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# CARVING NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2020

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The Portland area carving community is very diverse. We're exploring the nooks and crannies over time to help us all appreciate what others are doing.

This newsletter is intended for the Carving SIG of the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers, the Western Woodcarvers Association (WWA), our neighboring partner clubs and for unaffiliated carvers, suppliers and instructors everywhere.

The Oregon Carvers Guild is emerging as the successor to the WWA and building on the best parts of its 47 year history. This is a work in process.

This month we finalized the logo, started building the web site, registered the domain names, and started adding content. We will be ready to launch by Christmas.

The current look and feel are shown below. The web address will be "[oregoncarvers.org](http://oregoncarvers.org)".

Our free monthly programs on Zoom have been popular. See the next page for the November topic on carving tools, and please register in order to get the Zoom link.



Larry Wade, President  
On behalf of the Board

Roger Crooks, Vice President

Jerry Boone, Treasurer

Terry Burnside, Secretary

Note: underscored words are live links



# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

## FREE THE CARVING TOOLS OF GIL DRAKE - NOV 10TH, 7:00 PM

[Click here](#) to register online or [click here](#) to request a Zoom link to be emailed.

Drake Knives creates some of the most loved carving tools on the planet. Based near Seattle, they are famous for quality and a lifetime sharpening guarantee.

Owners Gil Drake and his wife Bonnie will give us an insider's tour of their manufacturing process. They have over 125 variations of knives, gouges and micro tools. He will talk about the steel they use, how it is cut to shape with a CNC plasma cutter, rough ground, heated, quenched, tempered, hardened, sharpened and then how the handles are made.

Gil is a carver and will talk about how he also became a tool developer selling around the world.

Of course there will be time for questions. Gil is still a carver and loves to demonstrate. He has offered to come back in a month to demonstrate carving, closeup. Register using the link above to get that schedule.

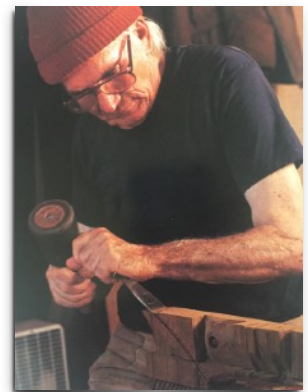


## FREE LEROY SETZIOL - OREGON'S FAMOUS CARVER - JAN 12TH, 7:00 PM

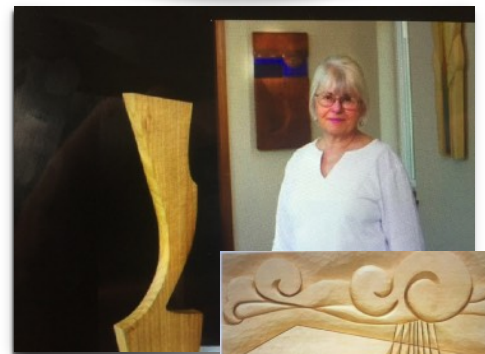
[Click here](#) to register or [click here](#) to request a Zoom link to be emailed.

We are honored to feature two outstanding Northwest wood carvers.

**Leroy Setziol** (1915-2005) and his daughter Monica Setziol-Phillips. Leroy has been called the father of Northwest wood carving based on an extensive body of work created over 50 years. His work can be seen in many public buildings ranging from schools, hospitals, churches, city halls, federal buildings, and corporate headquarters. He is also known as the darling of mid-century modern architects with his work prominently displayed in many homes of that style.



**Monica Setziol-Phillips** will talk about her father's examples as well as her own impressive body of work that is in many private collections and public spaces. Monica is an accomplished artist who discovered weaving in college and eventually integrated the arts of wood carving and weaving. She also has a serious interest in fairy and folk tales that offer insights into their originating cultures. We look forward to the stories she will tell of her, and her father's creative process, as well as their approach to the technical aspects of creating their art.



