



Carving Newsletter

June 2022



Hello Carvers,

We're going to change our pace for the summer after a busy five months of programs, classes, demos, and shows.

The Gathering of the Guilds was very successful, thanks to the 26 volunteers and artists who made it happen. I especially want to give big shout-outs to Ruth Holland for leading the gallery effort and to Kelley Stadelman for being the patron saint from the beginning. We'll do it again next year April 28-30, so mark your calendar.

Highlights:

- » Overall show attendance was 13,000, which is a 6% increase from the last, pre-pandemic, show in 2019
- » Of the six guilds, the Potters always dominate with 50% of the exhibitors
- » Our 10 x 25 booth looked very professional; located in the woodworking section
- » Our \$2,600 costs were offset with \$2,000 of net income, so it was a very modest cost overall
- » Part of our costs were for \$1,000 display racks, which we will re-use
- » We sold 50 of the 80 Comfort Birds and Animals; a big draw and financially meaningful
- » Artists sold \$3,700 of their carvings
- » Many thanks for the support of many artists, especially featured artist Judy Caldwell
- » We had live demonstrations the entire time

Please consider these upcoming events - get inspired, meet other carvers, and feel good by helping out.

- » Annual club picnic, Saturday, August 13, [click here](#)
- » Multnomah Village Street Fair, Saturday, August 20, 9:00-5:00, [email me](#) to help
- » Art in the Pearl, Labor Day weekend, September 3-5, downtown Portland
- » Columbia Flyway and Wildlife Show, October 1-2, Astoria, [click here](#)

A sister club produces the [Columbia Flyway Wildlife Show](#), and I would like us to help make it a continued success. It is one of three carving club shows in our area and has a long history of wonderful exhibits and classes. While the focus is on birds, mammals, and wildlife, they have diversified to include NW coast tribal art as well as open categories. You can help by attending, but please consider volunteering when the call comes. The show is free to attend, and Astoria is a wonderful place to visit in early October. We are sponsoring the competition division called Artistic Creations in Wood. Consider contributing to this open category or any other.

There has been a lot of interest to follow-up with Adam McIsaac and his focus on tribal carvings of the Columbia River Basin. I'm hoping we can create a one day event at Adam's studio in La Center WA, but nothing is set yet. If interested, you can still add your name to the Interest List [here](#).

I don't know when or where we will have a stable physical space for in-person classes and meetings. I had an exploratory conversation with the Multnomah Art Center director. They are starting to rent space again, and there is a chance we can use their woodworking studio.

I hope your summer goes well. I'm off to the Omaha for a few weeks in June to see family and friends.

Larry

Current Board of Directors
[Larry Wade](#), President
[Roger Crooks](#), Vice President
[Tom Rich](#), Secretary
[Terry Burnside](#), Webmaster
[Diana Groseclose-Larabee](#), Treasurer
[Jim Spitzer](#), Sponsor Coordinator
[Tom Siep](#), Newsletter Editor

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Our Mission: Encourage carvers at all levels through education, fellowship, and mentoring

Gathering of the Guilds

Retrospective of the 2022 Show











Carvings on this page by Judy Caldwell



Comfort Critters at GotG



Demos at the Gathering

The demonstration area of the OCG booth was very popular...



Kelley Stadelman

Kelley demonstrated her considerable carving talents by working on a Santa who was driving a car -- a convertible.

Kelley also had several versions of the carving, which amply illustrated her creation process. Each one showed a major step towards the piece she actively carved.

She had quite a number of fans admiring her work pretty much the entire time she was at the demo booth.



Masa Nitani

Masa demonstrated his texturing techniques using custom tool handles he created. He is a master at reading the wood and turning what might be considered flaws into features.



Jerry Boone

"I was lucky to get the last shift of the show. By that time of the day on Sunday we had quite a few moms and dads with kids. I had a youngster who came back four times to look at what progress I had made since the last visit."

