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VIKING Woodcarvers
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vol. 30 No. 6

PRESIDENT

- Jim Forrey
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- 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 CHAIR

- Russell Scott

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

- **Meeting Location – Knights of Columbus, 1114 W 79th St., Bloomington,**
- **4th Monday – August 23 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

August Presentation: Old World Santas with Bob Nowicki

Bob Nowicki will present on **OLD WORLD SANTAS**. Bob is a member of the Rochester Woodcarvers and has been consumed with carving Santas. One of his designs, the Barefoot Santa, has been very popular, and he has gone on to carve several dozen different kinds of Old World Santas. He's a power carver and will have lots to share about his style of carving and finishing. In the heat of August, December may seem far away, but this is the perfect time for carvers to get a good introduction to some really classy Santas.

Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

May, 24 2004

By Nancy Dardis

The May meeting opened at the Knights of Columbus hall. Jim Forrey welcomed the 50 members in attendance. Paul Thompson and George Hermann introduced themselves as visitors interested in the upcoming Acanthus Carving presentation, as well as the array of Show and Tell items.

Donation Approved

Marnie Whillock is recovering from recent breast cancer surgery. With no medical insurance, the bills are obviously mounting. The Whillock family has been an integral part of our Viking club for many years - providing training classes, speakers, and vendors. A donation from our club was suggested and heartily approved. If you would like to send a personal card, address it to Marnie Whillock, @ Whillock Studio, 122 NE 1st Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021.

The Whillock family is also holding a *Woodcarving Festival* on Aug 21-22 at the Faribault Ice Arena to celebrate 30 years in the business. You can display carvings, give a seminar or demonstration or bring an item for a carving critique. For more information, contact Marnie Whillock at 507-333-4446 or marn@marniewhillock.com.

Treasury/Meeting Minutes

Low Forsmark reported the April treasury balance as \$4,434.40. That includes a profit of \$280.50 from the April Carving show. The attendees approved and seconded the Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report as printed in the May newsletter.

Next Meeting Notice

Since we meet on the 4th Monday of the month, we opted out of the June meeting in lieu of an August meeting. Hopefully we can get a report on the Whillock's Faribault Festival at that time. It will also give us an additional meeting to plan our Viking Fall Show at Har Mar.

Program Committee

The Program Committee will be working over the summer to firm up speaker commitments. Jim Ayers indicated that everything is 'well in hand' and some exciting programs are already in the works. Check out the August program notes in this newsletter. We look forward to hearing about the next round of speakers at our August meeting.

Lakes Area Club Classes

The Lakes Area Carving Club is offering several classes this fall. For more information, contact Esther at 651-464-2087.

Oct 2-3 Whimsical Barkhouses
Oct 16 Carving with Izo Beziec
Oct 30 Walt Gritner-Chip Carving
Tuesdays in Oct Traditional Acanthus

Vendors

Thanks to our vendors, John Krantz and George Effrem for your monthly dedication. We really appreciate your efforts!

May's Program

Acanthus Carving with Keith Anderson

Keith is a retired Norwegian German professor. He has found carving to be as equally challenging as his 30 years of academia at St Olaf College. The design and conceptualization for his carving are not unlike a lesson plan. In addition to weekend classes closer to home, Keith now offers Acanthus Carving classes at the North House school in Grand Marais, MN (the next one is October 15-17).

To prove his Norwegian heritage, Keith defined Lutefisk as 'a case of cod that surpasses human understanding'. That also set the tone for his entertaining presentation.

The Mediterranean acanthus plant first caught the eye of ancient Greek stone carvers. In the Baroque period it was further developed as part of ornate, carved ornamentation. The style reached northern Europe in the 17th century and reached a high point in Scandinavia in the 18th and 19th centuries. The style was

used to adorn all sorts of furniture and household items.

The sturdy barrel chairs common in Swedish households have intricate acanthus carving and painting. They were also often 'adorned' with tooth marks. The story is: when the men of the household became sufficiently 'lubricated', they would have contests to see who could throw the heavy chair the furthest - using only his teeth.

Today, acanthus is a primary form of adornment in Scandinavian woodcarving. Uses now range from furniture and fireplace mantels, to household items (such as clocks and mirrors), to doorways and church altars. The Stave Church in Minot, ND is a fantastic example of this style.

The design style of acanthus varies by the artist. Some include only the acanthus leaf, others incorporate the plant root and heavily-flowered stems in their designs. The most common design starts with the root. The leaves scroll out from the root, interweaving and layering throughout the carving. Some of the leaves are double or triple-edged. More complex designs integrate quadruple leaves and add depth by scooping out the sides of each leaf segment. Many individuals believe rose-mauling is a two-dimensional style of acanthus.

Acanthus Steps

1. Determine the design. How will the leaves or flowers intertwine and layer? Include half-moon curls at the ends of the leaves for added decoration.
2. Transfer the design to your wood.
3. Carve out the background, leaving the plant design raised.
4. Rough carve the plant design to show elevation changes and layering.
5. Use a pencil to note veins on the leaves. These will either be the highest or lowest point of the leaf, depending on the surface curvature.
6. Carve the final details following the leaf veins.

References

Keith had several books available for review. He highlighted the patterns in *Norsk*

Woodworks, by Else Bigton and Phillip Odden, as well as books and videos by his mentor, Hans Sandom. Although some of these books are in Swedish, the pictures are detailed enough to allow anyone to understand the process they describe.

