

Fine Feathers November 2014

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ALBERTA WILDLIFE CARVING ASSOCIATION.

AWCA Xmas Party

Cost: \$20.00 per person/spouse or partner

Place: Amiskwaciy Academy in the Upstairs Cafeteria

Time: 6:00 PM until 9:00PM

Please join us for dinner, fun gift exchange, announcements and in-house raffle/prizes.

Some of the prizes:

Gift certificates from Cabela's and Razertip, amongst others

\$50.00 Instructor discounts for next year's classes

Fun Gift Exchange: For those who wish to participate, a wrapped gift (gender neutral) with a value of \$10.00 or less or a wrapped object from around the house that you would wish on someone else!

Please sign up by contacting Kathleen Norton.

Cabela's Ladies' Day Feather Necklace

On October 4, 2014, the AWCA participated in the Cabela's Ladies' Day event at the south store. Thanks to AWCA volunteers Paul Hanson, John and Sandy Stevenson, Shirley Stewart, Glenn Maber, Keith Middleton, Barb Mikaluk, Wayne Meyers, Kathleen Norton and Alan Spiller who made this event educational and fun for the ladies in attendance. From wood burning, painting and making necklaces, a total of 69 participants left with their own unique feathered necklace.



AWCA Raffle 2014/15

Ticket sales for this year's AWCA Raffle are ongoing - once again the **draw will be made on Sunday May 3rd 2015 at our Images of Nature Show**. AWCA members are encouraged to sell tickets as soon as possible. **All monies and unsold tickets are to be turned into Kathleen Norton by Saturday May 2, 2015**. This year's AWCA Raffle prizes are:

- **Pine Grosbeak by Austin Eade**



- **Big Horn Ram by Brenda Mitchell**



- **Baird's Sandpiper by Austin Eade**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2014-2015-2016 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT: Kathleen Norton
PAST VICE PRESIDENT: Bob Steele
VICE PRESIDENT: Keith Middleton
SECRETARY: Sandy Stevenson
TREASURER: Russ Mann
DIRECTOR: Glenn Maber
DIRECTOR: Paul Hanson
DIRECTOR: Clarence Bereska
DIRECTOR: Wayne Olsen

2014-2015-2016 COMMITTEES/MEMBERS

INSTRUCTION: Glenn Maber
NEWSLETTER: Sandy Stevenson
MEMBERSHIP: Sandy Stevenson
LIBRARY AND EQUIPMENT: Clarence Bereska, John Stevenson
XMAS PARTY AND XMAS PROGRAM: Shirley Stewart, Sandy Stevenson, Kathleen Norton
CLOTHING: Wayne Olsen
COFFEE: Kathleen Norton
WEBSITE: Don Delaney
GRANTS: Russ Mann
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Bob Steele, Cheryl Hepperle, Glenn Maber
FINANCE COMMITTEE: Russ Mann
AUDIT COMMITTEE: Sandy Stevenson, Brenda Mitchell
PR AND ADVERTISING: Russ Mann, Paul Hanson
CARVING IN THE PARK: Glenn Maber, Bob Steele

2013-2014-2015 IMAGES OF NATURE COMMITTEE/MEMBERS

COMPETITION CHAIRPERSON: Benda Mitchell
COMPETITION AND SHOW: Glenn Maber, Wayne Olsen, Jim MacLachlan
CARVING REGISTRATION: Bob Steele, Rick St Arnaud, Will Simpson, Keith Middleton
JUDGES: Brenda Mitchell
EDUCATION/MEMBERSHIP BOOTH: Paul Hanson

FOOD/BBQ/BANQUET: TBA

RAFFLE: Kathleen Norton

GARAGE SALE BOOTH: Wayne Olsen, Barb Mikaluk, Steve Ewashko

RIBBONS & AWARDS: Glenn Maber

SHOW RESULTS & PHOTOGRAPHY: Bob Steele, Don Delaney

SHOW PR AND ADVERTISING: Brenda Mitchell

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

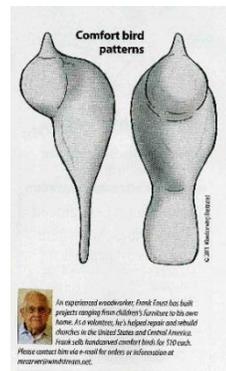
COMFORT BIRDS

In the past year we have heard several people talking about COMFORT BIRDS. Last spring, Bob Steele brought a comfort bird to the shop, and mentioned that he had got it in Arizona and that there was an article written in Woodcarving Illustrated.

Paul Hanson mentioned that he has carved several hundred of these for various charities, church groups, etc. Paul was kind enough to forward Glenn Maber the article, patterns and some photos of coloured ones he has made.

Stan McKinlay picked up some maple wood and donated it to this project and we have cut out approximately 70 blanks.

