

Prairie Canada News

May 2016

30th Carving Championship a Success

The 2016 Prairie Canada Carving Championship was held April 16 & 17 at Canad Inns Polo Park and attracted 269 wood, bone, stone and antler carvings from 93 carvers. This year's special feature exhibits, totaling 60 carvings, comprised the work of Jack Motyer and the late Dr. Harold Stuart Evans. Thanks to Jack and the Evans family for sharing your work.

An exemplary slate of judges were once again put to the test— thanks goes out to Garry Eekhoudt, Ray England, Jeff Krete, Sylvain Marin, Jean Minaudier, Randy Mooi, Sean Nicol, Brian Parker, Peter Sawatzky, Jill Towne, Larry Vanderhyde and Murray Watson. Members of Les Gens de Bois Woodcarving Club, Adanac Carvers Association, the Woodturners Association of Manitoba, the Oak Hammock Marsh Carvers Guild and the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre captivated the interests of visitors, adding to the ambiance of the show. Canadian Woodworker and Copperfield Books sold their wares as did Janet Cruse with her wonderful wood creations. Murray Watson manned another full display of carvings on the for sale table. A hearty note of gratitude also goes out to the 27 sponsors and supporters who make the show possible (see last page). Congratulations to Bob Dawson of St. Francis Xavier, MB for winning the 2015 Razertip Industries carving of a black-capped chickadee by Harvey Welch of Saskatoon.

Volunteers are the backbone of any competition and not enough praise can be lavished upon the scores of folks who make Prairie Canada a success. Students from College Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau once again helped keep the show running smoothly, selling merchandise, raffle tickets and show passes. And of course a slew of volunteers supported the ever so important judging deliberations. The 2015/16 board of directors worked tirelessly for most of the year to host the competition along with numerous workshops— kudos to Lynda Baxter, Dennis Brown, Susan Cowtan, Doug Danell, John Frye, Tom McCormack, Jean Mousseau, Tom Park, Evelyn Strempler, Ted Muir and Don Young. Prabir Mitra and Paul Giasson rejoined the board this year- much to our delight.

Jeff Krete of Cambridge, Ontario offered an excellent four day session on carving a miniature pintail drake in flight. Jeff capped the Saturday award's banquet with an illustrated presentation on the making of his remarkable carving *Anatomy of Flight*. Sunday morning seminars were well received with Jean Mousseau instructing on the use of creative ways to enhance painting and Tom Park making small flowers and leaves. Louise Reilly captivated an audience with a demonstration on the art of wood burning.

2017 PCCA Championship dates have been changed to **April 22 and 23** to avoid a conflict with the Pacific Brant Festival offered in early April. Please note the changes in your 2017 calendar.

Thank you show entrants for your continued support. Keep your edges sharp and have a great summer.



Fighting Bald Eagles by Bill Nitzsche
3rd Best of Show Traditional Open
People's Choice Award and Carver's Choice
Award



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



30th Anniversary Highlights

2016 marks the 30th anniversary of the Prairie Canada Carving Championship— quite the accomplishment. To help mark this milestone we are in the final stage of completing a 30th anniversary publication of our remarkable history and accomplishments. Past chair Ted Muir has written and designed the publication which we are targeting for release later this summer. Ted is in the perfect position to spearhead this initiative as a co-founder of Prairie Canada Carvers' Association and one who has served on the board for 30 continuous years, acting mostly as chair but also performing a wide range of activities. His expertise in areas of writing and public relations have served this organization admirably. Ted's longevity with the board is only matched by Peter Sawatzky who has judged competition birds since the show's inception. Peter has left his mark through his many workshops and wonderful bronze best of show awards and the *carver's award of excellence*. Well done.



