

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

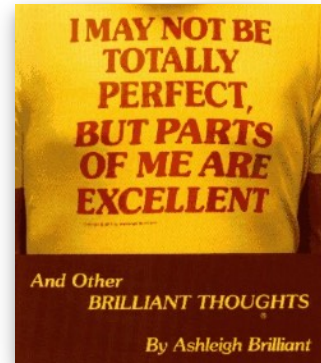
Hello Carvers,

We're learning how to be more effective online, and I thank you for helping us. Ashleigh Brilliant is one of my favorite humorists, and he has a series of books of aphorisms, pithy sayings, and one that fits a lot of situations is at the right. We're striving for excellence but have a ways to go.

Our **free monthly programs** have been popular, and upcoming ones are described within, while past programs can be watched by clicking [here](#).

We've scheduled more **online classes** and invite you to give one a try; they are free for now. Teaching and learning online isn't for everyone; but it does work, and we will likely be partially online even when we can meet physically.

Finally, Chip Chats bi-monthly magazine has been a national fixture in the carving world for over 50 years. I suggest you subscribe, \$20 per year, [click here](#). We have a unique opportunity to have a conversation with the new president, Tim Crawford, on Saturday Feb 27th. Please consider joining in (details below).



Larry

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

[Roger Crooks](#), Vice President
[Jerry Boone](#), Treasurer
[Terry Burnside](#), Secretary
[Marty Lawrence](#), Membership Development

P.S. Thanks to all of you who support us by becoming members.

Our Mission:

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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

➔ **FREE Wood Spirit Carving Demonstration — FEB 4th, 7:00 PM**
FEB [Click here](#) to register

This 60 minute demonstration is a prelude to a free two session class described elsewhere. The demo covers the background, materials, tools, proportions of a wood spirit face and carving the wood spirit on a 1 ¼ dowel. The pictures show a few of the wood spirits carved by Terry over the years.



➔ **FREE Sharpening and Re-Making tools — FEB 6th, 9:00 AM**
FEB [Click here](#) to register

George Blackman is a blacksmith, tool maker, and former sculptor in Redmond, Oregon with a lifetime of experience. Amongst other things he will share his experience with sharpening carving tools. We hope this will form the basis for a series of programs around the myriad ways to sharpen, as well as adapt ones you have to work the way you want.

➔ **FREE The Wide World of Bird and Wildfowl Carving — FEB 9th, 7:00 PM**
FEB [Click here](#) to register

Don Baiar from the Feather and Quill Carving Club and Columbia Flyway Wildlife Show is a well-known carving instructor and bird carver and will describe the breadth and depth of wildfowl and bird carving, locally, regionally and nationally. For background information on the Columbia Flyway Show [click here](#). Don has been teaching multiple carving workshops in Vancouver for over 20 years and hopes to continue once it is safe.



➔ **FREE Conversations with the National President — FEB 27th, 10:30 AM**
FEB [Click here](#) to register

Chip Chats (www.chipchats.org) is a bi-monthly magazine started in 1953 featuring the works of carvers of all types from all states and multiple foreign countries.

Tim Crawford is the new president and wants to make contact with members and leaders around the country and this is our opportunity to have a dialog with him.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

➔ **FREE Carving without Grain — Soap Carving — MAR 9th, 7:00 PM**
MAR [Click here](#) to register

Veteran carvers want to instill an interest in young people, who frequently find the wood too hard, knives too sharp, and the pattern too complicated.

Enter Janet Bolyard, a veteran carver, experienced teacher and author of *Complete Guide to Soap Carving*. She will be our guest presenter for March.

Bolyard uses a simple bar of Ivory soap and carving tools fashioned from popsicle sticks to teach beginners basic carving skills. She's taught groups ranging from young Scout troops to adults at national carving conferences.

"It's a great way to work with a child who is interested in doing things with their hands but who aren't mature enough to handle carving knives," she explained. "It always gives me great pleasure to see a student create something entirely on their own and then continue growing in confidence and skill to do more challenging projects."

Soap carving can also be used by experienced carvers who want to try out an idea in an easy-to-carve medium before tackling it in wood.

Her book and presentation will cover everything from the basics of making simple tools and carving easy projects to some of the highly detailed sculptures she has perfected over her career.



➔ **FREE Power Carving Tools 101 — APR 13th, 7:00 PM**
APR [Click here](#) to register

Carvers use a wide variety of power tools from angle grinders with special attachments to low cost Dremel rotary tools and specialized power carving tools from powerful Foredom flex shaft carvers to fine detailed micromotor carving tools. Depending if you have a lot of wood to remove or doing fine detail work, there is a power carver available to make the work quick and easy.

