

Prairie Canada News

February, 2011

25th Anniversary Celebrations Underway

The 2011 Prairie Canada Carving Championship will be held at **Canad Inns Polo Park, March 26 & 27, 2011** bringing together some of the best carvings on the continent under one roof for the 25th consecutive year. To help celebrate this landmark accomplishment the Prairie Canada Carvers' Association is producing a commemorative pattern book featuring work of distinguished carvers who have participated in the show over the years. The 11 by 17 inch coil bound book will feature in excess of 25 traditional and bird carving patterns. The anniversary publication will sell for the discounted price of \$25 at the show and for the show only include a CD of photographs of American avocets taken by Ted Muir. Carvers who wish to take advantage of the limited edition purchase should reserve a book through Tom Park at tpark@mts.net.

The Association will also be selling a selection of items to celebrate its accomplishments. Its logo will be featured prominently on merchandise such as T-shirts, caps, crests and lapel pins- all for a reasonable price.

Workshops and Seminars

Carvers are encouraged to register for workshops and seminars as soon as possible. The three day Pat Godin workshop is full. Space is still available for the three day Byron Crabb miniature pouncing coyote carving workshop (see accompanying photograph) being offered March 28th to 30th at Lee Valley Tools Winnipeg. Register with Lee Valley Tools by calling (204) 779-7467. ***This course is being offered at the new reduced price of \$200.*** The Association, in recognizing tough economic times, has adjusted the fee to afford carvers the opportunity to benefit from Byron's vast carving experience. Carvers are already registered and the course is proceeding- so register now.

Room is still available for the Pat Godin hen feather painting seminar on the evening of March 25th and Teom Lim's fish carving and habitat making seminars on the evening of March 25 and the morning of March 27 respectively. All these events are being held at Canad Inns Polo Park; register with Don Young at (204) 489-0149 or e-mail bdyoung@mts.net. Course details (October 2010 newsletter) can be downloaded from the website or by contacting Bonnie Trodden at trodden@shaw.ca or (204) 257-2978. Copies of course forms can be obtained from www.prairiecanadacarvers.com.

Banquet Tickets

The 25th anniversary banquet promises to be a memorable event. Join us for an evening of merriment and celebration. We'll recognize best of show winners and the 2011 Award of Excellence recipient. As a special treat we'll hear from our fish judge Teom Lim on being scientifically creative in carving and we'll take a walk down memory lane by displaying competition images from the past 25 years. **The deadline for purchasing banquet tickets is March 22.** Register with Don Young.

Hotel Accommodations

Carvers attending the 2011 show will receive a discounted rate of \$105 (plus taxes) per night from Canad Inns Polo Park (reference Prairie Canada Carvers when booking a room). The hotel is located at 1405 St Mathews Avenue, Winnipeg (204) 775-8791 www.canadinns.com



Miniature pouncing coyote by
Byron Crabb

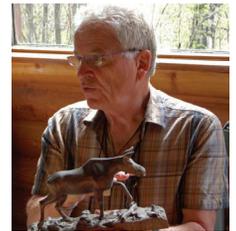
Prairie Canada Carvers' Association Inc: www.prairiecanadacarvers.com

Sunday Seminar Series Promises to be a Huge Hit

Given the success of last year's free Sunday seminar series we are repeating the experience with a whole new set of instructors and topics. Seminars will be offered Sunday, March 27 in the prefunction area just outside competition showrooms. No registration is required— just show up and be prepared to enjoy the experience. Sessions are approximately 45 minutes long.

9:00 am— Byron Crabb: Bones and Other Points of Interest- a Carver's Delight

Byron will be using his companion black Labrador Raven as a model to help us understand practical artistic anatomy that needs to be understood and applied to make animal carvings "look right". Byron is veterinarian by profession and often uses Raven in illustrating carving anatomy and talking about some of the common problem areas carvers encounter.



10:00 am— Ray England: Decoys of Manitoba and the Prairies

Ray will present a history of decoying on the prairies, accompanied by rare photographs and an exclusive collection of vintage decoys. Ray has been instrumental in helping establish a collection of historic decoys at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. Ray is a working duck judge at Prairie Canada and the Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Show.

