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VIKING Woodcarvers
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vol. 30 No. 4

PRESIDENT

- Jim Forrey
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VICE PRESIDENTS

- Jim Ayers
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- Myron Asper
(952) 445-7274

SECRETARY

- Nancy Dardis
952-888-3479

TREASURER

- Lew Forsmark
952-888-3650

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

- Jim Ayers
- Myron Asper

COFFEE COMMITTEE

- Keith Fredrickson
- Leonard Kampa

SHOW CHAIRMEN

- Russell Scott

Viking Web Site - <http://www.russcott.com/~rscott/vwca/>

- **Meeting Location – Knights of Columbus, 1114 W 79th St., Bloomington,**
- **4th Monday – April 26 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

April Presentation: The speaker for our April 26 meeting is Izo Becic, who is a professional woodcarver who immigrated to Moorehead, Minnesota, from Europe. Izo will bring a few of his pieces and a good selection of slides to illustrate his talk about his European style of woodcarving. Izo participated in the Viking Woodcarver show last spring, where the carvers admired his work. This will be a very interesting presentation with Izo, drawing from his vast experience with woodcarving and traditions of Eastern Europe.

Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

March 22, 2004

By Nancy Dardis

We're back to Knights of Columbus for our usual meeting. Jim Forrey opened the meeting after a brief microphone battle. There were 53 members in attendance. Two guests were welcomed for the evening: Karen Randall, a local bowl, cup and spoon carver and Larry Nowell, a bust carver and teacher from Knoxville, TN. Both had found our club through the web site and read about the night's program.

Treasury/Meeting Minutes

Lew Forsmark was on vacation (with all our money) so there was no Treasurer's report update. The trusting souls in our Club approved and seconded the Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report as printed in the March newsletter.

Newsletter Publication

The newsletter was brief this month. Since we went to the American Swedish Institute, the business meeting was short and the Show and Tell non-existent. As usual, Russ included some pictures – this time from the Institute.

Check out

<http://www.russcott.com/~rscott/vwca>.

Spring Show

By the time you get this newsletter, the Spring Show will be but a memory. As of the March meeting, Russ had 42 tables/spaces reserved. Another 4-5 reservations came in during the meeting. Hopefully the applications kept pouring in so we reached at least 60 tables to make it a good-sized show.

Membership Cards

Membership cards are available for those people who have paid their dues. Lew would like to get these handed out as soon as possible. Please stop up at the front table at the next meeting and pick up your 2004 card.

Upcoming Programs

April – Izo Becic (pronounced Ezo Besisch)

May – Ken Brown, Rochester

June – No plans at this time – optional meeting. Jim Ayers will arrange a speaker just in case we vote for a June meeting.

Watch for the newsletter announcing the September meeting for more information on the arrangements for the second half of the year.

Vendors

Thanks to our vendors:

- *John Krantz* (Krantz Wood Sales) – lots of great wood, as usual.
- *Jim Abicht* – brought carving mounts.
- *Clarence Moe (aka Grumpy)* – a few remaining clown rough-outs from his class at Snow Daze in Spicer.
- *George Effrem* (Woodcarvers Store and School). George had lots of new offerings, plus a couple new classes he is offering at the school in April. Check with George for future classes.

Tonight's Program – The Wood Turner and the Price of Cotton

Fred Livesay is an historian for wood and other natural material artifacts. He was previously employed by the Carver County Historical Society and is now a consultant for them. In addition, Fred teaches classes at the North House Folk School in Grand Marais, MN. Jim Ayers called him a 'walking encyclopedia' of material history.

Fred's background is as a curator. He loves to find artifacts and study the history behind the materials used to construct them. Per Fred, 'the best thing to find is something you didn't expect to find, in a place you didn't expect to find it.' A case in point was the subject of his presentation – Spinning Wheels. Unfortunately, Fred's slides were not ready for our meeting, but carvers are known for great imaginations, so we put them to work.

While Fred was working at Carver County, a man encouraged him to ‘come out and take a look’ at some artifacts he had found on a farm property he owned. The farm buildings were run down and filled with treasures such as leaves and mouse skeletons. Behind the clutter Fred found a true treasure – a spinning wheel workshop. It was still intact, like the carpenter had walked out one day, turned the key and never returned.

