

Prairie Canada News

May 2017

31st Carving Championship a Resounding Success

The 2017 Prairie Canada Carving Championship was held April 22 & 23 at Pembina Curling Club in Winnipeg and attracted 276 wood, bone, stone and antler carvings from 108 carvers and turners. The 2017 slate of feature exhibits showcased the exemplary talent of Gordon Kanne of Selkirk with 12 personal carvings and DeAnn Holmes of Seddons Corner with nine personal chain saw and working duck decoy pieces. Richard Whittom of Balmoral rounded off the exhibit with 14 decorative duck heads from his collection of purchase awards. Great work everyone.

Judges were put to the test once again on the Saturday with the high caliber and sheer number of entries— thanks goes out to John Babaluk, Gary Eekhoudt, Ray England, Gary Foidart, Lee Garbel, Sylvain Marin, Jean Minaudier, Randy Mooi, Shawn Nicol, Brian Parker, Peter Sawatzky, Larry Vanderhyde and Murray Watson. Members of Les Gens de Bois Woodcarving Club, Adanac Carvers Association with a children's corner for sandpaper carving, the Woodturners Association of Manitoba, the Oak Hammock Marsh Carvers Guild, the Manitoba Fly Fishers Association, and the Manitoba Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Organization captivated the interests of visitors, adding to the ambiance of the show. Canadian Woodworker staff were once again on hand to sell equipment. And accolades go out to the many sponsors and supporters who backed the show.

Volunteers are the backbone of any competition and not enough praise can be lavished upon the many volunteers that make Prairie Canada the outstanding success it is. The 2017 board of directors worked tirelessly to host the competition along with numerous workshops— kudos to Lynda Baxter, Dennis Brown, Susan Cowtan, Doug Danell, John Frye, Paul Giasson, Tom McCormack, Jean Mousseau, Prabir Mitra, Tom Park, Evelyn Strempler and Don Young.

The 2017 array of competition workshops was varied and well attended, attracting 29 women and 35 men. Three days of workshops included habitat design and construction with Tom Park, wood spirit carving by Paul Giasson, quilting— English paper piercing with Marie Minaudier, wood burning with Louise Reilly, bronze finishing by Doug Danell, introduction to chain saw carving with Russ Kubara and fish painting by Jean Mousseau. The Saturday evening award banquet was a resounding success and saw the presentation of the 10 year director service award to John Frye and the Carvers Award of Excellence to Ted Muir. Judge Randy Mooi, a director of the Manitoba Museum of Nature, capped the banquet with an illustrated presentation on the life history and extinction of the passenger pigeon.

John Frye picked up the first place raffle carving prize of a miniature pintail drake donated by Jeff Krete and the second prize Pacific white-sided dolphin sponsored by Razertip Industries. The third prize of another white-sided dolphin went to Bruce Cameron. Both dolphins originated from the collection of the late Bonnie Trodden and were painted by Don Young.

Mark your calendars: the 2018 Prairie Canada Carving Championship will be held April 16 and 17 at the Pembina Curling Club, Winnipeg. See you there.

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



**Common Redpoll by Tom Park
Razertip Industries Purchase Award
2018 PCCA Raffle Carving**

The Co-chairs Take on Championship 2017

The 2017 Prairie Canada Carving championship was a wonderful success and we are all extremely pleased with the new venue— the Pembina Curling club. On the very first day the feedback from carvers was positive and it continued right on through the competition. The large well-lit open space of the curling rink allowed us to do a few things differently. With the ability to hold workshops on site, we were able to offer a record number of workshops and had the most workshop registrations ever. The space also worked well for the judges and all the contributing carving organizations and special exhibit presenters. Thanks to all of the workshop presenters for your enthusiasm and willingness to help others grow and prosper. Thank you and congratulations to all the sponsors, supporters and entrants for a wonderful show! Our new friends at the Pembina Curling Club were also very welcoming and supportive throughout the weekend. With a few tweaks we think we can make the 2018 competition even better.

