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VIKING Woodcarvers
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vol. 31 No. 5

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 79th St., Bloomington,**
- **4th Monday – May 23 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

May Presentation: "Woodcuts" by Nick Wroblewski.

Nick is a printmaker specializing in hand-cut wood block prints. He will explain the process of carving a woodcut, design, and creating a print from it on paper. His work can be seen on his website: **www.nickwroblewski.com**. Nick has developed his art to a high degree, generating prints with strong design features and myriads of colors. Most of his woodcuts are carved from basswood and some of them are quite large and complex. Here's a professional artist who is well into his art, loves to teach others about it, and has much to share. For carvers unfamiliar with woodcuts, this will be a delightful treat.

Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

April 25, 2005

By Lynne Medgaarden

President Jim Forrey opened the meeting with 45 members present and five visitors: Randy Briggie, Mel Bleeker, Orin Peterson, Bob Stall, and Rick Lindberg. Jim announced that we have 150 members on the roster but 50 have not paid their dues for 2005. Get your dues into Leo Mielke as soon as possible; \$15.00 annually.

Treasury/Meeting Minutes – Leo Mielke reported the April treasury balance was \$4,510.00. Jim Abicht audited the club books. Everything was correct. He made two recommendations: 1) the club should purchase software for keeping the books, 2) don't wait so long between audits. Treasurer's report and meeting minutes as printed in the previous newsletter were approved and seconded.

Jim Forrey made the suggestion that we should introduce ourselves to other members during the meetings so we get to know each other. He would like to reinstate the nametag fine of 25 cents if you don't wear your nametag. You can order a nametag from the club through Leo Mielke for \$4.50. We will discuss it again at the next meeting.

Old Business

Show

Russell Scott reported that the Viking Woodcarvers Spring Show at Har Mar was a success. The weather on Saturday was cold and rainy so we had lots of traffic inside the mall. However, Sunday was sunny so traffic was low. Russ reported that he had 20 extra copies of the March newsletter that we gave out during the show at the club table to prospective new members. Many people stopped to ask about the club.

This year Russ made a list of vehicle license plate numbers and make and model of vehicles to give to the security guards at Har Mar rather than paying for a guard to be present to make sure people parked in the correct spot. This saved the club \$250 (the fee that Har Mar Management was going to charge). Russ brought up the idea that the club should consider additional activities for the shows such as a show raffle, judged competition or people's choice competition. We added some new items this year – nametags for show participants and table signs.

Russ sent out a big thank you to all the members who came to Har Mar Mall to help set up on Friday

night and take down the tables and chairs on Sunday. Also, a special thank you goes to Gary Fleming who stores the table covers and Viking signs. Gary came out for both set up and take down and hauled the covers and signs both ways. The club also thanked Russ and Lynne for their work on the Spring Show.

August Meeting

The club voted to hold an August meeting rather than a June meeting. An August meeting will give us two meetings prior to the fall show which works out well. We will meet again on the 4th Monday in August (August 22, 2005).

New Business

Russell Scott brought up the idea of the Viking Club holding carving classes on a regular basis. He would like to invite a big-name carver to come in for a weekend to get things started. The club could pay for some of the transportation and lodging costs. The carver could teach a class on Saturday and Sunday and possibly stay over to come to our Monday meeting to give a presentation to the whole club. Russ had done some preliminary research and found that the Knights of Columbus building is available for a Saturday class but Sundays the building is closed. A member of the Viking Club, who is also a member of the KC's, thought something could be arranged to have the building available on a Sunday also. Russ would like the club to hold regular classes with a variety of carving styles offered.

Members seemed very interested in this idea and made additional suggestions:

- With a big-name carver we would have to have a minimum and maximum class size.
- A new carver's class would be good to encourage new carvers to join and learn new techniques.
- An intermediate or advanced carving class would be beneficial to experienced carvers.
- Desiree Haney was invited by the club to give a class several years ago and that went well.
- Harley Schmitkin was suggested as a possibility for an instructor. Perhaps people could use a caricature drawing of themselves to carve a flat figure carving using Harley's style.

- One class session a year isn't enough – we need to have it more than once per year. Should be more frequent to perpetuate the class process.
- Clarence Moe mentioned that the St. Cloud carving club used the senior citizens building in St. Cloud to hold a bird carving class. The fee was \$30. It was successful.

A motion was made and seconded to form a committee at the May meeting to prepare a proposal regarding holding carving classes. If you are interested in being a member of this committee contact Russell Scott, Jim Forrey or Lynne Medgaarden.

Vendors

John Krantz reported that wood sales at the Har Mar show were very good.

George Effrem had a new selection of books related to the April guest speaker's topic – carving wood spirits. He also had a new wood burning pen set and a universal, pivoting table vice.

Tom Isaacson cleared out some of his library of books and magazines and offered them for sale at very good prices.

Bob Spangenberg had some diamond willow walking sticks for sale for \$3-\$5.

Closing joke from Jim Forrey

A lady came over and picked up a new Saturn. She brought it back and said something was wrong with the brakes. The mechanic asked her to take him for a drive to show him the problem. She drove up to a stop sign, slammed on the brakes, came up behind a truck, slammed on the brakes; nearly rear ended another driver before slamming on the brakes. She then turned to the mechanic and said "Do you smell that?" He responded, "Smell it? I'm sitting in it."

Tonight's Program – Carving Walking Sticks by Willie Dawydenko from Northeast Minneapolis.

