

Prairie Canada News

February 2015

Gearing Up for Competition

The 29th Prairie Canada Carving Championship takes place at Canad Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg April 18 & 19, 2015. While the championship has incredible value as a public showcase for some of the finest carvings of wood, bone stone and antler in the country (along with wood turnings) it first and foremost is a competition. Carvers enter pieces which are judged by independent accomplished artists against like types of carvings/turnings. Pieces that place well are judged several times over until the best of the best ends up on a Best of Show table, ranked by skill level (novice, intermediate or open) and placed in bird or traditional carving categories. The notion of a competition is that it offers carvers the opportunity to get a reading of how well they are doing and receive one on one mentoring from judges during Sunday morning critiques. Rules chairman Don Young urges carvers of all skill level to seek feedback from judges and share their experiences with fellow carvers. You'll be the better for it. Here's some registration pointers from Don.



Registration runs from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm Friday, April 17 and an additional window for out of towners from 7:00 am to 8:00 am Saturday, April 18. All competition pieces must be delivered by hand. Entry forms can be registered in advance by mail. This allows you to complete the paperwork in advance and bring the carvings to a dedicated advance registration table at the show- skipping potential line-ups. Preregistered entry forms must be received by Don by Wednesday April 8. See page seven of the entry form for details. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.prairiecanadacarvers.com. There will be a \$100 prize draw for advanced registration.



Take the time to choose the correct category for your carving. We have over 55 categories in the competition. Please plan your carvings to fit a category. Carvings not fitting a category are placed under a catchall of miscellaneous. Category rules and descriptions are hopefully worded well enough to avoid any misunderstanding. If you are uncertain about any aspect of the entry form- after fully reading it and it is chock jam full of information- contact Don Young at bdyoung@mts.net or 1-204-489-0149.

Support the Show- Sell Carving Raffle Tickets

2015 raffle books are ready for distribution and we are seeking your help in selling tickets on three original hand-made carvings- a life-sized pine grosbeak by Harvey Welch of Saskatoon- the winner of the 2014 Razertip Industries Purchase Award, a miniature polar bear by Cliff Zarecki of Lac du Bonnet- donated in dedication to Robert Taylor and a western red juniper weed pot by Ted Muir. Prizes are awarded by enabling winning ticket holders to pick a carving of their choice in the order in which they were drawn (first drawn gets first choice, etc). Books of tickets sell for \$40 and tickets go for \$2 each or 3 for \$5.00. Contact Jean Mousseau (jeanm@mymts.net or 204-233-3158) for tickets. Tickets are drawn on the Sunday of the competition. Your help is greatly appreciated.

2015 Canad Inns Polo Park Room Bookings

Carvers attending the 2015 show and wanting a room at Canad Inns Polo Park will receive a discounted daily rate of \$115 (plus taxes) if booked before April 6 (reference # 238398). Canad Inns Polo Park is located at 1405 St Mathews Avenue, Winnipeg (204)775-8791 www.canadinns.com.

Prairie Canada Carvers' Association Inc: www.prairiecanadacarvers.com

Workshops

Prairie Canada hosts carving workshops at the Elmwood-East Kildonan Active Living Center on designated weekends (from 9:30am to 4:30pm) and evenings (from 7:00pm to 9:30pm). ALC is located at 180 Polar Avenue in Winnipeg behind Lord Selkirk School on Henderson Highway. Proceeds from the workshop (excluding material costs and feature guest instructor fees) go towards running the annual carving competition.

To register contact Tom McCormack at 204-253-0885 or tpmccormack@shaw.ca. Registrations are first come first served; class size is limited. Power carving equipment can be made available to carvers for a nominal fee. Dust collectors are also available for all power carving classes. Supply lists and other details are sent out in advance of workshops.



ALC wood working shop

Another Rusty Nail Shorebird– Sunday March 22

Instructor– Ted Muir; Cost \$60 plus \$5 equipment rental if applicable; learn to power carve a natural finish rusty nail shorebird out of butternut; no experience necessary .

A Sweet Snowy Egret - Mondays March 16 & 23 (evenings)

Instructor– Ted Muir,; Cost \$25; learn the basics of power carving and make a miniature natural finish rusty nail snowy egret—designed for the novice carve.; all tools provided

Wally the Walleye –May 9 & 10; May 6, 13 & 20th evenings

Instructor—Jean Mousseau: Cost \$160; carve and paint a 12 inch walleye. Some power carving experience would be useful.



