

Mid-America Woodcarvers Association

NEWSLETTER

Sept 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:

It's hard to believe that Doane came and went, after months of preparation we had a great week of carving and camaraderie. There were a lot of great projects this year. We will be adding a link to the photographer's website so everyone who had a photo of their carving can access that. After taking a deep breathe, plans for Doane 2015 are underway. The dates for 2015 are July 26 – August 1, 2015.

Fall Show plans are well underway and we are accepting table registrations now. Tables are beginning to fill quickly and it would be a good idea to send in your registrations as soon as possible. Once again, Rich Wagner is doing a fantastic job leading the Fall Show committee. Rich has redesigned the floor plan this year, and this year we are having a banquet at the Fall Show. If you are not renting a table for the Fall Show, but wish to attend the banquet, please fill out the registration form indicating that you are attending the banquet only. You must reserve your seat and pre-pay for the banquet.

We are still accepting ornaments for the Christmas wreaths we will be raffling for the American Cancer Society this year. For every ornament you carve you will receive an entry in a drawing for a \$25.00 prize. You have at least 3 more opportunities at meeting to turn in ornaments during club meetings.

Many of you know Len Stenneche hasn't been well over the last few weeks. Although he is now on the mend, he feels it is time to pass on the responsibility of Treasurer. We will be discussing a special election at the next meeting, September 6th, and taking nominations for treasurer at that time. We will then hold a special election at the September 20th meeting for Treasurer.

As you know we are a very active club and are always looking for new ideas, projects, and ways to improve the carving club. We need you to consider running for your board of directors to help keep our club active. We have several seats up for re-election and would love to see your name on the ballot.

I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming club meetings!

Maria

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mid-America Woodcarvers Association's Fall Show

German American Society 3717 S. 120th St Omaha Nebraska

Oct 11th and 12th Contact Rich Wagner for details

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

Since I am in the sawmill business I get calls from time to time from folks who want to sell me a tree. The tree is usually still standing actually usually leaning over some structure. I can usually have the wood, if I cut the tree down, haul away all the wood, and clean up the mess. In a few cases I have been offered walnut trees that the buyer is sure is worth a 1000.00 dollars. I usually very politely decline and suggest they contact a tree removal service. This year while I was at Doane was no exception, some guy had a log he wanted to sell me. He said it was pear tree he thought and, it was not that big of a tree. Pear wood is nice for saw handles and small boxes so I asked to see the log. This log was rough it had a big gash in the bark and was all dirty, it looked like it was literally run over by a truck..... I passed

New Members.....

Daryl Pleggenkuhle Papillion, NE

Welcome to the club !!!

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**

Persistence Pays Off

Almost every woodcarver I know has several unfinished projects laying around. I have also quite a few but since I also woodwork I have several things I started and never finished. I just finished two of these spice boxes that I started many years ago, lost the original plan, lost the hardware., lost interest. I stuck with it ,modified the plan, bought new hardware, and finally finished them. I gave this one to my son this year when he left for college, wrote him a note on the bottom about never giving up and sticking with something even when it gets hard. I hope that is the kind of lessons I have modeled for him, I guess time will tell.



In Memory

Buck Reinecker recently passed away, he taught basket weaving at Doane for many years and will be missed by all that knew him.

Fall Show Registration

Registration for the 40th Annual Mid-America Woodcarvers Assoc. Fall Show is now open. Included in this month's newsletter is a copy of the 2014 registration form. We encourage everyone to sign up as soon as possible since tables fill quickly. If you have any questions regarding the Fall Show, please contact Rich Wagner at (402)218-7270 or at chipcarver@live.com.

From the Woodguy..... information that is worth what you are paying for it.....

