

THE CUTTING EDGE

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Meet our newest member.

Spokane, WA 6-7

Results and photos from the first contest of the year.

Finishing Tip 9

Gail Conn shares a tip on stopping the cracks.



Conrad Sandoval, winner of the 2nd Annual Spokane, WA Regional Chainsaw Carving Contest.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hey there happy campers!

The big one is on the horizon and your participation would be appreciated. We have done more things right than wrong. Westport, for the most part, just loves the heck out of us! The air echo's with sound of cash registers being over worked. Business owners go full tilt from dawn to dusk and beyond!

It is a unique situation, for a unique art form, in a unique part of the world. Many things have come together over a period of time to make this event possible.

It is actually a very fragile operation. Many different folks have to do their part in order to make this contest happen! I'm only there to take the blame for the stuff that goes wrong!!!! Of which there is always something. That's the way it goes first your money then your clothes.

Lance Graham, a local carver in the Westport area, (Ocasta to be precise) should be given the carvers guild equivalent of the medal of honor because he be "da man" when it come's to the wood. His 20 year plus relationship with Weyrhauser has cinched us the nice wood you have gotten for the last several years. We carvers who participate in this contest are indebted to his service. Thank you Lance and thank you big, Weyrhauser. The list goes on, Jim and Sandy McBroom who backed it from the get go, and spearheaded the raising of the prize money and prizes, putting in countless hours throughout the year, promoting the show. The McBrooms also have quite a supporting cast behind them. In fact each person that helps usually has a bunch of folks behind them. So every person and their little circle help form the big circle, its a circle thing. Call for rooms early. See you there, Steve Backus.

The Cutting Edge is published bimonthly by the Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild, a Washington State, independent nonprofit organization devoted to the advance of chainsaw and power sculpture. Activities of the CCSG include sculpture contests and shows; *The Cutting Edge* newsletter, and various other member services. Membership is \$20.00 a year and open to all.

The Cutting Edge

is edited and produced by Jessie Groesch,
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FROM DOWN UNDER

Kevin Gilders

North Clayton, Victoria, Australia

Cypress (*Maurocarfa*) is a favored carving timber in Victoria. Though not native to the State, they were planted in great numbers in the past as shelter for stock.

Many of these trees are being removed or falling over now so the timber is often salvaged.

Carvers like it because it is available often in large pieces, carves easily and is reasonably stable. Certainly, it has drawbacks, the bark inclusions, and the little surprises' one finds. (I once hit a rabbit trap that had been grown over many years ago)

When it is left on the ground after cutting, the bark loosens and various creatures make their home in this cozy spot - particularly huntsman spiders.

These critters grow to 4-5 inches across, and though they are said to be relatively harmless, to the average arachnaphobic chainsaw carver they look a most fearsome beast.

It is not uncommon when carving a cypress log to have one of these hairy beasties appear on your work piece. Usually a touch with the saw will send him flying (usually in bits).

That's what I tried to do, but a momentary lapse in concentration saw me hit him with the underside of the bar, not the top side.

All those experienced carvers out there know the physics involved with saw direction, so the next thing I know, the bloody spider has been flying back at me and landed neatly in my shirt on my neck.

What happened next was an added attraction to the watching crowd. (Yes, Murphys Law again)

The studious, skilled middle aged carver in his abundant safety gear and armed with a powerful noisy chainsaw was transformed before their eyes.

I started hopping and swiping at my neck as the creature scuttled beneath my shirt.

The chainsaw went one way, hat and earmuffs went another. Carving, crowd and modesty were forgotten in my mad scramble to disrobe.

Was it panic? This invader-as big as a mans hand - was obviously going for the jugular. A huge hairy monster scuttling over my body.

Off came my shirt, and my singlet as well and I flicked and stomped in the shavings much to the amusement of the onlookers.

I calmed down, thoroughly checked my clothing and dressed again. After a little while I continued my interrupted carving.

There is moral to this tale, if you are going to flick creature off your work with a chainsaw, use the top of the bar where the chain direction is AWAY from you!

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RENEWALS

Magazine is great source of information and ideas. Anybody out this way give me a call, 519-966-2498.

*Al Heron
Windsor, Ontario*

I'm looking forward to another year of "The Cutting Edge". I especially like to see photos of other people's work and I like the "technical" articles.

