

NORTHERN ALBERTA WOODCARVERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

April 2016

Edmonton, Alberta

Issue #2

2016 NAWCA Executive

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Next Meeting

Date: April 13th, 2016 **Time:** 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Duggan Community League Hall
3728 - 106 Street, Edmonton



Our **Annual Woodcarving Show** is fast approaching (April 22rd, 23rd, and 24th)! We only have about two weeks left to finish our projects so that the club can dazzle the public! Remember -- **we need lots of entries for all levels!!!**

President's Report

Let me open by saying I am in awe of the amount of effort that our secretary, Campbell Ross, has put in to jump through the bureaucratic hoops necessary to get our club reinstated as a Registered Society. We should all be very grateful!

I am amazed by the rapid progress of our new carvers. Please finish up your pieces and enter them in our show. Although we do give out ribbons, keep in mind *it is a show* and we need to show what we do (and have done) at all experience levels. Please also keep in mind that carvers do not make mistakes -- just design changes. The small things you think are glaring, most people will not notice. Also, there is a thing called artistic license!

When entering pieces, keep in mind presentation. An easel or stand can make a big difference to first impressions of your piece.

I hope that every carver will enter at least one carving!

Keep carving,

Doug Bean

NAWCA Annual Show & Competition 2016

April 22nd - *FRIDAY*

Registration (and set up) from 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (Closed to the Public)

April 23rd - *SATURDAY*

Late Entries and Registration: 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM

Judging: 8:30 am - 10:30 AM (Closed to the Public)

Public Show: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

April 24th - *SUNDAY*

Public Show: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Award Presentations: 3:00 PM

2016 Show Rules and Guidelines

www.nawca.ca/images/ShowCompetition/2016AnnualShow-and-Competition/ShowRulesGuidelinesJudgingAward.pdf

2016 Show Entry Form

(There will be forms available at the registration on Friday, April 22nd)

www.nawca.ca/images/ShowCompetition/2016AnnualShow-and-Competition/CompetitionEntryForm2016.pdf

Please consider the categories that you plan to enter pieces in to aid in the registration process on Friday evening.

It's difficult to put into words just how much time and effort we, as woodcarvers put in to hone our craft. The Annual Show is a powerful way to show ourselves, as well as our families (and the rest of Alberta), how much we've progressed throughout the last year as individuals, and as a club. Below is a collection of show pieces from past years. They represent all levels of carvers, and while some happened to win a ribbon, all entries pictured below (as well hundreds I couldn't fit on the page) brought delight to the viewers who came to enjoy our show! Please consider putting one or more examples of your hard work into this year's show...



As in previous years, there is always room for more **volunteers** to assist with the show. Please talk to Mike Leahy (leahy@telusplanet.net) or Thierry Varem-Sanders (t.varemsanders@gmail.com) if you are able to donate some time throughout the weekend!

Also, a limited number of 6' display tables will be available for suppliers, retailers, and NAWCA members who wish to demonstrate or sell items.

Members - \$15/table

Commercial or Non-members - \$25/table

All display tables must be set up by 9am on the Saturday of the Annual Show & Competition.

Finishing Your Carving



OIL & WATER BASED POLYURETHANE

(brands such as *Minwax* or *Varathane*)

- **Oil-based.** Turns slightly amber, which warms up a wood's colour. Forms a hard, durable film in a few coats. Dries more slowly than water-based polys, so there's a longer wait between coats. Cleans up with mineral spirits.
- **Water-based.** Looks like milk in the can but dries crystal clear. Good if you're trying to preserve a wood's colour. More watery than oil-based polys, so more coats are needed. Dries quickly. Usually lower in Volatile Organic Compounds (or VOCs) than oil-based finishes but still requires good ventilation during application. Cleans up with soap and water. Never use ammonia-based cleaners on the cured film.

GLOSS, SEMI-GLOSS, OR SATIN?

Choose whichever sheen you like best; there's no difference in durability. Just remember that the glossier the finish, the more it will show any underlying imperfections and any future wear and tear.

In addition to reading the directions on the can, keep these basics in mind.

Stir the can. Do this before and during application to evenly blend the ingredients that control sheen and UV resistance.

Apply thin coats. Thick ones take longer to dry and are more likely to drip or wrinkle.

Choose the right brush. Use natural bristle for oil-based finishes and synthetic filament (polyester, nylon, or a blend of the two) for water-based and water-based oil-modified finishes.

Always brush or wipe with the grain. It's the best way to work the finish into the wood pores and ensure an even appearance.

Sand between coats when necessary. Using 220-grit paper helps ensure good adhesion and smooths away imperfections or raised grain.

(adapted from This Old House Magazine www.thisoldhouse.com)

FOOD SAFE FINISHES

For food related items (such as bowls and utensils) or children's toys, safer options include: pure *tung* oil, raw *linseed* oil, *mineral* oil, *walnut* oil, *beeswax*, *carnauba* wax, and *shellac*.

