

Genesee Valley Woodcarvers Competition

The competition has six Divisions: Bird, General, Working Decoys, Bench, Youth, and Special (if utilized)
The Bird and General Divisions are each divided into two Classes: "Beginner/Intermediate" and "Advanced"

Bird Division: Each Class is divided into ten Categories, A through J:

A. **Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese, Grebes, Loons, and Swans.

B. **Seabirds & Shorebirds: Albatrosses, Anhinga, Auks, Boobies & Gannets, Cormorants, Frigate birds, Gulls, Jacanas, Jaegers, Skua, Long-legged Waders (Herons, Egrets, Bitterns), Pelicans, Rails, Shearwaters, Shorebirds, Skimmers, Storm-Petrels, Terns, and Tropicbirds.

C. **Songbirds: Any song bird not in Category E.

D. **Birds of Prey & Upland Game Birds: Raptors, Chicken Like Birds (Pheasants, Quail, Partridge), Owls, Pigeons, and Doves.

E. **All Other Birds: Anis, Budgerigars, Cuckoos, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Nightjars, Roadrunners, Swifts, Trogons, Woodpeckers, and any bird not in Categories A, B, and D above.

F. Miniatures: Any bird. Entries must be ½ life size or smaller and not exceed 8" overall length from base of bill to end of body, beak and tail excluded. The wingspan and/or height of the bird and habitat may exceed 8".

G. Antique Smoothie: Any bird antique in style with only basic details painted on the bird. Painting will be a minor consideration in judging. Modeling paste, combed or uncombed, may be used. May include any bird done in a smooth manner. No burning or texturing other than combing is allowed. Delineation of feather groupings, bill detail, and raised primaries are permitted.

H. Realistic Smoothie: Any bird. Must be a literal representation with finely detailed painting. Painting detail will be the major consideration in judging. May be any bird done in a smooth manner. No burning or texturing other than combing is allowed. Delineation of feather groupings, bill detail and raised primaries are permitted.

I. Interpretive Bird Sculpture: Any bird or portion thereof, except single feather carvings, done in an interpretive or non-literal style. Can be finished in any manner. Major considerations in judging will be artistry, interpretation and originality. Detailed decorative techniques are discouraged.

J. Miscellaneous: Any bird carving not meeting the requirements of Categories A through I (ie non-wood and single feather carvings)

****Note: All entries in categories A, B, C, D, and E must be life size and finished & painted in a detailed and realistic manner.**

General Division: Each Class is divided into six Categories, K through P:

K. Human Figures / Busts: Realistic humans.

L. Caricatures – Human & Animal: Carvings done in a satirical or unrealistic manner.

M. Animals: Realistic domesticated and non-domesticated animals.

N. Marine Life: Aquatic animals such as fish, whales, and dolphins.

O. Miniatures: Any carving. The entire carving including the base must fit within a 3" cube.

P. Miscellaneous: Any General Carving Division entry not in Categories K through O above. Includes entries such as carousel figures, relief carvings, chip carvings, non-wood carvings and canes.

Working Decoy Division: Single Class and single Category.

1. Carvings must have the sole purpose of attracting birds.

2. Decoys will be judged against each other in one class regardless of the carver's ability.

3. Decoys will be tested in water. They must be self-righting, (diving ducks from their backs, puddle ducks from their sides), properly balanced, and float correctly as per the species.

4. Shorebird decoys will not be floated.

5. Painting must represent fall plumage with no fancy brushwork or shading. Combed texturing is permitted.

6. Anchor attachment points are required. Keels and weights are optional.

Bench Division: Single Class divided into two Categories:

Bench – Bird: any Bird carving.

Bench – General: any General carving

Note: Entries in the Bench Division are not eligible for Best of Show.

Youth Division: Single Class and single Category. Carvers must be 18 years of age or younger. They are not required to be members of GVW.

Special Division: Single Class and single Category.

Note: At the discretion of the Show Chairman, new Divisions may be introduced in any show to encourage interest in a particular type or style of carving.

Judging and Awards

1. The judging will be done by groups of at least three persons. The criteria applied will include the artistry and technical craftsmanship displayed in the carving.
2. First, Second and Third place may be awarded in each Category and Class.
3. One or more Honorable Mention awards may be awarded in each Category and Class.
4. Best of Class winners will be chosen from the First Place winners of each Category and Class in the Bird and General Divisions.
5. Two Best of Show winners will be selected. One from the Best of Class winners in the Bird Division and one from the Best of Class winners in the General Division.
6. One members' Choice award will be chosen from all entries by ballot - cast by the GVW members attending the competition.
7. One People's Choice award will be chosen from all entries by ballot - cast by the general public attending the competition (excluding GVW members see 6. above).
8. Special awards may be designated for various Divisions, Classes and Categories in order to encourage entries.
9. Awards or disqualification of entries will be based on the decision of the judges. Their decisions are final. Judges reserve the right to move any entry to a more appropriate Division, Class or Category for judging purposes.

Note: Entries in the Bench Division are not eligible for Best of Show Awards.

General Rules

1. Only GVW members who have paid their dues for the current fiscal year (January 1 to December 31) will be eligible to enter or display carvings.
2. Member entry fees shall be as determined by the GVW show committee.
3. Non-members may enter carvings by joining the club and paying fees at the door.
4. Entries must be registered by the carver or their representative during the designated period unless prior arrangements are made with the Show Chairpersons. No mail-in entries will be accepted or returned.
5. Carvings done by a "team" will be allowed if all team members are members of GVW.
6. Carvings must have been completed within two years of the current GVW competition and not entered in the previous GVW competition.
7. The "Beginner/Intermediate" Class is for carvers new to competition or those who are still progressing towards the "Advanced" level.
8. The Advanced Class is open to all carvers but must be entered by anyone winning a Best of Show in any prior GVW competition. Beginner/Intermediate carvers are encouraged to move to the Advanced Class after winning blue ribbons but are not required to do so.
9. After entering the Advanced Class, a carver may not move back down to the Beginner/Intermediate Class.
10. All works of a given carver must be entered at the same Class level.
11. Entries must be made entirely of wood except for eyes, legs and feet, fillers, delicate elements, paint, structural and habitat elements, except as noted elsewhere.
12. Cast legs and feet may be used in the "Beginner/Intermediate" Classes and the Bench Division only.
13. Machine duplicated rough-outs or pre-finished cutouts must be entered in the Bench Division.
14. Carvings completed under the supervision of an instructor or as part of a carving or painting class may be entered in the Beginner/Intermediate Class. Advanced Class carvers must enter class or instructor guided pieces in the Bench Division.
15. The name of the artist must not be visible on the entry until after judging is completed.
16. Any questions related to the Division, Class, or Category assigned at registration, interpretation of the rules, or any other matter, will be resolved by the Floor Manager and/or Show Chairpersons. These decisions are final.
17. Any Class or Category may be subdivided at the discretion of the Show Chairpersons or Judges.
18. **NO CARVING MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE SHOW AREA UNTIL AFTER THE SHOW CLOSES.**