"I think one of the things I had going for me was I was doing a simple flower pattern in relief. The pattern was fairly large so chips came off quickly and the carving changed constantly. I also had pre-carved one of the flowers, so people could see what I was doing would look like when it was done."



Terry Burnside

"Demoing a cottonwood bark carving of gnome homes was a lot of fun. It is a treat talking to people about something you are passionate about, especially when they are genuinely interested."



Tom Siep

"Demonstrating wood carving was a new experience for me. I really enjoyed engaging with people while carving my comfort turtles."

Mack Sutter Photo Archive

The Mack Sutter Photo Archive, Part 3

By Larry Wade

Dover Books printed two books of Mack Sutter’s floral carvings but didn’t continue with a third or fourth. As an alternative, *Chip Chats* magazine serialized 33 more of the carvings over six years, from mid-1989 to mid-1995. *Chip Chats* gave us permission to reprint those articles, which we intend to do.

The articles had a basic black and white photo of each carving along with the pattern. We have access to 10 of those original carvings and continued the documentation process by taking five views of each piece: front, top, bottom, left, and right. The last four are taken at a steep angle to show the deep undercutting. Over time, we hope to scan and reformat each article, and add the new color photos so they will be complete.

Each of the carvings was photographed by serious Portland photographer Jim Schoeffel with assistance from John Sutter, one of Mack’s adult children. We are incredibly grateful for their time to do all this work.

The table on this page is the index to all 33 in the series. Those with hyperlinks in the flower name are the ones with new color photos. Eventually, more color photos will be added as we track down more of the original carvings.

In addition to these 33, Mack had yet more carvings that were never published. Color photos of two of those are:

- » [Swaying Tulips](#)
- » [Cat Tails](#)

We hope these collections inspire you.



#	Year	Issue	Flower
1	1989	Jul-Aug	Dahlia
2	1989	Sep-Oct	Mexican Hat
3	1989	Nov-Dec	Tulip Orchid
4	1990	Jan-Feb	Crocus
5	1990	Mar-Apr	Pansies
6	1990	May-Jun	Pink Quill
7	1990	Jul-Aug	Magnolia
8	1990	Sep-Oct	Lilies
9	1990	Nov-Dec	African Violets
10	1991	Jan-Feb	Arrowhead Leaf
11	1991	Mar-Apr	Fuchsia
12	1991	May-Jun	Mission Bells
13	1991	Jul-Aug	Trillium
14	1991	Sep-Oct	Chilian Bellflower
15	1991	Nov-Dec	Notka Rose
16	1992	Mar-Apr	Hibiscus
17	1992	May-Jun	Orchids
18	1992	Jul-Aug	Shooting Stars
19	1993	Jan-Feb	Periwinkle
20	1993	Mar-Apr	Parrot Tulip
21	1993	May-Jun	Daisies
22	1993	Jul-Aug	Amaryllis
23	1993	Sep-Oct	Iris
24	1993	Nov-Dec	Yellow Lily
25	1994	Jan-Feb	Bonsai
26	1994	Mar-Apr	Gaillarda
27	1994	May-Jun	Dairy
28	1994	Jul-Aug	Grandiflora Rose
29	1994	Sep-Oct	Lady Slipper
30	1994	Nov-Dec	Chinese Lantern
31	1995	Jan-Feb	Eternal Lotus
32	1995	Mar-Apr	Iris
33	1995	May-Jun	Sea Holly

Upcoming Programs

SUMMER BREAK

The Oregon Carvers Guild is taking the summer off from our monthly Zoom programs. It has been our experience that many or most of our members are traveling and/or going to carving rendezvous.

We will resume our 2nd Tuesday monthly meetings starting September 13th, 7:00 PM on Zoom.



Owl carving by Judy Caldwell

Member Carvings



Carving by Fred Lieu



Carving by Fred Lieu

Call for Pictures of Your Carvings

One of the highlights of face-to-face meetings is sharing the carving work we have done in the past month or so.

