

THE CUTTING EDGE

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MOM! of Whidbey Island by Steve Backus, carved at the Sequim Mothers Day contest. Details pgs. 4 & 5.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve Backus
Whidbey Island, WA

Greetings once again my carving contemporaries. First of all, let me say "thanks" to a few of our members that always refer the curious beginner to *The Cutting Edge*. Folks, like Rick Travers and Bill Plant who are endlessly positive and not worried about selling every carving, every time. Whenever we hear from someone who's talked to Rick he tells them to carve a bear a day for three years and subscribe to *The Cutting Edge*, basically get some information and get some time on the saw. Hey Rick when will we see you at the Big one? Come on over dude you will have fun. Bill Plant, I understand you are coming. It will be a more pleasant event because of your presence sir, now beings as your are a full time carver, let rock!!

Our folk art is tied to technology in a very big way. The tools that you are using have a history. Not long ago, chainsaws were bulky heavy things. Not that 4 or 5 hours on a new lightweight saw makes a person want to do nothing more then contemplate the folly of this profession. It's a physically grueling occupation and if your not hitting it every day you are wondering why it doesn't seem to work out for you. The money is just a scorecard but it must be reinvested into saws, can't have to many, oh you can get saw's sponsored to you but that requires a lot of energy in the butt kicking dept. So, if you just buy one whenever you can, I recommend you buy from a small local one horse shop, these guys are mostly like yourself, hardworking self employed dreamers, who service what they sell. They don't make that much off a saw sale.

One quick story on chainsaw history and I don't know if it is true or not but it is interesting. During the battle of the bulge in World War II as American's Allies retreated (the marine's advanced backwards I'm told) and the Germans moved forward, our guy's fell tree's and poles across roads to slow the Nazi's down and it did somewhat. It took time to blast or pull the debris out of the way. Well, thanks to a fellow by the name of Henry Stihl, some German troops had the forerunner of the modern chainsaw and were bucking logs and trees so tanks such could breakthrough. So as a viable military tool the chainsaw has some roots in the big one, WWII.

CARVING FOR
THE STARS

NEW MEMBERS

Gilbert Kling	Gales Creek, OR
Jack McEntire	Yakima, WA
Jacob Marzullo	Brookville, PA
Jeff May	Wenatchee, WA
Jeff Pinney	Cheswick, PA
Nick Lamb	Point Arena, CA

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
5612 Osprey Lane * Freeland, WA 98249
360/ 331-5150 or 360/ 579-7811
email groesch@whidbey.com

LIFE ON BEAR PLANET

*John Peralta
Olalla, WA*

Yes, I'm sure we've all visited this planet. It seems to be the happening place to be, quick and reliable money and easy work. How can ya beat that? But then there comes a time when the artist in us all wants to come out and take an adventure off bear planet. This time came for me while I was waiting for my lunch order at a local fast food joint. While standing at the counter I watched the cook flipping burgers then having to place them each on a bun, one by one, I thought he kind of reminds me of what I've been doing lately, making bears one after the other but hey I'm making money doing what I want! Then, I thought, am I really doing what I want or am I turning into that fast order cook, being a slave to money! Well that hit me hard, so the next day I walked out to my carving area, feeling like I was on a different planet, a planet of thought, expression, creation and yes, freedom.

I first felt freedom after leaving a union job in the city years ago, and it felt good to be free again. So, I fired up the saw and carved a family standing together with hands held and arms embracing, it turned out great, it seemed just to flow right out of me. About this time the phone rang and the sweet sound of a customer was on the phone saying "do you have any of those cute bear's sticking out of a log?" I said "sure I'll deliver it tomorrow." I really didn't but I knew I could in a few minutes. So I fired up the saw and carved 'em out. When I finished I shut the saw off, sat down and looked at the cute little bears, then at the family I carved, and said to myself looks like I'm on back on bear planet!

PS. The family sculpture is still for sale.



This bear bench was carved by John at The McClendon's furniture contest held in Puyallup, WA, 1996.

John Peralta is a full time woodsculptor and recently has taken up race car driving.

RESULTS FROM THE ANNUAL MOTHERS DAY CONTEST HELD IN SEQUIM, WA

Steve Backus

Whidbey Island, Washington

The 7th contest in a row at Sequim was a lot of fun. Mother's day was the theme and many mothers were made happy!

There were nineteen carvers and it was a good spread of awards, everyone worked hard. Dave Westberg of Seattle took 1st with a Madonna and child, \$600. 2nd, was pinned down by Phil Finton of Belfair, mother giraffe and baby, \$400. 3rd, went to Dave Warden of Key Peninsula for flowers, \$300. 4th went to the very talented and nice John Peralta of Ollala, he did Sacajewa and baby \$200.

For our novice department, Chris Westwood of Tukwila took first for his first time out and told a really funny joke, "good going Chris." He won \$200, 2nd, went to the secretary of the guild, Todd Foreman. Todd has come and carved many times and this time kicked a little butt. 3rd went to Adrian Robbins of Whidbey Island who did a great snail on a mushroom it was very nice and he gave it to his mom.

