

# Mid-America Woodcarvers Association

## NEWSLETTER

December 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:

Greetings fellow carvers! With the changing of the seasons has come the changing of the guard at the Mid-America Woodcarvers Assoc. On November 16<sup>th</sup> elections were held to fill open spots on the club board of directors. As your incoming president I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing board members for the time and commitment they have put into our club. To Rohn Collins, our outgoing president I must say, you have left some rather large shoes to fill. Your "we can do this" and forward thinking attitude have added new dimension to the club and continued the tradition of a successful, active club. To Mike Hawkins, your ever present positive attitude and willingness to help out at any opportunity, especially at Doane serve to inspire those around you. Last, but not least, to Marty Dolphens for all your years of dedication to MAWA, not only as a board member, but also as an instructor at The Doane Experience, it is the sharing of your talent that keeps this art form alive. Without the support of all our board members and our membership throughout the years, MAWA would not be the vibrant, progressive club it is today.

Congratulations Rich Wagner on the huge success of the 2013 Fall Show. Rich definitely took this project and ran! A big thank you goes out to the fantastic team of volunteers who helped at the show, your hours of dedication helping to set up, sell admission tickets, assisting the show judges and selling raffle tickets helped make this one of our best shows.

This year we were fortunate to have P.J. Driscoll and Roger Lyons as judges at the Fall Show. We are very grateful for the time and effort you put into being a judge.

Special thanks go to Larry and Carol Yudis of The Woodcraft Shop for donating prize money to the best of show winner. In addition thanks need to be given to the Great Western Bank, Len Stenneche, and George Bledsoe of Loess Hills Sawmill for their generous contributions to the awards. We appreciate your continued support of our show.

The Doane committee is already hard at work. Instructor invitations have been sent out, and some have already been returned. Before we realize it, it will be February and registration for The Doane Experience will be open. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

In closing, on behalf of all the MAWA board members and myself, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season. May your holidays be filled with joy.

I look forward to serving as your president and appreciate your support and suggestions.

Maria Mulherin

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December 2013

December 7 - MAWA Club Meeting - Christmas carving - P.J. Driscoll

December 21 - MAWA Club Meeting - Christmas carving - Marty Dolphens

**Ornament Exchange - bring a wrapped carved ornament for the exchange.**

### January 2014

January 4 - MAWA Club Meeting

January 18 - MAWA Club Meeting

### February 2014

February 1 - MAWA Club Meeting

**The Doane Experience class descriptions published, and registration opens.**

<http://www.thedoaneexperience.com>

February 6-10 - Gretna Woodcarving Retreat

<http://www.gretnawoodcarversretreat.com>

February 15 - MAWA Club Meeting

## Merry Christmas

**Please enjoy a wonderful holiday season with your families and be safe while on the road.**

**Have a Happy New Year**

**I hope Santa brings you all the new carving stuff  
on your wish list if not call "Santa Big Dog" Yudis**

**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

## December Food Pantry Donations

Once again, we are asking our club members to donate non-perishable food items during the month of December at our club meetings. These food items will be donated to the Omaha Food Pantry.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

## Show and Share



OK apparently either the newsletter is not being delivered, no one needs any tools, or my little puzzles are too hard.

So here is how I did it, I enlarged the picture on my screen, and using a piece of card stock I made marks the size of the can on both pictures. I then used that mark to get a size on diameter and length of the log. I then used the link from the newsletter and entered diameter and length and it calculated board feet. Using my calculations I came up with 15.5" diameter and 50"

long. So that should yield 33 Doyle, 39 Scribner, 42 International

If you tried I appreciate it and if you are at Doane I will give you a \$10 gift certificate from Loess Hills Sawmill .

I will try to come up with something different next time



The log yielded 47 board feet because bandmills have a very small kerf and the log scales are all based on circle sawmill blades that cut a 1/4 kerf.

The winner of the contest was Jay Macrander

From Omaha Nebraska

Congratulations!!!!!!



### Christmas Ornament Exchange

It's hard to believe the Christmas season is almost upon us. With the arrival of the holidays comes the Annual MAWA Ornament Exchange. Each year club members are invited to bring a carved, wrapped ornament for the exchange. The ornament exchange will be held at the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting so you have plenty of time to let the chips fly and participate in the exchange. While you are at it, why not carve a second ornament for the 2014 Fall Show? It would be gladly accepted and greatly appreciated. The MAWA board will be providing coffee and donuts.

Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Gretna Woodcarvers Retreat

February 6th-10th

Gretna 4-H Camp

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

A discussion on Woodcarving Illustrated's Forum caught my eye.