We would like to extend that sharing to our newsletter.

Please send photos of carvings, past and present, to:

[OCG Newsletter Editor](#)

A few tips on taking photos:

- » Position your camera (or phone) parallel to your work
- » Use natural light (sunlight) if possible
- » The only shadows you see should be in the work (not you)
- » Use a high contrast background so your work stands out



Comfort tadpoles by Bob Chiavarini

You may have missed...

The May Oregon Carvers Guild meeting

"Comfort Bird Variations" organized by Larry Wade

This meeting was in two parts: the annual formal meeting of the club and a Zoom-table about people's experiences in carving comfort birds and other comfort creatures.

The formal part of the meeting was a brief official meeting for board elections. The current board of directors have agreed to serve again, with the addition of Tom Rich as Secretary. The vote was taken by show of hands on the Zoom call, with a result of approval by unanimous assent.

The slate that was elected was:

- » Larry Wade as President
- » Roger Crooks as Vice President.
- » Tom Rich as Secretary
- » Terry Burnside as Webmaster
- » Diane Larabee as Treasurer
- » Jim Spitzer as Sponsor Coordinator
- » Tom Siep as Newsletter Editor.



The rest of the program on May 10th was an interesting set of vignettes on various ways to design, roughout, refine, and finish comfort animals. These techniques should apply to a variety of carvings you might tackle. We had in-person presentations from Don Foust, Diane Balch, Tom Rich, Jim Spitzer, Tom Siep, and Roger Crooks.

Don Foust talked about the origin of comfort birds. His father invented the concept. He then spent the next 40 years making comfort birds. He took us through the story of how he started and the process that he used to make over 4,500 comfort birds during his lifetime. Don then explained the process of making comfort birds, as pioneered by his father.

Diane Balch initially talked about making patterns for comfort birds. As a member of the Northeast Woodworkers Association for about 10 years she got involved with comfort birds along with other members. They started by using paper patterns, but progressed to hard cardboard, and then 1/8 inch Baltic birch. Since she has a laser cutter in her sign business, Diane began using it to cut the patterns at various sizes. Diane concluded her talk with a presentation of her process for making comfort birds and some of her work.

Roger Crooks showed the setup and tools he used to do his contributions.

Tom Rich, Jim Spitzer, and Tom Siep described how they created their contributions to the OCG Gathering of the Guilds store.

All of the videos, PDFs, and photos from the Comfort Animals program are available on-line. There is a lot of new material here which you might find useful, especially the two short videos of Frank Foust showing his roughing and smoothing techniques using sanding drums. Thanks to Don Foust for making them available.

The list of the items and their links is:

- » VIDEO [Numerous Ways to Make Comfort Birds](#)
- » Zoom recording [PDF Patterns of Comfort Birds, scaled](#)
- » VIDEO [Interview with Don Foust](#)
- » VIDEO [Interview with Diane Balch](#)
- » VIDEO [Basics of band sawing blanks](#) (12 minutes)
- » VIDEO [Summary of band sawing blanks](#) (5 minute version)
- » VIDEO [Jim Spitzer sanding, clamping and other techniques](#)
- » VIDEO [Frank Foust ROUGH OUT video](#)
- » VIDEO [Frank Foust SMOOTH OUT video](#)
- » PDF [Photo examples from Diane Balch](#)
- » PDF [Presentation slides from Don Foust Zoom presentation](#)

Upcoming Classes

Stropping for Beginners

Taught by Roger Crooks, Larry Wade, or Terry Burnside (online and in-person)
Click a date to register [June 22](#) or [August 10](#), Wednesday, 10:00am - 12:00pm
[July 13](#), Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:00pm (note evening time)

One of our main charters is to preserve the art of carving and to do so requires teaching beginners. We all know sharpening is critical. There are many articles and videos on-line, and they often show contradictory ways to sharpen. For a beginner with few tools, figuring out how to start sharpening is daunting.

