

MAY 2021

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Carvers,

Our June 8th monthly program will focus on Sharpening, but our July and August programs will be a little different. The Tuesday July 13th evening Zoom program will be a **Show-and-Tell**. Speakers will show photos of their pieces and answer any questions. Some presenters have been identified, but we hope for many more. Please look through your past and current carvings and participate. Good photos are essential; and if you need help taking them, let me know.

August will be our first in-person event, an **outdoor potluck with demonstrations**. We assume enough people will be vaccinated and feel safe enough to attend. See the description later on for more information. I have a big backyard and currently plan to hold it here because we don't know if we can even rent a shelter in a public park, nor do we know how many will likely attend. Please register if you might attend so we can plan better and communicate with you.

We are a club, not a public service agency. **You can help** in several ways - become a member, write a newsletter article, attend or teach a class, volunteer in some way that is easy and fun for you, perhaps donate duplicate books, DVDs or tools to the emerging library. If you have graphic arts skills, we need help documenting the large body of work left behind by Mack Sutter.

Finally, please note a **June 1st deadline** to order any wood or roughouts from Randy Moore in MN, (see flyer below) who will provide free shipping by driving them to Portland (and elsewhere) on June 8th.



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

On behalf of the Board

[Roger Crooks](#), Vice President

[Diana Groseclose-Larabee](#), Treasurer

[Jerry Boone](#), Director at Large

[Terry Burnside](#), Secretary

[Marty Lawrence](#), Membership Development

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

## Upcoming Programs

➔ **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.



Guild power sharpening system

➔ **FREE Show-and-Tell — JULY 13th, 7:00 PM** [Click here](#) to register

**JULY**

Our monthly Zoom program will feature photos of your work (hopefully), along with the past and present carvings of others. All examples welcome - simple or elegant, in process or finished. Jim Hall for one has created a large body of work featuring eye-popping examples of carvings on turnings. To be effective we need good photos sent in ahead of time (by July 10th please), which you can describe as the photos are displayed.



Mack Sutter design, carved by Jim Hall, painted by his daughter



Jim Hall, carving on turnings

➔ **FREE Potluck and Demos — August 14th, 10:00 - 2:00 PM** [Click here](#) to register

**AUG**

We expect that by August we'll be able to stick our toe in the water with an in-person gathering. If the Covid situation turns negative, we'll reschedule.

We expect this to be both social and informative. We'll have demos with a potluck at a westside location (Larry's backyard). Diana Larabee loves working with green wood and will show examples and demonstrate how she uses axes, Mora knives and spoon gouges to create spoons and other useful things. Some spoon blanks will be provided with guidance for those wishing to work on their own spoon creation. Terry Burnside will demonstrate wood spirit and Santa carvings, partly as an introduction to his upcoming classes. Masa Nitani will demonstrate his techniques for Japanese texturing. Consider bringing a comfortable outdoor chair for carving.

We trust that everyone will make responsible choices for masking and distancing, depending on their vaccination status and personal health situations. The weather should be good, and there is enough space to be safe.

Please register on the link above, consider bringing some tools and a project to work on and bring a comfortable outdoor chair for carving and some food to share for the potluck. Drinks, hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided.



Backyard demos and potluck

## Upcoming Classes

### Wood Spirit Carving Class (free) — July 8 and 15, Thursday, 10:00-11:30

Taught by Terry Burnside, [click here](#) to register, even if you were on the previous interest list

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 (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 9:30-11:00 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) Santa Carving Class — Fall 2021 - Are you interested?

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.

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

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A priceless band-aid tip from member Joe Jedrychowski - how to cleverly protect a finger or fingertip cut without the bandaid coming off, [click here](#) and skip to 14:09. Usually they slip off. Instead, first cut the side tabs lengthwise and overlap the half ends. Clever, practical!



**For Sale**

**June 1  
Deadline**

**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](http://roughouts.com).

*Moore Wood & Roughouts*

**Need Wood?**

[www.roughouts.com](http://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).

