

The Cutting Edge

News for the Chainsaw Carver since 1993

Greetings from Oz

By Angie Polglaze

November saw Dennis Beach of Wapwallopen, Pennsylvania, temporarily escape the impending cold of the US northern winter with a flying visit to Melbourne, Australia. Once there he got to play with the local inhabitants (Have another beer, mate!!) and had the opportunity to experience an annual event that stops a city, Melbourne Cup Day (horse racing). Crazy day!

Dennis spent some of the time carving in my studio, experimenting with what was at hand, including limestone and various native timbers. In no time, he was eager for a

challenge; and so I invited him to participate in a little project I had already lined up; carving a big *Macrocarpa* Cypress stump on the Rye foreshore, a popular holiday destination on the Mornington Peninsula.

Together, over 3 days, we carved a giant octopus, sea shell and crab and various other sea life forms, out of the stump. It was hard going as the stump had a lot of deep bark lines and was full of sand and grit. Lots and lots of chains sharpening...it was most tiresome.

Careful consideration was taken in the design so as to enable the piece to be structurally sound for climbing, much to the delight of the local children who climbed on the original stump anyway. Over all the project was very well received by the local community who were awestruck by how quickly it was created (Dennis is a task master!)

It is intended that this will be the first of many similar projects on the "Mornington Peninsula"; subsequently opening up more opportunities for international carvers in the future, I'll keep you all posted.

We then took a little time out to visit the Mt. Gambier limestone quarries in South Australia and did lots more carvings (a beautiful material) and, But that is another story.



Photo Courtesy of Angie Polglaze

In the mean time, there are lots of carvers to visit here should any international carvers wish to visit our fine shores. Also, a competition is held in February of each year (you can contact Stihl head office at 3-215-6666 for more information).

I believe that Dennis had a most enjoyable time during his stay here. (He thinks all Aussies are mad LOL), but ask him yourself when you see him at Ridgway 2004. I'll be seeing you all there, can hardly wait!

Until then, have a Happy Christmas and New Year.



Photo Courtesy of Angie Polglaze

Message from the President

A WORD FOR NEXT YEAR—
Susan Miller

Strange to think of this as the last president's message I will write. Over the years, being involved in the guild and newsletter has brought me many valued friendships and acquaintances. Pictures and news of members' creations have inspired me, as has the generosity and spirit of sharing that seems to be characteristic of the world of chainsaw carvers.

Looking ahead, Debbie is going great guns on the newsletter, contests and events are scheduled and the candidates for office are all good and competent people. I think that after years of being on the fringe, chainsaw carving is finally coming into its own as a recognized art form, and the Guild and newsletter continue to be instrumental in chainsaw sculpture's development.

More importantly, here's a wish for
PEACE ON EARTH FOR THE YEAR 2004.

Inside this Issue

Greetings from Oz	Cover
President's Message	2
Preparing for a Competition	2
ReedSPORT	3
List of Nominees	4
Classified Ads	6
Calendar of Events	7
Ballot	Back

The CCGS

The Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild is a non-profit organization devoted to the advancement of chainsaw sculpture since 1984.

We exist to foster an exchange of ideas and information among Chainsaw Sculptors everywhere.

This newsletter is the voice of The Chainsaw Sculptor. We want your stories, photos, letters and technical expertise. We even want your opinions. Send it all to:

CCGS Newsletter
PO Box 624

Preparing for a Competition

By Mark Colp

With all the competitions coming up in 2004 here are a few tips:

- Start thinking about each competition now. Get started on getting information and ideas for each competition today.

- Find out what the theme is and start your idea for your piece. Put together pictures, models or drawings, plans and start working on them.

- Judge your own ideas with the judging criteria that each competition uses, making sure that your ideas fit and meet each part of the criteria for judging.

- Prepare yourself weeks before each competition.

- ◊ Get yourself in good physical shape

- ◊ Get your finances in order

- ◊ Get your equipment in top shape

- ◊ Bring lots of carvings to sell at the competitions.

- Get to the competitions a day or two early; giving yourself time to get set up and time to rest.

- Have a good place to sleep and stay.

- Don't party the night before, save the party for after your big win.

- Picking your wood for the competition is going to take time and thinking.

- ◊ Pick a piece of wood that you can carve in the given time

- ◊ Bigger is not always better

- ◊ Quality always wins over size. Do a great sculpture, not a big unfinished carving that needs more work that won't win because it is big and unfinished.

- ◊ Pick a piece of wood that is going to look good finished; color and grain add to your sculpture.

