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VIKING Woodcarvers
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vol. 30 No. 5

PRESIDENT

- Jim Forrey
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- Jim Ayers
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- Nancy Dardis
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- 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 – May 24 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

May Presentation:

Our Presenter will be on Acanthus Carving by Keith Anderson. Keith lives in Northfield and is an Instructor at the North House School in Grand Marais, Minnesota. He will use a videotape of Hans Sandom to show the process of acanthus carving and demonstrate some of his own techniques of designing and carving acanthus work. Keith is an excellent carver and valued teacher with a solid grasp of acanthus carving and a desire to share his skills.

Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

April 26, 2004

By Nancy Dardis

Jim Forrey opened the April meeting at the Knights of Columbus hall. There were 59 members in attendance. Bernie Enright is back from a hospital stay, and several 'snow birds' have also returned for the warm Minnesota summer. John Tester, from St Paul, heard that Izo would be our speaker tonight and decided to pay us a visit. Welcome to all!

Thinking of You

Merle Erickson is still slowly recovering from a stroke. He may be going home from rehab soon to start another part of the recovery process.

That's great news!

Marnie Whillock is recovering from recent breast cancer surgery. The carving club in Faribault is planning a fund-raiser this summer to help with her medical bills since she has no health insurance. We will get as much information as possible for the next newsletter, but watch our web site

(<http://www.russcott.com/~rscott/vwca/>) for updates during the summer when we take time off from our regular meetings. If you would like to send a card, address it to:

Marnie Whillock, % Whillock Studio, 122 NE 1st Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021

Treasury/Meeting Minutes

Lew Frosmark was busy making deposits and paying bills on his return from vacation. When all the dust settled, the club balance at the end of April was \$4,095.52. The attendees approved and seconded the Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report as printed in the April newsletter.

Membership Cards

If you haven't picked up your membership card yet, please stop up at the front table at the next meeting. Cards not picked up at the next meeting will have to be sent out. There are also about 60 people who have not yet paid their dues for 2004. Lew will need to follow-up with these members, as well. He would like to get the annual membership drive behind him so he can enjoy some carving time too.

Spring Show

The Spring Show was a success and filled with a few 'lessons learned' for the new Chair. Russ Scott said he wants to rethink the layout for the next show. Although we had a good number of tables, attendance and buying was down. We seemed to have hit the first weekend of really good weather here in Minnesota. A lot of those people who may have come inside for a walk were outside enjoying the sunny skies. A heartfelt thank you to all who helped with the setup and tear-down. The burden was easier on everyone because of the great teamwork.

Upcoming Programs

June – Since the fourth Monday in June is so close to July 4th weekend, we approved a request to see if the Knights of Columbus will let us change our meeting schedule to August through May. The June meeting has always been optional. Having the extra meeting in August would give us one more meeting of planning before the Fall Show. Jim Forrey will check with the Knights to see if that will pose any problems. A decision will be made at the May meeting.

Vendors

Thanks to our vendors:

- *John Krantz* (Krantz Wood Sales) – lots of great wood, as usual.
- *George Effrem* (Woodcarvers Store and School). George brought a nice supply of new books and tools. Check with George for future classes at his School.

Program – Woodcarving with Izo Becic

Izo immigrated to Moorhead, Minnesota from Bosnia. He and his wife escaped with their lives, but had to leave everything behind. The journey to the United States, in his words was simply 'terrible'. He does not like to talk about what is in the past. Izo wants to look forward. In two short years he can apply for US citizenship and is excited for the future. It was

very inspiring to see his work as he recaptures life in all its fullness and beauty.

At age 14, Izo started carving with his brother. Although he was eager to learn everything, he was told 'Don't ask questions, just do what you are told.' He hoped to make money to pay for college. He worked for several years with two artists from Croatia who taught him proportion and other aspects of his chosen art for free. Izo was finally able to attend college and finished with an accounting degree. He worked at several commercial carving jobs in Bosnia while attending school and continued to learn new techniques.