This program will describe the most common ones and their uses. A panel will contribute their own experiences and preferences.



➔ **FREE (Tentative) Finishing 101 in two sessions — MAY 11 and 18th, 7:00 PM**
MAY [Click here](#) to register

Finishing is a huge topic, and we plan an overview of acrylic painting by an experienced carver. It will be a 90 minute program followed by a similar second session on painting with oils a week later.

Ultimately we hope to have hands-on workshops once we can meet in person.

In the meantime checkout Woodcarving Illustrated's "Finishing for Beginners" by [clicking here](#).



From Woodcarving Illustrated

UPCOMING CLASSES

Woodspirit Carving Class (free) — Thursdays @ 7:00, Feb 18 & 25

Taught by Terry Burnside, [click here](#) to register

This class is designed for beginner or more advanced carvers not familiar with carving a woodspirit, delivered in two 90-minute live Zoom sessions. To register and for more details [click here](#). Terry developed his techniques over 20 years, learning from two different carving professionals. The course is hands on, and the material is a 12" long 1 1/4" dowel or similar closet rod from a Big Box store. Students need a carving glove, three carving tools and optionally a strop. The carving tools are (close to) a detail carving knife, 45 degree V - 3/16", and a #11 - 3/16", palm or long handled. The class outline is:

1. Introduction to carving and history of woodspirit 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 Workshop (free) — five Mondays at 1:00

next class series starts March 1st

To register [click here](#).

This 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 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. Larry Wade is the instructor. 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 original articles he wrote for Chip Chats, [click here](#).



BLAST FROM THE PAST

“OREGON WOODCARVERS” - 1980 Documentary film by Jan Baross

There is a fascinating 23 minute documentary film featuring four carving artists. The director/producer, Jan Baross, has a deep and broad history in the arts, ranging from documentary film making to writing novels, teaching and being a playwright. See more about her at janbaross.com.

[Click here](#) for the link on YouTube. Alternatively, see <https://archive.org/details/oregonwoodcarvers>, which says, “A view of the work, lives, themes, and philosophies of four Oregon woodcarvers, each of whom represents a specific area of the state -- mountains, forest, sea, and eastern country. Gary Hauser carves what the sea gives him, Douglas MacGregor creates carousel animals, Roy Setziol turns large logs into abstract pieces of art, and Ed Quigley specializes in miniature horses and wagons.”

The Roy (Leroy) Setziol segment starts near time 16:15.

The Ed Quigley segment shows a first class wood sculptor creating a stunning circus and western collection in the form of a diorama.



Leroy Setziol screen grab
from Jan Baross film



Ed Quigley screen grab from Jan Baross film

Greenwood Spoon Carving — watch recorded discussion & demo

Because of the lockdown we had to cancel the in-person portion of these November and December classes, but the instructor, Rose Holdorf, was willing and able to teach and demonstrate online some of what she would have done in person. The Zoom recording is available to watch by [clicking here](#), and this portion will likely be a prerequisite for when we are able to continue the class. It is 2 hours long, and you can skip ahead for the demo portions.

MACK SUTTER

“Relief Carving in the Round” - deep floral relief

This story is excerpted from an Oregonian newspaper story by Christine Decker circa 1986. It provides background for Harvey “Mack” Sutter and his heritage. Of the 70 or so deep floral relief carvings that Mack produced, fifty still exist in his family and are being photographed in detail, to be archived on the OCG website for posterity.

“Mack Sutter brushed a pile of shavings away with his foot. Carefully, he used his carving tool to scrape a 2-inch sliver of wood from a floral pattern. A wood chip fell to the floor of the World Forestry Center.

“You should see my workshop at home,” Sutter said. “I call it ‘No Man’s Land.’ It’s way in the corner of my basement, and most times there’s a foot of shavings on the floor.”

Sutter, 79, carves flowers in three-dimensional relief or, as he calls it, “relief carving in the round” on 2-by-10-by-12-inch basswood plaques.

Sutter began working with wood when he was 12 years old at Boy Scout camp, he said.

“I had lived in New Mexico - before it was even a state - and I used to watch the cowboys,” he said. “Every cowpoke had a knife, and they lived in houses with porches about two feet off the ground, and they’d sit on their porches with their knives and just whittle a chunk of wood and sit there.”

After whittling, he began carving birds, animals and people out of a piece of wood.

About 10 years ago, he went to London where he

saw the 17th century carvings of Grinling Gibbons, whom Sutter calls “the best wood carver of all times.”

