

CARVER'S CORNER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE REGINA WHITTLERS & WOODCARVERS CLUB

ISSUE 176

FEBRUARY 2018



Winter Foliage (Wascana Park), photo by H. Bergen

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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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President's Message

Hello to all my fellow Carvers,

I hope you've had time to rest up from a very busy season and are ready to get back to some carving.

2018 is already in full swing. I'm happy to see that attendance at our first of the month meetings has increased in part because of the training provided by our more experienced carvers. Our new members are feeling more confident coming to our project nights; thanks to Bill Dearborn and Linda Anderson for their contributions.

We now have a new program director who is working hard to get some programs going. He has set up a relief carving class for February 16, 17 and 18. The cost is \$175.00. Check the newsletter for more information.

The first meeting night, February 8 is an informal carving night and we are planning to carve name tags. We'd like to have a good turn over for this meeting so that we can replenish our supply of tags.

The Wood Show is just around the corner, April 21 and 22 at the Tartan Curling Club. This is a perfect way to promote your artistic skills. Tables will again be \$25 and \$35. For those who do not have enough items for a table, I suggest teaming up with someone else. This is especially important to the new carvers. You are the future of the club and it is nice to show the visitors that everyone starts somewhere.

The Show Committee will also be looking for members to carve at the demo table. No matter what style of carving you do, please sign up. Newcomers are welcome as well.

As we have every other year, there will be a banquet following the show on Saturday up in the Tartan lounge. The cost will be \$25/person. We hope everyone will attend this evening as it is a great meal, and a good opportunity to meet fellow carvers and wood turners, exchange ideas as well as make new friends.

Peter Dielschneider

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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.

February 8, 2018 – Carving Name Tags

March 8, 2018

April 12, 2018

May 10, 2018

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.

February 15, 2018

March 15, 2018

April 19, 2018

Free Drop-In Carving

Wednesday Mornings

9:30 a.m. – Noon

No membership is required for drop-in carving

February							March							April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

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Carving Opportunities

Relief Carving Workshop with Tim Caswell – Feb 16 - 18, 2018, Regina (Location TBA)

Carve a Natural-finish Loon with Garry Rector - Feb 21 - April 25, 2018, Razertip Classroom, Martensville (see issue 175)

Carving and Painting a Large Mouth Bass with Bob Lavender – Feb 24 - 25 and March 24 - 25, Perron Acreage, Grandora (see issue 174)

Relief Carving Workshop with Tim Caswell

The purpose of this course is to introduce novice carvers to the full process of relief carving, but also to provide experienced carvers and advanced students with an opportunity to expand their relief carving skills.

Each student will work at his/her own speed on the same project, and will have opportunity to learn relief-carving design, wood lamination and various carving skills. The fifteen hours of scheduled instruction is intended to provide each student with enough information and instruction to complete the project on their own. The project will not be completed in the class.

Workshop schedule: Friday, February 16 - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 Saturday, February 17 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Sunday, February 18 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We will break for lunch between 12 & 1 p.m., lunch is not provided, please bring a bag lunch. Coffee, tea and water will be provided.

Cost of the workshop is \$175.00/student, this includes 15 hrs. of instruction, materials, laminating panels and handouts. Workshop location in Regina (to be advised).

Recommended Tools: #8 Chip carving knife, V-tool (12/2), gouges (5/8, 8/7), veiner (11/6), (palm or standard grip). A small amount of loaner tools will be available for a couple of carvers that do not have a selection of tools.

The class is limited to eight (8) students, so register soon. Register by Friday, February 2, 2018. If you have any questions regarding the workshop or wish to register please contact Tim Caswell, (P) 306.539.3634 or email: tcaswell@alfaengltd.com

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About Tim Caswell

Tim started carving in 1995 when he visited his friend Murray's garage who was an avid carver. Tim carved with Murray for three years before Murray moved to Toronto. Ever since then carving has become a serious hobby for Tim. He enjoys relief, Welsh Love Spoon, caricature and soapstone carving. Most of Tim's carving knowledge has been self-taught and from information acquired from other carvers he has come in contact with.



A Major Flock...



A major flock of comfort birds, carved by Ron Davidson for the Northern Lights Woodcarvers. Ron's (99) birds are destined for the Saskatoon Cancer Clinic and will complement the 418 birds previous carved by NLWC members, to be given free, with this note attached.

"A bird in the hand"

"Keep me near your favorite chair. When gently rubbed, the bird can bring comfort to those struggling with both physical and emotional pain. For many these small birds serve as tangible reminders that someone loves and cares about them.

Northern Lights Woodcarvers Melfort, SK"

This awesome little carving project was inspired by the wonderful efforts by Gerald Ford and members of the Regina Whittlers and Woodcarvers who have carved and donated many comfort birds for the Regina Cancer Clinic. These birds are kept to a simple design and are great for carving any time you have a few minutes to spare. Just keep a couple blanks and a knife on hand, in a bag. Then all you need then is a chair, when you want to ignore the in-laws or outlaws. These birds are an awesome beginner carving project, and they are also great for the times when you want to carve something but don't want to think too hard. "It just doesn't get any better than that."

Thanks Ron, very much appreciated. - Al Jardine

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Tip of the Month

V-Tool Sharpening Tips (by Bob Pedigo)

I'd like to pass on some sharpening tips for V-Tools. In my own experience, I believe sharpening V-Tools is the most difficult of all the woodcarving tools. I almost ruined my first V-Tool by grinding it down over and over until I got it to cut properly. By the time I got the correct edges and point on it, there wasn't much life left. I bought another and still am using that second tool four and one-half years later. My self-taught lesson only cost me about five dollars, and a lot of time. I hope with the tips that follow, **I can** minimize your frustration with V-Tool sharpening.

