



**Summer
2024**

Chippewa Valley Wood Carving Show and Sale

Date: September 28th

Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: Brickhouse Pub and Banquet Room, 2233 Birch Street, Eau Claire, WI

Join us for an exciting day at the Chippewa Valley Wood Carving Show and Sale! This event is perfect for wood carving enthusiasts and anyone interested in the artistry of woodcraft.

Event Highlights:

- **Exhibit and Sale Tables:** We have multiple tables reserved for exhibitors and vendors. Showcase your wood carving masterpieces or browse and purchase unique items from local artisans. Please contact Charlene if you are interested in a table to showcase your wood carving projects.

- **Club Table:** Visit our club table featuring a variety of member exhibits. Marvel at the diverse talent within our carving community. Find club membership information.

- **Tool Sale Table:** Find quality tools and equipment to enhance your carving experience. Find old issues of carving magazines and books.

- **Door Prizes:** Enter to win fantastic door prizes from local businesses and carving vendors.

- **Lunch and Snacks:** Lunch will be available for a free will donation. A variety of snack bars and cookies supplied by volunteers will be available.

- **Beverages:** Coffee and water will be available to keep you refreshed.

- **Live Demonstration:** Watch a skilled carver in action and learn new techniques during our live demonstration session.

This event promises a delightful blend of creativity,



2023 Carve-In at The Brickhouse



2023 Event at the Brickhouse

community, and craftsmanship. Whether you're a seasoned carver, a beginner, or just curious about the art, there's something for everyone. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow carvers, discover new tools and techniques, and enjoy a day of artistic inspiration.

Mark your calendars and join us at the Brickhouse Pub and Banquet Room on September 28th for a memorable Wood Carving Show and Sale!

Intaglio Carving Class

Calling all passionate carvers!

Are you ready to take your carving skills to the next level? We are thrilled to announce an upcoming Intaglio Carving Class, led by the esteemed instructor Greg Wirtz. With over a decade of teaching experience and a collection of prestigious carving awards under his belt, Greg brings unparalleled expertise and passion to the art of carving.

But what exactly is Intaglio carving, you might ask? Intaglio is a centuries-old technique where the design is carved into a surface, typically a metal plate or a hard material like wood or stone, creating an image that is sunken below the surface. This process produces stunning prints with rich, textured details that are perfect for creating intricate artwork, illustrations, or even decorative pieces.

Mark your calendars for Thursday and Friday, September 19th and 20th, for this exceptional opportunity to delve into the intricate world of intaglio carving. Whether you're a seasoned carver or just starting your journey, this class promises to inspire and challenge you in new ways.

Please note that the class capacity is limited to ensure a personalized learning experience, with a maximum of 12 participants and a minimum of 6.

Location

The Paint Shack, 2524 Golf Rd, Eau Claire, WI

- Cost: \$120 for non-members, \$100 for members



Tools Recommended:

- Sharp knife
- Gouge #3 (1/2", 1/4") - Optional (3/8" and 1/8")
- Gouge #5 (1/2", 1/4")
- Standard carving supplies

Class Capacity:

- Maximum: 12 participants
- Minimum: 6 participants

Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn from a master carver and connect with fellow enthusiasts. Get ready to unleash your creativity and bring your carving skills to new heights!

How to Register:

Download the registration form from www.wcg.org/events. Complete the form and submit it along with your payment to secure your spot in the class. Spaces are limited, so be sure to register early! Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn from a master carver and connect with fellow enthusiasts.

Kolrosing with Dennis Johnson

One of our most passionate members, Dennis Johnson, re-discovered the enchanting art of kolrosing. This traditional Scandinavian technique involved incising fine lines into wood, then rubbing in a darkening agent such as coal dust or cinnamon to highlight the intricate patterns. Fascinated by its delicate beauty and historical significance, Dennis immersed himself in re-mastering kolrosing, determined to bring this ancient craft back to life within our carving community.

Recognizing the potential for kolrosing to enrich our group's skills and appreciation for woodcraft, Dennis proposed a series of instructional sessions. In May, he shared his newfound expertise with fellow club members, guiding them through the delicate process of transforming plain wooden surfaces into intricate works of art.

Each session began with a brief history of kolrosing, offering insight into its origins and cultural significance in Scandinavian heritage. Dennis then demonstrated the basic techniques, starting with selecting the right tools and preparing the wood. Participants learned to incise fine lines and create various patterns, from simple geometric shapes to more complex floral designs.

As the sessions progressed, Dennis introduced the use of darkening agents. Members experimented with different materials like coal dust, coffee grounds, and cinnamon, discovering how each affected the final appearance of their designs. Through hands-on practice, participants gained confidence in their kolrosing skills, creating their own unique pieces to take home.

Dennis's dedication and enthusiasm made these kolrosing sessions both educational and inspiring. By sharing this beautiful art form, he not only preserved a piece of cultural history but also fostered a deeper sense of creativity and community within our carving club.