Carving plus Weaving



## LIBRARY CORNER

### **A tour through Mary May's Library-**

Mary has a large library and showed and commented on many of her books during a recent Livestream program. [Click here](#) to watch the archived video on Twitch.

Mary has also archived a large number of her Livestream hour long programs (free). To see the collection [click here](#) or search [twitch.tv](#) for Mary May. Two especially helpful ones are on finishing with expert Michael Mascelli.

**Guild Library** - has 60 books related to carving, take a look when you can

### **Library Donations -**

Tony Rizzuto recently donated these books to our embryonic Oregon Carvers Guild library. Please consider contributing any useful carving books, magazines, DVDs, examples or tools.

*The Complete Guide to Chip Carving*, Wayne Barton  
*Chip Carving Workshop*, Lora Irish  
*Whittling and Woodcarving*, E.J. Tangerman  
*Floral Wood Carving*, Mack Sutter  
*Easy-to-Do Flower Patterns for Woodcarvers*, Mack Sutter  
*Carving Animal Caricatures*, Elma Waltner  
*Wood Carving Book*, Sunset Magazine

### **Book Review from Heidi McNamee**

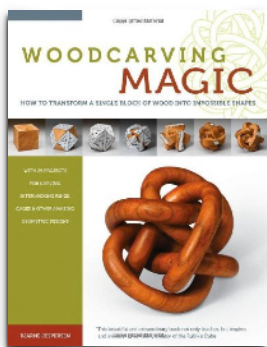
Woodcarving Magic by Bjarne Jespersen

My mother-in-law gave me *Woodcarving Magic* when I first started on my carving journey. At the time, I found this book beautiful, inspiring and terrifying and though I looked at it a great deal, I never actually carved from it.

Coming back to it now for this book review, its beauty holds up. The excellent photography, thoughtful page design and clear writing are a treat. These amazing forms made from beautiful woods are begging to be held in your hand.

There is inspiration aplenty and if you like to dive deep into your math brain, you will find enough to keep your synapses busy. Mr. Jespersen provides careful instructions, descriptions of special tools and techniques, directions for making your own prototypes and projects for all skill levels. *Woodcarving Magic* has enough Platonic & Archimedean solids converted into gleaming non-polyhedra to turn every geometry teacher into a wide-eyed sculptor. It even has a few equations.

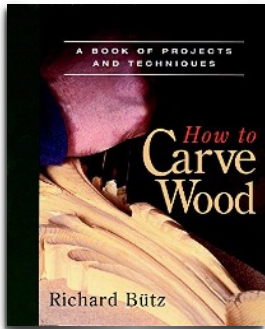
Whether this sounds overwhelming or inspirational is for you to decide. Now that my hands have had a bit more practice, the terror has faded. *Woodcarving Magic* might be just the thing for the next rainy-day project.



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### **Book Review from Ruth Warbington—**



How to carve wood: A book of projects and techniques, by Rick Bütz, 1984

My first palm-sized whittled duck looks like a duck but the head just kept getting smaller and smaller. This book provided and guided me through my first whittling project and it is still full of carvings I want to do.

Bütz started carving as a youngster, hosted 100 woodcarving episodes on Kentucky public television, and wrote seven books. *How to Carve Wood* covers all the basics plus enticing peeks at the many possibilities a carving adventure can offer. The first third of the book covers what one needs to know to get started: tools, sharpening, holding, woods, finishes, and design. Illustrations and photos are helpful and inspiring and the writing is excellent.

Bütz then puts the tools to the wood and describes and shows how to whittle that little duck. There is also a hermit to whittle and then it is on to chip carving. The chip carving section has two attractive projects in addition to some beautiful aspirational photos and extensive instructions (9 pages) on how to draw your own circular rosette designs.

