

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CARVERS OF WISCONSIN

May 2020

Volume 21 issue 5

Editor: Rosemary Kautz

Website www.rockrivervalleycarvers.com

IMPORTANT MESSAGE:

**There will be No Monday and Thursday morning carving sessions
No Tuesday evening carving sessions
No monthly meetings until at least May 11.**

Thoughts from The RRVC President's Carving Bench

As our days of social distancing (for our own safety) continues, all gatherings are of course postponed until better days. Yes, keep on carving, painting, or wood burning. Keep up your spirits up by creating objects of art! Keep in touch with other club members via telephone, email, etc.

The 'Comfort Crosses for Cancer Patients' project continues! See me for patterns, information, or cutout blanks. I have on hand several dozen pieces ready to carve. These are hardwood White Ash, so power carving is needed. If you do not have a power carver unit, we can connect you with patterns to cut out of ½" thick stock for hand carving. Please join this list of your fellow carvers in this effort. So far, the list of carvers who have stepped forward to make this 'Comfort Cross' project successful include: Mike Boutelle, Tom Marty, Ed Houge, Mark Ludois, Dave Thill, Ron Machajewski, Ernie Tucker, Gus Helling, Ray Douglas, Randy Callison, Reggie James, Brad Crandall, and myself. If I've missed anyone, please be sure to let me know so our records can be updated. **A Big Thank You** to all who are making this project a success.

Please note that the wood for about 91 crosses was donated by the Wisconsin Hardwoods Company via Mike Boutelle, who picked up and delivered the wood for us.

Please keep in mind that the Board of Directors of our club will need member input on how we should handle the donation of wood, books, and tools received from Jerry Heyerdahl. (See last months' newsletter for more details.) Plus, your input is needed on how we should proceed with the project of possibly providing air conditioning for the room we use in Ortmyer Hall for Tuesday evening carving in the summer. As of now, we anticipate still being able to hold our show and sale in September. Our show promotion during the Beckman Mill opening day festivities has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

Please stay safe and know that better times will be here soon!

2020 Officers

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**I Kill Time
Thinking Until It's
Time for Wood
Carving**

We 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.

Membership Updates

Please remember to contact RRVC President, Tom Kautz, or Newsletter Editor, Rosie Kautz, if you are moving to a new address, changing phone numbers or email addresses. We don't want to lose track of our important members!

rosietom@centurytel.net or 608-868-4522

Shows and Seminars – Check Websites for Latest Information

June 13 – 21 International Woodcarvers Congress: Maquoketa, IA, check website in early May for update, www.awcltd.org

August 1 – Lake Country Carvers: Artistry in Wood show at Oshkosh Convention Center, 9 am-4 pm at Life Enrichment Center, 1306 Wisconsin Ave, Oconomowoc, Wis., see their Facebook site for updates

August 6-8 – Carv Fest: Fairbault, MN, www.whittlingshack.com/carv-fest

Sept. 19-20 - Wisconsin River Woodcarvers: Holiday Inn, 1001 Amber Ave., Stevens Point, WI, www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org

Sept. 26 – Rock River Valley Carvers: Craig Center, Janesville Fairgrounds, www.rockrivervalleycarvers.com



Get to Know a Fellow Carver

Ernest P. Tucker Sr., age 75, has been carving since February 2005. Here is the rest of the story in Ernie's own words:

"I got interested in carving after having a stroke in 2003. I purchased a cane with a wood spirit carved into it. I thought that I could do that. Soon after that I noticed that the Janesville Senior Center had a group of active wood carvers and joined them. The rest is history.

I "grew up" in Saranac Lake, N.Y. which is located in the northeast section of the Adirondack Mountains. I lived in Columbus, Indiana from 1974 to 1984. I've made Janesville, Wisconsin my home since 1984. I have a wonderful wife, Pat, two children, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. I retired from Prudential January 1, 2020

after working as an insurance agent for the company for 26 years.

My primary interest in carving is carving faces. I have carved faces in basswood, walking sticks, golf balls, soft balls, rolling pins, driftwood, and cottonwood bark. I also carve comfort birds.

I have been a woodworker since a teen and also do leather crafting. I recently learned how to play a mountain dulcimer. I have to thank the Janesville Senior Center for adding to the enrichment and enjoyment in my retirement years.

There is very little space at my home, so I sell most of my carvings at Raven's Wish, a local art gallery. I also sold them at the Janesville Farmers Market until October of 2018."

Ernie is scheduled to be the Featured Carver of this year's RRVC Show and Sale in September.

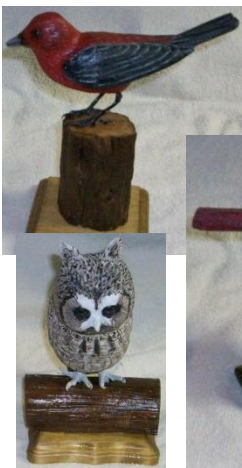
Article submitted by Robin Rios.



Jim Svoboda's efforts were rewarded at the Desert Carving show in Mesa, AZ with a First in Class on his motorcycle, first place on the Civil War soldier, and third place on his wood spirit.



Club Members' Stay At Home Efforts



Bub Hilgendorf's carving projects include a Scarlet Tanager, Male Cardinal, Killdeer, White-Breasted Nuthatch, and an Owl still in progress.

Bud Cunningham created the beautiful Butterfly pyrography on the right, above.



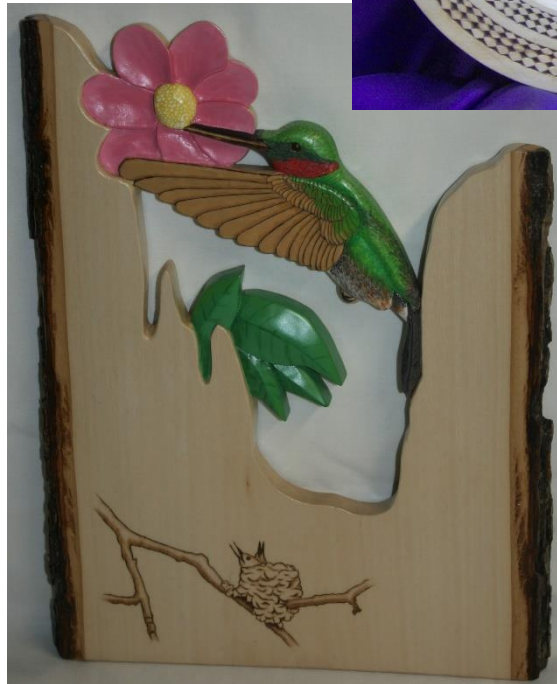
Denny Pryce has been busy carving the Comfort Crosses (above finished ones and those in progress on the left) and is also working on the "Knothead."





Ernie Tucker has been carving Comfort Birds, Crosses, a Trivet, and many other items.

Ray Doulas' Chip Carved Plate



Rosie Kautz' Shallow relief Hummingbird



Jim Svoboda's Angry Birds, cute Easter Bunnies, and Chicago Bears' carvings



2 out of 6 carved
Owls by Tom
Kautz and a few
of the Comfort
Crosses he's
done.



Wood burned Owl and Fox Magnets
by Rosie Kautz