Competitions of this magnitude can only happen through the support of a large number of volunteers who set up and take down the fixings of a competition, staff all the sales tables, work with the judges ferrying carvings around, entering judging data, and on it goes. There were times however where we could have used even more volunteers. If you had a good time at the show, and could see yourself helping out in future, please let us know- send a message to the website or chat with a Board member and we will add your name to our list. A special thanks also goes out to fellow members of the Prairie Canada board of directors for their willingness to contribute countless hours to facilitate the planning and execution of another first class carving competition.

The 31st Championship brought with it our first ever Mid Canada Fish Carving Championship. It got off to a great start with 24 entries (five from the United States) plus one new award— the Dennis Brown/Wendy Ralley Any Spawning Trout Purchase Award. The competition also featured a fun bluegill fish painting challenge which drew 11 entries along with the appearance of “The Donald” fish. Winners were selected by public ballot. 2017 also saw the introduction of an annual Junior Cash Award offered by Cliff Zarecki.

In light of the recent work by *Canadian Geographic* to designate the gray jay as Canada’s official bird emblem we are planning on featuring the jay as a special competition bird in 2018. Although details have yet to be finalized, entries might well include gray jay representation in the round, in relief, wood burning, intarsia or other types of work. Start thinking of how you can capture the jay in art. If you have any great ideas please pass them along. Details will be announced fall of 2017. In the meantime we hope you have a wonderful relaxing summer. See you back at the Pembina Curling club April 16 & 17, 2018.

Lynda Baxter and Tom Park

2017 Carver’s Award of Excellence Recipient

The Prairie Canada Carvers’ Association was pleased to present Ted Muir of Winnipeg with the *Carver’s Award of Excellence* for achievements in promoting and engendering the art of carving. Peter Sawatzky of Glenboro, Manitoba crafted the special *Carver’s* bronze award and presented it to Ted April 22 at the awards banquet.

Ted Muir cofounded the Prairie Canada Decoy Carving Competition in 1987 and in doing so helped elevate competitive wood carving in Manitoba to national acclaim. Over the past 31 years Ted served on the executive of the Prairie Canada Carvers Association in a number of key roles including chairperson, fund raiser, publicity coordinator, archival coordinator, competition and workshop photographer and secretary. His full page profiles of Prairie Canada carvers have appeared in nine recent issues of *Wildfowl Carving Competition Magazine*. His infectious enthusiasm for carving and exceptional communication skills stood the Association in good stead over its 31 year history. He recently completed a 38 page illustrated document of the history of the Association from 1987 to 2016.

Over the past 10 years Ted has donated over 600 original carvings to Manitoba wildlife conservation organization fund-raising events, raising thousands of dollars for local conservation efforts. His donations to date set a record for any Manitoba carver. He also contributes to a number of charitable social organizations.

Ted entered the carving fold crafting working duck decoys, but quickly found his niche in designing an original design for rusty nail shorebirds. His natural finish shorebirds come in various sizes and styles, but all carry a signature beak fashioned from an antique square nail. He also offers shorebird power carving workshops throughout the year. “Ted’s long standing service to the Manitoba carving community is exemplary and worthy of recognition,” said Lynda Baxter, co-chair of the Association.



2017 Winners Circle– Best of Show Awards

Bird Carvers– Best of Show

Open 1st: Austin Eade, Craig, SK– pine grosbeak female
2nd: Reuben Unger, Clavet, SK– Cooper’s hawk
3rd: Susan Cowtan, Winnipeg, MB– green-winged teal hen

Intermediate 1st: Cheryl Laschuk, Seddons Corner, MB– American crow
2nd: Gerald Lukianchuk, Keewatin, ON– ruby throated hummingbird male
3rd: Prabir Mitra, Winnipeg, MB– common loon

Novice 1st: Carrie Braden, Portage la Prairie, MB - bufflehead drake
2nd: Carrie Braden– ruddy duck drake
3rd: Carrie Braden– miniature northern pintail drake