We are looking for volunteers to help carve these for the Association. If you wish to help in this endeavour, please contact Paul Hanson. The Comfort Birds will be donated to various organizations in our area.



Member News

AWCA would like to welcome the following new members: Scott McFadden, Elvin Smith, Mary Sharp, Cheryl Trost, Cathy Hostyn, Michael Eales and Curtis Blair.

The executive and members of the Alberta Wildlife Carving Association wishes to express our sincere sympathy to the family of Dave Rusnell who passed way at the end of October. Dave was a member of the Association for several years and carved with many of us, he will be missed.

TECHNICAL NOTES

So How Do You Start A Carving On Your Own?

1. Decide what bird you want to carve and if you are going to reduce the size. Collect all the data you can on the subject, including pictures, drawings, and patterns.
2. Tupelo is the best wood to use for detailing. Square up the wood, draw on your centre lines and then lay out your pattern side view and top view and make sure they line up. Cut the blank out on a band saw.
3. Maintain your center lines top and bottom; also mark the widest part of the body. These lines should remain on the cut out throughout most of the carving.
4. Start with the head specifically the beak or bill, from the tip to the forehead; draw the width lines for the beak, head and eyes, remove the wood on both sides do not point the beak yet. Measure from the center line out to $\frac{1}{2}$ the width each side, as this will keep the beak balanced.
5. Draw the head width first then find the location of the eyes, if you are using a pattern and have extra copies. Cut out the head and use it as a template, lay it on the wood and trace. Use a sharp object and mark the eye locations deep enough to ensure you don't carve off the location. Double check with calipers that both eyes are the same, if you are sure they are correct, drill a small hole $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of the eye and deep enough that you won't lose it. Note: some carvers like to drill $\frac{1}{2}$ way from each side and the hole will meet in the middle if it is correct.
6. Now it is time to start to round the head. Start at either the bottom or the top. Check the front profile before you start and maintain symmetry on both sides, we will refine later.
7. Draw on the widest part of the body and the highest part of the body on the top (back). Mark with an (X) and maintain that width and height throughout the carving process.
8. Roughly round the body top and bottom using a larger rougher bit. Only carve the front the body of the bird, do not go near the tail or the primaries, and blend the shoulder into the head. Again maintain symmetry.
9. Now we will return to the beak/bill. Refine the beak/bill very close in length and width, leave it slightly heavy i.e.: 1-2mm oversize.
10. Now we want to set the eye width. From your pattern, measure the eye width (the narrowest part inside of one eye to inside of the other eye) and mark two lines on the forehead. On most birds the width will be close to the width of the bill. Then measure the pattern from the top of the head down to the center of the eye and mark a line on both sides of the head to establish the height of the eye. Measure from the tip of the bill/beak to the center of the eye and mark a line. This is where the eye should be set. Draw a circle the diameter of the eye in the appropriate spot. In the center of the eye, drill a small pilot hole half way through the head. If your layout is correct, the pilot holes will meet in the center of the head, if not recheck the layout.

TIP: When measuring width, divide by two and measure from your center line, this will keep the bird balanced.

11. From the eye pilot holes to the top of the beak, draw a horizontal line. This is the eye channel; grind a small channel on this line and blend it out to the cheek and the top of the head. (Generally the eye is located between the top of the bill and the gape of the bill or mouth). Grind the channel evenly from both sides until it is the same as the width as measured from the pattern as per #10 (Eye width). Extend the line slightly behind the eye as well.
12. If you are sure the eye is located correctly you may now drill it to size.
13. Measure the width of the head from your pattern and mark the widest part of the head. Remove any excess wood from the cheek area, then measure from the pattern the width of the head above the eye and remove the excess wood.
14. Now blend the wood from the eye channel to the top of the head and to create the top of the lower cheek.
15. Mark the neck line approximately and carve the lower cheek down the neck line.
16. Blend the wood on the head from the beak/bill to the cheek and from the cheek roll the wood to the back of the head. You need to look closely at the pattern and reference picture to capture the character (or uniqueness of the species.)
17. Layout and refine the upper and lower mandible, the notch on the forehead, put in the nostrils and refine the whole head, bring the dimensions to exactly as specified. (Up to this point we have been measuring from the tip of the beak/bill.)
18. Now we are going to work on the body. Remember: You will now take the all of your measurements from the end of the tail not the beak. The blank should be the exact length of the bird so you don't have to worry that the tail has not been carved yet.
19. Mark your centerlines, top, bottom and sides. Layout the tail length and width cut it square. Don't round anything off yet.
20. From the end of the tail, measure and mark the end of the body, location of the end of the primaries, secondary's, upper wing coverts, and the cape. On the underside of the tail, layout the location of the rump and any other identifiable feathers or details e.g. Body, legs.
21. Refer to your pattern for this next step. Draw a line from the end of the primaries towards the front of the bird to establish the angle and shape of the wings, rough grind them in. Take care where the wings meet with the tail leave extra wood and exercise caution in this area.
22. On the underside, create the rump area by carving a dome shape for the rump and define the underside of the tail.
23. Draw on the belly and mark the feather groups you want, and continue to layout the feather groups you want on the entire bird.
24. Finish the tail by drawing the individual feathers making sure they make sense you. You should be able to follow an individual feather on top to the underside of the tail. Check your reference to ensure you have the correct shape and numbers of feathers.