**Check out Our Website**

**Premium Northern Minnesota BUTTERNUT & BASSWOOD**



**Custom WOOD Sizes Available (If you Pre-Order)**



**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](mailto:info@roughouts.com)  
[www.roughouts.com](http://www.roughouts.com)

**PORTLAND OREGON**



## Show & Tell

### Inexpensive Chopping Block by Tom Rich

I have been interested for some time in learning to make spoons and other utensils from wood. I made a few attempts to make a spoon but was unable to make a satisfactory product. After watching a lot of YouTube videos it seemed that most spoon makers used a hatchet and chopping block to rough out the shape before using a knife to do the finer work so I set out to make a chopping block.

After unsuccessfully trying to find the correct sized "round" from a downed tree, a friend suggested that I could make a chopping block from commercial lumber, based on one he saw created by local woodworker and carver, Rob Artman.

I have been successfully finding wood at construction sites all around town. Of course I always ask but many times the supervisors don't mind if I scavenge pieces from their scrap piles of end-cuts and wood they can't use. This scrap wood will eventually be hauled to the dump so they are glad to have it go to someone who will make boxes or toys or desks for kids and the like. So I decided to make the chopping block out of what I had on hand.

I used 11 inch pieces of 2x12, 2x6 and 2x4 lumber. I used wood glue and 2.5 inch wood screws to make a block that is 11"x11"x11". I made three legs from 24" pieces of 2x6. I got the design for the legs from Rex Krueger at <https://www.rexkrueger.com/store/chopping-block-plans> and attached them using 5 inch lag screws. The balance is fairly steady since the three legs are spread at 120 degrees from each other.

I left one of the 2x4s out of the block so I could insert a stop block. Also, if I want just a flat top I could take the stop block out and put in a 2x4 so the top is a solid 11x11 flat surface.

The cost was only about \$12 for glue, lag screws and wood screws. The whole chopping block with accessories weighs only 31 lb.. but so far feels rock solid and is working well.



All photos by Tom Rich

# Carving Woods

## Will the Real Mahogany Please Stand Up?

By Larry Wade

Mysterious Mahogany. I've been trying to educate myself and could use your help. Do you know of any good sources of good Mahogany? There are many woods called this but they have different names - Genuine, Honduran, Mexican, Khaya, African, Sapele, Philippine, Meranti, Lauan. I found a very useful article on *The Wood Database*, that might interest you, [click here](#), called "Mahogany Mixups: The Lowdown". Where can we buy the good stuff?