11:00 am- Gordon Kanne: Plexiglas Eyes

Gordon will demonstrate a method to create custom made bird's eyes using acrylic and paints. Hard to get colours, colour textures and sizes can be produced using a little artistic ability and a specific technique. Gordon carves with the Selkirk Catfish Carvers Club and won the PCCA People's Choice Award in 2008 for his miniature jumping red fox.



12:00 Noon— Shawn Nicol: Carving Bark Houses –Start to Finish

Shawn will demonstrate the components of whimsical cottages carved in bark. He will cover details of a) planning and setting them up, b) inserting the elements that contribute to the fantasy such as roof shapes, masonry and stairs and c) finishing and preserving the carving. Shawn is a PCCA board member and carves with Les Gens de Bois. Shawn led a session last year on carving golf balls.

Sunday Critiques a Skill and Confidence Building Experience

Entries are vital to the continued success of every carving competition. While not every carver is comfortable offering his/her work for others to judge, they benefit immensely from free critiques offered by show judges on Sunday from 9:30 am to noon. Simply sign up for a critique at the speakers podium and we will put you and your judge of choice together. Select as many judges as you please. Judges are excellent at letting you know what you did well and where you can improve with some facet of your work. The feedback you receive from show judges is invaluable. See you at the show.



Calling All Volunteers– Help us Serve Your Show

This is your chance to contribute to the 2011 carving championship and let those skills you have been closeting away come out and express themselves. We need a few good men and women to help make this show a success- so contact Jean Mousseau at (204) 233-3158 or jeanm@mymts.net. Sign up for one or more shifts and have some fun along the way. On the job training is provided free of charge. Scheduling is extremely flexible. Remuneration consists of a heartfelt and sincere thank you. We will provide all the water you can drink. *Out of town applicants accepted with open arms.* Call Jean now.

Here's how you can help

Admission and Sales Table Associates

Attributes: Gregarious; no prior experience required, just a happy face and willingness to handle unwashed coins and some slightly discoloured bills.

Duties: Welcoming visitors to the show, answering any questions they may have and collecting entrance fees. Lifting duties are limited to handling pens, ticket stubs and lots of coins. If you would prefer to oversee show merchandise and raffle tables we can accommodate your interests as well.

Plenty of good shifts are still available for both Saturday and Sunday. Shifts start at 9:00 am and are divided in blocks of 75 minutes. The last shift ends at 4:00 pm.



Runners and Recorders

Attributes: Must be able to commit to the judging process for the full Saturday. Sturdy sensible footwear required– you will be standing for much of the day. Runners and recorders will often hear judge's comments but do not provide any input to the judging process or comment on judge's remarks to carvers or the general public.

Runner's duties: Move individual carvings from the display risers to the judges' tables and back again.

Recorder's duties: Keep track of category winners. Handwriting must be legible. Forms, pens and clip boards provided



If you have helped out as a runner or recorder in the past, and you would be willing to do so again, we would like to accommodate you. If you are new to these functions, we would like to find a place for you. Please bear in mind that these positions fill up fast, therefore we may not be able to fulfill all requests.

The Call is Out for a Raffle Ticket Coordinator

Our intrepid raffle ticket coordinator Dave Koss is stepping down after many years of extraordinary service with Prairie Canada and we are searching for a replacement. This is a key volunteer position with the organization, bringing in much-needed funds to support the show. The coordinator has at her/his disposal a committed crew of ticket sale volunteers. His/her primary role is to coordinate the logistics of selling tickets at Lee Valley tools on Saturdays from mid fall to early spring. We also attend the Boat show at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. This is an exciting and fulfilling volunteer position. Please share nominations with Ted Muir. *If you have outstanding raffle tickets please get them into Dave.*



Carving Images Available to PCCA Competitors

Best of show and purchase award carvers can now obtain high resolution images of their own winning carvings on a CD from PCCA. The fee is \$25/image and images can be provided from the last four years. Images will not be released to other carvers. Order images through Ted Muir at tedmuir@shaw.ca.

