



Rochester Woodcarvers Rochester, Minnesota

Newsletter for November - December 2008

Plan now to attend our next club meeting
Saturday, February 21, 2009
9:00am - 11:00am
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
(Enter the door from the parking lot)
869 7th Ave SE
<http://rochesterwoodcarvers.com>

Our featured presentation for February 21 is:

Small Sculptures, Netsuke and Ojime

by
Janel Jacobson

Netsuke and Ojime are forms of miniature sculpture that developed in Japan over a period of more than three hundred years. Check out the introduction to this fascinating subject on our web site (address above).

Come see. Spouses are always welcome.

Fish Carving and Painting

January 17

In our January meeting, we watched Norm Busta show us his beautiful fish. He showed us how to carve and paint fish, mix colors, and foreshorten curved carvings. He offered some solutions to painting problems and other helpful hints. In his presentation, he recommended these books for our library:

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- Blue & Yellow Don't make Green, by Michael Wilcox
 - Freshwater Fish woodcarving Patterns, by Ed Walick and Thomas Wolf

- Freshwater Fish Carving, by James Fliger

Thanks, Norm. Your fish are beautiful!

Don't forget! Mark your calendar! Be there!

Rochester Woodcarvers 33rd Annual Show

March 28-29, 2009

10:00am - 4:00pm each day

Olmsted County Fairgrounds - 4H Building.

Check with Tom Severson for display tables. Please remember to volunteer and help run the show. Sign up for the volunteer jobs at the next club meetings. Submit your best carving for the People's Choice award.

Nancy Borson can always use some help with the Hands-On Learning Table. It has been a hit, and it can spark new carvers to take up the hobby. All you need to know is how to hold a gouge and knife, and how to make the basic strokes -- and if you don't know, it's a great way to learn how! Check with Nancy if this is activity interests you.

President's Notes:

In my reading about woodcarving I have come across many memorable quotes. I thought I would share two of them with you in this newsletter, to start off the New Year.

The first is from English carver Chris Pye: "We carve away wood, but what really matters is the wood we leave behind." OK, no big surprise there, but do we consciously think about this statement as we busily make chips in our carving? I know that for myself, sometimes when the tool and the wood are working together so smoothly, it is just a joy to remove wood. Like the fellow who starts with a log and ends up with a toothpick! What we need to always be thinking about are the masses of wood left behind, their form, proportion, and balance (their relationships to each other).

Carver William Wheeler said something similar in his book Woodcarving (Sterling Publishing Co. 1979): "an appreciation of form, proportion and balance is essential - in fact it is true to say that no excellence of technique can make up for lack of artistic expression." Good design is just as essential as good technical carving ability. The flip side of course, is also true, that a good design can be spoiled by poor technique, and that is where practice comes in. I can read all I want about woodcarving, but until I actually start carving, my ability will never grow or improve. Carving the same piece more than once is an excellent way to demonstrate to yourself your own progress, as the second carving will not (usually!) exhibit the mistakes made in the first one. Anytime we carve something for the first time, Chris Pye recommends that we carve it again and then burn the first one. With that pithy comment, I will wrap up here and wish you all a happy new year of carving pleasure.

Randy

Tree Idea? The Tree Committee is waiting eagerly for your ideas for our next entry in the Festival of Trees. Please share your good idea with them. Tell Laurie Reed or any member of her committee. Any idea is worth consideration. Share them. The more ideas, the more interesting the trees.

You might also consider joining that great team. They would love to have your contributions. Lots of planning and designing to do before fall wraps around again.

Show and Tell: Here are the member carvings we got to see in our last 2 meetings.
November 15, 2008

Nick Sikkink: full-size cowboy boot, carved out of walnut

LaVerne Schettl: two woodburnings, a butterfly and a wolf, that were gifts to the Schettl's from Paul Tarrara, who is 88 and resides in the Pine Island nursing home.

LaVerne also had a photograph of a large carousel horse, for which Myron had supplied the wood.

Randy Kinnick: a magazine article about Janel Jacobsen, our next meeting speaker (see page 1).

Chuck Johnson: a carving of a woman reading a storybook, a small bust, and a caricature golfer.

Mike Snyder: Pictures of his carved pumpkins, a carving of the coal bin for Santa's Naughty List (Santa's workshop).

Randy Kinnick: A large property sign in the shape of Minnesota, using white oak.

Wayne Hendrickson: Four gnomes carrying appropriate items for Santa's Workshop.

Ron Bymers: a gnome placing a star on a bent-down Christmas tree for Santa's Workshop.

Don Buske: two elves for Santa's Workshop.

Terry Johnson: a miniature tree-stump house with miniature elf and miniature furniture.

Garry Kolb: pictures of complex wooden puzzles made by Tom Stewart.

Bruce Murray: a little elf with a mallet for Santa's Workshop.

December 20, 2008:

Bob Nowicki 3 Barefoot Santa's; Political, Snowboard and Artist, Santa carrying a lantern.

Tom Pike 3 Carolers, dog & lamppost carvings.

Mike Synder Japanese puzzle box, parrot box, Juno's puzzle mat, 7-Wood puzzle.

John Seery Chip carvings, 4 cross pendants, 5 ornaments and a plaque. Photo album with photos of additional carvings he has

done.

Randy Kinnick Butternut acanthus serving tray.

Orland Thoreson Tea in the Box.

Laverne Schettl Nativity she carved, and Nativity she purchased at Savers.

Chuck Stupca Carvings from beginner's class, spoon and bark house.

Bev Stupca 5 chip carved ornaments, cross and a humming bird.

Don Buske
Howie Wilson

Pig Gondola carving.
Snowman ornament.

Dues are due! Remember to bring them with, if you haven't yet paid your cheap membership. Where else can you belong to such an elite club for so little? Your membership pays for this newsletter and keeps you at the forefront of carving today. Don't let it lapse.

Library: If you have books checked out, please return them and find a couple of new ones to look at. This is one of the finest woodcarving libraries around. Let's keep the books and guides in circulation so all can enjoy. Check out one of the DVD offerings!

Happy Carving!
John Gordon, editor