The list of board members and carving community volunteers who have contributed to the success of the Association is long and impressive. Foremost amongst them are two sitting board members Tom Park and Don Young. Tom has served on the board for 16 years in a number of capacities—currently my co-chair— and is highly regarded for his commitment to advancing the art form through an impressive list of workshops and continuous mentoring of carvers. His expertise in making habitats for carvings and sharing those techniques with carvers has gone a long way in pushing the envelope of excellence. He has shared his knowledge on a national level through numerous articles published in *Wildfowl Carving Magazine*. Don Young brings 19 years of service to the Association many as rules chair. As such he pretty much puts together the bones of the competition— updating rules, finding judges, entering registrations, compiling results, etc. He also coordinates the special exhibits and the Sunday morning seminars. No small feat. Don is a creative carver and very much an idea guy - pitching the notion of a 20th anniversary pattern book and the 30th anniversary decorative duck head competition.

Of worthy mention are the many other fine folks who have served on the associations board for ten years or more- Wade Benjaminson, Doug Danell, Garry Eekhoudt, Ida McKenzie, Jean Mousseau, Bill Palmer, Jack Yellowlees and Larry Vanderhyde. The full list of volunteer board members is one of the items covered in the 30th anniversary publication. Thanks to you all.

Lynda Baxter

Decorative Duck Head Competition

The 30th anniversary duck head completion was a resounding success, attracting 37 entries. Every head was outstanding. Thanks to all. Winners were chosen by public ballot.

Best lifelike greenhead— Ernie Fox

Most creative head: 1st Brian Parker, 2nd Tom Park and 3rd Doreen Green

Best head 11 to 16 years of age: 1st Margaret Garbel, 2nd Daniel Taplin and 3rd Doreen Light

Best head 10 years of age and under: 1st Mia LaChance, 2nd Alex LaChance and 3rd Hailey Strike



Brian Parker



Tom Park



Margaret Garbel

2016 Winners Circle– Best of Show & Purchase Awards

Bird Carvers– Best of Show

Open 1st: Austin Eade, Craig, SK– Baltimore oriole
2nd: Austin Eade– American kestrel
3rd: Doug Carson, Neepawa, MB– spotted sandpiper

Intermediate 1st: Susan Cowtan, Winnipeg– canvasback hen
2nd: Susan Cowtan– greater scaup
3rd: Cynthia Roth, Bottineau, ND– American robin

Novice 1st: Gerald Lukianchuk, Keewatin– belted kingfisher
2nd: Gerald Lukianchuk– red-necked phalarope
3rd: Richard Roy, Elie, MB– canvasback drake

Traditional Carvers- Best of Show

Open 1st: Carl Robblee, Swan River, MB– tiger trout
2nd: Bert Bodnaruk, Winnipeg-cowboy and horse
3rd: Bill Nitzsche, Winnipeg- bald eagles

Intermediate 1st: Steve Boechler, Saskatoon– dragon
2nd: Perry Kon, Pinawa, MB– coral reef intarsia
3rd: Perry Kon– dragon intarsia

Novice 1st: Les Kormilo, St. Andrews, MB - wasps and hive
2nd: Gerald Dufresne, Kenora - landscape relief
3rd: Wayne Soder, St. Anne, MB– horse relief

Cocktail Best of Show Austin Eade– American avocet

1st ducks, geese, swans: Lee Garbel, Williston, ND – greater scaup
1st traditional carvings : Carl Robblee– tiger trout

Purchase Awards

Morgan Whiteway BOSS: Reg Plett, Winnipeg– Cochenour, ON– bufflehead drake
Richard Whittom Duck Head: Frank McFarlane, Winnipeg– spectacled eider drake
Jim Richardson Antique Decoy: Ross Gage, Winnipeg, bluebill drake
Tory Neald Natural Finish Wildlife: Ray Minaudier, St. Claude, MB- maple burl bear

People's Choice Award sponsored by Les Gens de Bois Woodcarving Club and

Carver's Choice Award sponsored by Adanac Carvers Association: Bill Nitzsche– fighting bald eagles :

Don Phalen Memorial Award-Best Novice Working Decoy sponsored by Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild:

Gerald Lukianchuk– red-necked phalarope

Prairie Canada Junior Award

1st: Chaz Ricard, mariapolis, MB– whimsical house
2nd: Birkley Ross, Lac du Bonnet, MB– dolphin