Dennis Johnson

Dick Purves



Terry Bauer visited in May with some carvings. He mostly visited us when the Stenmans were teaching relief carving. It looks like he has been quite busy with the relief carving and the incredible Indian.

Fan Carving

Fan carving is an intricate process that transforms a solid block of wood into a delicate and detailed fan-shaped artwork. Here's a step-by-step explanation of how the fan shapes are cut out of the wood:

1. Selection of Wood: The process begins with choosing a suitable piece of softwood, such as basswood, which is preferred for its ease of carving and fine grain.

2. Design Sketching: The carver sketches the desired design onto the surface of the wood block. This design will guide the carving process, ensuring that each fan slat aligns perfectly with the overall pattern.

3. Initial Cuts: Using a bandsaw or scroll saw, the carver makes initial cuts to define the outer shape of the fan and the individual slats. These cuts are made carefully to ensure that each slat is evenly spaced and proportionate.

4. Carving the Details: With the outline established, the carver uses various hand tools, such as chisels, gouges, and knives, to incise the fine details of the design onto the surface of each slat. This step requires precision and patience, as the details must be consistent and symmetrical.

5. Separating the Slats: After the detailed carving is complete, the carver carefully separates the slats. This is done by cutting thin, even spaces between each slat while leaving them attached at the base. This step is critical, as uneven cuts can break or misalign the slats.

6. Fanning Out the Slats: Once the slats are separated, the carver gently fans them out from the base, revealing the intricate pattern. This



Dell with Sharon's Hummingbird

process must be done delicately to avoid snapping the thin slats.

7. Finishing Touches: The carver sands the edges of the slats to smooth any rough areas and enhance the overall appearance. Sometimes, the piece is stained or painted to highlight the carved details and add depth to the design.

In our carving community, Dell Braunberger's wife Sharon excelled at this meticulous craft. Dell recently showcased one of Sharon's hummingbird carvings, demonstrating how the delicate fan slats, carefully carved and fanned out, created a lifelike depiction of a hummingbird in flight. The intricacy of the carving and the precision required to fan out the slats without breaking them highlight the skill and artistry involved in fan carving.

Competition in Osh Kosh

The Wisconsin Chippers of Oshkosh, WI, recently hosted their much-anticipated annual show, competition, and sale on May 4th and 5th, 2024. Among the highlights were the remarkable achievements of two of our talented members, Jan Jenson and Charlene Lynum.

Charlene's mastery in chip carving was duly recognized as she clinched both a Blue ribbon and a Red ribbon in the prestigious Master's category. Meanwhile, Jan showcased her skillful artistry by securing identical honors in the Open category.

In the adjacent photos, you can see both Charlene's and Jan's winning creations at the event.

Adding to the event's allure, Jan also shared her expertise by teaching a captivating class on Old World style chip carving, enriching the community with her knowledge and passion.

Congratulations to Jan, Charlene, and all participants for their dedication and contributions to the art of chip carving!



Two chip carved boxes by Charlene Lynum.



Jan's Basswood and walnut box



Jan's Decorated Rolling Pin

Odds and Ends

As we move into the summer months, here are a few important updates and opportunities for our members:

Summer Classes Update

Please note that internal classes will not be offered during the summer unless a teacher volunteers to lead a session. If you're interested in teaching a class or have any ideas for summer activities, please reach out to the committee. Your participation and enthusiasm are what keep our community vibrant and active!

Call for Donations

We are in need of ornaments and small carvings for two important causes: the veteran's home and the Guild's boutique. These handcrafted items bring joy and comfort to our veterans and help support the Guild's activities. If you have any pieces you'd like to donate or are willing to create new ones, your contributions will be greatly appreciated. Let's come together to make a difference with our craftsmanship.

Chip Carving Class with Jan Jenson

We are excited to announce that Jan Jenson will be teaching a chip carving class at her home in August. Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at 1908 Mitchell Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701. This class is open to all skill levels, so whether you're a beginner or an experienced carver, you're welcome to join. To save a spot, please call Jan at 715-559-4163. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn new techniques and create beautiful chip carvings in a friendly and supportive environment.

US Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championship

Mark your calendars for the US Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championship, taking place from August 2-4. This exciting event showcases the incredible talent of chainsaw carvers from around the world. If you're interested in having a table at the event, please contact Charlene for more details. This is a fantastic opportunity to exhibit your work and engage with a broader audience.

Let's Paint the Town

This event is an exhibit and a sale. We will have a table at the event on July 20th in Menomonie. Please volunteer for our booth/table. Try to attend if you can. It is always a good time. Setup details to be determined.

Stay connected and involved this summer! Whether it's through teaching, donating, learning, or showcasing your work, there are plenty of ways to participate and contribute to our carving community. Let's make this summer a productive and inspiring season for all.

This newsletter is published quarterly. The editor is Rich Thelen at rlthelen@charter.net. Send information for inclusion to this email. This might include suggestions, pictures and discussion of events.