

Mid-America Woodcarvers Association

NEWSLETTER

November 2013



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

Augustana Lutheran Church 38th and Lafayette St



FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Well, this is it, my final newsletter as president. Hard to believe it has been three short years since I wrote the first letter.

I need to use this newsletter as a personal thank you, I hope you won't mind. I need to thank several persons that helped me along the way. First to Ken Armsbury, Ron Clarke, and Denny Jackson. You were always there if I need advice on the past, and willingly gave your opinions on the path to where we are today. I appreciated the fact that you continued to be active members of this great club.

Next, I need to say thank you to the board of directors through the years. I have enjoyed working with you and even more so, I was grateful to all of you for your ideas, suggestions, and the willingness to take on the challenges head on and somehow always succeed. When presented with a task, I knew you all would step up and make us proud. I especially want to say thank you to Leonard Stenneche. Like the scene in Wizard of Oz when Dorothy must leave the scarecrow, her simple phrase of "I think I will miss you most of all" seems to fit right now. Leonard has been, and will continue, to be the driving force of this club. His constant dedication and commitment makes him a very special person, and friend. Thank you Leonard for always making me look good, even though your wife likes me better.

To our vendors at all of our events. Randy and Pat Moore, Carol and Larry Yudis, George Bledsoe and family, and Jim and Lori Mckenney. I am happy to include you as part of my woodcarving family. Your commitment to attending our events and promoting woodcarving is something I have always looked forward to and will continue to look forward to for years.

My Doane Experience instructors. You have always been willing to give of your time and talent to continue the workshop and make it the success it is. The event would truly not exist if it had not been for each of you.

Now, the most important thank you goes to you. That's right, the person reading this newsletter right now. I want to thank you for all your advice kind words of encouragement and support. You have always been there and have accepted our ideas, and even challenged us to do even better. It has been my pleasure to meet you, and I look forward to hearing about all your successes in the future.

I know that whomever takes over the club will continue to work to grow this club into one of the best club in the nation. I will truly miss working directly with each of you, but want you to be assured I will still continue to support this club in any way I can.

I am going to end my letter as I have every month for the last three years

Happy Carving

Rohn

Hats Off to all those who made the Fall Show a success!!!!

People seemed to like the new setup and, the weather could not have been better. I would mention some names, but I would no doubt leave someone out and, I don't want to do that.

Things to Note

I was out at Midwest Wood Workers this week and, I noticed that Gerry is stocking all kinds of carving stuff. I saw a nice selection of cottonwood bark, cypress knees, basswood, butternut. I think I even saw some catalpa and some tupelo. If you have a need for that stuff, stop out and check it out. Gerry is a good guy and, he is really trying to cater to woodworkers. It is nice to have a wide selection of domestic and exotic woods in town, or at least in the area. Ask about the 10% discount for being a club member.

Happy Thanksgiving

Please keep all of our troops overseas and. their families in your prayers.

Take a break from woodcarving and enjoy your families too

Club Officers - Rohn Collins - President Mary Ann Klinger - 1st VP PJ Driscoll - 2nd VP

Sherry LaTendresse - General Secretary Maria Mulherin - Recording Secretary Len Stenneche - Treasurer

Board Members: Mike Hawkins, Marty Dolphens, 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

FALL SHOW

The fall show has come and gone. Lots of prep, and its over. It was a good show with lots of kudos from everybody on the new layout. When I took on the responsibility of running the show this year, I thought it was going to be a monumental task; but, with MaryAnn Klinger's notebook (how to run a full show for dummies), and the volunteer help from the members and some non-members, it made the event a success. I have been asked to run the fall show, 2014, and have accepted. Some small changes, mostly in the lighting area, will be made. I need your positive input on what additional things you would like to see. As the year progresses, you will be informed of the upcoming changes.

It is a pleasure being associated with such a creative, thoughtful group. Thanks to all the club members and volunteers for your help and support.

Rich Wagner - chipcarver@live.com



OK, since I had such an overwhelming (sarcastic) response from my last quiz. I thought I would give it another try. I have stocked the prize vault with some real nice tools that the club bought from the Woodcraft Shop. There are several knives and some gouges so we are talking nice prizes. Here is the quiz, using the can as reference how big is the log on the mill. But wait, that is the easy part you need to tell me how many board feet of lumber the log produced. I can hear you now "but how do I do that George". It is easy, use the can for reference (if you don't have a can go buy one and enjoy it as you think) then gauge how big the log is. Then refer to last months issue and input your measurements and that will give you total board feet. Then send me your best guess at loesshillssawmill@hotmail.com first correct answer get the tool. Hey it involves some work but nothing in life is free think of it as a challenge !!!!!!!

P.S for those who enjoy a malted beverage the can is about the same size so it can be substituted if you desire. However beer and sawmills are not the best combination. I have enough trouble just not tripping when I am in my workshop!!

