

PRAIRIE CANADA CARVERS' ASSOCIATION



North America's Premier Bird Carver Receives National Award

March 26, 2011: The Prairie Canada Carvers' Association announced that Pat Godin of Paris, Ontario received the *Carver's Award of Excellence* for excellence and achievement in promoting and engendering the art of carving in North America. Pat received the award at the Association's 25th annual awards banquet March 26 at Canad Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg. The one-of-a-kind bronze sculpture award presented to Pat was crafted by acclaimed wildlife artist Peter Sawatzky of Glenboro, Manitoba.

"Pat Godin's service to the North American carving community is exemplary and worthy of recognition," said Ted Muir, President of the Prairie Canada Carvers' Association. Pat Godin is unquestionably one of the world's premier bird carvers, carving instructors and lecturers. Prompted by a fascination with the natural world, Pat carved his first bird in 1967. Mostly self-taught, Pat continued carving in the early 70's for his own pleasure, but it was his formal training as a waterfowl biologist that infused in his art a biological, anatomical and ecologically correctness that characterizes all of his work to this day.

In 1976 Pat earned a "Best in World" award for his innovative pair of common goldeneyes, the first of eleven such awards to be garnered from the World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition held in Ocean City, Maryland. Since that first award, Pat has accomplished an unprecedented achievement by winning "Best in World" in four of the five World Championship categories. He has tallied numerous "Best of Show" awards at the Canadian Open Wildfowl Carving Competition in Toronto, the Gulf South Carving Competition in New Orleans, the California Open Carving Competition in San Diego, The Pacific Flyway Competition in Sacramento, the North American Wildfowl Carving Competition in Detroit and the Northern Nationals Wildfowl Carving Competition in Minneapolis. While the Godin name is synonymous with excellence in waterfowl carvings, Pat began winning awards, starting in 1999, for his grouse carvings. He is now carving, in miniature, a series of all species of North American grouse in courting displays.

His pieces can be found in the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury, Maryland and in many private collections throughout the world. His pieces have been on display at the prestigious "Birds in Art" Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wisconsin and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Pat is also an outstanding writer and lecturer. Over the past 30 years he has offered numerous seminars and workshops at various carving venues throughout the continent. He also produced a collection of four pattern books on diving, dabbling and sea ducks which are recognized as the definitive waterfowl references for carving and painting.

In 1994 Pat was inducted into the prestigious Waterfowl Festival Hall of Fame in Easton Maryland. He was also honoured by his home town of Brantford, Ontario with an induction in the walk of Fame in December 2001, joining notable inductees including Wayne Grezky and Alexander Graham Bell. Pat lives in Paris, Ontario with his wife Jessica and their three children.

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