While I was at Doane people have asked me this question a few times. When looking at carving wood sometimes pieces will be a wide scope of color from white to more of a cream color. I heard someone telling someone that the creamy color of the wood indicated that it was summer cut basswood. The color of basswood varies between logs but what really makes a big difference on basswood is the drying process. All the logs that I and probably everyone else gets are winter cut and then sawn into lumber in early spring. The key on all light colored woods is getting the wood cut up and stacked right away so the drying process can begin. The longer the logs sit the more likely the wood will start to stain. Once the wood is cut, air must be allowed to flow thru the pile to allow for the wood to begin drying, Without good air flow the wood will stain and if left long enough develop blue stain in the center of the cant. As an example my wife was walking in town and a tree guy was cutting down a basswood tree. She came home excited that she got the log, I didn't want the log but didn't want to dampen her excitement so I went and picked it up and cut it up right away. The tree was cut in mid July. I stacked the lumber and it is some of the whitest basswood I have ever seen. The growth rings are too far apart to make great carving wood but it is super white. So the drying process is really the most important thing in dealing with light colored woods and the lumber needs to be cut and stacked to air dry right away to get the best results. I hope that helps answer that question, next month I will talk about properties of basswood and some things to look for in that basswood board you are buying.

Have you reserved your table for the Fall Show yet ?

Well what are you waiting for ?

This Years show promises to be bigger and better then ever.

Reserve a table today, entry form is included in the newsletter.

If you can't do a full table share a table with a friend.

Meet people that have a common interest.

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The Doane Experience the best week in woodcarving and so much more!!
Some of our talented carvers entertain the crowd at the 2014 Doane Experience with some fine music.



2014 Registration Form
Mid-America Woodcarvers Association, Inc.
40th ANNUAL FALL SHOW & SALE

GERMAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY, INC 3717 S 120 Street Omaha, Nebraska

Friday, October 10, 2014 Set-up time 11:00A to 5:00PM --- Competition Entry 2:00 PM to 5:00PM

Saturday, October 11, 2014 9:00AM to 5:00PM --- Sunday, October 12, 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. Reserving a show table is required to enter completion.
- 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

Mary Ann Klinger (402)453-2393 or at gmklinger@cox.net

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

Send registration to: MAWA FALL SHOW AND SALE - PO BOX 521 GRETNA, NE 68028

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

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

Exhibitor _____ Spouse _____

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 # _____

A Parting Shot..... By George Bledsoe

Well another month has come and gone and it is time to put electronic pen to parchment. I would first like to thank everyone who came to the Doane Experience, it was good seeing some friends again and making some new ones. I would also like to thank my friend Linda Curtis for being such a wonderful instructor and for helping me keep caught up as I wandered off quite often. I also want to thank all of you folks who bought wood from me and I think I speak for all of the vendor's to say Thanks for doing business with us. It is one of the things I like about cutting basswood that in a small way I am involved in your creative process and I enjoy hearing about your ideas and meeting each one of you. I know there are many people that sell wood and I am glad to be the one that you choose to help you channel your creativity. Well I guess that enough of that kind of stuff, I have been busy after Doane, I have a bunch of walnut logs to cut up so I started that process. I had a guy in the Navy (in Nebraska?) from the air base ask if I would cut a couple logs up for him. I said sure (should have verified size) and he dropped two logs off one nice 18" diameter log no problem there and then this beast. The log was odd shaped and at the saw's size limits. It was too heavy to list onto the saw so I had to use a winch. I got the first face cut on it, after some chainsaw work to get it to a manageable size. The next step is a little fuzzy, I was trying to roll the log over to cut the second face and somehow the log rolled off the saw. I was lucky it didn't roll over the backstops as that's a huge deal, it just had to be repositioned and reloaded on the saw but it took quite sometime to get back to cutting. It yielded some really nice crotch slabs so I guess in the end it worked out ok. It really never goes as planned so I have gotten used to these delays.



I also managed to get in a fishing trip, our youngest started college this year so I wanted to take my sons fishing. I have to be honest neither of my boys is really into fishing. I think they do it because they know it something that is important to me. I have watched these two grow up so fast that any time I get a chance I want to spend some time with them. We went up to lake Sharp in South Dakota, and fished with a couple of guides from Allen's Hillside resort in Chamberlain. We all caught our limit although the fish are not as big as they are in Minnesota. The weather looked rainy but we managed to stay pretty dry and it was actually quite pleasant. My oldest son caught the biggest fish which measured 19.5 inches long so he was excited to collect the biggest fish pool, more beer money I am sure. I guess that is what college kids do and I guess that what college parents have to put up with. This year I also took my son in law along for the trip, I told him when he married Katy he became just like another son to us and part of our family. I was surprised he really seemed to like fishing and caught most of the fish the first day. I think Katy picked a good one and I am happy to have him in our family.





MID-AMERICA WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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