*John Ketonen
Barre, Massachusetts*

Keep the paper coming!

*Don Etue
Hoquim, Washington*

Don't give up the good work of this paper, for you other carvers may not realize what this paper means to those who do not have many other carvers around. God Bless!!

*Gail Conn
Shelbina, Missouri*

Sorry about the dues, man. I must have been sleeping. Here's my '97 & '98. Great newsletter. Please, keep it coming.

*Ron Jager
Newport, Washington*

I would like to have a list of carvers published in this newsletter. Names, addresses, and phone numbers.

*Alexandre Safonov
Seattle, Washington*

Editors note:

Sasha, it has been our policy not to give out the addresses and phone numbers of the carvers without their permission first. But I'll give out yours so the carvers can contact you, Sasha Safonov, 351 N. E. 163rd St., Seattle, WA 98155, 206/ 368-0137.

NEW MEMBERS

Tom Sveine	Two Harbors, Minnesota
Mike Schmidt	Sandy, Oregon
Carl Higginbotham	Oakford, Illinois
Gary Blalack	Longview, Texas

ATTENTION CHAINSAW ARTISTS

This year at our Ocean Shores, Washington contest, we're doing things a little different.

It's not a day long contest. Basically, we are going to have a carving get together, with a barbecue and a mini contest.

We're supplying the wood. We'll also have prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and gifts for everyone.

The contest pieces will stay here, and be sold to pay for next years barbecue. Last years pieces are paying for this years food and beverages. So far we have sponsorship of Pepsi of Aberdeen, Behr Corp. of California.

Etue Woodcarving will supply prizes for mini contest.

The mini contest is set for 12 to 2 on Saturday, June 6th with barbecue afterwards.

We do have plenty of camping room if anyone would like to stay over on Sunday.

Our new place is easy to find. We're between Hoquim and Ocean Shores on Highway 109.

We do need your R.S.V.P so we know how much food to prepare. Call April Etue 360/ 537-8850. Hope to see you all.

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INEXPENSIVE SANDING WHEELS

Fred Hosaka
Coquille, Oregon

I used to take so much time to change sanding discs on my Dremel, and the center screw that held it in place would always be bothersome, not only that, it would invariably tend to scratch my work piece.

A solution, build your own inexpensive sanding wheels that does the job and saves you time. It has no center screw, and can be assembled at home with readily available parts.

I have been using these discs after chainsaw carving where I needed to touch up rough spots around the faces, or spots that are hard to reach. Mainly, I found them indispensable when working with smaller carvings. I used to hate sanding by hand because of the time it took to sand, sand, sand then change to a finer grit and repeat sanding some more. Now, I can sand with grit 80 then finish up with 120.

For much finer finish, I use discs made from medium drywall sanding screen, then finish with 600 discs.

MAKING YOUR OWN SANDING DISCS

Start by purchasing some roofing tacks, (nails) with smooth finish. (most hardware stores carry them) Be sure the shaft diameter is 1/8" and the length about 3/4" to 1".

Next, find some old pipe or conduit of 3/4" diameter. Sharpen one end with a fabric material of the sandpaper. The sanding belt is the perfect material for making the discs. Now comes the tricky part of cutting your discs.

Find a block of wood that you can stand with the end grain up. A small hardwood log will do nicely.

With the sanding fabric face up on the wood, the grit side should be down on the wood, place the sharpen end of the pipe cutter on it and strike it with a hammer until it is separated from the sheet. Now, you have a perfectly round sanding disc.

Go ahead and punch out 50 or more of these discs. (There is a logical reason for this many, I will explain later.)

With 50 or more disc laid out on a table, fabric side up, you are ready to glue the roofing tack.

Using a small amount of glue, place it on the flat surface of the tack and press it onto the center of the sanding disc. You will be guessing the exact center, but close enough that it does not interfere with vibration when sanding. (Those who want a more perfect fit, can use a 1/2" thick sheet of plywood approximately 10"X12" and drill 50 or more holes with a 1" spade drill but only to a depth of a 1/8". Do not go any further since you only want a cavity to hold the disc and nail. The one inch spade drill will have a pilot that will leave a 1/8" hole through the wood. Drop a tack into the hole. With the tack in the hole, apply adhesive to the 1/2" head of the tack and place the sanding disc, centering it in the cavity. Let dry overnight for good adhesion.)

