



September, 2015 Newsletter

GENESEE VALLEY WOODCARVERS

Carve-ful (kärv ful) adj. Carve-ful-ly n. (As found in the Keller Carving Dictionary - First Edition): **1:** Full of or expressing deep positive feeling about carving (profoundly emotional in a positive way); **2:** Feeling, causing, or indicating joy through carving; **3:** Being in good spirits while carving; **4:** Cautious in the application of carving; **5:** Thorough and painstaking in the execution of carving.

Meetings are held from 7 to 9 PM on the 2nd Monday of the month (except July and August) at:
The 40 & 8 Club (across the street from Gleason Works)
933 University Avenue, Rochester, New York
Web site: <http://gwoodcarvers.com/>

GVW OFFICER: Co-**Presidents:** Alison Currie & Harry Patrick; **Treasurer:** Mel Connell ; **Web:** Alison Currie; **Show Chair:** Chris Nilsen; **Membership:** Anthony Filetti; **Vice President:** Paul Yarrows; **At Large:** Anthony Filletti; **Newsletter:** Floyd Lombardi

Welcome to the Genesee Valley Woodcarvers 2015/2016 year

Reminder: Membership starts in September so please be prepared to renew your membership at the 1st meeting! If you have any good ideas on how to improve the club OR any comments on what you think should be changed about the club, **please** let us know. We want to keep the club meetings and functions as fun and as interesting as possible. If you don't speak up, we have no idea what on your mind, needs to be changed, fixed or updated!

❖ ***GVW 2015/2016 MEETING & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE***

President's message:

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful summer and found lots of time for carving. Based on the survey conducted in June, club members are primarily interested in having plenty of time for carving and social interaction during meetings. 50% of members are interested in improving their carving skills, learning new techniques, and exploring other types of carving. A summary of the survey results follows:

1. Club mission

- Welcome and encourage new carvers: 31.2 percent.
- Promote all types of carving as an art form and educate public: 20.8 percent.
- Learn carving types, techniques, exchange information: 18.2 percent.
- Social interaction and fun: 11.7 percent.

2. Priorities/interests for club activities

- Improve carving skills: 50 percent.
- General carving: 19.2.
- Bird carving: 11.5 percent.

3. Meeting Interests

- Demonstrations: 30 percent.
- Carving sessions: 23.9 percent.
- Critique / feedback sessions: 11 percent.

4. Carving classes:

- Continue winter classes as is: 97 percent.
- More classes in other months: 69 percent.
- Other ideas: Shorter projects that take 2 or 3 sessions, makeup sessions, weekly sessions for more complex projects

5. Show and Competition

- Continue to host the show: 100 percent.
- Host the show annually: 100 percent.
- One day show: 93 percent
- Two day show: 7 percent.
- Allow non-members to pay a fee and compete: 100 percent.
- The show will be promoted via magazines and regional carving clubs.
- Add an out-of-towner Saturday morning registration.

- Club members will continue to register their carvings on Friday afternoon.
- Judging will start at 9:30 am and continue when the show opens at 10:00 am.

Meeting format for the 2015-2016:

6:30 - 7:00 PM: Open time for socializing, informal coaching or critiquing, browsing the library, and the informal "Show & Ask Me" table.

7:00 - 7:15 PM: Welcome new members and guests, announcements.

7:00 - 9:00 PM: Open carving time and/or demos.

9:00 - 9:30 PM: Room cleanup

Meeting Schedule:

September 14:

Annual Garage Sale & Club Auction: This is a social event combined with our annual Sale/Auction of tools & supplies. Please bring your surplus or unwanted tools, materials, books, etc. to sell yourself or you may donate them to the club to be auctioned off.

October 12:

Presentation of Club project – Holiday ornaments. Demo, patterns. Bring any carvings you'd like to display for the "Show & Ask Me" table.

