



Fine Feathers

Newsletter of the Alberta Wildlife Carving Association

I From the Presidents Workbench

Hope this newsletter finds you well, fully vaccinated, and raring to get going. As Alberta moves through the fourth wave, thoughts of emerging from our basement carving studios are with us all. Unfortunately, some restrictions remain with and our access to Amiskwacy Academy has not been reinstated at this time. As a result, our evening classes have been moved to Wednesday evenings at the Red Barn in Sherwood Park on **Wednesday Oct. 13th** from 6pm to 9pm. Save those Covid Carvings for next year's Images of Nature Show – it should be a great show with so many carvers having multiple projects to show.

Jean Minaudier Workshop

Recently, a very successful Red-Tailed Hawk Bust carving class was held at Brenda Mitchell's (Aug. 30 – Sept 4) Country Haven Carving Studio with 9 students. As usual, Jean did an outstanding job and the result was some fantastic carvings. We want to thank Jean for his talent and Brenda for holding this class as a supplement to AWCA's commitment to provide excellent learning opportunities to our members.

Evening Classes

We all look forward to resuming evening classes but unfortunately, we are unable to resume classes at Amiskwacy Academy. Keith Middleton and I met with Mona Markwart, the new principal of Amiskwacy Academy, on June 23rd to get acquainted and to get a sense of the possibility of carving at the school in October. At that time, there were no decisions from Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) regarding the use of schools by outside groups. In September Keith again checked with EPSB and with the emergence of the 4th wave we are unable to use Amiskwacy Academy at this time. As a result, our evening classes have been moved to Wednesday evenings at the Red Barn in Sherwood Park starting on Wednesday Oct. 13th from 6pm to 9pm. Wednesday carving will progress on Wednesdays until the Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:00pm, at the Red Barn.

AWCA Member Survey

The AWCA Board of Director's is in the process of reviewing the Educational Components of our carving club with the goal of planning for our programs, classes and workshops for the next 5 years. Our first step was to survey our club members and affiliates. The focus of our planning is to better serve our members and to better match our offerings to the needs and wants of our membership. You should have received this survey via email and were asked to complete and return by Aug 9th, 2021. These survey results will provide the Board with valuable information in looking at our classes in the future. The results of the survey and subsequent decisions regarding future classes

will be in our next newsletter.

Images of Nature Show 2022

AWCA's "Images of Nature Show" will be held April 29 – May 1st, 2022 at Whitecroft Community League. We will continue to update our [website](#) and will further inform you as we get closer to the show dates. We have not finalized our Purchase Awards as of today but will inform you as soon as possible. This will be an excellent opportunity for AWCA carvers to enter their Covid – Carvings and have them judged by experienced judges. Carvings from 2019 – 2022 will be accepted at next year's Images of Nature Show. Hope to see you there!

Carving in the Park 2022

AWCA's "Carving in the Park 2022" will be held June 7 – 12, 2022 at Whitecroft Hall in Strathcona County. After discussions with our instructors the classes offered will be those offered in the cancelled schools of 2020 and 2021. Carving in the Park 2022 classes include:

- 1) Dennis Drechsler - [two Common Dolphins with Base](#),
- 2) Jeff Krete – [Miniature flying King Eider](#) and
- 3) Pat Godin – [Painting a Blue Winged Teal Drake](#).

This is a fantastic opportunity for all AWCA members to improve their carving skills with some tremendous instructors. If you are interested, contact me at cbsteele@telus.net or visit our website. There are still some spaces available. Please check the [AWCA website](#) for ongoing updates regarding next year's show.

Thanks to the AWCA Board of Directors and all members for their ongoing commitment to keeping things going during the pandemic – hopefully normal will come soon.

Bob Steele, President AWCA

Class Information

Your Board of Directors has been planning the fall and winter schedule for carving classes. Based on the current Covid wave we have been advised that the Amiskwaciy Academy will not be available. As a result we have booked the Red Barn in Sherwood Park. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings Starting on October 13. It would be very helpful if you had a look at the following links to determine which class you would like to take, then advise the instructor of your intentions. Should there be any changes in location or restrictions that we must follow, we will be certain to send an email out to you.

[Glen Maber Full Size Sharp Shinned Hawk](#)

[Diane Sharkey Life Size Bufflehead Drake](#)

[Brenda Mitchell Cow Moose](#)

[Russ Mann Black Capped Chickadee](#)

Try It

The AWCA was invited by the Strathcona County Arts and Culture "Try It Day" The concept was to have Sherwood Park and Country residents come out to try something new. There were opportunities to try a variety of sports and arts related activities. Visitors to our area had a chance to carve, or carve and paint either a feather or Maple Leaf which were subsequently made into necklaces for them. We had well over 50 young creative participants try their hand at our art form. Members participating were, Barb Mikaluk, Jim McLaughlin, Glenn Maber, Bob Steele, Steve Ewasiuk, Carmen Steele and Russ Mann.



Official Carving Calendar

Here is a calendar of important dates. Click this [link](#) or visit the AWCA website periodically to plan your activities.



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