Tools

Keith uses a small hand router to quickly clear the background area around the carving design. Then he sets to work with chisels. A wide #3 gouge and a good size skew are his primary 'weapons'. He also uses #5, 7 and 8 gouges to complete the crisp edges of the design. For convex curves on leaves, he uses a #3 gouge in reverse. He slightly sharpened the back edge of the gouge. Using the backside of the cutting edge he can get the proper convex curve.

I already enjoy a different view of acanthus carving and find myself tracing the intertwining leaves up from the root. Thanks to Keith's presentation, I can more readily appreciate the intricate depth and curvature of the design. Like Keith said 'just combine scroll carving and leaf design and you are an acanthus carver'. Somehow I think he made it look easier than it is. Thanks, Keith!

Everyone is invited to join Keith and the rest of the Cannon River Carving Club at the Whillock Studio in Faribault, MN on the 3rd Monday of each month. If you are in Grand Marais, don't forget to stop in at the North House. They always have some project in the works.

Wood Carving Class

Realistic Bird and/or Fish

Instructor – Carol Andre' "Happlepy"

- * Carve and Paint either a **Goldfinch** or **Golden Crown Kinglet**. August 23 – 27, 2004 - \$165.00 each. Minimum 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

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# Faribault Woodcarving Festival

August 21 – 22, 2004

Faribault Ice Arena

Call for classes, they will fill up fast - 507-333-4446

## SATURDAY

|              |                    |                   |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 10:00 -12:00 | Caricature         | Marv Kaisersatt   |
| 10:00 -1:00  | Relief Carving     | Joe Dillett       |
| 12:15 - 2:15 | Scand. Figure      | Keith Anderson    |
| 12:15 - 3:15 | Whimsical House    | Tony Erickson     |
| 1:30 -5:30   | Fan Bird Carving   | Sally & David Nye |
| 2:30 - 3:30  | Beginner Carving   | Chris Whillock    |
| 3:45 -5:45   | Sweet Potato Carv. | Sandie Roosa      |
| 3:45 - 5:45  | Caricature         | Many Kaisersatt   |

## SUNDAY

|              |                   |                       |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 10:00 -12:00 | Bark Turtle       | Gen Jansen            |
| 10:00 -1:00  | Caricature Mouse  | Ol'Don Burgdorf       |
| 12:15 - 2:15 | Everett Ellenwood | Tool Sharpening       |
| 1:30 -5:30   | Burning & Paint   | Fred & Elaine Stenman |
| 1:30 - 5:30  | Eyes, Nose & M.   | Chris Howard -        |
| 2:30 - 3:30  | Beginner Carving  | Chris Whillock        |
| 3:45 -5:45   | Chip Carving      | Walt Grittner         |

## 11th Annual Woodcarvers Exhibition

Sponsored by Redwing Woodcarvers

When: October 9 - 10, 2004

Where: Riverfront Center, Redwing, MN

## VIKING MAGNUM OPUS (SHOW AND TELL) – May 2004

Sorry gang, I seem to have misplaced the show and tell cards during the summer to identify the carvers to go along with these photos. I'm sure that they will turn up well after this newsletter goes to print. I will do a better job of it from now on, I may have to put them in a cage since it shows that the show and tell cards have feet.

## VENDORS

### *Woodcarvers Store and School*

3056 Excelsior Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55416-0127  
(612) 927-7491 ([www.woodcarversstore.com](http://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](http://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*

Contact Dennis Koenig at 651-388-0978 or [dekmk@redwing.net](mailto:dekmk@redwing.net)

## Harmony Show

The 11th Annual Minowa Show and Sale at Slim's Woodshed in Harmony, Minnesota July 3 - 4, 2004 was attended by Walt Grittner and Darwin and Vangie Kruger from the Viking Club.

## Viking Club Goes Up North

The 21st Annual Wood Carvers Festival at Wayside Park in Blackduck, Minnesota was a great success where members of the Viking Woodcarving Association set up displays to show and sell their woodcarvings. Members who showed were: Gen Jansen, Walt Grittner (above), Marv Myers, Alice Spadgenske, Bob and Mary Erickson, John Krantz and Joe Jewett.

Gen Jansen demonstrates beginning woodcarving

Alice Spadgenske enjoys the perfect summer day

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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## **Metro Carving Weekend**

**November 20 & 21, 2004**

**Sponsored by the Metro Chapter of the  
Minnesota Wood Carvers Association  
at the Mary Ann Young Senior Center  
9150 Central Avenue Blaine, Minnesota**

**Classes are available**

**Call Alice Spadgenske at: 763-631-8006**

**Class Descriptions**

**One day class:**

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Whimsy Bark Houses      | Karen Henderson  |
| Beginning Acanthus      | Sue Bjerke       |
| Chip carving            | Darwin Kruger    |
| Leaping Deer            | Dick Zawacki     |
| Semi-realist. Wood Duck | Wes Spadgenske   |
| Santa Ornaments         | Vangie Kruger    |
| Flat-Plane Carving      | Lee Olson        |
| Relief Carving          | Alice Spadgenske |
| Stylized Fish           | Tom Deveny       |

## **VIKING WOODCARVERS**

**2004 Fall Show and Sale**

**October 23, 24**

**HAR MAR MALL**

**Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm  
(7:30 Door Opens)**

**Sunday, Noon to 5:00 pm (9:30  
Door Opens)**

**Snelling & Co. Rd. B, Roseville, Minnesota**

**Advance applications will be mailed soon.**

***Participants need to park at the Far  
East Parking Lot (More on this at the  
August Meeting***