November 9:

Dirty Demos Done Dirt Cheap. An informal small group demonstrations by members on topics such as painting, chip carving, airbrushing, wood burning, etc. The idea is that folks could circulate around as their interests dictated instead of having one longer more formal presentation at the front of the room.

December 14:

Ornament display (results from October's session?). Pizza social, winter class demonstrations, and class registration.

January, February, and March:

Winter classes (to be announced).

April 16:

Annual Show.

May 9:

Show postmortem and critiques.

June 13:

Name tags, social, and elections.

July or August:

Carving social at a county park.

Outside Classes offered:

Robin Salisbury: Carving & painting a life size male **Cardinal**. 8 weeks starting on Tuesday September 22 from 7 – 9 PM. Offered at Irondequoit HS (336 – 3014) for more info & to register). There will be a registration fee & a \$15 material fee.

Al Jordan:

Subject: **Miniature Great Horned Owl**

Dates: September 20 - 25, 2015

Location: Lake Placid, NY

Subject: **Cedar Waxwing**

Dates: October 5 - 9, 2015

Location: Home Studio, Rochester NY

Contact Al directly at: ajordanbirds@yahoo.com or (585) 227-2235.

Note from Past President, Don Buss

July 19, 2015

Thanks to all of the members for the great garden ornament and gift certificate given to me on my retirement as President of the Genesee Valley Woodcarvers. I appreciate all the help and support during my tenure as President and Vice President.

Special THANKS goes to Alison for her extra effort and support on effort and support on all the club activities. The club will continue to club will continue to be one of my major interests. I know everyone will support our new Presidents Alison Currie and Harry Patrick.



❖ Holiday Carving Competition Proposed Project:

- I would like to propose some friendly mid-year holiday carving competition. It could be a fun activity for club members to carve Thanksgiving or Christmas related carvings. I think it would be a nice gesture to later donate these carvings to our sponsor, the 40 & one Club, for their tree or a Senior Home or any group so desired. I have selected a few simple carving examples, but any holiday carving or ornament you desire is ok, and if there is any interest – I will supply the details for the carvings presented here to club members as requested. The items displayed here are only a few from *Woodcarving Illustrated Holiday issues from 2011 & 2013* and are meant to be an example only. You could carve any holiday ornament you wish that excites you.

Sculpting Stylized Evergreen Trees



Relief Carving an Angel



Playful Reindeer Ornament



Mouse in a Stocking Ornament



- Also, FYI, from the *Woodcarving Illustrated Holiday issue 2013 #65* was an article on Roughouts & Kits. Being that roughouts are carving blanks with some of the excess wood already remove. They range from simple cut-outs, where the basic outline is cut with a band saw, to full roughouts that have most of the basic forms already shaped. Several sites were mentioned in the article where you can purchase cut-outs or roughouts, with examples if you wish to view the article. The sites mentioned, if you wish to search them out, are:

www.gargacsoriginals.com
www.debbedwards.com
www.sbrownwoodcarving.com
www.stadtlandercarvings.com
www.whiterivercrafts.com
www.fantasycarving.com
www.harleyandmidgewoodcarving.com
www.heineckewood.com.com

and - Mt.Hope Woodcraft (for roughouts of wildfowl, shorebirds, water birds, fish decoys, & walking sticks)- (330-674-4104)

❖ **The Essential Tool Kit - Published in the WoodCarving Illustrated – Spring 2015 “Issue #70” by Bob Duncan**

A stress-free beginner’s guide to choosing tools: I chose this particular article mostly because I remember what it was like when I first joined the GVW club and was overwhelmed and confused by the number of tools that experienced carvers. I was confused while trying to figure what tools I needed to purchase for myself. Being a tool whore myself, seeing all of these tools was nothing more than eye candy and I started purchasing carving tools, on top of what I already had, and ended up with many I will never or rarely use and just don’t need. I am requesting that his article remain on the GVW web site for any new carvers looking for information on “What Tools Should I Purchase”. I would appreciate any feedback on this articles content from you experienced, skilled carvers. I plan on adding your feedback and knowledge of those must have or recommended tools to this article for new and seasoned carvers the like to hopefully give them a good idea on what tools to purchase or have in their collection. Beginning carvers often buy a set of carving tools, without knowing what type or tool is necessary for the style of carving they are into, and often end up with an assortment of tools that never get used and just are not needed.