- When the competition starts, pace yourself. Know how long and how much time you will need to do each part of your sculpture.

- ◊ The first day it is important to get as much done as you can.

- ◊ The second day you are going to be tired and your pace will be slower.

- ◊ The third day your energy will be back but you still need to pace yourself and get your carving to near completion.

- ◊ On the fourth day there is only time to do some fine finishing work.

- On the second and third days, ask other artists to give pointers as you come to the end of the competition. Things you might have missed or didn't think of. Fine tune your sculpture, make it a work of Art.

- Judge your own sculpture. See how you would judge it, honestly.

- The big day (judging) is for everyone to see how their sculpture "weighed in".

Remember your sculpture is being judged, not you or your talent.

By Bob King

Hi Folks,

Just a note and brief overview of the contest in Reedsport this year. Thanks to all of our participants, all 39 of you, what a great turnout! The weather, once again was gorgeous, the crowd was extremely enthusiastic and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Stihl Northwest, our corporate sponsor, had a dominant presence at the show with their brand new show/display trailer. They donated over \$5,000 worth of equipment alone to our show. I owe them a lot of gratitude.

This year we were getting a bit overwhelmed with all the work that goes into putting on this event. We went to the Reedsport Chamber of Commerce, and asked for more help. They were fantastic! A group of volunteers, led by Mark Bedard, was organized to help. They were great, when we had a problem all we had to do is make one call to Mark, and he was helping us! We are now working closely with the Chamber in making this event even better next year. We are also happy to say that Mark has volunteered to stay on for next year too.

We would also like to say thanks to Lloyd and Ellen Keeland; they donated a trailer for this event. We used it in the Rhododendron Parade to advertise for the competition and also used it as a stage during the event. A big thanks goes to Brad, Gaylen and Chrissy Sharp who spent many hours designing and building. It was a huge success at the parade, taking first place! We gave out 4,000 flyers for the competition.

The theme this year was Northwest Wildlife and People. We had some really fantastic carvings. One of the biggest highlights for us was to have Don Colp come and compete for the first time in Reedsport. He has been a judge for the last three years. When asked what he liked better, judging or competing, he said there is more money in competing! Thanks for coming Don; you were a great asset to the show!

Photo courtesy of Cindy King

Reedsport...

We were able to hire six very well educated individuals, to be on the judging staff this year. After much discussion we also made some changes in the criteria.

One of the most important changes we made was to start taking away the high and low score for each carver. (We copied this from professional ice skating competitions.) We felt it was necessary to do this to prevent any judge's bias for or against any individual carver.

In the past it was brought to my attention that one of the judges may have had a prejudice against Christian Art. As the producer of this competition and representative of the judges final ruling, I wish to offer my deepest apologies for this incident. We have made changes to avoid this type of situation in the future. I can only do what I can with what information I have at my disposal to alleviate the problems

Brad Sharp, Jerry Muir, Mark Colp, Wayne Lyon were our competitors that had earned free rooms for this year. They did this by bringing in the largest amounts of money in their quick carves in 2002. We had a great time putting together "Welcome" packets for their hotel rooms. They included cans of spinach, energy bars, and cans of "Whoop Ass" energy drinks.

This year's top 4 winners for the free

rooms are Brad Sharp, Mark Colp, Davey Gagne', and Wayne Lyon. These carvers will each have their rooms paid for during the 2004 event!

We are currently getting ready for the June 17th—20th, 2004 show and so far things are coming together nicely. Mark Colp put in the idea of "Under the Big Top" for the theme. This sounds like it could produce some interesting sculptures...from horses to tight rope walkers. If you think that you have a better idea for the theme, let us know, nothing is set in stone yet.

In closing, I would like to say that every competitor that comes to these events is very important in making it all work.

We realize the sacrifices you make to attend: the loss of carving time at home, cost for fuel, hotel rooms and food all add up. I hope that even when you don't win the money that you are still able to take home something in the way of knowledge, new friendships, and maybe even a warm fuzzy feeling. I truly believe that art is in the eye of the beholder, just because you didn't place should not devalue your art. The person that sells their piece to someone that will truly love it and take care of it is also a winner. ~



And the Nominees Are...

President

Bill Bruzas, Tacoma WA

Besides being an award winning carver, Bill is one of those people with common sense that you can count on. He says what he thinks. He can be seen setting up logs at the competitions, and works to find opportunities to expose carvers to the public. He is a stabilizing influence for the CCSG.