A team from Carver County carefully weeded through the workshop, gathering and cataloging over 130 objects. Fred did some research on the workshop owner. He found that the shop belonged to Gottlieb Westerman who came to America from Prussia in the 1850s. He traveled to Carver County via a steamship.

Westerman had trained as a wood turner and cobbler. As the team sifted through the years layer by layer they found shoes, cobbling tools, and willow baskets piled high. These crafts certainly had sustained Westerman and his family for many years. In 1861, the Civil War created a shortage of fabric – particularly cotton used in clothing, bedding and blankets. Some fabric was shipped from Europe, but it was far too costly for the families of this era. Massachusetts started building mills to produce fabric, but Westerman saw a niche opportunity. Also trained as a wheelwright, he began building small spinning wheels. As the war continued, the number of patents issued for spinning wheels increased. The development of a pendulum wheel in Wakefield, Wisconsin cut spinning time in half.

Westerman fought in the Civil War from 1864 to 1865 with a Minnesota regimen. When he returned home, he found the landscape dotted with sheep as the farmers filled the need for fabric with wool. Westerman quickly revamped his old lathe to use a treadle, allowing continuous cutting. He quickly started making small, portable spinning wheels. His wheels are easily identifiable since they all have only 9 spokes. All other spinning wheels have an even number of spokes – most commonly 10 or 12. The even number supposedly allowed easier truing of the wheel.

To this day, the 9 spoke wheels that Westerman made are straight and true.

He made all the wheels and tools by hand. The team found evidence that he purchased some of the steel parts from local blacksmiths. They also found records and tools he used to turn pieces for beds and other furniture from the raw materials available in the local ‘Big Woods’. On the spinning wheels, the rims were white oak; the spindles were generally made of maple. The wheel’s table was white oak, and the treadle was ash.

The team found five spinning wheels at various stages of construction. They also pulled apart the workshop piece by piece and put it in storage. As time, money, and space permits, they will reassemble the workshop for display at the museum. Gottlieb Westerman died in 1907 and truly left a workshop of spinning wonders. If you would like to visit the Carver County Historical museum, it is located at 555 West 1st Street, Waconia, MN (next to the Sherman tank).

Thanks, Fred, for a fascinating trip back in time.

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**Wood Carving Class**  
**Realistic Bird and/or Fish**  
Instructor – Carol Andre’ “Happley”

Carve and Paint either a **Goldfinch or Golden Crown Kinglet**. August 23 – 27, 2004 - \$165.00 each. Min. 4 Max.6 students

Carve and Paint a **Black Crappy**. August 30 – September 3 2004 - \$165.00. Min. 4 Max.6 students

Paint (**only**, bring in your carved goldfinch or indigo bunting) September 24 – 26, 2004 - \$140.00. Min. 2 Max. 5 students

**Contact Carol at: 651-464-9839**

# VENDORS

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**Woodcarvers Store and School**

3056 Excelsior Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55416-0127  
**(612) 927-7491** (www.woodcarversstore.com)

**Jim Abicht, Fine woodworking**

Specializing in bases for carving projects  
**(651) 451-7217**

**Ivan Whillock Studio**

122 NE 1st Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021 **(507) 334-8306** (www.whillock.com)

**Krantz Wood Sales - Carving & Specialty Woods**

16748 Stanford St., Forest Lake, MN 55025 **(651) 464-5632 (Evenings)**

**David Lindroth, Custom Cut Woods for Woodcarvers & Artists**

8150 – 137<sup>th</sup> St. W. Apple Valley, Mn 55124 **(952) 432-7066**

**Nelson-Johnson Wood Products, Inc.**

3910 Bryant Ave No., Mpls., MN 55412 **(612) 529-2978** - cell phone **(612) 644-4567**

**Chris Thompson, Carver and Instructor,**  
**(651) 457-4130**

**Gen Jansen, Carver and Instructor,**  
**(320) 252-3966**

**Bob Masse "Ruff-Cuts"**

4930 Whitcomb Dr, Madison, WI 53711  
**(608) 271-2883**

**Brad Oren Sculpture Supply**

Complete source for stone, wood, clay, abrasives & tools.

