While I was at Gretna I talked to Nancy Burke, she is still making the Burke sharpeners. I have one and although I am not the best at using it I am getting better. It is a great sharpener and will get your tools razor sharp. Check the line of sharpeners out at

<http://www.westernwoodcarvers.com/sharpeners.htm>

A Parting Shot..... By George Bledsoe

Well here it is again time for me to try and put together some coherent ramblings. I shall do my best to make it interesting. I had pretty much decided to give up the newsletter writing and pass it on to someone else. I changed my mind after a few people told me how much they enjoy the newsletter. I guess I assumed they meant this newsletter although I guess I never really did ask that question. Well for the time being at least I shall continue. I am working on new ideas for my prize give away so hopefully that will get more people involved. I was busy last month, I went to Cedar Rapids for the woodcarving show great group of people there. I always enjoy going there although the weather this time of year can be a pain. I also went to the Gretna Retreat and carved with Marty Dolphens had a great time there as always. In January I took my wife to the Virgin Islands for our 25th Anniversary, we had a wonderful time, and as a bonus I will have those beautiful memories for the next 25 years as I attempt to pay off the credit card bill for the trip. I am looking forward to start road tripping to get basswood and butternut logs I always enjoy that. I am also excited about going walleye fishing again this year and am looking forward to spending time with my two boys on the lake. My kids are all getting busy with their own lives so it is wonderful when I can get some time to share with them. My son is looking forward to bark hunting in North Dakota he could care less about the bark but he really likes the casino in North Dakota. I am also looking forward to sawing logs again, it is something I really enjoy, but the cold weather limits that. I am all signed up for Doane not sure what class I ended up getting but all of them are great so it really doesn't matter to me. While I was at Gretna I noticed something about this hobby. I was looking at some Drake tools, now I have plenty of tools, I have palm tools, Pfeil, Harmon, Denny, OCC, Henry Taylor. I have mallet tools Pfeil, OCC, Henry Taylor, Two Cherries. I mean I have more tools then I need and really way more then I even use. Yet here I was looking at Drake tools, why you ask. Was it because I need a #3 or a #9 to do some special cut, nope it was because I like the wood the handles are made of. I decided that because I have way too many tools I didn't any new ones and I walked away without buying anything. I held strong for about 20 minutes then I got my checkbook and bought two tools, I really don't even know why I picked the two I bought. I just like the way they looked, and the wood the handles were made from, I mean seriously can you really have too many tools?



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