

Mid-America Woodcarvers Association

NEWSLETTER

October 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:

Fall Show is always a fun time for me and my family. I've shared a table with my dad since I first joined the MAWA carving club. We had a few issues that first year, my half of the table ended up being about a tenth of the table. But I wasn't bitter!

The next year there was much negotiation over table space, lines were drawn, treaties were signed, I had a couple more carvings and I was certain I could fill 1/8th of the table. I only had to skootch dad's carvings back over the border line a couple times.

All told we shared a table for four years, then last year he decided he needed a table of his own. Can I help it if I finally carved more than an 1/8th of a table's worth? Our tables were next to each other, and even though we weren't "sharing" a table there was still a little encroachment on my table. I was still working on filling that table by myself and my dad figured I wouldn't mind a little help filling all that empty space.

My dad is an avid carver and has carved so much over the years that I doubt I will ever catch up to him. I've been fortunate that he has shared his love of woodcarving with me. This time of year and the Fall Show always remind me of how I became a carver, and perhaps that's why I look forward to the Fall Show so much each year.

Thanksgiving six years ago, as we all sat in the living room recovering from Thanksgiving dinner, my dad gave my younger brother and I each a piece of cottonwood bark and a carving knife. I looked at the bark and back at my dad in confusion, he looked me in the eye and said, "You can do it, just try. Look at the bark and you'll see the house inside."

Well, I looked at the bark, and looked at the bark. I turned it over this way and that trying to find the house. It wasn't there. I made the mistake of glancing over at my dad as I was about to give up and set it aside. We made eye contact, I got the evil eye, so I knew there was no easy way out and I'd better start making firewood. Funny thing is, I caught a glimpse of the house out of the corner of my eye. I grabbed a pencil, marked in the eaves, windows and door, and then started liberating my house from the wood. I went home with a few more tools, 3-4 pieces of cottonwood bark and a sense of accomplishment. The next year was our first Fall Show in Omaha.

This year will be bitter sweet for me, my dad won't be making the drive to Omaha for the show this year. Last year, he said, was his last hurrah, so somehow I'm going to have to fill that table on my own. Lucky for me I have the next generation to look to for assistance... Now if she would just stop taking my tools!

I look forward to seeing you all at the show, my table will be the one with border lines.

Maria

MAWA Officer Elections

Plan on attending the meeting the 3rd week in November for the Board Member Election. Positions that will be open are President, First VP, Secretary, and 2 Board Member positions. All members are encouraged to step up and throw their name in the hat. Please let us know at the next meeting that you will be planning to run for office!



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.

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, Judy Nygard**

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, 2015 Set-up time 11:00A to 5:00PM — Competition Entry 2:00 PM to 5:00PM
Saturday, October 10, 2015 9:00AM to 5:00PM — Sunday, October 11, 2015 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

(Buffet 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.

Signature _____ Date _____ Check # _____

Official Use Only

TBF#

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For a complete listing of the Fall Show Entry Categories and Rules of Competition

<http://www.midamericawoodcarvers.com/resources.html>

Bark Carving 101

Ok so here is the second installment of the bark carving 101 article. I want to again say I am not anywhere close to the best carver in the club so if you can glean something from this article great if not thats ok too. I also wanted to mention that there are some great articles and books out there that will help you carve these types of faces as well as a few online demos. I will list them at the end of this series. The way I carve is I get the face roughed out and then I tweak it by adjusting the features until they look right to me. It takes a lot of practice to get this stuff down but that is half the fun of it and you get better the more you do it. So lets get back to it



I have brought forward the head by removing a large amount of bark from above his head which will allow me to show the top of his head. I have also drawn in his hair line.



Here the hair line is cut in and a rough gauge of the chin is drawn in. I always leave myself extra on the chin. John Burke also told me Wood is a take away medium. It can be shortened later. I added a measurement so you can see where I am headed hopefully



Here the hair line is in the chin has been roughly cut in and the collar of the shirt is drawn on approx. These features will all be refined as the carving progresses. This is the rough structure that is important if you want your face to turn out good when you get the detail in.



Here I have added marks for the rough location of the eyes and the bottom of the nose. These are roughly the correct location. Once you start cutting them in they can be adjusted a little. The face is roughly divided into thirds



Here is a closer picture hopefully you can see the face divided into thirds at the eye line and the bottom of the nose. You should also be able to see the face is shaped like a wedge with the nose sticking the farthest out

MAWA Club Calendar

October 3 - MAWA Club Meeting—Mike Hawley Painting Demonstration

October 9-11 - MAWA Fall Show and Sale

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

October 17 -MAWA Club Meeting—Alan Scott—Christmas Tree Ornament

Class with Kurt and Linda Curtis

We are planning on having Kurt and Linda Curtis come over again to Glenwood to teach class.

The subject is going to be a standing moose and will happen on the 6,7,8th of November.

This is an ambitious project in three days but it is a great carving and will be well worth the extra effort.

We will be carving at the same location that we have used in the past in Glenwood

I will hopefully talk my wife into making her world famous Lasagna on Saturday

I don't have a class cost yet but I will get that information as soon as possible.

If that is something that you want to do let me know ASAP

George Bledsoe 712-310-4154 or loesshillssawmill@hotmail.com

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www.toolsforworkingwood.com

Open Invitation

Hey don't forget now that the seasons are changing the grass won't need mowing. It will be getting colder and, all those projects that you didn't get done will be there next spring. You can now feel guilt free about joining us on the 1st and 3rd Saturday at the club meeting. Stop in have a donut or two and a cup of coffee and enjoy some fellowship with a bunch of really great people. We are about a very welcoming group stop in and find out for yourself.

Hot off the Presses

The CCA has a new book that has one of our club members in it.

Concepts to Caricatures: Celebrating 25 Years of Caricature Carving

Our own PJ Driscoll has one of his carvings in it.

It is available at Amazon.com and I am sure other places as well

It looks like a real great book that includes a step by step with Chris Hammack

2016 is the 40th Anniversary of the Doane Experience

I am not sure what I wanted to write about this month. It is apparent that the seasons are changing as summer ends and fall begins. It marks the end of one season and of course the beginning of the next. I wanted to talk a little about a friend of mine who recently passed away. I am sure many of you may have known Chuck Meier. I got to know Chuck taking classes with Marty when he was teaching. I used to give Chuck a hard time about being a Swiss made distributor because he had so many tool rolls full of tools. I took several classes with Chuck doing animals with Kirt and Linda Curtis. I sat next to Chuck at Doane this year and as usual we had a great time. Chuck bought a big chunk of wood from me I tried to talk him out of it, I think he bought it just to be nice. I teased him about buying all the good Drake tools and leaving me all the leftovers. We talked about an upcoming class we planned on having and life in general. It shocked me to get the phone call that he had died, Chuck was always smiling and always a standup guy. I was driving home after I heard the news and, I was thinking about Chuck and, how life is so unpredictable. I really enjoyed talking to Chuck and, I will really miss seeing him at Doane and taking classes with him. I was thinking about why things work the way they do, I have faith there is a plan, even if I can't understand it. It sort of hit me while I was thinking about it, I was able to spend a week sitting next to Chuck, laughing and joking with him. We shared our love of our families and our grandkids, we laughed as a class and as friends. I would like to think that week played into the plan somehow. I have met many people in my life and I would be really hard pressed to find someone nicer than Chuck Meier. I will miss him.....



MID-AMERICA WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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