- ❖ Instead of paying for tools that don’t fit your needs, buy tools (a la cart) and create your own ideal collection. The author’s guide to the most useful gouges for general carving will help you get started.

Knives: Many European carvers use only gouges, chisels, and V-tools, but most American carvers add knives to their kits. While there are all sorts of shapes and sizes, I suggest a beginner start with general carving knife and a detail knife.

General Carving Knife: This is the workhorse of knives. You can do most knife carving with this tool. Choose one with a blade that is 1 ½” to 2” (28mm to 51mm) long. I prefer a shorter blade because it gives me more control. While many blade shapes are available, I suggest choosing a knife with a straight cutting edge that is parallel to the handle. This makes it easier to keep track of where the tip of the knife is, which prevents you from inadvertently cutting tool deeply or in the wrong area.

Detail Knife: A detail knife has a smaller blade than a general carving knife and is designed to fit into tighter areas. I don’t use a detail knife very often, but when you need it, you need it. Some detail knives feature a longer blade than comes to a sharp point, but I prefer a short blade (less than 1”, or 25mm) that comes to a tight point at the end. Again, for beginners, stick with a knife with a straight cutting edge that is parallel to the handle.

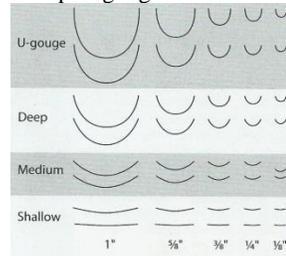
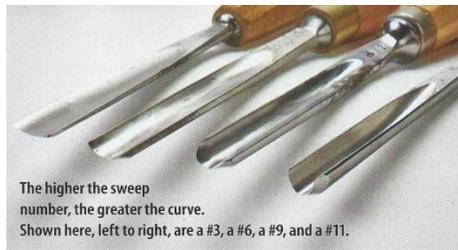


Gouges: A gouge is basically a chisel with the cutting edge bent into a curve. Gouges are designed to carve groves without the corners of the tool digging into the wood. This serves a few purposes. Gouges remove excess wood quickly, especially from a flat surface, where the corners of a flat chisel would dig in and get stuck. It also allows you to stop-cut around round objects. Finally, gouges allow you to carve precise groves and trenches.

Size and Sweep: Manufactures and vendors refer to gouges by the size and the sweep. To determine the size of a gouge, measure across its widest part. Note that many gouges are measured in metric units not inches.

The sweep is the curve of the gouge. There are two general systems to identify the sweep, but there are also variations between manufactures. Because many gouges are shaped or finished by hand, there can be subtle variations even among the same manufacturer.

Regardless of the identification system, the lower the sweep number is, the more shallow the curve of the gouge is. In general, sweeps that range from #2 to #4 are considered shallow gouges, #5 to #7 are medium gouges, and #8 to #9 are deep gouges. Generally, #10 and #11 gouges are the U-shaped gouges, which are also called veiners - these are the deepest gouges.



Gouge Handles and Shafts: Gouges also come in several different handle configurations. Straight handles and palm handles are intended to be used with just your hands. These tools typically have shorter handles and shafts than do other gouges, which make them more comfortable to use with a single hand, as on a hand-held carving. The shape of these tools is a personal preference; I have and use both.

The next larger handles are called intermediate tools. These gouges have longer handles and shafts than do palm tools, so they are large enough to use with two hands or with a mallet but are still comfortable to use with one hand on a hand-held carving. While intermediate tools are versatile, the handles are not as comfortable, especially if you have large hands.