Vice President

Trace Breitenfeldt, Yakima, WA

Trace has been carving for 12 years, 10 of those full time. He is a very talented carver and well versed in other art forms as well. He is the owner of *Cabin Fever Carvings*, an internet based carving gallery for 10 years. Trace has a lot of great ideas for the guild and for the growth of chainsaw carving.

Trace got his start in chainsaw carving when a real bad storm blew a tree down on top of his grandparents house. He removed the tree and decided to try his hand at chainsaw carving...

Board Members

Steve Backus, Clinton WA

For many, Steve is the face of the Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild. He was one of the guild's founders and his tireless efforts and enthusiasm have helped make it a

success. Steve served as CCSG president for many years

He started his carving career as a child, helping his mother, Judy McVay and his uncle, Mike McVay. His carvings can be seen throughout the Northwest. Steve loves promoting competitions. He is the creator and mastermind of "The Big One", held in Westport, WA and featured in the last issue

Wayne Lyon Clearlake, CA

Wayne has been carving for 10 years, 5 years full time. He got his start in carving with Troy Shankles and was an apprentice for Mark Colp before opening a very successful family run, carving store early this year, *Bears, Bears, Bears* in Clearlake CA. His wife, Jen and his kids help in the store. Wayne wants to get the guild up and running like never before.

Mike McVay, AK/WA

Mike migrates between Alaska and Whidbey Island in the Puget Sound. He has received numerous awards for his carvings and much acclaim for his pioneering work in the art and craft of carving with a chainsaw.

His major commissioned works include a 110' mural on the front of the Oregon Building at the 1964 World's Fair in New York and a 30' Paul Bunyan figure for the Worlds Championship Albany Timber Carnival, and a 14' Viking for the State of Alaska.

Susan Miller, Mist OR

Susan has been a full time carver for over thirteen years. She joined CCSG in 1985 and served four years as treasurer before becoming president, now would like to continue to be on the board.

Susan's interest in carving goes back to 1967 when she first met Mike McVay and saw his wonderful chainsaw carvings. Previous to this she had done other kinds of artwork, but had never even split firewood.

Susan also sculpts in other materials, and draws and paints as well.

Angie Polglaze, Yarraville, AUSTRALIA

Angie has been a full time chainsaw carver for 7 years now and is very passionate about the art form. Angie travels a lot, going to as many carving events as she possibly can. Angie has a lot of ideas for the benefit

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Membership is \$20 a year and includes a subscription to the Cutting Edge, the right to vote in elections and attend meetings and the opportunity to show off your carvings and ideas in the newsletter. Clip and mail with a check or money order for dues to: CCSG, PO Box 624, Milton, WA 98354-0624



STOLEN

This carving of a 6' dragon was stolen from the front yard of Rick Boswell's home in Chehalis, WA the second weekend in July 2003. If anyone has seen it, please let him know. He can be reached at 360-748-9894 or email address: boswell@quik.com

If anyone has recently stolen carvings, please submit a picture with a brief description and contact information. We can then all keep an eye out for these pieces. Even if just one is recovered the effort will have been well worth it. — Debbie

*In the next
issue....*

- *Election Results*
- *Lots of Photos*
- *And much more...*

Classified Ads

<p>For Sale 6' Bar for Stihl 088 or 084. Includes 404 chain. Used twice. \$200 Contact Bob King (253)845-2115</p>	<p>For Sale <i>Carving Books and Videos</i> by Hal Macintosh Timber Crafts, Silver Spur Road, Cairo Purling, NY 12470 www.Timbercrafts.com 800-640-5871</p>	<p>ADVERTISE WITH US!</p> <p>Get your message out to hordes of avid carvers!</p> <p>Full Page: \$200.00 Half Page: \$100.00 Quarter Page: \$50.00 Bus. Card: \$25.00 Classifieds: \$10.00</p>
<p>For Sale <i>Ridgeway Video.</i> Available from Wayne de Moranville. Click on the sales link at www.chainsawcarvingman.com and order online or print order form and mail</p>	<p>Wanted <i>Articles about carvers and carvings</i> in your local newspaper. Please send a copy to Judy McVay at 5473 Strand Road, Deming, WA 98244, for historical storage.</p>	
<p>For Sale <i>Steve Backus Carves a Bear Video.</i> Contact Peter Wiant (360)385-1188 peter@northwestphoto.com</p>	<p>For Sale <i>Westport Carving Comp. Video.</i> Contact Peter Wiant at (360)385-1188 or peter@northwestphoto.com</p>	
<p><i>"Do what you do best, the woods would be quiet if only the birds that sang best sang." — Unknown</i></p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Need Something? Got Something for sale? Advertise it here in the Cutting Edge Classifieds</i></p>		



Davey Gagne and a recent sculpture of his, which was a commissioned piece for the Little Creek Casino Hotel on scenic Highway 101 in Washington, between Olympia and Shelton.



