

THE CUTTING EDGE

Presidents Message

Steve gives us his thoughts.

Northern Reflections

An introductory column from Rob Forde of British Columbia, Canada

Sedro Wooley, WA

Results and photos from this contest held over the 4th of July weekend.

Classifieds

Resource information, 1-800 etc. and Calender of Events.



*Casey Young touches up Bigfoot.
Details pages 4-6.*

Peter Wiant

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve Backus
Whidbey Island, WA

Hello my friends, today was a great day. A wake for Charles Koch, fellow carver, was the order of the day and a fine one it was. He died of cancer. He had carvings to finish right up to the end. A lot of you folk's didn't know Charles and some that did were kind of snooty about his style. I invite you cordially to go pee up a rope. I admired the way he marched to the beat of his own drum! I had the good fortune to know him in the circle of carvers and in the circle of friends on South Whidbey Island! His life touched many and now he is gone. I did the manly thing and cried in my truck on the way home. This year at Westport the contest will be in his memory. Love ya dude, see you later!

Back to business. It's happening, Westport is here. So many things have come together to make it happen, that it just blow's me away. 10 years!! A decade! All your fingers. However you add it up here we are. Why does this contest prosper and grow, when so many have failed? The clues are written all over the pages of the *Cutting Edge*.

You see the basic philosophy of this contest is carvers first, carvers first and lastly, carvers first. It is a surprisingly simple concept. Very few rules, so there is no need of a carver police. Us carvers make it happen. It's true when the logging truck show's up in the morning most carvers help cut wood, this make's quite a difference. We depend on no outside force's thus no one to let us down. Plus, the fact it's first come first serve on the wood. Every once in a while ya gotta slap the hand of a greedy little piggy carver but not often. This town is the perfect venue for this show. Everyone shows initiative and flexibility to make it happen but most importantly the carvers are treated right. I cannot express enough how important this is. It is a place to discuss the future of our art. A time to reflect on the past, of shoulders we have stood on to be able to view farther than our own experience would allow. Of meeting fellow carvers of many stripes, some possibly becoming old friends on

down lifes wandering path. But first ya gotta meet each other, thus the Westport contest here in it's 10th year is an opportunity for many paths to cross. And on down the road whoever won that year fades a bit but you sure remember someone you liked and got along with. Ya' ll can have as much fun as you want. Carve something cool maybe win, place or show, you might meet someone who was copying your idea ten years before you even started carving. The possibilities are endless.

Steve Backus.

NEW MEMBERS

Jim Clark	Manilla, IA
Marcey Sievers	Valles Mines, MO
Dave Stephens	Gig Harbor, WA

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
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NORTHERN REFLECTIONS

Rob Forde

Agassiz, British Columbia

In response to Steve Backus's encouragement within the January/February "Message from the President", I have decided to give birth to a new addition to the *Cutting Edge*. "Northern Reflections" will include my version of the Canadian perspective on the art of chainsaw carving. As well as sharing my thoughts as a relative rookie carver, I would like to include photographs of carvings from various locations in British Columbia. Hopefully I can aspire to the ongoing quality of the other contributors, making the *Cutting Edge* my favorite piece of journalism.

I will begin at my beginning. I've always enjoyed art, especially carvings, but like most never dare test my creative side. It was a typical Canadian holiday...we went to the states. Specifically the Oregon Coast, in the early nineties, and witnessed first hand the act of carving with a chainsaw. Seeing the steps in the process made the beautiful finished pieces a little less intimidating, and was probably the key to me giving it a try. I bought a cute bear cub (10 inch size) at Brian McEnery's shop in Seal Rock. That was the best \$50 I ever spent.

I had an old Husky powersaw with an 18" bar that I had used during a brief stint of logging to pay for "higher education". With that saw and Brian's bear I began carving ugly renditions of Brian's quality. As awful as my first bears were, the family loved them and I won first prize at our local fall fair. Whoopee! I was hooked. The business was started and the tax deductions poured in. As I accumulated tools and carvings my accountant accumulated gray hairs and worry lines. Over the years since I have actually sold a lot of carvings, but I'm still enjoying the progress in quality that comes with being fairly new to something. Just a few years ago I went back to find where I had bought that bear. I needed another "fix". There it was Seal Rock, and low and behold the artist was at work. What luck! I introduced myself to Brian, showed him my light weight album and proceeded to absorb as much information as I could. It was Brian McEnery who gave me a copy of the *Cutting Edge* leading me to all you wonderful people. My return trip to Oregon was fruitful in that while inspired I envisioned a carving idea that I completed after returning home and that carving is till my favorite to date. I believe that all carvers benefit greatly by seeing other people's work, especially at their shops.

