

Alexandriacarvers.com

January 2018 *The Newsletter of the Parkers Prairie Woodcarving Club*



Happy New Year

We ended the year, December 2 & 3rd, with a fish carving class led by instructor Troy Helget. Helget was inspired to take up decoy carving in 2011 after attending the decoy show in Alexandria. Before that, he was known for his chainsaw carvings that he did of fish and other wildlife. He taught taxidermy at Pine Technical College for a while. He produces everything from collectible pieces to working decoys that spear fishermen use in the darkhouse. We carved a Northern or a Muskie, depending on which you preferred, in some cases members did both. In the past we have carved a Crappie and a Sunfish. We are looking forward to another class where we will carve a stringer of fish.

Picture are included on the next page.



Our January 13th class will be carving apples. Cost is \$6 and this will include 3 square blocks of wood for the apples and 3 pieces of 1/4 inch wood to carve the stems. You should be able to carve the apples and paint them in one day. I've included some examples, in the picture, but will have other examples available.

Web Page: alexandriacarvers.com

Facebook: Parkers Prairie Woodcarving Club

Remember to bring an extra \$10 per person to carving classes to pay for the use of the facility.

Dues are due first of the year.

Adults or family = \$15. Junior membership \$5

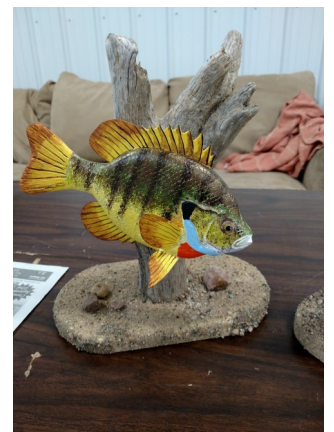
Newsletter/Dues

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December 2 & 3rd class with Troy Helget



Calendar

January 13: Carving apples with club member Roger Thalman (\$6 for set of 3)

February 17, 18: Carving a Turtle with Don Fisher

March 2, 3 and 4: Troy Helget with a Stringer of Fish (Approximate \$125)

April 13, 14 15: To be determined with Marty Dolphens

Other Events

March 10—11: Blaine, MN = Minnesota Woodcarvers Association 52nd
Annual Woodcarving Show

March 17—18: Rochester, MN = 42nd Annual show at Olmsted County Fair
grounds 4—H building

April: Fargo, ND: Red River Valley International Wood Arts Festival at
Baymont Inn

April: Willmar, MN: West Central Wood Carvers Annual Woodcarving Show
at Kandi Mall

Relief carving as a type of woodcarving in which figures are carved in a flat panel of wood. The figures project only slightly from the background rather than standing freely. Depending on the degree of projection, reliefs may also be classified as high or medium relief.

Relief carving can be described as "carving pictures in wood". The process of relief carving involves removing wood from a flat wood panel in such a way that an object appears to rise out of the wood. Relief carving begins with a design idea, usually put to paper in the form of a master pattern which is then transferred to the wood surface. Most relief carving is done with hand tools - [chisels](#) and [gouges](#) - which often require a [mallet](#) to drive them through the wood.

As wood is removed from the panel around the objects traced onto it from the pattern, the objects themselves stand up from the background wood. Modeling of the objects can take place as soon as enough background has been removed and the object edges are trimmed to the pattern lines.

In order to secure the wood panel, a workbench with fixtures like bench-dogs, carver's screw or clamps, is necessary. Carving tools come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, some aimed strictly at the hobbyist, but others directed at professional carvers. Some carving tools are held with one hand while the carving is held in the other. But most relief carving requires that the wood panel be secured so that both hands may be on the carving tool.

Much of the skill required for relief carving lies in learning to grip and manipulate tools to get the desired effect. Tool sharpening is also a necessary skill to learn, and dull tools are a severe obstacle to effective carving.

Stages of relief carving

1. Create a pattern, drawn on paper.
2. Prepare a wood panel for carving. This may be a single piece of wood or a laminated panel.
3. Transfer the pattern to the panel, using carbon paper as the transfer medium.
4. Remove wood around the objects that comprise the pattern.
5. Model the objects
6. Detail the objects
7. Tidy the background behind the objects
Apply a suitable finish to the panel

Styles of relief carving

- 1. High relief, usually between 1/2" and 2" in depth.
- 2. Bas relief, or Low relief usually under 1/2" in depth.
- 3. Deep relief, usually over 2" in depth.
- 4. Pierced relief, where holes are carved clear through the wood.

Some carvers prefer to finish their carving with a clear finish. But others incorporate color and [pyrography](#) into their relief carvings



High Relief



Bas or Low Relief



Deep Relief



Pierced Relief