He does not feel his English is good enough to be an accountant here in the United States, so he has 'fallen back' to his carving. I'm sure I'm not the only one in the room who wished I had that kind of talent to 'fall back' on! When he arrived in Minnesota, the Moorhead carving club gave him a mallet and several chisels as a 'welcome' gift. With these few tools, he has started to rebuild his livelihood.

Izo told us a bit about European art schools. You select your medium before starting training. If you want to carve, you do not take general art classes, you take carving classes. In the first year, you study tools and wood with a carving master. You learn how the tools work, how to select wood for a project and how to get the most out of both. The second year you study technique. Again, working with the master, you may do some hands-on carving, but the concentration is on how others create their works. In the third year, you begin to apply your training and learn design. This is the first year you actually begin to carve in earnest. Izo will be offering some carving classes soon (watch our web site, we will post information as soon as we get it).

Several slides gave us a flavor for Izo's work. From plates to vases; from furniture to a large mantel piece. Each offered us a chance to enjoy the boldness of his design and the beauty of his work. Most of his work is in the European decorative style using leaves and floral motifs.

He also enjoys adorning his vases with grapes and vines in honor of his native Bosnia. As a special salute to Minnesota, he recently

carved a plate with a duck motif. He's starting to try his hand at bears and other wildlife native to Minnesota. Although he sees it as a challenge, I'm sure he will master the new subjects in a very short time.

Izo does all his work by hand-carving, rather than using power. This style purposely leaves visible gouge marks to prove the piece is hand-made. The only sanding is done on a face. He generally uses medium size gouges. You don't need every size. By turning an 8 slightly, you can make the same cut as a 9 – why have both? Half of the skill in carving is knowing how to select, sharpen, and use your tools. Good tools make all the difference. Izo rounds the corners on most of his gouges. This allows him to make a more vertical stop cut without having the outside edges chip out. He rarely uses knives, preferring to reserve them for small details or chip carving.

Although basswood is a favorite of carvers in the United States, Izo prefers walnut. Not only does it have a rich, beautiful color, but it lasts forever. He feels if he is charging for a product, he should make it high quality. He does admit to mistakes on occasion. If a little slip removes the end of a leaf, you use creative freedom to make the same 'mistake' on the other side of the design. Then, it is no longer a mistake!

Izo gave a demonstration of his carving technique. When working on a vase, he merely holds it between his legs and works quickly with a mallet and chisel. The speed of his strokes had several of the men in audience questioning the wisdom of the 'leg-hold'. Izo said he never cuts towards himself, for obvious personal reasons. He also has the memory of a carving accident at age 14 to remind him to be cautious. Starting a new job, he was outfitted in new clothes. One slip of the gouge cut his new pants. He also cut his leg, but that would heal. The pants were irreplaceable.

In a matter of a few minutes, Izo took a plain, turned, wooden vase and adorned it with a cluster of grapes and leaf in deep relief. It was amazing to watch as this immigrant from Bosnia made the chips fly. Although his journey to the United States was filled with unimaginable hardship, we have been blessed with a treasure! Thanks, Izo, for sharing your

marvelous talents with us. We look forward to sharing our citizenship with you!

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**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. 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**

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Faribault Woodcarving Festival

August 21 – 22, 2004
Faribault Ice Arena

The Whillock family will put on a woodcarving festival! It will celebrate carving with displays, demonstrations, mini-classes and lots of camaraderie! It also celebrates the 30th year that Ivan Whillock Studio has been in existence! Admission is free so they can attract as many people as possible.

The festival will be held in Faribault at the local ice arena, so it will be indoors with lots of space. It’s in a park so it is easy to find with lots of parking. The dates are Friday and Saturday, August 21 & 22.