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CCSG Calendar of Events

GET READY FOR 2004!

Ridgway, PA February 26-28
Carving Rendezvous
Liz Bona (814)772-0400
or Jim and Sue (814)775-6200

White Pass, WA March 6 & 7
Snow Carving at Winter Festival
Kathleen Goyette (509)945-3189
info@skiwhitepass.com

Ocean Shores, WA June 5th
Carvers get-together and picnic
Don or April Euse (360)537-6850
737 SR 109, Ocean Shores, WA
eteuarc@olymet.com

Reedsport, OR June 17th - 20th
Father's Day Weekend Competition
Bob King 253-845-2115
Cervesa833@aol.com

Kamloops, BC June
Charity Competition
Vaughn Warren (250)554-1100
vaughn@boconic.org

Grays Harbor Championship Series
Will include competitions in Ocean Shores,
WA in April; Aberdeen, WA in May
and Westport, WA in August

Sedro Wooley, WA July 2nd - 4th
Logger Rodeo Invitational
Limited spaces available.
Rocky MacArthur (360)856-1476

The **Cutting Edge** is published bi-monthly by the **Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild**. The **Cutting Edge** newsletter is the voice of the CCSG. We want to see your stories, photos, opinions, technical expertise, or any other items you'd like to share with your fellow carvers. Publication is subject to space availability.

To submit editorials, including photos, please contact Debbie Breitenfeldt at (509)452-0420, fax: (509)452-8747
email: info@cabinfevercarvings.com
Mailing Address: Editor, CCSG, PO Box 624, Milton, WA 98354-0624

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Jan. 20th for the Jan/Feb 04 issue
Apr 20th for the Mar/Apr 04 issue

The **Cutting Edge** is financed by our members, and by our generous advertisers: **Baileys, GBBARS, Hal McIntosh, Chainbar Repair** And by generous gifts from the **Reedsport, Ridgeway, and Westport Competitions.**

Thanks to all of you for helping us grow. We welcome news, opinions and articles and photos from Chainsaw Carvers.

Ocean City, WA July 4th Weekend
Carving event and auction
Boaz Backus (360)289-3273
PO Box 271, Copalis, WA 98535

Tupper Lake, NY July
Competition
Mike Traviere (518)359-7151

Demming, WA July
Competition/Demonstration
Dave Tremko (360)592-0237
3739 Mt Baker Hwy Everson, WA 98247

Castle Rock, WA Last Weekend in July
Mountain Mania Get Together
Kerry Hargand (360)425-5724
1434 S 4th, Kelso WA 98626

Westport, WA First Weekend Aug
"The Big One" (50 Carver Limit)
Steve Backus (360)579-3574 or
Bill Bruzas (253)222-8275

Snoqualmie, WA August
Invitational
George Kenny (360)710-5250

Connellsville, PA August
Competition
Bill Middleton (724)628-1970

Ocean City, WA Labor Day Weekend
Carving Event and Auction
Boaz Backus, (360)289-3273

Listings in the calendar are free and offered for your information. *Listings on this page do not imply endorsement of the Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild*

To list an event, contact Debbie at 369-452-0430 or info@cabinfevercarvings.com

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B) 56523	Chain Saw Carving Book	ea. \$19.95
C) 12500	12" Woodman Carver (bar 1/2-dime)	ea. \$54.95
D) 12501	12" Pro Carving Bar (1/2-dime)	ea. \$49.95
E) MIN400	Miscarver with Power Unit	ea. \$134.95
F) 18873	Full 348 Carver Package (A, C & F)	ea. \$399.95

Ballot

Our Bylaws state that we are to have elections every two years for president, vice president, half of our board. The other officers are selected by the board, (thus assuring that we have a secretary who can write and a treasurer who can handle money.) In an earlier issue and online, we asked for nominations, and got few. Here are your choices for this two year term.

President

- Bill Bruzas
- _____

Vice President

- Trace Breitenfeldt
- _____

Board of Directors

- Steve Backus
- Wayne Lyon
- Mike McVay
- Susan Miller
- Angie Polglaze
- _____
- _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

When finished, please clip and return to:

CCSG
PO Box 624
Milton, WA 98354-0420

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

Please let us know what you would like to see the guild working on in the upcoming year.



Steve & Nanette Backus
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