A section on relief carving includes four projects of increasing difficulty with good photos and diagrams to help you make it happen. Wildlife carving offers a small bird and a big, detailed duck to get you started and four more projects that teach a lot about three-dimensional carving. Another chapter introduces lettering and gives basic instructions for carving several capital R's. Seven carvable alphabets are included, a handy resource. Finally, Architectural Carving touches on moldings and shows how to carve a linenfold panel.

I've looked through at least three dozen carving books and still find this one to be a friendly and inspiring place to start and then to continue.

### **Blasts from the Past - Free books from [The Internet Archive](#) - [click here](#)**

If you have a few lifetimes to spare take a look at the link above. Search for "carving" and notice the 3,000+ hits. Try "art wood carving rogers" and download the 1867 London book packed with helpful info.

Besides books they archive images, movies, software, audio, games and old web sites. As they say,

"The Internet Archive, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is building a digital library of Internet sites and other cultural artifacts in digital form. Like a paper library, we provide free access to researchers, historians, scholars, the print disabled, and the general public. Our mission is to provide Universal Access to All Knowledge".



## TOOL CORNER



### Flexible Carving Station - by Tom Rich

I use the Match Fit system by MicroJig® with a dovetail grid spaced 4" apart in quality ¾ inch plywood to create my carving station. The grooves are made with a 14-degree dovetail router bit. There are a variety of Match Fit jigs and fixtures to hold different carvings. Above you can see a square, a corner and an edge holder.

For my carving station I cut another grid on the bottom, offset from the grooves on the top to prevent weakness and used to clamp the board to the bench on two sides as shown below.

When my holding board is clamped onto the corner of my bench I can move around the stationary block of wood 180 degrees, and by carving with alternate hands I can avoid having to release the block and turn it.

Keeping the chisels in place and handy was another challenge. I used a readily available bamboo place mat and stitched bunched up rows of bamboo strands with a needle and thread to separate the tools. The tools remain in place, are visible and ready to use. For storage and portability I roll up the mat and place it in my canvas tool roll.

With a sturdy bench at the right height, a strong adjustable carving surface that holds my project securely, and chisels close at hand I can carve more easily for hours. Oh, and notice the base of my gooseneck light in the top photo!



### Mack Sutter - Pioneering Instructor

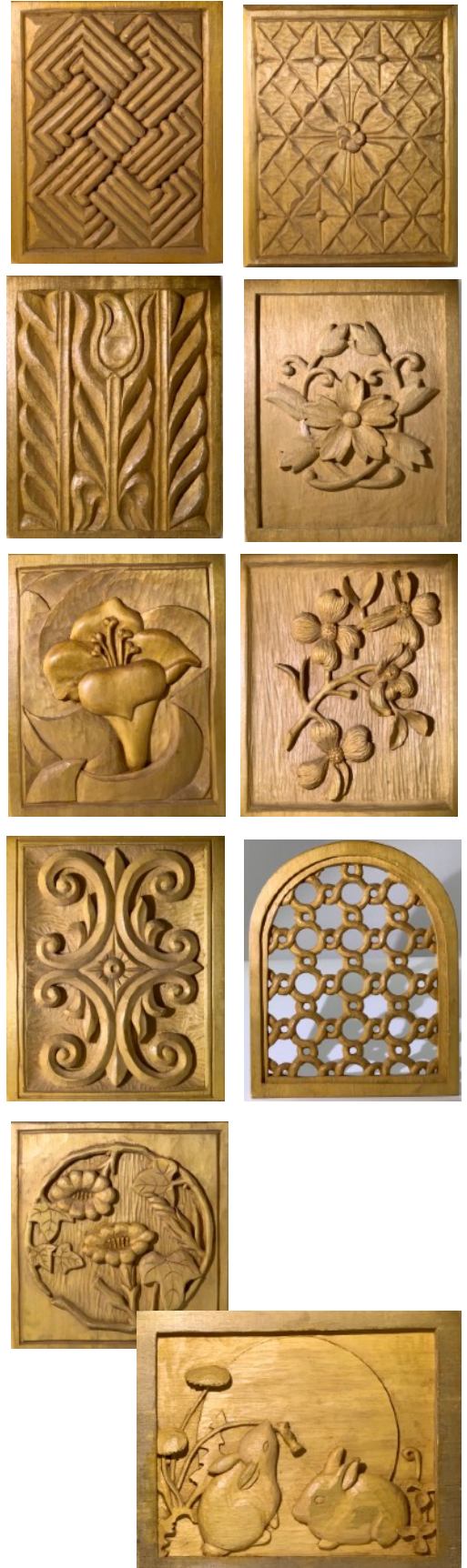
Mack Sutter was arguably the most prolific carving instructor in Oregon's history. In 1973 he was one of four co-founders and the first president of the Western Woodcarvers Association, and he had already been teaching carving for 30 years. He sometimes taught three times a week at the World Forestry Center, Multnomah Art Center, PCC or senior centers. He authored two important Dover books on floral carving and was a significant force in promoting carving to Boy Scouts locally and nationally. Equally important some students became instructors so he influenced multiple generations of carvers.

