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VIKING Woodcarvers
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vol. 31 No. 4

PRESIDENT

- Jim Forrey

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- Jim Ayers
- Myron Asper

SECRETARY

- Lynne Medgaarden

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- Leo Mielke

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- Keith Fredrickson
- Leonard Kampa

SHOW CHAIR

- Russell Scott

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

- **Meeting Location – Knights of Columbus, 1114 W 79th St., Bloomington,**
- **4th Monday – April 25 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

April Presentation: "Bark Spirit Faces." by Willy Dawydenko

What goes around comes around, and Willy is a case at point. He began getting excited about woodcarving fifteen years ago when he met Forry Hanson, one of the early Viking Woodcarvers. Forry introduced Willy to wood, tools, techniques, and it didn't take long for a passion for carving to follow. Willy will present his style of carving spirit faces from bark as well as other carvings in basswood as well as carving staffs. Willy estimates that his carvings are probably every corner of the world. He will show some of his work, talk about how his art evolved, and share some of his lessons learned.

Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

March 28, 2005

By Lynne Medgaarden

President Jim Forrey opened the meeting sporting a lovely tan after his trip to Mexico and welcomed back the snowbirds. There were 60 members present, with two visitors, Jerry Carlson and Dale Williams. Jerry carves at Woodcrafters in Bloomington and Dale is from Lindstrom.

Treasury/Meeting Minutes – Leo Mielke reported the March treasury balance was \$4,409.42. Dues are flooding in – get yours paid.

Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's report as printed in the previous newsletter were approved and seconded. A thank you went out to Nancy Dardis for her excellent work as secretary for the club for the past two years.

Old Business

Iver Anderson discussed the Viking ship project. This is a club project to create a Viking ship and the characters that go with the ship. Iver brought cutouts for the Viking ship. The figurehead and hull were cut from butternut. He said he had to cut two separate hulls and glue the two together. The figureheads were cut out separately. Iver designed this Viking ship pattern in 1980 for the Viking Exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. One of his challenges was to figure out how to cut a sail that appeared to have wind blowing it. The sail is cut from basswood. The oars are made from birch. The ship has 18 oars. The rudder is made out of teak wood.

In his first attempt at making this ship he had the latte boards going the wrong way. Jim Forrey said, "That's what happens when a Swede is carving a Norwegian ship." Iver replied that Vikings were not just Norwegians but from different Scandinavian countries. Iver had a photo of a completed Viking ship that he tried to sell in Kansas but complained that, "all those Norwegians kept their hands in their pockets." If you would like a copy of the figures that need to be carved to go along with the ship Iver has a copy available. He also has

patterns for the ship. Iver challenged the club to finish the project by the October 2005 show.

Russell Scott discussed the spring carving show. The Viking Woodcarvers "Artistry in Wood", 2005 Spring Woodcarving Show and Sale is Saturday April 23rd, 10 am-6 pm & Sunday April 24th, Noon to 5 pm at the Har Mar Mall at Snelling and County Road B, Roseville, MN. As of the March meeting there were 45 tables and spaces reserved (there are many more since then). We need volunteers to come to Har Mar Mall to set up the tables at 4:00 pm on Friday, April 22. Bring gloves as the tables are rough. Remember if you are exhibiting at the show you need to **park in the far, east parking lot** of Har Mar Mall.

Jen Jansen mentioned that Bob Breneson from Kadioyi had planned to exhibit his spoon carvings at the spring show but was laid up with a broken kneecap for 6-8 weeks. **(update – Bob is coming!)**

Vendors

John Krantz brought a selection of driftwood for sale. He was just back from Kansas. John was the speaker at the March Viking club meeting.

Jim Abicht had another selection of Honduras mahogany along with some fine bases for sale.

George Effrem had a new selection of books and a list of upcoming classes at his store.

Tonight's Program – Cutting and Processing Wood by John Krantz

John Krantz presented an excellent discussion of how he cuts and processes the beautiful wood that he sells to carvers.

He was a forester for the State of Minnesota since the 1980's. He started buying logs and sold his first wood to carvers in 1987 at the carving show in Blackduck, MN. About 80% of his sales are basswood, 20% butternut.

Basswood

Basswood grows in clumps of about 15-20 sprouts. It reproduces from stump sprouts. The

basswood will not reproduce well from seed. The seed is very hard. There is no easy way to raise basswood trees consistently. The trees should be thinned to 3 trees per clump to get a good growth. The basswood trees are harvestable at 80-90 years old. If the bottom half of the tree has few branches this provides a higher grade of lumber. Mature trees have hallowed cores. Some of the damages to basswood can be from bird peck and sapsucker damage. It is a good idea to leave older, less useful trees standing for the birds to peck. The pecks leave wounds which produce black spots in the wood.

