
NEWSLETTER

WESTERN WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION

August 26, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of WWA,

There is a lot going on, and I would like you to know what your new leadership team is doing. Please contact me if you want to dialog; I welcome your input.

As a reminder the executive committee is:



Larry Wade, President
503-312-7745
lpwade@gmail.com



Roger Crooks, VP
503-616-0923
racrooks@comcast.net



Jerry Boone, Treasurer
503-866-6645
jfboone@aol.com



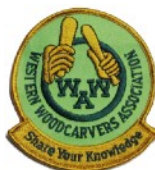
Terry Burnside, Secretary
850-629-7144
terry.burnside@gmail.com

We meet weekly to work through a lot of issues. The information below is a snapshot of some of the more important things we've tackled.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Larry".

Larry Wade



Established 1973

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GRATITUDE - We want to recognize and thank the outgoing officers for their service. We owe them a great deal, especially Tony, who is the longest serving president and officer in the 47 year history of the WWA.



Tony Rizzuto circa 1999

President for ten years, 2005-07 and 2012-20
VP for three years, 1998-00 and 2004-05
Secretary for five years, 2002-04 and 2018-20
plus Newsletter Editor, Show Manager, Photographer,
Archivist, Friend, and Mentor for more years than we can count



Jim Mishler VP
2015-20



Ray Tenorio Treasurer
2015-20

COVID - We believe there will be no in-person meetings for at least a year. In the meantime we see online meetings (Zoom) as the only viable option.

ZOOM - If you aren't set up and want to try, contact me for assistance.

CLUB REBIRTH - As you are aware the club almost folded in June, but there were several other near-closure episodes dating back to 1999. Without enough volunteer leaders and followers membership gradually spiraled down. Building the quality club our area deserves is going to take work, luck and support from a lot of people. It might take a decade, and it might not happen, but why not try? We will look deeply at what a sustainable club needs for today and the future.

DUES - We voted to extend dues for current members through December. In January I hope you will find enough value to continue your investment with both dues and time. Expired or new members can mail \$15 dues anytime to Jerry Boone, 18212 SW Fallatin Lp, Aloha, OR 97007.

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SCHOLARSHIPS - The original fund specified that only interest, not principal, was to be used for scholarships. Five years ago the club decided to use the investment fund for ongoing expenses because dues were insufficient. The net effect was we were eating the seed corn. To create a sustainable club we need seeds left. Consequently the board voted to suspend scholarships; but once the pandemic is over and we get the new club going, we'll explore the best ways to help the most people learn how to become better carvers.

MONTHLY MEETINGS - We are now co-meeting with the Carving Special Interest Group of the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers. These monthly online meetings are the second Tuesday from 7:00-9:00 PM, except the Mary May meeting. We hope to get to twice monthly.

FREE MARY MAY CARVING PRESENTATION - Sept 8th, 6:00 - 8:00 PM on Zoom

If you plan to or might attend, please email me at lpwade@gmail.com to register you and send a Zoom link before the meeting. Mary is a well-known classical carver living in Charleston, SC. She has a significant online school with hundreds of videos, and eight valuable free ones. She has taught in Portland several times, including last October.



Mary carves many things, but she is noted for carving Acanthus leaves in a dozen styles as described in her new book. Her talk and demo will focus on these. She will be live from her studio in SC, hence the reason for starting at 6:00 instead of 7:00. Even if you aren't interested in Acanthus leaves I suggest you attend - you are bound to learn something from a professional carving instructor.

NEW CLUB NAME - Its unknown how the Western Woodcarvers Association got its name, but likely because the founding was with and at the Western Forestry Center (now World Forestry Center). Monthly meetings and two annual shows were held there between 1973 and 2005. Then we became nomads. Today *Western* might mean the west coast, the western states, perhaps western Oregon; but it doesn't give us clarity. We also think there are better alternatives to *association*. Future members won't relate to the WWA acronym. We are evaluating new names and getting close to having one.

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NON-PROFIT STATUS - WWA was a non-profit from inception, but its specific type was never established with the IRS. We will become a 501(c)3, the strongest form, to allow us to attract investments and donations.

BOOK and TOOL LIBRARY - We expect to re-establish a library. If you have any books or DVDs you no longer want, please consider donating them. We also expect to create a tool library to help newcomers experience the Joy of using sharp tools while being able to rent from us to keep initial costs down while they explore. Tool donations are welcome.

NEW WEBSITE - We plan to have a new web site by the end of the year using the system proven by the NW Woodturners and the Oregon Woodworkers. Our site will be comprehensive, provide services for members and serve to attract new members.

NOTABLE CARVERS AND CARVINGS - The new web site will also be a resource center to learn about notable past and present carvers from and around Oregon. Perhaps the most famous and well-documented carver is Leroy Setziol, but what do we know about Nora Hall, Mack Sutter, Leo Lambo, Dennis Mihm, Will Hayden, Eileen Peters, Masa Nitani, Carousel carvers, NW Coastal Indian carvers and others? Where can we see their carvings as we travel?

SHOW AND TELL - We'll highlight the work of members each month - here's the first.



JERRY BOONE



Per Jerry's descriptions:

The torsos are based on Ian Norbury's book and videos; carved 2019-20.

The pair is from the same large piece of basswood from a Minnesota friend. My original plan was to have the male be a slightly warmer color than the female. A problem emerged as I carved the wood: a dark brown line emerged right in the butt crack. Rather than embarrass the poor guy, I opted to make the final color a much richer brown to hide the flaw. I ended up being pleased with the solution and I think that brown goes well with the gold.

The golden girl won third overall at the Oregon State Fair, and the pair took a blue ribbon and a first overall rosette in its division at the Desert Woodcarving Show in Mesa.

A friend of mine, an accomplished water color artist, looked at the female's perky breasts and the male's somewhat enhanced manliness and said I should name the pair "Wishful Thinking".

Wishful Thinking by Jerry Boone

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Nannie Dee by Jerry Boone

All of these were entered over the years in the Desert Woodcarvers Show in Mesa and did well.

The greenman and the giraffes were entered in my last year of being a novice in the show. The greenman won first place overall in the entire novice class (about 400 entries) while the giraffe piece finished second overall.

The colored harborside piece was based on photos I took in Venice a few years ago, on Burano, one of the two nearby islands. It is about 24 X 24. I used an old window frame in order to hide the fact it is made from three pieces of 8" wide basswood. The wood in the frames conceal the joints and allowed me to recess the piece a bit. Done in moderate relief, it is painted in oils. While the carving looked good in the natural wood, it needed paint in order to show the reflections. The color was a blessing and a curse. In the two shows it was entered, it finished second overall twice. In both cases the judges said the painting, while important to the presentation, took away from all the effort to carve it.

Nannie Dee, the figurehead, is modeled after the one on the Cutty Sark. I've seen the clipper ship twice while visiting England. I wanted to do it for a number of reasons. I had never done a full human figure. The ship is stunningly beautiful and represents an exciting time in maritime shipping. And because my heritage is Scottish, I wanted to do something that honors the craftsmen who built those magnificent vessels. She's made of 13 pieces of basswood and is finished in multiple coats of brushed on acrylic. She also took a blue ribbon and a first place rosette at the show in Mesa.

As an aside: The Burano work was among a trio of my carvings that were featured about two years ago in a full page spread in the British "Woodcarving" magazine.



Giraffe by Jerry Boone



Harborside in Venice by Jerry Boone



Greenman by Jerry Boone