- 1) Rather than a judged competition, we would like to offer carving critiques to those who would like them. This has been one of my most-requested things! If you like to critique carvings – let me know. We could use people with several areas of carving expertise.
- 2) We would like everyone who comes to learn something, so we will feature mini-seminars and demonstrations.
 - a) The mini-seminars will be held in a private area. Your carving

display table will be free and you may sell any supplies you have. I would also like you to offer each student a handout. We will supply the notebook, the copy machine, and the three-hole punching. We want to keep the entire event affordable so lots of people come! But we also want to attract valuable instructors. If you have any other specific needs, monetary or otherwise, let me know. I’ll work with you.

b) The demonstrations will be held at a featured spot in the arena. There will be a different one every hour or two. You simply sit and carve and answer questions. We can have volunteers on hand to cover your display booth when you are demonstrating.

- 3) Also very important is for us to have a great display of carvings. If you cannot attend the event, please consider sending some things for display.
- 4) Another goal is to make sure everyone who comes leaves with something. Please consider donating carvings, gift certificates or merchandise for a giveaway (door prizes, silent auction, etc.)
- 5) Tool vendors. If you would like to sell items, please let me know. I don’t want to have too many vendors, but want a variety of items available.
- 6) Carving/tool swap meet. There has been a little bit of interest in this idea. Let me know if you are interested – it could be fun.
- 7) We’d like to make this a great event. Please help us by forwarding this email to anyone who may be interested in being involved.

There are a limited number of spaces for RVs to plug in right on the festival grounds. I will first offer these spaces first to seminar instructors. Let me know if you’d like to reserve one.

So – this event should be fun-filled, affordable and educational. I would love to see you involved! Please consider spending these two days with us here in beautiful Faribault, MN. I'm planning advertising and hand-outs in the next two weeks. Your earliest response will be appreciated.

Marnie Whillock

Dear fellow carvers,

This is a call to help one of our woodcarving family members, Marnie Whillock. Marnie, editor of Carving Magazine, is fighting cancer at this time. The outlook is very positive. She had surgery, removing the cancer, and all indications, including her bone scan, are clear of cancer. This is wonderful news. However Marnie is about to undergo both chemo and radiation treatments as the final step in defeating the cancer. The costs of the

surgery and treatments are high and Marnie is not covered by insurance. Marnie could really use our help.

For those of you who would like to help with Marnie's treatments you can do so in complete privacy by sending your donations of carvings (to be sold at raffle or auction yet to be organized) or a check directly to Marnie. If you are making out a check please make it out to, The Marnie Whillock Benefit Fund.

Marnie's address to send your donations is:

Marnie Whillock
1018 SW 8th Street
Faribault, MN. 55021

If you would rather not let Marnie know what you are donating you may send it to Chris Whillock with the following address:

Marnie Whillock Fund
PO Box 611
Faribault, MN 55021

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**

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

VIKING MAGNUM OPUS
(SHOW AND TELL) – April 2004

NAME	CARVING	WOOD	FINISH	COMMENTS
Charles Rathsack	Cowboy	Basswood	Acrylics	
Harland Kuhlman	Walking Cane	Diam/Willow	Poly/Spar Varnish	
Len Kampa	Lil' Monk	Basswood	Micro Paint Pens	
Duane Edwards	Witch	Basswood	Acrylics	
Jim Abicht	Swedish Totem Pole	Western Red Alder	Black Lacquer	
Dennis Schuster	Love Spoon	Basswood	None	
Jim Bastyr	Wood Duck Male	Basswood	Acrylics	
Clarence Moe	Clowns	Basswood	Acrylics	
Jupe Houman	Head Body	Basswood Plastic	Acrylics	Every boat owner should have one
Jeff Lippka	Chickadee Small Bunny	Basswood Basswood	Acrylics Acrylics	
Norm Busta	Man and New Lab Pup	Basswood	Acrylics	Harley Schmitgen Pattern
Leo Mielke	Granny	Basswood	Acrylics/Wax	Gary Batte rough out
Bernie Enrient	3 Face	Ct Wd Bark	Polyurethane	

Color Images are available on the Viking Web Site:
<http://www.russcott.com/~rscott/vwca/> under Galleries

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