Good basswood grows in the upper Midwest to the northeastern U.S.A. Europeans prefer U.S. basswood. Basswood from Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota grows slower and is less dense than basswood grown in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Vermont or Kentucky. Northern basswood produces 2.25 lbs/board foot, Appalachia and southern basswood is 3 lbs/board foot. A board foot is a square foot 1 inch thick, 144 square inches.

John harvests basswood during the winter months, never during warm weather. The sap is down and produces nice white trees. If the logs are cut in summer the sap reacts to heat and stains the wood. Also, the winter provides easier access to the trees. Another advantage is that winter sawn logs keep their bark on.

A skidder is used to bring logs in. The logs are cut into 8 foot lengths and loaded onto trucks. A chainsaw is essential to harvest hard woods. After cutting, the wood is end coated with wax to prevent checking. John uses a 5 gallon bucket of Anchor Seal Wax to coat the logs. End sealing the wood prevents moisture going out of the ends and forces the moisture out of the surface so the ends don't crack (or check). Get the sealer on as soon as the logs are cut.

Stacking wood properly is extremely important to prevent damage and staining. The logs need good drainage, airflow and a cover from rain. The logs are stacked with spacers between to allow maximum air flow. John's wood is solar kiln dried to 9-10% moisture. It is hard to get wood to dry in our northern climate below 12-14%. Wood shrinks 15%

when dried. John had slides showing damage to wood that was improperly stacked.

John works with three small mills to process his wood. He has a specific pattern for cutting the logs to produce the maximum amount of usable wood. The center is thrown away because the center wood splits easily. The center 2-3 inches has tension and defects. John showed slides of some of the different types of milling equipment used by the mills.

Basswood is used for Venetian blinds, shutters, cores, moldings/picture frames, wooden boxes, and, of course, carving. Some is used for paper pulp, which John considers to be wasteful of this fine wood.

Basswood accounts for 5.3% of live trees in Minnesota, with butternut at .01%, aspen 23%, red pine 4.8%, walnut .02%.

Butternut

Butternut is a great wood for carving because it can be used down to a thumb sized piece. Butternut is resistant to decay and a log can lie on the ground 2-3 years without decaying. However, butternut is a fast fading tree due to disease. There is no cure for the fungus that is attacking butternut. The disease has been around for 40 years. The fungus gets into cracks in the bark and cuts off the water supply to the tree. Worms get into the cracks and leave worm holes. Research is being conducted at Rosemount, MN, to find disease resistant trees. Butternut is being grafted onto walnut. However, tree research is a slow process. There are few live trees left.

Other woods

White cedar used to be a popular carving wood. It slices fast but is unforgiving.

Walking sticks are a niche market for John. He cuts Aspen sticks in late June. The debarking of sticks is best in June when the sap is running. He cuts willow sticks in winter. Willow grows in swampy areas and it is easier to harvest them when the ground is frozen. Willow that is at least 40 years old produces good diamonds. Last summer John cut 775 sticks and has only 10 left. John said he has sold thousands of sticks but has never seen anyone walking with a stick.

John, thank you for a wonderful presentation.

Upcoming Events

- **April 16-May 14, 2005. The Faribault Art Center Gallery**, 212 Central Avenue, North, Faribault, MN, is exhibiting the work of Ivan Whillock. Meet the Artist is Saturday, April 23 from 2 pm to 4 pm.
- **June 25-26, 2005. The Jordan Art Festival** organizers are interested in having carvers participate in their art festival. This is a juried show and is part of the "Jordan Summer Celebration." The entry fee is \$50. Entry forms should be submitted by April 29. Forms are available at their website:
www.jordanchamber.org/Art%20App.htm.
- **June 5-8, 2005. The 1st Annual SE MN Woodcarvers Workshop** will be at Slim's Woodshed, Harmony, MN. Classes run Sunday through Wednesday. Registration fee includes one 4-day workshop. Fee is \$60. This event is replacing the carving event that was hosted in Audubon, IA in the past. They will offer workshops in marquetry, bark carving, wildlife low relief carving, and buffalo bust carving, watercolor painting, basket weaving, painting Ukrainian eggs, bird carving, lab quilting and more. For information contact Slim Maroushek at 507-886-3114.
- **July 15-17, 2005. Waldorf Woodcarving XIV** is scheduled at Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa, Phone# 641-582-2450. There are many carving classes to choose from, along with wood burning, basket weaving, hardanger, and quilting during this event and the price is very reasonable, \$120 per person.
- **August 6-8. 2005 Annual International Woodcarvers Festival**, Lake Bronson State Park, MN.

Registration deadline is July 15. For information contact Cammie Taylor at gcaf@wiktel.com or call 218-754-8264.

- **August 27-28, 2005. 2nd Carve-Fest** at the Faribault Ice Arena organized by the Whillock Family. They will have classes, exhibits, and vendors at this event. It was great fun last year. Watch for further details.