The reason for 50 or more sanding discs is for convenience. Since it takes the same amount of time to set up for making the disc, I find it easier to do 50. Each sanding disc will last several minutes to an hour or more, depending on the

situation. As they are worn, don't throw the tacks away, just peel off the used part and save each tack for re-use.

Of the many type of adhesives on the market, I find the adhesive sealant called "GOOP", the most dependable.



1. ROOFING TACK 1/8" X 1" - (1/2" HEAD)
2. METAL CONDUIT 3/4" X 5" - 1
3. ADHESIVE SEALANT - (GOOP)
4. VARIOUS CLOTH BACK SANDING MATERIAL



Rocking dinosaur, carved for my great grand daughter. Carved from white pine using the chainsaw, bandsaw, die grinder and angle sander. Sanded with the Dremel sanding disc.

MEET GARY BLALACK

Gary Blalack is from Longview, Texas. He recently took up chainsaw carving 10 months ago. He says "In this area it's hard to find any material on the art form." He relishes any information on the art, videos, books and anything else, out there. If you would like to help him out contact him at 146 Delmar, Longview, TX 75604, 903/ 759-0595.



1998 EASTERN WASHINGTON CHAINSAW SCULPTURE CONTEST

In Spokane, Washington, carvers participated in this 2nd annual event. Carvers had three days to carve cedar logs. 1st place prize money was \$500 which was collected by Conrad Sandoval, he carved an Indian angel. 2nd, \$400, Steve Backus, Clinton, WA, he carved a story pole depicting the environment, delicately balancing nature, animals, and man. 3rd, \$300 Dan Whited, Lakebay, WA, nature scene, 4th, \$200, Charlie Hubbard, Shelton, WA, abstract Indians 5th, \$100 Don Etue, Hoquim, WA, nature bench, and tied for 6th, Ray Schulz of Loon Lake, WA and Al Bontrager, Montana.

Mini contest winner for both days, Conrad Sandoval, he won a \$200 prize each day.

Also Bill Plant from Pennsylvania, participated in the event, marking the first time that anyone from the east coast has participated in this event. Special thanks goes out to organizer John Schulz for a fine contest. Each carver received good wood and fine hospitality.



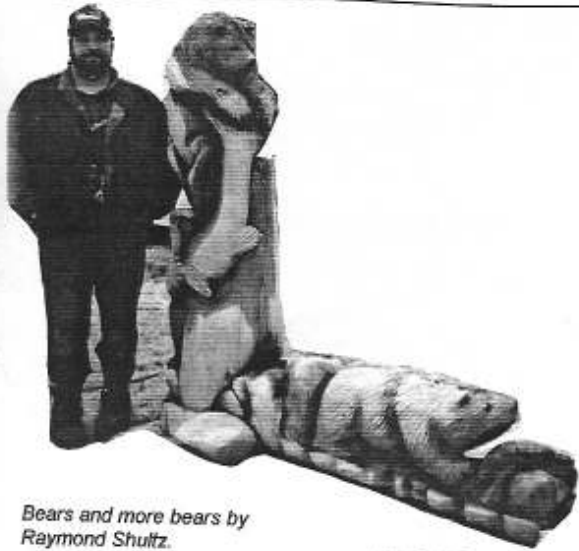
Steve "Just Do It" Backus.



Dan Whited's coyote and eagle.



A fine bench by Bill Plant of Pennsylvania.



Bears and more bears by Raymond Shultz.



Don Etue tired and content after three days of hard work.



Mr. Turney from Spokane, WA goes way vertical with his entry.



Charlie Hubbard adds a little twist to his style.

ART PRODUCTS & SERVICES

<http://www.buyused.com> catalogs more than 50,000 items for sale by dealers of used machinery and equipment. There's also information on more than 5,000 "secondary market" dealers.

National Museum of Women in the Arts: If a woman artist has had one solo exhibition she is qualified to be included in the NMWA Library and Research Center's Archives on Women Artists. It is used by art historians, artists, students and museum staff. A \$10 fee is required to establish a file. Call 202/ 783-5000.

Air Powered Stone Carving Sets: Everything you need to get started at a special kit price of \$375. Trow and Holden Co. 800/ 451-4349.

