

*Laros Shiley of Oregon
is the winner of the
CCSG Give Away*

drawing for the Cannon Carving Bar (CCD-C1-12-50, twelve inch, dime-tip, fifty gauge bar) and Quarter-pitch Chain!

Next Issue



CCSG will be giving away a copy of *Art of Chainsaw Carving* by Jessie Groeschen to another CCSG member!

No officers or directors are eligible. To be eligible you must be a current paid member of the CCSG.

Inside this issue:

Letter from the Editor by Amy McEntire	2
Letter from the President by Mike McVay	2
A Source of Inspiration by Angie Polglaze	2
Totem Wings by Mike McVay	3
Tales of an International Starving Artist By Bruce Thor	6
The 'Cutting Edge' Mask Making Challenge of 2008	7
Upcoming Events	8



Dragon coming out of shell was inspired from a greeting card picked up at a corner store. Carving and picture by Angie Polglaze

**Letter from the Editor
by Amy McEntire**

It seems like everyday now I hear someone saying "economic crisis". Some people are worried about what the future may bring for us carvers. Here are some tips for pinching a few extra pennies...

10 Money Saving Tips

Call your credit card company and ask for a rate reduction. A lot of people don't know but you can get your credit cards' percentage rate reduced by simply picking up the phone and calling the 1-800 number on the back of your credit card. Try it!

When going shopping write a list and stick to it! You will be amazed at how much you save at the checkout when you do this.

Plan your meals by store advertisements. Find the best deals in the grocery ads then plan your meals accordingly. You don't even have to have a newspaper to view the ads. Most stores have their store flyers online now. You can compare prices from different stores and go to the one with the best deals.

Winterize your home. Put plastic up on your windows. Last year I used shrink wrap and you couldn't even tell I had put anything up.

Wood Stove Use a wood burning stove. We use all the carving scraps to burn, this saves a ton on the electric bill and gets rid of the scraps of wood that pile up.

Change your bulbs to CFL's. The bulbs cost more than the traditional light bulb but you make up for it in no time with a lower electric bill.

Gas Saving Tips Change your air filter and air up your tires. Plan your trips to town so that you can complete your errands in one trip. Don't speed either. It saves gas and keeps you from an unwanted ticket!

Sign up for Online Bill Paying By doing online bill paying you avoid paying for postage, and if you set it up to pay automatically you save by not having late fees.

Need a new tool? Try looking on Craigslist first - lots of good stuff for pennies on the dollar that you would spend for new.

Make your own finger file sanding belts by cutting 3" sanding belts to size (start your cut in the middle of the seam).

The Cutting Edge

240 Frosty LN

Selah, WA 98942

509-697-8853

ammy@charter.net

Amy McEntire - Editor

Jack McEntire - Coeditor

The Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild exists to foster support for the art and craft of chainsaw carving by encouraging communication between carvers through every means possible, including newsletters, websites, forums, meetings, demonstrations, mutual support and the preservation of our history.

Message from our President by Mike McVay

Today a long-time commercial fisherman told me the price of chum salmon had fallen by half, from a dollar-fifty to less than eighty cents. He sold his fish and took the money because "There are lean times coming. That money will pay expenses on the boat and at least buy groceries for the winter. We'll get by."

There are some clues in that statement that will help all full-time woodcarvers in the times ahead. Keep in mind, ours is a luxury product no matter what it looks like. Fish will sell. Even when there's no money, people have to eat.

They don't have to buy woodcarvings-- even at half price. That means no income or a lot less of it, so it's important to remember the two most important requirements for life-- food and shelter. If you have those two things, you can keep your family warm, fed and alive.

Here in the West, a lot of us lived at times in houses without plumbing or electricity or running water. All the pioneers lived like that. I suspect a lot of carvers have done the same. We might have to do it again. As kids, my sister Judy and I were sent out to fish from the bank or through the ice to bring in what we could for dinner. "Hunting with Dad" was an accepted excuse to miss school for a week -- or two if your grades were good. Firewood heated the house.

All this served me well when I first tried to make a living as a full-time carver. I could live on almost nothing. And I did, especially if I sat around and waited for customers to show up. The money was low, the pickings were slim. It was grim. I had to do something to generate interest and income.