One I received the *Cutting Edge* I traveled to Sedro Wooley in 1998 to view Rocky MacArthur's

competition. What a great show! But even more impressive was the warm response I received from Pat McVay and Steve Backus. At their insistence I decided then and there Westport was for me. The whole Westport experience was great. I met a lot of super people, learned something about the competition aspect of carving and was satisfied with my first contest entry! My only regret, I didn't set the bar high enough! (A sporting



Rob Forde working on his Westport piece.

metaphor, nothing to do with powersaws.) 1999 will be different, I'm counting the days until August.

Currently I've sold half my chiropractic practice as of May to allow me more time to carve. My current carving goal is to work my way up into the pro division by new year, Westport 2000! In the future I'd like to host a competition similar to those I've seen in Washington.

Well, that brings us to the present day. I'll talk to you soon, through the pages of *The Cutting Edge*

Dr. Rob Forde is chainsaw carver, chiropractor, and motivational speaker Agassiz, BC, Canada.

SEDRO WOOLEY CONTEST RESULTS

Pat M c Vay
Whidbey Island, Washington

The 4th of July brought some new public art to a small town. Nestled in the foot hills of the Cascade Mountains in the northeastern part of Washington state, Sedro Wooley has for the last 100 years, relied on logging from the abundant forests around it. Like alot of small towns, things have changed lately. Loggins is restricted and money is hard to come by. Recently, tourism was looked at as a new means of income. For 64 years, the annual "LoggerRodeo" has always been a good draw on the 4th of July weekend. It's the longest running logging contest in state, 4 years ago local carver Rocky MacArthur added a woodcarving competition to it. But the impact of the 3 day contest goes beyond just that weekend. Each year, the LoggerRodeo association buys two of the contest pieces and they are place in prominent locations around town. Localk merchants are encouraged to do the same and now there are several sculptures along the streeets, gracing the front of their establishments. Along with several of Rocky's pieces, the tonw now sports eleven large woodcarvings around the town...It's becoming a tourist attraction, and the town is getting to be know as a place to viit and see large wood sculpture depicting northwest history and wildlife.

The businesses are realising that often someone stops to take a photo at a carving near their door and the newxt thing you know, the folks come in and shop around or have a bite to eat.

Rocky, with lots of help from his wife Emily, provided fine hospitality and some beautiful wood again this year. 8' long x 3' diameter red cedar. This year's winners were 1st: Conrad Sandoval, 2nd, Steve Backus. 3rd: Phil Finton. 4th: Casey Young

The contest is planned again for next year when no doubt the town will add a few more pieces to its growing collection.



Conrad Sandoval of Eastern Washington putting on the winning touches.

Peter Wiant



Peter Wiant



Peter Wiant

LEFT: Steve Backus carves the ghost of a logger, fish, books, eagle, ying and yang symbol, punctuation marks, garbage can, fish skeleton, logging equipment, totem pole, and it's a chair, too. He titled it The big ?? ABOVE: Dexter Lewis soars high with his disc grinder.

more Sedro Wooley photos



Peter Wiant



Peter Wiant



Peter Wiant

TOP LEFT: Phil Finton rests after a job well done. TOP RIGHT: Contest organizer, Rocky MacArthur gets started on his piece. ABOVE: A loggers version of Gulliver, carved by Fred Bero.



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

Pronto Tools For sculpture, 1-805-648-5432, Ventura, CA

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

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

Lab Safety & Supply Safety Equipment 1-800-356-0783

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Bailey's Catalogue 1-800-3BAILEY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

SEPTEMBER Michigan Chainsaw Carving Championship, Sept. 18-19, Oscada Michigan. For information call 1-800-235-4625/

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.

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.

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.

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MAY/JUNE 1999

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

The Cutting Edge

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