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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, APRIL, 2012

Fellow Woodcarvers,

At this time on behalf of this club I would like to thank Alan Anderson for his dedication and hard work. Alan will be leaving us in a couple of weeks to move back to Connecticut with his wife and family.

Goodbye to all of the snowbirds who will be leaving to go back home. Have a safe summer and we will see you all back here in the fall. Don't forget to get ready for our club show mid January.

Safe Carving,
Bill Briggs, Jr.
President

**SUNCOAST WOODCARVERS MEETING
MINUTES**

April 10, 2012

Seminole Recreation Center

The meeting was opened by President Bill Briggs, who obtained agreement with the minutes of the March meeting. There was no Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS

We need a new Vice President, since Alan Anderson is leaving us in May to move to

Connecticut. Anyone interested in the assignment, please contact Bill Briggs. The Vice President automatically becomes the President of the Club next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Nick Stella, Keeper of the Display Case, noted that Andy Szymaszek has had his carvings on display for a month on the top shelf and asked others to display theirs. The other two shelves are available to display the work of others. Karl Allison volunteered to replace Andy's display on the top shelf. Bill suggested that members think about next year's Show during the summer, in terms of items for door prizes, carvings for competition, ideas for the friendship cane, and a demonstration one might present.

JOE'S TIPS

The first tip came from the Carving Roundup in March, where an instructor suggested looking at your carving at arm's length to check symmetry of shape and location of elements, such as eyes or ears. Comments from the floor also suggested viewing the carving upside down.

For patching a crack, use glue and water, 50/50 with sawdust of the same material as the filler. Consider saving sawdust in small containers for the purpose.

Another tip was how to get depressions from a wood surface and the answer is a wet cloth and a medium iron to raise the depressed surface.

Digital caliper batteries expire if not turned off after use. Move the caliper arms to the closed position and tighten the lock screw to avoid turning the unit on inadvertently.

Scroll saw blade usefulness can be extended by turning the blade upside down (Caution – item being cut must be held down) and by inserting an auxiliary table to utilize another portion of the blade.

SHOW AND TELL

Mark Daly showed his anHINGA in finished form. White cedar is the wood. In the finish, there are 4 coats on the body and 6 on the wings. You can't see this effect except in strong light, such as sunlight. This is one of 3 anHINGAS Mark plans to do.



Mark showed a green wing teal and one carved by his student. They were comparable. He talked about teaching carving and the feeling of accomplishment that resulted, and urged others to practice teaching others.

Mark. D. at the Roundup.



David Johnson showed the intarsia which each student had done at Glenn Fry's class at the Roundup. He also showed a totem pole done in another course and a colored wood burning done in Care Marek's class. The coloring was done with crayons, which become water color when wet. He also did a butternut eagle with Jim O'Dea.



Bill Dewald had 3 items: 2 of Leah Goddard's designs and a Floyd Rhadigan Santa.



Floyd's Santa was a balding, pony tailed fellow in long johns, slippers, a mug of coffee and a pipe on Xmas morning. Leah's designs were a beaver and a cougar. He had worked on both before Roundup and had obtained the information on details of the design and the finishing, principally the colors required for base coat and dry brushing.

Bill discussed the two bas relief courses which he took at the Roundup. A 1 day course is a bad match with bas relief unless the various depth structures have been done by the instructor. None of the effects which create the illusion of depth will have been worked on in a 1 day class. Clancy Smith and Jim Van Dyke are fine instructors. Those who took the courses for 2 or more days get into the important stuff. Jim did show his technique for tree leaves, using a rotary tool with a little reverse cone milling cutter, a 2 handed hold, and variable contact.

Bill also spoke about the technique for preventing cracking in carving wet logs. It involves controlled drying in plastic bags, the use of chips to absorb moisture from the log, and a regimen to expose the log to air for longer periods daily over a period of 4-6 weeks. No radial or circumferential cracks appeared.

Carl Smith showed an eagle bas relief which had a crack in the surface requiring repair.



He covered the surface with Elmer's glue and sprinkled fine sawdust particles on it, and left it dry overnight. The next morning, a soft brush showed some particles didn't adhere. Carl applied the procedure again, resulting in 2 shades of finish. Later discussions indicated that a 50/50 dilution of the glue with water would improve the results (see Joe's Tips).



Joe Kane showed a Rhadigan pixie with a stability problem on the shelf. Various solutions were discussed.



MISC. NOTES

There were more discussions about next year's Show, but no decisions were reached.

If you have any changes in your contact information (street address, email address, or phone number), please call Bill Dewald at 727-595-7542 or send updates by email to: suncoast_woodcarvers@comcast.net

A variety of information is available from our Club Website at

<http://suncoastwoodcarvers.com/index.htm>

Contact Webmaster Richard Samay with comments or corrections via the link on the website.

The next Business Meeting is at 7 PM on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at the Seminole Rec. Center.

Thanks to Richard Samay and Joe Kane for the photos included in this edition of CHIPS.

The meeting was adjourned.

Bill Dewald, Secretary