

# CARVER'S CORNER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE REGINA WHITTLERS & WOODCARVERS CLUB

ISSUE 173

NOVEMBER 2017



Poppy field under a darkened sky. June 15, 2011 - wazimu0

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## **Current RWWC Executive**

Peter Dielschneider	President
Past President	Linda Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer	Herb Klassen
Program Director	Tim Caswell
Website Editor	Bill Dearborn
Library	Dale Wenman
Newsletter	Jack Bergen

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## RWWC Meeting Schedule

All meetings including drop-in carving are held at the Neil Balkwill Centre, Elphinstone St. Regina.

### *Regular Meetings*

Regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. These informal meetings offer an opportunity to work on personal projects and discuss general club business.

November 9, 2017 - Relief Carving & Flower Project

December 14, 2017, Christmas Gathering

### *Monthly Carving Nights*

On the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. the club hosts a carving night with a project pre-selected by our program group. Project blanks are provided for a small fee of \$5.00.

November 16, 2017

### *Free Drop-In Carving*

Wednesday Mornings

9:30 a.m. – Noon

No membership is required for drop-in carving

November 2017							December 2017							January 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
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## Carving Opportunities

### **New**      **Comfort Birds**

It's time to get together and have a carving bee to add to Gerald Ford's bird collection. The last flock delivery to the Cancer Clinic put Gerald over the 1,150 mark!

Here's the plan;

November 25, 2017 9:30 to 3:30 at Neald Glass 1450 Reynolds Street.

Carve as many birds as we can!

**Please advise Herb Klassen if you are planning to attend and if you can bring some blanks.**

The lunch plan would be to get a count on November 26 and order in.

## Angels of Hope

Gary J Brock of Woodside Carvers, Laconia N.H. has created a new Blog for the "Angels of Hope" project. The project was started in the fall of 2015. Angel figures are carved and donated to the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth, New Hampshire; the Boston Children's Hospital and The Payson Treatment Center for Cancer in Concord, New Hampshire.

To-date, the carving club has given out over 300 angels to hospitals, treatment centers and other individuals.

Please take a moment to visit their blog ["Woodside Carvers - Angels of Hope"](#)

FYI - This was the project presented by RWWC at the Regina Shapeshop last September (thanks to Herb Klassen for this newsletter contribution).



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## Wood Reference Chart

After becoming a member of the Regina Whittlers & Woodcarvers Club (RWWC), I was introduced to store bought carving wood (basswood & butternut). These wood varieties quickly silenced all disputes regarding what represented superior carving materials.

As we have some new carvers in our club I thought that a list of popular carving wood might present as a useful reference. The following list was taken from "The Beginner's Handbook of Woodcarving" By Charles Beiderman & William Johnston, Dover Publications Inc., New York 1983 (I've added the "Janka" wood hardness values for interest. Sorry if I missed one of your favorites).

For more information on specific wood varieties check out this cool web site ["The Wood Database"](#)

## Wood Reference Chart

Wood	Hardness	Grain	Color	Comments
Basswood	410	Close	Light creamy	Excellent carving wood especially for detail work. Does not have attractive grain pattern.
Beech	1300	Close	White with reddish tint	Fine for carving bowls, utensils; no odor or taste. Prone to checking.
Birch	1260	Close	Creamy	Works well. Sturdy wood. Attractive grain patterns.
Butternut	490	Moderate	Butter color	Good carving wood but prone to chipping.
Cedar	900	Close	White with red or purple streaks	Good carving if you work around knots. Pleasing odor, beautiful grain. A good exterior wood.
Chestnut	540	Moderate to coarse	Reddish brown	Easy carving, nice texture. Tends to be Wormy. Prone to checking.
Cypress	510	Close to wide	Reddish brown	Easy Carving. Holds up to weather.
Elm	830	Close to moderate	Light brown	A medium-hard wood. Takes a good finish.
Fruitwoods/Apple	1730	Moderate	Tan, creamy	Easy Carving with interesting grain patterns. Takes beautiful finish. Tends to be wormy.

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Wood	Hardness	Grain	Color	Comments
Cherry	950	Close	Reddish tan	Good carving wood. Beautiful grain, takes nice natural finish.
Pear	1660	Moderate	Creamy	Good carving wood. Will support detail carving.
Plum	1550	Close	Light purple	Good carving wood. Interesting grain colorations
Holly	1020	Very close	White	Difficult to obtain. Excellent for fine detail. Pure white when carved but gradually darkens with age.
Mahogany (Honduras)	800	Open Moderate	Reddish Brown	Excellent carving wood. Pleasing natural finish.
Magnolia	810-1020	Close	Pale green, brown & yellow	Good carving. Interesting color grain. Finished well.
Maple	999-1450	Moderate	Creamy	Medium hard to carve.
Oak	1220-1350	Coarse	Tan to brown	Not too good for fine detail but a good carving wood. Has great strength
Mahogany (Philippine)	550-1600	Stringy	Reddish brown	Grain often wild; not straight. Often difficult to carve. Takes a nice natural finish.
Pine, white	420	Close	White	Excellent carving wood. Now becoming scarce
Pine, sugar	380	Close	Creamy tan	Good carving wood for painted carvings. Resin flecks must be well sealed. Can be detail-carved. Does not have attractive grain.
Poplar	540	Close	White with some light-green streaks	Easy to carve but not particularly strong. Interesting grain coloration.
Redwood	450	Medium	Dark reddish brown	Cuts easily but quite limited for detail carving. Tends to split and splinter. Good for exterior use.
Walnut	1010	close	Chocolate brown to purple	The king of carving woods. So excellent many professional carvers will use nothing else. Beautiful grain patterns. Takes superb natural finish.

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## Editor's Note

I've been carving as a hobby for a couple of years now, but still a beginner. I think most prospective carvers start out by grabbing some material that is cheap and close at hand. In my case I started carving on "found" wood, sticks and firewood. I liked Poplar firewood the best. It didn't splinter or break off in big chunks and was o.k. for holding detail. If my carving was not pleasing to me, it could still serve as firewood. My first carvings were wood spirits. I'd save a couple of crummy ones for New Year's and use them as yule logs for the back yard fire pit.

Carving on found wood has special appeal to me for many reasons. Sourcing your own wood can be an adventure all in itself. Unless the material is gifted to you, collecting gets you outside and into the solitude of woodlands. In addition to discovering some interesting material you have the opportunity for exercise and perhaps some time with a companion.

My primary foraging grounds are the family farm along the South Saskatchewan River. Beavers are my father's greatest adversaries and they constantly dam up his culverts & drainage channels. Being a dutiful son (with hip-waders) I'm often called upon to clear the beaver workings. While I admire the beavers for their work ethic I'm also shocked at how greedy they can be. With each trip to the farm I discover their leavings; often some large old poplars looking like strange road kill.

I never harvest from living trees unless felling them is absolutely necessary. However, amongst the carnage of the fallen giants I've found some very nice poplar burls. Recognizing the potential benefits of having these nasty greedy beavers doing my dirty work, I made a survey of the remaining trees and now like a scavenger,...I wait.



Notice the evil red eyes and fangs. These creatures have been known to kill!

P.S. sorry, but I did warn last issue of an expanding editor's note section. Someone please stop me by sending in newsletter contributions!

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