Willie brought in a selection of beautifully carved walking sticks. Each was elaborately carved with multiple faces – mainly Santa or mountain man designs intermingled with leaves and vines.

Willie started carving in 1990. He used to do stained glass and taxidermy before discovering the wonders of carving. He started by carving ornaments to give away as gifts, but now his carvings are all over the world. He brought in a selection of carved canes made from basswood and one wood spirit from cottonwood bark. He said carving is a great hobby.

Wood is cheap and the tools are easily transportable.

His canes were covered with carved faces. He does not carve eyeballs. He lets shadows create eyes. He carves nearly every day. One elaborate cane that he brought for display took him two weekends during a boring outing in his fish house.

He entered one of his canes carved with 36 faces into the Minnesota State Fair several years ago and won first place. But he hasn't won since that first time.

He designs his own patterns when carving and likes to incorporate leaves into his designs. He gets his wood sticks from the park board when they trim trees and dries them. He marks off the design on the stick in pencil. He likes to carve lots of faces in one cane. He paints the canes with acrylic paints then sprays 4-5 coats of a matting spray. He doesn't like to use high gloss finish.

Besides canes he also carves cottonwood and redwood bark. He enjoys demonstrating and teaching carving to youth and elderly groups. However, he has found that 10-12 year olds don't have the hand strength or coordination to carve well. He always makes them wear leather gloves. However, he did say, "You're not a carver until you bleed."

He said he carves between 1600-2000 carvings per year and sells them by word of mouth from his home. He uses only a knife and v-tools for carving – no power tools. His canes sell anywhere from \$60-\$100 for 1-3 heads on a cane but those with elaborate carving sell for \$400-\$1600.

He does a few shows; the Ukrainian Center on Marshall, Anwaton Middle School, Holiday House in Wayzata, and he used to do the Heritage Festival.

Upcoming Events

- The Jordan Art Festival will be held June 25-26, 2005. They 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. Entries should be submitted by April 29. Forms are available at their website: www.jordanchamber.org/Art%20App.htm.
- The 1st Annual SE MN Woodcarvers Workshop will be held June 5-8, 2005 at Slim's Woodshed, Harmony MN. Classes

run Sunday through Wednesday. Registration fee includes one 4-day workshop. Fee is \$60.00. This event is taking the place of the carving event that was hosted in Audobon, 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.

- Waldorf Woodcarving XIV is scheduled for July 15th-July 17th, 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.
- 2005 Annual International Woodcarvers Festival, Lake Bronson State Park, MN, is scheduled for August 6-8. Registration deadline is July 15. For information contact Cammie Taylor at gcaf@wiktel.com or call 218-754-8264.
- The Whillock's are planning another Carve-Fest for August 27-28, 2005 at the Faribault Ice Arena. They will have classes, exhibits, and vendors at this event. It was great fun last year. Watch for details.

For Sale

Three Spindle Wood Duplicator Machine
... also basswood - \$800
Contact John Seelig 763-537-6788

Chainsaw Carving Contest at Minnesota State Fairgrounds

This year, the Minnesota State Fair will have a "People's Choice Chainsaw Tree Carving Competition." Due to a large influx of Dutch Elm disease on our fairgrounds of 320 acres, we have approximately 20 Elm trees available to be carved. Each tree is approximately 10 feet tall.

The theme will represent the "Minnesota State Fair" or "Minnesota." Entries will be judged on the best depiction of the "Minnesota State Fair" or "Minnesota" via ballot by fair visitors, August 25th – September 4th, 2005. Winners will be announced and listed on the State Fair website (www.mnstatefair.org) on Labor Day,

September 5th, 2005. The carving dates for the entrants will be allowed to schedule as much time as needed to complete their entry between May 1st – August 1st, 2005.

They are also in the process of trying to arrange for opportunities for carving demonstrations during the fair (August 25 – Labor Day, Sept. 5) for the entrants of this contest. This has not been finalized yet, details to follow.

Chris Thompson and Ken Peterson sent me a quick note via email to let us know that they are now part of a website for Island artists. **It is called Madeline Island Artwaves.**

The address is:

<http://www.madelineislandartwaves.com/>

Check it out.

The Viking Wood Carvers Association Fall Show

Reminder – The VWCA Fall Show will be on October 22, 23 2005. I will send applications with the August and September newsletters.

The 11th Annual Red Wing Wood Carvers show will be held October 8, 9 2005. Contact Jim Kulstad at **651-388-7503** or **jbkulstad@msn.com** for more information

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

NAME	CARVING	WOOD	FINISH	COMMENTS
Swede Bengtson	Big Rig	Intarsia		
Bob Spangenberg	Cane	Diamond Willow		
Clarence Moe	Clown with trunk	Basswood		
Aaron Ionta	Castle	Cottonwood bark		
Myron Asper	Hog Hair Hank	Basswood		
Erik Meade	Alligator	Oak bark		
Don Groen	Baker woman	Basswood		
	Man with hatchet	Basswood		
Jupe Houman	Wood duck	Butternut		
Yancey Reed	Phoenix	Paper		
Esther Allen	Bark Whimsy	Cottonwood Bark		
Duane Edwards	Beaver/Lumberman	Basswood		
Jeff Lippka	Tiki and 2 small wood spirits	Cottonwood Bark		
Gregg McCabe	Gnome houses	Cottonwood Bark		
Russell Scott	3 Father Christmas	Basswood		