**1st Place Best of Show Novice Birds
by Carrie Braden**

Traditional Carvers- Best of Show

Open 1st: Bill Nitzsche, Seven Sisters, MB– stylized bird family
2nd: Shirley Lawrence, Winnipeg– common loon
3rd: Bert Bodnaruk, Winnipeg– caricature chef

Intermediate 1st: Gerald Lukianchuk– firebird mask
2nd: Barry Konzelman, St. Andrews– KU-Hawaiian god of war
3rd: Gwen Coates, Morris, MB– country scene pyrography

Novice 1st: William Novak, Winnipeg- stylized swan
2nd: Gerry Llewellyn , Winnipeg- whimsical house
3d: Louise Reilly, Winnipeg– memory home pyrography

Cocktail Carvers Best of Show

Carl Robblee, Swan River, MB– rainbow trout
1st shorebirds/songbirds/birds of prey: Tom Park, Winnipeg– American flamingo
1st waterfowl: Susan Cowtan– redhead hen
1st traditional carvings: Murray Watson– Canada goose



**1st Place Intermediate Best of Show
Traditional by Gerald Lukianchuk**

Mid Canada Fish Carvers Best of Show

Open 1st: Carl Robblee– Kem River rainbow trout
2nd: James Thalacker, Weslaco, TX– tarpon
3rd: Dale Kotowsky, Brandon, MB– yellow perch

Intermediate 1st: Evelyn Strempler, Winnipeg– brook trout
2nd: Lynda Baxter, Winnipeg– pumpkinseed fish
3rd: Doug Danell, Winnipeg– brown trout

Novice 1st: Dennis Brown, Winnipeg– pumpkinseed fish
2nd: Dennis Brown– brown trout
3rd: Norbert Dupas, Oakbank, MB– pumpkinseed fish



Best Creative Bluegill by Tom Park

Bluegill Fish Painting Challenge

Best realistic– Don Young
Best creative– Tom Park
Juniors– Eva Lachance and Mira Lachance

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

2017 Winners Circle– Purchase/cash Awards

- Razertip Industries Raffle Piece Award:** Tom Park– common redpoll
- Morgan Whiteway BOSS:** Ray Minaudier, St. Claude, MB– ring-necked drake
- Richard Whittom Duck Head:** Susan Cowtan– canvasback hen
- Jim Richardson Antique Canadian Decoy:** Susan Cowtan– W.J. Crawford bluebill
- Dennis Brown/Wendy Ralley Any Spawning Trout Award:** Dale Kotowsky, Brandon, MB– brook trout
- People’s Choice Award** sponsored by Les Gens de Bois Woodcarving Club: Bill Nitzsche– stylized bird family
- Carver’s Choice Award** sponsored by Adanac Carvers Association: Ray Minaudier- cinnamon teal pair
- Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild-Don Phalen Memorial Award:** Carrie Braden– buffle-head drake
- Prairie Canada Junior Cash Award** sponsored by Cliff Zarecki: Birkley Ross, Lac du Bonnet, MB– rusty nail shorebird



Dennis Brown/Wendy Ralley Purchase Brook Trout by Dale Kotowsky

Auction Raises Much Needed Funds– Thanks for the Support

The Sunday afternoon auction of cocktail carvings and other carving donations raised \$2,135 for the competition. The total number of carvings and amount raised was up from last year and the caliber of the pieces remained outstanding.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to cocktail competition carvers Lynda Baxter, Iris Bidinosti, Susan Cowtan, Austin Eade, Paul Giasson, Gordon Kanne, Bill Nitzsche, Tom Park, Gary Petriw, Carl Robblee, Reuben Unger, Murray Watson and Don Young. We also received income from carvings donated by Mel Bodnaruk, Bob Corriveau, Lee Garbel, Larry Weslake, the Woodturners Association of Manitoba and Larry Vanderhyde. Auction proceeds top up Association coffers for next year’s competition and we thank carvers for their generosity. Please keep giving. A special accolade goes out to our auctioneer Jack Kowalchuk for his valued service.



