

THE CUTTING EDGE

Making it Pay 3

Vernon Slinkard shares with us a poem from a personal experience.

Capt. Bill 4

Bill Sonntag send us some photos of a sea captain he recently completed for a playground.

Meet our Members 5

What have they been up to lately? Quotes and a few photos.

Carving Tip 9

James Rais gives us an idea on utilizing a log.



Mr. Tu, Burlwood Industries from Monterey, Calif. carves up Mr. Bear. This photo taken in 1993. See other members photos on pages 5-8.

FOR EWARD

What I like most about being in this business is the different personalities I run across, not only the carvers but the people that buy carvings.

I was carving at Steve Backus's corner this past Christmas season, a little fat man with a big hat came up to me wanting a wizard I had carved almost a year earlier. He had been driving by and saw it there for awhile. He said "If anybody wanted that wizard they would have bought by now. I'll tell you what, I'll give you a couple of logs for it. You can carve up these new logs and make some money off of it."

"Yeah, right," I'm thinking. I said "It's interesting how things can sit around for awhile, what is uneventful for one person can be another's joy."

"Well," he said "I have some cash to go along with the logs. But you know that wizard is not my most favorite thing." Talking down the sculpture, must be his bargaining technique.

He really wanted it and I really wanted to get rid of it. "I said for a bit more cash you have a deal, a good one I might add, but it being Christmas and all."

He offered me just a wee bit more and ran home to get the puny little logs. While he was driving away he yelled the wizard will go in a place of honor, the oldest log home in Edmonds. And I'm thinking "so."

It felt good to get rid of it to this man, because to me he kind of looked liked the wizard. And the cash was important (he paid me partly in quarters) as was the experience of carving it, but what really felt good was to laugh... at the uniqueness of the situation.

Speaking of unique this issue of *The Cutting Edge* focuses on the members of the Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild.

There are a few pages of just photos that have been sent in by members and a couple that I have taken, over the years. It's interesting to see what everybody has been up to, eagles, murals, human figures, benches. It's all there. And as you can see from the photos, the quality of carving just gets better as the years roll along.



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, 8110 Scatchet Head Road * Clinton, WA 98236 * 360/ 331-5150 or 360/ 579-7811 * email groesch@whidbey.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Steve Backus

Howdy world. How's it going? Good, I pray. We prepare for another year and frankly I'm glad to be looking forward to it. A quote from Huey Lewis and the News, "The future's so bright I gotta wear shade's."

I would like to dedicate this one to the memory of my grandpa, Dee McVay, who passed away last September. He was the biggest, toughest, smartest, strongest, wisest man I've ever know up close. A hero and inspiration to all who knew him. It would have been an honor to have just known him but to have the same blood in my veins...well, it gives me an extra edge over a lot of folks. I mean that in a positive way.

It was folk's like him that made this country great. I will miss his counsel, I wish I would have listened earlier.

I was lucky to have a grandpa till I was 38 years old. So, if ya'll want some advice that ain't got nothing to do with money or woodcarvings, it's love the people in your circle be it family or friends because it's pretty darn easy to wake up and be alone.



Dee McVay to the far right with son Pat McVay's carving, and friend.

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NEW MEMBERS

Enjoy your publication. (You sent me a couple copies a few years ago). Sorry so long in subscribing.

*John Augustad
Cape Girardeau, Missouri*

RENEWALS

Your newsletter has some very valuable information, such as "Preventing Cracks" and "Wood Finishes".

(Sure hated to cut my issue of "The Cutting Edge" to send in my application).

Doing good work! Keep it up.
*Fred Hosaka
Coquille, Oregon*

Editors note

Here's a tip, if you don't like cutting up your "Edge", it may be a bit inconvenient but you can always photo copy your application.

SAW QUESTION

The new Husky 355, does anyone know how to adapt a 1/4" sprocket?

Keep the newsletter coming.
*Elmer Hickey
Joliet, Illinois*

Editors Note

See ad this page and give them a call.

NEW MEMBERS

ROBERT KING	EDGEWOOD, WA
AUGUST BIRK	CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO
JOHN AUGUSTAD	ROBERTS, MT
DOUG SVEINE	BEMIDJI, MN

MAKING IT PAY

BY Vernon Slinkard
Fortville, Indiana

I was a wood carver for many years and was doing quite well.

The only thing wrong, my carvings didn't sell.

I kept giving them away, until, I talked to Mike McVay. He said "chain saw carving was the only way".

It sounded good, so I thought I would give it a try.

I got a saw and some wood, and made the sawdust fly.