Full-size tools have the longest and largest handles and shafts. They are designed to be used with two hands or with a mallet on a carving clamped to a bench. As the size of the tool increases, so does the power required to force it through the wood. Therefore, large tools remove wood quickly, but are not useful for smaller carvings because they will break the blank.



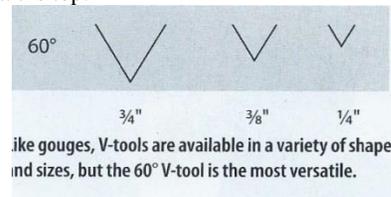
Choosing Gouges: For your beginning kit, I suggest buying a smaller and a larger gouge in each general sweep category (shallow, medium, deep, and veiners). The exact sweep is not critical; if an author suggests using a #5 gouge, you can often substitute a #4 or a #6. The size depends on the kind of carving you plan to do. For hand-held carvings, I suggest a 1/8" (3mm)– and 3/8" (10mm)- wide tools. For intermediate size carvings, go with a 1/4" (6mm) and 5/8" (16mm). For large carvings, choose a 1/4" (6mm) to 3/8" (10mm) and a 7/8" (22mm) to 1" (25mm).

Using Gouges: I use deep gouges and veiners to remove a lot of wood quickly. I use medium gouges to remove some of the large grooves from the deep gouges and veiners, and I use shallow gouges to smooth surfaces. Use the medium and shallow gouges upside down to round sharp corners. When stabbing in a stop cut, I'll often reach for a medium gouge first. If you don't have a medium gouge with a sweep that matches the curve you need, you can use a small shallow gouge and make multiple stabs around the curve. You can often use the corner of a shallow gouge to slice wood like a knife.

V-tools: Like a gouge, a V-tool is used to carve grooves. However, a V-tool has two straight cutting edges joined in the center, rather than the curved profile of a gouge. Therefore, the V-tool cuts a sharp V-shaped groove. It is useful for outlining elements in a carving and for adding hair and fur texture.

Size and Angle: V-tools are identified by size and angle. There are three common angles: 45, 60 and 90 degrees. I think the 60 degree V-tool, with its intermediate angle, is the most versatile.

The size refers to the distance between the wings of the V at the top; sizes range from 1/16" (2mm) to 3/4" (19mm). Tools of the same angle but different sizes (as illustrated below) cut grooves that are the same at the bottom, narrowest point. However, larger tools can cut more deeply than smaller tools, and they can cut V trenches that are wider at the top.



Choosing a V-tool: Choose a V-tool sized between the two gouges in your kit; so, if your gouges are 1/8" (3mm) and 3/8" (10mm) choose a 1/4" (6mm) V-tool. You can make lighter cuts with a larger V-tool to create fine grooves, but you can't make deeper or wider cuts with a small V-tool. Conversely, it is difficult to fit a large V-tool into a tight area. Choosing a V-tool somewhere in the middle gives you the best of both worlds

shopping list

- Carving knife with 1½" long blade
- Detail knife

• Small Carvings

- ⅛" (3mm) shallow gouge (#2 to #4)
- ⅜" (10mm) shallow gouge (#2 to #4)
- ⅛" (3mm) medium gouge (#5 to #7)
- ⅜" (10mm) medium gouge (#5 to #7)
- ⅛" (3mm) deep gouge (#8 to #9)
- ⅜" (10mm) deep gouge (#8 to #9)
- ⅛" (3mm) U-shaped gouge (#10 to #11)
- ⅜" (10mm) U-shaped gouge (#10 to #11)
- ¼" (6mm) 60° V-tool

• Intermediate Sized Carvings

- ¼" (6mm) shallow gouge (#2 to #4)
- ⅝" (16mm) shallow gouge (#2 to #4)
- ¼" (6mm) medium gouge (#5 to #7)
- ⅝" (16mm) medium gouge (#5 to #7)
- ¼" (6mm) deep gouge (#8 to #9)
- ⅝" (16mm) deep gouge (#8 to #9)
- ¼" (6mm) U-shaped gouge (#10 to #11)
- ⅝" (16mm) U-shaped gouge (#10 to #11)
- ⅜" (10mm) 60° V-tool