Six years ago, Sutter began his first intricate relief floral design in wood.

He said his process is simple.

First, he traces a flower - such as a calla lily, an Eastern dogwood or a rose - from a botanical reference book onto a piece of tracing paper. Then he transfers the tracing onto a square piece of wood.

He likes basswood but also uses alder, black walnut, sugar pine and mahogany, he said.

As he carves, he treats the wood with clear shellac and denatured alcohol to give it strength so his delicate petals and stems don’t break as he carves. He uses a technique called modeling, or rounding off the design, then undercutting, or scooping out the wood under the design to give it depth. He has hundreds of tools, many of them made to his specifications, he said.

He spends about 100 hours on each carving and insures it for \$1,000. But none of his work is for sale, he said.

“I do it for the fun and to inspire other people,” he said.

“They belong to my family,” he said of the carvings. “I plan one day to have a family reunion and to give them away. I’ve got about 40 florals, so that should make my family happy.”

Sutter wrote a book, “Floral Wood Carving,” that was

published last year by Dover Publications.

He began teaching wood carving in 1934 at the University of Wichita in Kansas and estimates that his former students number in the thousands.

Some students come to his classes,

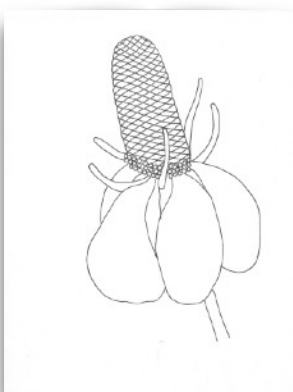
he said, “just for the talk that goes on in the classroom. It’s more of a social thing and it should be. Carving is a fun way to spend your time.”

“Anybody can learn to carve. I’ve only had one student quit on me,” Sutter said. “The toughest thing for beginners is to relax and get the feel of it.”

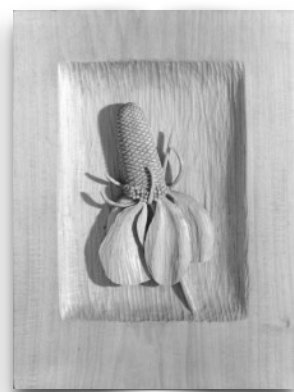
“You have to learn how to use the tools and you have to learn patience. It’s a type of art that, no matter what kind of weather is out there, you can always carve.”



Mexican Hat Flower



Pattern



As carved by Mack Sutter

ARCHITECTURAL CARVING

Carvings that enhance buildings

The carving world is very diverse and one niche is the world of architectural carving. Here are two examples - a structural post in the Kachka Restaurant in inner SE Portland that I spotted a few years ago. When asked, the waitress said the theme was from a Russian folklore story about a chicken, and it was carved by someone living in the coast range outside of Portland. Do you know anything about the story or the carver?

The bottom photo is from the University of Portland Chapel entrance, showing structural posts carved in Oak by Leroy Setziol. Can you send in photos of other examples, including doors?



Kachka Russian Restaurant
Photo from their website



Detail from the left



Kachka Russian Restaurant
960 SE 11th Ave, Portland, OR
Photo by Larry Wade



U of Portland Chapel
post by Leroy Setziol
Photo by Larry Wade



U of Portland Chapel
post detail
Photo by Larry Wade

FROM RUSSIA

On a trip several years ago this carving caught my attention for both its artistry and craftsmanship and inspired me to pursue carving more seriously. Hmm, 19th century, no power tools or guide books. For more information see http://www.arttrusse.ca/bogorodskoe_en.htm

"How the Mice Buried the Cat"



by Pilipp Yeroshkin, 19th Century
Russian Museum, St. Petersburg



Closeup



Closeup

John Lukens - In Memoriam - "A Broken Blade"

How do we remember carvers who have passed, and might pass unnoticed? I didn't know John Lukens, and he is almost ancient history, but not that ancient. He didn't leave big footprints, but his service did help build the carving culture we enjoy today. Thank you John for your work then, and to those who still contribute in little and big ways.

June 27, 1933 - December 20, 2020



John Lukens - former WWA President

2001 - President

2000 - Vice President

1997-1999 Secretary

1995 Recognition Committee

John B. Lukens, Jr., 87, a resident of the Forest Grove community, died Sunday evening, December 20, 2020, at Avamere Rehabilitation of Hillsboro.

"John was a long time member of Western Woodcarvers Association and past President. I have some of his bolo carvings and a fireplace bellows that he did. He was always a joyful person at many carving shows. It was a pleasure to know him," Tony Rizzuto, past President of WWA."

