

**Russell Scott**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
**1238 Edmund Avenue**  
**St. Paul, MN 55104**  
**651-917-2125 rscott56@netzero.com**



**VIKING Woodcarvers**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota**  
**Vol. 31 No. 3**

**PRESIDENT**

- Jim Forrey

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

- Jim Ayers
- Myron Asper

**SECRETARY**

- Lynne Medgaarden

**TREASURER**

- Leo Mielke

**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 79<sup>th</sup> St., Bloomington,**
- **4<sup>th</sup> Monday – March 28 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

## **March Presentation: ‘Quality Wood’ – John Krantz**

John Krantz will present a slide program showing the steps necessary to manufacture quality basswood and butternut from the tree to the semi-finished piece of carving wood. The program will describe the proper tree selection, sawing of the log, steps involved in drying, machining special sizes and preparing the near final product for the customer. A portion of the program will be devoted to the cutting and care of waking sticks. A look at the total basswood and butternut resource in Minnesota and surrounding states will be provided. John and Marci Krantz have been providing carving wood since 1987 and has been a VWCA member since 1988. This program will be a full hour in length and will provide many tips on the care and preparation of wood for those who wish to cut and saw their own resource.

# Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

February 28, 2005

By Nancy Dardis

Vice President Jim Ayers called the meeting to order. Jim Forrey is basking in the warmth of Mexico. He better come back with a tan or we will want to know why. There were 51 members and two guests in attendance. Even Swede made a showing sporting a bit of a tan...welcome back!

One of our guests was from a previous meeting – Yancy Reed. This time he brought along some fantastic poster board sculptures for our show and tell – check out the Gallery. Our other guest was Carol Meade. She saw in her son's newsletter that the topic tonight was Scandinavian lights and wanted to see how they were made. She also had a special request for someone to carve a miniature replica staff for her from a piece of ash she will provide (about 18 inches long). The staff is the Wotan staff from Wagner's operas. She will provide the picture and the wood. If you are interested in pricing out and taking on this little project, give her a call at 612-243-3924.

**Treasury/Meeting Minutes** – Leo Mielke, starting his job as Treasurer early, reported the checkbook balance as \$4,324.70 before he started raking in the cash from your memberships at this evening's meeting. Note: 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 Leo at the next meeting or send a \$15 check (*Viking Woodcarver's*) to Leo Mielke, 10223 Johnson Circle, Bloomington, MN 55437.

The Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's report as printed in the previous newsletter were approved and seconded.

**Program Committee** – Jim Ayers is still looking for any suggestions for programs. He has several possibilities, but scheduling is always a challenge. The more possibilities he

has to work with, the easier it is for him to find a fit each month. If you have an idea, give Jim a call at 612-721-6074 or email him at [ayers\\_jim@hotmail.com](mailto:ayers_jim@hotmail.com). In March, our own wood-man, John Krantz, will give a chat on the History of Wood and how to dry it properly so it is at its peak for carving.

**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](mailto:rscott56@netzero.com). That way he has your e-mail address for sure and knows you are interested.

**Viking Ship Carving** – We will get an update from Iver Anderson next month on the group project to create a Viking ship and figures. 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 if you would like to get the patterns. Iver is making the ship and all the patterns have been sized to the proper proportion.

## New Officers

The following individuals were approved as our new slate of officers:

President – Jim Forrey

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

Treasurer – Leo Mielke

Secretary – Lynn Medgaarden

Program Committee Chair – Jim Ayers

Show Committee Chair – Russ Scott

Coffee Committee Chair – Len Kampa

## Vendors

*John Krantz* had another fine assortment of wood. He finally managed to get some nice butternut for bark-on rounds. If anyone needs any, let him know and he will bring them to our meeting next month. He will also have some available at the spring show at Har Mar mall.

*Jim Abicht* has done a little pricing of the exotic woods he carries. Woodcraft carries Honduras mahogany – 32” for \$18. Jim sells his 16” pieces for \$1. There he goes price gouging again! Jim also had his usual interesting selection of ready-made bases for your newest masterpiece.

