

APRIL 2021

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Carvers,

Thanks to all who attended the quarterly member meeting and unanimously approved the revisions to the bylaws and Articles. We can now begin the six month process with the IRS to become a 501c3 charitable non-profit. A big thanks to member Harvey Rogers for his significant help with the new bylaws. Register for our next quarterly meeting on 7/21 by [clicking here](#).

We don't know how or when we'll transition out of the pandemic so for now our monthly programs and classes continue on Zoom. We're hoping to start limited in-person events by late summer.

"Interest Lists" allow you to communicate your interest in potential classes. There are two such classes described later, and if interested please put your name on the list.

The future of carving depends on us expanding and improving our skills. The future also depends on helping new people find out whether carving is for them. Board member Jerry Boone was tasked to propose a new beginner class series. His proposal is summarized in an article. Please review it, send him your feedback, and seriously consider taking the series when offered, whether you are a beginner or not. We need experienced carvers as well to teach, mentor and coach newbies.

Finally, I want to encourage you to join the National Wood Carvers Association (NWCA), since 1953 the publisher of Chip Chats magazine (4-6 issues/year). Tim Crawford is the new president and needs our support, and vice versa, as he works to help local clubs like ours thrive. Consider a multi-year membership. [Click here](#) to join.



Larry

[Larry Wade](#), 503-312-7745 President
On behalf of the Board

[Roger Crooks](#), Vice President
[Jerry Boone](#), Director at Large
[Terry Burnside](#), Secretary
[Diana Groseclose-Larabee](#), Treasurer
[Marty Lawrence](#), Membership Development

Mission: Encourage carvers at all levels in the pursuit of this art through education, fellowship and mentoring

Upcoming programs

➔ **FREE Finishing with Acrylic Paints—MAY 11th & 18th, 7:00 PM** [Click here](#) to register

MAY Sometimes natural wood just isn't enough.

But for many carvers, pulling out bottles of acrylics and sorting through myriad types of brushes is a daunting...and sometimes downright frightening task. What brush to use? What colors to mix? How to prepare the wood? How to apply the paint so it doesn't look like your hour's worth of carving has been dipped in plastic?

Jeff Harness, veteran artist, teacher and carving judge, will be guest presenter in May for two sessions on how to prepare and paint carvings using acrylics. He'll take students from a completed raw basswood carving through the process of sealing and preparing the wood, adding color and finally applying an antique finish.

Harness began his artistic career as a painter but began concentrating on carving after taking lessons from some of the most well-respected teachers in the Pacific Northwest. His passion spawned his home-based enterprise, the Flying Pig Studio, where students competed to attend one of his classes.

An accomplished carver in a variety of media, he has served as an instructor for the Coastal carvers, the Oregon Carving Rendezvous, the Pacific Northwest Carving Academy and others as well as being a judge in numerous shows.

He recently relocated to the Phoenix, AZ, area, where he will re-launch classes post Covid.



Photo by and of Jeff Harness

➔ **FREE Sharpening for Carvers—JUNE 8th, 7:00 PM** [Click here](#) to register

JUNE There are many approaches to sharpening, and carvers struggle to know where to start. It's easy to spend a lot of money and time on alternatives, and it's easy to fall in love with yet one more approach that a passionate carver shows you. This program illustrates a variety of approaches. It is not the end-all of sharpening, it may not even be the begin-all. Come see what panelists say and show, then share what you use and ask questions. Roger Crooks will moderate.



Strops from Lora Irish website

Upcoming Classes

Wood Spirit Carving Class (free) — July or August - Are you interested?

Taught by Terry Burnside, [click here](#) to put yourself on the Interest List

Terry has now taught this class twice and will do a third class when enough are interested. Sign up on the Interest List and Terry will contact you .

This class is designed for beginner or more advanced carvers not familiar with carving a wood spirit, delivered in two live Zoom sessions a week apart. Terry developed his techniques over 20 years, learning from two different carving professionals. Students need a carving glove, strop and three carving tools - a carving knife, V tool and a deepish gouge gouges (like #11, #9 or #8) in 1/4 or 3/16 widths), palm or long handled. If you need tools, glove or strop, maybe we can find loaners. The class outline is:

1. Introduction to carving and history of wood spirit carving
2. Proportions of facial features for the size of the material
3. Sharpening demonstration
4. A demonstration of each step followed by carving time and QA
 – NOTE – This will occupy the most time
5. Recap and list of wood spirit carving guides and materials
6. Explore interest in future projects, such as canes and Green Man



