

Prairie Canada News

May 2015

29th Carving Championship- Resounding Success

The 2015 Prairie Canada Carving Championship was held April 18 & 19 at Canad Inns Polo Park and attracted 292 wood, bone, stone and antler carvings from 103 carvers, along with a smattering of turnings. An additional 120 carvings graced a new feature exhibit area that showcased the work and collections of Bert Bodnaruk (caricatures), Matt Dedrick (spear fishing decoys), Ernie Fox (historic working duck decoys) and Randy Warren (stone carvings). Thank you gents- your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Judges were put to the test Saturday with the high caliber and sheer number of entries—thanks goes out to Lana Cowell, Ray England, Sylvain Marin, Tory Neald, Sean Nicol, Brian Parker, Peter Sawatzky, Jill Town, Ruben Unger and Larry Vanderhyde. Members of Les Gens de Bois Woodcarving Club, Adanac Carvers Association, the Woodturners Association of Manitoba, the Oak Hammock Marsh Carvers Guild and the Manitoba Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Organization captivated the interests of visitors, adding to the ambiance of the show. Canadian Woodworker staff were once again on hand to help carvers. And accolades go out to the 26 sponsors and supporters who back the show— see complete list on page five of the newsletter.

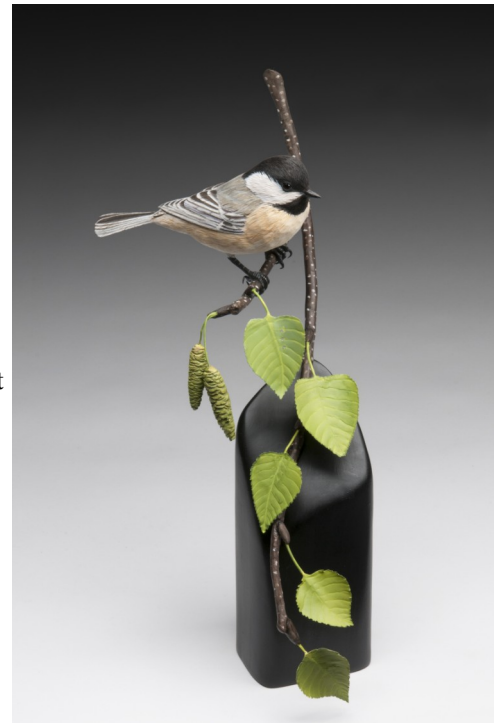
Carving volunteers are the backbone of any competition and not enough praise can be lavished upon the corp of volunteers that make Prairie Canada the outstanding success it is. Students from College Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau once again helped keep the show running smoothly. The 2015 board of directors worked tirelessly for eight months of the year to host the competition along with numerous workshops— kudos to Lynda Baxter, Dennis Brown, Susan Cowtan, Doug Danell, John Frye, Tom McCormack, Jean Mousseau, Tom Park, Evelyn Strempler and Don Young.

Lana Cowell offered a well received three day session on painting a yellow-rumped warbler. Lana Cowell capped the Saturday award's banquet with an illustrated presentation on the making of a commissioned life-sized northern goshawk. Sunday morning seminars involved Don Young on making a canvas duck decoy, Carl Robblee on making fish moulds and Jean Mousseau on fish carving.

A note of gratitude goes out to folks who sold tickets on raffle carvings. Kaitlyn McCormack picked up the pine grosbeak carved by Harvey Welch of Saskatoon, Rene Beaulieu won the polar bear donated by Cliff Zarecki and Marcel Fraser won the western red juniper weed pot donated by Ted Muir. All winners are residents of Winnipeg.

A newsletter will be distributed this summer featuring highlights of our 30th anniversary celebrations slated for April 16 & 17, 2016 at Canad Inns Polo Park. Stay tuned— it's going to be spectacular. Keep your edges sharp and have a great summer.

Ted Muir- Past Chairman PCCA



**Black-capped Chickadee by Harvey Welch
Razertip Industries Purchase Award
2016 PCCA Raffle Carving**

2015 Carver's Award of Excellence Recipients

The Prairie Canada Carvers' Association was pleased to present Harry Williams and Larry Vanderhyde, residents of Winnipeg, with the *Carver's Award of Excellence* for their achievements in promoting and engendering the art of carving. Peter Sawatzky of Glenboro crafted the special *Carver's* bronze award and presented them April 17 at the banquet. Harry and Larry share a passion for teaching and mentoring carvers in a constructive and fulfilling way. Harry excels in carving working duck decoys and Larry specializes in decorative ducks. Both men are highly regarded in the carving community and have been vigorous supporters of the carving community.

