

AUGUST 2021

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Carvers,

First, I want to announce there will be a very brief but official member meeting on Tuesday, Sept 14th at 7:00 PM, coincident with the monthly program. The purpose is to approve adding Jim Spitzer to the Board as Sponsor Coordinator with responsibility for developing and supporting club sponsors, such as local and remote tool and supply providers.

Our August outdoor, in-person meeting went well, with 25 attending, fully masked and reasonably distanced (see photos elsewhere in this newsletter).

Most of us wish we could do more in-person meetings, but the board doesn't think it will be safe until after 2021. Our 2nd Tuesday monthly Zoom programs will continue even after we can meet in person. My experiment teaching the Mack Sutter class simultaneously on Zoom and in person worked well enough and as soon as the virus permits, we'll do more.

The annual Art in the Pearl fair is being held the Sat/Sun/Monday of Labor Day, [click here](#) for information. We'll have a carving presence in the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers' booth, and we are working hard to provide value while staying safe. We'll have carving examples and books on display, a whittling demonstration of a small dog, a video loop on a monitor, plus handouts of club information and links to written and video instructions on creating the dog.

To find and encourage new carvers we are announcing a free incised class once a month (see below). If this experiment is successful, we will add other introduction type classes such as whittling, chip carving and spoon carving.

Best wishes as we slip-slide our way through a challenging pandemic recovery.



[Larry Wade](#), President, 503-312-7745

On behalf of the Board

[Roger Crooks](#), Vice President

[Diana Groseclose-Larabee](#), Treasurer

[Jim Spitzer](#), Sponsor Coordinator

[Terry Burnside](#), Secretary and Webmaster

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

Upcoming Programs

➔ **FREE Carving Holiday Gifts - (Terry Burnside & panelists)— SEPT 14th, 7:00 PM** [Click here](#) to register

SEPT The holiday season is approaching and with it the urge to find gifts that are unique, meaningful and personal for important people in our lives. Several members will share projects covering a wide range of subjects and sizes, given directly as gifts or sold. From elves to creches, whimsical houses to personalized tree ornaments, the subjects are limitless. The pictures here are some examples. This session could provide inspiration and incentive to kick-start some of your own holiday carving and give you time to turn ideas into personal carvings and fond memories.



➔ **FREE Pyrography Enhancements to Carving (Janice Levi)— OCT 12th, 7:00 PM** [Click here](#) to register

OCT Pyrography is a great way to enhance your carvings. Janice Levi is a wood turner and pyrography expert. She is a well-known demonstrator and teacher of pyrography and will be joining us via Zoom from Texas. Her website shows examples of her work - <http://www.janicelevi.com/>. Topics will include

Equipment basics – how to pick burner, pens

What are all the tips used for?

Safety issues – PPE (Personal Protection Equipment)

Getting Started - Basic techniques – temperature setting, stippling, shading, branding, etc.

Exercises to help learn how to use different tips

Pattern transfer techniques

Adding color

Finishing techniques

➔ **FREE Finishing with Oil Paints (tentative, Jeff Harness)— NOV 9th, 7:00 PM** [Click here](#) to register

NOV If Jeff is able to do this painting with oil demo, it will be analogous to the acrylic programs he did in May. While acrylics are popular and widely used, Jeff said that he prefers using oils.

Upcoming Classes

(The next) Relief Carving Class (free) — online only

Saturdays Oct 30 to Dec 4, 9:30-11:00 AM

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

This will be the seventh time held. This workshop carves the first two of the 12 projects created and originally taught by Mack Sutter for forty years. Tuition is free, as are loaner tools (until we run out). Your cost will be \$12 for three prepared Basswood blanks and perhaps a \$15.50 shipping charge if you don't want to or can't pick up wood and tools near Beaverton. You will also need a strop if you don't have one. We have a few left for \$20 or you can make your own for free with leather we provide. You will also need green honing compound or AutoSol paste (usually about \$12). Beginners and above are welcome; Zoom experience and good internet bandwidth are required. Shown are the two projects, both 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

(New) Incised Carving Class (free) — online

One Saturday session 1:30-4:00 PM, repeated monthly

Taught by Larry Wade, Click on the date to register for one session, [Sept 18](#), [Oct 16](#), [Nov 20](#)

This one-session, 2 1/2 hour class is for those new to carving, or for carvers who haven't experienced incised yet. The class is repeated monthly, and if successful, we hope to teach other introductory topics at different times. We also hope to follow with a comprehensive ten-week beginner course in the future along the lines proposed by Jerry Boone, [click here](#).

