By all accounts the 23rd Prairie Canada Carving Championship held March 21 & 22 at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg was a resounding success. The awards banquet was a sell out and the show housed some 338 carvings. The inclusion this year of a special exhibit featuring select carvings from the collection of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre was an added attraction which the PCCA board of directors hopes to repeat each year. We were also pleased this year to have the Adanac Carvers Association join the competition as a sponsor of the carver’s choice award.

A special note of thanks goes out to the 15 carvers who contributed pieces to the Sunday auction and by doing so raised $2,750 to help cover show expenses (see article in newsletter). The same can be said for the many carvers who sold $6,576 worth of raffle tickets for Prairie Canada throughout the past seven months. Of course every successful show needs its sponsors/partners and we are grateful for the 22 individuals and organizations who helped make your show a success (see insert). I would encourage you to make a point of thanking them for their endorsement and where possible supporting their businesses. We need sponsors and sponsors need the favour returned. Several retailers sold their wares at the competition – thanks goes out to Canadian Woodworker, Bob Taylor, Jennifer LaBella and Artists Emporium. Les Gens de Bois Woodcarving Club, Adanac Carvers Association, the Oak Hammock Marsh Carvers Guild and the Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization captured the interests of show goers throughout the weekend, adding to the ambiance of the show.

A special note of gratitude is extended to the judges: Ron Davidson, Dennis Drechsler, Ray England, Desiree Hajny, Ron Jackson, Larry Longtine, Jean Minaudier, Randy Mooi, Peter Sawatzky, Shawn Sinclair, Rose Tanasichuk, Robert Taylor and Larry Vanderhyde. They did a superb job. Desiree Hajny, Dennis Drechsler and Carl Robblee offered carving workshops and seminars prior to, during or after the competition- all of which were well received. The awards banquet was another huge success and culminated in the awarding of the coveted Carver’s Award of Excellence to Harvey Welch of Saskatoon and the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. We also handed out competition carving awards and thanked long-standing volunteers for years of service to the organization (see article in newsletter). Desiree and Bernie Hajny capped the awards banquet evening with an illustrated presentation of commissioned work for Disney World. Accolades are also extended to Manitoba Pork Council, Bob Taylor, Jennifer LaBella, Copperfield Books, Chip Bin, Doug Danell, Ted Muir and Sally and David Nye (www.FanCarversWorld.com) for the donation of banquet raffle prizes.

I cannot heap enough praise upon the PCCA board of directors for its steadfast dedication in advancing the interests of the carving community. The board consists of Doug Danell, John Frye, Dave Koss, Prabir Mitra, Jean Mousseau, Ted Muir, Shawn Nicol, Tom Park, Earl Quesnel, Bonnie Trodden and Don Young. Once again scores of volunteers stepped forward to help with the running of the show– thank you. A special note of appreciation goes out to Cathie Breteron once again for helping with our electronic registration system. I should also recognize the fine work of our photographer Richard Gwizdak— all of which will be published in Competition 09, Chipchats and other carving magazines over the coming months. We hope at some point soon to make available to carvers a DVD of our winning carvings over the past four years.

2010 Competition Dates: The 2010 competition which will be held at Canad Inn Polo Park March 27 to 28. The new venue is close to the Victoria Inn and within walking distance of the Polo Park Shopping Centre. For those wishing to get a head start on purchase award pieces here are the awards confirmed to date: PCCA (formally Dremel) raffle piece- life-sized Wood Duck drake (non-floating slick); Jim Richardson Antique Purchase Award (see list of Canadian decoy books in newsletter); Oak Hammock Marsh Purchase Award- three duck hunting rig; and Morgan Whiteway BOSS award—Harlequin Duck hen. Carvers should consult with the 2010 rules form to ensure compliance with any minor changes. The 2010 rules form will be posted on the website in mid September 2010. Del Herbert will be offering his airbrush painting workshop March 24 to 26.

Happy carving to all. Have a great summer.

Ted Muir,
Chairperson, PCCA

Prairie Canada Carvers’ Association: www.prairiecanadacarvers.com
The Prairie Canada Carvers’ Association presented Harvey Welch of Saskatoon and the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre with the Carver’s Award of Excellence for excellence and achievement in promoting and engendering the art of carving in North America. The awards were presented at the Association’s 23rd annual banquet in Winnipeg, March 21, 2009. The coveted, one-of-a-kind, bronze award is crafted by wildlife artist Peter Sawatzky of Glenboro, Manitoba.

