



# ROCK RIVER VALLEY CARVERS OF WISCONSIN

January 2021

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Editor: Rosemary Kautz

Website [www.rockrivervalleycarvers.com](http://www.rockrivervalleycarvers.com)

## Notes from the Presidents' Carving Bench

**Merry Christmas to all and may the blessings of Christmas and the new year be with all of us.**

It is very good news that the long-awaited vaccines are starting to be administered, and that we may be able to be with family, friends, and fellow wood carvers before too long.

Please keep in mind and in your prayers all of those who are no longer with us: Tim Banwell, Bernie Fields, and Mary Johnson. Please let Rosie Kautz know of anyone who needs to be remembered by our members with a card – whether they have passed away or are ill.

The Board of Directors has voted and is pleased to announce that all members who have paid dues for 2020 will not owe any dues for 2021. Our expenses have been much lower due to not having our show and we anticipate a refund from the city of Janesville for meetings in 2020 that we were not able to conduct. Can't wait to get back to the Senior Center and other carving locations so we can work together and exchange information and ideas again!

In the 'Club Members Carvings' section of this newsletter, I have posted a photo of an old working canvasback duck decoy. It was in a "headless" state and very banged up. Tim Banwell had gotten this decoy body from his uncle, Robert Banwell, of Belvidere, IL. He had intended to restore and conserve it for his family. With Tim's passing away, his wife, Ruth, asked me to finish this up. I made a new head, fitted it to the body, and redid the paint, etc. Ruth was very happy to get this family keepsake back. Ruth had donated Tim's carving tools to our club and the board of directors will set up a club member sale to they get into the hands of wood carvers at a later date.

**Keep making chips and art for the future!**

### 2021 Officers

- President: Thomas Kautz  
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- Vice President: Mark Ludois  
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- Secretary: Mark Ludois  
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- Treasurer: Rosemary Kautz  
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- Librarian: Bud Cunningham  
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- Editor: Rosemary Kautz  
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**I told my wife to  
embrace her  
mistakes....  
so, she  
hugged me**

We normally meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Janesville Senior Center, Second Floor, 69 S. Water St. Janesville, WI Meeting or Carving begins at 7:15 p.m. Board Meeting at 6 p.m.

### A message from Denny Pryce's Daughter & Denny:

"Your comfort crosses and wooden stars are more than they appear. I sat with them in silence and could feel the energy. It is strong. Partly because of the wood element, but more of the spiritual energy, "love" you put into each item you make. Even if you are not aware of it."

I thought this might help inspire other carvers. Everyone's work holds more meaning to others than they may realize. (From Denny)

**A Voice from the Past:** On Sunday, November 29, we received a call from Bob Crompton in Florida! He is doing fine and recovering from cataract surgery on both eyes. He hasn't been riding his bike lately as he's being cautious since he fell off and banged himself up about 2 months ago. He has a nice space in his garage set up for carving and has been working on some spoons and small birds that he's been giving away. He hopes to be able to sell a few after the pandemic is over and the local markets open up again.

## Club Members' Carvings



Ernie Tucker's  
Santa in a Chimney  
and Spoon Santa



Ernie Tucker's Hair  
Combs (above) and  
Playful Mushroom  
(on the left)



Gus Helling's Carved Boot



Tom Kautz' Carved Canvasback Duck Head  
added to Robert Banwell's Duck Body