Lynda Baxter
Doug Danell
Dave Koss
John Frye
Prabir Mitra
Jean Mousseau
Ted Muir
Shawn Nicol
Tom Park
Mike Pilon
Bonnie Trodden
Karen Warren
Al Whitfield
Don Young

2011 Rule Updates and Modifications

Further to rule changes highlighted in the PCCA October newsletter a few other modifications are worth noting:

Division J Relief- All worldwide animals are permitted

Division O Purchase Awards – A new purchase award of \$175 has been accepted for the second place Category 6 Duck Head Carving. The sponsor is Mark Rathwell.

New Club

Power carvers hankering for some excitement in their lives will be pleased to learn that a new group of carvers has been formed– Agassiz Chainsaw Sculptors. ACS plans on hosting a chainsaw carving camp in Lockport, Manitoba on May 27 to 29, 2011. For further information look up www.chainsawcarve.ca. Hopefully this new group will have some of its work entered in the competition to stimulate further interest in the art form and the upcoming event. Sharpen those saws.

If you know of any other new clubs or events contact Ted Muir and they will be included in the Association's brochure *Manitoba Carving Competitions, Venues and Clubs*. This brochure is updated annually and posted on our website.

Upcoming Carving Workshops and Competitions

March 6 & 13– Heron Lake Horse Head Canvasback Decoy Workshop: Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, Instructor Frank Baldwin, Register at 467-3300 by February 25

April 8 & 9– Carving Wood Spirits: Lee Valley Tools, Winnipeg (204) 779-7467 Instructor Robert Leclair

April 9 & 10– Wheat City Carvers Show and Competition: Royal Oak Inn, Brandon, Tab Dudley (204) 726-4380 thdudley@mts.net

April 30– Techniques for Carving Whimsical Cottages in Bark: Lee Valley Tools, Winnipeg (204) 779-7467 Instructor Shawn Nicol

May 6 to 8– Winnipeg Woodcarvers Weekend: St. John's College, Rick or Cathie Brereton (204) 345-6020 Winnipegcarversweekend@gmail.com

May 14 & 15– Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild Decoy Competition: Oak Hammock Marsh, Ross Gage (204) 895-4723 rossgage@mts.net or Cathy Wasserman at (204) 467-3300 c_wasserman@ducks.ca

June 4 & 5– Pacific Brant Carving & Art Show: Victoria, BC. www.thebrant.ca

August 6 & 7– International Woodcarvers Festival: Lake Bronson State Park, MN. Tammy Bleat (218) 689-2490 Tammy.blawat@borderstatebank.com



Bark carving by Iris Bidonosti- Novice 2nd BOS PCCA 2010

2011 PCCA Sponsors and Partners (As of February 20)

A special note of gratitude is extended to the 2011 slate of sponsors and partners. We simply couldn't have a show without your generous contributions and support.

Gold (\$1000 plus)

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre Purchase Award
Manitoba Arts Council

Silver (\$500 to \$999)

Canadian Woodworker
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Jim Richardson Antique Decoy Purchase Award
Morgan Whiteway BOSS Purchase Award
Stuart Olson Dominion Construction Ltd
Wildfowl Carving Magazine

Bronze (\$200 to \$499)

Adanac Carving Club-Carver's Choice Award
Al Whitefield Working Shorebird Purchase Awards— Novice and Junior
Artists Emporium
Bigmouth Creations
Cabela's
Canad Inns Polo Park
Dremel Tools
Foredom Electric Co.
Les Gens de Bois-People's Choice Award
Lee Valley Tools
Manitoba Wildlife Federation
Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild
Preferred Perch
Ted Muir Purchase Award
Professional Grinding
Richard Whittom Duck Head Purchase Award—First Place
Mark Rathwell Duck Head Purchase Award— Second Place
Star Building Materials

Carver's Suggestions for New Sponsors Welcomed

Prairie Canada is always looking for new sponsors and partners in hosting its annual competition. Some of our sponsors donate cash; some donate product which we turn into cash; and some sponsor a purchase award which further bolsters Association coffers with enhanced entry fees and offers up a cash prize for first place winners. All of these supporters are vital to the existence of your competition. If you can have any thoughts or suggestions on other sponsors we can bring into the fold please contact Ted Muir at (204) 237-1385 or tedmuir@shaw.ca. All suggestions are welcomed.