Sculpture Northwest: is published bimonthly by the Northwest Stone Sculptors Association, a Washington State nonprofit professional organization. Membership is \$40/yr. Newsletter subscriptions only \$20 425/ 778-6162.

Standard Abrasives All kinds of sanding stuff, including sanding cones. 1-818-718-7070

OPPORTUNITIES

ON-LINE link to art collectors worldwide. For more information call Artspeaks at 1-800-222-0402.

CALL FOR ARTISTS: The Seattle Arts Commission is seeking artist for four new public art projects. The projects include a commissioned artwork at the City's new Water Quality Lab; a commissioned work at the park at 69th and Phinney and more. All have various budgets, deadlines, and eligibility. For prospectus call Seattle Arts Commission at 206/ 684-7171.

BETTY BOWEN AWARDS: Jury awards for emerging 2 & 3-D artist in WA, OR, ID. Send slates of 6 pieces, mask background to Vicki H., SAM, POB 22000, Seattle, WA 98122. Deadline, Unclear.

EMERGING ARTISTS AWARD: The Rosen Group, producers of the wholesale Markets of America Craft shows and publishers of Niche magazine, has established a Merit Ward Program to help emerging craft artists enter the wholesale marketplace. Recipients will receive mentor support from an established exhibiting artist marketing support from The Rosen Group, and free booth space at one of the wholesale shows (Philadelphia or Florida). Selection will be based on innovative design ideas, creativity, and market viability of work. A number of artist will be chosen throughout the year. For info: 410/ 689-2933 or email: <anns@rosengrp.com>.

PUBLICATIONS

Allied Arts of Whatcom County Newsletter 360/ 678-8548

Arts Council of Snohomish County's, Washington State, *Opportunities for Artists*, 206/ 259-0380

Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council's *Art News* 206/ 842-0365, Washington State.

WoodWorker West, A bi-monthly publication to promote craftsmanship in woodworking throughout the Western U.S. 310/ 398-5831, email: editor@woodwest.com

Chip chats, National Woodcarvers magazine \$11 a year. PO Box 43218, Cincinnati, OH 45243.

1-800...ETC.

Bailey's, A good line of carving tools, 1-800-3BAILEY

Grizzly Tools East 1-800-523-4777 or West 1-800-541-5537

Husqvarna Chainsaws 1-800-438-7297

Stihl Chainsaws 7-800-43 STIHL

King Arthur's Tools Chainsaw carving tools, attachments for grinders 1-800-942-1300

Lab Safety & Supply Safety Equipment 1-800-358-0783

Mitchell Graphics Color photo business cards, posters, brochures, etc.

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Van Dyke's Taxidermy supplies, eyes, etc. 1-800-843-3320

MISC Industrial Supply Catalog 1-800-645-7270

GranQuartz Stone carving equipment and other carving tools, 1-800-458-6222

FULL COLOR POSTCARDS from Modern Postcards for \$85 for 500 copies, 1-800-959-8365.

SOURCES FOR 1/4 PITCH SPROCKETS

Rick Barbero Distributing *Wholem pitch sprockets*, Clarksville, Texas 1-800-814-4591, sale only 503/ 342-5061

Robert Guinn manufactures *custo*

Hawkins Bros. Service Center *Poulan, Homeite, Husqvarna*, 573-588-4731, Days, 573-983-2441, Evenings

MISCELLANEOUS

FREE USE OF COMPUTER: Seattle, Artist Trust offers artists free use of their new Mac computer and printer. Call Christina for an appointment at 206/ 467-8734.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**MAY**

May 9 & 10, Mothers Day weekend, 7th annual Irrigation Days Carving Contest. Contact Don Dykema, 137 Pierson Rd., Sequim, WA 98382, 360/ 683-1264.

May 30 & 31, Memorial day weekend, Chainsaw Carving Contest, Corfu, New York, (near Niagara Falls) \$1800 in prize money. Contact Rick Pratt 716/ 599-3043.

JUNE

June 6, Carving festival at Ocean Shores, WA. Contact Don or April Etue, 360/ 537-6850.