**Rockler Stores:**

**Maplewood, MN (651) 773-5285; Minneapolis, MN (612) 822-3338;**  
**Burnsville, MN (952) 892-7999; Minnetonka, MN (952) 542-0111**

**Woodcraft Supply**

9741 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington, MN  
**(952) 884-3634**

**Gregg McCabe, Stubai tool distributor**

425 Madison St NE, Minneapolis, MN  
**(612) 379-9342**

**Garry N. Kolb - Woodcarving Supplies**

2528 24 Ave NW, Rochester, Mn. 55901  
**(507) 289-9138**

**Copperhead Road Logging and Lumber**

Joe Jewett – 54852 Great River Rd. Palisade, Mn. 56469  
**(218) 845-2832**

**Duck-r-us.com Ron Fisher**

Duck Decoy Blanks. 1-800-231-7370  
www.ronfisher.com

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## VIKING MAGNUM OPUS

### (SHOW AND TELL) – March 2004

| NAME              | CARVING            | WOOD        | FINISH            | COMMENTS                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Larry Nowell      | Indian Bust        | Basswood    | Oil               | Pattern                     |
|                   | Horse              | Butternut   | Oil               |                             |
|                   | Clown w/ sedan     | Bass/Butt   | Oil               |                             |
| Ken Waldhauser    | Robin              | Tupelo      | Acrylics          |                             |
| Fred Livesay      | Snow Goggles       | Birch/Maple | Pine Tar/ Linseed |                             |
| Duane Edwards     | Buzzard            | Basswood    | Acrylics          |                             |
| Jim Kueppers      | Clown              | Basswood    | Acrylics          |                             |
| Lee Olson         | Winston Churchill  | Basswood    | Acrylics          | Class from Urban Gunnarsson |
|                   | Frenchy            | Basswood    | Acrylics          |                             |
| Gen Jensen        | Kids with Cones    | Basswood    | Acrylics/Wax      | Class from Harley Schmitgen |
| Clarence Moe      | Clown              | Basswood    | Acrylics          |                             |
| Mel Michalik      | Christ on Cross    | Basswood    | Acrylics          |                             |
| John Pflugi       | Trillium on Walnut | Basswood    | Oil               |                             |
| Jack Tourtillotte | Black Bear Cub     | Basswood    | Acr/Polyurethane  |                             |

|                         |                               |                  |                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Bob Pitts</b>        | <b>Christ off the Cross</b>   | <b>Basswood</b>  |                         |                                     |
| <b>Len Kampa</b>        | <b>Boy Blowing up Balloon</b> | <b>Basswood</b>  | <b>Acrylics</b>         | <b>Self Portrait – 64 yrs later</b> |
| <b>Gerry Erickson</b>   | <b>Icicle</b>                 | <b>Basswood</b>  | <b>Acrylics</b>         | <b>Found wood from scrap box</b>    |
| <b>Gary Fleming</b>     | <b>Gargoyle</b>               | <b>Basswood</b>  | <b>Acr/Polyurethane</b> |                                     |
| <b>Chuck Reisinger</b>  | <b>Ruffed Grouse</b>          | <b>Cherry</b>    |                         | <b>Wood Burned</b>                  |
|                         | <b>Common Loon</b>            | <b>Basswood</b>  |                         |                                     |
| <b>Jim Weber</b>        | <b>Beauty</b>                 | <b>Butternut</b> | <b>Oil</b>              |                                     |
| <b>Nancy Dardis</b>     | <b>Troll</b>                  | <b>Basswood</b>  | <b>Unfinished</b>       | <b>Urban Gunnersson</b>             |
| <b>Charles Rathsack</b> | <b>Flower Relief</b>          |                  | <b>Acr/Polyurethane</b> |                                     |
| <b>Dennis Schuster</b>  | <b>A “Dawg”</b>               | <b>Basswood</b>  | <b>Unfinished</b>       |                                     |
|                         | <b>“Ball and Chain”</b>       | <b>Basswood</b>  | <b>Unfinished</b>       |                                     |