1st Place Cocktail Waterfowl by Susan Cowtan—Redhead Hen



1st Place Cocktail Traditional by Murray Watson– Canada Goose



Best of Show Cocktail by Carl Robblee Rainbow Trout

30th Anniversary Prairie Canada Publication Available

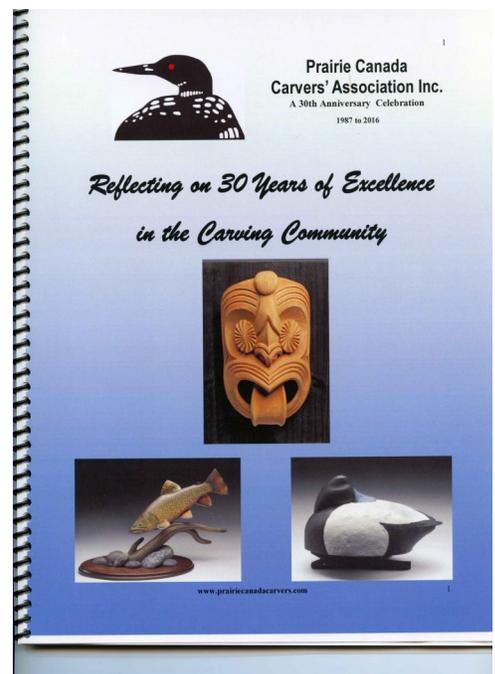
The historical review of the accomplishments of the Prairie Canada Carvers' Association has been printed and is available as a collectors item for \$15. Copies can be obtained by contacting Lynda Baxter at lyndabaxter0@gmail.com or calling 294-791-5405.

Reflecting on 30 Years of Excellence in the Carving Community follows the accomplishments of the Association from its humble beginnings in 1987 as a decoy carving competition to a full blown highly regarded continental championship that includes just about any conceivable carving made of wood, bone, stone and antler, along with wood turnings.

The full colour 38 page publication, written and designed by co-founder and past chairperson Ted Muir, lays out the origins of the competition and the importance of volunteers and sponsors in keeping it going. It includes a profile of *Champion Doers* who helped grow the competition and the workshop program from 1987 to 2016. It also includes the profiles of the 13 carvers featured in *Wildfowl Carving Competition Magazine* from 2003 to 2016. It lists all workshops, board member terms, judge terms, sponsors and supporters, carving raffle donors, cocktail carving donors, choice award recipients and awards program recipients.

The document also contains snippets of excellence—for example: Jack Yellowlees of Winnipeg carved and donated 64 cocktail waterfowl carvings to the competition between 1994 and 2016, raising \$4,477 for Prairie Canada coffers; Peter Sawatzky judged every competition since its inception 30 year ago; Bill Nitzsche of Barrier Bay has earned the distinction of winning a record five choice awards— Gordon Kanne of Selkirk comes in second with three; Dave Koss as raffle ticket coordinator, along with his cadre of volunteers, raised a record \$8,265 in 2009/10; Harvey Welch and Bob Lavender both of Saskatoon share the distinction of having had four of their carvings chosen as raffle pieces; Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Manitoba Wildlife Federation and Cabela's sponsored the competition for 29 years; in 30 years the carving competition budget blossomed from \$1,233 to \$14, 657; over the past 30 years 81 different experts have judged at the competition; 79 carvers have served on the board of directors— Ted Muir for all 30; and on its goes.

Prairie Canada thanks *Razertip Printing and Copying* for the excellent work in reproducing this one of a kind document.



A sample of publication images



Jack Motyer with Special Exhibit
Santa Carvings



Bird Judges Jean Minaudier, Peter
Sawatzky and Bob Taylor



Neil Cox Face Carving Workshop