*George Effrem* brought a nice collection of books with an emphasis on Scandinavian carving. He also had information about new Whittling and Young People’s carving classes he is offering. If you didn’t get information at the meeting, give George a call at the Woodcarvers Store and School (612-927-7491). George is also giving a 20% coupon to anyone who brings carvings in to the meeting for Show and Tell. The coupon is good on any single item at the store (power tools excluded).

## Coming Woodcarving Shows

- **Rochester Woodcarvers 20<sup>th</sup> show** – April 9-10, Trent Busch/507-292-9867

April 16-17 *Whimsical Bark Houses with Karen Henderson* Esther Allen/651-464-2087

- **NW WI Woodcarvers Exposition** – April 16  
Menomonee Jean Moats/715-664-8638  
(moatsj@uwstout.edu) Or Bob Dahlke/715-235-9039 (ahlkeb@uwstout.edu)

- **Viking Woodcarver’s Spring Show** April 23-24 Russ Scott/651-917-2125  
(rscott56@netzero.com)

- **SE MN Woodcarvers workshop** – June 5-8  
– Harmony, MN Slim Maroushek/877-886-3114 ([slims\\_ws@means.net](mailto:slims_ws@means.net))

## Coming Classes

- **Whimsical Bark Houses with Karen Henderson** – April 16-17 Esther Allen/651-464-2087

### A Note from Marnie Whillock

Leo Mielke read a note addressed to Viking Carvers received from Marnie Whillock. Marnie was diagnosed with breast cancer about a year ago. Since she was without health insurance, the Viking club donated to a fund to help defray her medical expenses.

The beginning of a new year gives us the opportunity to reflect on the past and hope for the future.

As I look back upon my ‘adventure’ with cancer, I am reminded of how important your support has been to me. Whether you sent positive thoughts, cards and prayers – worked at or attended one of the fundraising events – or donated money or merchandise -- thank you for everything! You’ll probably never know how meaningful your support has been to me.

Thank you also for your continued concern about my future. Everything looks really great for me! The cancer was removed and it looks as though there was no spreading. Because the cancer I had has a high recurrence rate, I was given chemo and radiation as preventative measures. My last radiation treatment was December 28. Although I am very glad that the treatments are over, I’m taking another step. I’m planning another preventative surgery for next week. After recovery, I should be ‘good to go’ for a long time! Once again, thank you so much for your support!

I wish you the absolute best for this year and every one after. Thank you so much! -- Marnie

### Tonight’s Presentation – ‘Welcome Lights’

Jim Ayers has perfected the art of sawing wood into thin slats to use in his famous fan birds. Now he is using the method again to create the pieces for his Scandinavian Welcome Lights. The ‘lights’ tradition comes from the long dark winters of the

‘land of the midnight sun’. The Welcome light consists of thin sheets of wood assembled in a geometric



pattern to form a star or circle behind which is a light. The lights are hung in windows to signal the home is welcoming guests. Jim brought

several samples, described the history of the lights and demonstrated the process of making a light – complete with a pattern and handout.

The thinner the wood is sliced, the more translucent it becomes. Jim recommends the slices be no thicker than 1/8", preferably 1/16" if possible. He cuts the wood with a band saw, but you could also use a scroll saw. Either way, you need a very thin blade and attention to where your fingers are to eliminate "red decoration" on the wood. Use spruce, cedar, hickory or ash. These woods are light colored, but have interesting grain. Basswood will work, but it lacks grain needed for added interest.

To visualize the design, think of a kaleidoscope. Draw a circle. Split the circle in half, then each half into eight equal parts. The design can be any geometric pattern that fits neatly into one of the eight parts and is mirrored in the one next to it. Jim handed out step-by-step instructions, a pattern for the cutout and the layout design for a simple light. See the enclosed page. As he walked through the assembly steps the pattern began taking shape and a lovely hearts and stars light was the result.