His formal name was H.M. Sutter (Harvey), but he was known as Mack. He died in 1997 but his legacy is being preserved by his Portland son John Sutter, a woodworker and turner, who is working with us to preserve Mack's heritage, carvings and tools to pass on his base of knowledge and continue to influence multiple generations.

The panels at the right were used in his three-tiered carving series, from beginner to advanced. The first three panels were for beginners and others became progressively more complex, featuring bosting, undercutting and complexity. Each class was ten weeks long, two hours each.

In 1979 he documented these classes in the national Chip Chats magazine. We plan to create the "**Mack Sutter Relief Carving Series**", train new instructors and make patterns, photos and plaster casts available.

If you are interested in a free experimental workshop on Zoom to carve two of these panels contact Larry Wade at 503-312-7745 or [click here](#) to add your name to the interest list; tools provided, materials extra.





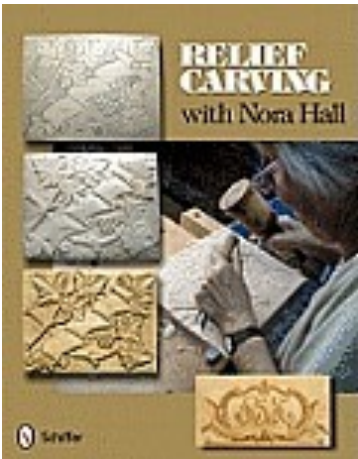
## EDUCATOR CORNER

### Nora Hall



Nora Hall left a big footprint for the ten of her 89 years she lived in Oregon. She was a prolific and respected classical carver, author and educator. She is worth knowing.

Nora was Dutch and apprenticed out of necessity with her father during the WW II occupation. She immigrated to Phoenix in 1956 and moved soon to Long Beach, CA where she raised her six children, two of whom were reunited from Holland in a touching reality TV drama told in her relief carving book. As her children became adults she moved to be with some in Denver, Oregon and eventually Michigan. Her son Wendell is an accomplished but non-practicing carver and now lives on the Oregon coast, while her oldest daughter Renee lives in Montana and focuses on the [norahall.com](http://norahall.com) web site with her own daughter.



Renee is helping us identify archival articles, photos and videos about Nora's work and carving philosophies. One is a special video that has never been seen with Gary Rogowski of NW Woodworking Studio.

While in Oregon Nora taught and travelled extensively, including how to carve the Linenfold on Roy Underhill's PBS program. While in Oregon she and her son Wendell produced nine training videos. They were made in the era of VHS. The Guild library has all VHS copies, but they are available on DVDs.

### The Basics of European Woodcarving with Nora Hall



The Nora Hall Essential European Woodcarving series  
Pattern enclosed

The Dutch Panel shown below is featured in her book and combines several carving challenges. The design was copied in plaster from an antique door in Holland, and Nora brought that cast to America when she immigrated.