Relief Carving Class (free) — Saturdays 7/10 to 8/14 at 9:30 AM

Taught by Larry Wade, [click here](#) to register

This will be the fifth time held. The workshop carves three projects of progressive difficulty. The designs were created and originally taught by Mack Sutter for forty years and are the first of 12 patterns in what was a three-course series. Tuition is free, as are loaner tools (until we run out). Your cost will be \$10 for four prepared Basswood blanks and perhaps a \$15.50 shipping charge if you don't want to or can't pick them up near Beaverton. You will also need a strop, available for \$20 if you don't have one, plus honing compound or paste (\$12). Beginners and above are welcome; a little Zoom experience required. These are the three projects, all 7" x 8 1/2" carved in Basswood. To see all the patterns created by Mack Sutter and the three original articles he wrote for Chip Chats, [click here](#).



Eternal Knot



Diaper Pattern



Tulip

Upcoming Classes

(Free) Beginner Carving - Seven Class Series (Fall 2021)

[click here](#) to add yourself to the Interest List.

See description on the next page.

(Free) Santa Carving Class — Fall 2021

Taught by Terry Burnside, [click here](#) for the Interest List

Santa figures are quite popular and highly varied. Terry is planning a Fall class but well before the Christmas rush. The underlying concept is to use what are known as turned or craft Basswood eggs as the carving wood. This approach provides three benefits - learning how to carve a Santa, doing a figure in the round, and experiencing a useful material. Santa figures may not float your boat, but think of it as learning how to carve a wide variety of other objects like caricatures, creatures and comfort animals while using a material that will allow you to crank out gifts more easily.

This class is capable of being taught online or in-person but which, or both, will be decided as the pandemic recedes. The class will likely be two sessions one week apart, two hours each with a modest tool set that you supply with some possibility we'll have tool sets to rent. The cost of two eggs will be about \$10.



Photo by Terry Burnside



Photo by Terry Burnside

New - Beginner Class

By Jerry F. Boone

Ten years ago, when I began carving, my first instructor joked that I showed promise simply because I picked up the knife using the handle.

My guess is that I was not the first one he used that line on as part of his introduction.

He was a skilled veteran of the carving bench who had generous amounts of both passion and patience.

And he is the reason I stuck with the art.

We all need teachers, as this is a craft in which we never stop learning. I have never finished a project, taught a new carver or shared a bench with another artisan that I haven't come away just a bit smarter and a bit better carver.

Today the Oregon Carvers Guild is launching a project aimed at teaching new carvers the basic skills they will need to be successful. And we would like your ideas and your help.

We've drafted a rough outline of a seven-part course of instruction beginning with a simple comfort bird and ending roughly 10 weeks later with an animal carved in the round.

It is a work-in-progress and we are soliciting comments, criticisms, additions or deletions. We want the membership involved because we will some day be asking for volunteers to lead or help in the instruction.

In a perfect world, classes will begin as soon as we can meet face-to-face or in a hybrid format. I feel strongly that in-person instruction is preferable because we will be dealing with students who may have never before held a carving knife and may find it difficult, even over the best internet connections, to grasp the elusive knack of reading grain.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the complete, detailed proposed course outline. The table below is an overview of the lessons.

[CLICK HERE](#) if you are interested in being a student, helper or instructor for a pilot class.

[CLICK HERE](#) to email feedback to Jerry Boone.

Lesson Summary

	PROJECT	LEARNING GOALS	NOTES
1	Comfort Bird	Grain, safety, knife handling	All with a knife
2	Basic Gnome	In the round	Add V tool
3	Flower in relief	Number the layers	Add a few gouges
4	Letter carving	Basic but useful	
5	Caricature	Fragile grain	Superglue, practice
6	Animal (bear)	Add realism	A capstone project
7	Finishing	Demonstrations	Painting, wipe-ons



Comfort Bird photo from Woodcarving Illustrated



Photo by Terry Burnside

For Sale

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY - Randy Moore owns a major wood and roughouts supply company in Minnesota. He usually brings a trailer full of wood and related products to one of the Oregon carving shows, but Covid upended all that. He has provided years of support to us in Oregon and is continuing to do so by making a special trip to the Northwest with stops in Kennewick, Portland, Salem and Lincoln City. The flyer below is focused on the Portland area, but if you are interested in the other drop off locations, contact Randy.

The best Basswood and Butternut are grown in northern climates, and his products are top-notch. Consider your needs for the months ahead and avoid high shipping costs. Products for this area will be delivered the evening of June 8th and available for pickup a few days later, at a site to be determined. His website link is roughouts.com.