Cowboy and Horse by Bert Bodnaruk
2nd Best of Show-Open Traditional



Coral Reef Intarsia by Perry Kon
2nd Best of Show Intermediate



Spotted Sandpiper by Doug Carson
3rd Best of Show Birds Open



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- Lynda Baxter
- Dennis Brown
- Susan Cowtan
- Doug Danell
- John Frye
- Paul Giasson
- Tom McCormack
- Prabir Mitra
- Jean Mousseau
- Ted Muir
- Tom Park
- Evelyn Strempler
- Don Young

Upcoming 2016 Carving Events

September 17 & 18: Oak Hammock Marsh Duck Decoy Carving Competition.. The 2016 competition will be named the Dr. Frank Baldwin Memorial Decoy Competition in recognition of Frank’s longstanding and significant contribution to decoy carving in Manitoba. Contact John Frye at jfrye@cc.umanitoba.ca or 204-888-8272

October 21 to 23: Reflections of Nature Wildlife Art Competition, Saskatoon Prairieland Park Hall C; Reuben Unger–feature 2016 artist. Contact Beth Campbell at Campbell.beth@gmail.com or 306-260-3408

Wheat City Carvers Show cancelled for 2016



Dr. Frank Baldwin Style Bluebill Drake
by Ross Gage
Jim Richardson Antique Duck Decoy Purchase Award

2017

April 22 & 23: Prairie Canada Carving Championship- Canad Inns Polo Park Winnipeg

Auction Raises Much Needed Funds– Thanks for the support

The Sunday afternoon auction of cocktail carvings and other carving donations raised \$2,030 for the competition. Thanks to cocktail entrants: Iris Bidinosti, Austin Eade, Ernie Fox, Lee Garbel, Ray Minaudier, Ray & Jean Minaudier, Bill Nitzsche, Tom Park, Connie Rector, Garry Rector, Carl Robblee, Jack Yellowlees and Don Young. Other auction items were donated by Jeff Krete, Frank MacFarlane, Ray Minaudier and Wes Tully. An additional \$331 was made on the sale of donated decorative duck heads– thanks to donations from Susan Cowtan, Laurie Dufresne, Ernie Fox, Lee Garbel, Gordon Kanne, Doreen Light, Marie Minaudier, Bill Nitzsche, Tom Park, Richard Whittom and Don Young.

We thank all the carvers for their generosity.



American Avocet by Austin Eade
Best of Show Cocktail



Decorative Duck Head by Doreen Light
3rd Most Creative

Tiger Trout by Carl Robblee
1st Best of Show Traditional Cocktail



2016 PCCA Sponsors and Partners

Gold (\$1000 plus)

Manitoba Arts Council

Silver (\$500 to \$999)

Morgan Whiteway BOSS Purchase Award
Jim Richardson Canadian Antique Duck Decoy Purchase Award
Razertip Industries Purchase Award
Tory Neald Natural Finish Wildlife Purchase Award

Bronze (\$200 to \$499)

Adanac Carvers Association- Carver's Choice Award
Artists Emporium
Cabela's
Canad Inns Polo Park
Canadian Woodworker
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Lee Valley Tools
Les Gens de Bois Woodcarving Club- People's Choice Award
Manitoba Wildlife Federation
Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild- Don Phalen Memorial Award
ODTAA- Janet Cruise Carvings
Preferred Perch
Professional Grinding
Richard Whittom- Duck Head Purchase Award
Robert Bosch Inc- Dremel Tools
Ted Muir -Shorebird Purchase Award
Truserv
Windsor Plywood
Wildfowl Carving Magazine
Woodturners Association of Manitoba

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Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre



Bear Burl by Ray Minaudier
Tory Neald Natural Finish Wildlife Purchase Award



Belted Kingfisher by Gerald Lukianchuk
1st Best of Show Birds Novice



Dragon by Steve Boechler
1st Best of Show Traditional
Intermediate



Wasps and Hive by Les Kormillo
1st Best of Show Traditional
Novice