ALC November 2014 students

Power the Flower—dates to be announced in March newsletter

Instructor– Brock Love; Power carve and paint a full size morning glory

Upcoming Competitions— more details to be announced in our March newsletter

April 10 & 11– Pacific Brant Carving and Art Show , Sidney, Vancouver Island

April 10 & 11– Red River Valley International Wood Arts Festival, Fargo, North Dakota

April 24 to 26– Ward World Championships, Ocean City, Maryland

May 1 to 3– Alberta Wildlife Carving Show and Competition

Early May– Oak Hammock Marsh Decoy Competition

Oak Hammock Marsh Duck Decoy Workshops

The Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild offers working duck decoy carving workshops at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. To register contact Cathy Wasserman at Oak Hammock Marsh at 204-467-3300.

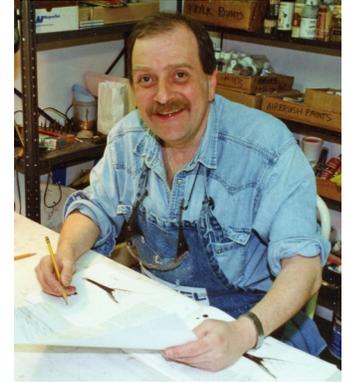
Students learn to carve and paint a cork working duck decoy –all Sundays. The last workshop of the winter series will be March 1, 8 and 15 and entail the making of a drake common goldeneye.



OHM canvasback decoy students

Remembering Jim Roberts

Jim Roberts was passionate about wood carving and thrived on bringing new carvers into the fold. His desire to capture a likeness in fish and ducks, amongst other things, was infectious and many a carver who got started with Jim remembers him for his generosity and enthusiasm. Jim ran carving workshops for a number of years through continuing education with the Winnipeg Louis Riel School Division. He also offered workshops in his Norwood home basement and enjoyed wrapping up a course with a barbecue in his backyard. He served briefly on the board of Prairie Canada Carvers Association and sponsored a fish carving competition with PCCA.



Upon retiring from Manitoba Public Insurance as a claims supervisor Jim and wife Jill moved to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island where he continued to carve and offer workshops. He passed away January 22, 2015 from blood clots in femoral arteries. He was 63.

The Dirt on Dust (collection that is)

by Ted Muir- past chairman PCCA

Because I power carve upwards of 60 natural finish shorebirds a year, most of which are coaxed out of salvaged trees, I make a lot of dust. And wood dust is a bad thing if not managed properly. It can be hazardous to your health if inhaled and makes for an unsafe work environment—never mind the dust cloud that makes its way into living quarters and draws the ire of your spouse.

Like many power carvers I have gone the frugal route and fashioned a mishmash of dust collectors – some of which work well and others not so well. A unit that does work well for the power carver is the portable table top dust collector. Prairie Canada made a variety of these for its workshops. While we have no plans for the collector the adjoining photographs should help you in making one.

The collector is a box (approximately 21 inches long, 11 inches high and 6 inches deep) built to accommodate a 10 inch by 20 inch furnace filter. Box dimensions will vary depending on the size filter and wood used. You want to build the box so the filter fits snugly into the opening, from the front. You will need to be able to clean and eventually replace the filter, so make it easy to install and remove. I often seal the edges of the filter with masking tap to ensure that all the sucked air passes through the filter. Another useful trick (borrowed from Jack Yellowlees) is to place 1/4 inch wire mesh over the front of the filter so you can suck out dust with your shop vacuum and not damage filter fibers.

The fans mounted in the back of the box exhaust air, thereby creating negative air pressure in the front. They are the most critical part of the whole unit. Powerful fans are hard to come by— computer fans do not have the power nor are they compatible with typical household outlets. The fans purchased by Prairie Canada came from Princess Auto as salvages items. The folding plexiglass wings on the front of the box are essential as they funnel the air flow. Plexiglas can be mounted to a piano hinge and allows light to flow onto the work surface.

My advice to serious power carvers is to do yourself a huge favour and purchase a commercial dust collector and/or dust collecting system. Systems are carried by PCCA sponsors Canadian Woodworker, Lee Valley Tools, Razertip Industries and Professional Grinding. Commercial table top units have great suction power and come with filters that hold dust and clean out easily. In the long run you will save yourself money and time. Forget this business of gerrymandering furnace fans and all other sorts of recycled scrap into dust collectors. If you have any questions or great ideas for collectors contact me at tedmuir@mymts.net or 204-237-1385.