Moore Wood & Roughouts

Need Wood?

www.roughouts.com



AVOID SHIPPING COSTS!

WE WILL BE IN PORTLAND! JUNE 8TH, 2021

(Place order with Randy by June 1st)

A Group of Fellow Woodcarvers placed an Order for Wood and are having **Moore Wood & Roughouts** drop it off in your Area. If you would like to Add to this delivery, we would gladly include Additional Orders. (This is a One time drop, It is the only Opportunity we have while in your Area).

Premium Northern Minnesota BUTTERNUT & BASSWOOD

Check out Our Website





WHICH ROUGHOUT WOULD YOU LIKE US TO BRING!

Call Randy to Place an Order by June 1st, 2021
 (Larry Wade will Pick Up & Distribute)

Contact: Randy Moore at (800) 825 - 2657
 Moore Wood & Roughouts
 Email: info@roughouts.com
www.roughouts.com

PORTLAND
OREGON

Locally - For Sale

Air-dried Basswood

Former local instructor Kelley Stadelman made available many large air dried Basswood cutoffs from former projects. I gambled and bought them all. The ones pictured are still available for pickup at my house. The wood was originally sourced from northern MN and has been stored inside for 15 years. Some minor flaws on some pieces. If interested I can send detailed pictures or you are welcome to come browse. Thanks to Steve Anderly for using the Guild's wide jointer to flatten one face. Pieces could be used for bigger projects or re-sawn into smaller blocks or blanks. We're doing this as a service for members. Call 503-312-7745 or [email Larry Wade](mailto:Larry.Wade@oregoncarversguild.com) if interested. Air dried wood is hard to find, and these are good prices.

ID	W - L - Depth	Price	Notes
1	7" x 24" x 2 1/4	\$10	Knot
2	8 x 19 x 2 1/4	\$10	Few knots, checks
4	7 x 23 x 2 1/2	\$15	
5	6 1/2 x 24 x 2 1/4	\$10	
10	10 x 18 x 2 1/4	\$8	Several checks
11	10 x 24 x 2 1/4	\$15	
12	12 x 24 x 2	\$20	7" check
13	11 x 19 x 2	\$15	Knot on one face



Basswood - air-dried, 15 years old

Green Man

Carving a Green Man

By Jim Spitzer

What inspires your carving projects? Likely each project is inspired by a combination of factors...an instructor or other artist, material, nature, purpose, display environment, etc. The terms Wood Spirit and Green Man meant little to me until I took member Terry Burnside's live Zoom session on Wood Spirit carving last February (Thanks Terry!). Indeed, in almost 50 years of woodworking this was my FIRST attempt at something representing human or animal form. Sad.

I then picked up Lora Irish's book *Wood Spirits and Green Men* at Woodcrafters at a clearance price (they are paring down their book inventory). I was intrigued by the derivation, meaning, and creativity of Wood Spirits and Green Men. Simply put, they apply a human face and emotions to natural phenomena that ancient and medieval people did not understand, both good and ominous phenomena. They are common in many Roman Catholic medieval churches and cathedrals in Europe. While preferring to be original, I went right for the Green Man on the cover carved by Chris Pye. (We should not feel too bad about not being original; it is said that "After nature, there is only the copyist.").

The next challenge was the right wood. I had plenty of choices on hand, but of course none was the right choice for me. I wanted to carve something ominous - like a being peering at me from the shadows of vegetation in a deep forest. Like the carving of gargoyles and Green Men instilling fear and a sense of awe and wonder into the minds of peasants walking into a medieval church. I wanted something:

- Dark, like the deep shadows of a dense forest;
- Thick, for deeply sunken eyes;
- Prominent grain unifying features (and I LIKE wood; its not ALL about my carving).

So of course I bought yet MORE wood at wonderful Goby Walnut and Hardwoods, a 2 3/4 inch slab of Claro Walnut (my favorite wood). It was bigger than 11 x 14 inches than I needed, so I cut out what I thought was the right segment.

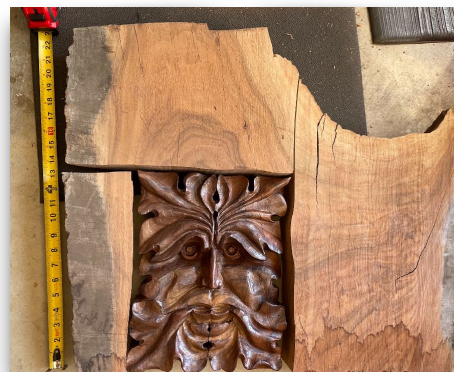
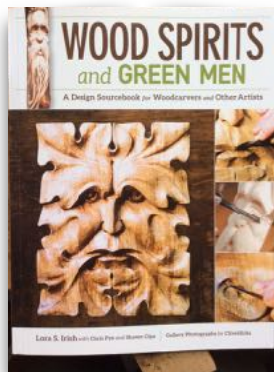
My first and biggest mistake was not planing the upper 1/4 to 1/2 inch of punky, dried, and checked surface before getting to work with gouges. This haunted me (as a Green Man is supposed to do) throughout the project; every detail had to be gouged deeper to get beyond the poorer quality surface, and I had to go yet deeper for the desired deep relief.