So I started setting up where people could see me carving and put on a show. The first roadside chainsaw carver, (a hallowed trade made famous lately by my little nephew Steve Backus). That was entertainment! People would watch all the jumping around, the sawdust flying and the noise of the saw-- you all know that story-- and sometimes they'd buy something. That is, they bought it if it was big enough and cheap enough. Often enough folks would trade food too if you mentioned it to them.

That's when I started developing carvings that could be done on less than a tank of gas. Tikis were the first of those. They became hugely popular after Thor Heyerdahl sailed the raft Kon Tiki across the South Pacific and lit the fires of Polynesia in the public's imagination. Plus they were fast to carve. Lots of them sold and, like bears today, they were all sizes and all prices--all cheap.

So if you hit hard times, don't sell your tools. Never sell your tools. Put them to work where you can be seen and put on a show. It's more work and a lot less enjoyable than staying home and carving in the yard, but it won't last forever. Like the old tub-thumper soapbox preacher used to say "There's better times a-comin'." And don't skimp on the quality either. It doesn't work. Do it right and keep your focus on shelter and food and your family and keep them warm. All will be well.

Now, more than ever (like brother Pat said), "carve or starve." Good luck to you all, Mike McVay

A Source of Inspiration

by Angela Polglaze



Danger Girl and friend Amy helping with the painting in 2002. Carving and pictures by Angie Polglaze.

There is a curious, though inevitable individuality as to where one finds artistic inspiration while traveling on their life's journey. Not all people will find the same things inspirational enough that it will affect their Art practice, and very few, if any, will be inspired in the same way, by the same thing, to arrive at the same creative outcome.

Inspiration can be found anywhere.

Yves Rasch, an abstract Power Carver from Hamburg, Germany, says he can see the three dimensional in graffiti daubing on the pavements, and I have seen him get inspired by the horizon where land meets sky. Kids are the best - they inspire me every day. One day back in 2002 during my first visit to the States, I was holed up at Uncle Pat's carving shop on Whidbey Island, and I was carving a cheesy chick called Danger Girl (this was because the red we painted her dress with was called Danger Red). This was during school holidays and I had been adopted by a bored local girl, 11-year-old Amy. Amy was helping me with the paint job one day when I told her to put on her earmuffs and stand back for a bit, as I just wanted to tweak Danger Girls' cleavage a little. And Amy, all wide-eyed, fresh faced, butter-wouldn't-melt-in-your-mouth, innocently said, 'And you can put your business cards there.' I was actually rendered speechless there for a moment, before I cracked up laughing. 'What a great idea HuH!!!'

Totem Wings, from "Seven Easy Pieces, a collection of chainsaw carvings you can do in less than thirty minutes" by Mike McVay



Totem Wings is the last article in the series *Seven Easy Pieces*©.

Assuming you carved your small totem from an eight-inch log that was 24" long, the wings should be carved from a 2x6 that is also 24" long. The drawing shows the proportions. It's important that the size of the wings fits the size of the totem, and although they may vary by a couple of inches, they should be neither too large nor too small. In this case 2x6x24 is the smallest for this size pole. The largest would be about 2x8x28". You will want to work out your own preferences while you practice. It's all a matter of what looks right.

A board this size is too small and light to carve without clamping down. If it's just lying loose on the carving table, there's a real hazard the chain will catch an edge and flip it back at you. When that happens, the flying wood always hits something soft and tender. It's best to not let that happen. My preferred technique is to use a longer board that can be clamped to a carving table or screwed down to a heavy block. That leaves the wings sticking out in midair where you can carve from all sides.

Be sure to mark out the basic proportions, especially the center line. An error of an inch or two on one side will produce bizarre results. You'll have a critter looking like it's trying to make a left turn.

I like to use the top of the bar to make the outline cuts that give the wing its basic shape. Stand on the opposite side of the board; hold the saw straight up and down and cut with the center of the bar. This position lets you see what you're cutting. It also throws the sawdust down so the lines stay visible. Warning! Be careful you don't get too close to the tip or the bar will push up and run over the board- straight at you. Not good.