The incised carving style etches line drawings into the surface of wood (or linoleum, gourds, soap, rubber stamps, etc.) and can be done safely with one tool.

This workshop is for those who have never carved but want to try or for carvers who have no incise experience. It is hands-on but over Zoom. You will be provided with free Basswood, a loaner tool and several patterns to choose from. Once safe from the pandemic we expect to offer this simultaneously online and in person.

The bull example was created by Chris Pye and published in Woodcarving Illustrated ([click here](#)). Students will choose what they carve from a variety of line drawings.



Santa Carving Class — Fall 2021 (interest list)

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

Santa figures are quite popular and highly varied. Terry is planning a Fall class 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.



Photos by Terry Burnside

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.

In Memoriam



Don Baiar of Vancouver died August 5, 2021 from cancer. For forty years Don devoted himself to teaching and mentoring, especially bird carving. He was a leader in the annual [Columbia Flyway Wildlife Show](#), produced award winning carvings, and influenced countless carvers.

The International Wildfowl Carving Association (NWCA) has a comprehensive biography [here](#), and Don was the speaker at our Feb 2021 monthly program on bird carving which you can [find here](#).



EJ Tangerman

I would like to introduce you to his name in preparation for more information in the coming months.

Tangerman came to my attention because he wrote the introductions to both of Mack Sutter's floral carving books. It then didn't take long to learn of his enormous impact on carving in the United States.


He travelled to over 70 countries and documented what he learned. Besides writing about Mack Sutter, he documented some carvings from Ted Haag, an influential carver and instructor from Tualatin at the time..

Guess what country Tangerman thought had the best carvers in the world (clue, it isn't here). Answer next month.

REMEMBERING TANGE WOOD CARVING ILLUSTRATED • SPRING/SUMMER 1998

REMEMBERING TANGE

BY ROGER SCHROEDER



Elmer J. Tangerman, known to most as Tange, was America's dean of woodcarving. Author, lecturer, instructor, and advisor to several generations of woodcarvers, he did more than anyone else to kindle a love of woodcarving in this country. When he died this year at the age of 90, he left behind a legacy that included over 80 years experience as a carver.

EJ Tangerman - 1998 reprint from Woodcarving Illustrated

User Ideas

From **Roman Chernikov**, a member in San Jose: Chip carving is a unique carving style that brings a contrasting light-shadow balance to otherwise plain functional objects such as picture frames, coasters, plates, wool spinners, cutting boards, etc. I noticed that chip carving has other contrasting properties: it is easy to learn but hard to master, it is done by using three basic cuts but provides unlimited design possibilities, it is very safe but intimidating to too many carvers.

It is important to point out that chip carving is an enjoyable hobby, it is not a competition with a machine to make all cuts identical. It is OK to have some chips uneven (I carve a lot of those), most people don't notice small inconsistencies anyway. Please try chip carving, just pick small and easy projects, keep your chips small and/or angles low. The patterns that require carving one/few dozens of chips exist and available often for free. Sketch a practice board where you could try various chip types before carving a useful project.

Let me share a simple chip carving project that is suitable for beginners for the following reasons: it has a lot of un-carved space, it contains very few chips (23), it combines traditional chip carving with the free-style chip carving, it uses low angle chips for easier carving. The rosette chips in the center are relatively large but they are very shallow as they were carved with only 25-degree angle. This cutting board is 4" x 8" and it was finished with the butcher block finish that is food safe and it highlights the grain slightly. Please visit my website for more details on that cutting board:



<https://readntry.com/blog/chip-carved-cutting-board/> Please share what you think about this project in comments. Thank you and happy chip carving!

Yvonne Bailey, a member from Southern California, learned this from instructor Dale Green.

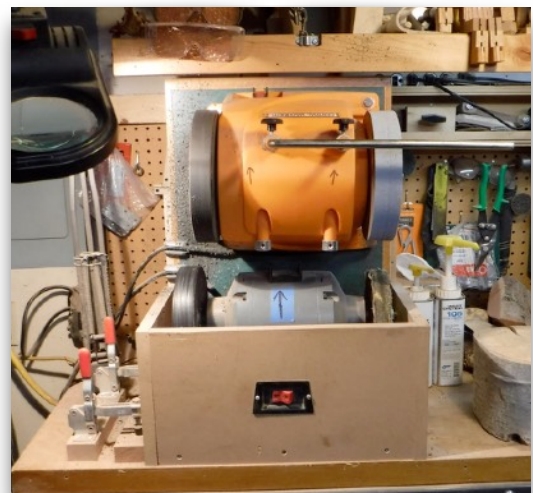
The idea is to put a coin inside your thumb guard for extra protection. She says, "It was amazing to me, I could not feel it."