The hardness of the wood, many areas of squirrely grain, and carving in deep relief posed challenges throughout the project. It was done over a period of weeks, a few hours here and there, with my wonderful public radio jazz station helping to pleasantly pass the hours. The final step was darkening it with several coats of my favorite finish...Minwax Antique Oil.

At this early intermediate phase of my carving journey I feel like I can carve most anything, but I need much more experience and coaching to work more efficiently; e.g. less swapping of tools, cleaner and more attractive cuts, especially finishing cuts. I shudder to think of the fraction of time Chris Pye took for this same project with a much more refined outcome. Practice, practice, practice!



Photo by Jim Spitzer



All photos by Jim Spitzer

Show & Tell

Shave Pony – Great for Small Shop - by Tom Rich

After creating a chopping block to help me take rough wood cut from nature down to rough spoon and utensil blanks I needed an efficient holding device so I could use a small draw knife or spokeshave to further refine my projects.

A shave horse would be nice but I don't have the shop space or a covered area in my yard to use a full sized shave horse.

I found a YouTube video describing a "Shave Pony" which can be assembled and clamped to my bench when needed, then later broken down to store. The YouTube video provided plans, dimensions and a list of parts needed to build your own. In YouTube search for "Shave Pony by Dan Wallace" or simply [click here](#).

So far I am pleased with the ease of use and the ease of adjusting to different sizes of stock. The grip is great.

I started with two, 10 foot pieces of 5/4 maple that were 5.5 inches wide. All of the hardware was available from my local Lowe's except the 10 inch 3/8 inch hex bolt but an 8 inch hex bolt works just fine.

I used some leather that I purchased for stropping. At first I thought it was too thick and stiff but the person at Tandy, where I bought it, said that all I had to do was soak the cut piece of leather in water for a few minutes and it would become as pliable as "bologna". It worked just fine.

When broken down, the shave pony stacks into a pile 5 inches wide, 4 inches tall and 48 inches long. (see pictures)



All photos by Tom Rich

Show & Tell

My Shave Pony - by Heidi McNamee

I wanted a shave pony and I wanted it yesterday.

(Although to be perfectly honest, what I really wanted was a shave horse and another 500 square feet of shop space, but decided to settle for a shave pony.)

I watched a few videos and mulled over how detailed I wanted the build to be. I decided "not detailed at all" and followed [this plan from user mafe on Lumberjocks](#). My shave pony was made with wood and materials that I had on hand, with the exception of a length of threaded rod. The mouth has v-grooves to better hold square stock and is faced with leather. The base has an anti-skid decal to hold it more firmly to the bench top. The head is moveable for larger work. For smaller work, there is an additional rear rod required to keep the mouth angled down against the work. Sometimes I also use a shim. It was quick to make and works surprisingly well!

Main positives - Small and portable, easy to store, cheap and quick to make, stays on the bench with just one clamp, can hold long work, grips well on both round and square stock, is comfortable to use.

Main negatives - The uprights are on the thin side and I can get a bit of flex when I'm being vigorous. Moving the head up or down requires taking out the rod which could become tedious (but hasn't so far.) Kinda ugly.



Photo by Heidi McNamee

Treeline of Provo, Utah is not a sponsor, just a highly regarded supplier that is worth considering. They are a sponsor of our sister club in Salem, Capitol Woodcarvers. Member Jim Hall made a special point of calling to say how much he likes them because of their competent and personalized service, fair prices and prompt delivery. Here is what Jim had to say after recently buying some carving accessories.



"Larry, I feel that I need to tell you about Treeline, with which I have been doing business. They are specialists in carving tools and equipment. I have found them to be quite honest with meeting my needs. They have done something that is quite unusual, they do not point out the most costly option but the best one for me. I find that unusual. As a result, I will do most all of my shopping with them." - Jim Hall, April 27, 2021

Choosing Power Carving Bits

Woodcarving Illustrated has a helpful online article on this topic, [click here](#).



Photo WCI



Photo WCI