I carved a couple of hours, doing the best I could and stopped to admire my wood.

My wife offered her opinion. She said "my carvings reminded her of a pile of fire wood".

I kept on carving and getting better each day, until, finally, I made the damn thing pay.

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Meet "Capt. Bill" Sonntag

BY Jessie Groeschel
Whidbey Island, WA

"Capt. Bill" has been a guild member for two years. He is seventy years old and has been carving part time for 19 years. His work is stylized and has a real folk art appeal.

Recently, he did a portait of himself for the Project Playground in Leonardtown, Maryland.

200 people got together and built a playground for kids in five days.

The four foot statue took him one day to carve and 3 days to finish it. He used three coats of boiled linseed oil, mixed half and half with pain thinner then, he topped it off with 3 coats of spar varnish.

The carving now stands behind the "boat" area in the playground.



Elmer uses a pneumatic grinder and is keeping the saw dust out of his lungs.



Whistle while you work.



MEET OUR MEMBERS

Gregg Etherington, Big Bear City, California, he has been carving with a saw for 15 years and carves Juniper and redwood any size. His best type of work is wildlife.

Don Beckett, Keego Harbor, Michigan, has been carving part time for 12 years.

Paul Kiesel, Evansville, Indiana, has a full time job and does carving on the side and loves it!! He has been carving for 4 years. (Check out his photo of an eagle on page 7.)

Pat Ferraro, Melbourne, Florida, has been carving for 4 years. She makes cypress and palms into pelicans and tikis.

Ralph Gotham, Kalamazoo, Michigan, is retired, but he keeps busy carving, which he has been doing for 7 years. His best type of work is large birds and animals.

Ken Miller, National Park, New Jersey, carves white pine, 6" to 2' in diameter from 1' to 8' high. His best type of work is bears and Indians.

August Birk, Cape Girardeau, is a part time carver, who has been at it for 12 years. He carves all kinds of wood and all sizes, anything from realistic to life size and most often on the stump. He roughs out his statuary with a chainsaw and then details it with a Foredom or Dremal power tools and sands it smooth and uses natural or a wood stain finish.

Ken Weaver, Olympia, Washington is a fan of chainsaw carving. He would like to learn more about the art and possibly start carving himself, one day.

Elmer Hickey from Joliet, Illinois, has been carving for seven years and carves all kind of wood and different sizes. His best works are animals.

Rick Johnson, Kent, Washington has been carving for three years. His best works are hands and bears.

John Augustad, Roberts, Montana, has been carving pine 12" to 20" in diameter for four years. He does mostly western stuff along with moose and bears

Fred Hosaka, Coquille, Oregon, added a chainsaw to his repertoire of tools a year ago. He also uses dremel, angle sanders, and die grinders. He uses a 10" bar on his chainsaw. He also is a member of the Power Woodcarvers club of North Bend, Oregon.

Doran Lee, Overgaard, Arizona, has been carving for one year and carves ponderosa pine and alligator juniper.

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MEMBERS PHOTOS



RL Blair with one of his bears carved for Euro Disney in Paris, 1994.



Mr. W. C. Fields, carved by Steve Blanchard, Salinas, California, 1995.



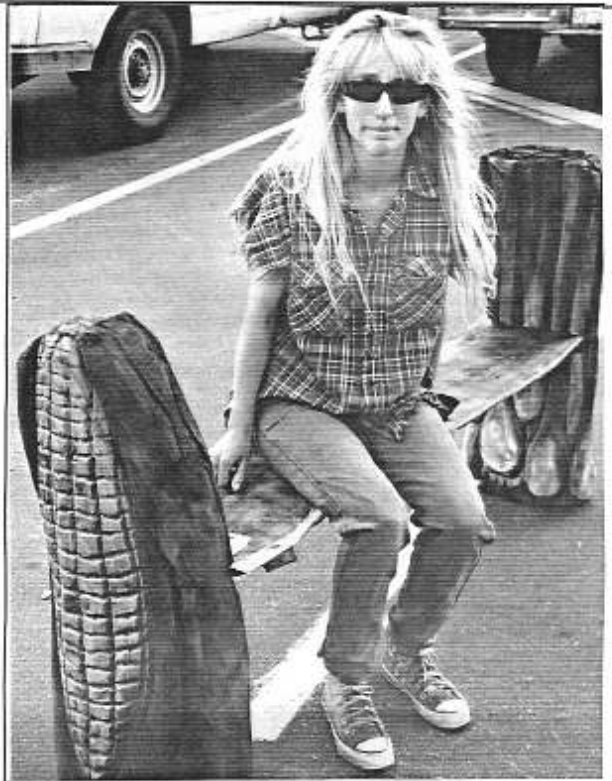
Beggar woman carved by Dexter Lewis, Freeland, Wa, 1996.



