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VIKING Woodcarvers
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vol. 31 No. 2

PRESIDENT

- Jim Forrey
(952) 831-2758

VICE PRESIDENTS

- Jim Ayers
(612) 721-6074
- 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 – February 28 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

February Presentation: "Welcome Lights".

Jim Ayers will present a demonstration of 'Welcome Lights', a Scandinavian tradition that has evolved from the long dark winters. The welcome light consists of thin sheets of wood assembled to form a star or circular pattern behind which is a light. The lights are hung in windows to signal the home is welcoming guests. Jim will describe the history and demonstrate the process of making a light. He will show several different styles of the 'Welcome Lights' and bring a pattern with instructions for members to make their own. He will also have electric cord with switch and light assemblies for sale. In these dark days of winter we all need a little light.

Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

January 24, 2005

By Nancy Dardis

President Jim Forrey opened our meeting with a squealing microphone. After a bit of help from Cindy, of the Knights of Columbus, he was banned from touching the cordless microphone and relegated to using the one tied to the stage. That curtailed his wandering, but not his sense of humor.

We had 45 members and one guest in attendance. Yancy Reed, a budding artist, paid us a visit. Hopefully he will be back to visit again and perhaps bring samples of his works – even if they aren't carvings, the meeting is all about sharing!

- Charlie Eiler was 'released from the home' (per Jim Forrey) and was in attendance tonight.
- Lew Forsmark was back after shoulder surgery. He scheduled carefully so he didn't miss any meetings – what a trooper!
- Gerry said Merle Erickson is doing about the same. He appreciates mail and pre-arranged visits.
- John Krantz was sad to announce that Gerald Ekern has been diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer. If you know Gerald, you may want to touch base with him.

Treasury/Meeting Minutes - Lew Forsmark reported the December treasury balance as \$4,180.86. If you haven't paid your \$15 membership dues and you are reading this – you're late. Members who have not paid their dues by the end of March, 2005 will be eliminated from the mailing list. Either catch up with Lew at the next meeting or send a \$15 check (*Viking Woodcarver's*) to Lew Forsmark, 2730 W 91st St, Bloomington, MN 55431. NEED NAME TAG VENDOR: If anyone knows a good name tag vendor, let Lew know. The one he was using has gone bankrupt. Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's report as printed in the previous newsletter were approved and seconded.

Program Committee – February speaker was not confirmed. In March, our own John Krantz will give a chat on the History of Wood – all about those squares and rectangles we carve.

Editor's Report – If you do not get a newsletter (and have paid your dues) let Russ Scott know (612) 917-2125. He is the keeper of the mailing list. Do you want your newsletter electronically? To get the newsletter electronically, send an e-mail to rscott56@netzero.com. That way he has your e-mail address for sure and knows you are interested.

Russ was also kind enough to bring in his Jan-Feb 2005 'Chip Chats' with pictures from our October Viking show at Har Mar Mall.

Viking Ship Carving - Iver Anderson is coordinating a group project to create a Viking ship and various figures. He brought copies of the patterns to the January meeting. The figures are about 6 inches tall – some are Viking characters, some animals, some simple barrels and other enhancements. By the start of the meeting six members had already signed up and got their patterns for a nominal \$2 fee. We would like to make this a true club project and have it ready for the October show. Check with Iver at the next meeting to get your patterns then get carving! Iver is making the ship and all the patterns have been sized to the proper proportion.

New Officers

The following individuals have agreed to add their names to our new slate of officers. If you have any one to add, contact Jim Forrey at 952-831-2758 as soon as possible:

President – Jim Forrey

Vice President – Jim Ayers and Myron Asper
(2 positions)

Treasurer – Leo Mielke

Secretary – Lynne Medgaarden

Program Committee Chair – Jim Ayers

Show Committee Chair – Russ Scott

Coffee Committee Chair – Len Kampa

In addition, we will put together a nominating committee to ensure we have a full slate of

officers prior to the end of the next year so Jim Forrey doesn't have to spend January on the phone looking for nominees.

Vendors

John Krantz had another fine assortment of wood. He will be at the annual show in Mesa, AZ, on Feb 19-20. If you are in the area, stop and say 'hi'.

Jim Abicht had a lot of new and exotic woods to carve, plus the ready-made bases for your newest masterpiece.

George Effrem brought a nice collection of books on tools – the topic of tonight's presentation.

Jim Forrey will be in Mexico during our next meeting so he had to leave us with his usual 'sick snicker'. Seems Olie died and was waiting at St. Peter's Gate. He scanned the landscape beyond, but didn't see any of us friends. He mentioned this to St Peter when his turn came. St. Peter told him to hop on the elevator and go down a few floors and check things out if he wanted. Olie checked 'Heaven-1', 'Heaven-2', 'Heaven-3' and didn't see anyone he knew. He finally got to the 'Bottom Floor'. When the door opened a blast of icy cold air greeted him. Shivering he went back up to St Peter. "I thought it would be really hot 'down there', but it wasn't – how come?" asked Olie. "Oh," responded St Peter, "That's because the Philadelphia Eagles are going to win the Super Bowl!"

Tonight's Program – Vintage Hand Tools

To those of us with inherited tools, this presentation was like our own little Antique's Roadshow. Leroy Osterbauer has been a carpenter for 40 years. He has collected a large selection of working hand tools. Those he brought tonight were used before 1910. He fashioned a remarkable tool chest with custom slots for each item – 197 in all. The chest is a work of art on its own and was on display at the State Fair last year. It weighs about 235 pounds with all the tools inside!