Once you have the silhouette of the wings cut out, the next step is to use the tip of the bar to carve the feather pattern. Cut straight down like you were drawing with a pencil. That will establish all the lines, then

lay the saw flat and bevel the feathers. You should also bevel the ends of the wings so they don't look like a 2x6. Taper them to under an inch along the ends.

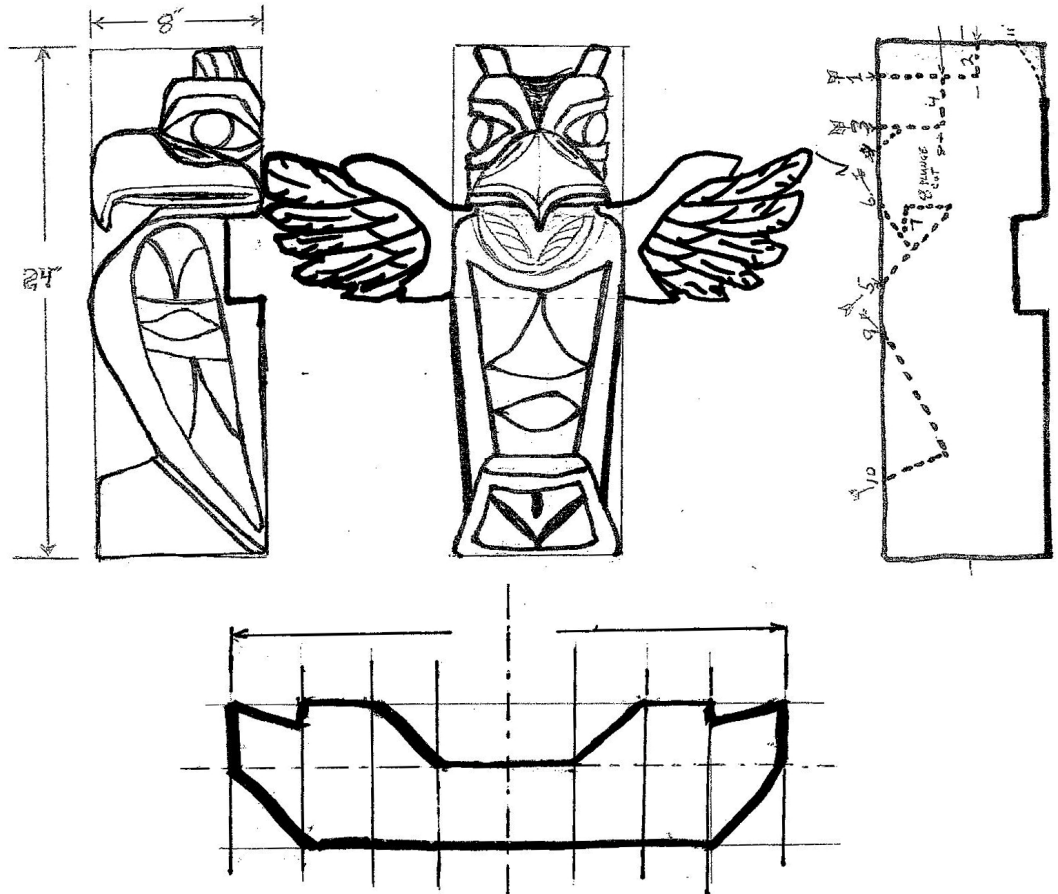
Did I mention the wing-mounting notch in the back of the totem? You'll need that for stability so the wings fit into the back of the totem, otherwise if you attach them to the outside of the log, the carving will be back-heavy and fall over. Locate the notch at the top of the shoulders, just below the beak. Be sure to get it squared so the wings aren't angled backward and forward.

I've tried a number of ways, from clever notches to nails and screws, to attach the wings quickly. The simplest was to hold the wings on the back of the totem and use both hands to raise it up for the crowd to see. We have to remember the constraints of time in all this.

And on that note we come to the end of the series as written for *The Cutting Edge*. There will be more to come. The entire series is on (unedited) videotape, and there are lots of details to be added. It will be offered through *The Cutting Edge* as it is completed. Watch for it here.