# AN OVERVIEW OF MAHOGANY

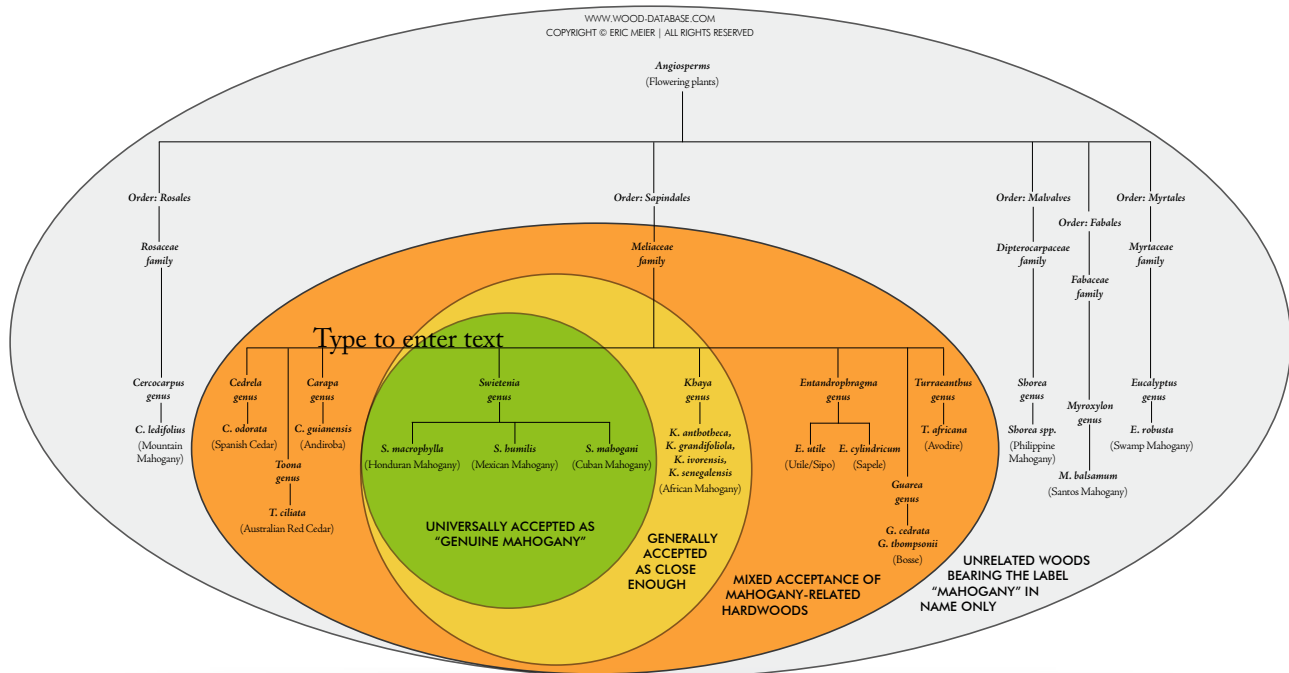


Illustration taken from *The Wood Database*, [click here](#)

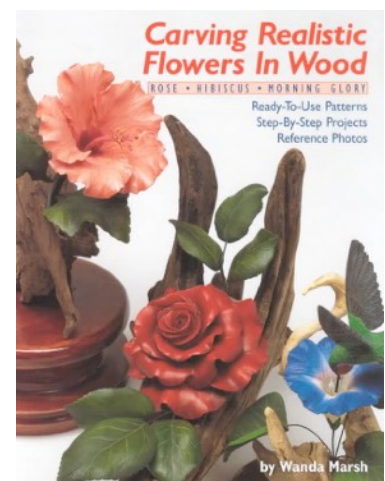
## Tupelo

By Larry Wade

We know from Don Baiar and others that Tupelo is the preferred wood for carving birds. The carved (and painted) flowers shown on the cover of this book caught my attention. How did she do it? Here is what she said (pg. 8).

“My wood of choice is tupelo, though I started with basswood, ... tupelo works better for a number of reasons 1) it does not ‘fuzz’ when you carve it, 2) the grain is very close, allowing you to carve in any direction, 3) sealers are not needed”.

I think I'll go to Home Depot and buy some.



## Portable Carving Bench

### Flexible Carving Bench - by Larry Wade

#### STURDY, PORTABLE, ADJUSTABLE, ECONOMICAL

Two years ago we built eight carving work benches for \$75 each to un-tether classes from the Guild Shop, allowing us to teach in the Multnomah Art Center classrooms or any similar rooms that have good lighting and a sweepable floor.

The carver's weight standing on the base provides the mass above the plywood's 75 lb., so the effective weight on average is 200-250 lb.

The standard height is 39" but with shorter sides and spacer blocks the height range is 34" to 45" to support taller and shorter students. The ratchet strap shown at the right provides the flexibility to vary the height while providing enormous strength to clamp the top to the base using eye hooks at either end.

With practice a bench can be assembled or disassembled in 5 minutes, which is important in shared classrooms. A typical class will span three Saturdays, and in-between the dissembled plywood is stacked on moving dollies for temporary storage. Longer term storage is off-site, and all the benches can be transported in a van or pickup.

The bench top is two plywood sheets which can be together or separated with spacer blocks, adjusting the height by 6". The overhangs at the front and sides provide clamping space, and when separated, the topmost sheet can be offset at the front to provide handle clearance for C or F clamps.



The top has 1/8" plywood strips on three edges to keep tools from rolling off.

For hardware, the plywood base and top have recessed T-plates for threaded eyebolts to hook the ratchet strap, which creates enormous pressure to sandwich the top to the base between the core box column in the middle. Two 5/8" horizontal threaded rods on each side of the core box make that assembly solid. The rods use washers and hex nuts, with a pair of wrenches for assembly. An upper shelf and a plywood spacer at the bottom keep the core from being deformed by the threaded rod tension. The picture above shows a "box rod handle nut" on the right side to speed assembly. Each bench is provided with an Ikea LED gooseneck lamp.

This design is the fifth prototype. The essential idea for the user's own weight to provide the mass came from carving instructor Jeff Harness, which might have originated with Chris Pye. The ratchet strap idea to provide adjustable height with strength was new. Future improvements would include better shelving and modular side storage for personal supplies.