

Dayton Carvers Guild

March 2019



www.daytoncarvers.com

Find us on Facebook at Artistry in Wood, Dayton, OH

This comes to you from North Dakotan Marshall Stearns. His newsletters are amongst the greatest written in the Minnesotan language, don't ya know (pronounced *do'ncha_noo*). Please give Marshall Stearns your newsletter input at (937) 837-0728 or emstearns8@gmail.com

March Program: Election of Officers and Dick Belcher on Fish Carving



At our March meeting Dick will demonstrate fish carving. It has been a while since we had some serious fish carving. One of our new members is fish carving and is taking Dick's class. Fish carvers can be fun. They can be almost as fanatical as bird carvers.

NEW: MEETING AT 6:30

United Rehabilitation Services now closes at 8:30. We need to be out the door by 8:30 so we will start our meetings at 6:30.

Who we are. What we do.

We, The Dayton Carvers Guild, are wood carving enthusiasts. Some are experts and some are beginners. All are welcome.

Carvers and folks who might be interested in carving are invited to come to our meetings.

At a typical meeting we start with Show and Tell. Seeing what others have carved inspires you. We break for coffee and cookies, and then have a program. It might be a "how to" demonstration or a presentation of something related to wood or carving. Ideas flow.

Artistry in Wood is a world class two-day show exhibiting wood carving and woodworking art, selling it, selling tools and wood, plus a competition. We put on this show.

If you have questions please contact Marshall Stearns at (937) 837-0728 or emstearns8@gmail.com.

Next Dayton Carvers Guild Meeting: Tuesday, March 26th, 6:30 pm at United Rehabilitations Services Building, 4710 Troy Pike (at Needmore Road), Dayton, Ohio. Meetings are at 6:30 pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month except there is none in December.

Program: Election of Officers and Dick Belcher on Fish Carving

Cookie Contributors: Bruce Henn and Don Worley



Renew Your Membership in March

March is the month to pay your dues.

Renewals are \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for family. Write your check to Dayton Carvers Guild and mail it to

Barb Belcher, Dayton Carvers
Guild Treasurer
6205 U.S. Rt. 40
Tipp City, OH 45371.

You also may pay her at the March meeting.

The roster gets updated with the membership renewals. If you had a change in your address, phone or email address, give it to Barb, too. It would really help to get all renewals done in March so the roster and address files can be updated one time and one time only.

If you currently receive the newsletter by mail and would be willing to receive it by email, note that in your renewal. The email system saves work and money. The newsletter is available at The Club Website a couple weeks prior to each meeting. Paper copies are mailed at the same time to those not getting it from the web. The cost of printing and mailing paper newsletters about equals the dues for that person.

If you are a new member who joined during 2018 Artistry in Wood or later, your membership dues are already paid until March of 2020.

Tree Topper Needed

We need a tree topper for Artistry in Wood. If you are willing to carve it, wood burn one or whatever, tell Sandy Gordon. And, everyone, crank out those ornaments.

Member Discount at The Hardwood Store

Your Dayton Carvers Guild membership card will save you money at The Hardwood Store. They give us:

- 10% off retail price of lumber and moldings
- 5% off retail price of plywood and doors
- 10% off all other regularly priced items
- No discounts on sale or clearance items
- No discounts on flooring and decking.

The Hardwood Store has an extensive stock of woods for carving and woodworking, as well as exotics. Find them at 340 Enon Road, Enon, Ohio 45323. Phone: 937-864-2899.

Elections in March

We will elect 2019 officers in March. Usually, The Vice President becomes The President the next year. Jason Gordon had been VP in 2016 and 2017. He served as President in 2018 and was thought to serve again in 2019. However, demands of school and job take him away. We have another candidate for President but none for Vice President. If you would consider doing this, please step forward.

\$100 Donated to The Iowa Show

The Dayton carvers voted to donate \$100 to the International Woodcarvers Association. They put on what we know as the Iowa Show and our members always have a strong participation in their competitions.

What Programs are Wanted?

At the February program folks marked which programs they would want. Here are the results. There were very roughly 25 present.

Number of Marks

- 14. Carving demos & instructions for intermediate carvers
- 12. Carving demos & instructions for advanced carvers
- 12. Carving demos & instructions for beginners
- 12. Hands-on carving instruction such as Don Mertz's
- 10 Sketching to develop ideas and create a carving
- 8. Club project such as making carvings for kids in Children's Hospital
- 7. Commercial videos
- 6. "All kinds of carving stuff – I come to learn or try something new."
- 5. Videos of demonstrations
- 5. Carve in – one comment was, "One more if for a tree in hospital. Otherwise, don't care for carve in."
- 5. Speakers on topics outside of carving, such as puzzle boxes
- 4. Finishing
- 3. A separate meeting each month which is just a carve in
- 3. Club project such as classes and carving sessions at a senior center
- 3. A member showing a project they did, with enough detail to make a program.
- 2. Club project such as carving with youth groups
- X Speakers on various topics, which topics? Comment was: "Wood spirits, walking sticks, cottonwood bark houses."

- X Suggestion: "Get with woodcarving school (colleges)."
- 0. Special tools
- 0. What are the tool steels available on carving tools?
- 0. Critique your (everyone's) project

At Marion's we asked, "Might we get a prettier waitress?"

The maître d' said, "This is the pretty one." Enjoy lunch with your fellow carvers in the VIP lounge at Marion's North Piazza. We start at about noon and it's always on the first Wednesday of the month. Marion's North is at 3443 North Dixie Drive in Dayton.