The *Seven Easy Pieces* series was conceived for the purpose of providing designs that could be used in short, fast demonstrations of the chainsaw as a carving tool. The criteria were simply that the items could be carved in twenty minutes or less, and that they would be identifiable to the onlookers. The idea is to carve quickly without pause, to finish the piece before the saw runs out of gas, and to elicit a "Wow" from the crowd.

These pieces all take practice, but once you get the knack, I think they'll serve you well. I want to wish any of you who take up these *Seven Easy Pieces* (c) good luck and good carving. All the best,
Mike McVay



(Continued from page 2) **A Source of Inspiration by Angela Polglaze**

Sometimes something inspirational will just jump out at you when you least expect it.

Last year I was among a crew of international power carvers in Germany for a competitive gig and some of us took a day out to visit Berlin in the lead up. We had been exploring all day. It was getting dark and we were hungry and looking for somewhere to eat. Hopelessly lost, we were crossing yet another grand old bridge when some of the detail from the ornate ironwork on the sides stole my eye. I photographed it, and three days later won 2nd place with the Big Fish carving it inspired. Too much!!



Angel Fish. Inspirational ironwork and 2nd place Big Fish carved in Germany 2007
Carving and Pictures by Angela Polglaze



I have no doubt that this idea with the relief carved owls has been around for a long time, but it didn't really jump out at me until I saw them carved into a mantel by Jeff Samudosky of Connecticut, USA. It is a great idea and a terrific crowd-pleasing performance Quick Carve. My owls are on the left, Jeff's on the right. Pictures by Angie Polglaze

As is so often the way, a fellow carver's work will inspire you to get out there and try it! Is there anything wrong with that? Is it plagiarism, copying, cheap imitation, or is it simply a form of flattery? This question can raise ire in some people. It can readily become a heated topic of debate, and it also raises the murky issues of copyright and ownership of concept and/or design. I personally don't believe being inspired by another artist should be a problem, just so long as there is acknowledgment of where and/or who the inspiration came from. Sometimes it might be surprising. I know that I am constantly inspired by the carvers I encounter on my carving travels and by the images I find on the Internet. For me, I think it's satisfying to know when I have inspired someone. It's cool!!

Also, the thriving International Power Carving Circuit has aided the spread of knowledge. Recently I learned a feathering technique from a German carver who had learned it from a Japanese carver, who in turn had learned the technique from an American carver. What an amazing network we have. In spite of this, especially in the case of Chainsaw/Power Carving, very little of the works being created can ever be the



This is an image of the base of a totem carved for a children's playground in 2000. The image was sketched onto the log by a child before being carved. The black dog pictured here was the child's inspiration, with the child in turn becoming the inspiration for the artist, pure and simple!! Gotta love it.

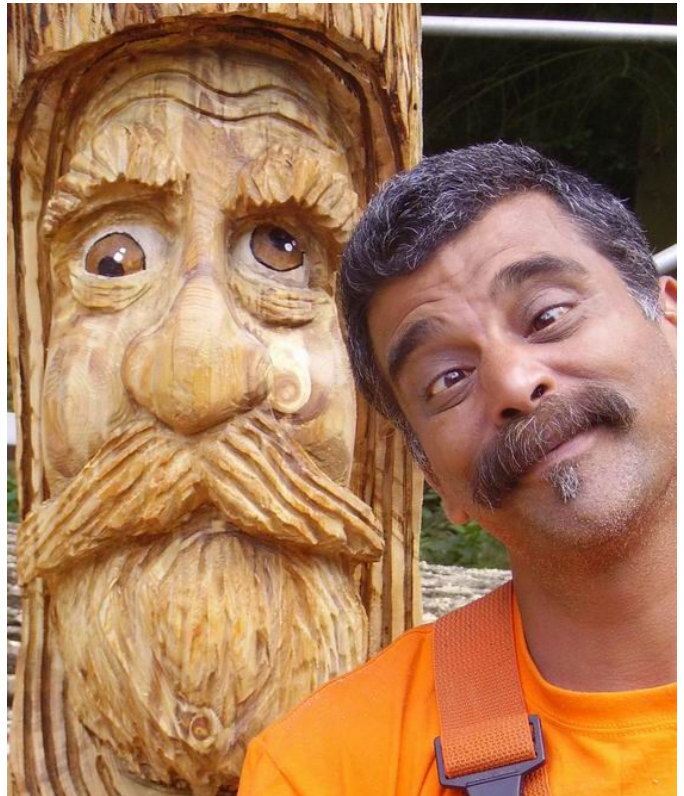
same as every piece is individually created with many practitioners having very distinctive styles. Regardless of shared technique, having come directly from the miracle of nature itself, no two pieces of timber are identical, so in essence every creation is unique whether we like it or not.