• Large Carvings

- ⅜" (10mm) shallow gouge (#2 to #4)
- 1" (25mm) shallow gouge (#2 to #4)
- ⅜" (10mm) medium gouge (#5 to #7)
- 1" (25mm) medium gouge (#5 to #7)
- ⅜" (10mm) deep gouge (#8 to #9)
- 1" (25mm) deep gouge (#8 to #9)
- ⅜" (10mm) U-shaped gouge (#10 to #11)
- 1" (25mm) U-shaped gouge (#10 to #11)
- ¾" (19mm) 60° V-tool

Note: I personally would not recommend a new carver to go out and try to purchase all of these tools, the above list is meant just to be a guide. First figure out what type of carving you want to do or get involved with and then talk to fellow carvers on what has worked for you. As the years go on, you will acquire many style of knives, most of these gouges, v-tools and veniers but do not need them up front to get started. Next month I hope to address making your own gouges at ½ the cost using Flex-cut blanks. *Floyd*

❖ **More from the Web site of: Michael Keller Woodcarving-Distinctive Art in Wood: www.WhiteEagleStudios.com**

Helpful Hints:

- When working with wood that is either too hard or too soft, to achieve good detail, I apply a 50/50 mix of rubbing alcohol and water to the area. Once the mixture is absorbed into the wood, I find that it cuts much more easily.
- Wearing a carving glove when holding a piece being worked on is always a good idea; such as with whittling. Place the glove on the hand holding the piece itself. It could save you from a needless injury.
- I hone my tools approximately once each hour of use. Doing so keeps a fine razor edge on the tool.
- I don't try to catch a dropped knife or chisel. It is easier to sharpen a dropped tool than it is to repair a finger or toe.
- A small sliver can often be removed by placing a piece of tape over it and pulling it gently off.
- Good carving comes from practice and experience. And a lot of that comes from bad judgement along the way.
- It's never too late to start carving. Many artists have taken up carving after retirement.
- Albeit, I do not believe in sanding, careful tooling and clean cuts save you hours of sanding.
- Clean cuts provide a highly finished professional look. When I use hand tools (versus mallet work) on cross grain, I use a slicing cut for much greater ease.
- I find that clamping my work so both hands are free is always worth the effort – not to mention the added safety.
- Using a Template - can offer many advantages in applying your carving project on wood.

A template can be:

Moved around on your wood ensuring a good fit

Enlarged or reduced on a copy machine to better fit your wood

Used over and over again in cases where you are doing multiple pieces

Can help you identify waste wood allowing you to band saw or chisel it off prior to getting into the meat of things

- Remember to make a top and side view template that can be aligned with each other on the wood. Use carbon paper or a pattern makers wheel to transfer your work to the wood if you cannot use a pencil around the edges of your pattern

When doing lettering and fine line detail, I use a hooked razor sharp knife. Doing so helps prevent my knife from coming loose from my cut and slipping or streaking across the wood. If you have not experienced a hooked knife, I suggest you do, the advantages are endless.

When using palm gouges, it is easy to bang the knuckles or fingers of the pushing hand on the piece being carved. Once you have banged yourself a few times, wrap the banged spot in vet wrap or elastic bandage material to soften future banging. Banging yourself a few times will make it abundantly clear where to apply the vet wrap.

❖ **Sharing the Joy of Carving Wood - Published in the WoodCarving Illustrated “Issue #47” by Dave Brock)**

How do we get the younger generation interested in Wood Carving. After reading this article, I decided it was important enough to pass these points along – mostly because I have been teaching Wood Carving to Scouts for years hoping they will pick up the bug & continue into their adult years. Below are some very important points the author brings up in keeping their interest. (Floyd)

Enthusiasm: If you want to get kids interested in carving, you must first create a strong atmosphere of excitement. Keep your latest project in the cargo pocket of your pants & your carving knife on you at all times. No one is more excited about carving than me and my main objective is to make my excitement infectious! Show enthusiasm, not only with your words, but with your actions.

