

THE CUTTING EDGE

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Bert Adams

Steve Backus of Clinton, WA, carved this statue at the 1st Annual Sand & Sawdust Festival. See story on page 4.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello world! Hope all's well in your pursuit of happiness, however you perceive it to be, maybe just being alive is enough! Or maybe making more bears than the other guy is what's doing it. Just be sure to take care of your back and wrists, wear sensible footwear and drink lot's of water.

Recently, Dave Sipe came through the Puget Sound, it was refreshing to find out everyone is copying his bears, because I thought they were copying mine! Heck, I found out some carvers were even copying his stuff before he even got to town, thus proving ideas float around in the air and can be plucked right out and used. But, what mostly happens when someone copies you is that, well, what they really do is buy the same book, that you borrowed from a realitive and never gave back, because no matter what an idea is, funny thing they don't work unless you do. I mean how many carvers bought duplicarver machine's and found out they don't work like microwaves, well the conversation inspired a poem, here goes.

THE MILLIONAIRE TO BE

A great secret is being kept throughout the land by a chosen few people who shape wood by hand.

Stay away! Don't look! Your going to ruin it all.
I found a source that work's, winter, spring, summer, and fall.

A golden goose it look's like, oh it's true, no stocks, for me nor dividends that grew.

For a cord of wood, now, it's out, at last each block is gold with chainsaw to go fast.

It's easy street and I'll soon be a millionaire, because I've found their secret, I too can carve a little bear.

Steve Backus

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NEW MEMBERS

Vince Brown	Tacoma, WA
Jeff Turney	Loon Lake, WA
Eric Widtz	Blanchard, ID
Mark Griese	Poncha Springs, CA
Kelly Piper	Newburgh, IN

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 by Jessie Groeschen, asst. editor, Pat McVay
 8000 Scatchet Head Road * Clinton, WA 98236
 360/ 331-5150 or 360/ 579-7811

BIG TREE SCULPTURE IN TAHOE CITY

Some two hundred years ago a pine tree began growing on the west shore of Lake Tahoe. As it grew, so did Tahoe City, California. Eventually the town built around the tree and it wound up in the middle of the town's main road. Residents didn't want to cut it, so they just paved around it. The tree was decorated with Christmas tree lights and lit each holiday season. The Rotary Club used it as a meeting place to hand out gifts to the children.

Unfortunately, the tree began to succumb to the drought that started in the 90's. As the tree weakened, bark beetles attacked and the tree declined to only one small branch. The California Department of Transportation judged that the tree would soon become a hazard and decided to cut it down. Cal-Trans would have cut it into firewood had the community not raised an uproar and demanded that the trunk be saved.

The "Big Tree," as it was known, was cut down in 1994 and the trunk saved. A community Big Tree committee was formed to determine what to do. It was decided to have the trunk carved and a design contest was held. Some 25 artists submitted designs. The committee selected the submission by wood sculptor Rand E. Oertle of Springville, Utah.

It still took four more years until a location to install the tree was chosen and funds were raised to complete the project. Big Tree Committee Chairman, Syd Bartlett finally commissioned Oertle to begin the tree in August of 1998.

The huge tree was almost 7 feet at the base and stood 25-feet tall. It was a double trunk tree. Cal-Trans cut the smaller of the two trunks off at about 7 feet. Oertle's design took advantage of the tall stump to carve a tree. Beside the carved tree he carved a second stump with an eagle sitting on it and a deer at the base. A raccoon poking its head out of a knot is not visible from the front. The animals are indigenous to the Tahoe area.

It took more than 7 weeks to complete the sculpture and was all one piece with the exception the bear cub climbing the tree. Some punky wood in that area of the trunk forced Oertle to carve a separate bear and attach the cub. The unveiling of the sculpture took place September 25, 1998.

The finished project will be installed beside the

local art center in the middle of Tahoe City as part of a sidewalk and landscaping project the community has started. It won't actually be installed until the year 2000 when all the subsurface installations are made and the sidewalks poured. Oertle, who has carved for more than 25 years has carved in the Tahoe area for more than 14-years and has completed many hundred sculptures there, including many carvings at resorts and lake front home there. His shop is in Springville, Utah along the I-15 interstate.



OCEAN SHORES HOSTS AN HISTORIC EVENT

The First Annual Sand & Sawdust Festival in Ocean Shores Washington took place June 27 & 28. The Sand Sculpture contest was Saturday on the beach, and the Chainsaw contest was Saturday and Sunday in the Convention Center parking lot. Ocean Shores was very friendly to the chainsaw sculptors and would like us back. Wood was supplied by Dale Lloyd, and Ocean Shores hospitality included electrical power, space, no hassles, and free hotel rooms for most of the sculptors.