--- Don't Forget ---
VIKING WOODCARVERS
2005 Spring Show and Sale
April 23-24 HAR MAR MALL
Snelling & Co. Rd. B, Roseville, Minnesota
Come out and see the woodcarvers

*Carvers' Companion –
Woodcarver Online Magazine*
Loren Woodard, editor of Notes from the Net
<http://www.carverscompanion.com/>

You Might Be a Woodcarver....

It all started innocently enough when Ol Don wrote:

"Jeff Foxworthy has become a very popular comedian because of his "You might be a Redneck" routine, so I thought it might be fun to start a thread of "If ... you might be a Woodcarver". For example:

"If your yard is the only one in the neighborhood with stumps instead of shade trees, you might be a woodcarver."

"If you are carving at 10 PM and your wife whispers sweet nothings in your ear about it being time to go to bed, and at 3 AM you tell her for the 23rd time, I'll be there in a minute, you might be a woodcarver."

"If you can't see the water in your hot tub because of the floating wood chips, you might be a woodcarver."

"If you can see your breath but refuse to put another log in the fireplace because you see something in the wood, you might be a wood carver."

There's a few I thought of for starters- now it's your turn.

Other You Might Be a Woodcarver....

"Your keyboard has to be cleaned out daily from wood dust and chips." (VK)

"When you exhale, tupelo dust comes out like your breath on a cold day." (VK)

"You don't have time for that stuff". (VK)

"You ask, Dear would you mow the yard, wash the car, take out the trash today, I have carving to do?" (VK)

"You gave your wife a new band saw for Christmas." (VK)

"You're so busy re-shaping a basswood egg that you don't have time for "other stuff". (OD)

"Your idea of taking a vacation is to go to a carving show." (VK)

"Going into the outside world means a trip to the hardware store." (VK)

"You look curiously at each piece of firewood going into the fireplace." (VK)

"Band-Aids are a staple item on the grocery list." (VK)

"You have enough wood stacked in the basement to build an extension." (AJ)

"You try again and again to get rid of that pile of lumber that is taking up half your living space, but can't." (Ju)

"You envision yourself in wood curls instead of bubble bath."
(Woodcarverette?) (MM)

"You have three inches of wood chips on your family room carpet."
("Redneck" Woodcarver) (RL)

"You go for a romantic stroll along the beach and pack back driftwood." (TN)

"You go camping and bring along your own special firewood." (TN)

"Your spouse complains about woodchips between the sheets." (TN)

"You reach into your pocket to pay for that special tool and pull out a mess of sawdust." (TN)

"You show up at the local church gathering with a leather apron on under your Sunday best." (TN)

VENDORS

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 – 137th 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

Gen Jansen, Carver and Instructor,

(320) 252-3966

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

VIKING MAGNUM OPUS (SHOW AND TELL) – March, 2005

NAME	CARVING	WOOD	FINISH	COMMENTS
Leo Mielke	The Sheriff	Basswood	Acrylics	Dave Stetson ruff out
Don Groen	Hunter	Basswood	Acrylics	Bees Wax
Len Kampa	Couple Kissing	Basswood	Acrylics	Grand Daughter Wedding Cake
Swede Bengtson	Country Scene Saw	Bird Eye Maple	Unfinished	
Gary Fleming	Lady	Basswood	Stain	400 grit Sand Paper
	Man and Shovel	Basswood	Stain	
Elaine Stenman	Relief Black Bear	Basswood	Acrylics	Unfinished House Carvings
Fred Stenman	Cowboy Relief	Basswood		Not Finished Yet
Nancy Dardis	Wood burning Raccoons	Basswood	Wax	
	Husky Pups	Basswood	Wax	
Jim Kueppers	Bear Relief	Basswood	Acrylics	
Gerry Erickson	Fantasy Bird	Basswood	Acrylics	Copy of a Gift Enclosure Card
Gen Jansen	Raggedy Ann and Andy	Basswood	Acrylics	
Clarence Moe	Casual Clown	Basswood	Acrylics	From Paul Jung
	Horse & Rider Mtn Man	Basswood	Acrylics	
Jupe Houman	Spearing Decoys	Basswood	Acrylics	Brn & Rainbow Trout w/ Lead
Chuck Reisinger	Blue Wing Teal	Butternut	Acrylics	
Ian Amman	Intarsia Leopard	Many	Minwax	All Natural Wood
Ray Gritche	Minister	Basswood		
Yancy Reed	Paper Figures	Paper	Acrylics	
Lee Olson	Carousel Horse	Basswood	Acrylics	From Snow Daze
	Mother and Baby	Basswood	Acrylics	
	Part of Bed and Crib	Ash & Walnut	Varnish	
Darwin Krueger	Two Block Heads	Basswood	Unfinished	
Russell Scott	Woman	Hon. Mahogany	Deft	
	Viking	Basswood	Acrylics	Carving Illustrated Pattern