Harry Williams

Harry has been running decoy classes sponsored by Ducks Unlimited Canada for over 15 years. Over the winter months he and members of the Oak Hammock Marsh Carvers Guild conduct a series of three day decoy carving workshops at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. In addition Harry, over the course of 12 years, assisted Dr. Frank Baldwin with Ducks Unlimited annual Great Greenwing Adventure where decoy carving was part of the week long youth-oriented activity.

Harry has donated hundreds of his carvings to Ducks Unlimited Canada fundraising dinners, the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre and many other charitable events, resulting in thousands of dollars being raised for worthy causes. His distinctive working duck decoys are well known and sought after by collectors.

He served on the board of PCCA for five years and is a founding member of the Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild which began in 2000. He has been a tireless worker on behalf of the Guild in recruiting members, offering workshops, running an annual competition and promoting outreach activities.



Harry Williams receives award from Peter Sawatzky

Larry Vanderhyde

An accomplished carver of decorative waterfowl, Larry takes perfection in carving to new heights and generously shares his knowledge of waterfowl and carving know how with up and coming carvers. Bob Lavender of Saskatoon for one has benefited immensely from Larry's free advice. *"What distinguishes Larry as a mentor is his ability to encourage and motivate you to do better all the while offering helpful and thorough advise"* says Bob. *"A veritable fountain of knowledge Larry's love for carving is infectious,"* he adds.

Larry encourages carvers to develop their individual style and to think of pattern design and development as a significant investment in time. He has been a tireless promoter of carving and is highly regarded and sought after as a competition judge. Over the past 13 years he has judged waterfowl at the Prairie Canada Carving Championship and the Oak Hammock Marsh Decoy Carving Competition. In addition he has judged waterfowl at the Saskatoon Wildlife Art Competition.



Larry Vanderhyde receives award from Peter Sawatzky

Larry served on the executive of PCCA for 12 years mostly as rules chairman. He brought his jewelry making skills into play by designing a special PCCA ring, earmarked for carvers who donated carvings to the annual raffle. His commitment to the carving community was recognized in the Association's submission in the 2012 edition of *Competition* magazine.

2015 Winners Circle– Best of Show & Purchase Awards

Bird Carvers– Best of Show

Open 1st: Jean Minaudier, St. Claude, MB - black-billed magpie
2nd: Bob Lavender, Saskatoon– barn owl
3rd: Bob Lavender– hooded merganser hen

Intermediate 1st: Ernie Fehr, Saskatoon– American robin
2nd: John Barton, Anola, MB– bufflehead drake
3rd: Ernie Fox, Poplar Point, MB- northern pintail drake

Novice 1st: Susan Cowtan, Winnipeg– common goldeneye drake
2nd: Susan Cowtan– canvasback drake
3rd: Susan Cowtan– piping plover

Traditional Carvers- Best of Show

Open 1st: Clarence Sawatzky, Killarney, MB-American elk
2nd: Carl Robblee, Swan River, MB- brook trout
3rd: Bill Nitzsche, Winnipeg- burrowing owls

Intermediate 1st: Shirley Lawrence, Winnipeg-black terns
2nd: Perry Kon, Pinawa, MB-whimsical house table
3rd: Barry Konzelman, St. Andrews, MB-Tiki head

Novice 1st: Gerald Dufresne, Kenora, ON-dragon
2nd: Deborah Spear, Thunder Bay, ON-otter
3d: Dennis Brown, Winnipeg– smallmouth bass

Cocktail Best of Show Bob Lavender-hooded merganser hen
1st shorebirds/songbirds/birds of prey: Tom Park, Winnipeg– piping plover
1st traditional carvings : Bill Nitzsche– burrowing owls

Purchase Awards

Razertip Industries: Harvey Welch, Saskatoon-black-capped chickadee
Morgan Whiteway BOSS: Doug Carson, Neepawa, MB– common loon
Richard Whittom Duck Head: Rusty Rutherford, Portage la Prairie, MB- wood duck drake
Jim Richardson Antique Decoy: Ernie Fox-canvasback drake
Ted Muir Shorebird: Harvey Welch-upland sandpiper

People’s Choice Award sponsored by Les Gens de Bois Woodcarving Club:
Clarence Sawatzky-American elk

Carver’s Choice Award sponsored by Adanac Carvers Association: Gordon Kanne, Selkirk, MB-bass guitar

Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild-Don Phalen Memorial Award: Susan Cowtan-common goldeneye drake

Prairie Canada Junior Award: Birkley Ross, Lac du Bonnet, MB-cardinal



Black-billed Magpie by Jean Minaudier
Best of Show Open Birds



American Elk by Clarence Sawatzky
Best of Show-Open Traditional



Cardinal by Birkley Ross
Prairie Canada Junior Award

- Lynda Baxter
- Dennis Brown
- Susan Cowtan
- Doug Danell
- John Frye
- Tom McCormack
- Jean Mousseau
- Ted Muir
- Tom Park
- Evelyn Strempler
- Don Young

Upcoming 2015 Carving Events

May 29 to June 3: Saskatchewan River Valley Art School

June 26 to 28: North Dakota Whapton Carving Workshop Weekend

September 26 & 27: Oak Hammock Marsh Duck Decoy Carving Competition– details TBA

October 24 to 25: Reflections of Nature Wildlife Art Competition, Saskatoon

November 7 & 8: Wheat City Carvers Show; Nicole Hunter 204-725-4536 or bnhunter@hotmail.com

Cancelled:

August 1 & 2: Lake Bronson Carvers Weekend, Minnesota

September 20 to 25 Shuswap School of Carving & Arts, Sorrento BC

**April 16 & 17, 2016: Prairie Canada Carving Championship,
Canad Inns Polo Park ,Winnipeg**

Auction Raises Much Needed Funds– Thanks for the support

The Sunday afternoon auction of cocktail carvings and other carving donations raised \$1,520 for the competition. While the total number of carvings and amount raised was down from last year the caliber of the pieces was outstanding.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to cocktail competition carvers Iris Bidinosti, Sly Didur, Austin Eade, Bob Lavender, Ray Minaudier, Bill Nitzsche, Tom Park, Jack Yellowlees and Ruben Unger. We also received income from carvings donated by Murray Watson and Ray Minaudier. Lana Cowell donated a painted cast of a yellow-rumped warbler and Gerald Kornelsen donated a turned bowl. Auction proceeds top up Association coffers for next year’s competition and we thank carvers for their generosity. Please keep giving.



Best of Show Cocktail by Bob Lavender

We also appreciate of carving books and supplies received from the estate of Jim Roberts. Jim’s donations were either kept by Prairie Canada for use in carving workshops or sold at the show in support of future competitions.



**1st Place Traditional Cocktail Carving
by Bill Nitzsche**

2015 PCCA Sponsors and Partners

A special note of gratitude is extended to our show sponsors and partners. Please support them where possible.

Gold (\$1000 plus)

Manitoba Arts Council

Silver (\$500 to \$999)

Morgan Whiteway BOSS Purchase Award

Jim Richardson Canadian Antique Duck Decoy Purchase Award

Razertip Industries Purchase Award

Bronze (\$200 to \$499)

Adanac Carvers Association- Carver's Choice Award

Artists Emporium

Cabela's

Canad Inns Polo Park

Canadian Woodworker

Dremel Tools

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Lee Valley Tools

Les Gens de Bois Woodcarving Club- People's Choice Award

Manitoba Pork Council

Manitoba Wildlife Federation

Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild- Don Phalen Memorial Award

Preferred Perch

Professional Grinding

Richard Whitton- Duck Head Purchase Award

Ted Muir- Shorebird Purchase Award

Truserv

Windsor Plywood

Wildfowl Carving Magazine

Woodturners Association of Manitoba

Supporters

Manitoba Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation organization



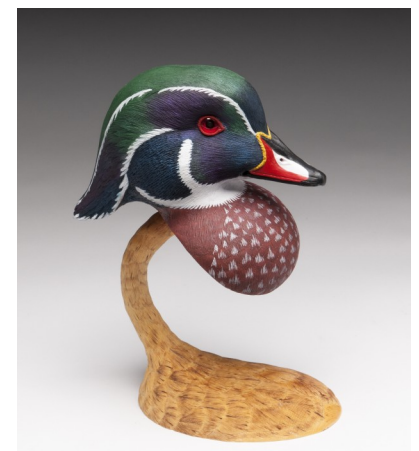
Smallmouth Bass by Dennis Brown
3rd Best of Show Novice



Dragon by Gerald Dufresne
1st Best of Show Traditional Novice



Tiki head by Barry Konzelman
3rd Best of Show Intermediate



Wood Duck Drake by Rusty Rutherford
Richard Whitton Purchase Award