The light fixture is a light weight, nightlight. The entire Welcome light weighs only ounces and can be hung using the light cord. Jim cautioned us against using any flammable finish on the wood. Even though the light bulb is small, there is a potential of heat buildup.

Thanks, Jim, for simplifying a very complex looking design and giving us another challenge for our woodworking skills.

---

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

If you are interested in showing at the Viking Woodcarving Spring Show, please fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter and send it in right away. I've gotten off to a slow start this time, sorry. As usual, I am looking for people to help set up at the mall Friday April 22 at 3:00 pm. Any help will be appreciated.

I am looking for people who would like to sit at the Viking table and demonstrate your skill and talk to the people who stop by. Also, if you want to show but believe that you don't have enough carvings to show, come in and sit at the Viking table during the show. This will give people who haven't shown before a feel how the show works.

If you're not showing, come out and see what the carvers have to show. Also tell everyone you know about the show.

---

**For Sale**  
**12" Craftsman band saw & accessories,**  
Model 113-248440 6" Blade height - \$300.00  
**10" Craftsman radial arm saw,** Model 113-  
192310 - \$350.00  
Contact Marv McCoy 612-927-6021

# 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 – 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

**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) – February, 2005

NAME	CARVING	WOOD	FINISH	COMMENTS
Russell Scott	Holidays Rushing By	Basswood	Acrylics/Poly	Lynne's Ideal
	Nude Figure	H. Mahogany	Light Poly	Ian Nurbury
	Viking Figure	Basswood	Unfinished	For the Viking Collection
Luther Kliche	Christ Praying at Garden	Basswood	Unfinished	
Yancey A. Reed	Paper Models	Paper		
Jim Kuepper	Lighthouse	Basswood	Acrylics	
	Mary and Jesus	Basswood	Acrylics	
Bernie Enright	Big Bass	Basswood	Unfinished	
Jupe Houman	Spearing Decoys	Basswood	Acrylics	Weighted with Lead
Don Groen	Deacon	Basswood	Acrylics/Wax	Original, no plans
Dick Allen	Grandma	Golf ball		
Leo Mielke	Head	Golf ball	Acrylics/Wax	
Duane Edwards	Red Hat Bears	Basswood	Acrylics	
Hugh Salisbury	Lamp w/ Running Deer	Butternut	Polyurethane	With Manzanita Root / Red Oak
Ray Gritche	Foot Stool	Cherry	Unfinished	
Norm Busta	Fan Bird	Basswood	Acrylics	

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**VIKING WOODCARVERS**  
**2005 Spring Show and Sale**  
**April 23, 24 HAR MAR MALL**  
**Snelling & Co. Rd. B, Roseville, Minnesota**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

TELEPHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES**

Table or Space      \$20.00 Each  
 Exhibitor Chairs    \$ 2.50 Each

There is no limit on number of tables or spaces required to display your products

Number of Tables? _____	X	\$20.00	=	\$ _____ .00
Number of Spaces? _____	X	\$20.00	=	\$ _____ .00
Number of Chairs? _____	X	\$ 2.50	=	\$ _____ . __
Show only Tables _____	X	\$10.00=	=	\$ _____ .00
Show only Spaces _____	X	\$10.00	=	\$ _____ .00
<b>TOTAL: .....</b>				<b>\$ _____ . __</b>

Please return registration form and check for fees to:  
**Russell Scott, Viking Woodcarvers, 1238 Edmund Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104**  
 By April 1, 2005. Make checks payable to "Viking Woodcarvers". Registration fees are non-refundable.

**EXHIBITOR REQUIREMENTS**

110 Volt Electrical      Yes                      No                      (Circle One)  
 Other Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Table size is 30" x 96" and space size is 96" wide. Table skirts are included in your registration fee. *However, you will need to furnish table covering, extension cords and special lighting.*

**Viking Woodcarver Show Coordinators:**  
**Russell Scott, (651) 917-2125 ... rscott56@netzero.com**