25. Draw the cheek patches and individual feathers on the head and body. Check all your measurements prior to the next step. Now is the time to check for symmetry and balance
26. You are now ready to start detain your bird. Stone or burn this area before you install the eyes.
27. Install the eyes. Make sure they are in the correct location, apply putty and push the eye into the eye holes, making sure they are in far enough so they don't look bug-eyed. While putty is still wet you can put in the eye lids. Some people like to set the eyes hard and then install the lids; others do it all at one time. If you want to set them hard let the putty set overnight, and then put the eyelids on.
28. You can relieve individual feathers and then, stone and or burn the rest of the feathers.
29. The tail and primaries are not stoned they are only burned to create detail.

Up-Coming Courses



BOAG LAKE WOOD CARVING STUDIO

MINIATURE BARN OWL COURSE

INSTRUCTOR: BOB LAVENDER



Miniature Barn Owl Course Details:

DATES: CARVING: FEB 6, 7 & 8, 2015

TIME: From 8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM (3pm on the 8th.)

YOU WILL HAVE 11 DAYS TO COMPLETE THE STONING AND BURNING ON YOUR OWN

PAINTING: FEB 20, 21 & 22, 2015 from 8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM (3pm on the 21st)

COST: \$450.00

\$50.00 DEPOSIT WITH REGISTRATION BALANCE DUE: FEB 1, 2015.

DEPOSIT AND FEES PAYABLE TO GLENN MABER

BOAG LAKE STUDIO (SHERWOOD PARK)
#295-52467-RRD 225
SHERWOOD PARK, AB T8A 4S1
CONTACT GLENN MABER TO SIGN UP 780-417-1462
EMAIL: gmaber@yahoo.com

Carving In the Park 2015

This year's Carving in the Park Summer School will be held once again at the Red Barn in Sherwood Park: **July 14th through July 19th 2015**

Byron and Beth will be returning again this year.

Byron will be carving a White Tail Buck.

Beth will be doing baskets again details to follow.

We are still working on the bird project with details to follow.

AWCA Website

The AWCA's most up to date information on an ongoing basis can be found in our website. The website can be reached online under "Alberta Wildlife Carving Association" or directly at <http://albertawildlifecarving.squarespace.com/>.

Carving Calendar

2014:

DEC 2- REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY **NO LYNX CLASS.**

DEC 9 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

DEC 16 - XMAS PARTY AT AMISKWACIY (UPSTAIRS CAFETERIA)

2015:

JAN 6, 2015 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

JAN 13 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

JAN 20 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY NO SNOWY OWL CLASS

JAN 27 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY NO SNOWY OWL CLASS

FEB 3 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

FEB 6 to 8 - BOB LAVENDER COURSE: MINIATURE BARN OWL

FEB 10 - PAINTING DEMO MIXING, STROKES, BRUSHES, AND AIR BRUSHES, ALL CLASS MEMBERS
AND IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

FEB 17 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

FEB 20 to 22 - BOB LAVENDER MINIATURE BARN OWL

FEB 24 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

MAR 3 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

MAR 10 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

MAR 13 to 15 - CANADIAN NATIONALS IN WATERLOO, ONT.

MAR 17- HABITAT INFORMATION INCLUDING MAKING FEET BRUNCHES LEAVES AND ROCKS,
ALL CLASS MEMBERS AND IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

MAR 24 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

MAR 31 - NO CARVING AT AMISKWACIY (Spring break)

APR 7 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

APR 11, 12 - PACIFIC BRANT SHOW IN SIDNEY, B.C.

APR 14 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

APR 18, 19 - PRAIRIE CANADA CARVING AND SHOW IN WINNIPEG, MB.

APR 21 - REGULAR CARVING AT AMISKWACIY

APR 24, 25, 26 - WARD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN OCEAN CITY, MD

APR 28 – AWCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

MAY 1, 2, 3, 2015 - IMAGES OF NATURE

MAY 4 to 10 - WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AT INVERMERE B.C.

MAY 5 - FINAL CLEAN UP AND SIGN OUT AT AMISKWACIY

JULY 13, 14 to 19 - CARVING IN THE PARK

2016:

APR 16-17, 2016 - PRAIRIE CANADA CARVING AND SHOW IN WINNIPEG, MB.

APR 29-30 MAY 1, 2016 - IMAGES OF NATURE SHOW

MAY 9-15, 2016 - WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AT INVERMERE B.C.