Here at the Cutting Edge we would like to hear some of your inspirational stories and see some of your art works and images of what inspired you. Whether it be your kids, a sunset, or being stuck in traffic on a hot day, it doesn't matter. Inspiration is a mysterious and wonderful thing! So get out there, leave the blinkers at home, get inspired and get carving. And send your pictures and stories to:

The Cutting Edge
 240 Frosty LN
 Selah, WA 98942
 or email to: jacknamy@charter.net



No Worries
 No Worries is a popular Aussie vernacular.
 Carving and picture by Angie Polglaze



My good friend Shapoor Engineer's attempt at carving a Joe Rego face. As are many carvers from all over the world, Shapoor is intrigued with Joe Regos' seemingly effortless ability to carve faces with terrific expression and quirky caricature. He was to learn first hand that the Joe Rego quality it is not as easy to achieve as Joe makes it look.

sprockets * chain * chainsaws * carving packages * carving bars
 shop supplies * safety equipment * carving tools * clothing * books

CCSG Paid Members get a 10% Discount!

Tools
 Tips
 Accessories
 and
 Information
 for
 Chainsaw
 Carvers

www.chainsawsculpture.com

For more information call:
 920-826-5750

Tales of an International Starving Artist

by Bruce Thor

2008 year in review

Wow. Summer is over before it began. My stories have piled up without a plan. I was scolded by a fan, and now I understand. Here's the tale of my travels across this great land.

Reedsport 2008

Back from the injured reserve list, I load yet another rusted chariot (a 74 Plymouth Trail Duster), and take our longest trip together. Heading south, past the 45th parallel toward family, friends and the first competition of the year, Reedsport Oregon Divisional Chainsaw Championships. The most expensive trip, gas-wise, \$280 roundtrip. Luckily my chariot doubles as a hotel. I arrived in time to select a log and unload before the welcoming dinner. No easy task as you greet everyone: Simon from the UK with Jake from last year, Dave, Jeb, Jerry, Josh and crew to name a few. Roland came from very far as did Kaz, Akio and Sukanuma. The theme, Fish Tales, was well received by all as fish of all kinds leapt to life from massive spruce logs. There were eagles, marlins, fishermen, salmon with bears, a bassasaurus and a big fishing reel and pole. The wood fell away with sweat, saw and hammer. Wearing earplugs was a must to keep the clamor out. Everyone enjoyed the show as the town and clean up crew kept it going. Dave got into an early brawl. Saturday the dance was boycotted by all. Still we had ourselves a ball. Heavenly Heidi served our breakfast plate, and lovely Lisa kept guard up late. The view sitting on the dock watching the morning mist with Simon and Steve was something to see. Then, after Simon played the frying pan, we all headed back, to our homelands.

Ocean shores 2008

Some of my favorite places to be are on the beach, or at sea, so Ocean Shores is the place to be. A call from New York -- it's Tone and he'll be here Tuesday, 1am early. Being a night owl, I swoop him up, taking him to my chain link barbwire nest with a clean spot on the floor to rest. Not ready for the show, I run around like a headless chicken with laundry, dad, cat, guest and dull saws to tend. Taking Tone on the ride of his life, we bounce toward the ocean, leading the starving artist life. Arriving to friends and camera rolling, we have survived. Settling in, my turn on the floor we reunite with friends once more. I get a lesson in Tremko Sharp, as Dave shows me his not so secret sharpening technique. Later that night, visiting friends who work in the medical field, I'm not feeling right. Say I've got a fever, given some hot chocolate and warm blanket for a heat shield. Sweating thru the night seemed to set me right, so I head to the show to set up my log and greet everyone, feeling slow. When it comes to move my truck it won't go as the starter decided to blow. Friends rallied around don't ya know, pulled me away, and got my starter out to fix another day. Boaz got me a room and Tobi ordered the part, but soon other vehicles wouldn't start. It was weird to say the least and, by the 5th one, we had one truck ferrying everyone. Still we created and sweated in the sun, working hard to get it done. Everyone did a great job, despite Daves' psycho stereo assault, which had to be turned down. I was stressed and not fun to be around. Still my family and friends came to support me in my game. We had dolphins, turtles, orcas, divers, lighthouse benches, eagles, bigfoot surfing, halibut relaxing, fishermen, manta ray, seahorse, salmon trio, pelican, eagle with a bear and a school of fish swimming thru a sea grass chair, which was the surprise of the show with a 2nd place finish in Pro! As I look at the medal on my wall, I'm still surprised by it all and know; if not for my association with you all, my school of friends, I wouldn't have it, I thank you all. The