(adapted from Fine Woodworking.com www.finewoodworking.com/how-to/article/food-safe-finishes.aspx)

What's Happening at the NAWCA

Upcoming Courses

The **Shuswap School of Carving and Arts** – Nine classes are being offered at this year's five-day School in Sorrento, BC, running from September 18th-23rd (www.bccarvingschool.com). The Early Bird Registration draw date is **April 15th**. If any class has more than 10 (max. 12 in some cases) registrations by this date, a draw will occur to see who gets confirmed in the class, and who gets put on a wait list. We therefore recommend you register before April 15th for your best chance of getting into your 1st choice class.

Lee Valley & Veritas – Llew Birtsch reminded me that one of our excellent sponsors, Lee Valley Tools, runs several seminars every month! Everything from carving to gardening. Keep an eye on their *In-Store Seminars* listing at www.leevalley.com/en/home/SeminarList.aspx?c=1&rs=30.

Other Upcoming Carving Shows

Richmond Carvers Society **27th Annual Woodcarving Show**
May 28th & 29th, 2016, Richmond, B.C.

50th International Woodcarvers Congress, Maquoketa, Iowa, June 11, 2016



Gary 'Weasel' Sedgwick showing the steps to carving a pear in relief (which is funny, 'cause it looks like he's working on just the one...).



Andres Mendez showing off his mask carved from the side of a reclaimed drum!



An action shot of Charlotte Varem-Sanders hard at work on her latest pyrography project.

Update - Wooden Quilt Project for Canada's 150th Birthday in 2017

As many members are already aware, Gary Sedgwick is organizing a carved quilt project which will allow the club to participate in celebrations for Canada's 150th Birthday in 2017!

Club members have already begun to return their completed 5x5" basswood squares, and they look amazing!

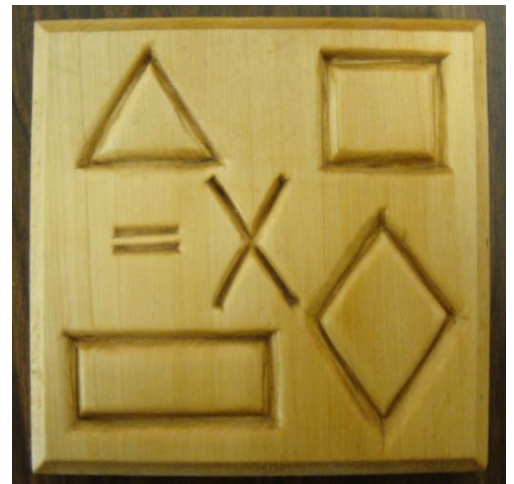


A colourful example by Thierry Varem-Sanders. Rumor has it that Charlotte Varem-Sanders has already requested a larger version for their living room!

Gary approached one of our sponsors, Gary Chanin of *Chanin Hardwoods*, who has generously donated all of the bass wood for the 5x5" panels!



Two great Haida inspired pieces by Peter Rodgers (in progress).



Chip-carved symbols by Herb Riese.

The club is providing the quilt pieces at no charge to our members, and all members are strongly encouraged to carve one (or more!) of these 5x5" panels. We definitely want the quilts to present the wide range of levels and interests that we have within the club. The more panels we have by the start of 2017, the more quilts we can assemble for the April 2017 completion date. So far, our overall theme of "My Canada" seems to be sparking everybody's imagination...



Barney Murray working hard on his *four* quilt squares commemorating Remembrance Day. Great work, sir!



A close up of one of Barney's (soon to be painted) tiles...



A wonderful finished piece by Mary Tharpe.

The hope is to have three rectangular quilts with carved borders. With this kind of momentum, we can do it!

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the quilts, please direct them to:

Gary Sedgwick (gary.sedgwick@ualberta.ca)
Cam Wallace (campbellwallace@shaw.ca)
Bonnie Budge (bonnbud@telus.net)

***Make sure you check out Gary's
new website!*
weaselworks.ca**

Carving Gloves

If you're in the market for a new carving glove, the club has Kevlar gloves in sizes S, M, L, and XL, for eight dollars apiece (or two for sixteen)...

A BIG THANK YOU to our Sponsors:

Lee Valley Tools – www.leevalley.com

Canadian Woodworker – www.canadianwoodworker.com

Chanin Hardwoods

Chipping Away – www.chippingaway.com

Copperfields Books – www.copperfields.com

Razertip – www.razertip.com

Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village – www.ukrainianvillage.ca

Fort Edmonton Park – www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Fox Chapel Publishing – www.foxchapelpublishing.com/woodcarving

Canadian Woodworking Magazine – www.canadianwoodworking.com/current-issue



Thanks to Doug and **Donna Bean** for making sure that club members have a new project within reach every week!

Newsletter – Next newsletter will be the Summer Edition. Please send me any photos, interesting articles, member achievements, or new carvings you've made. Include all the pertinent information (who, what, where, when)! I'll try to add your news to the newsletter. You can send items to campbellwallace@shaw.ca