Our philosophy is to start with good tools and keep them sharp with stropping. Reshaping tools, power sharpening, and using stones will be taught in future classes.

This beginner's class delivers information with a [handout](#), a [video](#), and hands-on coaching. There is a fine line between getting a sharp edge and rolling over the edge making it duller. Correcting stropping techniques in real time will start carvers on the right path to building muscle memory for sharpening. The class repeats monthly.



Leather Strops

Incised Carving Class (free) — online and in-person

Saturday, 1:30-4:00pm To register, click on the desired date: [June 25](#), [July 16](#), or [Sept 17](#)

This one-session, 2-1/2 hour class is for those new to carving or those who want to try incised carving. Repeats monthly.

The incised style carves lines into the surface of wood and can be done safely with one tool. This workshop is for those who have never carved or for carvers who have no incised experience. Students will be provided with free basswood, a loaner tool, patterns, and a carving mat. This workshop will be taught on-line with Zoom and simultaneously in-person, unless Covid gets much worse.



Dogs Welcome Sign

Students will carve the Dogs Welcome sign shown, and wood is provided for a second project afterwards. Students will use a parting (V) tool and will be shown how an Xacto knife or equivalent can also be used.

Small Bowls in Four Woods — online and in-person simultaneously (Covid permitting)

Taught by Larry Wade.

[Click here](#) to register, four Tuesdays: Sept 13, 20, 27, and Oct 4, 2:00 - 4:00pm

This is a class for beginners to learn and practice carving small (4”), shallow bowls and experience a variety of soft and hard woods (Basswood, Alaska Yellow Cedar, Alder, Maple). The inside of the bowl will be round or oval, shallow or deep. The outside of the bowl can be round, square, rectangular, or shaped. Learning to hold the work safely provides many lessons.



Interest Lists

Walking Sticks & Wood Spirits — Interest list only

Taught by Terry Burnside. [Click here](#) to register interest

Terry will teach this class once there is enough interest. Add your name to the list if this is a future possibility for you. No obligation.



This class is designed for those not familiar with carving a wood spirit or face carving in general. Terry developed his techniques over 25 years, incorporating the methods of several well-known carving professionals.



Tribal Carving with Adam McIsaac — Interest list only

DATES/TIMES/LOCATION - all to be determined. [Click here](#) to register interest



Adam is a serious professional carver in the style of the tribes of the Columbia River Basin. He often teaches and conducts workshops at his studio north of Vancouver in La Center off I-5 near exit 16.

This interest list is not a class, it is simply a way for you to put your name on the list to be contacted later and to see if there is enough interest to create a tour, class, workshop, or other activity.

Flat Plane Caricature Carving — Interest list only

Taught by Eric Owens, [Click here](#) to register interest



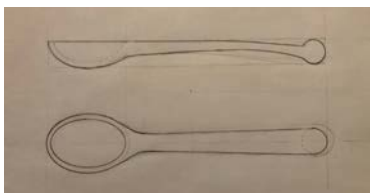
Eric Owens is a very experienced caricature carver from Boise and will be visiting Oregon. We have a chance to schedule a two-day class to tap into his wisdom on the last weekend of July or the first weekend of August. We need a minimum number of students to justify the class. It will be an intensive two days to experience carving one of a few models that he will prepare. The focus is on beginning caricature carvers but Eric is able to work with those with some experience who want to go farther.

The cost will be \$200 plus about \$20 for materials. Students will need to provide tools but some will be available to borrow.

Beginner Spoon Carving — Interest list only

Taught by Al Plasch. [Click here](#) to register

This is a class for beginners to learn the basics of carving spoons. Everyone will carve a simple shape first, then have options for exploring variations. Two Basswood blanks will be used with options to try a harder wood. Students are welcome to provide their own wood. Loaner tools are provided (knife, spoon gouge), but students are encouraged to purchase a hook knife (Morakniv 164 or similar) and a knife (Flexcut detail knife or Morakniv 106).





