

Mid-America Woodcarvers Association

NEWSLETTER

March 2015



Meetings and Open Carving - First and Third Saturdays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Augustana Lutheran Church 38th and Lafayette St

From the President:

Time truly flies; I find it amazing that we are already planning the Spring Picnic, gearing up for the MAWA Carving Experience at Doane, and beginning to work on the Fall Show. There is always something happening within the club.

It was great to see so many club members at our last meeting, and it is always fun to see everyone's projects. As the weather improves, and our snowbirds return, we look forward to seeing more of you at club in the upcoming months.

Spring Picnic

Denny Rourke is in the process of planning the Spring picnic; we will have dates and more information for everyone in the April newsletter and online on the club calendar. Denny and Ann Rourke did an outstanding job with the Spring picnic last year. I hope you are looking forward to attending as much as I am.

MAWA Woodcarving Experience at Doane

As you know, registration for classes at the MAWA Woodcarving Experience at Doane is well underway. It is exciting to receive the registration forms and see how many of our friends are returning, as well as receiving the registrations of new friends we have yet to meet. We will be meeting with Doane a month early this year so we can check out the new classrooms available to us in the Communications Building. Classes are already beginning to fill up so if you have made up your mind about which class you would like to take, today is the day!

As we prepare for Doane we have been taking a look back at past years and have found many treasures. Included in this newsletter is a comic drawn many years ago by one of our members that we thought some of you might remember and enjoy.

We are also beginning to plan for Doane 2016 since it will be our 40th anniversary of the MAWA Woodcarving Experience at Doane. We are in the process of gathering information from past years at Doane. If you have any photos, anecdotes, etc. that you would be willing to share we would appreciate your contacting us. Sandy Foral our Club Historian is in the process of putting together a memory book spanning the last 40 years and your help would be appreciated.

Fall Show

Rich Wagner has already been working hard on planning the Fall Show. In the next few weeks we will have the registration form on our website. We encourage everyone to be a part of this event by renting a table to display their carving, volunteering to help at the show, or both. I am proud to announce that Randy Nadrachal will be our featured carver this year. Besides being an active member of our club he was also the Novice Champion at the 2014 Fall Show.

Happy carving! I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting,

Maria

So the cold weather has got you down..... What in the world is there to do when it is too cold to go outside.....

Well you can CARVE, and then you paint your project, and then what?

Well I know what I did on a Sunday a few weeks ago. I was at Gretna and someone needed two bases. I didn't have any left so I said I would make two Saturday night and bring them Sunday. I made two and also brought two of my own bases that were under two of the carvings I did with Kirt Curtis. I figured I would not need them but, just in case her carvings needed a big base.

So she decided to take all four, that was great but now I am without my own bases. So I decided (helped along by constantly tripping over these same boards in my garage) it was base making Sunday. It was too cold to go outside but warm in the heated confines of my workshop. It was "*Katy bar the door time*" and I had the old planner and band saw in high production mode. I could have just made two as replacements for the ones I needed, but what the heck. It was cold outside and I was really, really, sick of these boards being in the way, every time I turned around. So here is the results of the walnut cutting frenzy.....

In the end, I am not even sure how many I made. I know I also cut two maple ones, and some out of a chunk of white oak, that got too close to the base making machine I had become. I had two piles of scraps walnut and thought what could I do with these. Then it hit me they would make the good fire making scraps (expensive firewood). I sat by the fire and played rummy with my wife kind of night. It was very relaxing despite losing, although as I put scraps in, I had to fight that urge to hold some back. I always see something that scraps could be used for, it is an illness no doubt about it.

I really find enjoyment making bases, of course it helps to have a stack walnut laying around. After all the times I have tripped over those boards I finally decide enough was enough! I guess I showed that walnut who the boss was.

I even ended up with a couple figured wood bases, I may even use for one of my own carvings. I need to hide them quick, Kirt manages to find them, he is part bloodhound for figured walnut bases. He teases me that I always try and hide them from him, which is only partly true. I am always happy when my base sits under other peoples carvings.



Club Officers - **Maria Mulherin** - President

Rich Wagner- 1st VP

PJ Driscoll - 2nd VP

Judy Nygard - Recording Secretary **Ken Kult** - Treasurer

Board Members: **Denny Rourke, Larry Putnam, Mike Hawkins, Tom Paskach, Jeff Westerfield**

Membership: **Ken Kult** Workshops: **Larry Putnam** Library: **Barb Steiner**

Tool Managers: **Ken Armsbury** History: **Sandy Floral** Hospitality: **Sandy Floral**

Show and Share



John Camazino



Dean Paulsen



Santa by Steve Reed



Old World Chip Carving with Steve Reed

A Blast From the Past

Club Historian Sandy Foral found this and other cartoons that were created and shared with members who attended Doane over 30 years ago. While there may be a nick or two over the week, things are never quite this dyer. It is however a great example of the humor and fun that have always played a role at Doane. Who knows, this could have been the first ever winner of the "First Blood" title. You can look forward to a new comic next month.

*Stop by and Visit
Bring one of your carvings to show us
The coffee is always on
and the Donuts are usually Freshish
(ok, the donuts are actually quite delicious)*



The 2015 Gretna Woodcarvers Retreat

Well another Gretna retreat went off without a hitch, the weather on Sat and Sun was wonderful. The meals were delicious, and the carving instructors were top notch. Sometimes the weather is cold and icy but this year it was actually a fantastic weekend weather event. I left on Saturday a little early and drove along the Platte river it is a great view of the river. I was able to visit with quite a few familiar faces and met a couple of new ones. If you haven't ever tried it I really encourage you to give it a shot. I took a couple of quick snapshots of what was happening out there. I think you will find that it is a great experience to chase away the winter blues. Special thanks to John and Mary Robbins for all that they do.