Well since the cover was Rohn's farewell address I think it is apparent that we have club elections coming up. We could use some new blood in the club. We would love to have some New Faces, New Idea's, more involvement. SO GET INVOLVED RUN FOR AN OPEN SPOT

Heck for the right money I will give you my spot

It is your club don't be a WALL FLOWER

Here is your BIG chance to be involved in the shaping of the direction of our club!!!!!!

How to Hunt Cottonwood Bark



Getting there before dawn is an absolute must, especially when you are trespassing.

I'm kidding !



Finding big dead cottonwood trees is important, although not all big trees have big bark. I learned that the hard way!!!!



Finding help is important, cheap help is better. I would not recommend this guy he eats like a horse!!!!



Asking the tree nicely to give up its bark is also suggested. If it isn't ready to give it up, it can be quite difficult getting it

I have to admit I had a good time bark hunting, I was able to spend time with my son, and son in-law. We got to see some really nice timber stands and, some pretty country. It was exciting to see what kind of treasure awaited around the next bend. I enjoyed the folks I met and, the weather was good so that made it fun. I think we got some good bark for carving and had fun. I just hope my wife doesn't look at the charge card statement. She just doesn't understand treasurer hunting like I do.....



New Members

LaVonne Williams	De Smet, SD
Durant Floyd	Omaha, NE
Chad Elsasser	Omaha, NE
Michael Dickmeyer	Omaha, NE
Betty Delavan	Omaha, NE

Welcome to the Club everyone come join us at a club Meeting.

We have great coffee and donuts. I think we even have bagels, although why people eat those things is beyond me. They shouldn't even be considered breakfast food, maybe survival food if you were stuck on an island or something.....

For Sale Al Menghini—(Downsizing wood shop equipment and tools) Power tools—10 inch, tilt/arbor floor stand saw.--- Craftsman 10" direct drive Band Saw.---AMT scroll saw, 16" throat. Many other items and many hand tools.
Tele. 402-334-7784---E-Mail malpat5@cox.net.

Mid-America Woodcarvers Club Project

The club got together as a group and did Noah's Ark as a club project.

I think the results speak for themselves, it really turned out great!!!!



Thanks to everyone who was involved it was a team effort and, the results were awesome!!!

Please remember to wear your carving glove while carving, we have had several club members cut themselves pretty badly and they were not wearing a glove. If you don't have a glove contact [THE WOODCRAFT SHOP](#) and, they will set up right up with one.

Also be aware of trip hazards in your shop as they can be quite dangerous as well.

Trust me on that one.....

What's happening at the Loess Hills Sawmill These days

Well as I have lots of space to fill and not so much to fill it with, I will bore you with some sawmilling shots. I am currently working on a few large white oak logs for someone. These things were big and white oak is heavy. They were so big that they wouldn't fit on the mill without a little adjustment.



The two big logs were about 30" on the small end so they are big. I could not lift them with my tractor so that meant they needed to be split. I used a friend's Stihl 046 chainsaw and it took more time than I hoped for but, I managed to at least cut half way straight. They should yield some really nice quarter sawn lumber and a couple of mantles too. I love the smell of white oak it is my second favorite wood after Butternut

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gretna Woodcarvers Retreat

February 6th-10th

Gretna 4-H Camp

For more details check out their website <http://www.gretnawoodcarversretreat.com>

Check out our new website www.thedoaneexperience.com.

Start making plans for attending in 2014



A Parting Shot..... By George Bledsoe

Well here I am again scratching my head for something entertaining to write. They say write what you know, so I guess this will be the shortest article ever. I guess that won't work so I will write about the Fall Show. I had a great time this year, got to talk to tons of people about wood I always enjoy that. I had a chance to see my good friend Larry Yudis who totally ignored me at Carv-Fest ;) (inside joke) and his lovely wife Carol. I managed to see all the displays and talk to many of the artists that had a table rented. I also decided to check out a local "Emergicare" place to see how the ACA had effected them. No change so far except the doctors seem to be quite young these days. I re-learned the lesson to look before you leap, well actually step but in reality it is the same conclusion in the end. I also decided that selling wood is really just an excuse to hoard wood, and travel to exotic locations in pursuit of said wood. I have discovered that I tend to go overboard on collecting wood (makes it sound more high class then hoarding). I have begun to rope the people around me into helping me gather my stash (a sure sign of an addiction) but they willing help for the most part. I did have a good time in North Dakota with my son, I went to the bar with him (first time) I paid (last time) he drank, and found out someplace along the line he has grown into a man. I am not sure when, but it has happened right under my nose. We also stopped in a "CASINO" in North Dakota well really a bar that had blackjack tables. We played a little blackjack, I won, he lost (well I lost I guess, since he was playing on my money) but we had fun and laughed about it afterwards. He laughed of course cause it wasn't his money, I laughed because I got to spend time with my little boy that has grown up to be a man (and to me that was priceless). I did make him work off the loss picking up cottonwood bark the next day, I mean really who doubles down on 8..... George



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