Leroy started by explaining where he gets his tools. His father was a tool collector and he has inherited both the collection and 'the fever' to acquire more. He finds the tools on the internet

and at estate sales, auctions and antique stores – both in the United States and Europe. Brass tools from England are some of his favorites, but he cautioned us to watch the exchange rate. When bidding for tools on the internet specify *US dollars* to avoid confusion and expense. Don't refinish the tool. Clean it with a little steel wool and oil, if necessary. Replace any broken or missing pieces with the proper period replacement. Those 'in the know' will notice if anything is out of place.

Leroy proceeded to bring out tool after tool showing us wonderful wooden levels, brass plumb bobs, squares that had screws to allow breakdown to a straight format for storage, a drawknife with folding handles and some rare metal levels (these tend to get brittle with age and break easily).

In the 1800s people who were moving west made sure they had a blacksmith and a carpenter in their flock as they set out. When building a home, the first thing that went up was a tent to allow the carpenter to open his tool chest and lay out the tools. Everything needed to cut and shape the wood was included in the tool chest. The building was blocked in and the bedroom was completed first to give the carpenter a place to sleep and work while he finished his job.

The blacksmith was invaluable since he could make tools that others designed or fix any broken tools. In many cases, Americans got tools from England, but couldn't figure out how to use them. They simply asked the blacksmith to rework the tool or develop something to do the special jobs. Leroy's next project is blacksmith's tool chest with vintage tools from the 1790s.

How do you know what you have?

At an auction many years ago, Leroy met a man who talked him into signing up for the Midwest Tool Collectors Association. He didn't even know it existed – after all how many other kooks could there be collecting old tools. When he got his membership card (numbered over 8000), he knew he wasn't alone.

Just like a clip from Antique's Roadshow, Leroy instructed us to check the condition of the tool carefully. Know what you are getting – remember the item has to have original

everything to be worth top dollar. Watch for cracks, chips or stress fractures. Watch for tools in the original box, it generally raises the value by one-third. Look for the maker's name and do your homework so you know the maker's history and the number of items originally created. Some of the levels he brought along were in the \$15-\$30 range. Others with working inclinometers would sell for \$85+. He also showed us planes that would bring \$15-\$20 and one worth nearly \$1,000.

The tool collectors groups need 'young blood' and 'new money' to keep the hobby active and alive. Get yourself a copy of 'Price Guide to Antique Tools' by Herbert P Kean (ISBN 1-879335-97-2) and check out your stash. You too may have a treasure waiting to be discovered!

Carvers' Companion –

Woodcarver Online Magazine

Loren Woodard, editor of Notes From the Net
<http://www.carverscompanion.com/>

PAINTING GRASS

From Jo Craemer <Jo_Craemer@prodigy.net>
Here's a procedure for painting "swamp" grass on copper strips that works just fine for me:

1. Form the grass out of thin strips of 40 gauge copper. I place the thin strips on a piece of leather, and use a dental tool to "emboss" the center vein

and small parallel side veins. Big grass - more detail. Small grass - just the center vein.

2. Either paint them separately, or pre-assemble them into soldered or glued bundles.

3. To prep for painting, I clean ALL traces of oil (from my fingers) off the metal by either dipping the "grass" into acetone or by brushing acetone on it generously. I use thin cotton gloves or tweezers to handle the metal from that point on.

4. When the acetone evaporates, I spray paint them with WHITE bare metal primer. Rustoleum seems to adhere very well to the copper or brass, and I have very little problem with it chipping or peeling off later on. Using a WHITE base coat makes the colors you apply appear brighter and more true, especially when applying in thin washes. I like using washes because it tends to get more realistic shading, rather than with a monochromic green or brown.

5. Let the Rustoleum dry overnight.

6. Paint with whatever acrylic paint you want. Pure acrylic, such as Liquitex or Hyplar is transparent, and can be used to build up layers of color in thin washes. Acrylic/Gouache combination paint, such as Jo Sonja is much more opaque and will usually cover in one coat. When using Jo Sonja, I usually use an airbrush because it's quick and leaves a velvety-smooth texture. Jo Sonja paint takes a few weeks to "cure". If you put on more than one coat before the first is thoroughly dry it might start to lift off.

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) – December 2004

NAME	CARVING	WOOD	FINISH	COMMENTS
Nancy Dardis	Horse head	Basswood	Unfinished	
Len Kampa	Virgin Mary	Basswood	Unfinished	Work in Progress
Charles Eiler	Mini Sunfish	Basswood	Acrylics/Poly	
Leo Mielke	Hobo	Basswood	Acrylics/Wax	Lloyd Mena Ruff Out
Charles Rathsack	Hobo	Basswood	Acrylics	
Lewis Forsmark	X-C Skier	Basswood	Tripp poly	
John Sailor	Little pipe smoker		Stain	
Luther Kliche	Swan	Basswood	Oil	Carver from a P.Cs Soap
Jack Tourtillotte	Bald Eagle	Basswood	Acrylics/Poly	First Time Relief Carving
Jupe Houman	Spearing Decoys	Basswood	Acrylics	Perch and Crappie
	Peasant Woman w/fish	Basswood	Acrylics	Becky Lusk's Class
Jim Kueppers	Cowboy	Basswood	Acrylics	
Jim Weber	Tree Fog	Butternut	Acrylics/Oil	
Duane Edwards	2 Bears and a Woman	Basswood	Acrylics	
Karen Randall	Noggin Spoon	Birch	Oil	Carved at the Fall VWCA Show
Russell Scott	Bather	Basswood	Acrylics	From a renaissance painting
	Nude Figure	Butternut	Acrylics	From Ian Nurbury book