

Prairie Canada News

April 7, 2015

Awards Banquet Highlights

The awards banquet of the 29th annual Prairie Canada Carving Championship will be held at Canad Inns Polo Park Saturday April 18, beginning with a 6:00p.m. dinner (cocktails start at 5:30p.m.) and promising to be any evening of wonderful celebration. **Tickets for the banquet must be booked by April 13 through Rules Chairman Don Young (bdyoung@mts.net or 1-204-489-0149).** *Please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Tickets can be picked up at the competition registration desk.*

Key note speaker: Every award's banquet features a keynote speaker and this year Lana Cowell of Saskatoon will deliver an illustrated presentation of the carving and painting of a life-sized northern goshawk. Lana is hosting a three day workshop at Canad Inns April 15 to 17 and has made her presence well known on the bird carving scene for her knack of capturing a remarkable softness in her carvings. Painting solely with brushes in acrylic, she slowly develops an intensity and richness of colour through many light washes of paint. "I will often paint the same feather or groups of feathers seven or eight times until I reach a look of softness. I also try to incorporate a degree of randomness in feather patterns almost to position feathers out of place," she says. While this may sound easy enough Lana believes that our brains lean towards seeing patterns and anything out of place easily catches our eye. She also allows paint to dry naturally as a hair dryer tends to move paint away from where it should be. She describes herself as slow, patient, cautious painter who enjoys the mental challenge of finding the right colours. She explores paint mixes first on the palette with no specific paint schedule in mind- a technique she shares with students in her painting workshops.



Specializing in song birds and birds of prey, Lana has successfully shown work in carving competitions in Ocean City, Winnipeg, Toronto, Edmonton and Saskatoon. She is active member of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Art Association and a board member of the Saskatchewan River Valley Art School.

Awards: An awards banquet can only be complete with the awarding of prizes for Best of Show winners and winners of special awards and purchase awards. People's Choice and Carver's Choice awards are announced Sunday afternoon. And this year two outstanding Manitoba carvers will be awarded the Carver's Award of Excellence.

2015 Show Volunteers Needed: Contact Jean Mousseau if you can volunteer for a few hours at the 2015 competition (jeanm@mymts.net or 204-233-3158). For those of you with raffle tickets please return them to Jean by 4:00p.m. Saturday April 18 at the show. The draw is Sunday April 19. Thanks for all your help.

30th Anniversary Highlights: The 30th anniversary of Prairie Canada Carver's Championship takes place April 16 & 17, 2016 at Canad Inns Polo Park and to help celebrate 30 years of consecutive extraordinary competitions the board of directors is working on a number of special projects. Foremost among them will be a special duck head painting competition, complete with several categories and fabulous cash prizes. Full details of the duck head competition will be announced at the banquet and published in the May 2015 newsletter. The creative aspect of this event is captured in the demonstration painting of a zebra duck head by Don Young. Where are the possibilities?



See you at the show— April 18 & 19 Canad Inns Polo Park

Prairie Canada Carvers' Association Inc: www.prairiecanadacarvers.com

Special Show Exhibits 2015

In keeping with a tradition of showcasing the collections and works of carvers at the annual competition Prairie Canada is pleased to feature the work of Bert Bodnaruk, Randy Warren, Matt Dedrick and a collection of working duck decoys from eastern Canada.

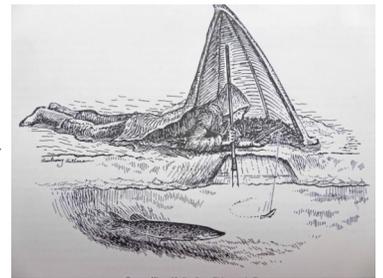
Bert Bodnaruk– Caricatures

Bert Bodnaruk is testimony to the advantages of carving clubs making the effort to be in the public eye promoting wood carving. Bert had no interest in taking up carving until he spoke to Lawrence Buydens who was demonstrating carving with Les Gens de Bois at a wood working show. Once he took up chisel and knife, and first carved a boot, Bert was hooked and began carving caricatures which consistently placed well in the Prairie Canada Carvers Championship and the Wheat City Carvers Competition. Bert tried bird carving but found caricatures far more rewarding in part because of being so open to artistic interpretation. One of the techniques he uses to capture the desired look in the carving phase is to examine it in a mirror. He has been carving for 12 years and is a member of Les Gens De Bois.



Matt Dedrick– Spear Fishing Decoys

Matt Dedrick has been collecting carvings of all sorts and teaching carving for as long as anyone can remember. He recently had a collection of spear fishing decoys on display at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. While he could just as easily assemble a wonderful collection of shorebirds– an accomplished shorebird and duck decoy carver and painter himself- he is bringing fish decoys to the show. The making of wooden or ivory/bone decoys to lure and spear fish over an ice hole was a technique used by North America's First Nations for thousands of years. Spear fishing over ice is carried on today in some Great Lake states. Illustration from Anthony Hillman's *Carving Traditional Fish Decoys*.