February Visitors

We were pleased to have Kristina Armstrong from Brookville, Scott Miller from Greenville and Tom Miller from Huber Heights.

New Member

Welcome to the club, Lowell T. Greentaner, also known as Tom, of Christiansburg, Ohio.

February Show & Tell Winner

Jim Reboulet had the winning ticket. He chose a dandy detail knife.

February 50/50 Winner

Ray Kunz won \$15.50. That means the club also won \$15.50.

CHIP CARVING TRICKS

I gave a program at the February meeting on how to get by if you are an intermediate chip carver. Below is the gist of what I said, plus one important thing that I missed, how to not tear apart fine points when you have many points converging.



- First, in case you did not know.
 - The #1 position is where you hold the knife with the thumb tip on the wood and the first knuckle of the first finger on the wood with the knife in between. You pull the knife toward yourself.
 - The #2 position is where you push the blade with your thumb. You push the knife away from yourself.
- If you really want to be good, carve every day.
- If it has been some time since you chip carved, do some practice boards.
- To not break out wood, make your first cut away from the adjacent cut out chip.
- To not break out wood, cut the big chips before you cut smaller adjacent chips.
- Choose the sequence of chips so the wood does not split. Sometimes this means make the first cut be a stop cut. Sometimes, not.
- When a cut may split out the wood, hold the chip down as you cut it.
- To get really clean, smooth facets, cut so you stroke down the grain, not lift the grain. This might require sometimes using the #2 position.
- To not tear apart a fine point, select the sequence of cuts so that the second cut is away from the point, compressing the point. The first cut can be toward the point if there is still enough wood around it so nothing tears. You might need to use #2 position to make the second or even both cuts go in the direction that compresses the point. This holds especially for cross grain points and especially in butternut.
- When your cut may undercut the wood, causing the wood to break out, rotate the blade to be more perpendicular to the surface. Do this when lots of chips converge. Rotating the blade here is NOT standing the knife up so the whole knife is more perpendicular to the surface. The cut is at or near 90 degrees.

- When carving a confluence of a lot of fine chips to a center point, cheat by taking only a few chips all the way through the center.
- When the wood tears or splits, try first lightly scoring where it is going to tear or split, then cut out the chip. The score acts as a stop cut.
- Don't make a big, visible compass point hole. Often you will draw your pattern on the wood and use a compass. You might draw several circles using one central point. The thing to avoid is reaming out a compass point hole in the center where a bunch of lines converge. Tape a thin piece of wood where the compass point will be.
- Cutting an even-width circular line can be difficult. When your cut approaches where it goes with the grain, the grain will take your blade a bit away from your line. Then, as you exit cutting with the grain, the grain will take your blade away from the line the other way. The problem doubles when cutting the other side of the line. Going around the opposite way makes the grain take your knife opposite from where it did the on the first cut, leaving your circular line too wide in one spot and too narrow in the other. One solution is, when you are cutting with the grain and the wood wants to split ahead of the blade, try laying the knife down so the heel of the blade scores the surface of the wood ahead of the thicker part of the blade. The wood tends to split along where you scored it. This is what I do.
- Another solution is to make the second cut using the #2 position.
- You must undercut just a bit to free a chip but don't undercut enough so that it's obvious.
- Use a pointed tool to tuck in the undercuts and smooth the fuzzies.
- If a chip is hanging by a thread of wood, cut it off; don't pull it off.
- Deep curved cuts:
 - Intermediate chip carvers have trouble pulling the knife through the wood.
 - With enough experience what you cannot do now will later become easy.
 - Failing that, here is how to make deep curved cuts.
 - » #1. Practice. Practice. Practice.
 - » Cut at a flatter angle so the chip is less deep. If too flat, the shadows will be poor.
 - » Hold the whole knife more upright to the wood. This puts a narrower section of the blade in the wood.
 - » Consider using a more delicate blade, such as a narrower Dunkle blade, rather than a Barton blade. This is opposite to what I advise below about bending the tip. You decide.
 - » Relieve the load on the blade by opening up the middle and cutting around and around to near the final shape. Then, in single strokes, cut it.

- You might bend the point of your blade.
 - Use a Barton knife rather than a Dunkle knife. The double bevel on a Barton knife makes a thicker, stronger blade.
 - Sometimes, but very rarely, you can successfully bend back a bent point.
 - To salvage a knife with a bent point, grind off the back, not the edge.
- If you stain a carving you won't notice if the facets were perfect or not.
- When your wood is very dry and it doesn't carve nicely, lightly mist the surface.
- When it's not going well, try something different. Sharpen. Switch blades. Change the sequence of cuts. Change the direction of cuts. Mist the surface. Anything.
- To avoid rubbing off your drawn pencil lines or traced Saral lines, cover with paper what's not being carved.
- Tracing Saral Paper lines with a stylus is nice. But, if you use a 0.5 mm pencil, you can see where you traced. Use a stylus unless you need to see where you traced.
- You may remove thumb nail marks by wiping the surface with a wetted paper towel.
- To reduce marking the wood with your thumb nail, cover the nail with blue tape.
- If you rub raw the first knuckle of the first finger of the knife hand, put blue tape around the knuckle.
- It's a pleasure to pop out chips with your knife but do not do it. Eventually you will ding the point. Use a toothbrush to remove loose wood. Never pry out a hung chip with your knife. You may lift out a loose chip with your knife.

I got into finishing in my program but this is long so I will put finishing into a future newsletter.

This will take you from beginner to competent. Much of the material here is not in the "How To" books. You pick it up on your own and in classes. Do lots of chip carving, take classes and develop whatever works for you. It won't be exactly the same as what works for me.

Marshall Stearns