Iisalmi, Finland Chainsaw Carving contest. 12th Annual. Two Day event. Contact Harri Leinola, Iisalmi City Tourist Office, Kauppakatu 22, 74100 Iisalmi, Finland, Tel 358-17-8301-223, FAX, 358-17-826-760, email harri.leinola@iisalmi.fi

JULY/AUGUST

July 30, 31, Aug. 1&2 The 9th International WoodCarving Contest, The Big One! at Westport, Washington. Contact Steve Backus 360/ 579-3574. \$6500 in prize money.

CHAINSAW LOVE**LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT**

I'm a 36 year old Christian lady chainsaw carver. I'm stable, well educated with a great sense of humor. Call or write, Grace Dowling 760/ 244-0147, 11392 Hawthorne Ave, Hesperia, CA 92345.

LOOKING FOR MS. RIGHT

Needed female who loves the art form. Likes to work hard and travel. Good in sales, don't mind being broke or hungry, always happy and love life to its fullest. Call or write, Gail Conn, 573/ 588-2330, 305 W. Chestnut, Shelbina, MO

Membership Application

Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild was founded in 1986 with the purpose of promoting public and private awareness of chainsaw work as an art form, provide trade information, and to foster a collaboration of energy among members. Annual membership dues are \$20.00 (US Funds) Dues pay for the bimonthly newsletter The Cutting Edge, other mailings, and expense of the CCSG. Dues are collected in January for the current year. To join, please return this form and your dues to the Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild, 8110 Scatchet Head Rd., Clinton, WA 98236.

New Member Renewal Name _____
 Address _____ Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

 City, State, Zip _____

To get to know you please complete the following:

Years sculpting with a saw? _____ Type of wood and size: _____

My best types of work are: _____

You are: Full time carver Part time carver Novice Fan of the artform

Remarks/Comments _____

Preserving & Finishing your Carving

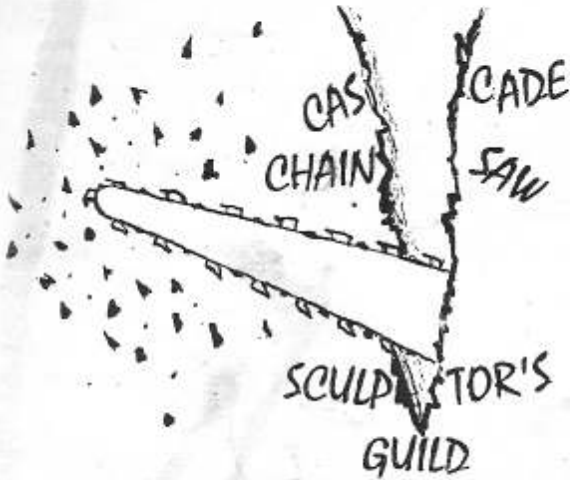
Gail Conn
 Shelbina, Missouri

Ya'll take it for what its worth. If you have a carving splitting a little, try this.
STEP 1. Using a sprayer or brush, generously coat entire carving (especially bottom) with antifreeze. No less than three coats. Allow each coat to soak in before applying the next. Wrap in plastic and let it sit in area out of direct sunlight.
STEP 2. Paint and or stain desired color or colors.
STEP 3. Top coat (especially bottom) with spar varnish.
 There are a lot of ways to finish and I've tried alot of them. This way has worked well for me.
 And with all finishes make sure you wear protective gear, respirator and latex gloves.
 Good Luck, God Bless and good carving, guys and gals.

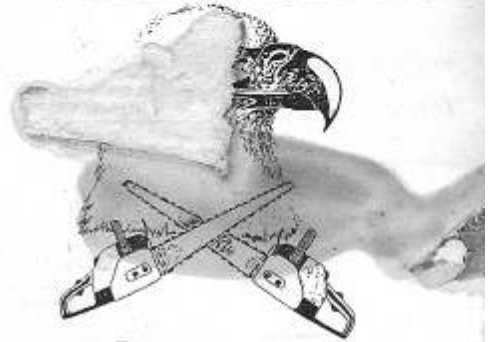


Ron Jager from Newport, WA

The T-shirt design contest has ended. We received two entries, the one on the right was submitted by Josh Blewett of Shelton, WA and the the one on the left by Pat McVay, Whidbey Island,WA. Vote for your favorite one by circling and send it in along with your membership application and dues for 1998.



Cascade Chainsaw



Sculptors Guild

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The Cutting Edge

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