Safety: A visit to the local emergency room to get stitches doesn't help create an atmosphere of enthusiasm, so take every precaution before you bring out the knives. Begin with an upbeat lesson on carving safety which includes basic first aid, safety rules, and a practice session using controlled cuts. If the project isn't held in a vise or clamped to a table, have the child use a lapboard.

Project Selection: Keep the project simple, yet challenging. Start out with basic relief carving for their first project. If you want to compound the learning experience, choose a practical project the child can actually use for something when completed.

Sequential Carving Models: Learning to carve is a visual experience for most people and especially so for kids. Use step-by-step models to show the project at various stages of progression. The models break down the carving process to remove the mystery and can be used as a reference while carving.

❖ **Comfort Bird Note (published in Woodcarving Illustrated Magazine “Issue #65 Holiday 2013 by Cindy Austin)**

Cindy wanted to put something with a Comfort Bird when she gave it to a person who needed it, so she wrote this poem and wanted to share it with everyone.

*I am a Comfort Bird
I have flown to you
I will sit in your palm.
Together we can fly
to a place so calm.
Just hold me tight
for this flight.*

❖ **Member Contributions):**

- **Note from Chris Nielsen: Left at the Show:** A white, 3 ribbon 3 rd place award ribbon at the auditorium at the end of the carving show. Chris will bring it to the meeting, and if still unclaimed will return it to our supply of ribbons for next year.
- **Note from Alison:** We all know Teddy Palis, our favorite raffle guy. He's moving to assisted living and can no longer be a member of the club. We will be looking for a member to take over the club attendance sheets and the club's monthly 50/50 raffle. Teddy has made some donations for the club sale as well as the 2016 raffle.
- **Summer Carving from Chris Nielsen:** I thought that you might be interested in this group carving meeting. at my lake house on Conesus Lake. This photo was taken at my lake house on Conesus Lake right by the water, and it is the regular Thursday carving group which has met at the Transfiguration Lutheran Church on Culver Rd. for many years. This time for a nice change, we met at Conesus Lake in the morning, carved, had a nice lunch and continued carving in the afternoon. It was a great day of carving, humor, conversation and fellowship in the pastime that we all share the love of. The carvers shown are Cindy Brogan and her husband Joe, Paul Yarrows, Charlie Mirabella, Phil Marra, and missing from the picture is me, Chris. Next Thursday we will be back to carve at the church, where we have a great conference room to meet and carve in having 8 foot long tables, executive conference swivel chairs, music, air conditioning and coffee. Any carvers are welcome to join us any time. We meet from 8 AM til a lunch break at the Parkside Diner, and then carve until mid-afternoon. Hope that you are having a great Summer....we are!!



- ❖ MISC INFO, PIC'S & TIDBITS: "I Need Help" to keep your Monthly Newsletter Interesting & Informative for all Members?
Do you want information on a particular subject matter within the world of carving? – This newsletter is about YOU and what YOU want to know - so just drop me a line & I will do my best to get answers to your questions into the newsletter!
How about sharing those Pics ,Tips, Ideas & or Tidbits that you have acquired through the years & are willing to share with fellow carvers, especially new carvers trying to get started & gain a foothold on this wonderful hobby & pastime!

SEE YOU ALL @ September 14th MEETING

Floyd Lombardi, Editor (Lombardi_floyd@yahoo.com)

Important Disclosure: Wood carving and whittling may be habit forming and could prevent you from engaging in household chores and other unpleasant tasks. Carving is enjoyable and you may be prone to share it with others: thus, causing them to experience the same distractions from less pleasant tasks as you may have experience yourself

