

Parkers Prairie Woodcarving Club



JUNE NEWSLETTER

Coming this Fall

Marty Dolphen will be having a class on carving one of these Santa's out of a bass-wood log. We will use a bench for carving.



Show & Tell



Tip of the Day

Don't rush your wood carvings. Any mistake you make is potentially permanent. You'll have to change up your plan to integrate mistakes into the finished product, and that could sacrifice your original vision. To avoid this, it helps to lightly sketch out your cuts and carvings with a pencil. Draw out lines to cut along, and shapes to carve out. It will help you be more precise, and prevent un-fixable mistakes.

Woodcarvers

Club dues are due at the first of the year. Adult or Family membership is \$15 and Junior membership is \$5

Contact for Newsletter & Dues

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2017

Latest Carving Class



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Upcoming Events

Calendar

The club is presently on Summer break. We will not be meeting as a Club until this fall. I will continue to send out a monthly Newsletter. In the mean time, keep your tools sharp and the chips flying.

Aug 10, 11 & 12: Carv-Fest 2017

Faribault, Minnesota Alexandria Park .. Ice Arena 1816 NW 2nd Ave

60 plus 1-day workshops. Some of the instructors are Bob Lawrence, Alice Spadgenske, Don Fischer and many others. Meet new friends, learn from top instructors, buy top of the line art work and mix with who's-who of Carving.

Aug 17, 18, 19 & 20: Douglas County Fair

Our club is signed up to help for one day of carving on August 18th. This will probably be a 10AM to 10PM timeframe. This would be a great time to finish a project or start something new. We will be outside under an awning on a cement slab by the newer Heritage Building. Tables will be provided but if you have a favorite chair, bring it. You will need to pay to enter the Fair. This is a great way for us to showcase our club but also attract new members. Bring some completed projects to show people. Let Sonya know if you would be open to be there to carve any or all of this timeframe.

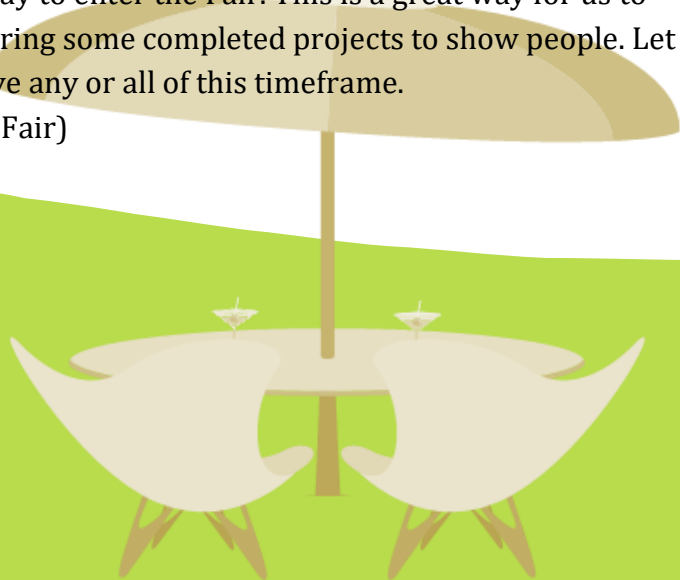
(Don't forget to enter your last years projects in the Fair)

Contact Sonya Anderson for Club Projects

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HISTORY OF WOODCARVING

Wood carving has probably been around about as long as man has been upon the earth. So the history of wood carving begins at the beginning. Man has always used and manipulated wood. Adam was probably the first wood carver. He must have used wood as one of his first tools, maybe for a club or a walking stick. He could have even tied a rock to a stick of wood and used it for a hammer. When he found a way to make an instrument sharp enough to hunt with, an arrow head or spear head may have been first but if so the knife couldn't have been far behind. What do you think a man with a knife living in the forest or jungle who is surrounded by standing and fallen trees would do to pass his time? Woodcarving just got its beginning. Was the date recorded in a book? There probably were no books. Besides, carving was so much fun who would take the time to write it down. He probably started out whittling or maybe carved other tools or utensils out of wood. After a while he must have discovered he could carve or make just about anything he wanted out of wood. Carving could have been his favorite pastime, at least until Eve came along.

Due to wood being a material that will not withstand the test of time, wood carvings must be protected and taken care of if they are to endure. Unlike stone carvings or sculptures that might be buried for thousands of years and survive, imagine what would happen to a wood carving or wood sculpture under those conditions. Between the elements and the insects, in just a short time nothing would be left. There is a country where conditions are favorable enough that wood could survive for long periods of time without the best of care. The climate in Egypt is the only climate where this could happen. In 1860, eleven wooden panels were found that had been preserved under the sands for over 4000 years. Each of these panel measured two feet by one and one half feet. These panels are what modern wood carvers would call relief carvings. They were found in the tomb of Pharaon Hesy-Ra. The earliest three dimensional figure yet found is thought to have been carved around 2500 B.C. The carving is three feet high and is in the usual Egyptian pose, walking forward with both feet flat on the ground and holding a staff in one hand. Wood was not plentiful in Egypt and the Acacia and the Sycamore were the only trees growing suitable for carving. These trees were so scarce that they were considered sacred. While there are indications that in almost every country people practiced the art of wood carving, the carvings did not survive as they did in Egypt.

During the Dark Ages wood carving had its ups and downs. In Europe, the art of wood carving was pretty much confined to Monasteries as that was the only place that was safe enough practice it. There were many wars and acts of barbarism taking place at that time. From about 700 A.D. to about 900 A.D. the art or practice of making images was strictly forbidden in some parts of Europe. This included images of any kind such as wood carving and even paintings. This was brought about by artists who were copying Roman sculptures of pagan gods, pagan emblems and symbols. Many artists left for other parts of Europe where Monasteries employed craftsmen and artists of all kinds to worked on the monasteries themselves. The wood carving that was done in these monasteries were mostly relief carvings done in doors and wooden panels. Carvings done in each country in Europe were remarkably similar which can be attributed to the fact that the carvers traveled from monastery to monastery practicing their trade.

After the year 1000 artists felt more freedom and began to open up with their work. Wood carvers were influenced by stone carvings and based some of their work on remains uncovered in parts of Europe such as Italy. In England carvings were also based on stone carvings. These carvings were not usually statues but decorative carvings. Some of these seem to be based on carvings done in Denmark and Norway. Centuries later, Scandinavian woodcarvers seem to have been influenced by stone carvings done in England. Some carvings done between 1000 A.D. and 1200 A.D. can still be found in old churches in England. These wood carvings naturally were protected from the elements otherwise they could not have survived. Many wood carvings over the years have been destroyed due to neglect. Others have been intentionally destroyed by wars and acts against the churches. Many also were destroyed in the name of improvement, such as replacing older carvings. Over the centuries wood carving has undergone many changes but has never died. As long as there is wood, there will be wood carvings.