In addition she sometimes uses vet wrap over a leather thumb guard for added protection and snugness.



From **Scott Beyer**, leader of Central Oregon Wood Carvers in Bend: "I have two grinders set up, one perched on top of the other, with the wheels rotating away from the user. I saw this in a carving magazine but can't recall which one. The top grinder is a slow speed grinder with a stone on one side and a leather wheel on the other. The bottom grinder runs much faster and has a solid leather wheel on one side and a buffing wheel on the other. Both grinders were purchased from other carvers who were downsizing.

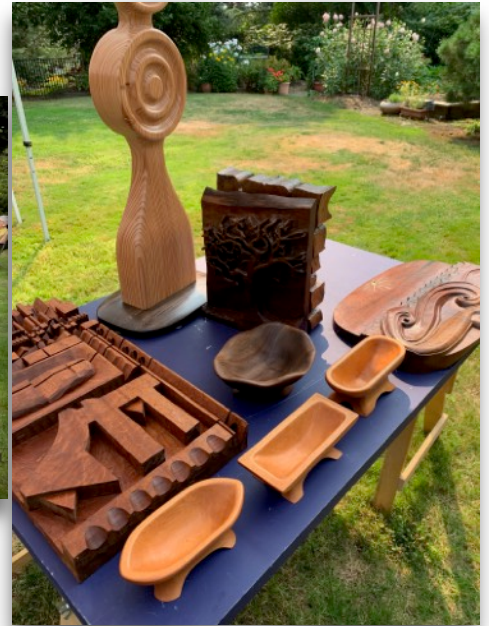
The slow speed grinder is a "Central Machinery 8" Whetstone Sharpening System" sold by Harbor Freight. After a few queries in Google I have not found the owner's manual or reference to rpms. Maybe you can have more luck finding the rpms than I had. The reviews of the tool were mixed."



Scott Beyer's two motor system

August "Picnic" Photos

Masa Nitani Texturing Demo



Examples on display



Introductions at a distance



Mack Sutter Deep Relief Floral Carvings



Sculpture by Leif Benson



Michael Bourgo examples on left, Masa's on the right



Spoons by Ruth Warbington

Oregon Myrtle

The Truth About Oregon Myrtlewood

Editor's Note: This story is excerpted with permission from the Feb 1978 issue of *The Log*, a publication of the California Carvers Guild. It was originally submitted by Harold W. Wood Jr., Editor, and was itself reprinted from Fremontia Magazine and authored by Margedant Hayakawa. The reasons for including excerpts of this article are because myths about Oregon Myrtle are persistent and because some of us want to know if it is a good for carving. If you want a copy of the original article, [email me](#). For a contemporary description of Myrtle see the [Oregon Encyclopedia](#) website article, the [Wood Database](#) or the [Myrtlewood Gallery](#). Fremontia is the publication of CNPS, the California Native Plant Society, where Mrs. Hayakawa was made a fellow in 1983.

"For years *Umbellularia californica* has been cut up into salad bowls, salt and pepper shakers, and other artifacts, mostly of great beauty because of the natural grain pattern of this lovely wood. But the Oregon 'Myrtlewood' industry apparently did not think that the beauty of the wood was a sufficient attraction, so they have perpetrated for years a myth that the tree in question, which they termed Oregon myrtle, is 1. rare, 2. found only in southern Oregon, and 3. the same tree as the true myrtle of the Holy Land.

"Botanists have been upset over this ridiculous misrepresentation for years. The tree is hardly rare, since it is found not only in southern Oregon but all along the Coast Range of California almost to the Mexican border. Oregonians have a right to call the tree Oregon myrtle if they wish, but in California most people refer to it as California laurel or California bay. There is a myrtle native to the Holy Land and the Mediterranean region, *Myrtus communis*, but it is not even a close relative, being in a totally separate family, the *Myrtaceae*. *Umbellularia californica* is in the family *Lauraceae*. It has many other common names as well: pepper wood, Pacific myrtle, spice tree, mountain laurel, California olive, sassafras, yellow myrtle, black myrtle, white myrtle, bay laurel, cajeput tree, and even cinnamon bush.

"For years botanists and knowledgeable tourists suffered helplessly, unable to counter the nonsense of the myrtlewood sellers' advertising which most people accepted uncritically. As an appreciator of the beautiful products carved out of 'myrtlewood', I was nevertheless perpetually upset with the myths and inaccuracies that surrounded the wood of a tree which deserved appreciation in its own right, rather than as a mythological 'Holy Land' tree.