starter went in, the truck got loaded before the rain, and I got a new saw to ease the pain. Unfortunately, I must limp home for the Sedro Woolley show, with less than 24 hours to go. Arriving late, I find welcoming arms, and a log set up for my saw's charms. Retiring to the Plymouth hotel, I get up early to plan a grand carving. We carve and carve, putting on a good show. The next day God joins in with a thunder and lighting pre-4th storm show. The next day clears up and the 4th of July parade goes by. Nothing like the sweet distraction of girls and babes on hay-bales. With eagles, bears, Indians, wolves, mountain lions, cowboys and trains, it was 64-year-old Nyals Thomas who took the 1st place acclaim, giving hope to us all. With long goodbyes to everyone, I head towards home and a commission to get done. Unfortunately missed Deming and the fun, arriving late in Morton to get it done. Carving like a beaver in a race, hoping to carve in England's place, but the universe had another plan as I would find myself in Pennsylvania land. Wood fest was cancelled this year, seems like a convention of song-writing lesbians took over our hotel, whether they were quieter is not quite clear. My many thanks to Steve, Boaz, Cindy, Dusty, Tim, JB and everyone I was glad to see.

I'm sorry 2008

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I was not able to travel overseas this year and send my sincere apologies to Mark, Dennis, Vagz, Gavin and everyone else for not being there. Hopefully next year if you'll have me? I'll get my plane ticket first, always good advice. Meanwhile, with my surprise 2nd place prize money from Ocean Shores, I was able to scrape together a plane ticket to Altoona, PA. It was the slimmest budget ever, and I head to the Blue Knob Valley Chainsaw Carving contest hosted by the magnanimous Tim Klock.

Blue Knob Valley Chainsaw Carving Competition

Sad to be missing Europe, I'm glad to spend time with good friends and new friends in PA. From the moment I landed, until the moment I left, I wanted for nothing and had the time of my life once again as 11 carvers and myself introduced Altoona, Newry, and Blair County PA to the show. Everyone seemed to be involved one way or another. Many thanks to all who made this a great 1st run show. With freedom as our theme, we carved until we steamed, as the rain came on the scene. Only the first day and not the worst we'd seen. The food was nutritious and delicious as all will attest, it was a grand fest, mmmm striped bass, mountain pies around the bonfire listening to heavy metal bluegrass. Thanks mama corn. Three days later, when the creation was done, we all knew we'd had fun. Much to the peoples' delight, they had not seen such a sight. A full size Harley, western themes, dancing bears, eagles soaring and the sacrifice of a guitar drum keyboard bench added spice. The freedom bench captured the show, caused more than a few tears to flow, and we're all welcome back next year don't ya know. Once again many thanks to those who were there. I felt like a long-lost brother welcomed home, much like my first trip to England, Scotland, Germany and Ridgway. I always want to stay another couple of days. See you next in February in Ridgway. Keep Smiling, Thor.



Carving Thor created in Ocean Shores that got him 2nd Place Pro. Picture by Amy McEntire

The 'Cutting Edge' Mask Making Challenge

Masks have been created by human hands throughout the history of humankind. They serve many purposes ... for ceremony, for status, for fun ... or to convey feeling, to disguise, to mask ones self if you like. Whatever their role, masks have an undeniable presence in our world.

The CCSG is pleased to announce it's 1st annual 'Cutting Edge Carving Challenge' ... the Mask Making Challenge **Winner gets \$100!**

The rules are as follows ...