A V-Tool is a single piece of metal formed into a "V". Each side of the "V" can be sharpened individually much like you'd sharpen a flat chisel. Put the side you're sharpening down flat on the stone then hone and strop it. Do the same with the other side and you're finished. Simple enough, right? **NOT HARDLY!!!**

It is **imperative** that each edge of the V-tool meet **perfectly** at the bottom of the "V"! If the two edges don't meet, there will always be an area at the point of the "V" which is unsharpened. If the bottom of the "V" isn't aligned right, you will notice some tearing of the wood right at the bottom of the V-cut -- this is most noticeable when cutting across the wood grain or when cutting the end grain. That's why you should always test a V-Tool by cutting across a piece of scrap wood. Look closely at your tool after sharpening the two sides to make sure they meet at the "V". I use a 10X magnifier to look at the edges and the point to make sure they are meeting like they should. If I'm sharpening at home with my power strop, I always use a headband magnifier. This allows me to see the tool edges better and I am able to sharpen them more effectively. I've found that if my eyes can see what I'm doing, it's much easier for my hands to do what they need to.

There are several ways to sharpen a V-tool "correctly," depending on what you intend to use it for. A V-tool can be sharpened so the "wings," another name for each side of the tool, are even with the point as in figure A, behind the point as in figure B, or ahead of the point as in figure C. Each method of sharpening has a special advantage depending on how you plan to use the tool.

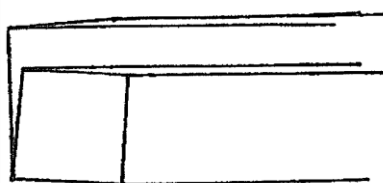


Figure A

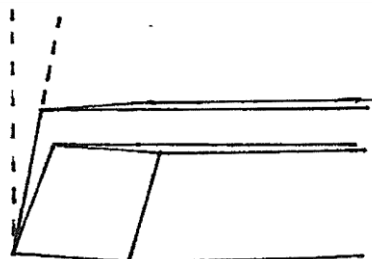


Figure B

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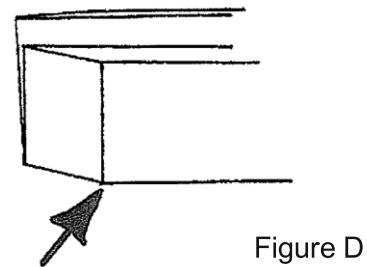
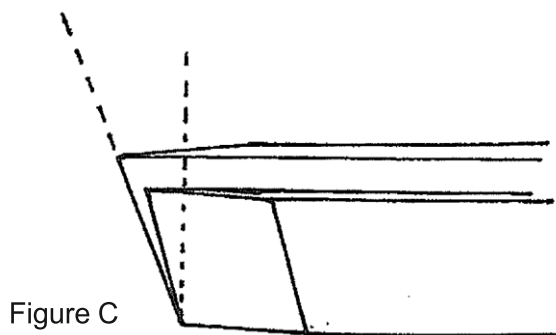
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Some carvers sharpen V-tools so the point leads the wings as in figure B. The advantage of the point leading the wings is that point can be used to get into tight spots in corners. This may be good for some relief work to clean up areas which a V-tool sharpened in another manner wouldn't reach. The disadvantage with this method is that it's not so good for general wood carving because the force required to cut with this tool is higher than the other methods. This is because the wings are cutting behind the point. Actually, the point is cutting into the wood, however the wood above the point is still attached which causes resistance. If your V-tool isn't cutting like it once did check to see if you've removed more metal from the wings than the point.

A V-tool sharpened with the wings even with the point, as in figure A, is a good general purpose tool. This tool will almost cut fully into recessed areas and the resistance to the cut will be less than the previous method discussed. This tool cuts sort of "in the middle" and is acceptable to many carvers.

The sharpening method which provides the least resistance while cutting is shown in figure C. Notice that the wings will slice through the surface wood **before** the point slices through the sub-surface wood. This will eliminate all the resistance which the surface wood exerts on the point. I prefer a tool sharpened this way over the other two. It cuts through the wood easier and I am able to carve all the things I carve with no trouble.



Another important factor in how a V-tool cuts is the area beneath the tool. When sharpening the sides, or wings, a metal ridge remains behind the point at the very bottom of the V shown by the arrow in figure D. This ridge of metal provides resistance to the tool if it is not removed and there are several methods this can be removed. Some carvers remove this small area by placing the bottom of the ridge flat on the stone or wheel and grinding it away. This will produce a small diamond when you look at the bottom of the tool. Other carvers will "rock" the tool from side to side on the stone or wheel. This will remove the metal and leave a rounded surface at the point. I've used both methods and have found either will cut acceptably, however I learned a different method from Harold Enlow during a class he instructed in Bismarck one spring. Harold removes metal from each side (or wing) of the tool at the point shown in figure D, then uses the gentle

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“rocking, method to round the bottom of the tool slightly. This method is the best I’ve been able to find to remove this metal ridge. The tool glides through wood and even cuts against the grain extremely smoothly without tearing the wood.

I hope the information in this article is useful to you and prevents you from having to learn “the hard way” like I did. I believe you’ll find carving much more enjoyable if all your tools are kept as sharp as possible. Happy carving!

Thanks to Bill Dearborne for sharing this item with us!



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