Harvey Welch has been active in the Saskatchewan carving for over 20 years. He taught carving at Red Deer College for five years and has introduced scores of carvers to the art form through mentoring sessions at his home workshop and running scores of classes in venues across the prairie provinces. Harvey was the driving force behind the recent formation of the Saskatchewan River Valley Art School and sits as its chairman. The school offers instruction in carving, photography and painting. It operates out of the Shekinah Retreat Centre which is located on the bank of the North Saskatchewan River, near Waldheim.

Harvey is an accomplished competitor and has won numerous best of show awards in carving competitions throughout western Canada. He was instrumental in establishing the Saskatchewan Reflections of Nature Wildlife Art Competition Show and Sale which is now in its 19th year of operation. Reflections of Nature is western Canada’s largest wildlife art show and as one of its long time supporters Harvey has served the organization as show chairman, chief judge and fundraiser. Harvey’s commitment to community service is exemplified by the numerous carvings he donates each year to Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and an inner city program for disadvantaged children. Harvey had a hand in establishing the youth program.

As noted by one of his fellow carvers “Harvey has touched and inspired more people than most of us could ever hope to. While many of us love to encourage and teach new carvers, none do with the generosity, compassion, humour and enthusiasm shown by Harvey Welch.”

The Oak Hammock Interpretive Centre is the premier wetland education facility in the world. Operated as a joint venture between the Province of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada, the centre is located north of Winnipeg near Stonewall and attracts 30,000 people annually. Its mission is to foster public understanding and awareness of the values of wetlands and associated ecosystems.

Since its inception in 1993 the Centre has played a pivotal role in fostering public understanding and appreciation of the history and value of waterfowl decoys. Towards this end the Centre supports the ongoing operation of a carving guild which organizes a spring decoy carving competition, a summer carving workshop weekend and an endangered species carving contest. The Centre also offers, through Dr. Frank Baldwin and other instructors, public decoy carving classes each year and makes carving supplies available to carvers through its gift shop.

The Centre seeks to preserve the history of waterfowling in Canada by collecting historic working waterfowl decoys for public display. The Centre supports excellence in the carving community by sponsoring a $1,000 purchase award through the Prairie Canada Carving Championship. Award winning pieces of wetland wildlife are exhibited at the Centre. This award also serves to acknowledge the support of Ducks Unlimited Canada for having sponsored the Prairie Canada Carving Championship over the past 23 years.

Award Nomination Information

Members of the carving community are encouraged to nominate an individual or organization for recognition under the Carver’s Award of Excellence program. Submissions should be sent in writing to John Frye at 139 Lodge Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3J 0R6. John can also be reached at (204) 888-8272. Full details of the awards program can be obtained from the Association’s website. Awards for 2010 must be submitted before December 1, 2009.
Upcoming Shows & Workshops—2009

April 11 to 12 Wheat City Carving Show & Competition, Brandon: Fred Warburton at (204) 727-8054 or fhnotru-braw@westman.wave.ca
April 24 to 25 Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Championship, Ocean City, Maryland:
May 1 to 3 Winnipeg Woodcarvers Weekend, St. John’s College: Rick at (204) 345-6020 or rebrereton@gmail.com
May 8, 9 & 10 Alberta Wildlife Carving Association, Sherwood Park: Glen Maber (780) 417-1412 or gmarbr@yahoo.com
May 9 & 10 Edmonton Carving Competition: Bill Ince (780) 464-7048
May 9 & 10 Wood Working Show, Regina: Ken at (306) 693-5713 or kenrene@sasktel.net or
May 21 to 26, Saskatchewan River Valley Art School: (306) 945-4929 or retreat@sasktel.net or www.shekinahretreatcentre.org
May 23 & 24 Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild – Decoy Carving Competition: Ross Gage 895-4723 or rossgage@mts.net
June 26 to 28 Wahpeton Carving Weekend, ND: Gary Paulsen (701) 232-2196
August 1-2 Lake Bronson International Woodcarvers Festival & a workshop carving a pair of Mallard duck decoys by Larry
September 27 to October 2 Shuswap School of Woodcarving School, BC: info@sorrento-centre.bc.ca
October 23 to 25 Reflections of Nature Wildlife Art Competition, Show and Sale: Saskatoon: www.saskwildlifeart.com or Brenda at (306) 382-7785