A one hour mini contest was held each day. 1st prize only, \$200. Day one, Steve Backus, four foot eagle. Saturday, Phil Finton, six foot face. Sunday, Steve Backus four foot eagle. Steve and family also won for best display.

Madonna and Child, by Dave Westberg. This is the first contest he has won.





TOP: 4th place finisher, John Peralta, notice the fine details in his piece. Left, 2nd place and People's choice winner Phil Finton, and his creation, a baby giraffe, looking up to a protective mom. Far Left, a close up of 3rd Place, Dave Wardens roses.

INTERNATIONAL WOOD SCULPTURE COMPETITION

WESTPORT 99

THE BIG ONE!!!!



The 10th annual International Wood Sculpture Competition at Westport, Wa, will happen on August 5, 6, 7 & 8.

TIME: The carvers will have 20 hours spread over 4 days to carve wood that can be up to 3 feet in diameter and 7 feet long. But it's your choice on the size you want. Bite off as much as you can chew ... with your tools that is! All types of tools accepted. The theme is nautical. The sculpture is yours to keep at the end of the contest!

WOOD: Sitka Spruce

ENTRY FEE: The 45 minute quick carve contest held each day.

PRIZE MONEY: Judges Vote: 1st: \$2500, 2nd: \$1000, 3rd: \$750, 4th: \$500, 5TH: \$350, 6th: \$300, 7th: \$250, 8th: \$200, 9th: \$150, 10th: \$100. **Peoples Choice:** 1st: \$300, **Novice Division,** \$200 plus a chainsaw w/carving bar. Quick carve contest: 1st Place, \$200 plus a chainsaw, 2nd place \$100, 3rd \$50. The quick carve contest on Saturday, the 1st prize will be \$500 sponsored by Cowboy Bob's Restaurant.

SIGNING UP and MORE INFO: Please contact Steve Backus, 360/ 579-3574, to let him know you are coming or send in your entry form. If you would like to be in the Program please send in your entry form and bio with a photograph by July 10, 1999. Also tool companies, wood product sellers, galleries owners, etc, The program book is a good time to advertise. Ad Prices, Full page, \$100, 1/2 page, \$50, 1/4 page, \$30, Business Card, \$20, Contact Pat Mcvay if you would like to put an ad in, 360/ 579-7811.

Mail entry forms to: CCSG, 5612 Osprey Lane, Freeland, WA 98249 Deadline for program is July 10, 1999.

NAME: _____ DIVISION, PRO _____ NOVICE _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE # _____

DO YOU WANT YOUR ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE # TO BE LISTED IN THE PROGRAM: YES: _____ NO: _____

WRITE IN THE SPACE BELOW WHAT YOU WANT TO APPEAR IN THE PROGRAM (ABOUT YOURSELF and YOUR WORK). PLEASE SEND PHOTO AS WELL. ATTACH ANOTHER SHEET IF NECESSARY.

WESTPORT '98

Photos by Peter Wiant



ART PRODUCTS & SERVICES 1-800...ETC.

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.

Postcards: Bomerang Laser, 360-341-4420. Black & White photo postcards, 2000=\$104, 5000=\$180. Multiple Designs available in the same printing.

Photo Color Business Cards: Great American Printing Co. 1000 Full color business cards, \$57.95, 1/ 800-440-2368.

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

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

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 \$95 for 500 copies, 1-800-959-8365.

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.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: Available to (painter/sculptors) artists working in mature career phase for 10+ years, whose needs are result of unforeseen, catastrophic incident, typical grant \$4000. For application: Gottlieb Foundation Inc. 380 West Broadway, NY, NY, 10012

PUBLICATIONS

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

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.

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.

Woodcarving Illustrated, 1-800-457-9112. \$23.80 per year.

SOURCES FOR 1/4 PITCH SPROCKETS

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

Bailey's Catalogue 1-800-3BAILEY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE Iisalmi, Finland, Chainsaw Carving Contest. 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 11-13 Woodcarvers rendezvous, Pasco, WA. Contact Dave Carlson, 509/ 946-8873.

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.

JULY July 10, 11, Tupper Lake, New York, contact Hal MacIntosh, 800/ 640-5871

July 24, Mountain Mania Days at Mt. St. Helens, WA, contact, Kerry Hargand, 360/ 425-5924

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

OCTOBER 2nd annual Northern California Chainsaw Sculpture Championship, Point Arena, California. Good prize money. Theme: Grapes, wine or nautical. For information write to: Nyal Thomas, PO Box 636, Point Arena, CA 95468.

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 Scatchel 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/
 Com-
 ments _____



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THE BIG ONE! WESTPORT, WA



MARCH/APRIL 1999

Don't forget to send in your dues for 1999.

Also if you are interested in being in the Westport program the deadline is July 10.

The Cutting Edge

Jessie Groeschen
5612 Osprey Lane, Freeland, WA
98249. Fax 360/ 331-5150.
Please call first. Phone: Pat
McVay 360/ 579-7811 or Jessie
Groeschen 360/ 331-5150.
Next Issue: soon, send in your
stories, tips, photos, etc.



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Freeland, WA 98249