For info and the dates of the 2016 Gretna retreat go to: <http://www.gretnawoodcaringretreat.com>



Club Mailing Address, Email & Websites

P.O. Box 540314, Omaha, NE 68114

Email: midamericawoodcarvers@midamericawoodcarvers.com

Club Website: www.midamericawoodcarvers.com

MAWA Woodcarving Experience Website: www.thedoaneexperience.com

Treasurer – Ken Kult

As a club, we have been looking at ways to keep our costs down and keep our membership dues at \$20.00 per family per year. Starting April 1st, the monthly newsletter will be emailed to everyone that has provided us with an email address. The February newsletter, with the Doane application, will continue to be mailed through first class mail with the post mark being used for first-come-first-served class selection. We also recommend that if you are a snow bird or aren't at your normal address the first part of February, please notify us annually by December 1 so we can be sure to get your newsletter to the right location on time

Club Calendar

March 7 - MAWA Club Meeting – Steve Reed – Old World Chip Carving

Please note the chip carving class is limited to 6 students. If you have your own old world chip carving knife Steve will consider more students.

March 21 - MAWA Club Meeting – Larry Putnam – Wood Spirit (tentative)

April 4 - MAWA Club Meeting

April 18 - MAWA Club Meeting

Please help us keep our calendar current. If you know of surrounding woodcarving shows or events that would include woodcarving, submit them to your website and we will include them on our calendar.

midamericawoodcarvers@midamericawoodcarvers.com

Club Historian/Hospitality – Sandy Floral

Hospitality

Just a reminder to our members to please contact Sandy Floral with information regarding club members who have passed, are ill and could need the support of the club, or have a happy event they would like to share. You may reach her at 402/553-3440.

Club Historian

Sandy is in the process of compiling information and photographs for the 40th Anniversary of the MAWA Woodcarving Experience at Doane. If you would like to contribute please contact her.

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GRETNA, NE 68028-0521

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PHONE # (____) _____ E-MAIL _____

(Check appropriate boxes)

- Membership—\$20.00 per Family - Newsletter send by 3rd class mail (except) February - 1st class mail
- Membership Card - send SASE (Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope)

Detach and send applications, dues and SASE to Len Stenneche, PO Box 521, Gretna, NE 68028-0521

(Make checks payable to Mid-America Woodcarvers Association, Inc. or MAWA)

If you have any changes in your address, phone number or e-mail address contact:

LEN STENNECHE - 333 Paradise Drive - Gretna, NE 68028-7890 - (402) 332-3118 - ldstenneche@cox.net

Well it is that time of year again, with the ups and downs in temps, it has been difficult to get stuff done outside. I did manage to get some wood stacked up to start air drying. I think I must be getting older as the 5" stock is just too heavy to put on top of the pile. I remember cutting 8 X 8 X 8 butternut cants and moving them by myself, I think those days are gone. This time as I was unable to get my kids into helping I managed to get a nephew to help. I think on the next pile we will go big to little on the stacking.

I am waiting for some red oak timber that is too muddy to get until the weather makes up its mind cold and frozen or warm and dry. Weather in the Midwest is always a hard one to predict accurately.



Don't look too close at my sticker placement it was cold that day

The Doane Experience 2015

Have you sent in your registration form yet? What are you waiting for?

Random Thoughts.....

Well spring is practically upon us, I am trying to convince myself of that. I am looking forward to getting back to mowing, I am sure I have mentioned my love of mowing. I had a great time at the Gretna retreat, and was able to visit with lots of folks, and see what they were working on. I managed in between polar blasts to get some wood cut and stacked so it will be ready to air dry once warm weather returns. I am also excited for fishing season, I am running low on walleye fillets in the freezer.

My wife and I are very excited as Katy and Zac had a baby girl a few weeks ago. This is our first Grandchild so it is all new to us. I held her in the hospital, and it was the first time I had held a baby since Seth was a baby, 19 years ago. This will take some getting used to but, I am looking forward to spoiling my granddaughter. I am working on a crib for her, ideally it would already be done. It was supposed to be finished before the baby came, however I had some supply issues, that slowed me down. I was unable to supply the motivation to get into my workshop to build it. I have recently received some motivation from my wife directed at my backside to get the thing built. That will be the next thing that gets done (OK, I did get sidetracked on the bases) but I am back on course now. I should get a dog collar and have someone shock me when I wander off course. I have so many times started in one direction, and then ended up in something unrelated to what I started. It is like a strange path, of totally related steps. As an example the base fiasco started innocently enough. I went out to plane a few pieces of oak for the crib. As I was in the garage I was getting a few oak boards out and had to move some wood to get to the oak. As I was moving the wood I noticed the floor needed sweeping. Once I found the broom, by the band saw I noticed the band saw could use a good cleaning. I went to roll the band saw out, and I backed into a stack of basswood, which needed restacking. While restacking the basswood, I knocked over some walnut cut offs I save for bases. While I bent over to pick up the base blanks, I knocked over these walnut boards, leaning against a wood rack. I had tripped these over before and had finally had it. I fired up the chop saw and the band saw and went on a base making frenzy. When I was done, I went back in to the house, my wife said how's the crib coming along? Right on schedule "Honey" just like I promised.....



MID-AMERICA WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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