".....My complaint filtered through the bureaucracy, eventually arriving at the office of the Consumer Protection Division of the Department of Justice, State of Oregon. On January 21, 1976, I received a letter from the Chief Counsel of the State of Oregon, stating:

In October 1975 this office received from you a complaint against the factories and shops who manufacture and sell myrtlewood articles along the southern Oregon coast who advertise that myrtlewood grows only in Oregon and the Holy Land which is not factual.

This question was checked out by this office and it was found that your complaint was valid.

This office has now contacted all the outlets that we could find in this area who were doing this advertising and they all have as of this date, along with the Oregon Myrtlewood Dealers Association, agreed to eliminate from their advertising the phrase this wood is grown only in Oregon and the Holy Land."

Oregon Myrtle

Is Myrtle good for carving?

Here are opinions from three experienced carvers. What is your experience?

Tom Nickelson is a former Oregonian, now living in California where he carves hard woods with power tools. He recently completed a commission to carve the OSU Beaver logo from Juniper for the President's house in Corvallis.

"I really like carving Oregon myrtle because it is hard and holds detail really well. It also has a variety of lovely colors. Here are a couple of examples."



Tom Nickelson - Myrtle Brown



Tom Nickelson - Myrtle Sockeye



OSU Beaver logo by Tom Nickelson at President's house in Corvallis

Leroy Setziol (famous Oregon carver) created a large Myrtle panel above the fireplace at the Menucha Retreat Center on the Columbia River. He said, "The choice of Myrtle was not very smart; it has lots of problems." (Excerpt from *Destiny in Wood* documentary).



Setziol Myrtle fireplace panel @ Menucha

Jim Hall is an experienced wood turner, carver and Rose Engine expert. When asked he said,

"Yes, I have some experience with Myrtle Wood. It is an OK wood, but, not a great wood in my opinion. It is often varied in density, the grain is seldom in a good pattern, and between the grain there is often varied hardness or density. These criticisms are not always there, but often, which makes it more difficult to work."

 Carving Nearby**Silverton Carving Rendezvous — Sept 9-12, 2021**

This multi-day carve-in is a regional tradition that was cancelled in 2020 but will be held this year. The organizer is Everett Koontz of Salem, a member of Capitol Woodcarvers. The venue is the private Canyonview Camp site (see canyonviewministries.org), three miles from downtown Silverton (and the Oregon Garden). The registration deadline is Sept 1st, especially important because you have payment options for one, two or more days, and options for which meals.

For information, classes offered and registration form go to capitolwoodcarvers.org and scroll down the home page.

Vancouver / King's Way Carvers — weekly on Thursdays

Fall hours are Thursday evenings 6:00 - 9:00 PM (Summer hours are Thursdays, 9:00 - noon)

Contact Jim Mather at 360-931-0079, jimmatherxx@gmail.com (the facility is locked, call for access code).

This group has been meeting since 2007 and their facility is a first class art room at a large private high school at 3606 NE 78th in the Hazel Dell area of Vancouver. They are a friendly, experienced group of men and women carvers with a variety of interests. They bring in outside instructors from time to time and recently filled a scaled totem pole class taught by noted NW Coastal Indian carver, Dick Wilks.

Milwaukie Woodcarvers — weekly on Wednesdays, 8:30 - 11:30

This established group has recently restarted in-person carving sessions at the Milwaukie Center; drop-ins welcome, small fee of \$1 or \$2 fee per session. Support for beginning carvers provided.

The address is 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr, Milwaukie, OR 97222 (off Hwy 224 near Rusk Rd).

Capitol Woodcarvers — Salem

For information, [click here](#). Their annual April carving show is well known, and the club has a solid history and reputation.

Coastal Carvers — Lincoln City

For information [click here](#). Their annual January carving show is a fixture in the state and well worth attending. The club meets weekly on Sundays from October through May.

Central Oregon Wood Carvers— Bend

A group of carvers in and around Bend have recently re-started meeting again. For information contact Scott Beyer at dxdevolt@gmail.com.

Idaho Carvers Guild

This long-established group of carvers in and around Boise has some meetings online and some in person. For information contact Eric Owens at idahowoodcarvers@gmail.com.

California Carvers Guild (CCG)

This statewide umbrella organization supports over 40 clubs throughout the state and has a very long and deep history. Local clubs produce a variety of notable shows and events. CCG produces a comprehensive newsletter called The Log, and trains judges for shows. [Click here](#) for their website.

Other Oregon or SW Washington clubs?? —

To list others that you know, [click here](#) to send me an email. Any activity in Tigard, Forest Grove, Beaverton, Longview, Coos Bay, Medford or Roseburg that you want listed in future newsletters?