- Deadline is January 1st 2009
 - Entry is open to all
 - Only current paid members of the CCSG will qualify for any prizes.
 - A chainsaw must be used in your masks creation, but all tools are allowed.
 - Bling is allowed, ie: feathers, leather, etc, but not too much. Carving must be visible.
 - Paint is allowed.
- We require 3 images ... 1 frontal image, 1 side image (or 2 side images if each side is uniquely different to the other), and one image of the mask concealing the face of an adult human being so as to allow for idea of scale.
 - Your mask can be of any scale of your choosing.
 - CCSG Board Members do not qualify for any prizes but are free to enter.
 - Only one entry allowed per participant.
 - The work submitted is to have been created by the individual making the submission.
 - The results will be published in the Jan/Feb issue of the 'Cutting Edge'.
- Please do not put pictures of your mask online until after publication of the 'Cutting Edge' as that will result in your mask being unable to qualify for the Challenge.
 - Please send all entries and/or questions to jacknamy@charter.net by the deadline.

Now for some inspiration !!

Last September Stephi Huber and Sebastian Sieffert took a bunch of visiting international carvers to the World of Wood in Germany, to the 'World of Wood' here in Germany, which is a permanent museum of wood carving from around the globe. It was incredible to say the least with the quality of many of the art works in the collection quite literally breath taking. Amongst the works were many masks from many cultures ... Here's a taste of what was there to inspire you all ...



We look forward to seeing the results of all your mask creations ... Happy Carving all !!

The Cutting Edge

240 Frosty LN
Selah, WA 98942

Carvers on the Edge

Advertise in the Cutting Edge!

Full Page: \$200

Half Page: \$100

Quarter Page: \$50

Business Card: \$25

Classifieds: \$10 per 20 words

We can design your AD or use your own design.
Yearly ADs get a 10% discount and will appear in each
issue of the newsletter as well as on the CCSG website!

Contact: jackNamy@charter.net for more
information.



Car carved in 1988 by Ray Kowalski
It runs! Notice the back porch. Carved at Sea Gulch,
near the sea lion caves, Oregon Coast Picture by Pat McVay

CCSG's Online at:

www.theccsg.com

Sign up for a free online subscription at: www.theccsg.com/join.htm

The CCSG's Forum is at: www.network54.com/Forum/249381

Detailed List of Events: www.theccsg.com/Upcoming%20Events.htm

Upcoming Events

Listed events are not endorsed
by the CCSG. If you would like
to list an event please send
them to: jackNamy@charter.net

February 21st - 28th

Ridgway, Pennsylvania

Appalachian Art Studio presents:

10th Annual Ridgway Rendezvous

Contact: www.chainsawrendezvous.org

Rick and Liz Boni, Appalachian Arts Studio

814-722-0400

April 25th & 26th

Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany

6th Annual Kettensagen-Schnitfestival

Contact: Thomas & Anna Hartman

Weg zum Holzernen See 1

15745 Heidese OT Grabendorf, Germany

PH/FAX: 49 33763 21919

Thomas: 049 178 695 0656

Hartman_Veik@web.de

www.hoelzerner-see.de

CCSG Officers

President: Mike McVay

mmcvay@whidbey.com

Vice President: Bruce Thor

thorcreations@springmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Susan Miller

susanm@huppi.com

Board Members

Steve Backus:

bigshot@whidbey.com

Butch Elrod:

twoclones@yahoo.com

Jerry Heneger:

henegerj@comcast.net

Paul Jones

pjspiritbrothers@gmail.com

Amy McEntire:

ammy@charter.net

Jack McEntire:

jacknamy@charter.net

Mike McVay:

mmcvay@whidbey.com

Angie Polglaze:

angiechainsawchick@yahoo.com.au

Bruce Thor:

thorcreations@springmail.com

Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild 2008 Subscription Form

For Paid Members Dues are \$20 (US) or \$25
(foreign) for the year payable to the CCSG

- Paid Membership: newsletter online
 Paid Member ship: newsletter in the mail
 Free Online Subscription (newsletter
online)

Name

Address

City

State

Phone

Email

Send your dues to:
CCSG Membership
71233 Hwy 47
Mist, OR 97016