Originally conceived as an exhibition, it became a contest. 10 sculptors showed up. \$500 went to Sasha Safonov for a cherub sitting on a flower. \$300 went to Steve Backus for a totem collage, (Proving he can still place in a contest if he's not too busy organizing). 3rd place went to Dale Lloyd for his lobster. Dave Westberg placed 4th for 2 whales. John Peralta placed 5th with a sea captain.

Crowds were good both days, and the sand sculpture contest got a color front page of the Sunday paper.

Pat McVay and Jessie Groeshen took the cross pollination challenge and entered the sand sculpture contest. They took first in the Novice Division for \$100. We also had a few master sand sculptors on Sunday looking over tools to try chainsaw sculpting.

Ocean Shores has asked to expand the chainsaw contest for next year. Set the dates for June 25-27, 1999. Bigger wood, more prize \$, more carvers, and if we all sent our thank you letters, free hotel rooms.

Bert Adams
Sand and Sawdust Coordinator
723 NW 96th St.
Vancouver, WA 98665
360-574-2378
sandsculpt@transport.com



4th place finisher Dave Westberg

Right, winner, Sasha Safanov, puts the finishing touches on his cherub. Bottom Left, John Peralta of Olalla, WA looms over his entry. Bottom Right, winning entry of the master division in the sand sculpture contest.



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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.

POSTCARDS: Bomerang Laser, 360-341-4420, Black & White Postcards, 2000=\$104, 5000=\$180. Multiple Designs available.

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

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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 59th 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 slides of 6 pieces, mask background to Vicki H., SAM, POB 22000, Seattle, WA 98122. Deadline, Unclear.

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.

PUBLICATIONS

Allied Arts of Whatcom County, Wash. *Newsletter* 360/ 676-8548

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/ 398-5931, email: editor@woodwest.com

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

SOURCES FOR 1/4 PITCH SPROCKETS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 3RD annual Eastern Washington Chainsaw Carving Championships. Contact John Schultz, 509/ 292-9425. Email Shindawa@aol.com. Limit 15 carvers

MID Feb. 4th annual carving contest in Seymour, Australia. Contact Kevin Gilders, PHONE, 01161 9561 4604, 4 Erawan Ave., North Clayton, Victoria 3168, Australia

MAY Mothers Day weekend, 8th annual Irrigation Days Carving Contest. Contact Don Dykema, 137 Pierson Rd., Sequim, WA 98382, 360/ 683-1264.

JUNE Iisalmi, Finland, Chainsaw Carving Contst. 13th annual. Two Day event. Contact Harri Leinola, Iisalmi City Tourist Office, Kauppakatu 22, 74100 Iisalmi, Finland, Tel 358-17-8301-223, FAX, 358-17-826-860, email harri.leinola@iisalmi.fi

June 25-27. Sand and Sawdust Festival, Ocean Shores, WA. Contact Bert Adams, Coordinator, 723 NW 96th St., Vancouver, WA 98665, 360-574-2378, sandsculpt@transport.com.

AUGUST Aug. 5 -8, 10th Annual International Chain Saw Carving Contest, The Big One! at Westport, Washington. Contact Steve Backus 360/ 579-3574. \$6500 in prize money.

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, 8000 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 _____

Remarks / Comments _____

REPORT FROM MICHIGA

Joel Oestrander
Mikado, Michigan

On August 1st and 2nd, the Livonia Woodcarvers had their 24th Annual Woodcarving Show and hosted the 1st Southeastern Michigan Chainsaw Carving Competition. Despite the lack of good show organizing, mix of hard and soft wood, large and small lengths and diameter logs and no prizes, 11 carvers banded together to make the best of it and it was successful.

1st place, Jerry Wagner, 2nd place, Bud Emerson of Ohio, 3rd place, Paul "Lee" Walewtovic (his first competition), 4th place and People's Choice, Al Herron. Other carvers that participated, Doug Rick of Indiana, he won 1st place in the inside wood carvers show for an Otter, carved with chainsaw, grinders, sanders. Debbie Werthmann, she competed in her first competition and Norm Kandow, Scott Shotwell, Mike Wagner, Dennis Mahar and Joel Oestrander.



3rd place, Paul "Lee" Walewtovic



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The Cutting Edge

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