2009 Winners Circle– Best of Show & Purchase Awards

Ernie Beauchesne, Duncan, BC: 1st BOS Novice-Pacific Grey Whale
Gerry Beyersbergen, Edmonton: 3rd BOS, Intermediate– Killer Whale
Bert Bodnaruk, Winnipeg: 3rd BOS, Open– The Cyclist; Carver’s Choice Award for Caricature sponsored by Adanac Carvers Association
Rick Brereton, Lac du Bonnet, MB: 2nd BOS Open– Wizard relief
Jim Cellars, Calgary: 3rd BOS Novice– Female Green-winged Teal; 1st BOS- Ruddy Duck
Tim Desrochers, Winnipeg: Les Gens de Bois People’s Choice Award– Aboriginal in buckskin
Lee Garbel, Williston, ND: 1st BOS Open– Ring-necked Pheasant cock
Desiree Hajny, Blue Hill, Nebraska: Dremel Purchase Award-Timber Wolf
Barb Janman, Calgary: 1st BOS Intermediate– Oldsquaw drake; 2nd BOS American Avocet
Lloyd Laing, St Claude, MB: 2nd BOS Novice– Lesser Scaup drake
Bob Lavender, Saskatoon: Morgan Whiteway BOSS Purchase Award– Wood Duck hen; 2nd BOS Open– Ruffed Grouse; BOS Cocktail– Barn Owl
Shirley Lawrence, Selkirk, MB: 2nd BOS Intermediate-White-tailed Deer
Eric Meder, Winnipeg: 1st BOS Intermediate– Walleye
Prabir Mitra, Winnipeg: 3rd BOS Novice– Voyageur relief
Ray Minaudier, St Claude, MB: Oak Hammock Marsh Purchase Award– three Eider duck hunting rig; Ross Gage Purchase Award– Black-necked Stilt
Bill Palmer, Winnipeg: James Richardson Antique Duck Decoy Purchase Award– Charles Reaves style Canvassback drake
Carl Robblee, Swan River, MB: 1st place Best of Show, Open– Brook Trout
Gord Unger, Carman, MB: 3rd BOS Intermediate-Yellow-throated Warbler
Randy Warren, Winnipeg: 2nd BOS Novice– Stone sparrow on leaves
Harvey Welch, Saskatoon: 3rd BOS Open-Mourning Dove

Bert Bodnaruk receives the Carver’s Choice Award from Dave Gary of Adanac Carvers
Tim Desrochers receives the People’s Choice Award from John Cruickshank- Les
Volunteer Service Recognition

The success of Prairie Canada Carvers’ Association over the past 23 years is attributed in large measure to the scores of people who contributed countless hours and phenomenal resources to furthering the interests of the carving community. This year at the annual banquet the PCCA board of directors recognized four outstanding volunteers—each of whom dedicated in excess of 10 years service towards the organization.

Ida McKenzie contributed 16 years of service to PCCA, acting as treasurer for many of those years. After stepping down from the board she continued to volunteer during the competition. Ida joined PCCA as a representative for Les Gens de Bois.

Don Young has served on the board for 15 continuous years. Don has worked on a variety of committees and within the last three years taken on the responsibility of Rules Chairperson.

Gary Eekhoudt has invested 12 year in the organization, many of which he sat as board member. After stepping down from the board, Gary continues to help each year with the use of his truck in transporting exhibit materials to and from the competition.

Bob Taylor has put 11 year into the organization. Bob is one of the Association’s founding members and sat on the board for the first three year of its existence. Since then he has judged for the competition for seven years.

A Few Good Men and Women Needed

The PCCA board of directors is always looking for new members to replace retiring ones and help keep the competition relevant to the interests of the carving community. If we are to continue organizing an annual competition we must be able to recruit new members to the board. We are an efficient organization directed by a dedicated group of folks with great ideas and a variety skills, but we are always on the look out for new members. If you’d like to serve on the board please contact Ted Muir at (204) 237-1385 or tedmuir@shaw.ca. It will be an enjoyable rewarding experience.
2009 PCCA Sponsors & Partners

Gold

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
Sponsor of OHM Purchase Award; Canada’s leading wetland education centre; Open year round (204) 467-3300

Silver

Jim Richardson
Sponsor of Antique Duck Decoy Purchase Award

Morgan Whiteway
Sponsor of Best of Show Slick (BOSS) Purchase Award

Bronze

Adanac Carver’s Association
Contact: Keith Gordon (204) 256-5627

Bigmouth Creations
Specialist in Celtic intarsia (204) 654-1533

1610 St James Street, Wpg (204) 772-2421

1300 Ellice Avenue, Wpg (204) 788-8966

1054 Portage Avenue, Wpg (204) 786-3196
Odds and Ends

**Killer Whale Carving Workshop**– Instructor Tom Park; Saturday April 25; Fort Whyte Centre- 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; Sand and paint a miniature cork killer whale; Fee-$20 centre members; $25 for non-members; Register by calling Fort Whyte Alive at 989-8364 before April 20. Beginner level course.