

2017 November Newsletter Parkers Prairie Woodcarving Club

New
Coming Soon

Web Page: alexandriacarvers.com

Facebook Page: Parkers Prairie Woodcarving Club

Newsletter & Dues

Roger Thalman
2100 White Oaks Circle N.E.
Alexandria, MN 56308
Email: R.thalman@hotmail.com
Cell: 320-491-2027

Club Activities Director

Sonya Anderson
Email: Sonya.anderson@hotmail.com
Cell: 320-808-9862
Work: 320=763-4455

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

At our last CLUB MEETING, it was DECIDED that WHENEVER WE HAVE AN INSTRUCTOR LED CARVING CLASS, WE SHOULD BRING AN EXTRA \$10 PER PERSON TO PAY FOR THE USE OF THE FACILITY.

TIP of the DAY

The "Practice Stick" means exactly what the words imply: A stick used for practice, Practice sticks are those little pieces of discarded wood you can use for practice. Carve eyes, noses, lips, hair, ears, etc., etc.. In other words, use these pieces of wood to practice any feature in carving that you are having trouble with or if your trying decided how a certain feature should look.

Santa Project with Marty Dolphens



Calendar

Oct 28 (Open carving with potluck and meeting)

November open

December open

January open

February 17 & 18 ("Turtle" with Don Fischer)

March open

April 13, 14, 15 (Marty Dolphens)

Other possible Instructors are Troy Helget, Dick Skauge,

PJ Driscoll, Nancy Dardis

Creating Driftwood by Ed Walicki

Many of us use natural driftwood in our habitat displays, those of us that do know how hard that perfect piece can be to find. Years ago I experimented with different ways to carve realistic looking wood that fit my needs better than looking for a particular piece along a lakeshore. I stumbled into a very fast and easy way to create aged/weathered looking driftwood. The fastest is to find a old tree root of some sort or a downed limb. Carve off the bark and grind the piece to shape using a coarse carbide burr. Don't worry about leaving a rough finish, just rough it to shape. Once the desired shape is achieved, using a hand held propane torch burn the surface of the wood fairly deep, more so on the ends of the wood. After the wood has burned a short while take a stiff wire brush (*I use the type you would use to clean your BBQ grill*) and brush away all the charring and what is left behind is a weathered looking grain in the wood. The soft areas burn away faster leaving the dark raised grain lines. The wood will almost return to the original color with a little wire brushing. I then redo areas I would like a little more "weathering" with the torch and wire brush until I have the desired look.

Once completed just apply a few coats of sealer and paint. I prefer a medium value gray base coat with several brown wash's of color to achieve a wet submerged log look. Don't go for the light gray weathered driftwood look, wood underwater does not look like that.

The second method is to carve the driftwood from a large piece of wood, I prefer cedar. Cut out the rough shape on the band saw and then carve in some twists and knots. Again don't worry about bandsaw marks or any rough areas, the burning will soften all the detail. Then just as above, do a little fire carving to achieve the final look, seal and paint.

In both cases as the wood heats up it will check and shrink leaving you nice looking splits and detail in the wood. For a hollowed out looking stump you would just hold the torch toward the end of the log for a few minutes to remove wood from the core of the log. It is really easy to shape wood with fire from a torch.