Ben King and friends, Grimsley, Tenn, 1994.



*Dave Sipe
of Elk,
Minn.
carved this
farmer in
Elensburg,
WA in 1994*



*Jenny
Nessinger
of Clinton,
Wa resting
on some
veggies.
1995.*



*Eagle carved by Paul Kiesel of
Evansville, Indiana, 1997.*



Judy McVay and mural carved at Westport, WA 1996.

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 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.

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 visibility of work. A number of artist will be chosen throughout the year. For info: 410/889-2933 or email: <anns@rosengrp.com>.

PUBLICATIONS

Allied Arts of Whatcom County Newsletter 360/676-8548

Arts Council of Snohomish County's, Washington State, *Opportunities for Artists*. 206/259-0390

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. 310/368-5631, 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 1-800-356-0783
Mitchell Graphics Color photo business cards, posters, brochures, etc.
Your graphic needs, 1-800-841-6733

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

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Robert Guinn manufactures custom pitch sprockets, Clarksville, Texas 1-800-814-4591.

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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**FEBRUARY 98**

Feb. 27, 28 & Mar. 1 2nd annual Eastern Washington Chainsaw Carving Championships. Contact John Schulz, 509/292-9425. Email Shindawa@aol.com. Limit 15 carvers.

Mid Feb. 3rd Annual carving contest in Seymour, Australia. Contact Kevin Gilders, 01161 9561 4604

MAY

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

JUNE

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.

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

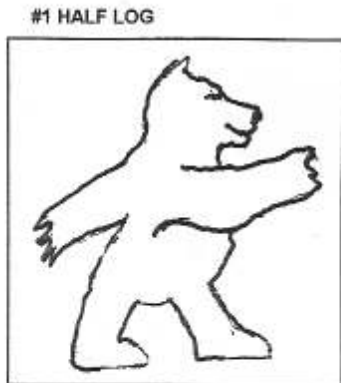
Remarks/Comments _____

Eliminating the Heartwood

BY James Rais
Wrentham, MA

To prevent major spitting and cracking in your carving here's an idea.

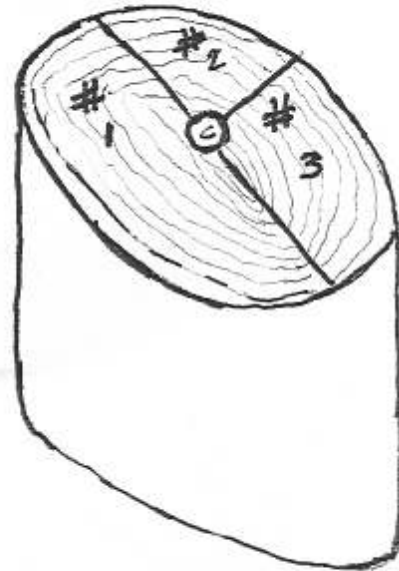
Take your log and cut to length. Then cut your log in half, splitting the heart in half. With drawing #1 you can carve a dancing bear, and drawing #2 and 3 you can do a standing bear.



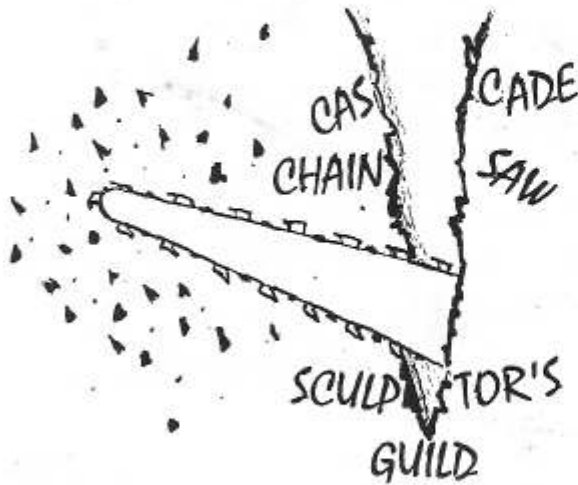
DANCING BEAR



STANDING BEAR



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



NOTICE

A reminder that 1998 is here. Dues are now due. If you have not paid for 1997 this is your last issue.

ADVERTISING RATES

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FULL PAGE \$100
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The Cutting Edge
Next issue Feb 1, submission deadline Jan. 25
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