Duck Decoys of the Thousand Islands Area from the Collection of Ernest Edward Fox (1925-1988)

Ernie Fox of Brockville, Ontario carved well over a thousand working decoys between 1950 to the mid 1970's. The decoys on display at Prairie Canada represent Ernie's work along with those of a number of his friends. A World War I veteran who lost both his legs in a mortar explosion, Ernie began carving working duck decoys in 1953, mostly cut out of cedar poles donated by hydro workers. Roughed out with a hatchet and hand saw, decoys were final shaped with draw knives and rasps. His first decoys showed some Ferman Eyre and Jack Shepherd influence, but he gradually developed his own graceful black ducks so prized by collectors today. Ernie sold his first decoys for a few dollars each and worked up to \$4 to \$6 each. He also repaired decoys charging \$1 to \$2 to strip and repaint a decoy. It is estimated that he repainted 400 to 600 decoys for local hunters. Ernie often helped hunters and friends by selling their old wooden rigs to American collectors and antique dealers who visited him. Without realizing it he helped place 400 to 500 Thousand Islands decoys into collections in the United States. In the 1970's he turned his carving efforts to decorative decoy carving. In spite of his lost limbs Ernie was self sufficient and independent. Many local carvers were started on their way by him.



Randy Warren -Stone Carver *Defiant*

Randy Warren's sculpture of four stone carvings was inspired by a hunting trip with his father in the Carberry Sandhills when they came across a life and death struggle in a snow covered field between a wounded Canada goose and a bald eagle along with a pair of ravens. Based on the goose's last struggle, coupled with the experience of the passing of his mother to cancer, Randy was moved to capture the bravery in life with the four carvings he calls *Defiant*.

A fine arts graduate Randy has worked for a bronze company in making sculptures of Clara Hughes, Israel Asper and number of sports hall of famers. He has also worked on a number of historic and dedication plaques located throughout NA. His stone works have been presented by the Province of Manitoba to a number of visiting dignitaries including Queen Elizabeth II. *Defiant* was juried into the Ward World Championship in 2012.



Free Sunday Seminars at Show

Prairie Canada is pleased to offer three free seminars at the show— no registration required— just show up and be prepared to learn something new.

10:00a.m. Don Young on the construction of a wire canvas duck decoy

11:00a.m. Carl Robblee on the molding and casting of a fish

Noon Jean Mousseau on an introduction to wood carving



Send Competition Poster to Friend and Family Members

Past experience has shown that most of the non-carvers who attend the Prairie Canada Carvers' Championship know of someone who is participating in the show. We can each help promote the show and celebrate the wonder of carving/turning by emailing the attached promotional poster to our friends and family members. While you are at the show take a moment to thank the members of the four clubs demonstrating on the floor: the Woodturners Association of Manitoba, Les Gens de Bois Woodturning Club, Adanac Carvers Association and the Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild. Remember to vote for the People's Choice Award sponsored by Les Gens de Bois and the Carver's Choice Award- if you are a competitor- sponsored by Adanac.

PCCA Sponsors Confirmed to Date

Gold: Manitoba Arts Council

Silver: Morgan Whiteway BOSS Purchase Award

Jim Richardson Purchase Antique Duck Decoy Award

Razertip Industries Purchase Award

Bronze: Adanac Carvers Association Carver's Choice Award

Artists Emporium

Cabela's

Canad Inns Polo Park

Canadian Woodworker

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Finmac Lumber

Lee Valley Tools

Les Gens de Bois Woodcarving Club People's Choice Award

Manitoba Wildlife Federation

Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild Don Phalen Memorial Award

Preferred Perch

Professional Grinding

Richard Whittom Duck Head Purchase Award

Ted Muir Shorebird Purchase Award

Truserv

Wildfowl Carving Magazine

Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre

Windsor Plywood

Woodturners Association of Manitoba

Upcoming 2015 Competitions—

April 10 & 11— Red River Valley International Wood Arts Festival, Fargo, North Dakota (workshops only)

April 24 to 26— Ward World Championships, Ocean City, Maryland

June 26 to 28—Whapton, ND Carving Workshop Weekend

May 1 to 3— Alberta Wildlife Carving Show and Competition

May 29 to June 3- Saskatchewan River Valley Art School

October 24 to 26— Reflections of Nature, Saskatoon

November 7 & 8- Wheat City Carvers Show- Nicole Hunter bhhunter@hotmail.com 204-724-4536

Lake Bronson Show & Competition, Minnesota – cancelled

Oak Hammock Marsh Decoy Competition moved to fall of 2015: John Frye jfrye@cc.umanitoba.ca