I saw this topic come up on a Woodcarving Forum and I thought it was interesting. The subject was about a carver from Texas wondering whether to buy wood from a vender at his clubs show or to order wood from an online wood seller. The topic sparked my interest since I sell wood but also because I go to several woodcarving shows as well. The shows I go to usually have the same venders every year. These folks make their living selling at shows all over the country, I sell wood too but I also have a regular job to pay the bills and I do it because I enjoy sawing logs and I like to be part of the process by supplying wood for other peoples creations. So of course on the forum there were opinions on both sides of the subject. I guess my take is that I think it is really important to patronize the venders who take the time and effort to come to your woodcarving show. The expense to travel and the time it takes to setup and takedown is considerable. It is a benefit to folks attending the shows to be able to see what they are buying, and also saving on shipping is an added benefit. I am not saying I have never bought something online but I always try to buy from one of the venders at the shows I attend. It helps them and I think helps the clubs that host the shows since these folks may think twice about coming to your show if they can't make enough to make it worthwhile. I am not pointing the finger at anyone, I just think it is something worth thinking about, when you are pondering your next purchase. It is was something I thought was interesting and worth mentioning your opinion may be different then mine and that is what makes it interesting.....

## Welcome New Members and Guests

On behalf of the Mid-America Woodcarvers Assoc. we would like to welcome new members and guests to our carving club. MAWA has been an active carving club for nearly 40 years. Our club is dedicated to continuing the practice and teaching of wood art to carvers. As a courtesy to our club members tools are available for sale during club meetings. Besides individual tools we also carry beginner sets. Please feel free to sign up for monthly club classes. Many are centered on beginning to intermediate carvers. Please note that we are only able to accept carvers ages 14 years and older due to insurance limitations. Younger members ages 14-18 need to be accompanied by a legal guardian.

### New Members

Dave Thomas	Le Roy, IL
Edward Lindquist	McKinney, TX
Paul King	Omaha, NE
Kathryn Lanzante	Omaha, Ne
Richard and Denise Auge	North Oaks, MN
Joe Papke	Omaha, NE
Mike Donovan	Council Bluffs, IA

What's happening at the club meetings, it is even better in person drop in and check it out !!

Ken Armsbury's class on carving a Christmas Moblie



## Gearing Up for The Doane Experience

This month we would like to “Spotlight” instructor David Borg. David Borg is a new instructor at The Doane Experience this year.

David Borg has engineering degrees from Texas A&M and LSU. After many years in industry, he retired and has been working with wood art.

His pieces have received first place recognition in carving competitions across several states. David’s efforts include: carvings in the round (realistic and caricature), scroll saw pieces, woodturnings, relief and wildfowl carvings. David’s dragons have received first places in shows at Converse, IN (the annual competition for the Caricature Carvers of America), Broken Arrow, OK, New Braunfels, TX (TWG) and Grapevine, Texas, just to name a few. David is a member of the North Texas Woodcarver’s Guild, the DFW Scrollers, the Dallas Area Woodturners, and the North Texas Wildfowl Carvers.

Class title: Hatching Dragons and Other Critters



### Newsletter Contributors Wanted

We are looking for club members to help contribute to the newsletter. Currently we are seeking submissions on:

Helpful Hints and Tricks

Step-By-Step instructions on Carving Projects, including 6-8 photos.

We will also accept submissions regarding woodcarving in general. This could include reporting on other shows or workshops attended by a member, a humorous story or anecdote regarding carving, or club history to name just a few ideas.

All submissions will be considered for publication. Publication will be based on approval by the newsletter editor and will be subjected to editing based on space and content. Deadline for submissions will be the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.



Something  
to get you  
in the  
Christmas  
Carving  
Spirit



Time is getting short if you are carving Santa's for this year. Here are a couple that PJ Driscoll just finished out of cottonwood bark. I also got a sneak peek at the Christmas surprise he is doing, you won't want to miss it!!!! Club meeting is December 7th..

*A Parting Shot.....* By George Bledsoe

Well here we are again, as I write this it is supposed to snow tonight, I am not ready for that. I will try and muddle through the best I can. I went and got fuel for my tractor, still need to put on chains but, I am sure I will hold off on that until we get a foot of snow. Then I will be out doing that wondering why I didn't do it before. I was doing a little carving last night on this native American guy I have been jacking around with for months, it wasn't turning out as I had hoped. I will be burning him in the fireplace when it gets cold. I do, as I am sure many of you, get frustrated sometimes when your hands can't seem to capture what is in your minds eye. It seems easy enough I mean I have watched my friend PJ carve and it just seems to come so easy. I have watched Marty rough out a carving in a few minutes and it too seems so easy for them. I get fired up watching them and when I get home I get a chunk of wood (I get my wood from Loesshills Sawmill "shameless plug") and start and someplace between my minds eye and my sausage like fingers it goes hay-wire. It is frustrating, and I am too stubborn to give up but, I may have found the secret. I have watched Marty carve and I think it may be the tools he uses. I mean, I am pretty sure I could carve like him, if I just had some of those tools he sells. So Santa, if this gets to you in time at the North pole I want tools that will make my carvings look like Marty's. I mean doesn't that sound like it should work, I know the idea's are in my head I see them and, I can't really get new hands. That means it must be the tools, what else could it possible be, artistic ability, talent, years and years of practice.. No it must be the tools so that is what I will ask for from Santa this year. If that doesn't work, then look for an ad in the classified section of the newsletter next year..... Have a Wonderful Christmas and a safe New Year!!!!!! George



**MID-AMERICA WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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