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Upcoming Events

JUNE

Kitsap Artistry in Wood Show and Sale 2022

Sheridan Park Community Center, Bremerton, WA, June 11-12



A Woodcarving and Woodworking Juried Competition. NW Artisan's fine Wood Art for sale. Contact: [Mark Campbell](#), Show Chair. [Show website](#)

JULY

NW Carving Academy

Ellensburg, WA July 11-15, 2022



This is a long-established, week-long educational opportunity with multiple instructors from around the region and country. The classes that are offered include hand and power carving, pyrography, painting and design, and baskets. Additionally, special interest classes are offered for spouses and partners. For registration information, [click here](#).

SEPTEMBER

Columbia Flyway & Wildlife Show

Clatsop County Fairgrounds in Astoria, September 30, Oct 1 and 2



This is a significant local show featuring nationally known bird and animal carvers, scheduled at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds in Astoria.

Contact [Randy Martin](#) to exhibit; save the dates and monitor the [website](#) for updates.

JANUARY

Coastal Carver Artistry in Wood Show

Lincoln City, January 2023



This annual January carving show is a fixture in the state and well worth attending. Although they had to cancel the 2022 show because their venue was not taking reservations for group events, they hope to have their normal show in 2023.

Check their [website](#) for current information.



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Clubs and Guilds

Coastal Carvers — Lincoln City

The club meets at the Lincoln City SDA School. Usually, monthly meetings are held the first Sunday of October through May, at 1:30pm. Club members also meet weekly on Tuesday evenings, from 6 to 8pm for unstructured carving. For details, [click here](#).

Capitol Woodcarvers — Salem

For information, [click here](#). Their annual April carving show is well known, but it had to be cancelled for 2022. However, on their website, they announced that there will be a 2022 Virtual Show and Auction. More information and entry forms are to be posted soon on their website.

Vancouver / King's Way Carvers — weekly on Thursdays

Thursday evenings 6:00 - 9:00 PM (summer 9:00 - noon). Contact Jim Mather at jimmatherxx@gmail.com or 360-931-0079. This group has been meeting since 2007 in a first class art room at a large private high school at 3606 NE 78th in Vancouver (Hazel Dell). The facility is locked so call ahead for the access code. They are a friendly and experienced group of carvers with a variety of interests.

Milwaukie Woodcarvers — Milwaukie

This established group has recently restarted in-person carving sessions weekly on Wednesdays, 8:00 - 11:00am at the Milwaukie Center. Drop-ins welcome, for a small fee of \$1 or \$2 fee per session. Support for beginning carvers is provided. The address is 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr, Milwaukie, OR 97222 (off Hwy 224 near Rusk Rd).

Central Oregon Wood Carvers — Bend

Central Oregon Wood Carvers is a group of carvers in and around Bend, for information, contact Scott Beyer at dxdevolt@gmail.com.

Olympia Woodworkers Guild— Olympia

They occasionally have interesting carving presenters for their monthly meetings. For information contact Bill Cogswell at info@owwg.org or see owwg.org/blog.

Idaho Carvers Guild

This is a long-established group of carvers in and around Boise that have 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, while CCG produces a comprehensive newsletter called *The Log*, and trains judges for shows. Click here for their [website](#).





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Educational Opportunities

Wildcraft Studio

A multi-arts non-profit that frequently has carving classes, click here for their website then scroll through their calendar. Rose Holdorf frequently teaches carving classes on the Scandinavian Dala Horse, spoons, and kitchen utensils. Their classroom is now at 50th and SE Division, Portland OR. [Website](#)

Port Townsend School of Woodworking

A very important regional resource that frequently has visiting carving professionals, including Mary May. For information, see the [Port Townsend School of Woodworking](#) website.

Sitka Center for Art and Ecology

Among the many workshops the Sitka Center offers, there are 2 woodcarving classes and a pyrography class. You can check out the classes at the [Sitka Center website](#).

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